

I N D E X

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST

VOLUME 24 — 1948

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Whole No. 274

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A REVIEW
OF
AUCTION
AND
PRIVATE
TREATY
SALES
1946-1947

By ROBSON LOWE

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

It is with pleasure that we announce the amalgamation of the two Cape Town firms of E. Blum and Brian Nichols & Co., under the guise of Blum, Nichols & Co. (Pty.), Ltd. It will be obvious to stamp collectors that this linking will be to their advantage in many ways. The combined resources, both of stock and experience, coupled with the fact that we have been fortunate in obtaining further office accommodation and more staff, will insure prompt and efficient attention to all enquiries.

Collectors will realise only too well the difficulties of obtaining the many illusive stamps. We aim at running a section entirely devoted to want lists, and will undertake to supply a very large percentage of requirements. An acknowledgment of your letter and all items in stock at the time of its arrival will be posted within twenty-four hours. After a lapse of four weeks or so, as many of the outstanding stamps as can be obtained from our world-wide connections, will be posted to you ON APPROVAL. In other words, we will follow up want lists to our utmost, instead of relegating them to a "bottom drawer."

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In conclusion, Brian Nichols will be making, towards the end of this year, an extended trip round the Union, with the object of purchasing collections and accumulations. He will also have with him an interesting assortment of material and will look forward to meeting old friends and making new acquaintances. An itinerary is being prepared and will be advertised later. In the meantime, we should welcome information in regard to the kind of material you would like to see, and if any of you have collections for sale, let us know so that your part of the world is included in the trip.

Please address all correspondence to P.O. Box 3662, Cape Town. Personal visits to Dumbarton House. This is the new building that has just been completed on Darter's old site and is on the corner of Church and Adderley Streets.

Blum, Nichols & Co. (Pty.) Ltd.

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P. O. Box 3662.

CAPE TOWN

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UNION NOTES.

Bantams without marginal inscriptions.

Mr. J. F. Keogh reported having 2d. Bantams with plain margins above and below the central side arrows and enquired if this was a recognised variety. His letter was referred to Mr. W. N. Sheffield, who writes as follows:—

Sheets of 2d. Bantams with plain margins at the side centres were on sale about April and May, 1945. In this printing the marginal slogan, "Buy Union Loan Certificates," was replaced by double parallel lines intersected by figures of 240, but the lines and figures did not extend to the side arrows and therefore that portion of the margin covering in length the two centre stamps is devoid of any printing matter apart from the arrow mark. This issue of the 2d. was followed soon afterwards by one in which the parallel lines and figures in the margins were carried right up to the side arrows and in consequence the blank space adjoining the two centre stamps was filled up. It is worthy of note that the same varieties of blank margins at the side arrows also occurred in the 1d. and 6d. values when these were issued with figures and parallel lines in the margins, but though the 1d. subsequently went through the same change as the 2d. and the blank portions were filled up I have seen no examples of a similar change in the 6d.

It will be seen, therefore, that centre blocks of the three values of the Bantams mentioned can exist with no indication of marginal printing and in the case of the 1d. and 2d. values such issues were only on sale for a comparatively short time.

Swissair Proving Flight.

This company's second flight from Geneva to Johannesburg took place on 21-23 November. This flight came via Tunis, Kano and Leopoldville, which will probably be the route taken by the regular monthly service as it avoids the high ground near Nairobi and the

necessity of taking off with reduced loads. The return flight left on November 27.

"Victory" Varieties.

Mr. O. G. Holmes in "Stamp Collecting" of November 15, has an article giving not merely the 4 major varieties, but a total of 22 of what he claims are constant flaws. They are all illustrated by sketches. In his introduction he says "many collectors regard these minor varieties as mere 'spots and blobs', but there are others who get a good deal of fun out of the search for the 'stamps with a difference'—and is not one of the main reasons for a hobby the fun to be derived therefrom?"

10s. Stamps Obsolescent.

At the November meeting of the East London Philatelic Society, Mr. J. P. Shingler reported that the 10s. value was now obsolescent, as there was so little use for it, and advised all collectors to get their specimens while it was still possible to do so at face.

Recent ½d. and 1½d. Printings.

Following on the appearance of the 1d. stamps with No. 1 of the sheet in Afrikaans (as noted in our November issue), Mr. Sheffield now reports that the ½d. and 1½d. now show the same change. The ½d. is probably the printing from Cylinders 48 Int. and 45 Ext. (the latter a new one). In the case of the 1½d. he has not yet had an opportunity of seeing a full sheet, but notes that the dot near the "2" in the value tablet (19th stamp 10th row) is no longer present.

★

MALAYA

The Crown Agents announce sets of 15 denominations as on order; there will be 3 series of them, all headed Malaya at the top, but in the bottom panels there will be respectively Singapore, Penang and Malacca. The designs are similar to the current issue and the denominations run from 1c to \$5.

A BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE POSTAL HISTORY OF THE ISLAND OF SAMOS

By P. LOEWENSTEIN

The Island of Samos, which lies within almost a stone's throw off the coast of Asia Minor, has not only a most interesting history, dating back to the days of ancient Greece, but is also most fascinating from a philatelic viewpoint.

At one time there were no fewer than three post offices as well as a postal agency in the town of Vathy, which is the capital. These comprised the Turkish P.O., the Austrian P.O., the French P.O., and a Greek agency for the acceptance of letters for that country, i.e. before the annexation of the island to Greece.

The Turkish P.O. was established circa 1880 and was the first and only P.O. on the island until the opening of the Austrian P.O. at a later date. This P.O. served contiguous territories as well as the world at large. All telegraphic communication rested solely in the hands of this office until it was closed down in 1912, when the islanders revolted against the suzerainty of Turkey, and gained their freedom. The current Turkish stamps were in use, and the only way of knowing that they were used on Samos is by the postmarks.

The Austrian P.O. was established in March, 1881, and functioned in conjunction with the agency of the Austrian Lloyd shipping line, whose manager and staff attended to all postal matters. This office was the most important of the various P.O.'s on the island, and after its establishment most of the outward bound letters, parcels and also the bulk of postal money transmissions were executed from this source. The stamps used were those of the Austrian Levant, both the para and centimes issues. This office functioned until December, 1914, when it closed down.

The French P.O. was established in 1893, and was managed by the French consular agent, M. Leon Missir, head of the business house of L. J. Missir & Co. in Vathy. This firm attended to the agency of the French steamship line, "Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes," Marseilles, whose boats called regularly at Vathy on the outward voyage to Syria as well as on the return trip. French postage stamps, overprinted "VATHY", were generally used, as well as ordinary Fr. Levant stamps. Those overprinted "VATHY" are S.G. Nos. T201-217. (They are by no means easy to come by.) This office was likewise closed at the end of 1914.

The Greek Postal Agency on Samos was used for the dispatch of mail matter to Greece per S.S. "Lykurgos", a small steamer

flying the flag of Samos, which plied between the island and Greek ports. Mail matter was franked with Greek stamps, which were obtainable at the agency, and the only way of ascertaining that they were used at Samos, is by the postmark. At times a Greek steamer, the S.S. "Achaia," called at Vathy and letters etc. could be sent by this ship as well. Greek postage stamps, postmarked with a large circular postmark reading "Achaia S/S Co. Ltd., Patros, Samos-Agency (Vathy)", give the necessary clue to the collector.

As well as these four post offices run by different nations, Samos had its own postal arrangements, which can be split into three categories, viz. (a) The Posts of the Principality of Samos, (b) The Posts of the Provisional Government, and (c) The Posts after amalgamation with Greece.

The first stamp issued in category (a) was for local use only, value 1 piastre, blue, and saw the light of day about 1878, or somewhat before the first post office, namely the Turkish one, was opened in 1880. It is shrouded in mystery and very few specimens have been unearthed to date. Mr. Ernst Hartmann, whose handbook on the postal affairs of the island can be regarded as the best information available, and on which this article is based, lived in Vathy for a number of years, and after very intensive investigation was able to reconstruct a sheet of twenty of these stamps. The stamp, although really a local, and used only for postage on the island, is of great rarity.

A second local issue was made about 1899/1900, and consisted of four values, viz. 5, 10 and 20 parades and 1 grosion. Parades and grosion in modern Greek mean para and piastre. These stamps were imperf. and un-gummed and depict the coat of arms of the Principality, as does the first stamp, mentioned above. Through the intervention of Turkey this set was very quickly withdrawn from use, and it seems that hardly any have been discovered in used state. Even unused copies are by no means plentiful.

A third set of four values was printed in Leipzig, Germany. As before, the values were 5, 10, 20 parades and 1 grosion. They were intended for general use, but had hardly arrived at their destination when the Turkish government protested, and the issue was immediately withdrawn, before a single copy was sold or used. This issue is also rather scarce. Subsequently a fourth issue saw the light of day. This consisted of postal stationery, first printed in 1900 and in use until 1912. There were entire envelopes and also newspaper wrappers, and only two values, namely 10 paras, blue, and 1 piastre, rose; they depicted the coat-of-arms of the ruling prince. Specimens of these stamps, cut out and pasted on ordinary envelopes are well known. As Samos is famous for many products, there are naturally a number of export houses, and many of these preferred using their own printed envelopes. Hence the custom referred to.

In 1899 a bogus or fraudulent issue was made, but thanks to timely warning no harm was done. A second such issue appeared, probably in connection with a visit of the French fleet to Mytilene. The printer was A. Douchet, of Paris, and very little is known of these stamps or their fate.

During the Turco-Greek war a revolt broke out against the nominal Turkish regency in November, 1912. The leader was Themistocles Sophoulis, under whom a provisional government was set up, which proclaimed union with Greece on November 11, 1914. This started a new phase in the postal history of the island.

Three days after the proclamation of union with Greece, on November 14, 1912 (Greek calendar), the first set of three stamps was on sale to the public. Nos. S.G. 1-3. The stamps are extremely crude, and depict a map of the island. A number of errors such as tête-bêche, wrong colour etc. exist. While these stamps were current, forgeries appeared; these were fabricated partly to sell to foreign collectors and partly to defraud the post office out of revenue. Specimens bearing genuine postmarks, used for this purpose, are to be found. After an investigation, several persons duly received prison sentences.

A subsequent issue was made in the same month, viz. November 1912. S.G. Nos. 4-8. Then followed a further issue in December, 1912, S.G. 9-14. This was succeeded in January, 1913 by S.G. 15-19. In 1914 S.G. 20-24 appeared, and in January, 1915, S.G. 25-31. The last issue was made later in 1915, S.G. 32-36. A number of errors such as imperf. and inverted overprints exist. Some stamps are known bisected, and this practice was allowed, as when the 5 lepta stamps were sold out, many persons, principally wine merchants, who used this value extensively on their price lists, received official sanction to use bisected 10 lepta stamps in place of the 5 lepta value. A number of the later stamps have been forged and nearly all the various sets are of very poor design as well as workmanship.

After 1915 Greek stamps gradually superseded the Samian issues, and are still in use.

From the foregoing remarks it is patent how very interesting the postal history of Samos is, and a mildly specialised collection, though by no means easy to come by, would very well repay any enterprising enthusiast.

* * *

MOROCCO—A FORGOTTEN COUNTRY

In the October issue of the "American Philatelist" Mr. E. F. Hurt draws attention to the omission by almost all catalogues of the stamps of the Shereefian Government of the Sultanate of Morocco, a very large sovereign state.

Morocco, in part on in whole and at one time or another, has had three varieties of postal services—(1) Foreign Posts, French, Spanish, British and German; (2) Private Local Posts, and (3) The Shereefian (or Cherifian) Government Post. This last is ignored by most collectors and by catalogue

makers, except Whitfield King and Yvert. It started operating in 1892, but only in 1912 did it have its own first issue of adhesive stamps; these are the six listed by Whitfield King. There was a so-called second issue in 1913 from redrawn plates.

This governmental postal service and its stamps disappeared in October, 1913, with the realisation of a French Protectorate.

The paper deals with all these postal services, but in special detail with the third.

Collectors' Wants & Offers

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Beginners and medium collectors—try our approval service.
Benoni Stamp Shop, Box 485, Benoni.

Seychelles wanted. Full catalogue price offered for fine used copies of Stanley Gibbons numbers 85, 91, 93 to 95B, 97 to 101, 103, 104, 107, 110, 114 to 118, 121, 122, 122A, 142, 145.
William Redford, P.O. Box 7012, Johannesburg.

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CORRESPONDENCE

O.F.S. POSTCARD STAMPS

Sir,—Mr. Emil Tamsen's interesting contribution in the November issue on the O.F.S. Postcards, states "the firm (of printers) printed the words BRIEF KAART near the top, with a considerable space between the two words; in this space was affixed an adhesive stamp, which was overprinted with a shield bearing the country's coat-of-arms".

This implies to my mind a three-process job: (1) Printing BRIEF KAART; (2) affixing the stamp; and (3) overprinting with shield; whereas from evidence before me it is clear that the stamp was first affixed approximately top-centre of the plain card; then the printing of (1) BRIEF KAART and (3) the overprint with shield was done by one impression from a single form. The depth of colour in (1) and (3), and their relative positions, is always the same—moreover I have a copy with the end of the arm of the F in BRIEF printed on the edge of the stamp which was more than usually off-centre.

Mr. Tamsen may mean this, but he does not say so; furthermore he stresses the point that "the shield, like the words, was always in black".

Yours etc.,
JAS. HAWKINS.

(The letter has been shown to Mr. Tamsen. He agrees that the preparation of the postcards was a two-process job as described by Mr. Hawkins.—Ed.)

SOME OLD O.V.S. ITEMS

Mr. A. A. Jurgens writes:

As to the first illustration in the "S.A. Philatelist" on page 154, I can hardly imagine that the one penny triangular stamp is an original part of the document, nor do I think that there is anything concrete in the reason given for the stamp not being cancelled, viz., owing to the O.F.S. Postmasters not wishing to destroy the appearance of the pretty lady ("Hope") or to destroy the possibility of the stamp being used again, a second time for postal duty.

I will admit that some of the old Boer Postmasters did funny things in those early days but I can hardly imagine that they would have encouraged the public to make use of a stamp twice, because, as was done in the Colony at that time was also done in the Orange Free State and that was the postmasters were allowed a small commission on the sale of stamps and in most cases they received no salary.

Another more concrete reason for my saying that I do not think the 1d. stamp is an original part of the cover is this: In 1856 there was no one penny rate of postage on letters either in the O.F.S. or in the Cape

Colony. The only one penny rate of postage was on newspapers and as the illustration is stated to be a portion of a cover (a letter cover I presume) and the fact that it was sent from Fauresmith to Bloemfontein, no postage stamp was required as the "Fauresmith Betaald" mark would have been sufficient to show that the postage from the town of origin to its destination had been paid.

On the other hand, presuming that the 1d. stamp was added to the letter at the time (1856) the postmaster at Fauresmith might easily have adopted the same procedure which prevailed in the Cape Colony at the time as follows:—

Seeing that the "Fauresmith Betaald" was evidence that the postage money had been paid the postmaster might not have thought it necessary to cancel the 1d. stamp which was not required as part of the postage. This is a fact which I have noticed on more than one occasion on both O.F.S. and Transvaal covers where the sender had added unnecessary stamps (owing possibly through ignorance of the postal rates) such stamps were not defaced by either the O.F.S. or Transvaal Post Offices.

As to the second illustration I cannot understand the necessity for a 1s. stamp on this letter.

I have several covers posted in the O.F.S. between the years 1874-1878 and addressed to such places as Swellendam, Graaff-Reinet and Cape Town and as the O.F.S. already had their own stamps since 1868 those letters addressed to or from the O.F.S. show a 6d. O.F.S. and a 4d. Cape Colony stamp up to August 1874. After this the 6d. O.F.S. on a letter posted in the O.F.S. and addressed to any place in the Cape Colony was carried to its destination without the addition of the 4d. Cape stamp and vice versa.

The cover illustrated, however, was posted in Cape Town in October, 1874 (two months after the use of the stamps of both countries had been discontinued), and it is stamped with a 4d. Cape Colony stamp which was sufficient to have carried the letter to its destination (Harrismith via Bloemfontein) without any further charge thereon.

As the revenue stamp on this cover does not appear to be in any way tied to the cover I think that in this case also it would be quite safe to say that it, like the 1d. triangular, was affixed to the letter at a later date, not necessarily with the object of defrauding anyone.

★
U.S.A.

The latest commemorative is a 3c one of the Everglades National Park, Florida, issued on 5th December. An attractive stamp with an outline map of the State showing the Park area thereon. In the foreground and partly covering the map is a great white heron; one of the characteristic birds of the area.

Due for issue on 5th January is a 3c. in honour of Dr. George Washington Carver, negro educator and scientist.

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PHILATELY IN ENGLAND.

England may be suffering from many shortages, but philately does not figure among them. In fact, so many developments have taken place recently, that enthusiasts are becoming more and more confused, and the hobby is becoming more and more complicated.

In September, the Philatelic Congress of Gt. Britain met for the 29th time. Congress is an old institution, which meets annually at different centres in England for a period of three days, to discuss matters and have papers read. All the important English societies are affiliated to Congress and send delegates each year. Congress is a dignified but passive body, and was described at the 1940 meeting in Brighton by a delegate as "a saucepan with a base (the philatelic societies) and a lid (the Executive Committee) but without any sides." Another delegate added to this: "There is not sufficient pressure from the societies to keep the lid moving." This year's Congress was held at Birmingham, with the Birmingham Philatelic Society, founded in 1886, acting as host. Out of the four papers submitted this year, the most useful was certainly "The Application of X-Ray to Philately," by Mr. W. H. S. Cheanin, F.R.P.S.L. Mr. Cheanin's paper, backed up by years of scientific investigation, opens up entirely new fields in philatelic research. As usual, the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists was signed by those chosen to receive the honour.

The British Philatelic Association and Philatelic Traders' Society have once again been active, this time with their 1947 British Philatelic Exhibition at South Kensington, London. The theme of the Exhibition, which lasted for a fortnight and was visited by 10,000 people, was the British Commonwealth of Nations. Contributions to the Exhibition were sent by many Dominion bodies, amongst which was a display from the Philatelic Federation of South Africa. Besides the main theme, there was a "Cavalcade of Stamp Collecting," which included such things as stamp snakes, wallpaper, fire-screens, cocktail cabinets, and pictures. From that point, the exhibits went on to various types of albums and accessories and the art of writing-up, leading up to Mr. Gerald E. Wellburn's fine collection of British Columbia, a stamp cabinet from Barclay's Bank, and silver plate and a gold casket presented to Sir Rowland Hill. Besides this wealth of exhibits, there were three lounges, a Brains Trust, an Expert Committee, a Post Office, a Buffet, and a Cinema. In the Cinema, there were films and lectures every evening, and on specific occasions there were Collectors' and Dealers' Conventions. As in 1946, a Junior Collectors' Cup competition was held; on this occasion attracting 113 entries, some of which were of a very high standard.

A new innovation is the London Stamp Fair Club, organised by a number of London dealers. Every Saturday, from 2 p.m. to

8 p.m., some 20 dealers sit at the tables which they have hired from the organisers, and members of the club flock in, eager to peruse the dealers' stock-books. This Fair has been welcomed by London collectors, and certainly produces a fine bourse atmosphere each Saturday.

Two other organisations, both run by the same people, are the Stamp Collectors' Association and Stamp Dealers' Association. They have run two National Stamp Exhibitions during 1947—one during March in London, and the other during November in Manchester. To provide for those whose localities do not warrant national events, there are nearly 300 local societies, which run meetings and small exhibitions. These, the smaller societies, form the backbone of the hobby.

England also boasts more than a score of philatelic journals, ranging from the "Stamp Mirror," which is the only philatelic newspaper, and appears weekly, to the fine art-paper bi-monthly "Philately," organ of the B.P.A.

Philatelists certainly have plenty to busy themselves with in England, so much so that I feel some simplification would be welcome. What we need is one central body in London, with all the local societies affiliated, making a really powerful body. Perhaps such a body would even be able to persuade His Majesty's Government to issue an occasional commemorative series.

ALAN M. COHEN.

★ ★ ★

"S.A. PHILATELIST" BACK NUMBERS

We have recently been stock-taking as regards back numbers, as we are not infrequently asked for either single copies or whole volumes.

Of some issues we have dozens or even scores of copies, of others only one or two or even none at all. Following is a list of numbers we would be glad to purchase at 2s. 6d. each from anyone willing to dispose of them. The list so far only includes the first eight volumes, when the magazine was published in a smaller format than at present:

- Vol. 1, 1923: Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10.
- Vol. 2, 1924: Nos. 2, 6 and 10.
- Vol. 3, 1925: Nos. 3, 9 and 12.
- Vol. 4, 1926: Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11 and 12.
- Vol. 5, 1927: Nos. 2, 7 and 11.
- Vol. 6, 1928: Nos. 1, 2, 9, 10, 11 and 12.
- Vol. 7, 1931: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10.
- Vol. 8, 1932: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 10.

★

ANGLO-BOER WAR P.O.W. CENSOR MARK

In our August issue last year, p. 124, we noted a censor mark from the Ladysmith P.O.W. camp as "hitherto unrecorded." Mr. Stephen G. Rich writes to say we ourselves recorded it in November, 1942, p. 127. Well, well, Homer nodded sometimes so perhaps lesser lights may be forgiven if they sometimes follow his bad example.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES

The Stamp Collectors' Annual—1947. Edited by Tom Morgan, published by Harris Publications, Ltd., 445 Strand, London. Price 2s. 6d.

This interesting little volume is back again in its conventional size. After a survey by the editor of the outstanding philatelic events of the year there is a series of articles by various writers as follows:—

Music as the inspiration of stamps; A list to the quantities of various stamps issued during the past year; The stamps and postmarks of Antigua; The best designed stamps of 1947 (incidentally the Union Royal Visit stamps are stigmatised as dull, uninspiring and a really filthy printing job and very few British Commonwealth issues get much praise); A world currency guide; Special Czechoslovak postmarks; A British "Who's Who" in philately, and some other odds and ends.

Annual Résumé of the H. R. Harmer Stamp Auctions, 1946-47.

This commences with a fine colour plate of some of the outstanding items from the "Williams" collection. The London sales reached a new high-water figure, just short of £300,000 turnover, with the New York sales at between a third and a half of this figure. A number of the figures realised for various items are given. Private treaty sales were over £150,000 in London and in New York 184,900 dollars.

There is an interesting article comparing sales, from the auctioneer's point of view, in London and New York.

Ipa. J. J. Kaindl, Postamt 93, Vienna, sends this pamphlet consisting of a list of collectors and dealers wishing to buy, sell or exchange stamps. Most are in Europe, a few in other parts of the world.

L'Argus Philatelic. A new French monthly published at 3 Rue Stella, Lyon (2). Contains new issues and a few short articles and notes of general interest.

Stamp Dealers' 1948 Catalogue. Messrs. H. E. Harris & Co., Boston, U.S.A., submit Part I (Abyssinia—Dutch Indies) of their latest wholesale catalogue of stamps in sets.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

ESSAYS, PROOFS AND SPECIMENS

Seeing that Section I of the Federation's Catalogue deals with this branch of Union philately, it may not come amiss to put on record the following items in my collection.

Item A.14, Essay illustrated at the top of p.1. It seems worthy of note that in this essay, although the inscription is in Afrikaans, there is AFRICA instead of AFRIKA.

Items A.16 and A.19, A.20. I have these. Is it possible that A.19, A.20 should come after A.16 as Proofs or Colour Trials of the London Pictorials (1926), and not of the Pretoria Pictorials (1927), as given in the catalogue?

Proofs of the Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. printings of 1926 and 1927 issues. All of these are perforated "SPECIMEN" the word being 17 mm. long x 3 mm. high; the holes are very small, there being, for example, ten holes forming the letter "S." (In the two-plate stamps the centre colours are given first, the frame colours second.)

4d. triangular: mono-coloured, brown; grey-green.

2d.: black and green; purple and black.

3d.: red-brown and black; green and orange.

4d.: mono-coloured, vermilion; purple.

1s.: black and reddish purple; slate and pale brown.

2s. 6d.: brown and blue-green.

5s.: grey-black and red; sepia and slate-blue.

10s.: grey-black and blue; grey-black and reddish purple. —G. Carleton Jones.

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SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIC JOURNALS

While checking up on back files of the "S.A. Philatelist" there were found a number of copies of a publication which might also be added to the list given by Miss Smith in our July issue.

This was "The International Hobbyist," described at first as being the official organ of the International Card and Stamp Collectors' Club; later, of the International Exchange, incorporating the above body and also The South African Card and Stamp Collectors' Club, and the Southern Correspondence Club (which incorporated the Universal Collectors' Association and the Continental Stamp Exchange Club).

It was a quarterly publication, dealing mainly with stamp collecting; a few odd notes on stamps are given, but the publication consisted mainly of lists of members throughout the world. The original editor was Louis Gillen, Pretoria, but before Vol. 1 was finished it was taken over by J. Robertson & Co., then by Harry Blom and then by M. Friedman. What it's whole life was, we don't know; we have specimens ranging from Vol. 1, No. 3, June, 1921, to Vol. 4, No. 1, May, 1924. Copies of what numbers we possess have been given to the Johannesburg Public Library.

The Library ought also to possess, but apparently does not, the "Transactions of the Pretoria Philatelic Society," a yearly publication, which contained some very good articles. Perhaps the society could supply a set and also inform us for how long the publication of the "Transactions" lasted.

Mr. C. A. Fost draws attention to another

publication, called originally "The South African Philatelic Advertiser," later changed to "The South African Advertiser and Natal Philatelist." This was published in Durban, the editor being Mr. N. Welsford, now Hon. Secretary of the Philatelic Federation, then a very young stamp collector. It ran from May, 1911, till March, 1912.

ZANZIBAR POST OFFICES

Collectors are familiar with "Zanzibar" postmarks of various types since 1895, but how many know or have ever seen postmarks of the other post offices and agencies in this Protectorate,

In an article on "The Post at Zanzibar," by Harold G. D. Gisburn in *Stamp Collecting*, there are listed five agencies on the main island, Mkokotoni, Chwaka, Mangapwani, Koani and Makunduchi. There are also three post offices on the island of Pemba, which lies to the north of the main island of Zanzibar; these are Wete (or Weti), Chake-chake (or Chakichaki) and Mkoani, and they have "Pemba" in their postmarks.

BRAZIL

Dr. M. de Sanctis sends a special cancellation used on 8th-10th November at the 2nd Philatelic Exposition of Joinville (Sta. Catharina).

PAKISTAN

Whitfield King's *Bulletin* gives a list of the Indian K.G. VI issues which have been overprinted:—

Ordinary, 21 denominations 3p to 25r.
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The SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST

Published Monthly by the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

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AN UNRECORDED WAR LEAFLET

There has been brought to our notice an item of interest to Aero-Philatelists, viz., a leaflet bearing a message to the Italian People from the Citizens of Johannesburg, dropped by the S.A. Air Force over Italy.

This leaflet, measuring 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches, is printed on white paper in dark blue; it has on one side the message in English and in Afrikaans; on the other it is in Italian with a space at the bottom for the signature of the sender, the place and the date. Can any reader supply the actual date of the sending of the leaflet? A specimen of it would also be welcomed.

Here is the English version:

(Heading) Message to the Italian People/ from the Citizens of Johannesburg/South Africa.

(Message) We, the undersigned, being citizens of Johannesburg, South Africa, desire to add our voices to the message broadcast to the Italian people by the Prime Minister of Great Britain and the President of the United States of America, when they said:—

“The time has come for you Italian people to consult your own self-respect and your own interests and your own desires for the restoration of national dignity, security and peace. The time has come for you to decide whether the Italians still die for Mussolini and Hitler, or live for Italy and civilization.”

This leaflet, and others, signed by South Africans in all walks of life, will reach you in a few days after it leaves the Golden City of the Union. In the interests of Italy, the Italian people and world freedom, we hope you will earnestly consider the message our planes are carrying to you.

THE UNION IN ANTARCTICA

Rhodes' statue in Cape Town looks and points North, with his famous saying “Your Hinterland lies there.” Now we have faced about and expanded Southward, for in the last week of 1947, the Union flag, under agreement with Britain, was hoisted on Prince Edward and Marion Islands. These islands, about 12 miles apart, lie about 1,250 miles S.S.E. of Durban. This annexation occurred almost simultaneously with the Australian occupation of Heard Is., lying further eastwards.

A meteorological station is being set up this season, and this is expected to add materially to our weather forecasting capacity.

Will the islands have “Dependency” stamps and their own postmark or will letters only receive Paquebot markings on arrival at a Union port? No announcement has yet been made as to this.

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British Mail in Madagascar

BY SAMUEL GRAVESON

It is now many years since the British Mails in the island of Madagascar were referred to at length in philatelic journals. To the ordinary stamp collector the history of their origin is an unknown chapter. It is now approximately fifty years since the British Consular Mail stamps were first issued. In the 'eighties of last century Madagascar had a government independent of France. The capture of the island, Antananarivo, where the Queen and her consort, the Prime Minister, resided, is a city in the centre of the island, which at that time had no connection with the coast by road or rail. Nevertheless the city was a place of residence for a number of Europeans, including British, French and Norwegian missionaries and traders. Tamatave, the principal port, was favoured by the presence of a British Consul. He was a man of great size, and for this reason he was never able to present himself at the capital. The story goes that there were no porters in Madagascar who could have carried him the two hundred miles along forest paths and across numerous rivers that separated Tamatave from Antananarivo. Europeans usually accomplished the journey in chair or palanquin borne by coolies.

There being no roads in Madagascar and very few trading centres away from the coast, the Malagasey Government never took the trouble to organise a postal system. There were Royal Couriers who conveyed despatches from the Capital to local Governors in different parts of the island. The Passport envelope was used about the year 1875 to one such Governor. Another official envelope in my possession is interesting as showing that the Madagascar Government at that time used the British island of Mauritius as a link with England.

The appointment of Mr. William Clayton Pickersgill as Vice-Consul at Antananarivo in 1884 was another link with England. Mr. Pickersgill had been a missionary under the London Missionary Society in Madagascar. He was highly esteemed by the Queen and Prime Minister, having acted as guide and interpreter to the Malagasey deputation that visited England. The British residents in the capital welcomed his coming and made him local Postmaster. This office was no sinecure at that time. The French, who had established a number of trading stations on the coast, were at war with the Hovas and had bombarded and then occupied the port of Tamatave. Letters received at Tamatave from England were held up or returned to Mauritius. This delay in the postal service was the subject of a lengthy memorandum from Mr.

Pickersgill to the Foreign Office in London. In the course of this he mentioned that he had taken in hand the organisation of the outward mails from the Capital, although he makes no mention of British Consular Mail franks, for which he personally was responsible.

To rightly understand the purpose that these franks served one must go back to the days prior to the appointment of Pickersgill as Vice-Consul. It was then the custom for the British residents in Antananarivo to appoint one of their number to act as postmaster. He received the letters of the members of the British community in the island and forwarded them by courier to an agent in Tamatave, or some other port for stamping and despatch. The cost of conveyance to the port was met out of a fund subscribed by the residents. These letters reached Europe by various ways—via Mauritius, Reunion, Zanzibar, Natal. For a year or more the British Treasury subsidised the Donald Currie steamers to make Tamatave a port of call, but this was discontinued after a strong protest from the General Post Office. Mr. Pickersgill, however, appears to have kept in touch with the Donald Currie Line, and when the trouble came with the French at Tamatave he made suggestions for a British Mail service to the island. This was definitely turned down by the home government.

Under these exceptional and peculiar circumstances the British Consular Mail stamps came into existence. As to the exact date of their issue there seems to be some uncertainty. In an article contributed by J. N. Marsden to the "Stamp News Annual" for 1891, an apparently official notice is reprinted dated April 23, 1886. This mentions the issue of the stamps and gives a list of the various values. Mr. Marsden gives March, 1886, as the date of the first issue. The stamps are described as "postal franks," but it is clearly set out that the higher values would cover the postage on letters and parcels to all countries in the Postal Union. This seems to suggest that the stamps were more than locals. But were they? The inquiries I have made for a genuine entire with a British Consular Mail stamp on it indicating that it had paid postage beyond the island have so far drawn a blank, but I am still open to be convinced!—and to pay the market price! I think the truth is that the purpose of the franks was to assist Mr. Pickersgill with his account keeping and to ensure that he should receive back his out-of-pocket expenses as local postmaster.

Those who have collected these stamps must have noted that unlike the ordinary adhesive postage stamp, they are only gummed at one corner. This at once suggests that they were never intended to go the whole way with the letter to which they were attached. On the other hand, they would admirably serve the purpose of vouchers which could be easily removed when the authorised agent at Tamatave, Port Louis, or Durban placed stamps on the letters that would pay postage overseas. The fact that some of these stamps may have

remained on the letters till they reached St. Louis or Durban does not make them more than locals, for such letters would have formed part of a despatch from a Consular official. One of the used examples of these stamps in my collection has the gummed corner missing. This evidently came off when the agent removed the stamp from the letter. But whether we call them locals or mere labels the British Consular Mail stamps of Madagascar are of great interest. A study of them opens up a chapter of postal history where one will find a situation that perplexed Prime Ministers as well as the ordinary British resident and trader. By the permission of the British Foreign Office I have been enabled to make researches at the Public Record Office which have made it possible to write the foregoing.

—“Lowe’s Raconteur and Philatelist”
and “Mekeel’s Weekly Stamp News.”

★

BRITISH COLONIALS

Trinidad:

The “Philatelic Magazine” reprints an article by Mr. Chas. H. Munro from the “Trinidad Philatelic Review” on the 4c. brown which jumped to 8s. 6d. in the S.G. 1947 catalogue. When the pictorial set was issued in 1935 this 4c. was issued as a revenue stamp at the same time.

In 1938, when a new pictorial set appeared, this 4c. stamp was included, but with the word “Revenue” omitted from the base, and it was valid for either postage or revenue.

Most people were so used to its being only a revenue stamp, and because also there was no regular 4c. postage rate, it was very little used for postage. It was not till some time after its withdrawal from sale that it was recognised it would be a scarce item, mint or used.

One unfortunate result is that fiscally used specimens are being cleaned and faked—so beware.

British Somaliland:

“Stamps” figures a recent find made in Italy, in the shape of a block of 12 of the 5r. 1938 issue with three pairs imperf. between. This bids fair to be one of the greatest rarities of K.G. VI issues.

Tokelau or Union Group of Islands:

In connection with the issue of special stamps for this group of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, Mr. G. N. Morris has an article in the “American Philatelist” (November issue) dealing with the postmarks of the three atolls comprising the group.

Papua and New Guinea:

The Australian News and Information Bureau has issued a statement that these territories are to be combined under one administration, also that their pre-war stamps are to be withdrawn from sale and current stamps of the Australian Commonwealth are to be used without any superscription.

WHITHER STAMP COLLECTING?

Where is the deluge of New Issues we are being subjected to likely to lead us? It seems to me that collectors can at present be roughly divided into two groups; the first are rather bewildered but are inclined to take anything which comes their way or is otherwise brought to their notice with sufficient force; but there is a growing body who are confining themselves to smaller and smaller groups. In fact we are reaching the point where a general collection confined to the issues of a continent or even a related group of countries will be as impossible of attainment for the average collector as the old-fashioned Whole World collection has been for many years.

An American writer (Don Nicholas, in “Western Stamp Collector,” 19.4.47) has said that the time can already be envisaged when the Commemorative Issues of their own country will be all that American collectors will be able to handle, without touching the ordinary issues, etc.; if this is so for the U.S.A. it must be even more so for some other countries. Another thing is—it will not much longer be possible to list the stamps of the Whole World in one volume without increasing the size of the pages, which would make it too bulky to handle just as much as increasing the number of pages would do. This, together with the rising cost, is going to lead to the catalogue being divided into more and more sections.

What may be termed the serious collectors will buy the section in which they are interested and ignore the rest, and the stamps of those countries which seem to spend most of their time in thinking out excuses for new issues are not likely to find much favour with them. The result of all this will be that the stamps of these countries are likely to be left to the novice and school-boy type of collector, for whose benefit an ultra simplified catalogue may be issued. The nationals of those countries, for whose benefit many of the issues are undoubtedly made, will find that they, as well as their governments, are unable to unload them on the collectors of other countries. These countries will become philatelically “dead,” for as soon as the novice starts studying a catalogue he has made the first step towards realising the worthlessness of these issues.

W. TUNSTALL.

★

SPIFS

This is the British term for “Stamps Perforated with Initials of Firms” against which a writer fulminated in our November issue. We note a complaint in the “Austra-Stamp Monthly” about the same thing—the spoiling of high value stamps by turning them into Spifs.

Many governments officially permit of this being done and it may be presumed firms have (what they consider) good reason for so doing. Can they be blamed for considering their own interests before those of stamp collectors? Can we, the collectors, do anything about it?

WHEN WERE O.R.C. V.R.I.'s DEMONETISED?

The answer given to this question by 99 out of 100 persons would probably be "on and after January 1, 1938," in terms of Government Notice No. 1575 of October 15, 1937, which announced that all pre-Union stamps still valid for postage would become invalid at that date.

There can be no question but that O.F.S. Republican stamps overprinted V.R.I. or E.R.I. and Cape stamps overprinted Orange River Colony were quite extensively used throughout the Union for postal purposes from 1910 to 1937. Many such stamps could be purchased from dealers, especially in London, at under face value and stamp collectors who knew this could save quite a little bit on their mails by using such stamps. Everyone concerned, including apparently the postal authorities, thought it was quite in order.

But what about the two following official notices which have been brought to our notice by Mr. E. White?

(1) Government Notice No. 366 of 1904, under the heading "Post Office Regulations—3—Postage Stamps", published in the O.R.C. Government Gazette of October 14, 1904. This states: "The Postage Stamps of the late Orange Free State, marked 'V.R.I.' and 'E.R.I.' respectively, and those of the Cape Colony with the words 'Orange River Colony' overprinted on them, shall not be accepted in prepayment of postage after the 31st December, 1909."

This appears pretty definitely to be giving a 5 years warning of the intention to demonetise these stamps.

(2) In the Report of the Postmaster-General of the Orange River Colony, for the year ended June 30, 1909, the following appears under the heading "Postage Stamps which will not be valid after the 31st December, 1909".

Paragraph 35

"In terms of Post Office Regulations No. 202, dated the 12th October, 1904, and published in the 'Government Gazette' No. 315, dated the 14th of the same month, postage stamps of the late Orange Free State, marked 'V.R.I.' and 'E.R.I.' respectively, and those of Cape Colony with the words 'Orange River Colony' overprinted on them, will not be valid for the prepayment of postage after the 31st December next. It is thought that there are still large quantities of these stamps in the hands of dealers."

Evidently the postal authorities of the O.R.C. in 1909 had not forgotten the warning given in 1904 and they had sized up correctly the situation as to the numbers of these stamps still in existence.

So, from January 1, 1910, these stamps were invalidated in the Orange River Colony. But what happened when the O.R.C. became part of the Union of South Africa later on that year?

It hardly seems likely that the stamps were officially re-validated, yet, on the other hand, there is no doubt as to their having been extensively used, and used without any objections from the postal authorities.

Did Homer nod, or, in other words, did they forget all about the O.R.C. having demonetised the stamps? Or, to mix metaphors, were they like Nelson, and just putting their telescope to a blind eye? Does anybody know?

KG VI Issues.

It may seem a long way to England: actually, for practical purposes, it's a few hours, and if you were to send us an air-letter for a copy of our KG VI price list, you would get one before you could say knife. And mark this: our price list would contain a string of offers of KG VI stamps (we deal in no others) which would astound you, not only in their range but in their prices as well: for don't forget, we are operating in the keenest market in the world, and to keep our staff in tucker (even if we don't get much) means we have to sell a lot of stamps. And we can only do that if you have either what the other fellow hasn't got, or a keen price if he has. Trade is said to be dull: our volume is higher than ever it has been, particularly overseas, and that speaks for itself. Just send that air-letter, be you beginner or an advanced collector. You're in for a treat if you do.

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of the Auction Season is well under way and we have had to make provision for the inclusion of many fine British Empire collections which we are offering suitably lotted. Scarce singles, good sets and single country collections will be regularly offered throughout the coming months. Catalogue descriptions are comprehensive and accurate, while every assistance possible is given to Overseas clients.

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EAST LONDON CONGRESS AND EXHIBITION

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Philatelic Federation was held in Johannesburg on 4th December. The business was almost entirely concerned with arrangements for the Congress in East London to be held on January 14-16. As this issue will scarcely be in the hands of readers before that date, there seems little point in giving details of the business; it will all come up at Congress and will be reported in full in our next issue.

We have received the Catalogue of the Exhibition; congratulations to the local organising committee on its production; it includes a short history of the E.L. Philatelic Society from its foundation in 1909.

The list of Exhibition entries totals over 70 items, which is an extremely creditable one. In only two classes ("Colonial Possessions of Foreign Countries" and "General Collections") are there no entries; the other thirteen classes are well represented. In addition to the competitive items there is a Display by the Postal Department showing (1) Specimens of every print of (a) current pictorials, (b) Special issues, and (c) postage due labels. (2) Special issues ranging from the Voortrekker to the Royal Visit stamps.

SOMALIA "OCCUPATION" ISSUE

Prepared for use but not issued. Fuller details of this issue are now given in "Stamp Collecting". When the South African Forces entered Mogadishu they overprinted approximately 10,000 copies of each of the values 10, 20, 30, 60, 70 cents and 1 lira, also 4,500 each of the 2, 4 and 10 lira. They were overprinted "British Occupation" and at the same time their value was doubled by surcharges in figures.

Before they were put in circulation, however, the British Military Administration forbade their use as British Stamps overprinted "E.A.F." had already been decided upon.

They were destroyed by burning although a few sets were retained as souvenirs. None are known postally used.

AUSTRALIA

The Princess Elizabeth 1d. stamp was issued on her marriage day, November 20. For a time the stamp will be on sale concurrently with the 1d. bearing a portrait of H.M. the Queen, ultimately it will replace it entirely.

The P.M.G. announces that in connection with the forthcoming Australian Antarctic Expedition a post office will be established on Heard Island, one of their bases. The leader of the expedition, Group-Captain Stuart Campbell, has been appointed postmaster; there will be no special stamps but there will be a special cancellation mark used. Heard Island is a new Antarctic outpost coming into philately; it is a small island lying not very far to the S.E. of Kerguelen and roughly midway between Australia and South Africa.

GOLD COAST

A new pictorial set is well under way and may be expected to be on issue fairly soon. There will be twelve denominations ranging from ½d. to 10s.

★

GERMANY

The French Zone is still busy with additional values of the "Rheinland-Pfalz" issue, the latest being two denominations (2 and 60pf.) both showing the death-mask of Ludwig von Beethoven, also a 20 pf. showing a street corner in the village of St. Martin in the Palatinate.

Censorship of private mail in the American Zone is to be gradually done away with.

Sales of stamps to foreign visitors in the British Zone are limited to a maximum of RM600 with not more than RM250 for any one item.

Thanks to Philatelic-Equator for information.

★

U.S.S.R.

Whitfield King & Co's "Bulletin" reports 4 sets of stamps, 31 in all, issued in September in connection with the 800th anniversary of the founding of Moscow.

★

GREETING CARDS

Thanks to the following:—J. F. Babb, Capt. Robert E. Oakes, B. H. Homan, Jr., Central News Agency.

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SOCIETY NEWS

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL

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

The 36th annual meeting of this Society was held in the Caxton Hall, Beach Grove, Durban, on Wednesday, 5th November, and proved one of the most outstanding meetings by virtue that the meeting was combined with a social evening. Members and their wives have already given their views hoping that all our annual meetings in future will be held on the same lines.

The following were the officers elected for the year 1947/48: *President*, Mr. G. Milner Palmer; *vice-presidents*, Messrs. W. H. Winde, L. Bevis, J. Lyle, E. E. Gagel, and W. Hall Jones; *sales packet supt.*, Mr. W. F. Owens; *secretary/treasurer*, Mr. A. S. Maskell; *committee*, Messrs. N. D. Williams, C. Selwyn Smith, H. Hanna, Dr. Morris, K. I. Bevis; *auctioneer*, Mr. J. Lyle; *hon. auditor*, Mr. E. E. Gagel.

During the evening the "Percy Bishop" Floating Trophy and Miniature for the best exhibit during the year was presented to Mr. L. O. Bosse for his exhibition of Union stamps. As Mr. W. H. Winde mentioned that this was an exhibit by a comparatively new member, and only proved what could be done in the way of write up and setting out. In this particular instance Mr. Bosse utilised pictures and crests of Towns and Regiments, the whole was a pleasing effort. The evening continued with a social, which brought to a close a most enjoyable night.

The ordinary meeting held on the 3rd December was attended by 65 members and friends, and once again proved that the Society is making excellent progress. Mr. Garth Green, a Foundation Member of this Society, exhibited Great Britain for the "P. C. Bishop" Cup. Mr. Owens gave us a novel competition, and there is no doubt that these competitions are looked forward to by our members. The evening closed with the usual auction. The subscription of the Society is now 15s. per annum for Town Members, and 5s. per annum for Country Members. We take this opportunity of advising all readers that they and their friends will be welcomed at our meetings when they are in Durban.

W.H.W.



PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, F. C. Ferguson; *Hon. Sec.*, H. Endemann, P.O. Box 514; *Meetings*, 1st and 3rd Mondays, 8 p.m., Technical College.

3rd November: An exhibit was given by Mr. G. Carleton Jones of Canadian classics, although the exhibitor himself was not able to be present. As was expected, there were some very fine items shown, including Die and Plate proofs, and the writing-up of them was an art in itself.

17th November: Dr. Broughton was unable to give his paper and exhibit, but Mr. Wright filled the blank by showing his Newfoundland.

Pretoria representatives at the East London Congress will be Miss Versfeld, and Messrs. Durkin and Von Abelfeld, of East London.

H.E.



JEWISH GUILD PHILATELIC SECTION

Chairman, Dr. A. Kaplan; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. B. Joseph, 143 London House, Loveday Street, Johannesburg; *Meetings*, Last Thursday, Jewish Guild War Memorial Hall.

At the meeting held on November 27 the exhibitors were Messrs. B. and J. Joseph, who showed a selection of British Empire stamps.

The exhibit was mostly George VI issues, but there were also numerous commemoratives of

George V. Most of the rarities of colour and perforation of the George VI issue were shown.

Mr. I. Isaacs spoke on the exhibit, which was much appreciated.

The section will be in recess until 29th January, 1948.

I.I.



EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, J. V. Jensen; *Hon. Secretary*, W. J. Gillespie, P.O. Box 673. *Meetings*, 2nd Fridays, above Colosseum Theatre Tea Room, at 7.45 p.m.

The November meeting, held on the 14th, was well attended, and one of our visitors, Mr. Read, District Governor of 55th District Rotary, spoke briefly on the part that cast off stamps had played in boosting funds in the Union to the extent of £500 during the past year.

The usual business was proceeded with and the Exhibition Committee reported a very healthy financial position, enabling a substantial spending on plaques. These are to be in silver, E.P.N.S., and bronze, purchased in England, and will be something that the recipients will be proud to possess.

The following members were elected to Congress: Messrs. C. H. Thornton, A. Watson, and J. P. Shingler.

The following items of interest were tabled: Gt. Britain, 1d. Q. Victoria with letter in bottom corner only; South Africa, 2 blocks of ½d. offsets, 1 of G.V. and 1 of Springbok head. New Issues, U.S.A., Germany, N.Z. Health, Czechoslovakia, Gibraltar 5d., S.A. ½d. P. Due.

A comprehensive, neatly set out and well written up collection of Sudan from 1897 to date in mint and used was laid on the table by Mr. J. H. Walker as item 1 of the display for the evening, and it was a pleasure to see this country so complete. Thanks Mr. Walker.

Display item 2, Errors and Varieties, was tabled by Mr. E. Stanjer, and provided members with an opportunity of seeing many items which are only known to many as catalogue numbers or mentioned by specialists as existing but not catalogued.

This display, as Mr. Thornton ably commented, is one which may never be seen again, and gave an indication of what can be accomplished by perseverance and attention to detail. Postmarks, inverts, irregularities, re-entries, wrong cliches and the host of others that go to make up this type of collection were well represented in mint and used. One notable item being the mint block of 9 U.S.A. 2c. Washington, the central stamp being the 5c. value which cliche was inserted in error. Many thanks, Mr. Stanjer.

W.J.G.



THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

President, Dr. A. Kaplan; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. J. H. Jenkins, P.O. Box 4967; *Meetings*, 2nd Tuesdays and 4th Mondays, Public Library, 7.45 p.m.

At the meeting held on 13th December Dr. A. Kaplan showed Christmas stamps of all nations. The exhibit included South African, Canadian, Danish, Polish, Italian and French Christmas stamps as well as those of Great Britain, Spain, Japan, Norway, Sweden, Iceland, Finland, and U.S.A.

At the end of the meeting Dr. Kaplan presented numerous South African Christmas stamps to be sold on behalf of the Tuberculosis Fund.

A competition for Tyros (i.e., members who had never before exhibited at the Society meetings) was held during the evening. This consisted of an exhibition of Union stamps. The four competitors were Messrs. Glassman, Duchon, Joseph and Sheffield. The winner was Mr. Duchon, but all the exhibits were excellent.

I.I.

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EAST LONDON CONGRESS AND EXHIBITION.

East London Congress and Exhibition are now but a memory, but a very very pleasant one, certainly to the visitors, and we think also to the hosts.

Full minutes of Congress will be sent to constituent societies in due course, but the following notes give the gist of the business done.

CONGRESS NOTES

Eleven member societies were represented by twenty-seven delegates at the Ninth Congress of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, held at the East London Technical College, commencing on January 15, 1948.

Also in attendance were Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie, chairman; Commander Enoch, vice-chairman; W. Redford, executive member, and Norman Welsford, hon. secretary-treasurer of the Federation.

The Mayor of East London, Cr. Lazarus, opened Congress and welcomed delegates to the city.

Mr. Jensen, president of the East London Philatelic Society, made an excellent chairman and kept business going.

The executives' report stated that philately was in a flourishing condition and that the Federation's affairs were in good order. Several new societies have joined recently and seventeen societies are now affiliated. Cash on hand at December 31 was £125 4s. 3d.

Dr. Harvey Pirie, in reporting on the "S.A. Philatelist", appealed for contributions from individuals and societies. Sectional editors, an assistant editor, and more illustrations were some of the suggestions put forward.

Mr. Redford said the magazine was now paying its way.

Much discussion centered around the Union Catalogue (? Handbook) published by the Federation. Much talk, little result. It was very pleasing to note that a substantial profit had been realised from the sale of the Catalogue. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the editors.

Congress passed, with acclamation, a resolution, "that hearing there is to be a new issue of Union stamps these should be bilingual".

Unused stamps with the gum washed off should be classified equal in value to mint stamps. This was the opinion of a majority of delegates.

That the Federation should have a new constitution and rules and regulations, was the unanimous decision of congress. A sub-committee is to get to work immediately.

Next congress will be held at Pretoria about October, 1948.

The following were elected to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists: Messrs. W. L. Ashmead, A. E. Basden, P. C. Bishop, A. A. Jurgens, J. H. Harvey Pirie and W. Redford.

The Skinner Cup was awarded to Mr. A. E. Basden, F.R.P.S.L.

Congress resolved to take strong action to endeavour to prevent freaks and other stamps, described as "printers' waste," coming on to the market and being sold to unsuspecting collectors. A list of genuine and spacious emmissions is to be prepared and circulated.

Mr. E. Hunt donated a cup for the best contribution on forgeries to be published in the "Philatelist".

Congress dinner at Deal's Hotel was a very cheery function. Dr. Harvey Pirie, on behalf of delegates, expressed the hearty thanks

of the visitors for the splendid time they had had in East London.

Mr. A. Jacob looked as if he was going to follow the procedure at formal congress meetings and move an amendment, but told some stories instead, and very good ones, too.

Mr. C. G. Mummery thanked the ladies for the marvellous way in which they had made the social side of congress so successful.

THE EXHIBITION

A visitor to the East London Centenary National Philatelic Exhibition was very hard put to single out individual items from among the wealth of material on display as this was quite outstanding for a National Exhibition and many exhibits could have competed with honour at an International Exhibition.

There were close on a hundred entries and the jury must have had a tough job examining them all and deciding on the awards. Here follows a list of awards and brief notes on some of the gems displayed by winners of First Awards:

Class 1 (Union of South Africa): Mr. L. Simenhoff (Cape Town), 1; Dr. A. Kaplan (Germiston), 2; Mr. C. Hampson (East London), 3.

(Mr. L. Simenhoff.) 4 corner pairs of £1 showing Plate No. 1 and fine used block of 4. Second setting of Bradbury, Wilkinson 5s., four mint blocks of 4. 1d. ship type in block of 4 with trial trefoil watermark.

Class 2 (Cape of Good Hope): Mr. A. Jurgens (Cape Town) and Mr. C. H. Thornton (East London), 1; Mr. J. Shepherd (Brakpan), 3.

(Mr. A. A. Jurgens.) Several copies of 1d. and 4d. woodblocks on cover. A number of 4d. bisects on cover. A pair of 1s. emerald green of 1863-4 on entire, one of three so known.

(Mr. C. H. Thornton.) Cover with 22 four-penny triangulars.

Class 3 (Natal, O.F.S., Transvaal, New Republic, Rhodesia and S.W.A.): Mr. A. Jacob (Cape Town) and Mr. E. Hunt (Johannesburg), 1; Mr. J. Shepherd (Brakpan), 2; Mr. L. Simenhoff (Cape Town), 3.

(Mr. A. Jacob—Rhodesia.) Victoria Falls 1s., mint pair imperf. horizontally and mint strip of three imperf. vertically. 1909 £1 vertical pair, one without surcharge (only 10 such pairs known).

(Mr. E. Hunt—Transvaal.) S.G. 194 6a, one of the two known copies. S.G. 17, unused sheet of 40. S.G. 99b and 1903 £5 mint.

Class 4 (Northern and Southern Rhodesia, Kenya, Tanganyika, Nyasaland, East Africa, St. Helena, Ascension, Mauritius, Basutoland, Bechuanaland, Swaziland, Griqualand West, Zululand): Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie (Johannesburg) and Mr. A. Jurgens (Cape Town), 1; Dr. A. Kaplan (Germiston), 2; Mr. C. Gelberg (Cape Town), 3.

(Dr. Pirie—Swaziland.) "Swazilan" error on cover and inverted, "waziland" variety and misplaced overprints.

(Mr. A. A. Jurgens—Bechuanaland.) Full range of the so-called forgeries of the ½d. on 3d., all postally used on pieces. Unappropriated dies overprinted Specimen or Cancelled. Kimberley forgeries.

Class 5 (Great Britain): Mr. A. Watson (East London), 1; Mrs. R. Alabaster (East London), 2.

(A. Watson.) Mulready envelope used on day of issue. Notices to postmasters of issue of 1d. red-brown and 2d. blue (with line), with specimens attached. 2d. (no lines), block of 4 on cover.

Class 6 (British Empire countries not enumerated): Dr. K. Freund (Bloemfontein), Comdr. Enoch (Johannesburg) and Mr. C. G. Mummery (Cape Town), 1; C. H. Thornton (East London), 2; Mr. H. Suklje (Benoni) and Dr. A. Kaplan (Germiston), 3.

(Dr. K. Freund—Mafeking.) 1d. on ½d., part sheet of 29 showing all varieties. B.P. block of 6 and strip of 3 showing position of the cracked plate flaw. This is the finest collection of these stamps known and was given the special award for the finest exhibit entered in all classes.

(Comdr. C. E. Enoch, R.N.R.—British Guiana.) 1853-60 4c, S.G. 20 fine used on large piece dated 22 May 1858. S.G. 24, 1856 4c initialled by E. D. Wright. 1905 2.40 dollars mint and also specimen.

(C. G. Mummery—Falkland Is.) Specimens of both early Franks. Several 1891-92 bisects including 11b and 13c on covers. South Georgia Provisional 2½d. and 1915 cover with Deception Island post mark.

Class 7 (U.S.A. and European countries): Dr. A. Kaplan (Germiston) and Mr. C. H. Thornton (East London), 1; Mr. C. H. Thornton (East London), 2; Mr. J. F. Paviour (East London), 3.

(Dr. A. Kaplan—Holland, 1852 issue.) All plates represented, many with dated town postmarks, and several pairs; all in immaculate condition.

Class 9 (Indian and Asiatic countries, Egypt, Palestine, Mesopotamia, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, South and Central Americas): Mr. C. G. Mummery (Cape Town), 1; Mr. Sam Legator (Brakpan), 2.

(Mr. C. G. Mummery—Egypt.) Imperf. and perf. proofs of 1st issue. Pre-stamp covers. £1 birthday mint and used on cover. Princess Ferial error 1493 for 1943 in Arabic overprint, mint block of 8.

Class 11 (Airmails): Mr. I. H. C. Godfrey (Johannesburg), 1.

(Mr. I. H. C. Godfrey.) 2 ballon monté covers of the Siege of Paris. Cover from world's first official air post (Allahabad).

Class 12 (Miscellaneous, Subject Collections, Ships' Letters and Stamps, Army Postmarks and pre-covers): Mr. A. Watson (East London), Mr. A. A. Jurgens (Cape Town), Mr. J. V. Jenson (East London) and Mr. L. Simenhoff (Cape Town), 1; Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie (Johannesburg) and Mr. L. Simenhoff (Cape Town), 2.

Mr. A. A. Jurgens—Cape Pre-stamp covers.) V.O.C. covers showing 1, 2 and 3 impressions of the handstamp. 1806 ship letter from Cape.

(Mr. A. Watson—Anglo-Boer War postmarks.) Ladysmith Siege P.O. mark on cover.

Mr. J. V. Jensen—The Evolution of an Idea.) An entirely novel display where the artist's drawing overshadowed the actual stamps which inspired the illustrations there-to.

(Mr. L. Simenhoff—Educational Philately.) An outstanding display; botanical, zoological, musical and other subjects illustrated both by stamps and illustrations of the original subject of the stamp designs, accompanied by a short description of the object portrayed.

Class 13 (Rarities and Unusual Items): Mr. W. Redford (Johannesburg), 1; Mr. C. H. Thornton (East London), 2; Mr. A. Jurgens (Cape Town), 3.

(C. H. Thornton.) France, 1849, tete-beche pair of 10c on piece with 1f carmine-brown; 1853, 80c tete-beche in strip of 4 on entire; 1862 (?) 20c tete-beche pair on cover; 1870-3 20c tete-beche pair on cover; 1873 10c on rose, tete-beche pair. Natal, 3d. embossed used tete-beche pair.

(W. Redford.) Barbados, S.G. 62 mint block of 16 6d. imperf.; Nyasaland, 20a, 1d. on 2d. double surcharge, mint and used; Sierra Leone, Type I 6d. but watermarked Crown C A; Niger Coast, two bisects on cover; O.F.S., 4d. triangular Cape quadrised and used as 1d. on piece of newspaper.

Class 14 (Juvenile Section): K. C. Smith (East London) and J. D. Shingler (East London), 2.

Class 15 (Juvenile Section): J. T. Woods (East London) and Miss D. Urquhart (East London), 3.

Besides the philatelic gems noted above, there were many other attractive items to be found among those exhibits which were not lucky enough to obtain a first award, among which were noticed the following:

Antigua: Tercentenary issue complete mint.

Bechuanaland: No. 21 £5 mint and used.

Canada: Quebec issue in mint vertical imperf. pairs.

Cape of Good Hope: Mint block of 6 1s. Peeking Bacon No. 8a. Mint block of 8 1d. De la Rue No. 18. Corner pair mint 1s. De la Rue No. 21.

Cayman Is.: Centenary issue mint.

Falkland Is.: Centenary issue mint.

Gilbert and Ellice Is.: An almost complete collection.

Natal: 3d. and 6d. embossed. Postage 1d. on 6d. double surcharge, one inverted and S missing Nos. 95 and 92c.

Newfoundland: A number of the pence types.

New Guinea: 1939 airmail set mint.

St. Kitts-Nevis: Tercentenary issue mint.

Seychelles: No. 44a 3c on 16c and No. 44b 6c on 8c with inverted surcharge. 12c on 16c variety "cents" omitted. Mauritius

stamps used in Seychelles with B64 cancellation.

South Africa: 1910 artist's proof signed by H. S. Wilkinson. 1913 specimens complete.

South-West Africa: 1d. victory block of 4 with inverted overprint. 4d. small war block of 6 with inverted overprint. D13 mint pair and the only known used copy.

The Publicity Section of the G.P.O. had a large very nicely mounted display showing all current Union stamps in blocks of 4, also other special issues and postage due stamps. This was of great interest to Union collectors as demonstrating issues in the order of appearance. A few criticisms may be made, however.

The strict keeping to blocks of 4 led to some absurdities—the tearing of Jipex sheets of 6 to make blocks of 4; the showing of Bantams in a fashion which, for some denominations, did not demonstrate all the roulette-perforation combinations; and roll stamps not in the form on which they were sold. This last was particularly reprehensible in the case of the ½d., which was never on sale in sheet form; it might be pardoned in the case of the 1d., which was sold in sheet form as well as in roll form.

Incidentally some of these ½d. stamps were on exhibit elsewhere in horizontal pair—how were they acquired when they were never on sale in such condition?

It is regrettable also that the 2d. was shown in tete-beche condition. This was never on sale thus, although some copies do appear to have leaked out and come on the market.

The above are only a few items selected from among the many hundreds of fine things on display; lack of space prevents fuller description. It is understood that Pretoria is staging an exhibition next October, and the writer, for one, looks forward with eager anticipation to viewing and possibly describing still more treasures which may be on show then.

Below is the Exhibition postmark.



HEAVY HAND

Under this heading the "Australian Stamp Monthly" has a list in which are pilloried from time to time post offices which, as they put it, "brutally postmark stamps." We could make a similar black list of heavy-handed post offices in this country. Would South African collectors care to submit flagrant occurrences of this kind?

UNION NOTES.

"Officials":

- 1½d. Now appeared on the issue which has the first stamp of the sheet in Afrikaans.
- 2d. The "Official" Opt. on the current stamp appeared a month or two ago, but has not so far been chronicled.
- 6d. This was overprinted on the very full orange shade (the one employed for the Kenya Opt.), a full sized stamp; this was succeeded by an overprint on the smaller sized stamp.
- 2/6. These are now on the stamp with the blue centre.

New Air Letter Card:

A completely new Air Letter form appeared on sale in the early days of the year, at some post offices. It is on blued paper and it is no longer bevelled in shape. It still has two 3d. stamps, but these are now printed as if they were perforated stamps stuck on. Altogether a much superior article to those preceding it, although the arrangement for closing is not too good.

Unusual "Royal Visit" Cancellation:

Mr. C. H. McNeil, of Estcourt, checking up on his Royal Visit covers, reports something interesting, viz.: A first-day cover with Pretoria Registration label dated 17-II-47, the cancellation being the one with a solid black square between the upper and lower letterings. This was the mark allotted, according to information officially supplied, to the White Train.

It would seem possible that in the rush there must have been at Pretoria over first-day covers, this canceller was used there temporarily, in addition to the normal two used at Pretoria, and before being sent off to Cape Town for use in the White Train P.O., which started operating on 22-II-47.

"Jamborally":

A Boy Scout Camp, Jamboree or Rally, was recently held at Underberg and a special post office and cancellation mark was provided. The canceller was of the rather crude single-inch "relief" type and the inscription "Jamborally" was in most cases very indistinct. Thanks to the Robertson Stamp Coy. for a specimen of it.

New Air Stamps (?):

We have heard a rumour from a quarter which is usually well-informed that a set of air-stamps, of probably six denominations, is being prepared and may be expected about the middle of the year.

Atlas Sky Merchant:

A DC-4, on a global commercial goodwill tour, arrived in Johannesburg from America on 19th January, continued on to Cape Town next day and re-visited Johannesburg on 26th January. On board were being carried 5,000 air-letter sheets which it is hoped will be post-marked at every port of call. Their promoters regard this as making aero-philatelic history.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY GOLDEN JUBILEE.

The Pretoria Philatelic Society, which celebrates its Golden Jubilee next February, is one of the oldest and most active of its kind in the British Commonwealth of Nations. It was started on 16th February, 1898 by a few enthusiasts, including Canon Fisher and Isaac van Alphen, the Postmaster-General of the South African Republic, C. Plomer, J. J. Haupt and E. G. David. Messrs. van Alphen and Plomer were the first President and Hon. Secretary respectively. Rules and regulations were formulated and the first paper, which dealt with the Transvaal stamps issued in 1877, was read by Mr. Haupt. After a year's existence, the society boasted 34 active members, but unlike present day members, they attended meetings somewhat indifferently.

The Anglo-Boer War put a temporary stop to the activities of the society, members being otherwise engaged between 1899 and 1902. From 1902 to 1909 the society flourished, but in the latter year interest flagged until revived in 1911 by the enthusiasm of new members including Messrs. Obermeyer and Giovanetti, who are still active and whose interest has never waned to the present day.

Two wars have interrupted but not discontinued the work of the society. Between 1939 and 1945 the meetings were open to dozens of soldiers and airmen stationed in the Capital and many have retained country membership on returning to their homes in the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

Famous philatelists, some of whom are life members, include the nonagenarian, Mr. Emil Tamsen, of the Northern Transvaal, Mr. H. P. de Boom the evergreen, Dr. Robert Broom, F.R.S., who reconstructs a sheet of 80-year-old stamps with the same scientific zest as he devotes to the remains of Mrs. Ples, Mr. Percy Bishop, Mr. Basden, Mr. Carleton Jones, Drs. Harvey-Pirie and Broughton and, oldest members of the doyen of South African societies, Messrs. Obermeyer and Giovanetti.

Discussions, papers and publications have added considerably to the scope and content of philatelic knowledge during 50 years of the society's existence. The society has over 200 members at the present time and additions to the roll take place at every meeting. Its energetic President is Mr. F. C. Ferguson, famous as a soccer referee, and the Hon. Secretary is Mr. H. Endemann.

The anniversary date will be enjoyed by members and their guests at a special Golden Jubilee dinner to be held on 16th February, 1948, in Pretoria.

AIR MAILS

A London Aviation Exhibition was held from December 22nd to January 15th under the auspices of the Royal Geographical Society with the co-operation of the Ministeries of Civil Aviation and of Education, also of air-line operators.

The aerophilatelic side was illustrated by an exhibit arranged by Messrs. Francis J. Field of Sutton Coldfield, selected to show the historical development of long-distance mail flying during the past twenty years by the world's leading companies.

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CRITICISM OF SOUTH AFRICAN ITEMS SHOWN IN THE B.P.A. EXHIBITION

Writing in "Philately" on the various exhibits shown in the recent B.P.A. Exhibition, Mr. Robson Lowe makes the following remarks on the Federation's display:

"... A host of other interesting material held my attention for a long time, but I looked with grave suspicion on the quartered Cape triangular 4d. used on a portion of a newspaper in 1864. While admitting that I am without first-hand knowledge of these Smithfield and Bloemfontein Betaald cancellations, the ink in which this is struck looks far too modern.

Incidentally, there is a pair of 1s. emeralds cancelled in rose-pink—I believe the cancellation to be a modern invention and that the pair has not been on the entire for long."

Mr. A. A. Jurgens, through whom these two items were supplied, writes as follows about these criticisms:

In regard to the quadrisected 4d. Cape I am not surprised that there has been criticism—it is only to be expected about such a novelty—but who, may I ask, can give any authentic verdict on this item,

As to the ink of the "Smithfield Betaald" handstamp with which this is cancelled looking too modern, I can only say that so little is known about the early postal history of the O.F.S. that we will require a lot more evidence before we can give any decided opinion upon this matter.

I am not in a position to reveal the name of the office from which these items were obtained, but I think that it will be sufficient when I say that I personally discovered this quadrisected 4d. Cape triangular on a newspaper and in the circumstances it would be impossible for any person to convince me that the item is not perfectly genuine in every respect.

The very first O.F.S. Letter Stamp, the "Bloemfontein Betaald," I found under similar circumstances only it was among the records of a different branch. The next was the Winburg Betaald and this was impressed on the letter in a dense black ink. The "Smithfield Betaald," the last of these finds, was discovered by me among the same records as contained the quadrisect.

I have now seen about five specimens of the Smithfield Betaald, four or five of the Bloemfontein Betaald, and only one of the Winburg. The Bloemfontein stamp varies from deep black to a grey watery black, the Winburg as mentioned is in deep black and the Smithfield are all identical. The impressions on all five covers are in every respect like that shown on the piece of newspaper.

There is in existence a quadrisected 4d. defaced with the Smithfield stamp on the complete newspaper and it has not been sold because the owner is asking a very high price. The cancellation on this is similar to the piece under discussion.

As for the pair of 1s. emerald showing a cancellation in rose-pink I can only say that this was purchased from a dealer in London (Mr. V. F. James) many years ago.

The late Mr. H. H. Hurst, who I may say was a very shrewd and careful buyer of rare items, after very careful examination wanted to purchase it but he was too late.

Mr. Hurst was under the impression that this pale red ink was used only by the postmaster of Swellendam, but I have specimens of this particular shade of ink on letters emanating from Worcester as well. I have in my possession a cover showing a 6d. slate-lilac which is defaced with both the triangular defacing stamp and the 1853 oval "Swellendam" and the ink used here appears to be identical with that on the pair of 1s. under discussion.

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S.W.A. AIR LETTER SHEETS.

Through the kind co-operation of Major Ian C. Morgan, of Montreal, we are able to present the following details and illustrations of all the known overprintings of Union letter sheets for use in South-West Africa. The illustration block, slightly reduced in size, was prepared for listing in the American Airmail Catalogue and we must express our indebted-

ness to the editor thereof, Mr. L. B. Gatchell, for permission to reproduce.

All types of overprint, it may be mentioned, occur on both English worded and Afrikaans worded stamps; also it should be remembered that unoverprinted Union sheets of the first type were valid for use in S.W.A. for a short period in 1941, when these active service cards were first brought into use.



Active Service Letter Cards

1941:

Type I, block capitals with stops (14 x 3 mm.), on original type of stamp.

Type II, letters with serifs (16 x 3 mm.), on original type of stamp.

1944:

Type III, italic letters (19 x 4 mm.), in sheets with redrawn stamps.

This type is rather a mystery so far. Major Morgan has not a copy himself, the specimen photographed having been supplied by Mr. Gatchell. No information about it has so far been obtainable in South Africa; can anyone confirm its existence,

★ ★ ★

GERMANY

French-zone stamps have been given a rest, apparently because the printers have been so busy overprinting the Saar stamps with French currency on top of the former German currency. By this and other economic measures the Saar is practically sealed off from the rest of Germany and attached to France.

Registration of letters and the sending of small quantities of stamps from Germany will be permissible from 1st January, 1948.

Four stamp magazines were operating in Germany, now only two are left, "General Anzeiger-Luderigslust" and "Sanmler-Express," both published in the Russian zone of Berlin.

Thanks to "Philatelie-Equator," Hamburg—the firm with the nice first day covers" for the above information, also for an attractive New Year card featuring the picture of Goethe on the 1m. French zone stamp.

date of issue, etc.,

Type IV, on re-drawn stamps, large letters with square stops (19 x 5 mm.).

Air Mail Letter Cards

1944:

Type V, heavy letters, round stops (17-18 x 5-6 mm.).

Type VI, heavy letters, square stops 23-24 x 6 mm.).

Type VII, letters with no stops (13 x 4 mm.).

Air Letter

1944:

Type VIII, on first type of Union sheets, letters with no stops (8 x 2 mm.).

★ ★ ★

KENYA

According to the "Philatelic Magazine" a Philatelic Society has been formed, with address P.O. Box 54, Nakuru. Our best wishes for its success.

S.W.A. INVERTED OVERPRINTS

Mr. H. C. Nöckler of Box 51, Omaruru, is compiling an article on recent inverted overprints and would like if any one can tell him:

(a) Is the 4d. bantam known in used condition, and, if so, at which post office and when?

(b) Same information re 2d. bantam which he is informed also exists with inverted overprint.

(c) The 1s. is known from Windhoek, 16-10-44, and the 6d. from Gobabis, 18-12-45. Are they known used from any other offices?

(d) Is the Victory 1d. known used, and where? Also, are any of the other Victory denominations known with overprint inverted?

NEW MINT ISSUES

Australia, Newcastle	1/-
Canada, Citizen	0/4
Caymans, new 2½d. and 3d.	0/7
Ceylon, new constitution	1/2
Dominica, new 3½d. and 7d.	1/2
Newfoundland, Cabot	0/5
New Zealand, 1947 Health	0/5
Nigeria, new 3d.	0/5
Nyasaland, new 1d.	0/2
Virgins, new 10/-	11/6
Do., 20/-	23/-
Swaziland, current ½d.—1/-	2/11
Do., ½d.—10/- complete	23/0
Blocks of four Pro-Rata	
Union Catalogues	7/6
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1917-20, 2c. to 5r., 18 values com- plete, without shades	4 15 0
1921-32, 2c. to 5r., 24 values com- plete, without extra dies	4 0 0
Sierra Leone—	
1921-28, ½d. to £5, 20 values com- plete	45 0 0
1932, ½d. to £1, 13 values complete	14 0 0
1933, Centenary set complete	52 10 0
S. Rhodesia, 1924-29, ½d. to 5/-, 14 values complete	4 15 0
Straits Settlements, 1922, 1c.—\$5, 15 values overprinted "Malaya-Borneo Exhibition," complete	14 10 0
Tanganyika—	
1922, 5c. to £1, 15 values complete (high values have sideways wmk.)	14 0 0
1927-31, 5c. to £1, 15 values complete except for 30c. of 1931	7 15 0
Tonga, 1923-24, 2d. on 5d. to 2d. on 5/-, 7 values complete	3 0 0
Turks and Caicos Is.—	
1921, ½d. to 1/-, 8 values complete	2 15 0
1922-26, ½d. to 3/-, 17 values complete with shades and both 2/-	4 15 0
1928, ½d. to 10/-, 11 values complete	3 5 0
Virgin Is., 1922-29, ½d. to 5/-, MCA and Script wmk., 20 values cpl.	5 10 0

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Reviews and Notices

"Post Office" Mauritius—1847. The tale of two stamps retold by Michael Harrison. London, Stamp Collecting, Ltd. Price 7/6.

A very attractively got up booklet of 52 pages which is of timely issue in view of the centenary of the two stamps which are among the rarest and most widely publicised of any known to philatelists.

The story is here recounted against a background of the contemporary scene—a short resume of the early history of the island and of the occasion which led to the issue of the stamps—well told by an author already responsible for several important historical studies.

Then follows the most interesting "re-discovery" of the stamps and brief histories of all known specimens; also the tale of the finding of the original plate from which they were printed.

Dai Nippon in Zuid-Oost Azië, by N. F. Hedeman and R. Boekema. Published by R. Broekema, Prinsestraat 58-60, 's-Gravenhage, Price F7.60 plus postage.

This must be somewhere near the full story, told in 176 pages, of the philately of the Japanese overrunning of S.E. Asia. After a brief summary of the main events of the war in 1941-42, it proceeds to describe the various overprintings and stamps issued in the Dutch East Indies, Malaya and Borneo.

Sections are devoted to Japanese writing and to forgeries. Every part is amply illustrated and over 2,000 new stamps are described! An English translation is stated to be in course of preparation.

Standard Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of the World, Part I, British Empire. Published on 15th December, by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., Ipswich, England. Price 7/6, postage extra.

In this, their 47th Edition, the publishers have split their catalogue into two parts: (1) British Empire, plus Egypt, Iraq, Nepal and Transjordan; (2) Rest of the world. This part lists 17,644 stamps, with 1,936 illustrations, quarter size.

The catalogue is of a convenient size, and will meet the needs of most general collectors. All necessary watermark information is given; minor perforation and shade differences are not listed, but the firm does cater for collectors of these varieties on request.

Prices are current selling prices, provided they are in stock, and they seem to be very reasonable. They make no pretence of being able to supply every stamp priced, but claim to be able to supply as big a proportion of wants as any other firm. Prices on the whole are on the upward trend, but there is no sign of the inflation which affected some colonies after World War I.

H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth—Her Life in Stamps. An album published by the African Collectors' Exchange, P.O. Box 5403, Johannesburg.

Capt. Oakes is looking forward to the day when Princess Elizabeth will be on the throne and most, if not all, countries in the British Commonwealth will feature her portrait. Now is the time to start an Elizabethan collection, and he has commenced printing an album for such a collection.

The first page for stamps features the family tree, from Queen Victoria onwards, and by illustrating the actual stamp to be inserted in the spaces provided it is not necessary for the novice to possess a catalogue and the illustrations are exact size of the stamps. The novice just needs to cover the illustration with the real stamp. The pages following contain such relevant data as the perforation sizes, name of printer and with what process used, first day of issue, etc. The plates are now being prepared of Canada, Newfoundland, Australia, South Africa, Southern and Northern Rhodesia, Crown Colonies in Africa and a special page commemorating the Royal Wedding.

The price of the complete album up to and including the 20th November, 1947, will not exceed £3, and the pages thereafter will be supplied to album holders at a reasonable price. Every page is printed in four or more colours and have been so designed as not to clash with the colours of the stamps themselves.

This is claimed to be the first fully illustrated stamp album produced in South Africa.

The Rex Priced Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of K.G. VI, compiled and published by A. D. Crane at 18 Maple Avenue, Harrow, England. Price 3/6 net.

This is the sixth edition of this catalogue, now comprising 120 pages with over 400 illustrations and practically 3,000 stamps listed, with almost double that number of prices.

Prices are not changed much from the last issue, but there are some up and some down. The publisher is not a dealer and the prices he gives are what he considers should be maximum retail prices.

The catalogue covers its field very well, recognising many varieties of all different kinds and lots of incidental information is given.

L'Union Postale. Published monthly by the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union, Berne. Subscription, 4/7 per half-year.

We have received a copy of this through the courtesy of the Publicity Officer of the G.P.O. The magazine contains articles on the postal services and activities of the various countries of the Union (practically the whole world). Everything is printed in four languages, French, English, German and Spanish, except the list of new issues sent to the Bureau, which is in French only.

CORONATIONS

	/	M.	U.		M.	U.
Aden		1/6	1/8	Hong Kong	1/1	1/4
Antigua		1/1	1/3	Jamaica	1/1	1/2
Ascension		1/0	1/2	Kenya	1/0	1/0
Bahamas		1/1	1/3	Leewards	0/11	1/1
Barbados		1/0	1/3	Malta	1/9	2/0
Basutoland		1/0	1/3	Mauritius	1/0	1/1
Bechuanaland		1/0	1/2	Montserrat	0/11	1/1
Bermuda		1/0	1/2	Newfoundland (short		
Br. Guiana		1/0	1/1	set of 3)	1/1	1/3
Br. Solomon Is.		1/0	1/2	Nigeria	1/0	1/1
Br. Somaliland		1/0	1/2	N. Rhodesia	1/0	1/3
Cayman Is.	0/11	1/2	1/2	Nyasaland	1/0	1/1
Ceylon	1/1	1/2	1/2	St. Helena	1/0	1/2
Cyprus	1/0	1/2	1/2	St. Kitts	1/0	1/2
Dominica	0/11	1/1	1/1	St. Lucia	1/0	1/2
Falkland Is.	0/10	1/0	1/0	St. Vincent	1/0	1/2
Fiji	1/1	1/3	1/3	Seychelles	1/0	1/2
Gambia	0/11	1/2	1/2	Sierra Leone	1/1	1/3
Gibraltar	1/8	1/9	1/9	Straits Settlements	1/1	1/3
Gilbert and Ellice	1/1	1/3	1/3	Swaziland	1/0	1/1
Gold Coast	1/1	1/3	1/3	Trinidad	1/9	2/0
Grenada	1/0	1/2	1/2	Turks and Caicos	1/0	1/2
Great Britain	0/3	0/1	0/1	Virgin Is.	1/0	1/2
Canada	0/3	0/2	0/2	New Zealand	1/3	1/6
Cook Is.	1/3	1/4	1/4	Niue	1/2	1/4
Morocco	0/4	0/5	0/5	Papua	1/3	1/9
Nauru	1/9	2/4	2/4	South Africa	6/6	6/6
Newfoundland (11)	17/6	21/0	21/0	S.W. Africa	7/0	6/6
New Guinea	2/3	2/8	2/8	S. Rhodesia	4/9	6/0
Crown Colonies only				Mint 42/0	Used 45/0	
Dominions only				Mint 42/0	Used 45/0	
The 58 sets complete				Mint 82/6	Used 85/0	

ODD VALUES, not only of Coronations, are always in stock and your Want Lists are invited.

Just give the Country, Gibbons number and say whether you want mint or used. Customers already known to me will have the stamps sent ON APPROVAL and new customers will be sent a pro forma invoice.

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KENSINGTON,
JOHANNESBURG.**

It Was A Big Step . . .

It was a big step we took in 1938, when we decided to devote all our resources to KG VI stamps. We had been dealing in stamps for many years, and had gathered a really fine general stock together, and to clear all, bar issues of the present reign, meant some sacrifice, but here we are a decade later more pleased than ever with the step we took, for we can now claim, without boasting, that we are leaders in our field . . . and as that field covers the most important group of stamps in the whole philatelic world, we have every reason to be thankful for seeing the light when we did.

We have had every chance to get together a superlative stock, and as a glance at our price-list shows, whether you are a beginner or a most advanced collector, you will find stamps or sets which you need, and at prices you will be delighted to pay, and another important point, you as an oversea collector will receive the same service as our customers at home. Every copy of our list contains a page of special offers, and invariably we reserve a supply of these items for customers abroad. And these offers are worth reserving, too . . . just ask a subscriber to our list. We will gladly send a copy by air-mail, if you apply by air-letter, and if you are a constant buyer, we'll continue to send by air at our expense.

Now is the time to apply. Scores of stamps, which can be obtained at current rates, will be obsolete in a month or two, and don't forget there are more collectors of KG VI stamps than there are of any other group, and this means an ever upward movement. You can thus spend freely and know that your investment is safe.

We also run a new issue service for KG VI stamps, and besides new stamps we also distribute new shades and perforations for those who want them. An air-letter for particulars.

The Commonwealth Stamp Coy.,

7, Leather Lane, Liverpool 2: England.

HUNGARY

The official philatelic agency reports the issue on 29th October of 3 stamps with surtax in favour of the Hungarian-Soviet Cultural Society. Two feature heads of Lenin and Stalin, the third shows the memorial erected on the top of St. Gelert.

On 31st October two stamps, 40f. and 60f., in unlimited numbers to encourage saving. The former shows a bee-hive (home of the champion savers), the latter, the P.O. Savings Bank Buildings.

On 21st December there was issued a 30 + 50 f. stamp in connection with stamp-day. Issue limited to 160,000. The stamp shows a mail coach of the 16th century, first made at the village of Kocs in Hungary, from which the name "coach" is derived.

★

SUDAN

Mr. Harold Gisburn tells the interesting story in a recent "Philatelic Magazine" of how the camel port stamp came to be designed by Capt. Stanton in 1897. In the same issue the death of the designer is reported.

★

BRAZIL

The latest commemoratives sent by Dr. M. de Sanctis are (a) a 1.20 Cr. in rose-pink, issued on 12th December on the 50th anniversary of Belo Horizonte. Special cancellations were in use on the day of issue.

(b) A triangular 40 cts for Aviation Week (November 15th-21st), obligatory on all correspondence within Brazil that week. It features the awakening of Icarus.

★

IMABA—1948—BASEL

We have received Bulletin No. 2 of IMABA, dealing with arrangements for the International Philatelic Exhibition, to be held at Basle, Switzerland, 21st—29th August. Dr. A. Kaplan, P.O. Box 132, Germiston, has been appointed South African representative and any collector thinking of exhibiting or visiting should communicate with him.

★

CANADA

A large upright format 4c stamp was due for issue on 15th January with a portrait of H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth, but owing to delays in the preparation, its issue was postponed to 16th February.

★

CEYLON

A set of four stamps (6, 10, 15 and 25c) was issued on 25th November in honour of the new constitution. The stamps show various Ceylanese views with portrait of the King in a cameo.

TRISTAN DA CUNHA

A mail left Cape Town for the island by H.M.S.A.S. "Good Hope" on 5th January, and mail was brought back by that frigate to Cape Town on 18th January.

The Tristan postmarks on this mail were of the Type VII as described in our magazine 1946, p. 84. Some of the mail also bore an interesting "sticker," whose story we happen to know. It was prepared by Mr. A. B. Crawford before he left for Tristan a year ago as part of his campaign for obtaining an issue of postage stamps for the island. Some day, therefore, these stickers may rank as Tristan Essays, although at present the word "Postage" is carefully omitted from them. These stickers were printed in sheets of 35, seven vertical rows by five across. Note the "Local Value—4 Potatoes"!



Fuller details of their printing and news as to the prospects of stamps for the island have not been obtainable from Mr. Crawford because, although he returned to Cape Town on the "Good Hope," he left a few days later for Marion Island. He went in charge of a party of six Tristan islanders who are going to Marion Island to assist the party setting up the meteorological station there.

Another mail announced as leaving for Tristan on 16th January, was delayed and did not leave till 29th January.

It went on the coaster "Pequena" which carries a scientific party which hopes to set up a profitable fishing industry for the islanders, also to improve their agriculture.

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Beginners and medium collectors — try our approval service.
Benoni Stamp Shop, Box 485, Benoni.

Seychelles wanted. Full catalogue price offered for fine used copies of Stanley Gibbons numbers 85, 91, 93 to 95B, 97 to 101, 103, 104, 107, 110, 114 to 118, 121, 122, 122A, 142, 145.

William Redford, P.O. Box 7012, Johannesburg.

Wholesaler requires regular supplies of Basutoland, Bechuanaland, N. Rhodesia, Nyasaland, S. Rhodesia, Swaziland, S.W. Africa, in large or small quantities. Send or write by Air Mail to:

B. Savitz, 69 Greenvale Road, London, S.E.9, England.

S.W.A. mint blocks of dues and officials, also controls in strips of Union and Transvaal and other rarities.

E. Tamsen, Box 13, Nylstroom.

Wanted: S.A. and S.W.A. large and small War Stamps, blocks or sheets. Cash or exchange. Also used stamps in quantity, all African Colonies.

J. F. Keogh, Box 177, Heilbron.

Latin America: Collection of 1,625 mostly used and different stamps from 21 countries (Argentine—Venezuela). Catalogue value £33, for sale at £12/10/-. Write:

Arend, 415 Proes Street, Pretoria.

S.W.A. Stamps, after 1930. State wants.

H. Nöckler, Box 51, Omaruru.

To reduce I offer for sale my collections of Lagos, S. Nigeria, Transvaal (1878 onwards), Br. East Africa, Tanganyika and Uganda (mostly mint) at less than half S.G. catalogue prices. Inspection invited. Full particulars from:

E. J. Brierley, Morkel Street, Somerset West.

Free Gift: Attractive stamps to beginners, enclosing stamps for approvals.
R. Russell, Dovers Flats, Sea Point, Cape.

Voortrekker wagon covers wanted; several to complete collection.

Brown, Box 1826, Johannesburg.

Why not try my 2d. in the 1/- discount approvals?

Mrs. Hopping, 9 Odemira Court, High Street, Turffontein, Johannesburg.

Aden 1937 S.G. 1—11, ½a. to 5R. mint, 11 val.	100/-
Aden 1937 S.G. 12, 10R., mint	230/-
Aden 1937 S.G. 1—12, complete f.u.	340/-
Aden 1939, ½a. to 2R., fine used, cat. 14/7	7/6
Br. Somaliland 1938 mint, ½a. to 12a., cat. 24/6	16/-
Do., 2R. at 22/6; 3R., cat. 40/-, at 18/-; 5R., cat. 50/-, at	18/-
Br. Somaliland 1938 complete, f.u., on cover	240/-
Ascension K.G. VI, perf. 13½, 5/- at 11/-, 10/- at	24/-
Bermuda K.G. VI, obsol. col., mint; 2d., 2½d. and 3d.	40/-
Bermuda 2/-, S.G. 116a, obsol., mint	8/6
Ceylon 1947 Constitution, mint	1/2
Cyprus 1934, K.G. V, complete 11 value, mint	63/-
Cyprus 1938, 1 p., perf. 13½ x 12½, S.G. 154a, f.u.	6/6
Egypt 1939, 50p. and £1, S.G. 310 and 311, f.u., cat. 35/-	5/-
Falkland Is., mint, S.G. 31 at 90/-; S.G. 32	50/-
Falkland Is., K.G. VI, obsol. col., S.G. 99a, 100, 101 and 103 . .	8/-
Falkland Dependencies, obsol., 32 val., compl. mint	21/-
Mauritius 1935 Jubilee, compl. mint	85/-
Mauritius 1944, perf. 14 x 15, 4 val., compl. mint at 20/-; f.u.	10/6
Mauritius Centenary, compl. mint 2/5; f.u.	2/10
Nigeria K.G. VI., obsol. col., 1d., 2d., 3d. and 4d., mint	37/6
Nyasaland 1938, compl. mint, 14 val. to £1	85/-
Papua 1938 Air, compl. mint . .	26/6
Sarawak 1946 Centenary, compl. mint	25/-
Seychelles K.G. VI, obsol. col., f.u., 3c. at 3/6; 6c. at	3/9
Do., 9c. at 3/9; 12c. at 7/-; 20c. at 8/-; 25c. at 30/-; 1R. at	110/-
Tanganyika, Giraffe set to 2/- with colour changes, S.G. 74—84b and S.G. 89—92, 15 val., mint	48/6
Zanzibar, Albusaid, compl., mint or fine used	2/9
Belgium, Queen Astrid and Prince Baudouin, compl., used	6/6
Belgium, Princess Josephine, complete, f.u.	6/6
Fr. Somaliland, the complete Free French set, 41 val., including the scarce 10 francs, mint	170/-
Subject unsold. C.W.O. Want lists solicited.	

ATLAS STAMP AGENCY

P.O. BOX 1647, NAIROBI, KENYA

INDIA

We are indebted to Mr. G. S. Prabhu for first-day covers with the three Independence commemoratives. All have the date of Independence day (15th August, 1947) on them, although the actual dates of issue were: 3½a on 21st November and 1½a and 12a on 15th December. Their period of sale will be limited as a permanent set is expected early in 1948. All bear "Jai Hind" ("India Victorious" or "Hail, India") in Hindi; India Postage, the value and the date being in English.



The 1½a, for internal use, is in olive-green, and depicts the capital of the Asoka Pillar with its three lions and the Asoka Wheel.

The 3½a stamp, for international use, shows the Indian national flag in colour against a blue background.

The 12a stamp, in blue, shows a 4-engined aeroplane against a white cloud background.

Mr. Prabhu also sends the following notes on stamps of Burma and Pakistan:

★

BURMA'S NEW STAMPS

The new Burma Independence commemorative postage stamps will be issued on January 6th. There has naturally been increased interest in current "Interim Government" overprints. Because of exchange restrictions, these stamps are not readily available in India, and stamp collectors should obtain their sets as quickly as possible.

The Independence commemoratives will be of similar design to the 2as Victory issue, a chinthe and a map of Burma with a portrait of U. Aung San replacing that of King George VI in the upper oval. The five denominations will be ½a green; 1a maroon, 2as red, 3½as blue, and 8as brown.

★

SCARCITY OF STAMPS IN PAKISTAN

Hundreds of letters remain unposted in Karachi as there is a paucity of stamps.

Many people who besieged post offices had to go away disappointed as stamps were not available.

CORRESPONDENCE

Sir,—Further to the Rhodesian Royal Tour cancellations controversy (your December issue), there is one point which has not been mentioned, and that is the registration cachet used on the Royal or Pilot train is not exactly the same as that used at the G.P.O.

Although the outlines of the cachet are similar in measurement, the R on the Royal train or Pilot train cachet is considerably thicker—about ½ mm., and it is also 1 mm. longer than that used at the G.P.O. This is, anyway, my findings with the covers I have, viz., the Pilot train cover with blue cancellations and mark 4 (?) and the G.P.O. cancelled cover with purple registration mark, and the cancellation (var. 1) in black.

Major L. E. Creasy, of Salisbury, has recorded that he has the cancellations in purple, blue and black, viz., covers from the Royal train, Pilot train and the G.P.O., so he should be able to confirm the above or otherwise. If he does not find the same as I have, then the case for wear in the registration cachet used on the Pilot train is strengthened, and the differences so far recorded in the registration cachet and also the rounded ends to the bar in the coat of arms may be due to this cause. Will the Major be good enough to let us know.—Yours faithfully, G. N. GILBERT.

★

BRITISH COLONIALS

Kenya. New printings released by the Crown Agents in October, 1947, were: 1c, 10s. and £1. According to "Gibbons' Stamp Monthly" the 1c is now almost back to the original reddish-brown; it is perf. 13 x 13½ with plate numbers 2 (frame) and 6 B (centre) and the retouched tablet on stamp No. 86 is still present. The 10s. is from centre plate 7A and the £1 still from No. 1.

Mauritius. "Gibbons' Stamp Monthly" records and figures several minor flaws in the current issue (values, 10c, 12c, 25c and 1r). All occur in the word "Mauritius" and are attributable to wear in the duty plates, which have been in use for a good many years.

Northern Rhodesia. "Linn's Weekly Stamp News" issues a warning to beware of all K.G. V issues; there is a flood of stamps around which have been cleaned of fiscal cancellations in a most clever manner. Some are being offered as unused without gum, some have been regummed.

Andaman Islands. "India's Stamp Journal" notes that the stock of Indian stamps there when the islands were occupied by the Japanese, were overprinted with various surcharges in decimals. The values so surcharged were 3p, ½, 1, 1½ and 6a. This particular lot of occupation stamps does not appear to have been noted before.

BASUTOLAND
VARIETIES OF "ROYAL VISIT"
POSTMARKS

Mr. C. Calitz draws attention to the fact that some of the "Royal Visit/Basutoland" cancellations used on 11th and 12th of March, 1947, have the inner circle of only 18 mm. diameter, while others are 19 mm. In all the outer circle appears to be 28 mm.

Examination of a number of specimens of this cancellation reveals still further variation. There are two varieties of the marks with 18 mm. inner circle: in one the distance between the "R" of Royal and the "B" of Basutoland is approximately 11 mm. (the same as in those with the 19 mm. inner circle), in the other the distance is only 8 mm. The lettering is also slightly different, most noticeably in the letter "U" which is obviously wider in the 11 mm. spaced variety than in the 8 mm. spaced one.

It will be noted, therefore, that there are at least three varieties of this cancellation. Can any reader add to these? Examination of the "Royal Visit" cancellations of the other two Protectorates might also be worth while to see if more than one variety of canceller was used in them.

★

GREECE

There appeared on 20th November a set of 8 stamps ranging from 20 to 1,000 Dr. in honour of the annexation of the Dodecanese Islands to Greece. The set features various ancient pictures from the islands. Thanks to Kimon Catacalos of 10 Themistocleous Street, Athens, for a first-day cover with several of the values.

★

GREAT BRITAIN

An 11d. stamp, brown-purple in colour and of the same design as the other high pence values, appeared on 29th December.

Forthcoming issues announced are:

(a) Two commemoratives of their Majesties' Silver Wedding, 2½d. and £1, on 26th April, and to be on sale for one month only.

(b) 1d. and 2½d. stamps commemorative of the liberation of the Channel Islands, to be on sale from May to September, in the Channel Islands only.

(c) An Olympic Games set, 2½d., 3d., 6d. and 1s., to be on sale for the month of July only.

Some eruption!

★

SWAZILAND

The Crown Agents report release of new printings on 22nd October, but when they may be on sale in the Protectorate is, of course, another story. The following denominations show changes in shade:—½d., slightly lighter; 1d., somewhat more of a rose tint; 1½d., rather deeper blue; 3d., a deeper violet blue; 6d., a colder mauve; 2s. 6d., a deeper shade; 5s. and 10s., slightly lighter tints.

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SOCIETY NEWS

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. J. Shepherd, P.O. Box 97, Brakpan; *Hon. Secretary*, Miss S. O. Jeffrey, P.O. Box 572, Benoni.

17th December. There were 15 members and one visitor present at the meeting in the Regent Hotel, Benoni. The chairman extended a welcome to Mr. James, a member from Florida.

Correspondence: A letter from the B.P.A. confirming that this Society was accepted as a member was received.

The agenda for the forthcoming meeting of Congress was read by the chairman and the items set out therein were open for discussion, particularly proposals suggested by the Johannesburg Society as Dr. Kaplan was anxious to obtain the feeling of the members of the East Rand Society. Changes suggested for the Union Catalogue received the full support of the members, but a very lively discussion followed regarding what constituted a "mint" stamp and should a "mint" stamp be considered so, gummed or ungummed.

The exhibit of the evening was presented by Mr. S. Legator. He showed a portion of his Union collection, and Dr. Kaplan in proposing a vote of thanks on behalf of the members said that the members had enjoyed a great treat, and in his opinion the collection would one day be world famous. He mentioned that Mr. Legator would be exhibiting at the International Exhibition in Switzerland and he would be very surprised if some very flattering comments were not forthcoming.

S.O.J.

★

MARITZBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chairman, C. R. Turner; *Hon. Secretary*, R. Morton, P.O. Box 328, Pietermaritzburg; *Meetings*, 2nd Friday in each month at the Women's Club, 211 Burger Street, 7.45 p.m.

In spite of a sudden thunderstorm a fair number of members gathered for our December meeting to view the exhibits of the finalists in our recent competition which was won by Prof. Hattersley. Unfortunately, as the winner was in Cape Town, he could not be present.

Members present were asked to comment on the various winning entries, and led by the chairman a number of interesting criticisms were made.

The latest stamp news was discussed and the evening ended with our usual auction.

The January meeting was well attended. The display of the evening was the stamps of Mauritius, put on by the chairman and secretary. The former showed issues up to the end of the Victorians, and the secretary showed issues from the Edwardians to date. Both members gave talks on the stamps shown, and all members were invited to join in. Dr. Young read an interesting account of the Post Office types; these, unfortunately, were only represented by photographs.

After the display our usual auction was held.

Our vice-chairman, who was also to have exhibited his Mauritius stamps, was unfortunately unable to attend through illness.

R.M.

★

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

President, Dr. A. Kaplan; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. J. H. Jenkins, P.O. Box 4967; *Meetings*, 2nd Tuesdays and 4th Mondays, Public Library, 7.45 p.m.

At the meeting held on 13th January, the Pretoria Philatelic Society paid an official visit to the Johannesburg Society.

Mr. L. Buchen, who acted as chairman on account of the absence at Congress of the President and Vice-President, welcomed the visitors and handed the chair over to Mr. Ferguson, President of the Pretoria Society.

Mr. Ferguson wished the Johannesburg Society a successful time for 1948, and after referring to the coming Jubilee celebrations of the Pretoria Society, introduced the exhibitors.

Mr. Fredericks showed a Philatelic Zoo. This was a collection of stamps showing animals arranged in alphabetic order, illustrated by a collection of jingles, copies of which were handed round to all the spectators. Each letter of the alphabet was represented, the letter X having that "X-traordinary animal the Duck-billed Platypus" of Australia. The exhibit was well written up.

Mr. Blick showed stamps of the Empire. While they were principally George VI issues, the Silver Jubilees were well represented. The collection was beautifully mounted and written up, and some rare items were included.

Mr. Butler showed "Music," an exhibit including composers, stamps illustrating musical events and other events in the life of composers. There was a musical postmark of Norway. The stamps showing composers were illustrated with biographical notes and the whole exhibit was beautifully written up. Some rare items were included in the exhibit.

Dr. Reisner showed Belgium. The exhibit included miniature sheets and sheets-de-luxe. The commemoratives, including the Orval sets, and Mercier sets were well represented. There were some fine used items as well as mint, including examples of the early issues. There were numerous "advertisement" stamps from booklets.

Mr. Giovanetti showed classical issues of New Zealand as well as a fine collection of South-West Africa. The South-West Africa exhibit included specimen stamps, inverted overprints and most of the errors. Numerous covers were included.

Dr. Broughton's exhibit was a fine collection of Papua. It was almost complete, and included numerous known covers as well as stamps of Queensland used in Papua.

The exhibitors were very cordially thanked by various members of the host society.

I.I.

★ ★ ★

MARION ISLAND

Here is the story of the occupation briefly recapitulated from the point of view of the early postal history of the island.

29-12-47. Union flag hoisted on Marion Island by a party from H.M.S.A.S. *Transvaal* and an occupying party left ashore.

4-1-48. Flag hoisted on Prince Edward Island, but as no permanent occupation appears to be contemplated there in the meantime, this island can be left out of the story for the present.

10-1-48. *Transvaal* replaced by H.M.S.A.S. *Natal*, returning to Cape Town. May have taken mail from the occupying party left ashore—the first possible mail from the island.

20-1-48. S.S. *Gamtoos* arrived with stores and a large party, military and civilian, to set up permanent housing for meteorological offices and staff quarters.

28-1-48. H.M.S.A.S. *Good Hope* arrived with, among others, a party of Tristan da Cunha islanders to assist in the work of the station. On her arrival the *Natal* left, reaching Cape Town on 2-2-48, landing mail from the island.

The postal authorities have announced that postal facilities would be provided for the island, but presumably these are not yet completed, for some mail arrived stamped and some unstamped. The latter was not surcharged but passed free.

Some mail (from the Met. staff) had a boxed rubber stamp endorsement "Marion Island/South Indian Ocean" and all covers seen received the double circle "Cape Town Kaapstad/Paquebot" cancellation. One cover, which was endorsed "Posted on board S.S. *Gamtoos* while at Marion Island," has been seen, however, with the ordinary Cape Town machine cancellation.

It is understood that the *Natal* is leaving again for the island about 10th February.

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UNION NOTES.

RECENT PRINTINGS

Herewith information received from the Postal Authorities anent the quantities of stamps, etc., received from the Government Printer during the period 15-9-47 to 31-1-48. For previous records see our November, 1947, issue, p. 161.

(a) Pictorial Postage Stamps.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d.—Job 11662 contd. 66,500 sheets (x 240) delivered subsequent to 30-9-47 from new cylinders 6916 Int. and 29 Ext. 72,000 delivered subsequent to 20-10-47 from cylinders 6912 Int. and 6933 Ext. 87,000 delivered subsequent to 22-12-47 from cylinders 48 Int. and 6933 Ext.

1d.—Job 2201. 59,000 sheets (x 240) delivered subsequent to 9-12-47 on an order for 600,000. New cylinders 60 Int. and 2 Ext.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d.—Job 13161 cont. A total delivery of 541,600 sheets (x 240) from old cylinders 31 Int. and 6924 Ext. delivered up to 10-11-47. A further 172,995 sheets delivered between 13-11-47 and 15-1-48 from new cylinders 5 Int. and 33 Ext.

3d.—Job 2062. 60,000 sheets (x 120) delivered subsequent to 9-1-48 on an order for 100,000. Old cylinders 55 Int. and 30 Ext.

4.—Job 2973. 70,500 sheets (x 120) delivered subsequent to 6-11-47 on an order for 100,000. Old cylinder 19.

6d.—Job 8220. 7,000 sheets (x 240) delivered subsequent to 27-1-48 on an order for 100,000. Old cylinders 9 Int. and 6935 Ext.

1s.—Job 607. 42,960 sheet (x 120) delivered between 2-12-47 and 13-1-48. Old cylinders 6925 Int. and 38 Ext.

(b) Roll Stamps.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d.—Job 791 contd. Deliveries up to 5-11-47 were 1,044 rolls x 1,012 and 2,675 rolls x 506 from cylinders 39 Int. and 54 Ext.

1d.—Job 9979 contd. Total delivery, 431 rolls x 1,012 and 7,833 rolls x 506 from cylinder 16 as before.

(c) Air Letter Cards.

6d.—Job 766 contd. Total delivery of 1,657,800 completed 20-11-47. Old cylinder 73.

6d.—Job 9136, order for 1,500,000. 235,714 delivered between 22-12-47 and 27-1-48 from new cylinder 81 (with 2 stamps at 3d.). A further 46,800 delivered on 29-1-48 from new cylinder 70 (with 1 stamp at 6d., new design).

(d) Inland Pictorial Postcards.

1d.—Job 2743 contd. Printings to date from cylinders 87 for stamps and 86 for pictures, 1,785,600 sheets x '2.

(Note particularly: New cylinders and combinations for $\frac{1}{2}$ d. pictorial, new cylinders for 1d. and $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. pictorials and two new types of Air Letter Cards.—Ed.)

Latest $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. Printing.—Mr. Alex. A. Kerr notes that the point of the east marginal arrow is in the 2nd perforation hole of the margin, whereas in the previous printing it was slightly on the stamp, also that stamp 19 of row 9 has a flaw in the shape of a break on the right side of the first 1 of $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Machine Cancellation Error.—Mr. C. F. Calitz forwards a cover with a George machine cancellation; one placemate circle has the date 3-1-48—8.30, the other has no date at all. Perhaps the postal clerk was not well over his New Year celebrations!

A 1d. Flaw.—Mr. Calitz also submits a current 1d., last stamp but one in 10th row, with a very prominent flaw in the shape of a straight white line right down the centre of the ship. Something must have got on to the centre plate in the process of printing and very likely it is not a recurrent flaw.

Another New Air Letter Sheet.—As will be noted above the air letter sheet in blue with two 3d. stamps has been very short-lived—less than two months. It has been replaced by a similar form (with some changes in position of the two languages in-criptions), but with only one stamp, a 6d. one of new design featuring the globe. The poor closing arrangement still persists.

Marion Island.

"Linn's Weekly Stamp News," in referring to the occupation by South Africa, has the heading "Oh, Oh! Looks like more Crown Colonies." Well, the island may or may not be going to have its own stamps, but if it does they will certainly not come into the category of what are commonly known as "Crown Colonies". But how attempt to explain the constitution of the British Commonwealth especially seeing it hasn't got one!

Roll Stamps in Sheet Form

A correspondent enquires whether the blocks of 4 of the ½d. and 1d. roll stamps shown in the Government exhibit at East London were the bicoloured or the mono-coloured stamps. They were both denominations of both varieties. Of these only the 1d. bicoloured was ever purchasable in sheet form from which a block of 4 could be obtained.

* * *

RARE TRANSVAAL STAMPS

As reported under "Society News", Mr. J. W. Schofield gave an exhibit of Transvaal stamps before the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg. Here follows a list of the most outstanding items shown; it will be noted that there are quite a few of unpriced or non-catalogued stamps. They are referred to by Gibbons' numbers.

A. Pre-stamp cover to Cape Town, postmark Potchefstroom, and has the Bloemfontein "BETAALD" postmark. Such covers are scarcer than Cape pre-stamp covers.

No. 9. A single and bisect on piece used—not priced.

No. 15a. Tete-beche pair used. Not priced.

No. 98b. Mint. Wide-spaced over-print. Catalogued £50.

No. 29. Vertical mint strip of three, one without stop on "R". Latter not catalogued, but recorded by both Yardley and Curle.

No. 104c. Mint. Wide-spaced over-print. Catalogued used £40.

No. 104. Bisected on piece.

No. 113c. Mint pair, both without stop after "R". Not catalogued, but again recorded by Yardley and Curle.

No. 120. Mint pane of forty, including tete-beche pair and another stamp variety no stop after "R". Latter not catalogued, but recorded by Yardley and Curle.

No. 119d. Unused strip of three including error. Not priced unused, but catalogued £60 used.

No. 119. Bisect on piece.

No. 132. Vertical pair, including uncatalogued variety no stop after "V"—Yardley and Curle.

No. 132. Bisect on piece.

No. 146. Full cover with this item. Not particularly rare, except on cover.

No. 151. Wide Roulette. Not priced.

No. 154. Catalogued £30. Queen's Heads, including 1879 Surcharges. Complete (in Mint and Used separately) including mint blocks and a strip of three of No. 162 Used. A number of covers of these Queen's Heads.

No. 274a. Anchor Watermark. Three singles and horizontal pair. All superb and lightly postmarked.

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NETHERLANDS

On the 1st December, 1947, the usual Child Welfare set was issued. It differs from the previous series in that two designs have been employed for the five values, whereas former sets have consisted of one design only. The 2ct. (+2ct.) and the 20ct. (+5ct.) depict a group of three children and the other three values, the 4ct. (+2ct.), 7½ct. (+2½ct.), 10ct. (+5ct.), a close-up of a baby; the stamps are printed on unwatermarked paper, perforated 12½ x 14, by the photogravure process.

"Mijn Stokpaardje" of December last year prints a report of an interview had with the designer of the stamps, Eva Besnoo (in private life Mrs. Brusse), who stated that she was as surprised as anyone would be when she was approached by the postal authorities in the matter of the designs. It appears that both Mr. and Mrs. Brusse are professional photographers, Mr. Brusse being interested in the reproduction in print of finished photographs, and their work must have attracted attention for the authorities to have singled them out in this way. A series of photographs of children were taken in the Vondel Park, Amsterdam, from which the present designs were chosen.

In the October number of the magazine referred to, results of a referendum held by it to determine the wishes of readers with regard to stamps and their designs were given. For child welfare stamps 80 per cent. of the votes were cast for sets depicting more than one design and for designs differing from the usual type. In so far as the Summe Charities were concerned opinion was unanimous that the set should be retained but the matter of suitable subjects gave rise to a variety of suggestions. About half wished to see a continuation of the present practice of showing famous men, the other half desiring a departure, suggesting flowers in natural colour and a variety of other subjects. Practically everybody plumped for a special air-mail set.

The results of the referendum were communicated to the proper authorities with, it would seem, almost miraculous results judging by the present child welfare set. Perhaps it was intelligent anticipation on the part of the postal people, for the referendum was held at approximately the same time as the designs were called for.

During 1948 the Netherlands will issue a set of stamps to commemorate the 50th year of Queen Wilhelmina's reign and the present stamps for the International Court of Justice are to be withdrawn to allow of a new set which will incorporate appropriate wording in the design being introduced. All the values up to 40cts. in the new Hartz design have now appeared, but whether the higher values will be replaced does not at present seem clear.

Special postmarks have been in frequent use lately, the most interesting ones being those for use with the first delivery of postal matter by helicopter and one used on board

a "contact" boat belonging to the society for the promotion of interest in the mercantile marine and the navy. The society seems to be an officially sponsored body—at any rate, it had a postal agency on board and letters despatched from it bore a date-stamp consisting of two concentric circles between which the words "Postagent van der Steng" (upper two-thirds) and "Onze Marine" (lower third) appeared. In the centre, between two horizontal bars, the date is given, while in the segment below the date there appears a numeral. The significance of the numeral is not known. The name "van der Steng," used for the agency and the name of the boat is that of an imaginary person whose career is discussed in the literature of the society, much as we use "John Smith" in dealing with the details of a hypothetical instance involving the man in the street.

Just after writing the above notes, a letter from Holland on which a new 50ct. stamp had been affixed, arrived. The design is the reverse of the lower values, the head being in colour with the background of the ornamentation and inscriptions in white, and the background of the head forming a solid rectangle—in this instance, the colour is a grey brown.

—J.W.S.

(Concluded from page 48—)

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, J. V. Jensen; *Hon. Secretary*, W. J. Gillespie, P.O. Box 673. *Meetings*, 2nd Fridays, above Colosseum Theatre Tea Room, at 7.45 p.m.

December. Much discussion about Exhibition plans. It was reported that a Society was to be formed in Queenstown, and we hope Queenstown, Grahams-town and ourselves will be able to form a triangular exchange. Three displays were given.

Mr. Thornton's "Selection of Classics" was a real pleasure to see and many items, heard of but seldom seen, were displayed; the only regret was that the pages and items were not written up, if only for the benefit of the modern collectors who would more appreciate this fine collection.

Mr. J. Hoal's "Southern Rhodesia" in fine mint was a pleasure for the modern collector. With the exception of a few perf. varieties this collection was complete in all varieties of imperf. between in vertical, horizontal pairs, strips and blocks and gave a fine example to those collecting these modern classics as S. Rhodesia is well termed.

Mr. Hillman gave us a preview of his U.S.A. exhibition sheets and only whetted the desire to see more of his novel style of set up. A fine photo of each President was mounted with the stamps showing them.

January. Meeting held on the opening night of the Centenary celebrations. Many visitors present. It was reported that the President was leaving soon for a business trip overseas and best wishes were given him. Exhibits for the evening were:

Mrs. Hasenjager, who gave us a pleasant surprise with a fine display of Unions, mint and used.

Mr. Paviour displayed his New Zealand collection, and a very fine show it made. Worthy of special mention was the Silver Jubilee in aniline, a printing rarely seen.

Mr. E. Stanjer gave us another of his surprises by showing sheets of 13's, all stamps being 13 either in value, surcharge, plate number, cylinder number, or postmark and representative of the whole world. What an incentive to those with lucky or unlucky numbers!

W.J.G.

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Multiple Comb Perforations of the Rotogravure Issues of the Union of South Africa

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

All rotary photogravure- or rotogravure-produced postage stamps and postage due labels of the Union of South Africa were printed on paper in the web watermarked "springbok head" multiple, and were perforated also in the web by multiple comb devices appended to the printing machine. These perforating devices are known also as "harrow perforators".

Hitherto four types of multiple comb devices have been utilised in connection with the Union postage stamps and postage due labels of various format; they are classified hereunder in accordance with gauge, quantity and comb arrangement of their needles:—*Type "A"*.

(a) For issue sheets of 132-set (22 x 6) stamp spaces incorporating 120-set (20 x 6) stamp designs. Designs in large transverse format: K.G.V. Silver Jubilees $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 3d. and 6d.; Voortrekker Centenary $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. plus $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 3d. plus 3d.; Voortrekker Commemoration 1d. and $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Huguenot Commemoration $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. plus $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.; National Defence (large) 3d. and 1s.; Royal Visit 2d. and 3d.

(b) For issue sheets of 132-set (22 x 6) stamp spaces incorporating 360-set (20 x 18) stamp designs or 396-set (22 x 18) stamp plus slogan designs. Designs in small perpendicular and small transverse format: National Defence (bantams) $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 3d. and 4d.; Postage Dues (bantams) 1d., 2d. and 3d.

(c) Perforations gauged by Gibbons as $14\frac{3}{4}$ x $14\frac{1}{4}$.

(d) Perforators comprised of 11 horizontal rows of combs; each row comprised of 6 combs with 7 lateral spurs; each comb comprised of 17 x 29 x 17 needles, with apex needles counted in the figures 17. Each sheet received 3,245 penetrations per descent or 6,490 in all.

Type "B".

(a) For issue sheets of 132-set (22 x 6) stamp spaces incorporating 120-set (20 x 6) stamp designs. Designs in medium transverse and in medium perpendicular format: K.G. VI Coronations $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d. and 1s.; Voortrekker Monument $\frac{1}{2}$ d. plus $\frac{1}{2}$ d. 1d. plus $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 2d. plus 1d., and 3d. plus $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Voortrekker Centenary $\frac{1}{2}$ d. plus $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and 1d. plus

1d.; Huguenot Commemoration $\frac{1}{2}$ d. plus $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and 1d. plus 1d.; National Defence (medium) 2d., 4d. and 6d.; Victory and Peace 1d., 2d. and 3d.; Unhyphenated and Hyphenated Pictorials $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. (Gold Mine), 2d. (Union Buildings), 3d. (Groote Schuur), 4d. (Native Kraal), 1s. (Gnus Rampant), 2s. 6d. (Ox-wagon crossing drift), 5s. (Ox-waggon outspanned), and 10s. (Groot Constantia).

(b) For issue sheets of 132-set (22 x 6) stamp spaces incorporating 240-set (20 x 12) stamp designs or 264-set (22 x 12) stamp plus slogan designs. Designs in small perpendicular and in small transverse format: National Defence (bantams) $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., 2d., 6d. and 1s.

(c) Perforations gauged by Gibbons as 14.

(d) Perforators comprised of 11 horizontal rows of combs; each row comprised of 6 combs with 7 lateral spurs; each comb comprised of 17 x 20 x 17 needles, with apex needles counted in the figures 17. Each sheet received 2,651 penetrations per descent or 5,302 in all.

Type "C".

(a) For issue sheets of 264-set (22 x 12) stamp spaces, incorporating:

(1) 264-set (22 x 12) stamp designs per sheet before severance into vertical strip arrangement for rolls. (This category relates to such sheets as issued over the counter.) $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d., unhyphenated and hyphenated pictorials.

(2) 240-set (20 x 12) stamp designs per sheet. (Ordinary Sheets.) $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d. and 6d. unhyphenated and hyphenated pictorials in conventional perpendicular format. $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. (Gold Mine) in conventional transverse format. $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d. and $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. National Defence in conventional perpendicular format and 1d. Royal Visit in similar format. $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 2d., 3d. and 6d. postage dues (printed in 240-set sheets but issued in 60-set panes) in conventional perpendicular format.

(3) 180-set (20 x 9) stamp designs per sheet before severance into 6-set (2 x 3) booklet panes. Sheets prepared in tete-beche form (2s. 6d. booklets). $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. unhyphenated pictorials.

- (4) 180-set (20 x 9) stamp designs per sheet before severance into 6-set (2 x 3) booklet panes with left-hand binding margins only (2s. 6d. booklets). ½d. and 1d. hyphenated pictorials.
- (5) 160-set (20 x 8) stamp designs per sheet before severance into 2-set (1 x 2) booklet panes for binding into miniature 3d. and 6d. booklets, known as "Razor Blades" ½d. and 1d.
- (6) 126-set (14 x 9) stamp designs per sheet before severance into 6-set (2 x 3) booklet panes with blank surrounding margins (2s. 6d. booklets). ½d. and 1d. hyphenated pictorials.
- (7) 126-set (14 x 9) stamp designs per sheet before severance into 6-set (2 x 3) booklet panes with contiguous top and bottom advertisements in miniature.
 - (a) In 2s. 6d. booklets—½d. and 1d. hyphenated pictorials with contiguous advertisements.
 - (b) In 6-set panes—½d. and 1d. hyphenated pictorials with contiguous advertisements and overprinted JIPEX anent each stamp.

(b) Perforations gauged by Gibbons as 14¾ x 14¼.

(c) Perforators comprised of 11 horizontal rows of combs; each row comprised of 12 combs with 13 lateral spurs; each comb comprised of 17 x 14 x 17 needles, with apex needles counted in the figures 17. Each sheet received 4,301 penetrations per descent or 8,602 in all. Type "D".

(a) For sheets printed in continuous form for eventual vertical severance and winding into rolls. A quantity of sheets were sold over the counter 240-set, in two panels of 120 units each. Thus, for issue sheets 240-set (20 x 6) (20 x 6) stamp designs with central gutter between vertical rows 6 and 7. Designs in perpendicular conventional format. ½d. and 1d. hyphenated pictorials.

(b) Perforations gauged by Gibbons as 13¾ x 14¼.

(c) Perforators comprised of 11 horizontal rows of combs; each row comprised of 13 combs with 14 lateral spurs, of which 12 combs are of slightly larger than stamp width and 1 comb of narrower width for the central vertical gutter. Each comb comprised of 17 x 14 x 17 needles, with apex needles counted in the figures 17. Each 240-set issue sheet received 4,554 penetrations per descent.

An extra needle for single lateral marginal perforations opposite the termini of the horizontal perforation gutters on both lateral margins is appended to the left and to the right respectively of the extreme spurs of both outer combs of each horizontal row of the perforators Types A, B and C; but in the case of Type D two extra needles are

appended to the left of the extreme left spur and one extra needle to the right of the extreme right spur of each horizontal row of combs.

TWO DESCENTS OF THE NEEDLES PER SHEET

A harrow perforator or multiple comb device perforates eleven horizontal rows of stamp spaces at a single descent of all its constituent needles; two successive descents, therefore, perforate two and twenty horizontal rows of stamp spaces the requisite number for an issue sheet guillotined from the web.

The following diagram represents an issue sheet comprised of 132 (22 x 6) perforated stamp spaces incorporating 120 (20 x 6) stamp designs denoted by the letters "A" and "E" in respect of the alternate positions of the Afrikaans and English inscribed designs throughout the sheet.

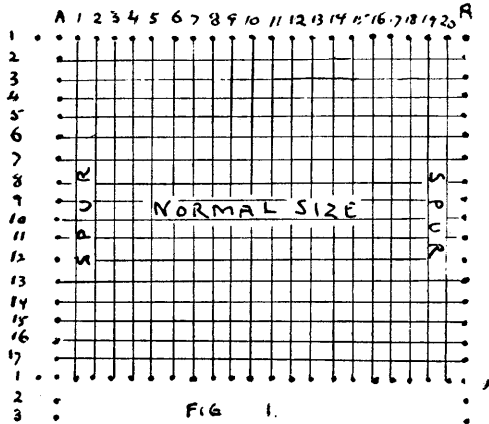
	.	.	.	.	.	.	1α
	A	E	A	E	A	E	2α
	E	A	E	A	E	A	3α
	A	E	A	E	A	E	4α
	E	A	E	A	E	A	5α
A)	A	E	A	E	A	E	6α
	E	A	E	A	E	A	7α
	A	E	A	A	A	A	8α
	E	A	E	A	E	A	9α
	A	E	A	E	A	E	10α
	E	A	E	A	E	A	11α
B)	A	E	A	E	A	E	1b
	E	A	E	A	E	A	2b
	A	E	A	E	A	E	3b
	E	A	E	A	E	A	4b
	A	E	A	E	A	E	5b
C)	E	A	E	A	E	A	6b
	A	E	A	E	A	E	7b
	E	A	E	A	E	A	8b
	A	E	A	E	A	E	9b
	E	A	E	A	E	A	10b
	.	.	.	.	.	.	11b

A=Second descent.
 B=Juncture.
 C=First descent.

JUNCTURES ANENT FIRST AND SECOND DESCENTS

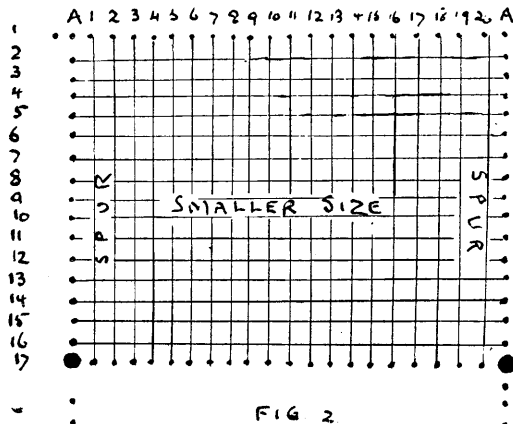
In very few sheets of stamps and postage due labels are the junctures of the perforation holes made by the foremost needles of the eleventh and the apex needles of the first rows of combs normal. On the contrary in very many sheets the penetrations of the apex needles of the first row of combs of the first descent either coincide with the penetrations of the foremost needles (No. 17 of each spur) of the eleventh row of combs of the second descent or impinge more or less upon them. Thus the junctures of the latter category originate one horizontal row of stamps or labels per sheet of smaller size (but not of smaller design) than that of each of their confreres of the remaining nineteen horizontal rows per sheet.

The following sketches are representations of the Normal Size and of the Smaller Size stamps as perforated by a Type B Multiple Comb Perforator.



(A) Normal Size Stamp—17 x 20 x 17/20

Fig. 1 represents a stamp encompassed by 17 x 20 x 17 perf. holes penetrated by the needles of a comb (17 x 20 x 17) of an



eleventh row of combs from a second descent 20 perf. holes by the needles of a comb of a first row of combs from a first descent.

(B) Smaller Size Stamp—16 x 20 x 16/20

Fig. 2 represents a stamp encompassed by 16 x 20 x 16 perf. holes penetrated by the needles of a comb (17 x 20 x 17) of an eleventh row of combs from a second descent and 20 perf. holes by the needles of a comb (17 x 20 x 17) of a first row of combs from a first descent of the perforator. In this instance the 17th holes (i.e. of both spurs) coincides with those penetrated by the apex needles anent the first descent and for the purpose of illustration are shown in the sketch by large dots.

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1918, 3/- green and violet, very fine	£2/10
Basutoland, 1933, 1d. to 10/- complete	£6/10
Br. Guiana, 1934-44, 1c. to \$1, complete	£7/10
Canada, 1897 Jubilee, \$2, \$3, \$4 and \$5, good condition but heavy post-marks	£27/10
Cayman Is., 1935, 1d. to 10/- complete	£10/10
Dominica, 1923-33, 1d. to £1, 21 stamps, complete with colour changes. All lightly cancelled	£15
G.B., 1867-83, 5/-, pl. I, wmk. Maltese Cross, centred to top	£1/15
Do., £1, do.	£14
Do., 5/-, blue paper, wmk. Anchor, well centred and nicely cancelled	£8/10
Do., £5, white paper, wmk. Anchor, good appearance, but has slight imperfection	£12
1884, £1, wmk. Crowns, fine specimen	£10
Do., wmk. Orbs., rather heavy pmk., cat. £25	£16/10
1902-10, £1, K.E., superb. Dated 19th July, 1911	£4/5
1913, £1, K.G., parcel post cancellation	£7
Hong Kong, 1903, \$10, K.E., wmk. Crown C.A.	£3/10
Kenya, 1906-7, 10r., wmk. Mult. C.A.	£7/15
New Guinea, 1931 Air set, 1d. to £1 complete	£7
1935 Air, £2 and £5	£19
Nigeria, 1936, 1d. to £1 complete	£10
Sudan, 1935 General Gordon Commem., complete	£14/10
Swaziland, 1933, 1d. to 10/- complete	£5/10

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M. Gilbert Menil, Service Radio, S.P. 50807 B.P.M. 515 (Z.F.O.), wishes to exchange mint sets of the French-occupied German Provinces for sets of recently-issued stamps of Southern Africa. Basis, face value for face value at prevailing rate of exchange.

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2½d. value only, Mint per 100 (minimum, 24/-.
Add 1/- to all above if required by air.

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NYASALAND CENSOR MARKS AND SEALS.

Comparatively few of these have come my way, but from what has been told me by Miss K. A. Smith, of Zomba, who worked in the local censoring office, I imagine there is not very much more to be added, except perhaps in the way of recording additional numbers.

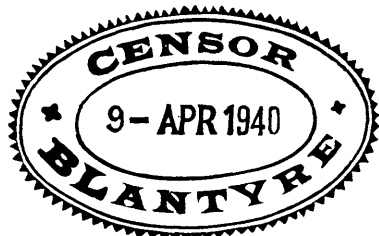
MILITARY CENSOR MARKS



Nyasaland fell within the East African Command and the only military censor mark I have seen has already been recorded as an East African mark ("S.A. Phil., Vol. 22, 1946, p. 52), No. 19. It is in shape like the mark figured in the "S.A. Ph.," Vol. 21, 1945, p. 76, with the same wording inside the frame "Passed/By Military/Censor," but the wording in the enclave is "E.A. No. VI/4." In black on a cover from Zomba of 8th July, 43.

CIVIL CENSOR MARKS

The first to be used was this double lined circle type, 34 mm. in diameter. I have No. 3 in violet of 9th April, 1940, and No. 2 in black of 21st January, 1941.



This elliptical mark, about 48 x 30 mm., was on the same envelope as No. 3 above, and according to Miss Smith, was really more of an office franking stamp than a censor's mark. The type is similar to that of the franking stamps of other Nyasaland Government Departments.

Sometime, probably in 1941 or 1942, instructions were received from London that censor marks were to be uniform in type throughout Britain and British Colonies. The type was an octagon about 36 mm. high x 26 mm. across with, inside, a crown, Passed, and a letter or letters followed by a dash and a number. The type was illustrated in the

"S.A. Philatelist," Vol. 23, 1947, pp. 37 and 77, when considering the marks of the Rhodesias, the letters there being O in the case of Northern Rhodesia, and DE in the case of Southern Rhodesia. Nyasaland had Q allotted to it. Of these, I have, all in black, Q/6 of 20 Oct. 43, Q/8 of — 45, and Q/10 of 14 Jun. 43.

Regarding their use, Miss Smith writes: "In this small country where the examiners were known personally to most of the population, each one had two numbers allotted to him or her in an endeavour to make it difficult for the public to find out who opened their letters. The job was not an enviable one."

CIVIL CENSOR'S SEALS.

The type of seal employed at first, when the circular censor mark was in use, was simply a strip of white paper about 30 mm. in depth with "Opened by Censor" in black Roman capitals about 3 mm. high.

When the octagonal census mark came into use the seal was also changed to a white strip about 50 mm. in depth with, in black, "Opened by Examiner" in block capitals 6 mm. high, the whole being 75 mm. long. Below this was Q/ ; it was not considered worth while printing in each examiner's number separately after the Q/. The examiners were probably supposed to write it in by hand, but did not always do so as their number appeared in the octagonal stamp used for tying the seal to the cover.

J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

★

BELGIUM

"Het Vlaamsch Postzegeltijdschrift" reports that on 15th December there appeared a set of five stamps featuring factories in various towns, values 0.65 to 20.00 with surtaxes for the benefit of various health organisations. The stamps to be on sale for two months and to be valid for use till 30th September.

★

BRITISH COLONIALS

Nigeria.—The 3d. black and 4d. blue were withdrawn from sale on 5th January, and on the same date a 3d. blue was put on issue.

Forged Overprints.—Mr. Henry M. Friedman, a leading British Empire collector in America, describes in "Linn's Weekly Stamp News" a method of detecting forgeries of overprints which he finds simple and effective, and it does not appear to have been put on record.

Take a genuine specimen of low catalogue value and cut it across through the middle of the surcharge or overprint. Place this half surcharge over any suspected specimen; if genuine there will not be a fraction of a millimeter variation, but forgeries will practically never fit exactly. He finds this method much more accurate than measuring with callipers.

SOUTH-WEST AFRICA

SG		SG		SG	
6	3/0	73*	3/0	113	15/0
10	45/0	74	0/2	D6	0/5
14	140/0	75	0/3	D7	0/6
19	1/6	76	0/5	D9	1/0
23	5/3	77	0/7	D12	1/6
24	21/0	78	0/10	D17	2/0
27	120/0	79	1/2	D20	1/9
28	20/0	80	2/4	D25	1/3
29	0/8	81	3/0	D26	5/0
33	2/0	83	11/9	D28	0/4
36	5/0	88*	0/6	D29	0/6
41	0/3	89*	1/0	D31	0/8
43	2/6	90*	32/6	D32	5/0
44A*	0/10	91*	11/6	D34	1/0
44B*	0/10	92	1/6	D35	1/0
45	0/3	93	2/6	D37	5/0
46	0/4	94	5/6	D38	5/0
48*	1/6	95	10/0	D39	0/8
49	0/9	97	0/2	D40*	1/0
50	1/2	98	0/3	D41*	4/0
51	4/0	99	0/4	D42*	0/2
52	22/6	100	0/6	D43*	0/2
55A*	0/10	101	0/8	D44*	0/3
56*	2/0	102	1/0	D45*	0/5
58	0/2	103	1/3	D46*	0/10
58b	1/0	104	2/9	O4	40/0
59b	0/6	105	1/9	O5	0/6
61	0/9	106	2/3	O8	2/6
62	1/0	107	4/9	O9	0/2
64	3/0	108	10/0	O10	0/3
68	0/3	109	2/0	O11	6/9
69	0/4	110	2/9	O11b	2/0
70*	3/0	111	1/9	O11c	4/0
72*	1/0	112	3/0	O17	0/8

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REVIEWS and NOTICES

The Nineteenth Century Postage Stamps of the United States, by Lester G. Brookman. Published by H. L. Lindquist, 2 W. 46th Street, New York. Price (2 vols.) \$10.00.

Recently we noticed Max G. Johl's fine work on the 20th Century Commemoratives of the U.S.A.; now we have companion pieces in Brookman's scholarly work on the 19th Century stamps. In two volumes, each over 300 pages; the first starts with the 1847 issues and runs through the grilled issues to the end of 1868, the second continues the story from 1869 to the end of the century with the Omaha series.

This is the first comprehensive work on the entire group since Luff's book many years ago. It would be gilding the lily to say much more than that this is a most scholarly work and is magnificently produced. It deals with practically every aspect of the stamps, yet withal in an easy, most readable style, and is lavishly illustrated.

At the end of Vol 2, more or less as appendices, although they are not actually called such, are chapters dealing with cancellations (admittedly very sketchy), rates of postage, special printings, essays and proofs and a suggested new catalogue list of U.S.A. stamps. Both volumes are well indexed.

Canadian Stamp News. A price list sent out by Alden C. Johnson, 11 Carmichael Ave., c/o Substation 117, Toronto, Ontario.

Federation of Hungarian Philatelic Societies. We have received a copy of the proceedings of the 1st National Congress of Hungarian Philatelists held in Budapest 7th and 8th September, 1947. A summary is given in English of papers read; most of them deal either with Hungarian stamps or with problems more or less common to philatelists the world over. Amongst other matters was a protest against the issue of many stamps with a surtax and locally they suggested not more than two sets per annum and no issue to have a surtax for military purposes.

Altdeutschland. Part 1, Baden to Hamburg; Part 2, Hanover to Wurtemberg (1857). Price, each part RM 1.25 post free. Gebrüder Senf, Tröndlinring 3, Leipzig 3, Germany.

Priced catalogues of the stamps of the old German states, with numerous notes in addition to the mere listing. May be had with or without interleaving for notes.

The Guldborg Gazette. Official organ of the Guldborg Hobby Association, St. Strandstraede 4, Copenhagen K., Denmark. Pub-

lished in English. This appears to be a flourishing exchange club with world-wide membership. Fee \$1 per annum or equivalent in international money order or international reply coupons.

Handbook of the German Inflation Issues, 1919-23. Ottogrossjohann, Dahlerbruck i.W., Postfach 33. Price not mentioned.

A priced catalogue of these stamps with numerous notes. In great detail, hundreds and hundreds of varieties etc., given.

Gibbons' Catalogues. Following the announcement that the S.G. catalogue was to be broken down from two to three parts comes a more sensational move. Two parts, British Empire and Europe, have appeared, but part III, Rest of the World, is still-born. Instead the rest of the world will come out in sections, individual countries or groups of countries—United States and Possessions being announced as the first to come.

This move is a result of the paper shortage, but we think it would be welcomed as a permanency by all collectors for all countries.

The Ace Yearbook, 1948. The 2nd post-war yearbook of the African Collectors Exchange, P.O. Box 5403, Johannesburg. It gives a complete list of members, with their particular interests, the total number being round about 1,000.

Catalogue and Price List of Stamps of Italy, Colonies, Levant, San Marino and Vatican. I. Pergolesi, Via del Babuino 158a, Rome. Price, Lire 750.

An amazingly well-illustrated catalogue and the number of war issues come as a surprise. The stamps appear only to be offered in mint condition and in many cases only in complete sets. At exchange rates given the price would work out at about 11s. or \$1.40, but we note it is offered for \$1.00.

BRITISH COLONIALS

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The advantages of being a member of a reputable New Issue Service are many and obvious. We have been conducting our New Issue Department for the last 5-6 years, and should be only too pleased to forward particulars of our scheme to any Collectors who may wish to avail themselves of such an offer. Want Lists for all British Colonials (mint or used) appreciated. Obsolete values of K. Geo. VI are our speciality.

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what may eventually be unique
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PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY
GOLDEN JUBILEE

The dinner held on the anniversary date, 16th February, was a most pleasant and successful function. There were over 100 present under the chairmanship of the President, Mr. F. G. Ferguson; among the V.I.P.'s as guests were Her Worship the Mayor of Pretoria, Mrs. M. M. Curson, M.P.C.; The Government Printer, Col. J. J. Kruger; the Postal Publicity Officer, Mr. M. F. Swanepoel; Mr. Emil Tamsen, the doyen of South African philatelists; the Presidents of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa and of the kindred Philatelic Societies on the Reef.

The menu cards had some pretty philatelic quips, including an advertisement of Woodblock Errors from the Society's Legal Adviser, resident in The Fort, Johannesburg. One dish was stated to be handed out in blocks of four, but some unauthorised bisecting seemed to have taken place.

A very pleasing feature of the evening was the presentation of Certificates of Honorary Life Membership to the following stalwarts of the Society: Messrs. A. P. Obermeyer, Emil Tamsen, H. P. de Boom, H. N. B. Hawke, W. J. Giovanetti and Dr. Robert Broom.

AUSTRALIA

We have been notified by the High Commissioner for Australia of the issue on February 16 of a 1s. 3d. stamp in carmine-brown, featuring the head of a Hereford bull and a 2s. stamp in dark chocolate depicting aboriginal art in the form of a crocodile. The latter is a departure from anything previously used in the way of designs for Australian stamps—a reproduction of some of our Bushman rock paintings would compare very favourably with it. It may be art and realism, but it is of the very primitive variety.

S. RHODESIA AIR LETTERS

In our issue of June, 1947, p. 92, Major L. E. Creasy listed and described the air letter forms of Southern Rhodesia.

He gave three varieties of Active Service cards, (1) 3d., blue on white, 17-11-41, type 1; (2) 3d. on buff, rough paper, Aug., 1942, type 1; (3) 3d. blue on white, June, 1942, type 2.

To this Major Ian Morgan of Montreal reports a fourth variety in his possession, viz., 3d. blue on rough buff paper, type 2.

SWEDEN

40th Anniversary of King's Accession on 8.12.1947.

10 and 20 öre single (top and bottom perforated) and also in horizontal pairs (perforated in between, imperforate top and bottom). The 60 öre single only. Specially designed postmark for first-day covers.

GERMANY

"Philatelie Equator" has submitted its catalogue of German postage stamps issued since the end of World War 11, recording the stamps of all four Occupation Zones; joint issues for the English and American, separate ones for the Russian and French Zones. At the end of 1946 the first "General Issue" for the whole of Germany was printed, but the French authorities suddenly decided on four separate issues within their own occupation zone, namely, stamps for Baden (6 val.), Rheinpfalz (13 val), Wurtemberg (6 val., and Saar. The stamps of the latter comprised a set of 20 values in German currency.

On 20.11.47, the Saar entered into a Customs Union with France, and on that date three Saar stamps with overprint in French currency were sold, namely, 2, 3 and 6 francs, followed by ten more overprinted values during the next few days. It is noteworthy that the 2 francs on 12 pfg. is on the original stamp, whilst the other overprints have been made on a special (second) printing of the Saar stamps.

"Hitler Heads." In the 1947 Saar issue, if you had a good imagination you could find a Hitler head (inverted) between the legs of the heaver on the 15 to 24 pfg. stamps. The wildest rumours went about that this was the sign of a new werewolf organisation or some other underground movement. Anyway, the post office apparently took note of these rumours and in the Saar stamp overprinted with values in francs the "Heads" have been touched out.

F.C.F.

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BRAZIL

An airmail stamp, value 1.20 red on a yellow-green background, was issued on 15th November. It features the monument erected at St. Cloud, France, in homage to Santos Dumont. This monument, incidentally, was destroyed by the Germans in their recent occupation.

A "Juvenile Philatelic Week" in Rio de Janeiro in January, produced a special postmark, but not a special stamp.

—Mario de Sanctis

KENYA NOTES

Mr. W. Tunstall reports the following:—

(1) Local sales of the Victory stamps were: 20 cents, 2,551,414, and 30 cents, 819,182.

(2) When the 1922 75c. (S.G. 90) was withdrawn from sale, the total printing had been approximately 500,000. As this stamp was used mainly on parcels, nice used copies are probably scarcer than the catalogue price would indicate.

(3) The meter mark, 10c., of the Kenya Farmers, Nakuru, although still of the same type has now got Tanganyika added to the inscription Kenya and Uganda. Possibly this means that a meter machine has been issued for use in Tanganyika, or it may possibly only be in anticipation of such an occurrence.

★

A BECHUANALAND VARIETY

At the East London Exhibition Mr. E. C. Pote of Grahamstown produced a specimen of S.G. 38 (1d. Cape with "British Bechuanaland" Opt. reading downwards) which he had come across in a mixed lot, but which seemed to be an uncatalogued variety. This was a "b" in place of the "h" in Bechuanaland.

The stamp has been examined by several prominent philatelists with magnifying glasses under strong lighting and also under a quartz lamp, and the overprint carefully measured. They are all of opinion that the item is genuine in every respect—stamp, overprint and postmark, the last, incidentally, being Gaberones/BB., MR 17 -8.

The question then arises "Is it a genuine error, "b" for "h." This possibility cannot be excluded offhand as it appears to be such a perfect "b," but another possibility must be considered, viz., that it is a printing flaw, and not an error.

For this consideration a fairly large number of other specimens, singles and fairly large blocks, were examined and it was at once obvious that there were numerous flaws and defects in the letters of the overprint. These may be called the control group.

A minus defect would account for the complete absence of a serif at the SE corner of the supposed "b," and such a defect was found in the control group.

A positive defect would be required, however, to give the perfect closing-in at the bottom of the letter, necessary to turn an "h" into a "b." No such perfect closing-in, of correct uniform thickness throughout, was found among the controls, but there was found (a) a specimen with a closing-in of correct thickness at both ends, but leaving a short gap in the centre, and (b) another with a thin line fully closing-in the bottom of the letter.

In view of these findings it would not seem impossible that a perfect closing-in might have occurred, and, in conjunction with a lacking serif an apparently perfect "b" would result.

Collectors' Wants & Offers

(Threepence per word per insertion with minimum of 3/- per insertion).

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U.S.A.

January 24 saw the issue of a 3c. stamp commemorating the fact that "there's plenty of gold, so I've been told, on the banks of the Sacramento", or, to be more precise, the discovery of gold in California in 1848. The stamps have a crossed pick and shovel (shades of the U.S.S.R. hammer and sickle!) as a sort of cameo in a view of Sutter's Mill at Coloma. The stamp may be somewhat more decorative than our 1½d. mine dump, but it rather suffers from having too much detail crowded into it.

SOCIETY NEWS

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, F. C. Ferguson; *Hon. Sec.*, H. Endemann, P.O. Box 514; *Meetings*, 1st and 3rd Mondays, 8 p.m., Technical College.

December 1. Quiz evening, when a set of questions had to be answered. These severely tested members' philatelic knowledge; Mr. Orkin came out first in the contest.

December 15. Mr. Obermeyer read a paper on Cape issues and afterwards showed his collection.

January 5. In view of the Society's Golden Jubilee, Mr. Obermeyer, one of its oldest members, gave an account of its early history, from its foundation on 16th February, 1898, onwards. Mr. Blick exhibited British Colonials.

January 19. Dr. Reiserer gave a talk on Forgeries and also showed a collection of post-war Belgian stamps.

★

MASHONALAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chairman, C. W. Lander; *Hon. Sec.*, I. W. Noar, P.O. Box 1660, Salisbury; *Meetings*, 2nd Wednesdays, Board Room of the Electricity Supply Commission, Salisbury.

January 14. This meeting was the 8th annual general meeting of the Society; it was well attended, and the chairman and hon. sec.-treasurer were re-elected to office.

The chairman's address might be summed up in two words, "Steady Progress." Membership of the Society is now 81, of whom 32 are country members. Exchange books in circulation numbered 108 as compared with 66 the previous year, but the value of them was less and there has been, unfortunately, a distinct falling off in the quality of material offered.

The financial position of the Society is sound; attendances at monthly meetings have averaged 16.

The Society is contemplating holding a private exhibition (by invitation) with a view to holding a public exhibition in the near future.

★

MARITZBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chairman, C. R. Turner; *Hon. Secretary*, R. Morton, P.O. Box 328, Pietermaritzburg; *Meetings*, 2nd Friday in each month at the Women's Club, 211 Burger Street, 7.45 p.m.

The February meeting established a record in the number of collectors present, more than 40 persons attending. The occasion was a visit from the Natal Society, and we were pleased to welcome 15 Durbanites who made the long trip to attend.

Our chairman led off with a talk and display of his stamps of the Cayman Islands, and as his collection is almost complete and includes complete sets of the commemorative issues, many expressions of envy were heard from less fortunate collectors.

Mr. Bevis, who acted as our delegate to the East London Congress, then read his report on the proceedings of the Federation, and Mr. Owens followed with a description of some of the stamps displayed. After the tea interval the Durban visitors entertained us with a Quiz in which the home team scored four points over the visitors. This was followed by a display of Eire by Mr. Owens and a portion of his Union stamps by Mr. Bosse. These displays, which were described by their owners, were much appreciated. The evening quickly drew to a close and a competition, which was to have been given by our visitors, could not be held. R.M.

★

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. H. Suklje, Benoni; *Hon. Secretary*, Miss S. O. Jeffrey, P.O. Box 572, Benoni; *Meetings*, Regent Hotel, Benoni, 3rd Tuesdays.

January. Messrs. Shepherd, Legator, Kaplan and Suklje were congratulated on their successes at the East London Exhibition. The display for the evening was a selection of about six pages each of various countries, eight members taking part, thus providing a most varied and attractive display.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL

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

The ordinary January meeting, in spite of the humid night, brought 55 members and friends who all enjoyed Mr. W. F. Oven's talk and exhibit on "Eire." His bright and easy style made quite a few members think it might be worth while collecting this country. Mr. J. Lyle's selected items proved most interesting. How he finds time to write up all these various collections that he exhibits from time to time is a mystery. Mr. N. D. William's competition was something out of the ordinary, which proved how seriously (?) the catalogues are studied by collectors.

Having just returned from the very successful Congress at East London, we extend our heartiest congratulations to Mr. A. E. Basden, who was awarded the Skinner Trophy for the most outstanding contribution to Philately since the last Congress; also to Mr. P. C. Bishop, a former President of this Society, and Mr. A. E. Basden on being elected to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa. Incidentally, Mr. P. C. Bishop has the distinction of also being included on the British Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

W.H.W.

★

GRAHAMSTOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. E. A. Carr; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. R. Q. Tarr, Wood House, Kingswood College, Grahamstown.

The December meeting was one of general discussion, and at this meeting it was decided to apply for affiliation to the Federation.

No meeting was held in January owing to most members being on holiday. Three members, however, journeyed to East London for the National Exhibition, two members exhibiting.

At the February meeting the President gave an account of the East London Exhibition. Mr. S. C. Chantler read a paper on "The Union Post-war re-printings" together with a display of such stamps.

Our attendances are good and we would welcome visits from philatelists passing through Grahamstown. If they could give us a talk or display they would be doubly welcome.

S.C.C.

★

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

President, Dr. A. Kaplan; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. J. H. Jenkins, P.O. Box 4967; *Meetings*, 2nd Tuesdays and 4th Mondays, Public Library, 7.45 p.m.

February 10. A magnificent show of Transvaals by Mr. J. W. Schofield. The 2nd Republic and the V.R.I.'s were not included as the exhibitor stated he regarded them as rubbish, with far too many errors of overprint which were not accidental.

In the first Republican issues there were also a fair number of blank spaces because he would only accept stamps in first class condition and such are not always readily obtainable in the early Transvaal issues. Those shown were certainly superb.

As quite a few of the items shown were in the rarity, or even the great rarity, class, including a number of uncatalogued or unpriced, they are recorded elsewhere in this issue as a piece of general news.

February 23. Mr. I. Isaacs showed a fine collection of nearly 100 Air Mail covers flown to, from and in India. This included the world's first air mail flight at Allahabad in 1911 and various experimental and emergency flights within India.

Then there were various covers flown from Karachi to Calcutta by Indian Transcontinental Airways, an important link in services from the West to Australia or eastern Asia.

An interesting item was a cover flown over Mt. Everest in connection with the Houston attempt on that mountain.

The exhibit included several Pigeon and Rocket Posts—interesting items even is not strictly within the definition of Air Mails.

(Concluded on page 36)

I TRAVEL 15,000 MILES A YEAR
 YET *Never leave my "Home"*



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Like my bedroom, my compartment is always free from bulky luggage. I send all my heavy bags to the luggage van. Gives me room to relax.



I know how the catering staff appreciates my being prompt for meals. Means quick, personal attention—equal to the service in a well-run hotel.



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MARCH 22nd and 23rd:

A COLONIAL SALE, strong in Newfoundland, and with single rarities, and including a Collection offered by order of the Executor of the late Dr. Arnold McMillan of New Romney.

MARCH 29th and 30th:

NO SALE.

APRIL 5th and 6th:

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Editorial

CLASSIC ISSUES

We are prompted to discuss what is meant by the adjective "classic" as used in philately, by a reader writing about Dr. Freund using this term as applicable to the Mafeking Siege stamps in his article which appeared in our December issue (and is continued in this number).

Our reader says: "I am under the impression that the classical issues are only those issued up to 1880 or 1888—am I right?" Note, however, the adjective he uses in "classical" not "classic"—a point referred to further on.

The subject, curiously enough, is dealt with by Rose Titford, a well-known official of the Royal Philatelic Society, in an article on General Collecting as opposed to Specialism in the Nov.-Dec. issue of "The West-End Philatelist." In this Miss Titford speaks of collectors who, although interested in the classics, are unable for economic reasons to collect the early stamps—"those classics, which by their very term suggests expense." She goes on to add, "I define the term 'classics' as belonging to the early issues with their rarities, as against the stamps which have appeared within the last 25 to 30 years which so often have this appellation given to them but cannot truthfully be called 'classics' as the true philatelist understands the word. (At this stage I fear collectors will criticise my choice of nomenclature as many consider among the 'classics' some rarities which have appeared since the Victorian and Edwardian eras)."

It is clear from this that there is no generally accepted definition of what constitutes a "classic," philatelically speaking. Some, perhaps the majority—the true philatelists ac-

ording to Miss Titford—would confine the term to early issues, but even she appears to extend "early" up to about 1918. Others apparently would include even later issues, but only rarities amongst them.

Does the ordinary dictionary definition of "classic" help us at all? Here is what the pocket Oxford dictionary says: "Of allowed excellence, cited as a model, often referred to, standard, having literary associations; (less usually for) classical." "Classical" is restricted to ancient Greek and Roman writers, so does not appear to come under our purview.

Age, per se, does not appear to come into the ordinary definition of "classic," but of course language and the meaning of words are things that are constantly changing and philatelists, if they so desire, could restrict the use of the word to the older issues, drawing the line at some date, if they can agree on one.

On the other hand, if the wider meanings in general use, as defined in the Oxford dictionary, are accepted, then many stamps other than early issues could be called "classic."

To come down from the general to the particular—are the Mafeking Siege stamps entitled to be termed a classic issue? That, like so many other things, is probably merely a matter of opinion, and dogmatism on the subject would be absurd.

There may be differences of opinion as to whether these stamps (or some of them, at any rate) are "of allowed excellence," and perhaps even more so as to whether they should be "cited as a model." But that they are "often referred to" goes without question, and in the sense that races such as the Derby and the Oaks (and perhaps the Durban July Handicap?) are often referred to as classics, so the Mafeking stamps would seem to be entitled to be regarded as siege classics.

UNION AND S.W.A. NOTES

Royal Silver Wedding Stamps

The Postmaster-General of the Union of South Africa announces that special 3d. postage stamps will be issued to commemorate the silver wedding anniversary of Their Majesties, the King and Queen.

The stamps, which will be printed alternately in English and Afrikaans, will be in sheets of 120 and will be on sale from the 26th April to 30th June, 1948, both dates inclusive.

The design will consist of a picture of Their Majesties and sprays of silver tree (*Leucadendron argenteum*) leaves.



Although specially designed "First Day" covers will not be issued by the Post Office, fully addressed envelopes, accompanied by the necessary remittances, which reach the Under-Secretary, Staff, Room 13a, General Post Office, Pretoria, by the 24th April, 1948, will be stamped and posted on the first day of issue of the special stamps.

Persons, who so desire, may obtain supplies of the stamps by writing to the Under-Secretary, Staff, Room 13a, General Post Office, Pretoria. Remittances must be by means of postal order, money order or bank draft and must include return postage and registration. *Foreign currencies will not be accepted.*

Supplies of the commemoration stamps will be overprinted "SWA" for use in South-West Africa. Orders for the South-West African issue must be forwarded *direct* to the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Windhoek, South-West Africa, who will also undertake to affix stamps to first-day covers, provided such covers accompanied by the necessary remittances, reach his office by the 24th of April.

Changes because of shortage of gummed paper

The Postmaster-General announces that, as a temporary measure,

- (a) the ½d. postage stamp is being printed in sheets of 180 instead of 240 stamps, and

- (b) the size of the 1½d. postage stamp is being reduced to 24 mm. x 15 mm. The latter will be printed alternately in English and Afrikaans; in sheets of 240, and separated by a combination of perforation and roulettes.

Post Office Progress—1939 to 1946

No annual reports by the P.M.G. have been issued since that of 1938-39, because of staff and paper difficulties.

An annual report for 1945-46 has just been published, embodied in a résumé of development since the year 1939.

This is a very nicely-produced booklet with some good illustrations showing various features of the work of the P.O. In addition to all the usual statistical information commonly to be found in such reports, there is a Roll of Honour, with the names of all members of the department who made the supreme sacrifice in World War II, 79 in all, out of fully 2,000 men and women who were on active service. There is also a long list of Honours and Awards obtained by officials of the department.

Marion Island

Following up the record of the island's mails given in our February issue, H.M.S.A.S. "Transvaal" left Cape Town on 10.2.48 and on 16.2.48 the "Good Hope" left the island, reaching Cape Town 21.2.48; mail being carried by each of them.

The "Transvaal" left the island on 27.2.48, arriving at Cape Town 6.3.48, bringing mail. Some of this was unstamped and endorsed "No stamps available"; such mail was delivered free in South Africa.

The M/S "Norse Captain", which had taken a last consignment of stores, reached Cape Town on 23.3.48 with similar mail.

H.M.S.A.S. "Natal" arrived back on 24.3.48, bringing the last mail for the season. The island is now in full wireless communication with the mainland, but no ship connections are expected for six or eight months. Mr. A. B. Crawford, who is governor, magistrate, meteorological officer and postmaster, reports that the postal administration seems to have forgotten all about him and his three companions plus six Tristan da Cunha islanders.

[Notes on "varieties" omitted this month through lack of space.]

PITCAIRN ISLAND

It is stated in "Stamp Collecting" that before the issue of this island's pictorials in 1940, there were £50 in its Treasury. Now it has a credit balance of £40,000. Out of this there have been obtained a pre-fabricated schoolhouse, completely furnished, together with a supply of books and other equipment.

Fine propaganda for those philatelists who contend that stamp collecting has a high educational value!

SPECIAL OFFERS.

	Mint	Used		Mint	Used
Australia, Newcastle set of 3	1/0	1/0	Hong Kong Peace	4/6	4/6
Do., Princess 1d.	0/1½	—	Do., new 80c.	1/2	—
Basuto-, Bechuana- or Swaziland			India Independence	2/6	2/9
½d., 1d., 1½d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d.	2/11	3/3	Kenya 1941 Provisionals 4 prs.	4/6	—
and 1/-	2/11	3/3	Mauritius Postal Centenary	0/5	—
Do., 2/6	2/11	3/3	Newfoundland Cabot 5c.	1/0	—
Do., 5/-	5/9	6/6	New Zealand Prov. 10d./1½d.	0/5	1/3
Do., 10/-	11/6	12/6	Do., 1947 Health	1/2	1/3
Do., Victory, except Bech. each	3/0	3/9	Do., Otago 1d., 2d., 3d. and 6d.	0/5	—
Do., Victory Bechuanaland	5/0	6/6	Nigeria new 3d.	8/6	—
Do., Royal Visit each	2/6	3/6	Pakistan set to 1 R.	0/2	0/2
Brunei new \$5	13/5	—	Nyasaland new 1d. Leopard	2/6	3/0
Do., \$10	26/10	—	S. Africa Victory 3 prs.	1/9	1/9
Burma Victory	—	1/9	Do., Royal Visit 3 prs.	—	1/0
Do., Independence	2/0	—	Do. singles	4/9	—
Canada 1939 Royal Visit	—	0/4	S. Rhodesia 1940 Golden Jubilee	1/3	1/6
Do., Citizen 4c.	0/4	—	Do., Victory	0/4	0/5
Do., Princess 4c.	0/4	—	Do., Royal Visit	2/6	—
Ceylon Constitution	1/3	1/6	S.W.A. 1927 Triangles, pair	4/6	—
Do., First-Day Cover	—	1/9	Do., 1930 Air, 4d. and 1/-	5/9	—
Do., Current Set to 15c.	1/0	—	Do., Pictorials, ½d. to 1/-, 8 prs.	—	—
Dominica 3½d. and 7d.	1/2	—	Do., Complete ½d. to £1 Imprint	105/0	—
Do., 2/-	2/6	—	Do., Coronation	7/6	—
Egypt Evacuation 10m.	0/5	—	Do., First-Day Cover	—	8/6
Gibraltar new 5d.	0/7	—	1945 Victory	2/6	3/0
Great Britain 2/6, 5/- and 10/-	—	2/6	Do., 1947 Royal Visit	1/6	2/0
Do., new 11d.	1/2	0/6	Transjordan 1st Parliament, set	12/6	15/0
			of 9	34/6	—
			Virgins 10/- and £1	—	—

Control Nos. Enquiries invited.

C.W.O. Postage and Registration extra under 5/-. All stamps sent on approval, and can be returned if not entirely satisfactory. Interesting approvals and new issue service to applicants furnishing references or deposit.

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The Johannesburg Repertory Players Are Building A Theatre For South Africa

It will surely be of interest to all Stamp Collectors to know that many Members and sympathisers have donated Stamps and Covers in aid of the Building Fund. These will be sold by Auction on

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21st, 1948, at 8 p.m. at 'BROADWAY'
32 Plein Street (Opp. Technical College), Johannesburg.

(Refreshments will be provided)

The items to be sold cover a great range suitable not only for medium and advanced collectors, but also for beginners.

Catalogues available from the 14th April at:

315/6 Africa House, Rissik Street, Johannesburg, and 17 Randspecs House, 66 Market Street, Johannesburg, or by post on application to The Organising Secretary, Reps Theatre Building Campaign, 17 Randspecs House, 66 Market Street, Johannesburg, or Phone 33-9954.

The various lots will be on view on days prior to Sale. Particulars of venue and times will be advertised, also on application to the Organising Secretary, above address.

COMPARATIVE CATALOGUE PRICES

A reader sends the following little list as a matter of general interest. It shows the prices quoted for a few better class stamps, selected more or less at random, as given in the 1947 Gibbons, 1948 Scott

and 1948 Yvert Catalogues. (The prices in Yvert are converted to the nearest 3d.)

Is there a moral attached? No prizes for the answer.

	GIBBONS.			SCOTT.			YVERT.								
	M.			U.			M.			U.					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
South Africa—															
No. 24	5	15	0	2	15	0	5	0	0	2	10	0	7	16	3
Nos. 26-29 ...	3	11	0	4	5	0	2	16	3	3	6	3	4	15	9
Great Britain—															
No. 1	22	0	0	2	0	0	12	10	0	2	0	0	18	15	0
No. 266	10	0	0	5	0	0	6	5	0	3	2	6	9	7	6
No. 438	9	0	0	5	0	0	6	17	6	4	10	0	9	7	6
Canada—															
No. 140	20	0	0	10	0	0	11	0	0	4	12	6	20	16	6
No. 187	9	0	0	2	0	0	6	17	6	1	2	6	10	8	0
Cape—															
No. 15	25	0	0	18	0	0	11	5	0	8	15	0	20	16	6
No. 47	50	0	0	6	0	0	62	10	0	4	7	6	72	18	0
Natal—															
No. 143	10	0	0	2	0	0	8	15	0	3	0	0	12	10	0
Newfoundland—															
No. 197	4	10	0	4	15	0	3	10	0	3	15	0	6	5	0
No. 234	3	10	0	3	15	0	2	10	0	2	15	0	6	5	0
Northern Rhodesia—															
No. 15	2	15	0	3	5	0	2	10	0	2	0	0	3	13	0
Sierra Leone—															
No. 180	30	0	0	32	0	0	27	10	0	28	15	0	62	10	0
Aden—															
No. 12	15	0	0	17	0	0	10	0	0	7	10	0	20	16	6
St. Helena—															
No. 113	42	0	0	46	0	0	37	10	0	40	0	0	52	2	0
Greece—															
No. 121	2	0	0	2	2	6	2	10	0	2	0	0	4	3	6
France—															
No. 132	30	0	0	6	0	0	25	0	0	3	15	0	156	5	0
No. 541	8	0	0	4	0	0	6	5	0	3	0	0	12	10	0
Norway—															
No. 1	20	0	0	1	12	6	21	5	0	1	7	6	26	1	0
Austria—															
No. 26	10	0	0	0	2	6	15	0	0	0	3	0	18	15	0

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AN INTERESTING SALE

Attention is drawn to an advertisement on another page of stamps, etc., to be auctioned at the "Broadway," 32 Plein Street, on 21st inst., at 8 p.m. These have been donated by members and friends of the Johannesburg Repertory Society, to help the drive for funds for a new theatre.

Roll up collectors—the object is a deserving one and there will be items of interest for all types of collectors, from highly specialised to beginners.

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The Status of the Mafeking Siege Stamps

FACTS ABOUT A FASCINATING AND CLASSIC ISSUE

By Dr. K. FREUND

(Continued from p. 184 of December issue)

CHAPTER ONE.

1.—THE SIEGE MAIL IN GENERAL.

Let us make it quite clear, right at the outset: The siege mail service was no "philatelic" stunt. Human nature as it is, there have been many self-styled critics who have rushed into print to vent their "suspicions." There were even some who went so far as to express doubts whether any covers ever left Mafeking during the siege at all (Read, for instance, the cynical remarks of "A Johannesburger in Exile," in "Der Philatelist," October, 1900). These good critics had apparently little conception of the conditions and circumstances existing in the Mafeking of that time.

All those siege covers, for which "Stanley Gibbons" have testified (see introductory article in the December number, p. 185), were not just sent with the idea of providing some

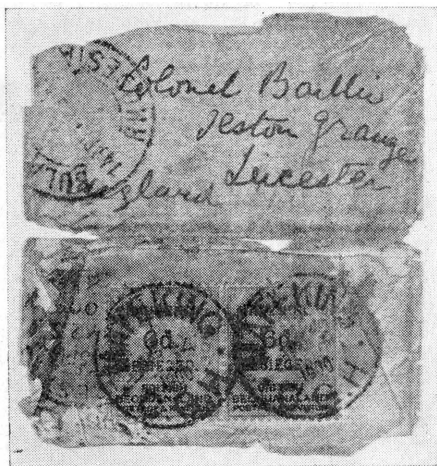


Fig. 1.

Letter (very slightly reduced) smuggled through Boer lines in boat of a native runner.

philatelic mementos of the siege. The various entries I possess in my collection do not give this impression at all; their austere appearance, often small, ungainly or tattered due to the extraordinary circumstances and a hazardous journey, with their censor marks, intermediate cancellations and base office checking marks, and some of them with their

original letters still intact and enclosed will convince the most "doubting Thomas" about the genuine purpose of the mail matter.

Here is a brief picture which Mafeking presented at the turn of the century. It gives some idea of the extent of its postal requirements and arrangements before the siege:

The Mafeking of 1899 was a busy, thriving place of commercial importance. Being just inside the frontier of the Cape Colony and just outside Transvaal, it was very important also as a communication centre. Originally the terminus of the Cape railway system, it was in 1899 an important railway station on the Bulawayo line.

Though its population was not large—there were 1,800 whites, besides 8,000 natives, with an additional force of 1,000 troops when beleaguered—it was a busy place full of activity, had quite a number of shops and stores, some of them fairly large (Lennon, Ltd., chemists; Julius Weil's Store; and others), several attorney's offices, a branch of the Standard Bank, three or four hotels, a photographer's studio (D. Taylor, who became famous as the printer of the "blue" stamps), the Victoria Hospital, which had quite a name in those parts, and a Convent. Mafeking had even its own daily newspaper, "The Mafeking Mail," printed by Messrs. Townshend & Son, whose printing works were later entrusted with the overprinting of the siege stamps.

All these establishments and institutions, with their outside connections for supplies, etc., added to the development of a brisk mail service.

It is only natural that with the advent of the siege, the demand for postal facilities and for the urgent dispatch of messages and letters became still more pressing:

(1) To begin with, there were the inhabitants, anxious to keep their relatives and friends in other parts of the country informed about their safety.

(2) There were in particular the soldiers from overseas and keen to keep in touch with their beloved ones at home in Britain.

(3) There was the small group of war correspondents in the besieged place, determined to get their dispatches through to their newspapers in England, as often and as regularly as possible. They were: Mr. E. G. Parsley, of the "Daily Chronicle," who was killed early in the siege; Mr. J. E. Neilly, of the "Pall Mall Gazette"; Mr. Vere Stent of Reuter's; Major F. D. Baillie of the "Morning Post"; Mr. J. A. Hamilton of "The Times" and of "Black and White."

(4) There were also the many men who were stationed a few miles out of town in a number of outposts and forts without being able to return back to town for considerable periods. They also wanted to keep in touch, if possible, daily, with their families in town which was under a heavy rain of shelling and bombing for most of the day.

More about this mail from and to the forts shall be told in a later chapter, when dealing with the necessity of the "local" service. As it happened, the volume of this particular daily mail from and to the forts turned out to be very large, if not the largest part of all correspondence handled by the siege authorities;

(5) Last but not least, there was the official mail with urgent military dispatches and communications to be sent regularly and constantly to head-quarters, to other sections of the forces outside, to the slowly approaching relief column, and to the highest quarters in London.

This all added up to quite a formidable mail, genuine, urgent and most of it at any rate in no way a "philatelic stunt." One must not forget in particular—and it is a weighty argument—that the mail had to be carried through the menacing lines of the enemy who shot and killed a considerable number of the native runners who were trying to get the mail through. Surely, the dispatch of mere "philatelic" mementos and of "fancy" stamps would not have warranted such risks and such loss of human life!

Quite a fair amount of most of the mail types mentioned was dispatched in the early stages of the siege, when the "novel" stamps had not yet been issued. This also indicates clearly that the "philatelic" attraction could have hardly been an impetus to send letters abroad.

I can quite understand anyone asking: Why, then, was it necessary at all to issue those new-fangled stamps? In order to understand this and to see the problem in its right perspective, one has to know the ways and means by which all the mail matter, detailed above, was dealt with originally in the early days of the siege; and to learn all about the circumstances and conditions which ultimately demanded a reorganisation and the issue of special stamps.

So far, no clear picture or record has been left to us of these original stages of the siege mail service. I had to piece it together from a few hints and remarks interspersed in the excellent diaries written by some of the war correspondents mentioned, from letters I have received from various siege personalities, and from verbal information some siege veterans have given me. From all these sources, the following picture crystallises itself:

2.—THE INITIAL "IRREGULAR" SIEGE MAIL SERVICE.

For the beleaguered people of Mafeking there was no other way of communicating with

the outside world than by the employment of native runners. These runners had the job of wriggling through the enemy lines under cover of darkness. Every despatch was a dangerous mission and required a considerable amount of courage and resourcefulness on the part of these Kaffir runners.

The Boers were determined to shut off the besieged town completely from the outside world and to prevent any communication to and from the town. In addition to the usual pickets stationed at various points, they kept inner and outer patrols of mounted men on duty to look out for any target leaving or approaching town, to be shot at sight.

(1) At first, the runners were employed solely for carrying official communications through. These dispatches were written in cypher and folded into small packets which could be dropped or hidden in case the runner was discovered. Every few days just after dark, the runners were sent off and went as far as the lines of the inner patrols where they lay hidden until they had made sure about the direction and the times of the patrol. Then they slipped on, repeating this performance at the points where the outer patrols were supposed to be. After this second hurdle had been taken, they made off into the darkness to cover as much distance as possible during the night. In the daytime they hid, and by night they travelled on until they reached British lines. A runner who succeeded in getting through, had to do the return trip in a similar hazardous fashion, bringing messages and letters from the outside world to the beleaguered people.

The runners were paid for their services mainly in kind, mostly with cattle, as Mr. Charles Weir, who was an accountant at the Standard Bank during the siege, has told me. The magistrate, Mr. Ch. Bill, had the job of settling with the mail runners.

(2) There were, however, also numerous instances where officers, war correspondents and others who could afford it, employed mail runners individually at their own expense. A certain check and system was of course employed with regard to this mail, too; the letters were usually written on thin rice-tissue paper which was numbered, folded very small and enclosed in little home-made envelopes. A pack of such "Kaffirgrams" as they have been called (see the brief references in William Harding's book "War in South Africa," Chicago, 1900) was easy to handle and to hide. The runners carried them in small leather mail bags or concealed them about their clothing. Frequently they hid them in the soles of their boots which were manufactured and made hollow for this purpose (see "Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal," July 31, 1900, p. 4). In some cases, empty cartridge cases were used as containers for mail, as Mr. Weir has informed me.

Very few of such "Kaffirgrams" seem to have been preserved. Except for numberings and other small marks, there is no official marking on them, and any such item nowadays requires some authoritative proof for its

genuineness. I have an example but it does not lend itself to reproduction owing to its worn appearance and rather faded writings.

(3) With the continuance of the siege, the military authorities permitted in a magnanimous spirit that a certain number of **private letters** could be taken along by their runners. Such letters were in most cases posted at the Post Office which, for the time being, was carrying on practically in the same style as before the siege, except for the despatch of mail. The military authorities exercised of course their right of censorship, but the civil postmaster in these early stages of the siege regarded himself as responsible only to the Head Office in Cape Town, selling the ordinary Cape stamps as usual on **behalf of the civil postal authorities**. He entered all monies received in the usual way with the view of giving account to the Postmaster-General as soon as the siege would be lifted.

Some of the civilian letter-writers conformed to the official directions to keep the mail-matter as small and as unobtrusive as possible for the reasons stated. Others just did not care and sent their letters in ordinary-sized envelopes. Some people after obtaining the usual Cape stamps from the post office, affixed them on their mail, but handed the letters on direct to the military authorities so that such mail was dispatched with **uncancelled undefaced stamps**. Some people even omitted to affix any stamps at all, taking advantage of the general lax conditions of the postal arrangements. The military authorities were in general lenient in the case of such shortcomings on account of the general hardships the population had to endure, and dispatched this civilian mail through their runners as far as possible.

3.—EVENTS AND REASONS LEADING TO THE INAUGURATION OF A SPECIAL WELL - ORGANISED MILITARY POSTAL SERVICE.

As the siege dragged on longer than was originally expected, the **provisional** postal arrangements and the erratic nature of the service proved to be more and more unsatisfactory. Some definite, well-organised and well-scheduled arrangement of postal facilities seemed indicated and overdue.

Events beyond the beleaguered town developed so as to be favourable for such a complete re-organisation of postal affairs. After General French had relieved Kimberley in February 1900 and Lord Roberts was maturing his plans for his historic march to Pretoria, the Boer leaders found it necessary to withdraw a number of their men from Mafeking to strengthen their lines on the Modder. Thus, the cordon around Mafeking loosened, allowing for more regular arrangements and more frequent despatches to be made. In particular it became possible now to give the servicing of **civilian mail** proper attention.

Another favourable event was the approach of the Rhodesian relief forces under Col. Plumer, which at the beginning of March,

were only 30 miles away from the besieged Mafeking. This fact facilitated matters in general and shortened the journeys the runners had to make.

It was now considered that the irregular, lax conditions as they had existed with regard to the civilian mail in the early stages, were no longer tenable, seeing that relief could still not be expected for months to come.

After all, the military authorities argued, it was not fair and correct that they should receive practically nothing in return for their service of dispatching civilian mail. It was only proper that now arrangements should be made to the effect that **civilians contributed** to the postal amenities they received from the military authorities.

There was in particular that **conflicting relationship of two independent postal authorities** operating next to each other, the civilian postmaster's office and the military authorities. This was an unsatisfactory state of affairs. So far it had been the tendency of Baden-Powell, the commander, to interfere as little as possible with the civil postmaster and with whatever business he still could conduct. But now, with the uncertain continuance of the siege, it had to be considered that the **actual dispatch of the mail** was effected by the military authorities at great expense. If they had to attend to the main job of postal service, it was only right that they should take matters in hand more authoritatively, with the civil postmaster subordinated.

Another contributory factor which led to the re-organisation and to the issue of stamps, was the need for a "**local**" mail service which was mentioned earlier in this chapter. This service became acute when the defence chain of outposts and forts was completed and was manned by men who had to be at their posts for weeks on end. These men and their people in town clamoured for a well-scheduled service to be able to keep in touch with each other.

The main cause for the issue of special stamps, however, was provided by the runners themselves. First of all, their compensation with the usual heads of cattle became problematical when stocks dwindled more and more and were not available even for meagre rations for the population.

But the major problem arose when the runners started to strike and to refuse to go out on their dangerous missions for fear of being killed. Too many of them had paid with their lives for trying to deliver mail. The only possibility of persuading them to carry on was by offering them dazzling sums of money. The authorities considered ways and means of how to obtain the extra needed revenue to be able to pay such high sums to the runners. At last they decided on the time-honoured method by which, for 60 years, authorities had obtained money for the conveyance of letters—the issue of stamps to pay for the service.

(To be continued.)

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PHILATELY IN ENGLAND.

CORRECTIONS

The only justification for the article appearing in the January number of the "South African Philatelist" under the above heading, might be the extreme youth of the author, but in fairness to English collectors a few corrections of fact should be made.

Firstly, the Congress Paper was read by the well-known (except to Mr. Cohen) collector, Mr. W. H. S. Cheavin, F.R.P.S.L., whose experiments in the use of X-Rays for the detection of forgeries have achieved some startling results.

Secondly, the author took his account of Congress from the report of the 1946 (not 1940) Congress at Brighton, and entirely ignored the "shake-up" administered there, and continued at Birmingham in 1947. Congress is more "live" to-day than it has ever been before, and the "saucepan" jibe is obsolete.

Thirdly, the author obviously did not attend the B.P.E. 1947. I compiled the "Cavalcade of Postage Stamps", which was an attempt to show non-collectors what there was in this curious hobby, and can assure your readers that "stamp-snakes, fire-screens, cocktail cabinets" and the like were conspicuous by their absence. The "wall-paper" was actually put up in 1841, and was displayed as the "World's First Stamp Collection", because it has One Penny Blacks and Reds stuck on it in a tasteful pattern.

Fourthly, the author betrays his ignorance by mentioning the "Stamp Mirror" as the only philatelic newspaper, forgetting that "Stamp Collecting" is also a newspaper, and has been published weekly since 1913, with only one gap of two weeks in 1947 caused by Mr. Shinwell.

Fifthly, Mr. Cohen's plea for a "Central Body" in London would be very severely criticised by collectors outside that omnivorous capital.

The B.P.A. has tried to be that central body, and has only succeeded in turning itself into a Quasi-Government Department. It is the feeling of the general stamp-collecting public that too much centralisation spoils their hobby, and they have the disconcerting (to certain persons) habit of asking "Cui Bono?" when these high-faluting schemes are mooted. Congress has survived only because it is so loose an organisation, and any attempts of "tighten it up" have failed. The last remark of Mr. Cohen's article is rather unfortunate in view of the announcement in December of the issue of three new Commemorative sets for 1948. It is only fair to other collectors to say that the issue of these sets, timed to coincide with the expiry of the American loan, has not been altogether welcomed by us, even though the need for a few hundred thousand dollars is so pressing.

ANTONY WALKER, D.S.O.

OBITUARY

A. E. BASDEN, M.B.E., F.R.P.S.L.

Many stamp collectors in South Africa and elsewhere will learn with deep regret of the death of A. E. Basden, for he had the knack of making philatelic acquaintances his friends.

In him one of the really big figures of South African philately has passed away; he attained prominence not only through his first class research work but for the unsparing efforts he put into the organising side of philately. Whilst resident in Pretoria he was very prominently associated with the local Philatelic Society, having been its President for more than one term, and was also a prime mover in bringing about the union of the various philatelic societies in Southern Africa into a Federation and in getting them started on research work. He served the Federation well in such capacities as Chairman of its Permanent Executive Committee and as first editor of its journal "The South African Philatelist."

His research work in those days was largely on Transvaal stamps and Transvaal postal history, reflected in a number of articles in the "S.A. Philatelist" and in his joint work with J. H. Curle, published by the Royal Philatelic Society in 1940 and awarded the Crawford medal.

After his retirement from Pretoria to Durban he continued his activities with the Philatelic Society of Natal, and became senior editor of the Catalogue of the Stamps of the Union of South Africa, sponsored through that society on behalf of the Philatelic Federation.

He had a serious illness some little time back and recovered sufficiently well to attend the recent Congress of the Federation in East London. His friends were delighted to see him there, and his election to the S.A. Roll of Honour of Distinguished Philatelists and award of the Skinner Cup for the best work done for philately since the preceding Congress, were received with universal acclamation.

In letters received from him since the Congress he stated that he was feeling all the better for his trip there, and that he had finished the manuscript of an Addendum to the Union Catalogue. He was also responsible for the draft of the short article on "Dubious Union Stamps" which appears in this issue.

All things considered we were looking forward to much future activity from A.E.B.'s pen and to continued friendship, but, alas, it was not so written in the Book of Fate.

Our sincerest sympathy goes out to Mrs. Basden and to their family.

NEW ZEALAND

The four Otago Centenials, 1d., 2d., 3d. and 6d. previously noted as due, were issued on 23rd February, and specimens of them have arrived. As is usual with New Zealand's stamps they are pleasing in appearance and well produced by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co.

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121	10/0	188	5/0
122	30/0	189	14/0
124	27/6	192	6/0
125	30/0	193	16/0
127	32/6	195	4/6
135	10/6	202	(scarce) 7/6
136	10/6	203	25/0
137	7/6	204	16/0
138	14/0	205	9/0
140	20/0	206	30/0
141	22/6	207	30/0
144	3/6	208	30/0
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TRISTAN DA CUNHA

The S.S. "Pequena" arrived back at Cape Town on March 14, bringing the Development Expedition back after six weeks research into fishing and agricultural possibilities. They were in the neighbourhood of the nearby Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands, also the more distant Gough Island, as well as on Tristan itself.

They report the fish fauna of these waters as being of South American type, not South African.

During the period of their visit, death laid rather a heavy hand on the island; the padre, Rev. A. Handley, and the "headwoman", Mrs. Repetto, passing away. There was also an outbreak of an influenza-like epidemic, which the islanders called, probably correctly, the "Pequena sickness," and two of them died as a result of that.

The "Pequena" brought a mail, but there is nothing philatelically new to report about it. Mr. Douglas Armstrong gives a very good short history of posts from the island in the 10th January issue of "Stamp Collecting". He appears to have slipped up, however, in attributing a certain Paquebot mark (figured) to the island. This mark, although it may appear on Tristan covers, is also well known on covers from a variety of other places. It was probably applied at Cape Town.

GERMANY

"Philatelic Equator" reports the issue of two denominations, making the Baden series of the French Zone complete. These are a 20 pfg. with a head of Grien as on the 75 pfg. and a 60 pfg. with a head of Habel as on the 12 pfg. stamp.

A 3 pfg. has appeared in the Wurtemberg series with a picture of Holderlin as on the 45 pfg. stamp, also a 2 pfg. (Schiller) and a 10 pfg. (Wangen). A further four denominations may be expected to make this series of 13 complete.

Five more values appeared on February 1 of the general issue for all zones other than the French one, 10, 15, 30 and 50 pfg., and 5 mark. Nobody likes this issue, but they have to use it.

Currency reforms seem to be likely in all zones; if they occur the postal authorities (as in Austria) will put out new stamps on the day the currency reform comes into effect. This is to prevent stamp hoarding as a method of saving money.

Designs of two special commemoratives for the 700th anniversary of Cologne Cathedral, have been published, but it is not certain if they have been finally approved. One shows the Devil seated on the artist's model stool, the other a head of the Virgin as it appears in the choir window.

We are being blitzed with communications from firms and private individuals in Germany offering exchanges of news and stamps. It is impossible to notice them all in our

columns, but if anyone wishes to get in touch with Germany for barter or exchange, we will gladly forward some of the propositions we have received.

VERY OLD CAPE "POST OFFICES"

The Austrian paper, "Neue Sammlerschau", prints an article of South African interest in which the early use of a "pillarbox" in South Africa is reported by Johann Albrecht von Mandelslo, who, together with Adam Olcarius, in 1633 travelled on instructions of the duke Frederick III of Schleswig-Holstein round the Cape to Persia. They recorded in a book published in 1650 that letters (actually travel-reports) were deposited under a special stone at Caput Bonae and also at St. Helena Cabon De Bo Esperanza. In this connection reference may be made to an article on the "Fairest Cape" in the "Star" (20.1.1948), in which mention is made of letters posted in a slipper hung-up in a milkwood tree at Munro Bay (Mossel Bay), in the shadow of Cape St. Blaize, considered by some to be the true Cape of Good Hope.

DUBIOUS UNION STAMPS

At the recent East London Congress it was noted with regret, and the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa deplores the number and variety of dubious Union and S.W.A. stamps now being offered for sale. Collectors are warned against purchasing items of doubtful origin which may fall into one or other of the following categories:—

1. Freaks of various kinds which normally are picked out by the printer's checkers and are destroyed as "printer's waste," but which have somehow or other escaped destruction and have come on the market.

2. Similar items which have escaped the checkers' notice, have been distributed through the post-office, and sold over the counter.

These must be accepted as genuine, but their recognition and separation from Group 1 is often very difficult. Their identification usually rests on the word of one individual—the one who is lucky enough to buy them at some post office—and when he parts with them their separation from Group 1 may be impossible.

3. Stamps on abnormal paper not definitely listed in the Federation's Union Catalogue should be regarded with grave suspicion.

4. Stamps which may be perfectly genuine so far as their printing is concerned, but which have never been on sale to the public at any post office. Certain tete-beche varieties shown in the Postal Administration's exhibit at East London fall into this Group.

As some of these tete-beches appear to have got into private hands we wonder if the Postal Authorities would not consider putting them on sale; this procedure has been followed in other countries in similar circumstances.

5. Overprints, double and inverted, some of which may be forgeries.

PHILATELIC FEDERATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

SOUTH AFRICA

SG 1 * 2/0 1 U * 1/9 2 * 2/0 2 U * 1/9 3a * 0/9 3a U * 0/3 9 * 0/3 9a * 2/0 9b * 2/0 10 * 0/6 12 * 1/8 12 U * 0/9 14 * 2/6 16 * 2/0 16 U * 0/3 17 U * 0/3 18 U * 0/2 21 U * 2/0 25 * 2/3 25 U * 0/5 26 * 2/6 27 * 6/0 27 U * 7/6 30 0/6 33E or A * .. 1/6 33E U * 1/2 33A U * 1/2 40 U * 3/6 43aa 80/0 43aa U 80/0	SG 45a 2/0 50 U 1/2 51 U 1/8 52 U 4/9 53 U 8/3 57 2/0 65 1/0 65 U 0/6 66 1/0 67 21/0 67 U 21/0 68 22/6 68 U 20/0 69 sheet .. 3/6 70 sheet .. 3/0 71 0/2 71 U 0/2 72 0/4 72 U 0/4 73 0/6 73 U 0/7 74 1/0 74 U 1/2 75 4/6 75 U 5/6 76 1/6 76 U 2/0 77 2/3 77 U 2/6 78 3/3	SG 78 U 3/0 79 9/6 79 U 10/6 80 2/0 80 U 2/0 81 3/0 81 U 3/0 82 2/0 82 U 2/0 83 3/6 83 U 3/6 84 5/3 84 U 6/0 Large Wars, all pairs (½d. to 1/-) .. 17/6 Small War, pairs a n d strips, ½d. to 1/- (8 items) Do., used .. 8/6 104 4/0 104 U 3/0 104 U single .. 1/0 105 0/2 105 U 0/2 106 0/3 106 U 0/2	SG 108 0/4 108 U 0/3 109 0/8 109 U 0/6 110 1/0 110 U 1/3 111 0/3 111 U 0/2 112 0/6 112 U 0/6 113 0/9 113 U 0/9 D2 * 0/9 D2 U * 0/7 D4 U * 0/9 D6 * 6/6 D6 U * 6/6 D7 * 70/0 D8 * 0/10 D9 * 1/4 D11 * 0/5 D13 * 1/3 D14 * 0/10 D18 * 0/6 D21 * 2/0 D22 * 0/2 D30 * 0/8 D31 strip .. 0/3 D32 strip .. 0/4 O1 4/0	SG O2 2/6 O3 U * 1/6 O7 10/0 O9 1/0 O10 3/6 O13 0/8 O20 6/0 O20 U 5/0 O21 6/6 O23 0/4 O25 0 4 O25 U 0/3 O26 1/0 O26a 0/9 O27 0/9 O27 U 0/4 O28a U 1/0 O29 U 1/6 And many others, for which I may be able to send quotations. Just put your wants (SG Nos. only) on a card a n d state whether mint or used are needed.
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Mint unless otherwise stated. Those marked with an asterisk are single stamps. All others are in horizontal bilingual pairs or (for the Small Wars) strips. Cash with order. Postage extra under 5/-. Subject to stock.

R. T. LILLEY,

7 HANNIBAL STREET, KENSINGTON, JOHANNESBURG.

Its Great News

It's great news that Gibbons have decided to publish a catalogue devoted entirely to K.G. VI stamps, for an authoritative catalogue—not one based on wishful thinking—was badly needed, and as it is also announced that there should be enough to go round, all in the garden is indeed lovely with the most important group of stamps in the whole philatelic world.

In truth British Empire stamps of the present reign have certainly come into their own with a vengeance.

Let us be quite candid. We ourselves have been so busy selling these fascinating issues that we have never had time to edit a catalogue of our own; though countless customers have been urging us to do so for years, but when Gibbons decide to use their entire paper quota on the stamps which we sell, we rest satisfied for the time being, for thus has the seal of their supreme importance been stamped on these issues for good and all.

And what of the future? Do you collect these stamps? If you do please send us an air-card and by air-mail we will send you a copy of our price-list which covers the most comprehensive stock of K.G. VI stamps in the hands of any single firm of stamp dealers in the world. Tall talk eh? Just send for a copy and be convinced. We are hardly likely to make such a statement when any bluff could be so easily called.

If, however, you are thinking, of taking up these issues for the first time, we will gladly send you a copy of our new brochure, telling you all about them, and we are assured by those who have already seen a copy that tyros and old hands alike find our booklet of great value, but the edition is limited, so don't delay. There is no charge, but you must apply by air-mail. Life is too short for sea-mail transactions in these days.

The Commonwealth Stamp Coy.,
7, Leather Lane, Liverpool 2: England.

GREAT BRITAIN

According to the "Philatelic Trader," the British Post Office has at last realised that there is a large body of people who collect stamps, and the P.O. is likely to go into the stamp business in a big way.

The three special issues of stamps have already been noted; now it is possible that there will be an official cover and a first-day cover service. The P.O. realised there would be a demand for first-day covers and asked the B.P.A. how this should be met. The B.P.A. has made suggestions to the P.O. and consider it likely something will be done in the matter.

The 30th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain will be held at Bournemouth on 25-28 May; the Linden Hall Hydro being the headquarters' hotel.

The memorial to Fred J. Melville, which is to take the step of bringing his most noteworthy publication "Postage Stamps in the Making" complete and up-to-date, has now reached half-way to the £1,000 target. The revision is being undertaken by Mr. John Easton, a master printer already known philatelically as the author of "British Postage Stamp Design." If any surplus funds accumulate it is proposed to utilise the interest on them for Melville Prizes.

AMATEUR OR PROFESSIONAL

One of the qualifications for membership of the Royal Philatelic Society is that the applicant must be a bona fide amateur and does not indulge in professional philatelic activities.

A recent article in the "London Philatelist" gives the Society's definition of amateur status and it may be of interest to quote this, even though few other societies so limit their membership. The following actions preclude a member from claiming to be an amateur:—

1. The purchase of philatelic material with the intention of resale for profit.
2. The financing of a purchase of philatelic material against a share in the profits on resale.
3. The use of a mailing list as a means of disposal of philatelic material.
4. The conduct of an exchange club or packet for personal financial gain.
5. The request for, or acceptance of, commission or other pecuniary advantage from stamp dealers, auctioneers or private individuals in return for philatelic business introduced to them.

Paid literary activities, either as author or publisher do not constitute an infringement of the rules relating to amateur status.

The purchase and sale of philatelic material, during the normal course of building up a collection or of disposing of one in which the owner is no longer interested, is a justifiable procedure by an amateur.

INDIA

Two Gandhi mourning stamps, of 2½ and 12 annas denominations, have been announced as going to be issued.

STAMPS OR GUM?

At the Congress of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa held in East London, 14-18 January, 1948, the following resolution was adopted:

"Congress is of opinion that in view of the danger known to exist due to the reaction of gum, unused stamps with the gum washed off should be classified as mint stamps and there should be no difference in value for stamps with or without gum."

This resolution is perhaps not worded so felicitously as it might have been, but is meant to express the adherence of many of the leading stamp collectors in Southern Africa to the world-wide movement in favour of unused stamps being collected with the gum washed off.

The principal reason for this movement is because of the acknowledged risk of many stamps being ruined in the not very distant future if they are kept with the gum left on them.

A minor advantage will be the added ease of handling them, especially in moist warm climates, and diminished risk of damage through cockling and sticking.

It is realised that it is impossible to advise collectors immediately to wash the gum off all their unused stamps, so long as the present disproportionate prices rule as between those with original gum and those without it.

It is hoped, however, that the principle may be universally adopted before the day it is forced on collectors by their stamps being ruined through the action of the gum on the paper.

—Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa.

TIERRA DEL FUEGO

Mr. A. de Cock has a short note in "Le Philatliste Belge" in which are mentioned some facts about this one-stamp country which we have not noticed recorded before.

Issued on Argentine territory by "King Popper," the stamps were not recognised by Argentine, although Chile accepted them. Perhaps this is why they have been listed under Chile by Gibbons.

Several place-name postmarks on the stamps are recognised, but this is the first recording we have seen of a double circle mark with "Colonia Popper" between the circles.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA FAKES

The "Philatelic Trader" reports "used" copies of the scarce K.G.V. 1s. 6d. (S.G. 24 and 24a) which have been fiscally used, cleaned and re-postmarked. They are not very cleverly done, the yellow being very faded and the block stands out very much; the postmark also is in too grey an ink.

(Concluded from p. 68)

Of particular interest is the fact that the Society presented to Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery a complete set of the stamps of Southern Rhodesia in used condition, prepared at the request of the Field Marshal himself.

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REVIEWS

BILLIG'S PHILATELIC HANDBOOK, Vol. II, revised edition, 1948. Fritz Billig, Jamaica 3, New York. Price 3.50 dollars.

A difficult book to review, on account of the variety of the contents; we have not seen Vol. I, but from statements in this volume we gather it is also a mixed grill.

The greater part of this volume is a Philatelic Dictionary which gives definitions of philatelic terms, translations of inscriptions, overprints, etc., found on stamps, statistics and short accounts of stamp issuing territories, etc., etc. This alone makes the volume a worth-while one for collectors. There are a few omissions and inaccuracies regarding some African territories which are very obvious to South African readers, but otherwise the definitions and descriptions are good.

Other short articles include an illustrated list of unusual U.S. cancellations (animals, birds, fraternity emblems and flags); illustrations of faked grills on U.S. stamps; forgeries of Batum and of the Luxemburg 10 fr. green miniature sheet; and a long list of the localities of the various types of numeral cancellations of Belgium.

CHECK TO THE FORGERS, Erich Haide, (24a) Balje über Stade, British Zone, Germany.

According to the prospectus, the market is swamped with forgeries and this is an attempt to make them known. The first volume deals almost entirely with forgeries of World War II issues, in various parts of Europe. Extracts from the text and illustrations indicate that the work is well done.

As money cannot be remitted to Germany from abroad, the publisher will supply copies on an exchange basis, e.g., 8 copies for a complete Gibbons 1947 catalogue, or 6 for a complete 1946 one; 2 copies for any complete year (1942 to 1947) of "Gibbons Stamp Monthly," "Stamp Collectors Fortnightly," etc., etc.; 3 copies for any similar complete year of the "South African Philatelist," etc., etc.

SWITZERLAND

There has just arrived a set of 4 stamps, up to the usual high Swiss standard, commemorative of the centenary of their Constitution. They will be valid from February 27 till the end of the year. The denominations and subjects are: 5c, Wettstein, the Burgomaster of Basle in 1648; 10c, Castle of Neuchatel; 20c, Allegorical figure of Helvetia, and 30c, a design emblematic of the Confederation.

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Do., £1, do.	£1/15
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Do., £5, white paper, wmk. Anchor, good appearance, but has slight imperfection	£8/10
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Do., wmk. Orbs., rather heavy pmk., cat. £25	£10
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1913, £1, K.G., parcel post cancellation	£4/5
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Kenya, 1906-7, 10r., wmk. Mult. C.A.	£3/10
New Guinea, 1931 Air set, ½d. to £1 complete	£7/15
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Nigeria, 1936, ½d. to £1 complete	£19
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AUSTRALIA

We are informed by the High Commissioner for Australia that in 1948 three commemoratives will be issued, all of 2½d. denomination, each one featuring the personality to be honoured. The three personages are:

1. Baron Sir Ferdinand V. Mueller, outstanding botanist who served his adopted country as few native-born Australians have done.

2. W. J. Farrer, worthy of the highest tribute Australia could pay him for his breeding of strains of wheat that could defeat rust and drought.

3. Henry Lawson, born Larsen, became one of the pre-eminent writers of Australian verses.

Heard Island.

"First-day covers" from the Australian P.O. established on Heard Island have arrived. The P.O. was opened for business on Christmas Day, 1947, very soon after the occupation of the island.

The postmark is a large single line circle with "A.N.A.R.E. HEARD IS./AUST." The initials stand for "Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition."

BRITISH COLONIALS

Basutoland. Printings recently released to the Crown Agents show the ½d. bluish-green, the 1½d. a deeper shade than before, and the 6d. without the brown tone present in the last printing, more like the colour of the 1945 printing.

Bechuanaland. "Gibbons' Stamp Monthly" reports that in printings released to the Crown Agents in December the 1d., 1½d., 3d., 6d. and 5s. values are all deeper in shade than before; the centre colour of the 2s. 6d. is carmine, and that of the 10s. a warm shade of brown.

Swaziland. The Robertson Stamp Coy., Johannesburg, reports that 3d. Union Air Letter Forms have been overprinted "Swaziland" in red.

General. A nice little bird, a wise old bird as a matter of fact, tells us (1) that there is going to be a Silver Wedding issue for all British Colonies, Protectorates, etc., 44 of them in all, and Ceylon making a 45th; (2) that there will be two stamps for each territory, of fairly high denominations, and (3) that the issue is expected about June.

Collectors' Wants & Offers

(Threepence per word per insertion with minimum of 3/- per insertion).

Beginners and medium collectors — try our approval service.
Benoni Stamp Shop, Box 485, Benoni.

Seychelles wanted. Full catalogue price offered for fine used copies of Stanley Gibbons numbers 85, 91, 93 to 95B, 97 to 101, 103, 104, 107, 110, 114 to 118, 121, 122, 122A, 142, 145.
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SOCIETY NEWS

THE PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Headquarters: Berea Park Recreation Club. *Meetings* held every second Wednesday in each month.

The Pretoria Railway Philatelic Society was formed only last September and at their March meeting their first competition was held.

The meeting was well supported, there being 20 members and 20 visitors in attendance, many of the latter being members of the Pretoria Philatelic Society who availed themselves of the opportunity to see what the Railwaymen were doing about postage stamps. They were not disappointed as 11 collections were entered for the competition, and the judges in the persons of Mr. A. Blick, Dr. H. Reisner and Mr. L. E. Orkin, all prominent members of the Pretoria Society, had difficulty in awarding the first prize, which was eventually declared a tie between Mr. H. Bond and Mr. W. Kriste. Third prize was awarded to Mr. J. Kriste and a special prize went to Mr. A. T. Naylor, a member who is domiciled in Johannesburg.

The judges congratulated the Society for putting up such a fine show, and expressed the hope that the Society would sponsor many more such competitions.

W.K.

★

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL

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

February meeting: Our meetings are becoming more popular every month in spite of the trying weather conditions. Mr. Winde read an official report of the delegates who attended Congress and Mr. Ovens gave a very interesting talk on the Exhibition at East London. Mr. Selwyn Smith introduced a quiz competition which was not only interesting but instructive and enjoyed by all. Mr. Evans exhibited his New Zealand stamps for the "P. C. Bishop Trophy." This collection created quite an interest, many good items being on display.

We recently had the pleasure of being entertained by the Pietermaritzburg Philatelic Society under the chairmanship of Mr. C. R. Turner. Mr. Milner Palmer, our President, must have been very pleased with the turn out of 15 members that accompanied him to the Capital. We all spent a very profitable evening, and our thanks are due to P.M.B. for their kind hospitality. We do trust that when visitors are in Durban they will make a point of coming to see us. We extend to them a hearty welcome.

The ordinary March meeting was well attended, the President welcoming quite a few visitors whom we are always happy to have with us. Visitors to Durban please note. Mr. Selwyn Smith entertained us again with his excellent quiz competition, which does show most of us up as to how little we do know of the stamps of the world. An exhibition of Malta for the P. C. Bishop Trophy was displayed by Mr. S. E. Grace, who is to be congratulated on the completeness, write up, and arrangement, particularly the manner in which he described each sheet as it was laid down.

It is with much regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. A. E. Basden, M.B.E., F.R.P.S.L., F.C.I.S. He was a keen student of Philately and one of the outstanding philatelists in the country. His loss is a great one to us all. We tender his family our sincere and deep sympathy in their sad hour of trial.

W.H.W.

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. H. Suklje, Benoni; *Hon. Secretary,* Miss S. O. Jeffrey, P.O. Box 572, Benoni; *Meetings,* Regent Hotel, Benoni, 3rd Tuesdays, 8 p.m.

At the February meeting reports were made on the Pretoria Society's Golden Jubilee Dinner and on the East London Congress and Exhibition.

The exhibit for the evening was a fine one by the President of used K.G. VI issues.

It was intimated that a proposal would come forward in April to hold the meetings in Brakpan instead of in Benoni.

S.O.J.

★

CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, C. G. Mummery; *Hon. Secretary,* S. Kaganson, P.O. Box 1973; *Meetings,* 2nd and 4th Thursdays at Yorkshire Buildings, Strand Street, at 7.30 p.m.

22nd January: Mr. E. C. Solomon, our A to Z collector, tabled a collection of Turkey—and an almost complete one at that—including the bisects.

Mr. Solomon rounded off his display with an interesting talk as to how he came to collect the stamps of Turkey, and gave us some insight into that remarkable character Kemal Atatürk who had modernised Turkey.

Mr. Simenhoff crossed swords with Mr. Solomon on certain points raised, and we had an interesting discourse between lawyer and school master, ending up by Mr. Simenhoff congratulating Mr. Solomon on his fine display and moving a vote of thanks.

12th February: There was a departure from the usual routine when Mr. G. W. Grey gave a talk entitled "Why I collect the stamps of New South Wales," and very interesting this proved to be.

Speaking without notes, Mr. Grey gave a resume of the Postal History of this state and demonstrated that he not only collected the stamps, but also made a very deep study of those stamps. Mr. Cameron, in passing a vote of thanks, congratulated Mr. Grey on his fine and interesting talk, and suggested that all of us could follow the example set and make a deeper study of the stamps we collected.

Among the visitors at this meeting was Mr. Jensen, President of the East London Society, who had so royally entertained delegates to the recent Congress, and he gave an "Extra" by displaying a few pages of his unique collection of stamps each mounted with a relevant artistic surround made by Mr. Jensen himself.

Mr. Mummery expressed the thanks of all members to Mr. Jensen, and wished him "bon voyage" on his trip oversea.

26th February: "Miscellaneous" was the title of the display for the evening and Mr. Rousseau was responsible.

He departed somewhat from the usual trend of exhibitors, and on this occasion gave two displays; firstly, a specialised collection of Norway, and secondly, the "Story of Architecture" from the earliest time as depicted on postage stamps.

Both collections were enjoyed by all present, unfortunately smaller than usual, due no doubt to the heat wave prevailing at that time.

Mr. Rousseau gave some interesting notes on both displays, and his ideas of collecting stamps, laying particular stress on the side-line collection.

11th March: There was an excellent attendance at this meeting to witness the display of Mr. W. Hesse, who gave us part 2 of his collection "Art and Artists."

The stamps displayed depicted the theme of the display in its various phases, literature, painters, sculptors, architecture and music, and each single stamp displayed was carefully annotated according to which section it belonged. The display was enjoyed by all, but Mr. Hesse had more in store, and gave a most interesting paper dealing with his subject, a paper to which he must have devoted much time and thought.

It is hoped to publish this talk at some later date. Mr. Croxford extended a vote of thanks on behalf of the Society.

B.L.C.

THE JEWISH GUILD PHILATELIC SECTION

Chairman, I. Isaacs; *Hon. Secretary*, B. Joseph, 143 London House, Loveday Street, Johannesburg; *Meetings*, last Thursday, Jewish Guild Memorial Hall, Von Brandis Street.

18th March: This was the annual general meeting. Officers elected for the year were: I. Isaacs (chair), L. Buchen (vice-chair), B. Joseph (hon. sec.), Messrs. L. Froelich, B. Grossman and H. Marcuson members of committee, with Dr. A. Kaplan ex-officio.

Exhibits consisted of a few sheets from each member. Mr. Froelich showed German States and read a short paper; Mr. N. Mann showed Seychelles and Italian Colonies; Mr. J. Joseph showed East African Active Service Covers; Mr. G. Economides showed U.S.A. Classics (including a double impression); Dr. A. Kaplan showed Palestine Propaganda Labels; Mr. W. Oppenheim showed Luxembourg, France and U.S.A.; Mr. B. Joseph showed Used British Colonials; Mr. L. Buchen showed German Zeppelin Stamp and Holland; Mr. I. Isaacs showed Combination Stamp on Army Post Office Covers. Mr. Lilley spoke on the exhibits.

I.I.

★

ORANGE FREE STATE AND BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. C. A. Larsen; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. R. G. Lyon, Box 702, Bloemfontein; *Meetings*, 3rd Fridays each month, Oranje Koffiehuis, Bloemfontein, 7.30 p.m.

The last few meetings were unfortunately not too well attended owing to various members being away on holiday or to the East London exhibition. However, the flag was kept flying and some of the meetings were very interesting. The usual "three men" display was kept up, as far as possible, and special mention must be made of the following exhibits: Mr. Gus Smith's collection of stamps depicting all types of aeroplanes, well written up; Mr. A. G. Denne's fine collection of Egyptian stamps; Dr. K. Freund's collection of "Horse-racing on stamps" with 40 pages of stamps and entires dealing exclusively with this sport.

The March meeting was at the usual full strength with several visitors present. The first part of the evening was taken up with informal stamp-chatting and swopping. The sales packets tabled by the Exchange Superintendent found ready customers. The display of the evening was given by Dr. Freund, who showed excerpts of his prize-winning collection of Mafeking stamps. Of special interest was an array of covers, showing every denomination represented on at least one entire.

★

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

President, Dr. A. Kaplan; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. J. H. Jenkins, P.O. Box 4967; *Meetings*, 2nd Tuesdays and 4th Mondays, Public Library, 7.45 p.m.

9th March: Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie showed Swaziland. His exhibit included stamps of all the stages in the history of this territory as well as covers of the pre-stamp period. In the stamps of the South African Republic regime there were several errors in the overprints including inverted overprint, "d" missing and "s" missing. There were some fine specimens of inter-provincial stamps and Unions used in Swaziland. The definitive and commemorative issues were complete. This was the exhibit which had won first prize at the East London Exhibition. Mr. J. Burrell spoke on the collection.

22nd March: Mr. J. W. Schubart showed Switzerland. The exhibit included some fine examples of the older issues as well as a full range of the modern commemoratives and charity stamps. There were some fine flown covers, *tete-beche* and *set-entant* varieties and some booklet panes. Commander Enoch spoke on the exhibit.

I.I.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. G. K. Forbes; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. G. P. Smith, 13 Trafalgar Square, Port Elizabeth; *Meetings*, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in Room 3, City Hall Basement, at 7.45 p.m.

17th February: Thirty members were present with Mr. Forbes in the chair. There was no display so the talk was general.

A photograph taken of the delegates at the Congress held in East London was displayed. Anyone wishing to purchase a copy can still do so by contacting Mr. Forbes.

Two new members were admitted to the Society. Mr. Forbes auctioned over 100 packets, and most of these were sold.

16th March: The business meeting with a large attendance.

It is with deep regret we have to announce the very sudden passing away of one of our most prominent members, Mr. Basil Jones, and all members stood in silence as a token of respect.

The display was in the hands of Mr. G. Bulbring, and the country displayed was Germany, from 1872 to present day issues. There was a set of nine stamps to commemorate the works of Wagner, and another of 1872 of the Deutsches Reich with embossed eagles. There was also a set of Austria overprints and other German Colonies. There were many fine airmails, one set of the ill-fated Zeppelin.

The set of the 150th anniversary of the death of Mozart was very interesting as it had a grand piano on beside his photograph.

The gem of the display was three stamps, printed in North Africa for the Afrika Korps. These had a palm tree and a swastika. One had the shadow of the palm at the side, in another the shadow was straight, while the third had no shadow at all, showing these must have been three plates. These stamps were for men to send parcels home, but the 8th Army arrived before they could be used.

Mr. Bulbring gave a short talk about his collection, and said no trace of the Afrika Korps stamps was found, until a small number were unearthed at a place in the desert, so should anyone be lucky enough to get a used copy, its value will be high.

Mr. Forbes auctioned about 80 packets, some from Stanley Gibbons, and the meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

L.E.C.

★

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF RHODESIA

President, Mr. F. W. Porter; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. G. C. Whitehead, P.O. Box 803, Bulawayo; *Meetings*, 1st Wednesday in each month, at 8 p.m., in the Presbyterian Church Hall, c/o Abercorn Street and Fifth Avenue.

After a period of inactivity during the war years, the Society has once again been placed on a firm footing. This was evident from the President's report presented to the annual general meeting held in January, when it was stated that the membership now stands at 64, an increase of 15 members during the year; and from the balance sheet it was seen that the finances were in a very healthy state.

In recognition of his services, Mr. Porter was unanimously re-elected to the Presidential chair, with Mr. H. Munro Vice-president and Mr. G. C. Whitehead Secretary. The Committee for the current year is Messrs. Atkinson, Ely, Creewel and Silva-Jones.

It is a general feeling amongst members that the Society should receive more publicity, particularly through the channels of the "South African Philatelist," and a cordial invitation is extended to all fellow-philatelists to attend the Society's meetings at any time they visit Bulawayo.

At the January meeting, the Rev. Mr. Dryden gave an exhibit of a portion of his Newfoundland collection, enhancing his outstanding display by a descriptive talk on the stamps and on the country itself, in which he had lived for a number of years. As only the more modern issues were exhibited, members are keenly looking forward to seeing the earlier stamps at a future meeting.

The display, and paper, at the February meeting, was presented by Mr. Creewel, who dealt with the stamps of Great Britain during the reign of King Edward VIII—their design and printing, with examples of the cylinder and control numbers, varieties and overprints.

(Concluded on page 62)

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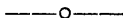
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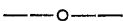
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UNION AND S.W.A. NOTES

Our recent plea at Congress for editorial assistance, in the way of a General Assistant Editor and Sectional Editors, has not gone unanswered.

Mr. W. N. Sheffield has kindly offered to take charge of this section. He is a Union enthusiast; he likes collecting by sheets, not merely in blocks of four, so there isn't much that escapes his notice. Readers may feel assured, therefore, that Union Notes will be well looked after by him.

But even he cannot see everything, so all readers are invited to record anything of interest they may come across. Notes may be sent to the general editorial office (Box 7012, Johannesburg) as before, or they may be sent direct to Mr. Sheffield, c/o P.O. Box 99, Cleveland, Transvaal.

Recent 1½d. Printings.

The new printing of the 1½d. issue with the first stamp on the sheet inscribed in Afrikaans instead of, as previously, in English, appears to be on sale in most towns of the Union now and Dr. J. W. Harris, of Port Elizabeth, has also noted the flaw on the 19th stamp of the 9th row, recorded in our March issue and which is evidently constant. The base of the large numeral "1" in the value tablet is broken on the right-hand side and the defect gives the appearance of a small dot between that figure and the adjacent "2".

He notes that the buff blotch on the head gear of the 4th stamp, 3rd row, which appeared as a constant flaw in the old printing of the 1½d. issue, has disappeared in the new printing and considers that the deeper green colouring with its darker buff background has by no means improved this stamp, but on the contrary produces a generally depressing effect. This particu-

lar issue is not likely to remain on sale for very long, since the Postmaster-General has given it out that on account of a temporary shortage of gummed paper it will be necessary to reduce the size of the 1½d. stamp until supplies improve again. It is stated that the reduced size will be half that of the existing 2d. stamp.

The position of the flaw on the head gear of the 1½d. issue, noted by Mr. M. M. Wood, is given in the foregoing.

New 1½d. Bantams.

The smaller 1½d. stamp which the Postmaster-General recently stated would be issued as a temporary measure because of a shortage of gummed paper, appeared on sale at some offices in Johannesburg about the middle of April. The African Collectors' Exchange sent us a special envelope with



a block of four cancelled 10.IV.48, said to be the first day of sale, but not by any means at every post office, as the offices have been instructed to use up their old stocks first. The design, depicting a gold mine head gear and dump as before, has been redrawn on a smaller scale and the colours of blue-green and bright gold are similar to those of the larger issue in use during the last few months. The horizontal setting of 240 stamps per sheet (12 x 20), with central marginal arrows, watermark sideways, sheet numbers in red and the first stamp on the sheet in Afrikaans, all

remain unchanged, but the new format is now $21\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ m.m. with perf. 14 (three sides) x roulette 8, instead of the 22×13 m.m. format and perf. 14 x 15 of the previous issue. A block of four gives all the language, perforation, roulette varieties.

The mine design in its new form presents a much more balanced and picturesque appearance than the layout in the larger setting and as the first of the Union Bantams to be printed in two colours the result is distinctly more pleasing than was possible in the monocoloured small war issues. None of the few plate flaws so far noted are particularly prominent, but are given below for reference.

- Row 2/6 —Shading around "A" defective.
- Row 4/18—Broken chimney-top.
- Row 4/20—Spot at top of headgear.
- Row 12/1 —Mark on side of chimney.

New ½d. Roll Stamps.

Dr. Harris also reports that the new ½d. bicoloured stamps are now on sale in the slot machines in P.E. These are evidently part of the issue recorded in the November list of "Recent Printings", in which the cylinders were given as No. 39 Internal and No. 54 External. The stamps are the same design and colours (green and grey) as the roll stamps printed in 1941 from cylinders Nos. 7020 Int. and 5 Ext. and used in the machines prior to the monocolour issue of February, 1943. The new stamps differ slightly from the 1941 printing in the fact that they are a shade smaller than the earlier format of 18×22 m.m., with the result that the perforation gutters between the stamps in the coil measure about $2\frac{1}{4}$ m.m. instead of the 2 m.m. in the previous issue. The watermark is normal.

King's Head Perforation Variety.

Mr. Patrick Riordan's interesting discovery of the 1s. and 3d. (S.G. 14) Union King's Head issue with Perf. $14 \times 13\frac{3}{4}$ instead of 14×14 , has brought to light three more values by two collectors resident in England. Mr. H. J. Burkin, West Byfleet, records finding a used copy of the ½d. and a mint copy of the 1s. 3d. value, with this perforation variety in his collection, and Mr. D. F. Evans, of Dorking, has written to say that he has found the $14 \times 13\frac{3}{4}$ Perf. in the 1d. value (S.G.7) of the Plate 6 issue. The latter stamp has the watermark inverted and Mr. Evans notes that the odd perforation gauge, identified by the adjusted comb, is found between the 5th and 6th vertical columns of the top and lower right-hand panes. Incidentally he also records inverted watermark varieties in which both horns are missing on a copy of the 2d. (S.G.10) and one horn missing on a copy of the 4d. value (S.G.16).

Rotogravure Minor Flaws.

In the unhyphenated series, Mr. Burkin notes the 6d. (S.G. 47/E) with four small orange blobs, like falling oranges, on the right-hand side of the tree, and an Afrikaans copy of the same issue with a green blob on the value numeral. He also mentions a broken frame beneath the letters "FR" in the hyphenated 5s. issue, S.G. 64/A.

Penny Rotogravure Without Watermark.

Mr. D. F. Evans records having purchased a mint pair of 1d. Union rotogravure stamps, S.G. 56, with no watermark, from a London firm of stamp dealers and is interested in the philatelic status of this item. This matter has been discussed on a previous occasion in these columns and for his information we reprint the following letter received from Mr. G. N. Gilbert and published in our March, 1939, issue.

"Apropos of the 1d. Union Roto on unwatermarked paper in Mr. J. Levy's possession, which has occasioned a certain amount of correspondence in your paper, I have received information from a very well-known Union specialist in England that he was recently shown a portfolio containing complete sheets of various ink trials, imperforate sheets and 1d. on unwatermarked paper, etc.

"All these sheets were Union trials, etc., and he naturally does not wish to disclose the name of the dealer concerned. It would appear from this that here is a probable explanation of Mr. Levy's item.

"It would be interesting to know how these trials, etc., came into the dealer's hands in England."

Sheet Numbers of 1d. Bantam Issue.

Mr. Evans draws attention to a printing of the 1d. Bantams in which the sheet numbers appeared in black numerals on the left-hand side of the sheet instead of, as is usual with the Union stamps, on the right-hand side margin. This was the issue which appeared on sale toward the middle of 1945 with the lateral margin slogans replaced by the figures "360" intersected by double parallel lines in the same colour as the stamps (dull rose carmine) and the sheet numbers were noted as being on the left-hand side, printed, in some cases in red and in other cases in black. This issue also appeared with the sheet numbers in red on the right-hand margin and up to the present this is the only value of the Bantam series, which appears to have been noted as having the sheet numbers printed on the left-hand side.

Retouched 1939 2d. Official.

Mr. R. T. Lilley has shown us a copy of the 2d. Official, S.G. No. O27, with a break about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long in the bottom frame line,

close to the left-hand corner of stamp No. 6 in the top row, and also a copy of a subsequent printing of the same issue in which the broken line has been retouched.

These blue and violet stamps, overprinted on S.G. 58, were first issued in February, 1940 (Mr. Lichtenstein's Check List), and since copies of the Officials of this print have now been noted as having appeared with the frame broken and also with the flaw retouched, it would be interesting to learn if the same two factors were noted in these stamps, which were issued without the overprint. In our issue for April, 1941, we recorded the change in colour of the 2d. stamp, S.G. 58, to purple brown and pale grey (S.G. No. 58a—grey and lilac), and Mr. A. Lichtenstein reported at the time that an examination of the minor flaws on a sheet showed that the same cylinders (No. 29 Internal and No. 43 External) had been employed as for the previous printing in violet and blue. A recent examination of mint specimens of stamp No. 6 in the top row of the grey and lilac issue shows the retouch in the form of a slight thickening of the frame line where the break originally appeared, and in addition, a hairline sloping up from the top of the retouched part to the left-hand end of the scroll carrying the word "Posseel"; therefore there should be no difficulty in identifying the retouch in the blue and violet printing.

Union Catalogue Corrections.

The following errors noted in the Union Catalogue by correspondents should be altered to read as indicated below.

1. Page 46: Item 51, Variety Va, Row 17/No. 1 should read Row 17/No. 11.

2. Page 79: Item 92, Variety Va, Row 1/No. 1 should read Row 1/No. 3.

3. Page 81: Item 93c, Cylinder Nos. 6931 for plates (b) and (c) should read Cylinder No. 39 for both cases.

4. Page 82: Item 89c, (b) Cylinder No. 6926 should read No. 6936.

5. Page 82: Item 93Cd, and 93Ce. The cylinder No. 7 should be read as 6931 in both cases.

6. Page 83. The cylinder number given as 6939 in the paragraph commencing with "Single specimens from cylinders", should be altered to read 6936.

7. Page 91: Under the heading "Notes" (2), the word "two" should obviously be read as "three", and the item (c) should be read as "Overprint on pl. 8", instead of pl. 3.

8. Page 112: Size of (frame of) Active Service Letter Cards should read 128 x 97, not 138 x 97.

Recent Union 1d. Printings.

Apart from a number of changes in shade ranging between deep carmine to pink for the frames, and centres varying in density from "sunset" to "sunrise", it is interesting

to note that there also appears to have been changes in the cylinders used for the printing of the 1d. Union stamps issued for sale during the last few months. An examination of several sheets indicates the possibility of four different head plates and three different frame plates having been used since the change was made in the language setting in the latter half of 1947, but confirmation on this point, in the form of recent printing information, has not yet been received from the postal authorities.

2d. Value, Flaw and Perf. Variety.

Mr. F. G. Froehlich, Johannesburg, has shown us a block of the current 2d. issue in which all the stamps have that portion of the inner frame directly below "TH" of "South Africa," and "D-A" of "Suid-Afrika," very thinly printed. The flaw measures 4 m.m. in length and is very easily recognised, but Mr. Froehlich states that it has not been present on any of his subsequent purchases of 2d. stamps.

Machine Cancellation Errors.

Noting the machine cancellation error at George, reported in our March issue, Mr. T. F. Allpass submits one from Germiston. The machine cancellor here normally shows in three lines in the centre, the year, the day and month, the hour. The day and month are normally like "14—I" for 14th of January; on 8th January of this year this line appeared "1—8," making the date look like 1st of August, if it were not realised that the day and month figures had been reversed in position.

Dr. J. W. Harris, Port Elizabeth, records an even more remarkable error on a letter from Aliwal North; it is correct in the English place-date stamp, 25—III—48, but in the Afrikaans one it is 25—IV—49. Some go-ahead folk there!

6d. Air-letter Cards.

The first batch of these cards, which came out in March, all had Afrikaans first in the various inscriptions, and the paper was only lightly blued on the outside. They have now appeared with English first and in two varieties, one similarly lightly blued outside, the other much more darkly.

New ½d. Official.

In the latest ½d. with "Official—Offisiel" overprint, both words read downwards. Such a variety has appeared before (O 17 and 23—Union Catalogue), but this issue is distinguishable because it is on one of the recent printings of the ½d. in which the background lines are made up of a series of very fine dots.

½d. All-green Roll Stamp, Minor Flaw.

Mr. S. C. Chantler records a constant flaw in the form of a white spot just behind the Springbok's neck; Afrikaans stamp, repeated every 22nd one.

The African Collectors' Exchange has issued two new sheets for their special Princess Elizabeth album, one for the Protectorates Royal Visit stamps and one for the Australian Wedding Commemorative.

AIR NOTES

By I. H. C. Godfrey

Pan-American World Airways inaugurated an air-mail service from Johannesburg to New York, via Leopoldville, Accra, Dakar, Lisbon and the Azores on Friday, 3rd October, 1947, using "Constellation" aircraft. Although the company had been operating over the route for some months, it was not until that date that South African mail was accepted. Letters had to be clearly marked "Via Pan American" and franked at 1s. 9d. per ½ oz., as against the existing rate of 1s. 3d. for letters sent to North America via the United Kingdom.

Contrary to its usual custom, Pan-American Airways did not handle special "cacheted" philatelic mail, and only approximately 100 lbs. was carried to New York on the first flight. Covers inspected are backstamped 6th October (Monday). A few covers sent to the most distant point of the North American Continent served by air—Nome, Alaska—were received on Friday, 10th October, just a week after leaving Johannesburg.

Johannesburg to New York, via Dakar-Azores Direct.

On Friday, 27th February, 1948, Lisbon was omitted as a place of call, thereby shortening the route between South Africa and North America by some 1,000 miles. Mails were presumably carried on the inaugural flight, but, due to the mistaken assumption that the same plane, which had made the first inward flight over the new route, would be the first to return that way, some philatelic covers were posted too late to connect with the service.

The Johannesburg—New York service now operates twice a week in each direction, calling at and omitting Lisbon alternately.

Reduction of Air-mail Rates.

As from 11th April, 1948, the rate of postage for the direct South Africa-North America services was reduced from 1s. 9d. to 1s. 6d. per ½ oz. for letters, and from 1s. to 9d. for postcards.

★

NYASALAND CENSOR MARKS

Additional numbers to those recorded in our March issue, p.42, have been sent in by Mr. C. W. Twynam. These are:

(1) Early circular type, Nos. 1, 9, 10, 11 and 15. This is a considerable addition as only Nos. 2 and 3 were previously recorded.

(2) Later octagonal type, Q/3, additional to the previous record of Q/6, Q/8 and Q/10.

NEW ZEALAND

It is officially announced that for the Royal Visit next year there will be four stamps, 2d., 3d., 5d. and 8d., issued. They are looking well ahead.

FRANCE

We are informed that "Radiodiffusion Française" is giving talks every Thursday (in French) on philately, for the benefit of foreign listeners. The time and wavelength that seems to be most suitable for hearing in South Africa is 0.00 to 0.30 hours on 19m.68.

HUNGARY

The official philatelic bureau announces the issue on 15th March of a set of stamps commemorating the centenary of the 1348 revolution. These have the escutcheon of Hungary as their subject. The announcement reports four values, 1, 2, 3 and 4frt., but accompanying photographs show 8 and 30frt. values also.

THE FIRST HEBREW STAMPS

The Partition of Palestine, if it goes through, may lead to three series of stamps for the Jewish State, the Arab State and the International City of Jerusalem.

Jewish Palestine stamps will be the first Hebrew stamps officially recognised by the U.P.U., but according to the "Palestine Post", there were two forerunners, used on letters and recognised by the Austrian Post, which operated in Palestine prior to 1914. They were in use about 1908-9 in the Jewish colonies of Rishon Le Zion and Petah Tikva respectively, their face value being 14 Paras. The former showed a blue Star of David, the latter a woman reaping in a field. Letters bearing them had also to have an additional German or Austrian stamp and such covers are great rarities to-day.

KENYA

The 5s. perf. 14 (S.G. 141a) is a fairly high priced item, but a recent printing has again appeared with this perforation so it may come down with a bump.

ABYSSINIA

About the end of 1947 (we have not heard the definite date yet) there appeared a set of 12 pictorials (1c. to \$5). The 1c. should be of special interest to South Africans as it depicts Amba Alagi, scene of the Italian surrender. There were also an air mail set of eight values and three commemoratives of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Selassie dynasty.

A WORD OF PRAISE

Criticisms we frequently receive, and they are not unwelcome if they are warranted and constructive. It is pleasant to receive an occasional word of praise, however, and we cannot refrain, seeing the source, from quoting a sentence from the "London Philatelist," the organ of the Royal Philatelic Society: "An always welcome arrival is the 'South African Philatelist,' for it is consistently informative."

IMPORTANT NOTICE

I have accepted an Appointment as a Director of the Robertson Stamp Co. (Pty.) Ltd., of Johannesburg

All correspondence should now be addressed to the Company at P.O. Box 5826, Johannesburg.

The services I have been able to render in the past will continue to be available to the discerning stamp public of Southern Africa. In addition, my former customers will have the benefit of service in those directions that by force of circumstances I had to eschew. I refer particularly to the efficient New Issue facilities provided by the Company and to their unequalled stock of philatelic accessories. The combined stocks and fine stamps and no little philatelic knowledge and experience will ensure that most collectors will satisfy many of their needs from The Robertson Stamp Company (Pty.), Ltd.

R. T. LILLEY,

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S. S. P.

A short time ago we received a letter from a South African customer who had been surprised by the speed of our service. He told us that "he had received his order within eight days of posting it, and that that was about the time it took to get a reply from a nearby town." He wondered if this was a record; actually it wasn't, but nevertheless it does show that by using air-mail an oversea customer does not need to wait longer for his stamps, if he orders from us, than if he bought in his own country.

So much for service, but what about stock and prices? Well, we issue a monthly price list of K.G. VI stamps only, and it is by every count, or so claim our customers, the most comprehensive list published, in its field; moreover our prices are really rock bottom.

We have scores of customers overseas and we could produce a sheaf of letters showing how delighted those customers are with what we are able to do for them. We will gladly send you a copy of our price list by air if you will apply by air, or a full year's supply by air, for a subscription of 12s. and even a small collector can save the cost of that subscription a score of times in a twelve month. *Stock Service and Prices*. That is what the leading firm for K.G. VI issues offers to you. Try that air-letter and be convinced and don't overlook that the publication of an authoritative K.G. VI catalogue by Gibbons will cause an unprecedented boom in K.G. VI issues before this momentous year is over. A day saved now, may mean pounds saved later on. *Send that air-letter at once to*

The Commonwealth Stamp Coy.,

7, Leather Lane, Liverpool 2: England.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES

France et Colonies Françaises. 30th Ed., 1948. Henri Thiaude, 24 rue de Quatre-Septembre, Paris (2e). Price 75 fr.

A very full and detailed priced catalogue of the stamps of France and French Colonies, abundantly illustrated. As necessary to a serious collector of these stamps as Gibbons is to a collector of the British Empire stamps.

World Air Posts (Aero-Field Handbook No. 9). Francis J. Field, Ltd., Sutton Coldfield, England. Price 3s. 6d. Extra illustrated edition with actual stamps and souvenirs at 10s.

This is a priced summary of what is available in the way of aerophilately and aviation souvenirs from about 200 countries. You can find out here what is available from these countries in the way of official air stamps, air stamps on flown covers, air mail labels, air transport labels, air post stationery, air letter cards, flown covers, pigeon posts, air graphs, propaganda leaflets, etc., etc., all the odds and ends, in fact, that so often make all the difference between a collection which follows completely stereotyped, and therefore somewhat dull, lines and one which shows originality and variety about it.

The Stamp Reporter. Issued quarterly by A. R. Capon, 41 Newton Road, Ipswich, England. Price 1s. 8d. for four issues, post free.

Has several quite interesting short articles of varied interests and a fair number of philatelic advertisements.

Constellation. A monthly aero-philatelic review. Frank Muller, 18 Rue Wurtz, Paris XIII, France. Annual subscription 300 fr.

This is a new magazine and will be the official organ of L'Académie d'Aérophilatélie. Contains short articles and a record of new issues of air stamps, etiquettes, etc., etc.

Stamps and Posts of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. By Harold G. D. Gisburn and G. Seymour Thompson. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., London W.C. 2. Price 10s. 6d. net.

Authors and publishers must both be congratulated on this book of 120 pages. It is excellent in lay-out and very well illustrated. There is a short history of the country, necessary as a background, and a brief account of the postal history up to the time of Gen. Gordon's death and during the regime of the Mahdi.

Then come the provisionals of 1897, well detailed. Chapters 4 and 5 deal with the "Camel" stamps; it is sad to note that their designer, Col. E. A. Stanton, who writes a foreword to the book, did not live to see it in print.

The Air Mails have a long chapter; later

chapters deal with the Gordon issue, the provisionals of 1940-41; postage dues and the official stamps of various kinds.

Most interesting material, not obtainable in ordinary catalogues are the sections dealing with postal communications (road, rail and steamer) and quite a lengthy section on the postmarks, of which some thirty types are illustrated.

All in all, a fascinating handbook, essential for the specialist, but most readable and instructive for any collector of this country.

Postal History of the Falkland Island Dependencies. By Richard W. Bagshawe. Articles from "The Polar Record," reprinted in pamphlet form. Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge. Price 2s. 6d.

It is not often that one finds a Scientific Institute publishing philatelic papers, but the history of this part of the world, which is reflected in its postal history, is now very much in the public eye, and perhaps that explains this somewhat unusual occurrence.

The posts, franks, stamps and postmarks which fall into the now rather complicated postal history of these Dependencies are minutely described with numerous illustrations. Official dates are given of the days of issue of the more recent stamps; these will necessitate alterations in some listings.

The Romance of Stamp Collecting. By Ernest A. Kehr. Thomas V. Crowell, 46 East 29 Street, New York 16. Price \$3.50.

Notices of this work suggest it should be a very interesting volume; the author has been stamp news editor of "The New York Herald-Tribune" since 1939 and a frequent broadcaster on philatelic topics. The publishers state that the book may be obtainable on approval.

Paraguay El Mundo Paraguayo of Coronel Bogado, Paraguay, has a section "Anuario de la Revista Filatélica Paraguaya" which any reader interested in the stamps of this country can obtain on application.

Stamps and Sports. Guy Depolier, of 26 Passage Choiseul, Paris (2e) have forwarded a 2nd Edition of their catalogue of stamps featuring sports. This one is without illustrations. Previous notice, May, 1942.

PHILATELIC ARROWS

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The O.F.S. locally made Postcards with Adhesives

By STEPHEN G. RICH

Mr. Tamsen's article on these neglected and interesting pieces of postal stationery in this journal, November, 1947, adds to his long line of notable and authoritative articles on various phases of earlier South African philately. This treatment of the subject opens up some unsolved problems, and apparently is written with the purpose of inviting further discussion of various points. On these aspects the present article aims to make a contribution.

The most exhaustive listing of the locally-made cards is that in the *Grosser Ganzsachen-Katalog*, 1928, by Dr. Ascher (Vol. 2, pp. 809-810). This is in German and not accessible readily. Leon de Raay's 1923 book on O.F.S. postal stationery, in English, also gives a quite comprehensive listing, together with discussion of various points. The G.G.-K. list-

of the successive printings of the locally made cards. The London-made cards simply do not show up except from the smaller offices or philatelically mailed, after the earlier months of this period.

We need have no confusion about the nature of the adhesive stamps used in making the local cards. They are all, without a single exception, the regular adhesive stamps then current in the Free State. There is not the slightest evidence that any one of them was ever surcharged previous to affixing—not even when the 1½d. card was made with 2d. stamps surcharged in red. The surcharge, by the evidence of numerous copies seen by me and those which I retained, is clearly applied after affixing and over the black postal card imprint of the arms.



ing is much more convenient to use. As it is not readily accessible, I have translated the complete section, covering the London-made cards of the Republic also, and have made it the final section of this article.

In this writer's judgment the term "Provisional" for the locally made postal cards of O.F.S. is definitely a misnomer and should be abandoned. There is some possible justification for its use on the two 1889 printings; but none for those from 1891 to 1897. Here is a period of a number of years in which the normal regular issue of postcards consists

To list the stamps, off card, as special "stamps for postal cards," or in any other special form of listing, is to ignore the real nature of the process used in making the cards. There can be no objection to collecting the stamps off card or piece, if one chooses to do that to save space—but to speak of them as "provisional stamps" or anything other than incomplete pieces of the postal cards, is to give an entirely false impression.

Comparison with the Hong Kong stamps of 1879 "specially surcharged for use on Postcards" (Gibbons Nos. P1, P2, P3) is to mis-

understand the situation. The Hong Kong stamps were surcharged in sheets, and applied to officially printed "formula cards" or to similar privately made formula cards. The same procedure was used in Bermuda, except that only private formula cards were used for the period 1875 to 1880 and official ones appeared in 1880. Actual postal cards were first used in 1880 at Hong Kong, in 1885 at Bermuda.

Mr. Tamsen's judgment that the postal card overprints of the O.F.S. may be considered as a sort of precancel does not find favour with those of us who have collected in the precancel field. As I was editor of *The Precancel Bee*, then the leading (and for a time the only) precancel magazine, from 1933 to 1941, perhaps my judgment and my knowledge of the precancel collectors' point of view may carry some weight. Mr. Tamsen's point is that the cancellation, whether numeral in grid or town mark, is normally placed quite far away from the stamp. He argues that the position of the cancellation shows that the postal service regarded the stamps as not needing to be cancelled.

A study of the material in my own collection shows that of the 17 used locally made cards, 11 have the cancellation away from the stamp and 6 on it. It is also noticeable that of the 11 with cancellation away from stamp, everyone shows it in the place where the stamp is normally affixed to a letter—near the north-east corner (upper right corner) of the card. Thus it is clear that the postmaster, handling a day's outgoing mail, struck the postmark in the usual place on every piece except when he happened to notice that it was a locally made card with stamp in centre.

For that matter, sometimes careless hand-stamping misses the stamp entirely in cancelling letters, etc. I have at least one cover which shows the stamp missed at a small office, and struck with the Bloemfontein town mark when it arrived there.

We shall, I think, need more evidence before we can grant Mr. Tamsen that the surcharging incidental to local making of postal cards was taken as a form of cancelling, precancel or otherwise.

[Mr. Tamsen did not suggest that the surcharging was officially meant to take the place of cancelling, merely that postal clerks often did so regard it.—Ed.]

TRANSLATION OF G.G.-K. LIST

Orange Free State: Postal Cards

Cards Nos. 2-4 and 6-15 were made by affixing adhesive stamps and then printing the postal card front in black. On Nos. 2 to 4 the printing includes a border that contains W's alternately erect and inverted. Nos. 6 to 15 lack this border. At top centre, striking the affixed stamps, are the arms of the country; BRIEF to left, KAART to right thereof. Four lines for address; before the first "Aan," before the last "Te." Cards of various thickness and shades.

1884. London print, by De la Rue, imprinted stamp, with Greek border. Thick white card, 121 x 75 mm.

1. 1 penny orange (in various shades). (Pale orange about 1890; brown orange after 1895.—S.G.R.)

Jan., 1889. Card with applied 1 penny stamp in brown, affixed *sidewise*. Arms without flags, with border. 114 x 76 mm.

2. 1 penny red brown and black, on white. (Stamp always applied with top to right.—S.G.R.)

Feb., 1889. Card with applied 1 penny stamp in brown, affixed *sidewise*. Arms with flags on both sides, with border. The last W in bottom border is erect. 114 x 76 mm.

3. 1 penny red brown and black. (a) On white. (b) On grey. (c) On grey granite. (Stamp always applied with top to right.—S.G.R.)

1889. Same. Last W in bottom border is inverted. 2 types.

Type I.—2 mm. between R and T in KAART.

Type II.—1½ mm. between R and T. in KAART.

4. 1 penny red brown and black. (a) On rose tinted card. (b) On reddish grey, red and blue granite. Both types on all colours and varieties of card. (Stamp always applied with top to right.—S.G.R.)

1891. Card No. 1 with (local) black overprint, ½d. 121 x 75 mm.

5. ½d. on 1d. orange (scarce used).

1891. Cards with upright applied ½d. red brown stamp, card thick or thin, white, often somewhat tinted. Arms with flags. 121 x 75 mm. Following types:

Type I.—Date of issue, Aug., 1891; period in inscription absent; BRIEF, 22½ mm.; KAART, 24 mm.; address lines, continuous; "Aan," curly A.

Type II.—Date of issue, June, 1892; period in inscription present; BRIEF, 21½ mm.; KAART, 25 mm.; address lines, dotted; "Aan," curly A.

Type III.—Date of issue, Aug., 1892; period in inscription present; BRIEF, 30 mm.; KAART, 29 mm.; address lines, continuous; "Aan," curly A.

Type IV.—Date of issue, Oct., 1893; period in inscription present; BRIEF, 31 mm.; KAART, 31½ mm.; address lines, cross-bar A.

6. ½d. red brown and black (type II fairly scarce).

In type II the space between the second and third lines for address is 10 mm. rarely 9 mm.

June, 1892. Similar, with applied stamp surcharged, 1d. on 3d. blue (Gibbons No. 55, may also come with No. 54.—S.G.R.) 114 x 76 mm. Two types:

Type I.—June, 1892; BRIEF, 21½ mm.; KAART, 25 mm.; space between 2nd and 3rd line for address 10 mm., rarely 9 mm. (Same as No. 6, type II.)

Type II.—April, 1893?; BRIEF, 29 mm.; KAART, 31 mm.

7. 1d. on 3 pence blue and black (type II very scarce).

1892. Similar, with two ½d. stamps, brown. 8. ½+½ penny, brown and black. This card is known by existence of one used copy. Its origin is not yet explained.

1892. Similar, with affixed 3d. stamp and overprint of new value, 1½d. (U.P.U. rate). Imprint has name of country in fancy capitals ("Egyptian" type). Overprint of value 9 mm. long.

(Overprint of new value above arms, sometimes tying stamp to card, and printed as part of same impression with inscriptions and arms.—S.G.R.)

9. 1½d. on 3d., blue and black, on white.

Jan., 1893. Similar overprint on 2d. purple. "1½d." 9 mm. long, including period. "I" for "1" in "½."

10. 1½d. on 2d. purple and black, on white.

Oct., 1893. Same, but overprint of value only 8 mm. long, including period. Name of country in bold expanded type. "½" normal.

11. 1½d. on 2d. purple and black, on white.

(a) Stamp inverted. (Scarce.)

1894. Card like No. 6 but arms without flags. Thin or thick white card. 4 types, as follows:

Type I.—Date of issue, June, 1894; BRIEF, 30½ mm.; KAART, 31 mm.; "Aan," cross-bar A.

Type II.—Date of issue, June, 1895; BRIEF, 30 mm.; KAART, 30 mm.; "Aan," cross-bar A.

Type III.—Date of issue, July, 1895; BRIEF, 28½ mm.; KAART, 29 mm.; "Aan," curly A.

Type IV.—Date of issue, Oct., 1895; BRIEF, 29 mm.; KAART, 29 mm.; "Aan," cross-bar A.

12. ½d., red brown and black.

1894. Same, in type I, but with horseman and different inscription in place of arms, in same size and shape seal (arms of town of Bloemfontein).

13. ½d. red brown and black (very scarce).

The origin of this card, of which several used copies are known, is not yet explained. (Apparently an error in setting up the type for the card and soon noticed.—S.G.R.)

1895. Front of card like No. 12, type III, but with black overprint of value ½d. above the arms. (Overprint of value printed as part of front of card, not separately.—S.G.R.)

14. ½d. on ½d., brown and black, on white.

1895. Like Card No. 10, but arms without flags, and name of country not included in inscription. On white.

15. 1½d. red on 2d. purple and black. (a) Surcharge 1½d., 10 mm. long, including period.

(b) Surcharge 1½d., 7 mm. long, including period (scarce).

(The red overprints are done separately and after the black printing, showing clearly on top, where the red and black lines cross. The red overprint appears on bottom of stamp, over parts of the arms.—S.G.R.)

16. 1½d. black on 2d. purple and black. (a) Surcharge 1½d. 10 mm. long, including period (scarce, especially used). (b) Surcharge 1½d. 8½ mm. long, including period. (c) Surcharge defective, and the "d" added in without a period by an additional printing; on type (a).

(The black printings show the 1½d. above the stamp. The surcharge here is part of the printing of the card front.—S.G.R.)

1897. Like Card No. 12, but the stamp in yellow colour. Two types of arms: I. Lion with horns, shading in strokes. II, Lion without horns, shading in dots.

17. ½d. yellow and black.

1898. London print. Reply card, similar to No. 1, without border. On cream card. 140 x 90 mm.

18. ½+½ penny green.

19. 1+1 penny brown.

Oct., 1898. Like Card No. 1. On white. 121 x 75 mm.

20. ½ penny red.

The G.G.-K. lists under the Colony V.R.I. overprints on some of the locally made cards: Nos. 16 (a) and 16 (c). Both the Chelt. Bold and the Gothic type overprints are reported on each of these, and used as well as unused copies are noted for some of the four.

There may be such items, genuine. But this author has been able to secure only an unused copy of No. 16 (a) with the Chelt. Bold overprint and No. 16 (c) with the Gothic overprint. Careful examination of both and comparison with the genuine overprints in both types, convince him that both these items are falsely surcharged V.R.I.

In the absence of further evidence, the presumption therefore has to be that no genuine V.R.I. overprinted locally made O.F.S. postal cards exist. Cancelled copies prove naught, unless full details are given. We know that during 1901 and 1902 an occasional O.F.S. stamp without V.R.I. slipped through the colony's mail unnoticed: I own one such cover and have seen two more. Furthermore, the date in the postmark need be given to make us sure that any presumed used copies have not been falsely overprinted after use in the period before 1900.

If this article has pleased readers, it will be practicable to translate the G.G.-K. section on Orange River Colony postal cards for this journal at some future date.

Royal Silver Wedding Stamps

Some of the above have already appeared, the balance will be issued about September. For complete list of countries and values and details of how the sets may be obtained from us write for the fully explanatory circular which we have prepared.

ROBERTSON STAMP CO.
(Pty.) Ltd.,

P.O. Box 5826 JOHANNESBURG

SWAZILAND

A Swaziland correspondent reports that the red overprint on the 3d. Union air letter appears to be just "plonked on" anyhow, sometimes even half off the stamp.

This overprinting has been quickly followed by an overprinting in red on the 6d. (one stamp) Union Air Letter.

NYASALAND

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111 @ 11s.; 112 @ 15s.; 113 @ 30s.; 114/122 @ 20s.;
123/126 @ 20s.; 127/129 @ 9d.; 130/143 (18 values) @ 105s.;
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WARNINGS

CONFIDENCE TRICK

The following extract is taken from the "Philatelic Traders' Journal," names only being omitted, although they are probably fictitious in any case, and liable to be changed at any moment. Mr. Winde, of Durban, who sends the extract, says several dealers in Durban and Johannesburg have been caught napping by Mr. X.

On 12th January a man giving the name of Mr. X and an address in Johannesburg, South Africa, called at the Oxford Street, London, offices of Treasure Stamps and informed them of the death of Capt. Y, one of Treasure Stamps' African customers.

Mr. X claimed to be the heir to the estate and would settle, on behalf of the late Capt. Y, any account due to Treasure Stamps. Meanwhile he enquired for several important stamps for himself, including the Egypt Port Fuad set, and showed Mr. Nettl, the proprietor, duplicates he had for disposal. These included Seychelles old colours, N.Z. Laughing Boys and the obsolete K.G. VI Nyasaland complete used. No agreement on price being possible, Mr. Nettl did not purchase anything.

The following day, 13th January, Mr. X returned and purchased from Treasure Stamps a complete mint range of the Austrian Charity stamps, including the Wipa Sheet in special folder, the Bermuda Centenary (1920) on cover, Egypt Zeppelins on cover, Cyprus Commemoratives complete mint, British Solomon Islands, K.G. V complete M.C.A. set mint and others. Mr. X paid by cheque drawn on a Durban Branch of South Africa. This has been returned marked "No account," and Mr. X cannot be traced. It is now thought that "Mr. X" was, in fact, the "late" Captain Y.

The police are searching for a man described as thick set, swarthy complexion, with scar on forehead, with the appearance of a Spaniard of Jewish origin. When last seen he was wearing dark glasses.

The stamps involved are valued at just over £200, and Treasure Stamps offer a reward for their complete or partial recovery.

CAPE PRE-STAMP COVERS

We have been advised by the Postal History Society in England that certain Cape of Good Hope pre-stamp covers have been offered for sale in London which they consider to be fakes.

We are not aware of any such items having been offered here so far, but as it is possible they may be, we would just like to warn anyone interested in such items to be careful and to satisfy themselves as to their genuineness before purchasing.

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1918, 3/- green and violet, very fine	£3/15
Basutoland, 1933, ½d. to 10/- complete	£2/10
Br. Guiana, 1934-44, 1c. to \$1, complete	£6/10
Canada, 1897 Jubilee, \$2, \$3, \$4 and \$5, good condition but heavy postmarks	£7/10
Cayman Is., 1935, ½d. to 10/- complete	£27/10
Dominica, 1923-33, ½d. to £1, 21 stamps, complete with colour changes. All lightly cancelled	£10/10
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Do., £1. do.	£1/15
Do., 5/-, blued paper, wmk. Anchor, well centred and nicely cancelled	£14
Do., £5, white paper, wmk. Anchor, good appearance, but has slight imperfection	£8/10
1884, £1, wmk. Crowns, fine specimen	£12
Do., wmk. Orbs., rather heavy pmk., cat. £25	£10
1902-10, £1, K.E., superb. Dated 19th July, 1911	£16/10
1913, £1, K.G., parcel post cancellation	£4/5
Hong Kong, 1903, \$10, K.E., wmk. Crown C.A.	£7
Kenya, 1906-7, 10r., wmk. Mult. C.A.	£3/10
New Guinea, 1931 Air set, ½d. to £1 complete	£7/15
1935 Air, £2 and £5	£7
Nigeria, 1936, ½d. to £1 complete	£19
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Swaziland, 1933, ½d. to 10/- complete	£14/10
	£5/10

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GERMANY

"Philatelic-Equator" reports that the Wurttemberg series in the French zone is now complete by the issue of 10, 15, 16, 20 and 60pf. values. Only one of these has a new design, the 16pf. featuring the castle of Bebenhausen, near Tübingen.

Two more values, 50 and 84pf., have appeared in the Leipzig Fair series. There will be 20 in all of this "historical development" set, probably taking three years to complete.

700th anniversary of Cologne Cathedral, semi-postals. Eight values of this set are now forecast, to appear in August.

Owing to changes in postal rates, the French have issued two new values in the Rhineland-Pfalz area, 30pf. with design of former 75pf. and 50pf. with design of former 45pf. Equivalent changes are expected for Baden and Wurttemberg.

We are also indebted for two covers, the first with the supplementary issue of 10, 15, 30, 50 and 60pf. stamps of the second interim German issue, the other has a mixed franking of two Saar (8 and 16pf.) and one French zone (1pf.) stamps.

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NETHERLANDS

All the values of the new Queen's head design have now been issued. It is true that they are not all on sale generally yet, as stocks of the superseded issue are still on hand at various post offices and are to be disposed of before the new ones are brought into use. Philatelists are, however, catered for at special windows and at them all values are immediately available.

The following is a list of the full set:

(a) Numerals: 1ct. red, 2ct. blue, 2½ct. orange, 4ct. green.

(b) Queen's Head: 5ct. green, 6ct. black, 7½ct. red brown, 10ct. rose red, 15ct. purple, 20ct. blue, 22½ct. olive green, 25ct. light blue, 30ct. orange, 35ct. blue green, 40ct. rusty brown, 45ct. blue, 50ct. sepia, 60ct. orange red.

The 45, 50 and 60ct. values are in a different design and typographed. The postage due stamps have also been re-drawn and the values available thus are the 4, 7, 10, 11, 15, 16, 20, 35 and 40cts.: all are blue and one design is in use for all values.

The numbers sold of the Summer Charity issue of 1947 are: 2ct., 1,170,060; 4ct., 876,888; 7½ct., 940,101; 10ct., 1,553,994; 20ct., 841,885.

The dove (or gull) type stamps have been rendered obsolete and the withdrawal of numerous items of postal stationery has been announced.

Persistent rumours have been current that differences exist between the stamps in the "Konijnenburg" set issued just before the war and those of the same design issued from 1945 onwards. "Mijn Stokpaardje" of February, 1948, carries an article by G. C. Tops on this very matter and after reading carefully what he has to say, one must conclude that for the majority of the stamps of this design found in this country there is no distinction, at any rate, not such as would make a difference for most collectors. Here are his findings:

Design: Nil. Paper: The quality used for the pre-war stamps was of a much denser nature than that used for the post-war stamps. When used stamps are soaked, therefore, the older stamps present a white look while the later stamps become, especially in the case of those which appeared in 1945, transparent. Later, when the paper quality improved, this test causes the stamps to be transparent only around the edges or to present a mottled appearance. The 15ct. and the 25ct. were printed on thick paper in 1947, paper which does not become transparent on soaking, but the thickness is such that it may be distinguished from the 1940 stamps. Gum: Pre-war stamps were coated on the back with gum made of dextrine, while the post-war stamps were provided with gum yellowish in colour and having a gluey odour. When the odour is not apparent, the stamp may be held in steam, when the odour of dextrine or glue will become more pronounced and the stamp classified as pre- or post-war accordingly. Marginal inscriptions: Pre-war stamps had lines ruled along the edges and

were provided with order numbers. The plates were renumbered after the war and the lines omitted. Stamps with marginal ruling were on sale at various times after 1945 but these were from stocks, held by the Controller at Haarlem prior to the invasion, which had gone "underground."

The above remarks do not apply to the 6ct., 17½ct., 50ct. and 60ct. values nor to the gulden values, as these were post-war issues only.

"Stamp Collecting" of the 7th February, 1948, under the heading of "Ubique," published an interesting item. It would appear that the Dutch League of Stamp Collectors has obtained for stamp collectors in Holland generally a valuable service. By affixing a label requesting light cancellation for philatelic purposes, stamps will be lightly cancelled—if they are not damaged may be claimed from the Post Office! That is really being "stamp conscious."

Collectors' Wants & Offers

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Seychelles wanted. Full catalogue price offered for fine used copies of Stanley Gibbons numbers 85, 91, 93 to 95B, 97 to 101, 103, 104, 107, 110, 114 to 118, 121, 122, 122A, 142, 145.

William Redford, P.O. Box 7012, Johannesburg.

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B. Savitz, 69 Greenvale Road, London, S.E.9, England.

S.W.A. mint blocks of dues and officials, also controls in strips of Union and Transvaal and other rarities.

E. Tamsen, Box 13, Nylstroom.

Wanted, Union of South Africa essays, proofs, specimens, rarities, unusual and specialist items. Also good Union Collections. Send on approval or write:

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SOCIETY NEWS

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. H. Suklje, Benoni; *Hon. Secretary*, Miss S. O. Jeffrey, P.O. Box 572, Benoni; *Meetings*, Regent Hotel, Benoni, 3rd Tuesdays, 8 p.m.

At the March meeting it was decided that a team from the Society should take part in the Pretoria Society's Quiz Competition to be held on 3rd May. After various items of interest had been shown and notes of the month read, Mr. Dickens showed his Union collection, from 1910 to date. It was very nearly complete in so far as straightforward items were concerned and included also many desirable varieties. It was well mounted and written up.

At the April meeting of the above Society there were 10 members present and Mr. H. Suklje was in the chair. Dr. Kaplan exhibited his collection of Holland which obtained 1st prize at the East London Exhibition, and as a contrast, he also tabled his specialised collection of the 1937 Union Coronations which he proposed entering at the International Philatelic Exhibition to be held at Basle, Switzerland, during August, 1948. Both exhibits were very well received. Mr. Suklje proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of the members and wished Dr. Kaplan every success.

The proposal that meetings should be held in Brakpan instead of Benoni was amended and will come up for further discussion at the next meeting. The suggestion now is that this Society should hold two meetings monthly, one in Benoni and the other in Brakpan.

A "Quiz" team was selected to compete in Pretoria on the 3rd May, consisting of: Quiz Master, Mr. P. G. Wells; Adjudicator, Mrs. G. Wood; Team, Mr. H. Suklje, Mr. J. Shepherd, Mr. S. Legator, Mr. P. R. Gutsche; Reserve, Mr. A. Dickens.

S.O.J.



PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

President, Dr. A. Kaplan; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. B. Glassman, P.O. Box 4967; *Meetings*, 2nd Tuesdays and 4th Mondays, Public Library, 7.45 p.m.

Mr. Jenkins has had to give up the secretaryship, owing to his being out of town so much, but Mr. Glassman has filled the breach.

13th April. Commdr. Enoch showed his collection of British Guiana, a country which few here know much about, beyond the fact that it had a 1c magenta stamp of which only one copy is known; it was not on exhibit this evening.

Seeing that the Commdr. has only been a year at this collection, he is to be congratulated on having got so far ahead with it; he has not only got the (fairly) easily obtainable stuff, but quite a few rarities, and some of these in remarkably fine condition.

Before showing his collection he read some notes on the issues of British Guiana, and it is hoped these will later on be published.

25th April. Mr. M. F. Swanepoel, the Post Office Publicity Agent, gave an interesting account of the postal history of the Union before laying out a display in blocks of four of all stamps printed by the Government Printer, with notes of their plate or cylinder numbers.

He informed the meeting that in response to a request from the Federation in future all sheets would bear the cylinder numbers in the margin. This will be very much appreciated by Union collectors.



GRAHAMSTOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. E. A. Carr; *Hon. Sec.*, P.O. Box 11, Grahamstown.

The annual general meeting was held on 8th April. The election of officers took place for the ensuing year, and it was revealed that our finances

were in a flourishing state. Our membership now stands at 24. There was no feature at this meeting, but the committee are going into ways and means and hope to draw up a programme for the year so that each meeting will have some special feature. It was particularly stressed that we should welcome visiting philatelists and as there must be many passing through Grahamstown during the course of a year it would be much appreciated if they would look us up. We should be only too pleased to arrange special meetings for any who felt disposed to give us a display or talk. We have a number of beginners who do not feel competent to talk on stamps yet, and for that reason particularly welcome people from other places with better collections and more knowledge than we have. Come on, some of the experts, give us a leg up.

S.C.C.



THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL

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

The monthly meeting held in April was one that all visitors and members enjoyed. Mr. Selwyn Smith read an article on the Sperati case. This gentleman has perplexed the experts of the world with his imitations of old and rare stamps, maintaining that he can imitate any stamp and has proved that by producing some of the Oldenburg stamps to such a degree of perfection that the best experts in Europe could not detect any difference. The only way the experts are having to recognise these imitations is that there are now more than were ever known to be in existence. This talk was something out of the ordinary and interesting.

Mr. Winde's competition of stamps blacked out except for a small portion gave members something to think about. Mr. Appleby won this with 11 right out of 15, a good effort.

The highlight of the evening was an exhibit of Barbados by our old friend Mr. J. R. Simpson. This collection was outstanding in every respect and a treat for philatelists. Mr. Simpson is also to be congratulated on the manner in which he presented his paper on this popular country. I hope that the Editor will sometime find space to print this for I feel that it would be of interest to readers. [The Editor thinks he will sometime soon.—Ed.]

Mr. W. Ovens in thanking Mr. Simpson for his fine effort mentioned some of the rare items that had been shown and the pleasure it had given all to see such material on view.

W.H.W.



THE JEWISH GUILD PHILATELIC SECTION

Chairman, I. Isaacs; *Hon. Secretary*, B. Joseph, 143 London House, Loveday Street, Johannesburg; *Meetings*, last Thursday, Jewish Guild Memorial Hall, Von Brandis Street.

At the meeting held on 22nd April the exhibit was provided by Mr. H. B. Marcuson who showed his collection of St. Helena.

The exhibit was complete in King George V and King George VI. All the items were in fine mint condition and were in singles and blocks of four. The rare 15s. was shown with the "torn flag" variety.

Several of the Queen Victoria issues were also included. Dr. Kaplan spoke on the exhibit.

I.I.



PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. G. K. Forbes; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. G. P. Smith, 13 Trafalgar Square, Port Elizabeth; *Meetings*, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in Room 3, City Hall Basement, at 7.45 p.m.

The business meeting was held on 20th April and was well attended. Before the minutes were read Mr. Forbes paid tribute to Mr. Basden who recently passed away. The member responsible for the evening was absent, so there was no display. Mr. Forbes

auctioned about 70 packets, including some first day covers, both of the Royal Visit and Princess Elizabeth's 21st birthday. It is with pleasure we announce that Mr. Warren will take up his duties as Exchange Superintendent from 1st May. Will all concerned please note that the annual general meeting will be held on the evening of the third Tuesday in May.

L.E.C.

★

THE PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Headquarters: Berea Park Recreation Club. *Meetings* held every second Wednesday in each month.

The April meeting was well attended, there being 22 members and eight visitors. Mr. Blick, of the Pretoria Society, entertained the meeting, taking them on a sight-seeing tour of Canada and Newfoundland by describing scenes, buildings, monuments, etc., depicted on stamps of these two countries, as actually seen by him on his visit there. For instance, he gave descriptions of Champlain's House in Quebec, the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, the Harbours of Halifax and Vancouver, and the wonderful sight of the world-famous "Mounties" in their colourful uniform; all these being pictured on various stamps of the Dominion. In Newfoundland he was privileged to see such sights as the salmon leaping waterfalls on their way to the spawning grounds, and the codfish and sealing industries on which the prosperity of the country has been built. The Cabot Tower, the War Memorial and the Colonial Buildings at St. Johns were also described by Mr. Blick.

Mr. Blick was thanked for his most interesting talk by Mr. J. Kriste.

Although the Society has been in existence for only seven months, the membership has already topped the 60 mark, with members so far affiled as Cape Town, Windhoek, Mafeking and Durban.

W.K.

★

CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President: C. G. Mummery; *Hon. Secretary:* S. Kaganson, P.O. Box 1973; *Meetings:* 2nd and 4th Thursdays at Yorkshire Buildings, Strand Street, at 7.30 p.m.

22nd April. Rain was no doubt responsible for the poor attendance at this meeting when Mr. Petrolis tabled a portion of his Air Mail collection. This collection is a vast one, some idea of its size being conveyed by the fact that only the letters A and B were tabled and these filled the display space available. There were many rarities shown, including first flight covers and not a few items not listed in the ordinary catalogue. Mr. Petrolis was unfortunately prevented from being present personally through illness, and Mr. Combrink deputised for him and gave a short resume on the stamps displayed.

Mr. Blum moved a vote of thanks and, among other things, stated that this collection would create a sensation in the States where air mails were extensively collected.

The set-out of the sheets was most dignified, the shadow stencelling of the title being most effective.

Among the visitors present was Mr. Thornton, of East London, and he gave us a few pages of Early Europeans—the Classics as known to most old collectors. There were also many pages of bisects on piece and cover.

Mr. Thornton in a very modest way—modest man that he is—had little to say as regards his stamps, and it was left to Mr. Blum to point out to us some of the real rarities that were on display.

Mr. Simenhoff moved a very cordial vote of thanks and voiced the appreciation of all present to Mr. Thornton for bringing along these outstanding items for display. Mr. Mummery also extended thanks on behalf of the Society.

B.L.C.

BRITISH COLONIALS

Particulars of the Silver Wedding issues have now come out. Each of the 45 territories concerned is to have two stamps, a low value (1½d. to 3d. or equivalents) and a high one. Only in the case of the Falkland Islands Dependencies is the high value a comparatively low one (1s.); in a few it is to be 5s., but in most it will be either a 10s. or a £1 denomination (or equivalents in the currency concerned). A complete set works out at £31 8s. face value. The Commonwealth Stamp Company reports that the Mauritius Commemorative set was placed on sale in the colony on March 22nd, and in London April 7th. The 10s. and £1 of Antigua and Montserrat were placed on sale in these colonies on April 1st and London April 12th. The new coloured 20c. of Hong Kong was placed on sale in the colony on April 1st, and London April 12th. From April 1st the 15c. and 20c. (black) were withdrawn.

The four values (to 1 rup.) of the forthcoming Commemorative set of Pakistan are due for release at the end of April, according to official news we have had.

A CORRECTION

A wag, after reading the list of prices as given in Gibbons, Scott and Yvert in our April issue, has asked us to order a dozen each mint and used of Cape No. 15 at £25 and £18 respectively. We do not think Gibbons would meet the order, but Scott would probably jump at it. The stamp referred to is actually the 1s. emerald green, not the Woodblock error, but in this instance the compiler had inadvertently given it Scott's listing number, whereas in all the others he had given Gibbons numbers.

Fine British Colonials:

Selections of the above are sent on approval to serious collectors against references.

- Range 1. Early issues, which can be selected from at one-third of catalogue price.
- Range 2. Modern issues (1900 on) in mint state, mostly at 50% off catalogue.
- Range 3. Modern issues (1900 on) superb used, mostly at 50% off catalogue.

J. BIRD, 116, Highlands Heath, London, S.W.15, England

PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

At the recent Congress in East London a desire was expressed by delegates to have a complete list of the constituent societies. There are now 18 and the list is here given in alphabetical order, with the addresses of the Society or of the Secretary for the time being.

Capetown P.S., Box 1973, Capetown.

Copperbelt P.S., Box 211, Kitwe, N. Rhodesia.

East London P.S., Box 673, East London.

East Rand P.S., Miss S. O. Jeffrey, Box 572, Benoni.

Grahamstown P.S., P.O. Box 11, Grahamstown.

Johannesburg, P.S. of, Box 4967, Johannesburg.

Johannesburg, Phil. Section of the Jewish Guild, Mr. B. Joseph, 143 London House, Loveday Street, Johannesburg.

Maritzburg P.S., P.O. Box 256, Pietermaritzburg.

Mashonaland P.S., Box 1660, Salisbury, S. Rhodesia.

Natal, P.S. of, Box 588, Durban.

Nyasaland P.S., L. D. Arthur, Limbe Trading Co., Limbe.

O.F.S. and Basutoland P.S., Box 702, Bloemfontein.

Port Elizabeth P.S., Mr. G. P. Smith, 12 Trafalgar Square, Port Elizabeth.

Pretoria P.S., Box 514, Pretoria.

Pretoria Railway P.S., c/o Railway Recreation Club, Berea Park, Pretoria.

Rhodesia, P.S. of, Box 803, Bulawayo, S. Rhodesia.

Springs P.S., Mr. K. Gillings, 25 Fifth Street, New Township, Springs.

West Rand Stamp Club, Box 153, Krugersdorp.

Communications for the Federation itself should be addressed to the Hon. Sec., Mr. N. Welsford, Box 4077, Johannesburg.

JOHANNESBURG SALE

The recent sale of stamps donated for the benefit of the Repertory Players' Theatre was a great success; there was a lot of interesting material and a sum of between £350 and £400 has been realised.

PERCY C. BISHOP

For three months we received no copies of "Stamp Values" and were wondering what had happened to it and/or its genial editor. Then the January—March issues appeared in a bunch and we learnt therefrom that P.C.B. had been laid low by pneumonia, a nasty thing at the age of 78. However, our heartiest congratulations on what seems to be a perfect recovery. His latest philatelic baby "Stamp Values" he reports is going strong, it has survived its year of infancy and is now a flourishing child. He feels, however, that a knock-out such as he has had, even if only temporary, indicates that he should have assistance—so here is an opportunity for someone with a flair for philatelic journalism.

PHILATELIC QUIZ

The Rev. W. Loxley Chamings will have left for England for a much-needed holiday and rest ere this appears in print. Some little time ago he suggested that a philatelic quiz in our columns might be of interest and we, somewhat rashly perhaps, agreed.

He has now written saying that for one of his collections he needs the date (day and month if possible) of birth of the following gentry, all of whom figure on stamps listed in Gibbons Part I. Also the date of death in those cases where they have shuffled off this mortal coil.

Can any readers oblige? W.L.C. thinks the list will do for a beginning; in this we are tempted to agree with him once again, but if all the dates are filled in by the time he returns to our shores he may consider himself lucky! Here is his list:

Christian Fletcher (Pitcairns). Charles Connel (New Brunswick). Ghazi and Faisal II (Iraq). Farida, Queen of Egypt (and her sister-in-law Fawzieh of Iran). John Guy (Newfoundland). The Sultans of Seiyun and Shihr and Zanzibar. King Malietoa (Samoa). Thomas Mitchell and John Shortland—is there a confusion of father and son here?—(Australia). Michael O'Clery (Eire). Walter Raleigh, Junior (British Guiana). Sergeant-Major Simoi (Papua). The following potentates of India: Bala Rama (Travancore), Pant Sachiv (Bhor), Raghubir (Bundi), Rama Varma III and IV (Cochin), Rana Devi (Barwani), Sardul and Yagyenarain (Kishangarh), Sarwant (Bijawar), Shamsher and Surrendar (Sirmoor), Shivaji (Indore), Himatsinghi (Idar), and the Maharajah of Orchha. These Sultans of Malaya: Abdul Hamid of Kedah, Abu Bakar of Johor and his namesake of Pahang, Hisamud of Selangor, Ismail of Kelantan, Iskander of Perak, Suleiman of Selangor, Suleiman and Zain of Trengganu. Helen Wilson, Sultana of Johor.

WANTED set 100 Cigarette cards "Postage Stamps—Rarest Varieties" issued African Tobacco Manufacturers, pre-war. Also Jugoslavia S.G. Simp. 1948 Nos.

J. HAHN

10 DU TOIT STREET, PAARL

M.E.F.

In the March 6th issue of "Stamp Collecting" D.B.A. (the editor) gives an interesting short history of the British stamps overprinted M.E.F. (Middle East Forces). He gives very clearly the points of distinction between those overprinted in London and those done in Cairo on the dark shade stamps of 1937. They are summarised thus:—

1st and 2nd London printings, square stops throughout. Length 14 mm. No certain method of distinguishing between the two printings. Cairo printing. Seven rows of the sheet with round stops, 3 with Square stops. Length 13½ mm.

The 3rd London printing, brought into use in 1943 is quite distinct and is still in use.

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Commemoratives.

Having had severe criticism for issuing the Sacramento Gold Rush stamp with very little notice, the postal authorities are now going to the opposite extreme and have announced their programme of six commemoratives for 1948. The issues will be:—

150th Anniversary of the Mississippi Territory, issued for 7th April. This stamp is probably unique in that it deliberately shows an error in spelling. In the seal of the Territory made in 1798, the fourth "S" in the name thereof was omitted. The seal is featured on the stamp and, for historical accuracy, the spelling is kept as it appears on the original.

Four Chaplains' Memorial. In honour of the four chaplains (a Roman Catholic Priest, a Jewish Rabbi and two Protestant Ministers) who gave their lives when the troop transport "Dorchester" was torpedoed off Greenland in 1943.

Wisconsin. Centennial of admission to statehood.

Francis Scott Key. Author of the words of "The Star Spangled Banner." Stamp honouring the Gold Star Mothers of all U.S. wars.

Will Rogers stamp, paying tribute to the famed humorist and political commentator.

Mammoth Sale of Looted Stamps.

Messrs. H. R. Harmer, Inc., announce a sale in May of stamps in aid of victims of Nazi aggression. These stamps, filling sixteen trunks and German ammunition cases, were found when the Allies entered Germany; they had been stolen from people persecuted for their political or racial beliefs. They were handed over to the International Refugee Organisation and are now being sold for the benefit of refugees who can no longer return to their place of origin.

AUSTRALIA

A piece of interesting news from here is that Mr. H. R. Harmer, who has been on a visit to Australia, is opening a branch of his stamp auctioneering business, under the title "H. R. Harmer, Australia, Pty., Ltd.," at Castlereagh House, 25 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, N.S.W.

It is also announced that Robson Lowe, Ltd., has opened an agency at Melbourne, where Mr. J. L. Phillips of Masons Buildings, Sugden Place, will act as his representative.

U.S.S.R.

British philatelic papers report a deluge of new issues between September last and February of this year. Most of them are in both perf. and imperf. sets, with overcrowded designs and long propaganda messages.

Sanatoria get 10 stamps, the 30th anniversary of the October revolution 6, the post-war 5-year plan 11, fifth anniversary of the relief of Leningrad 4, 30th anniversary of the Ukrainian S.S.R. 4, whilst the 800th anniversary of Moscow was honoured by a miniature sheet of 4 stamps of 3 roubles each.

S. RHODESIA METER POSTS

A reader, noticing a reference to U.M.V. Meter No. 217, used in Salisbury, has asked for further information about Meter Posts in S. Rhodesia. Mr. R. Axer has kindly supplied the following:

"No complete list of meters used here is yet available, but I can give the following from my collection. I have four Universal Multi-Value marks, Nos. 36, 38, 42 and 217, all of which appear to have been taken from the Union series and the wording on them altered so that they could be licensed for use in S. Rhodesia. This, of course, can be done, as meter machines are the private property of the companies concerned, but the wording on them must naturally conform to the regulations of the country which licenses their use.

Rather more abundant are Neopost marks, mostly from limited value machines. Of these I have so far seen Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 12, 15, 17, 20, 21, 22, 28, 30, 31, 39 and 45.

A listing of the users of these machines can, I think, await a fuller record being obtained."

Mr. Axer adds as an incidental note that the use of meters in the Union is going up by leaps and bounds. His latest records show Midget, 401; Neopost, 469; U.M.V., 331 and Hasler, 13.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The postal administration has sent us a special envelope, presumably a "first-day" cover with three stamps, 1.50, 3 and 5 kcs. and a special Prague cancellation of 7-3-48. These stamps are in honour of the 11th rally of the Sokols.

Another special envelope has four stamps, 1.50, 2, 3 and 5 kcs. issued in connection with the celebration of the 6th centenary of the founding of the Charles IV University in Prague.

FORGED AND REPAIRED STAMPS

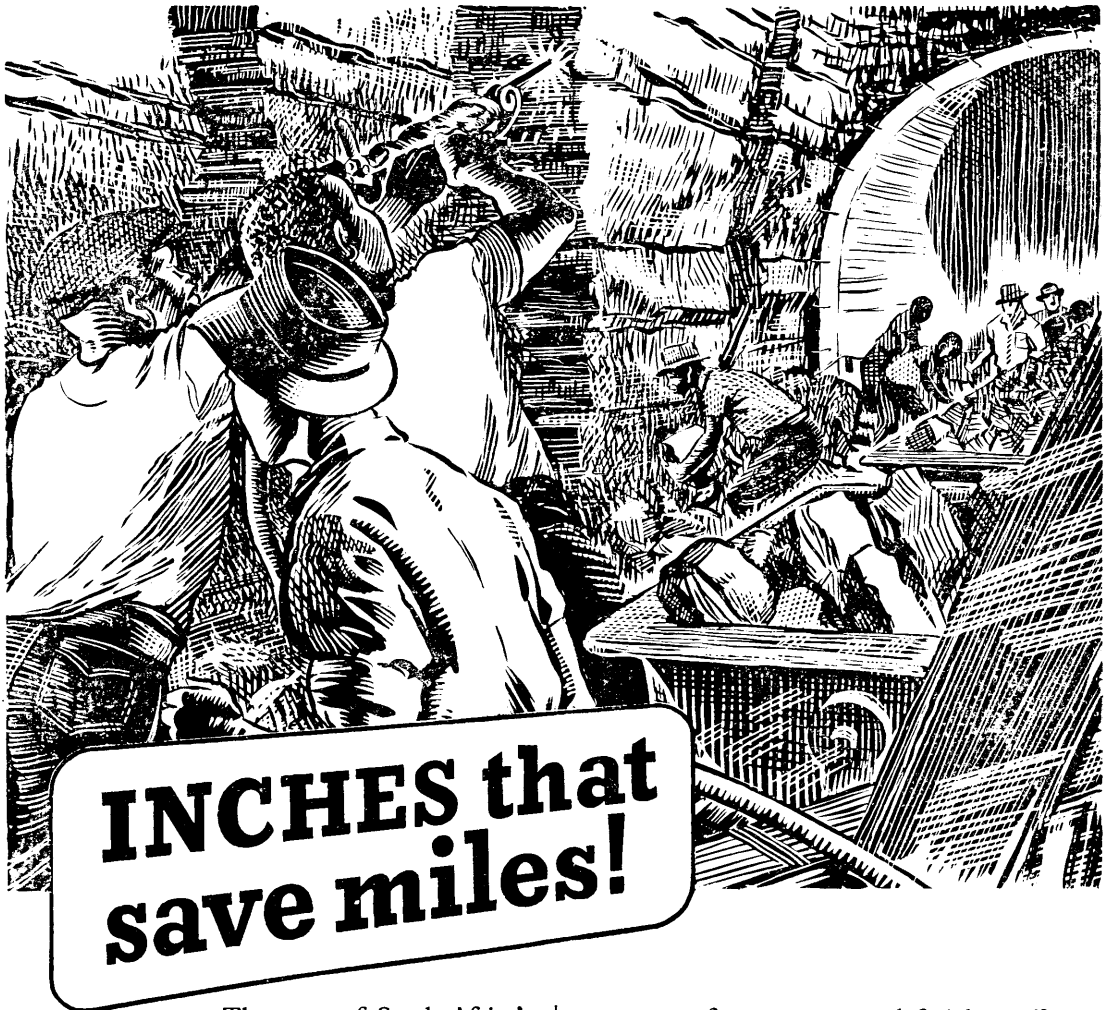
The "Philatelic Magazine" quotes some interesting figures recorded by the official Swiss Expert Committee in respect of Swiss Cantonal stamps submitted to them during the period 1943-46 for expertisation, 950 stamps in all.

They found that out of every 100, 19 were forgeries, almost exactly 1 in 5; out of every 100 genuine, 28 were repaired, nearly 1 in 3.

FALKLAND DEPENDENCIES

"Stamp Collecting" considers the latest released printing of these stamps worthy of being considered a new variety. They are from fresh plates and, amongst other slight differences, the lettering is now obviously sharp and clear as compared with the former heavy and rather blurred impressions.

Gibbons would appear to be of the same opinion as their "Stamp Monthly" illustrates the new maps of these stamps. The lines of latitude and longitude are fine and clear as compared with the coarse thick lines of the originals.



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British Colonial Royal Silver Wedding Stamps

In September this year 58 Crown Colonies, Protectorates and Dependencies will each issue two stamps to commemorate the Royal Silver Wedding. Each set will contain one low value and one high value. A common design will be used for all the low values and a different design will be common to all the high values. Both designs will show portraits of Their Majesties and will be of large upright shape.

The values and colours of the stamps vary for the different countries, the low values being either ½d., 1d. 1½d., 2d. 2½d. or 3d., while the denominations of the high values vary between 5/- and 25/-.

We are now booking orders for COMPLETE MINT COLLECTIONS at the specially reduced price of £43/15/- per complete collection, of which amount £37 must be paid by July 31st, the balance being payable upon delivery of the stamps by us. Collections in pairs and blocks pro rata. Those who wish to pay the full amount now are, of course, at liberty to do so. Registered postage is free, but bank charges must be added to country cheques at the rate of 6d. per £10.

Those who do not desire complete collections may place orders with us now for any individual sets required. Our prices for individual sets will be sent upon receipt of details of countries required.

We have prepared a fully descriptive circular giving the names of the countries and values in each set and will be glad to send copies of same upon request.

Non-Colonial Royal Silver Wedding Stamps

The following is a complete list of non-Colonial Silver Wedding stamps. All of them are now in stock and as they are not included in the Crown Colonies collection must be ordered separately and full remittance enclosed in payment. Please order your requirements in them NOW and they will be sent by return post. As they are on sale for a limited period the prices quoted apply only while the stamps are current.

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G.B., 2½d. and £1 overprinted BAHRAIN 2½as. and 15R., mint	1 6 3	1 7 6
G.B., 2½d. and £1 overprinted KUWAIT 2½as. and 15R., mint	1 6 3	1 7 6
G.B., 2½d. and £1 overprinted MUSCAT 2½as. and 15R., mint	1 6 3	1 7 6
SOUTH AFRICA, 3d. in horizontal pair, mint	7½d.	7½d.
SOUTH AFRICA, 3d. in horizontal pair, used	8d.	8d.
S.W. AFRICA, 3d. in horizontal pair, mint	7½d.	7½d.
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JUNE, 1948.

Whole No. 279

UNION NOTES.

RECENT PRINTINGS

The postal authorities have supplied the following data covering printings during the period 31-1-48 to 11-5-48. For previous information see our March issue, p. 33.

Pictorial Postage Stamps.

½d.—Job 11662 contd. A total of 563,010 sheets x 240 delivered up to 10-2-48 from cylinders 48 Int., 6933 Ext., as before. A further 173,400 sheets x 180 between 16-3-48 and 6-4-48 from new cylinders 25 Int. and 6912 Ext.

1d.—Job 2201 contd. 88,382 sheets x 180 delivered subsequent to 3-2-48 from cylinders Int. 36 (new) and Ext. 2 (old). 4,000 sheets x 180 subsequent to 20-4-48 from cylinders Int. 7109 and Ext. 29, both new. 119,500 sheets x 180 subsequent to 7-5-48 from cylinders Int. 3 and Ext. 7020, both new.

1½d.—Job 8219. On an order for 1,500,000 sheets x 240 there were delivered 73,563 sheets from previously used cylinders Int. 5 and Ext. 33. A further 201,501 sheets of Bantam size, subsequent to 26-2-48, from new cylinders Int. 28 and Ext. 6.

3d.—Job 2062 contd. A total of 73,000 sheets x 120 now delivered. Same cylinders as before.

4d.—Job 2973 contd. A total of 95,000 sheets x 120 up to 5-2-48. Old cylinder 19.

6d.—Job 8220 contd. A total of 41,500 sheets x 240 delivered since 27-1-48. Old cylinders Int. 9 and Ext. 6935.

1s.—Job 10231. On an order for 200,000 sheets x 120, there were delivered subsequent to 23-3-48, 13,000 sheets from old cylinders Int. 6925 and Ext. 38. A further 37,000 sheets from new cylinders Int. 14 and Ext. 6027.

Silver Wedding Stamps.

3d.—Job 12768. 84,500 sheets x 120 delivered between 8-4-48 and 16-4-48 from new cylinders Int. 48 and Ext. 6923. Of these, 13,500 sheets were overprinted "SWA" on a flat bed machine from new formes.

Air Letter Cards.

6d.—Job 9136 contd. A total of 1,646,929 sheets x 6 delivered up to 1-4-8 from cyl. 70 as before.

Job 12528. On an order for 2,000,000 sheets x 4 there were delivered subsequent to 29-4-48, 468,000 printed from new cyl 4.

Job 33119. From P.M.G's stocks 7,200 sheets x 6 were delivered on 18-3-48 overprinted "Swaziland" on a flat bed machine from old formes.

Inland Pictorial Postcards.

1d.—Job 2743 contd. Delivered to date, 2,384,000 sheets x 32 from cylinders 87 for stamps and 86 for pictures as before.

"Official" Stamps.

The following quantities, taken from P.M.G's stocks were overprinted "official/offiseël" on a flat bed machine from old formes and delivered on 6-4-48: ½d., 500 sheets x 240; 1d., 500 sheets x 240; 1½d., 499 sheets x 240; 2d., 500 sheets x 120; 6d., 500 sheets x 240; 1s., 500 sheets x 120; 2s. 6d., 200 sheets x 60; 5s., 200 sheets x 60; 10s., 100 sheets x 60.

[Note particularly: New cylinders for ½d., several new cylinders and combinations for 1d., new cylinders for 1s. and quantities for Silver Wedding stamps. What a lot of headaches we will be saved from when our suggestion that all sheets should have the cylinder numbers on the margin comes into effect!

We are officially informed that procedure is shortly to be put into operation.—Ed.]

Official Announcement.

The Postmaster-General announces that

- (a) a limited supply of booklets containing four one-penny and four half-penny postage stamps is available for sale at Post Offices in the Union at face value, i.e., 6d. each, and
- (b) as a temporary measure, the 1d. postage stamp is being printed in sheets of 180 instead of 240 stamps.

Control Numbers.

Collectors have had great difficulty in identifying printings with their corresponding cylinders, especially when several new cylinders or combinations of cylinders were employed within a very short period, as has been the case recently with one ½d. stamp in particular.

To get over this, a request was put forward from the recent Federation Congress that certified sheets of each printing, where a new cylinder is involved, might be made available to the Federation and the characters of each printing could then have been publicised by us.

An official reply to this request has been received. The post office administration regrets that they are unable to arrange for this sale of certified sheets, but instead, they have arranged with the Government Printer for a marginal imprint of cylinder numbers to be made on sheets in future.

For this we should be truly grateful. It is really a better arrangement than making certified sheets available to a very few; this will make identifiable sheets available to everyone. It may happen, of course, that every post office will not get specimens of every printing and some collectors may still have to do a little hunting, but this is all to the good; collecting should not become completely spoon feeding, otherwise a lot of the fun would go from it.

New Sheet Format of ½d. and 1d. Pictorials.

Mr. A. H. Sydow reports that the ½d. Springbok Head stamps in sheets of 180 (20 x 9) were on sale at Yster Plaats P.O. Cape Town, on the 10th April, 1948, and that the 1d. value of the 180-set went on sale in Cape Town on the 8th May.

He notes that the ½d. stamps are from the old diapositive vertical rows Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, with the first three rows (columns Nos. 1, 2, and 3) removed either by *masking the correlative images on the diapositive or by varnishing out on the copper faced cylinders* and mentions that like the two previous 240-set cylinders the frames are screened and that in Union rotogravure philately we have the following conditions obtaining in the printing of bicoloured stamps.

- (a) *Frames Screened—Vignettes Unscreened*
e.g., 180 set ½d. Springbok Head.
- (b) *Frames Unscreened—Vignettes Screened*
e.g., K.G. VI Coronations
- (c) *Frames Unscreened — Vignettes Unscreened*
e.g., K.G. V Silver Jubilees
- (d) *Frames Screened—Vignettes Screened*
e.g., Peace and Victory Issues.

The ½d. and 1d. sheets of 180 were noted as available in Johannesburg on the 12th May, but there is no record of the first day of issue in this area. The design, colours and size (18 x 22 mm.), of the stamps in these smaller sheets are no different to those that have been on sale during the last few months,

but since the new sheet has been formed with a row of nine stamps, instead of twelve, the single marginal arrow previously printed in the centre of the top and bottom edges for equal division of the sheet, has perforce disappeared from its old position and been replaced with two arrows, one at a third and the other at two-thirds of the row to indicate division into three equal parts. The single arrow at the centre of each lateral margin is as before.

The green coloured frames of the ½d. stamps show the same photogravure screen printing as the Type III stamps described in the April, 1948, number of "Gibbons Stamp Monthly" and listed in the Catalogue Supplement of the same issue as No. 55b. The bilingual layout of this value, however, has been changed by a reversion to the arrangement adopted up until the middle of 1947 and No. 1 stamp on the sheet is again inscribed in Afrikaans, instead of the English of recent printings. There is no change in the language setting of the 1d. value and No. 1 stamp on the sheet is inscribed, as before, in English. In connection with these latter points, Mr. Sydow's notes on the new printings are particularly illuminating for they show the change has been brought about with the ½d. value and it will be interesting to learn if the same procedure was adopted for the 1d. issue, but that, since in this case the bilingual arrangement has not been altered, the masking was carried out on columns Nos. 10, 11, and 12.

A number of small printing flaws exist on the new sheets of both values and the more notable are listed below. Most of them, like the "Fly Swarms" around the Springbok's Head on several of the ½d. stamps can be quite easily recognised, but the most interesting and certainly the most appropriate to the design, is undoubtedly the little defect on one of the 1d. stamps which takes the shape of a seagull flying over the top yardarm of Van Riebeeck's ship. A fairly consistent printing characteristic in the form of a small white blemish appears in the 1d. sheets at a position about 4 mm. up from the bottom left hand corner of every old numbered Afrikaans stamp, i.e., those in every alternate row commencing at Row No. 2.

The watermark is normal and the sheet numbers noted on both denominations consist of four numerals printed in red on the right hand side. A strip of four, taken from a corner of the top or bottom rows, will serve to classify the new small sheet settings and the following flaws, tabulated in the order of Row/Stamp, will assist in identifying these particular printings.

½d. Denomination

No.	
1/7	White dot in oval near buck's right eye.
1/9	White dot in left-hand vertical bar.
3/1	Tag on buck's left ear and spot on nose.

- 4/7 White mark bottom right-hand frame lines.
 4/8 White marks bottom left-hand frame lines.
 6/1 Green leaf-shaped mark on buck's neck.
 6/2 Green marks on horns.
 9/9 Small line flaw top right ornamental square.
 15/3 Dent in label line under "OM".
 18/5 Numerous black spots in oval.
 18/9 Green bleb above "AF" of "Africa".
 19/3-7 Numerous black spots in ovals.
 20/4 Green bleb top left-hand corner.
 20/8 Black spot on buck's cheek.

1d. Denomination

- | | |
|------|---|
| No. | |
| 2/5 | Black smudge across top of sunrays. |
| 3/9 | Vertical white streak from yardarm to oval. |
| 4/5 | Broken oval top left cluster of leaves. |
| 5/5 | Break at top of "O" in "South". |
| 6/7 | "Seagull" in flight near top yardarm. |
| 11/8 | Small square patch on sail. (Centre.) |
| 12/6 | Red dot in "F" of "Africa". |
| 12/9 | Hair line from sail across sunrays. |
| 13/4 | Hooked-shaped line near stern lantern. |
| 16/7 | Letters "FR" in "Afrika" joined at top. |
| 17/5 | "Ship in Haze". |
| 18/8 | Red flower in cluster of leaves right centre. |
| 20/8 | Red dot in frame above "AF" of "Africa". |

Union Catalogue.

We hear that the 2nd printing of this (500 copies) is about ready and that it is already nearly sold out in advance. A *Supplement* is in the proof-correcting stage and should also soon be ready. This will be sold to anyone at 9d., but members of the constituent Societies of the Federation can get it through their Society Secretaries at 6d. per copy.

1½d. Pictorial Bantams.

Mr. S. Harvey of Stellenbosch notes that in addition to the flaws listed in our May issue a small black mark appears to be constant in the south-west corner of the stamp in Row 5/14. Mr. S. C. Chantler, Grahamstown, confirms that the defective shading around the "A" of "Afrika" in Row 2/6 is a constant flaw and also mentions a mutilated perf. at Row 6/5 and Row 6/16. These latter defects are also in evidence on the sheets distributed in the Reef area.

Mr. A. H. Sydow records that the Bantam 1½d. Gold Mine stamp was on sale at the Dorp Street P.O., Cape Town, on the 6th April, 1948.

"Stamp Collecting" and Unions.

"W. E. Fyndem" writing in "Stamp Collecting," 3rd April, 1948, mentions the difficulty of obtaining a used pair of S.G. 44b of South Africa, the 2d. rotogravure in blue and violet. He points out that the South African catalogue only prices it at 1s. used (against 5s. for the rare sepia and deep lilac shade issued 1936-7 (and 2s. for the indigo and violet shade issued 1937-8) but that in England very few

dealers can point to even a single in their stocks.

In the following number, 10th April, the same writer comments on other Union items which are difficult to obtain in used pairs, (S.G. 32—6d. of 1926; S.G. 35a—4d. of 1927-8; S.G. Nos. 45 (3d.), 48 (1s.), 49 (2s. 6d.) of the 1930 set and the blue and violet No. 58) and finally in the 24th April issue of the periodical the fact is recorded that "South Africa is now definitely a country of collectors, and early and modern African material sells better in the Dominion than ever before."

We have certainly noted that it has become increasingly more difficult to obtain these items which a few years ago were apparently available for the asking.

Silver Wedding Stamp Flaws.

The excellence of the design of the Silver Wedding stamp has been rather marred by the rotogravure process of printing and it is a great pity indeed that the stamps could not have been turned out with the same beautifully clear and outstanding appearance as that depicted in the photographic reproductions circulated to the Press prior to the issue.

Practically every stamp in the sheet contains some flaw in the form of dots or small marks, a number of which do not appear to be constant, and from lists submitted by Mr. S. C. Chantler and Mr. C. Sieberhagen, we have selected the following for guidance in identifying the printing. The flaws are set out in the order of Row/Stamp and it should also be noted that on every Afrikaans stamp there is a slight thinning of the right-hand side frame line over a length of about 2½ mm. near the bottom corner. The large frame line flaw (? a retouch) and the "Broken Hyphen" in Row 14/5 and 16/5 respectively are probably the most interesting of the flaws.

- | | |
|------|---|
| No. | |
| 1/3 | Hair line across Queen's face. |
| 2/1 | Blue spot on King's neck under ear. |
| 8/3 | Small line through "r" of "Silverbruilof." |
| 9/4 | Blue dot in right frame at thinned part. |
| 9/5 | Blue dot under "A" of "Africa". |
| 11/1 | White streak from "Silver" to King's nose. |
| 14/5 | "Retouch" at centre of right-hand frame line. |
| 15/3 | White arc joining King and Queen's foreheads. |
| 15/4 | Flaw at centre of right-hand frame line. |
| 16/5 | Broken hyphen (two dots). |
| 17/1 | Mark at Queen's mouth. (Moustache effect.) |
| 17/5 | Dot on King's forehead. |
| 18/2 | Dot in right-hand "3". |
| 20/2 | Spot on King's forehead. |
| 20/3 | Dark smudge under "Silverbruilof". |

Note: An examination of some of the Silver Wedding stamps overprinted for use in South West Africa shows all of the above flaws.

W.N.S.

Some Old Transvaal Stamps

5—Notes on the Borrius issues

by R. BROOM, F.R.S.

In September, 1870, Mr. J. P. Borrius, of Potchefstroom, was engaged by the Postmaster-General, Mr. F. Jeppe, as printer of the Transvaal stamps. The printings done by Mr. M. J. Viljoen had been very unsatisfactory, but Borrius showed by his first issue, 1d. black stamps on 28th September, that he could print almost as well as Adolph Otto of Gustrow, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, who made the Transvaal plates and printed the first issues. Borrius continued as printer till the middle of 1874.

The stamps of Borrius are so nicely printed that they are a delight to collect; they are very interesting on account of the variety of papers used, and some of the stamps are of considerable rarity, especially when unused.

There were two original plates, 40 stamps in each, for each of the 1d., 3d., 6d. and 1s. values, referred to as "Left" and "Right." Otto and Viljoen had each of them used both plates, as did the Stamp Commission from 1875 to 1883, but P. Davis and Son, of Pietermaritzburg, who printed 1d. and 6d. stamps in September, 1874, only used the Left plates. It is a debated point whether Borrius used both plates or only the Left one.

The têtes-bêches only occur on the Right plates of the 6d. and 1s. values, one cliché of each being inverted—No. 25 of the 6d. and No. 1 of the 1s. If Borrius only used the Left plates, then he never printed any têtes-bêches.

Mr. J. H. Curle was specially interested in têtes-bêches, and in his collection, which has just come to the Africana Museum in Johannesburg, has the largest collection of old Transvaal têtes-bêches in the world, viz., 19. The King's collection is a good second with 13, while the Tapling collection in the British Museum comes third with seven. Curle estimates that in the rest of the world there are probably not more than 13 others.

In the very valuable book on "Transvaal Postage Stamps" by J. H. Curle and A. E. Basden, published in 1940, the authors state quite definitely that Borrius "never printed from the tête-bêche plates."

Yardley, in his great papers on the Transvaal stamps, divides the Borrius stamps into six groups according to the papers. In all of these except Paper E, he says: "No stamps from the Right pane of the sixpence are known." But in Paper E he says: "Varieties of the sixpence are known from the Right pane." This is clearly S.G. No. 36.

In an old Bright and Son catalogue (1914) which I have, eight different 1d., 3d. and 1s. Borrius stamps are listed. Their No. 29 is

manifestly S.G. No. 31, 1s. pale green, and it is stated "the 1s. value exists tête-bêche." Their No. 30 is also a 1s. stamp, but is possibly wrongly identified as a Borrius printing. This catalogue further mentions three varieties of 6d. "by Borrius or by the Stamp Commission" and states: "These may be found in numerous shades of blue and ultramarine. They also exist tête-bêche." The ultramarines certainly cannot be Stamp Commission printings.

Having a fairly extensive collection of Borrius stamps, I plated my sixpennies out of curiosity and found that Right pane stamps are not at all uncommon.

I recently obtained from a London dealer a block of three unused sixpennies which are undoubtedly S.G. No. 36, and these three are also unquestionably Nos. 7, 8 and 15 of the Right pane. I also have Right pane stamps of S.G. Nos. 30, 33, 33a and 36a. So we now know that in all these varieties there must have been têtes-bêches. Curiously enough, I have of S.G. No. 33a a No. 25 Right pane stamp which, if it had retained any one of its partners, Nos. 17, 26 or 33, would have been tête-bêche.

It is almost impossible to plate the 1s. stamps, except in a few cases. Though there are no têtes-bêches among the 1d. or 3d. stamps, it is interesting to note that I have an R 25 of the 1d. S.G. No. 32a which shows that Borrius must have used both 1d. plates—at least in 1873 or 1874.

I also have a Right pane 3d. stamp of S.G. No. 29. This is rather odd because Borrius only issued 8,040 3d. stamps in all and 8,040 is not divisible by 80. He must therefore have printed from the two plates separately, and the Left plate is so much better than the Right one that it is strange he should have printed from the Right one at all.

We may be right therefore in concluding that in 1870 and perhaps till the end of 1872 Borrius used only Left plates, but that in 1873 and 1874 he used both plates.

* * *

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Mr. Chr. Hansen, of Alle 35, Vegem, Denmark, wishes to exchange, good for good, better for better. He has sent two dozen modern Danish, mostly mint, which can be forwarded to anyone wishing to start exchange.

SWEDEN

On 26th April there appeared three stamps, 15 and 30c and 1k honouring the centenary of organised Swedish settlement in U.S.A. The design shows a farmer with plough, an old farmhouse and a skyscraper. A special first-day postmark features a settler and a Red Indian. We understand that a proposal to have a commemorative of this event in the U.S.A. was turned down, principally because there was a Scandinavian settlement stamp in 1938.

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ART and ARTISTS on STAMPS

DR. WALTER HESSE

(Communicated to the Capetown Philatelic Society)

"Tom said to himself that it was not such a hollow world after all. He had discovered a great law of human action, without knowing it, namely, that, in order to make a man or a boy covet a thing, it is only necessary to make the thing difficult to attain. If he had been a great and wise philosopher, like the writer of this book, he would now have comprehended that work consists of whatever a body is obliged to do, and that play consists of whatever a body is not obliged to do. And this would help him to understand why constructing artificial flowers, or performing on a treadmill, is work, whilst rolling nine-pins or climbing Mont Blanc is only amusement." —"Tom Sawyer," by Mark Twain.

Time and again I have made the observation that when we display our stamps, we tell each other what we collect and how we have made up our collections; but we never tell each other why we collect, and why we have chosen a particular line in collecting. And yet it seems to me that an explanation of the "why" would be the most fruitful and clarifying one; moreover, that the "what" and "how" directly follow out of the "why." I propose, therefore, to comment on to-night's display by starting at the beginning. Why do we, why do I collect?

There are, of course, lots of easy, simple and very superficial explanations, and we have heard them often enough to rattle them off by heart. But let us, for once, refuse to be superficial and dishonest, for the one means the other. I have never seen or heard of a good, all-embracing, psychologically sound answer to a question that we, the collectors, are being asked all the time by our wives, friends and children, by all those who do not collect. And when we have given them the simple answers, they have seemed, even to us, half-understood, made-up, unconvincing.

For we do not collect to enrich our "general knowledge." That we could do much more easily, more cheaply and without irritating our friends, if we read books. Every stamp quiz pertaining to "general knowledge" proves how little we know actually about our stamps, their contents and their messages.

And we do not collect in order to learn our geography better. Our stamps do not tell us enough about the situation of the countries, and much too seldom about geographical peculiarities of more than a purely local interest. We stock our brains with the different monetary systems, and we recognise instantly elated personages. But as we do not even explore our own town, I refuse to believe that we spend pounds and pounds on stamps of

far-away countries only because we cannot travel there to see for ourselves.

And I do not believe that the general collector pays for his stamps in order to "study" them. There are some, certainly, who devote all their time to the study of the "production" part of the stamp, as it were—plating it, locating its flaws, reasoning out its history. But their interest must be a secondary one. For they have all started as we did, as school boys, collecting for the sake of collecting, and have only risen to their elated position after having gone through that primary stage. Their original urge was not archaeological, it was acquisitive.

What is more, we humble ones do not quite understand them, as, in turn, we are not quite understood by our dearest. I, for one, cannot see much point in plating newly issued stamps when a whole sheet can be purchased at the Post office; and many other specialised studies do not seem to me to be far removed from such an unnecessary and slightly ridiculous labour. But even if we understood these students and their seriousness (which seems to forget so often that collecting was originally meant to be fun), this would only explain why people collect "side lines," for theirs is a side line; it still would not help us to understand why people collect stamps at all.

Or do we collect, as art collectors, for aesthetic reasons? We do not, and we know we do not. We take any stamp—I nearly said any old stamp—that is valuable, and we pay good money for excretions that cannot possibly be classified under art. Our sole aesthetic demand is that the stamp must not look dirty, mutilated, torn; otherwise, it may even be an Afghanistan stamp, or one of those Indian States. And a "Sydney view" looks ugly only to non-collectors.

Nor, incidentally, do the above-mentioned students of philately approach their material for reasons of good taste. When the archaeologist studies a dirty hole in the ground, fills it with plaster of paris and writes down his findings, the result will be an enrichment to human knowledge about the art of former centuries. The philatelist, however, uses the archaeological tools, but his result, to be frank, is only an enrichment to human knowledge about the printer's failings and shortcomings; and more often than not, the text book, which should be a compendium on printing, has not been studied sufficiently.

No, these superficial explanations will not do. Let us be honest and, as we are amongst ourselves and nobody looks over our shoulders, admit that our primary reason for collecting is that age-old, that eternal human

failing: the craving for possession. We want to have and to hold; we want to fill spaces because we want to fill our coffers. We pay because we want to earn. Not that we all want to sell, at a profit, what we collected; and certainly not that we want to invest for the benefit of our beloved, even if we try to persuade them that after our death they will reap the riches we assembled for them. Many of us do not want to sell a single stamp again, some of us do not want even to part with duplicates. We might not want to earn money, but we want to earn all the same.

We want to earn the respect of our fellows, if possible even their jealousy. That is the crux of the whole matter. The fur coat of our good lady, the prize book in school, the medal, the self-made book-shelf, the 18-inch carnation, the picture in the paper, and our collection of stamps—they are all expressions of the same urge, inborn in us, and better acknowledged than hidden: our urge of vanity, our craving to be one better than the other fellow, to come out and above the mass of nonentities, to rise and to keep rising. There is a moral and aesthetic and a difference of grade between the man who sits on a flagpole for thirty days in order to have his name in all the papers, and the man who spends thirty years piecing a collection together in order to have his name in the roll of distinguished philatelists; but it is not an essential difference.

Surely I am not saying what we do not all know for ourselves, and have known for a long time; our wives, and our friends, we may be sure, guess it, too; and so, since we are all alike, we should better admit it. Then our friend would admit that he goes fishing, not because of the healthy fresh air, but because he hopes to land a real reporter's scoop. And our wife might then stop trying to make us believe that she dresses so well (and expensively) only for us.

But whether we admit it or not, it remains a fact: stamp collecting is a means of self-assurance and getting the better of one's inferiority complex—one of the many means created by a closely packed society. Most people have more than only one hobby, and the more they have, the better for their inner balance, the little bit of happiness after which we all strive so hard, this happiness that is so tightly bound up with our vanity. One hobby only tends to make a man a fanatic; only if his stamp collecting does not ruin all his other interests to the extent of his ruining himself and others, and only if one craving is balanced by another, will he do well to continue collecting.

That will explain why even those who have achieved an outstanding position in society continue to collect stamps—why, even kings, presidents and scientists pursue our hobby. And it explains certainly why fanatics in other manifestations of this "will to power," people who prefer to collect countries to collecting by countries, never are stamp collectors. Finally, it explains why we all started as school boys, and all gave up collecting when we first fell in love, when maturing

and dreaming of a job filled our hearts to the exclusion of any other desire—and why we all started collecting again when we had fallen out of our only time of being fanatics.

Now we see why we collect, we can easily see why we collect differently, why we specialise and have side line collections. It is merely that each of us must strive to be different, as there would be no point in our collecting if every accumulation were alike. As we want to be better than the next one, we must be different. And we must be different, too, because we have different purses.

When the catalogue came into being, when money entered the hobby, when stamps could be bought and sold, the side line collection was born. Since the best and most important and most glorifying collection depended on completion, and completion on means, the rich were the only ones who could continue collecting as before; all the others had only the alternative of fitting their goal to their purse—they had to specialise. And now there was added to the half-hearted excuse towards the stupefied non-collector the half-hearted excuse towards the general collector, that this was only a "side line" and not the real thing, and this apologising and silly feeling of guilt goes on to this day. Nowhere do we want to be taken more seriously than in the one thing which we pursue for "fun," for play.

If we are honest about our collecting at all, we must be honest about our specialisation, too. We want to show off. We cannot show off with a general collection, as the empty spaces would defy our very end. We have to fall back on the completion of only one line, whether this be one country or one reign, or one issue, or all the stamps of the Zoo. Only in this way can we let ourselves go, with all the possible stamps, or for pages and pages and pages of the same stamp.

What we choose, then, is not dictated only by our purse which does only the limiting. The choice is a matter of our inclinations, our little or great talents; and these will show off nicely at the same time. What we like best, we will find best to excel in. The medical man will collect stamps that portray medicine, the school principal will form an educational collection, the engineer will look for stamps that show "transport"; the romantic has his airmail stamps, and the old gentleman whom I see every morning taking his dog for a walk comes home to his animal collection.

So the one-country collections come about, either because they deal with the stamps of "our country" or because of affinities as far afield as predilections for design, colour, historical time, and so on. And all these collections, in difference to an accumulation housed in a printed album, offer this other genuine advantage, that they give fulfilment to another innate human desire, related to the above-mentioned, namely, to draw, to put to paper the impression of the world around us.

We like to write up our collections, and we try to make a good job of that, because we are all trying to be practical artists, however slim our ability. If we mount a good-

looking stamp, we want to add of ourselves to its looks; we want to enrich its machine-printed, mass-produced appearance by something that at the same time shows off our talent. Everyone could have picked that stamp; but only we could show it in this, our personal way. No wonder we so often overdo this presentation.

That is why we collect stamps. That is why we have our specialised displays. And that is why I collect "Arts and Artists." My purse, needless to say, will not allow of any ambitious accumulation; here I need only take one stamp in a series, and choose the cheapest one, if I like its colour. My patience, contrary to the belief my clients have in me, will not allow of a collection that takes a life-time before I dare show its results. I have very limited drawing abilities and, unfortunately, too much discrimination to be blind towards this limitation: if I tried to adorn my sheets of stamps, I might get away with some of my friends with such an effort, but not with those who are important to me.

On the other hand, I have always been "going in for art," have always collected books and paintings, and even looked at them. If my life has been spent, so far, between studying and taking photographs, it had to seem natural to me to combine my urge to collect with this other great interest: it simply had to be a collection such as this.

So much for the "why" and now for the "what." It is a collection of all those stamps that portray art in its different manifestations. But while this range has been kept as wide as possible, it is not altogether a collection of artistic stamps. Some of the examples, naturally, are in themselves little masterpieces and decidedly artistic; but not all of them are. Faced with the great problem of how to limit a vast territory, I had to decide on either the artistic stamp, irrespective of its content, or on the stamp that took its design from something acknowledged to have been art. It was not only more economical but also safer to choose the latter course, for personal qualifications of what is and what is not art, could be excluded.

(To be continued)

S.W.A. 3d. SILVER WEDDING STAMPS

Union stamps overprinted by the Government Printer at Pretoria, by typograph on a flat plate. The type used was a new one and consisted of the letters SWA in thin, small capitals set close together without stops. In setting up the 120 SWA's an attempt was made to place each overprint above the Royal Cypher.

This small type was used particularly so as not to touch either head. Great care was taken to ensure the correct position of the overprint on the stamps.

Whether by accident or design, in order to place the overprint exactly, the compositor placed an extra row of spaces between vertical rows 3 and 4.

The result is that the over-all measurements in vertical rows 1 and 2 from the "S" of SWA on row 1 to the "A" of SWA on row 2 is 34.5 mm. Between rows 2 and 3, 4 and 5, and 5 and 6 it is the same, but between rows 3 and 4 the measurement is 35.5 mm., i.e., 1 mm. more than any other two rows.

Expressed otherwise, it may be said that in the 3rd vertical row the tip of the "A" of SWA is to the left of the Queen's chin, whereas in the other rows it comes directly under the chin.

This difference in spacing should be recognised as a definite variety by specialists, though it will not likely be given ordinary catalogue rank.

—A. Kaplan.

Mr. C. Sieberhagen describes this difference in spacing in still another way: the distance from "S" to "S" of the overprints is 30 mm. between stamps 1 and 2, 2 and 3, 4 and 5, 5 and 6 of the horizontal rows, but 31 mm. between stamps 3 and 4. He states also that the overprints on the right half of the sheet (vertical rows 4, 5 and 6) are nearly 1 mm. higher than those of the left half (vertical rows 1, 2 and 3).

We have to thank the African Collectors' Exchange for special envelopes with first-day cancellations of the Silver Wedding stamps, both Union and SWA.

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121	10/0	188	5/0
122	30/0	189	14/0
124	27/6	192	6/0
125	30/0	193	16/0
127	32/6	195	4/6
135	10/6	202 (scarce)	7/6
136	10/6	203	25/0
137	7/6	204	9/0
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The Status of the Mafeking Siege Stamps

FACTS ABOUT A FASCINATING AND CLASSIC ISSUE

By Dr. K. FREUND

(Continued from p. 56 of April issue)

CHAPTER ONE (Contd.)

4. THE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE RUNNERS

The Remuneration

Summing up, we see that it was the combination of various reasons and circumstances which led in logical consequence to the issue

the reins of government were placed ceremoniously in the hands of two councillors of the chief with general acclamation (a picturesque description of this incident is given by J. A. Hamilton, one of the war correspondents, in his diary of "The Siege of Mafeking," London, 1900, pp. 196 to 201).

The main source of trouble having thus been

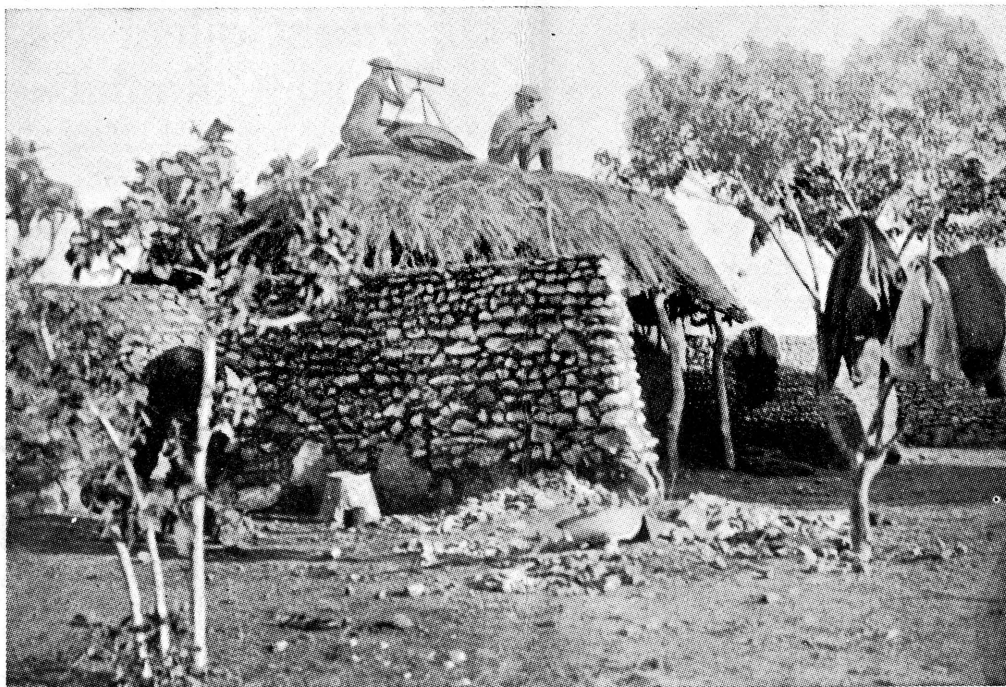


Fig. 2. A typical Mafeking outpost ("Western Outposts") to and from which local mail was delivered daily. The figure at the telescope is Major A. J. Godley, who assisted in postal matters.

of special stamps; that the main and final impetus was given when the military authorities were suddenly confronted with the urgent need for extra postal revenue which would enable them to induce the native mail runners to carry on with their dangerous job.

Before proper arrangements could be made with the runners, who mostly belonged to the Baralong tribe, their chief, Wessels, had to be removed, as he was the main trouble-maker and had instigated his men to refuse to go out again or to do any other job for the "English slave-drivers." At a "kotla" (assembly) of the tribe, called in by Mr. Ch. Bell, the magistrate and civil commissioner,

removed, the way was open to come to terms with the runners. As can be imagined, there was some bargaining with them about the amounts which would be appropriate to compensate them for the enormous risks they had to take on their trips. The authorities had to keep in mind that it was after all the letter-writing public which had to carry the expenses by paying the necessary postage. The runners on their part were rather stubborn and difficult to please. But who could blame them, if they were reluctant to run the gauntlet of enemy patrols and sharpshooters?

At last, they agreed to an amount of £15 per run, as Lord Baden-Powell told me in

a letter. From other siege personalities I learned that the matter did not rest at that, for, after Baden-Powell had transferred all authority in postal matters to Major Lord Edward Cecil, the remuneration had to be further increased to as much as £25 in the majority of cases. This was rather an extraordinary high sum to be paid each time for a single trip. It had to be well considered and calculated when determining the postal rates and denominations.

The Routes

As the war theatre beyond the besieged town had settled to certain well-defined areas and positions, the routes the runners had to take from now on were not left altogether to their own enterprise and ingeniousness, but were more or less prescribed for them. There were two alternatives: One route went southward where the runners were to endeavour to get to Kimberley and so to the main forces; the other route went in a northerly direction towards Col. Plumer's column, from where mail could be forwarded via Salisbury and Beira.

It was decided to leave it to the individual letter-sender which one of the two routes he preferred for the dispatch of his mail. The northern route was generally preferred, though it was the more expensive one according to the postal tariff fixed later, as we shall see. The reason for this preference has not been recorded and I have not been able to ascertain it. But judging from various incidents and from war maps of that time, I presume that this northern route, although far longer and going through intricate territory, was less dangerous and offered better prospects of getting the mail through.

5. THE NATURE OF THE CONTEMPLATED STAMPS

From the account given so far of the history of the stamps which the military authorities were going to issue, we can at this stage draw some important conclusions as to their true nature.

As we saw, they were certainly not intended to be just a "flimsy *souvenir issue*," an opinion expressed frequently by misinformed critics (see for instance in "Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal," Feb., 1901, p. 187). To these critics the stamps "appear" to have been issued with the sole motive of commemorating the event of the siege and of telling the outside world of the gallant tenacity of the besieged; at the same time providing an "attractive" issue for stamp collectors and for speculation. Why these critics insist on singling out the Mafeking stamps for such strictures is difficult to understand, as there seems to be a general popularity and desirability nowadays for commemorative issues which have practically no postal justification (the example of the bewildering number of £1 Silver Wedding stamps may suffice here). The Mafeking stamps, anyway, have nothing whatever in common with such unnecessary

souvenir issues. We see that the decision of the siege authorities to issue special stamps was the logical outcome of a spate of events, and, in particular, was the solution to the problem of obtaining urgently needed revenue for effecting the delivery of mail.

Neither can it be said that the Mafeking stamps represent the so-called "*semi-postal*" issues containing a surtax for a "fund." It is true, one of the main objects of their issue was to provide funds for the remuneration of the mail runners. This criterion of "funds" does not put them, however, in the same category as those semi-postal stamps which have a surtax for certain funds bearing no relationship whatever to the postage idea, like the various issues with a "war" or "red cross" surtax, or the Belgian "Orval" stamps, or the South African "Voor-trekker Monument" stamps, to name a few. Although a sort of surtax, a surcharge, had to be applied in the case of the Mafeking stamps, too (for reasons which we shall show in a later chapter), the purpose of this surcharge—payment of runners—was a purely postal one. The revenue to be obtained was not even meant to go towards general postal-departmental expenses, as it usually does in the case of a normal postage stamp. The principal object of the Mafeking stamps was to pay for the actual transmission by the runners, for the conveyance of mail itself, in short: to pre-pay postage, in the purest sense and meaning it implies.

Further conclusions about the nature of the stamps will emerge when we come to deal with their actual manufacture and their appearance.

(To be continued)

WANTED set 100 Cigarette cards "Postage Stamps—Rarest Varieties" issued African Tobacco Manufacturers, pre-war. Also Jugoslavia S.G. Simp. 1948 Nos.

J. HAHN

10 DU TOIT STREET, PAARL

REPAIRED STAMPS

At the 1947 Congress of the International Philatelic Federation ("F.I.P.") three resolutions were passed relevant to repaired stamps, which might be brought to the notice of local collectors and possible be considered by our Federation. The resolutions were:

(1) That repaired stamps should have the word "Repaired" on the back in indelible ink.

(2) That "Experts", to whom repaired stamps are submitted, should not sign them on the back even if their signature affirm "repaired".

(3) If repaired stamps are put on exhibit at any International Exhibit and not marked as such, the whole collection, of which they form part, should be withdrawn from competition.

Surcharge Or Overprint

By **STEPHEN G. RICH**

Reprinted from "The Southern Philatelist"

As fine an example of futile pedantry as has ever marred stampic pleasure is shown in the attempt to separate the terms "surcharge" and "overprint" and specially in the alleged reasons for the separation. Philatelic language originated in France, from 1860 onwards, and the French terms have slowly been replaced by native terms in our own language. The French term for anything printed over another printed item is "surcharge." That is good technical French of the printing trade. It has nothing to do with money, extra charge, or the like; it means, literally "loaded onto." This term was adopted for any sort of overprint put onto a stamp, and for years was used in English also. Nobody was confused in the least.

However, somebody, I think probably the late Fred Melville, got the idea that a native and self-explaining term might be better; so he introduced the regular term from the printing trade, "overprint." It took hold, very properly—just as "line engraved" replaced the old French term "taille douce."

Instead of recognising that the two terms mean the same, some person with more enthusiasm and ingenuity than horse sense, over across the fishpond in England, proposed that "surcharge" be used when the overprint changes the value of the stamp. That idea was pushed by him and some friends, and they got Gibbons, the catalogue maker, and some of the stamp paper editors to take it up.

Both words meanwhile came into use here, and have long been used by most of us, including the most "scholarly" writers, as exactly the same in meaning. In fact, we are seeing "overprint" steadily replace "surcharge" as the usual term.

But there was an attempt to go with the pedantic British usage of differentiating the words, on the part of the Scott catalogue people, and a few others. That attempt has failed. Scott themselves have not even approached consistency in their catalogue. See Zululand, where two overprints which don't change face value are called "same surcharge." See Bechuanaland, where overprints which don't change the value but add it in numerals on stamps bearing it in words only, are called "surcharge" more than once. See Orange River Colony, where Nos. 44 to 53, which don't have any value change, and in which No. 47 doesn't have the value in the overprinting then done because it already had been overprinted on the stamps in 1897, are called "Black surcharge." See Cape of Good Hope, where Nos. N1 to N4 are called "surcharged" although the value is changed on No. N3 only. "And so far into the night": I chose a few cases familiar to me.

I repeat: the two terms actually mean the same, and surely but not quickly, "overprint"

is becoming the regular word. Also, any attempt to identify "surcharge" with "increased payment wanted" on stamps is based on lack of knowledge of the origin of the term. Also, to complete the record, the cases in which an overprint raises the face value of a stamp and so make a "surcharge" in the sense used in banking or taxation or on railroad tickets, are very few. Overprints normally change values downwards if at all.

Bogg's magnificent recent book on Canada is the most conspicuous example of falling for this silly attempt to separate the two words. It makes for clumsiness of style here and there.

A sidelight: when the first Belgian precancels were first described, in the American Journal of Philately in 1895, the precancelling was called a "surcharge." It was correctly so described: for it was an overprint of office name and year, to avoid need to cancel the stamps at all.

Like my Dutch-speaking South African friends, I object to such doings as this about "surcharge" and "overprint"—those who carry on such doings take the British way as model or norm, without considering its real merit or lack of merit.

★

THE "CURLE" COLLECTION

The famous collection of Transvaal stamps donated by the late Mr. J. H. Curle to the Africana Museum, Johannesburg, has arrived there; it was brought from London by Mr. R. F. A. Riesco, the well-known philatelist, who is on a short visit to South Africa.

Along with the collection are several medals which had been awarded to its owner in connection with it, from Vienna, the Royal Philatelic Society and Jipex, the only places at which it had been shown.

It may be remembered that it narrowly escaped destruction in London during the blitz period. It had been put in the Chancery Lane Deposit Vaults for safety. Mr. Frank Godden, who was in charge of it, one day had a hunch that it was not sufficiently protected. He got it out and had it soldered up in a stout water-tight metal box. A few days later the building was hit, and the vaults flooded but—the collection came through undamaged.

A special cabinet for its permanent display is to be built at the museum, but it will be some months before it can be on view.

★

EGYPT

Mr. J. P. Shingler forwards the new 10 mills stamp issued on 1.4.48 in connection with the International Cotton Congress. It is a pretty olive-coloured stamp featuring a large spray of cotton in full bloom above a cotton field with pickers at work in it. The quantity printed was 500,000; on sale for one week only and dealers had to pay 10 per cent. over the face value for the benefit of the Palestine (? War) Fund.

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Silver Wedding Commemoratives

We understand that these are now increased in number by the addition of various Malay States, overprints on British for Moroccan P.O.s and for the various Persian Gulf places which formerly had Indian overprinted stamps, possibly also some Indian States. Also that the total face value is now somewhere around £50.

The British philatelic press has given this whole business a very bad reception. What else could they do? If San Marino, Belgian and French issues were slated and the various Roosevelt ramps damned, then the perpetrators of this ramp deserved little short of being hanged, drawn and quartered.

The occasion was a very legitimate one for commemoratives and a £1 stamp for Britain itself reasonable, but values of that order for most of the Crown Colonies is exploitation of the worst order. The British philatelic press hopes the issues will be boycotted, but fears they won't. To a considerable extent we think they will be, if not on principle, then simply because most collectors cannot afford such expenditure. If the object was dollar-raising, which seems to be the only excuse for such high values all round, the design has overreached itself; it would have been much more acceptable and successful had the face values of the various countries been kept within more modest limits.

Persian Gulf Sultanates and Agencies

The territories of Bahrain and Kuwait, which formerly had Indian stamps overprinted for their use, have now got British stamps overprinted with their respective names and new values in annas or rupees. In the case of Muscat, there is no name, only a surcharge in terms of the local currency, annas and rupees.

★

SAMOS

Mr. A. B. Economides writes from Alexandria, Egypt:

"I have seen the short postal history of this island given in your January issue and would like to compliment the writer on it. May I just add the following additional note on a service which operated in the past:—

About 1869 the Greek Consul in the island acted as a transmitter of correspondence to Greece from the Samos Principality, as it then was. He used Greek stamps with the large head of Mercury and they were cancelled by a large Consular stamp. I have seen covers with such stamps and cancellations in a large collection here."

[Mr. Loewenstein's article was not intended, of course, to be a complete postal history; he mentions that it was based on the handbook of Ernst Hartmann and any reader anxious to follow up the fascinating story will find a translation of this handbook appearing at present in the "Philatelic Journal of Great Britain."—Ed.]

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F. G. Fifoot, 125 College Road, Moseley, Birmingham, England.

FALKLAND ISLAND DEPENDENCIES

The latest printing of these stamps shows that the map portion of them has been much improved. The latitude and longitude lines are now fine and clear in place of the rather thick, coarse lines of the original 1946 issue. There are other small differences, but the character of the lines is quite sufficient for distinguishing purposes.

DOUGLAS ROTH

will arrive in Cape Town on 10th June, 1948 and will have with him one of the finest stocks of classic stamps now held in London. Shortly after his arrival he will be touring the Union and will be pleased to meet all philatelists who care to contact him. He will be the Official Representative of the British Philatelic Association, in which he is a Member of the Council and of the Expert Committee, and will be glad to give all information concerning it. Collectors interested should write now to him

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SOCIETY NEWS

NYASALAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. McMicking; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. L. D. Arthur, Limbe Trading Co., Ltd. Limbe; *Meetings*, Tobacco Auction Floor, 5 p.m.

The annual general meeting was held on 12th April with twelve members present. Office-bearers for the forthcoming year were appointed.

The President, in his address, deplored the lack of enthusiasm shown recently by members; it had been due largely to the difficulty experienced in getting approval books of stamps, but he thought they should show interest other than in the actual purchase of stamps. The Society was now five years old, its finances were satisfactory and he hoped that in the very near future it would become really active in ways other than the mere buying and selling of stamps.

[We are glad to see this Society showing signs of awakening from its period of hibernation. It is a long time since we have had any news from them.—Ed.]

★

SPRINGS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, J. A. Hampson; *Hon. Sec.*, K. Gillings, 25th Street, New Township, Springs; *Meetings*, Casivan Hotel, 2nd Mondays, 7.30 p.m.

The April meeting was the first annual general meeting.

The Chairman, Mr. E. A. Bennie, congratulated the Society on achieving its first birthday. The Society was started in April, 1947, with a membership of 16; to-day there are 35 members on the roll, with average attendance of 25.

Some very interesting meetings had taken place during the year, such as a Quiz Evening and an auction in aid of the Far East Rand Hospital Equipment Fund, which had benefited to the amount of £6. Outstanding collections shown were Dr. Kaplan's collections of exceptional perforations in the 1924-1929 Southern Rhodesia stamps and of Austrian Charity Stamps; Mr. J. Shepherd's collection of British South Africa Co.'s double head variety stamps and his collection of Newfoundland.

Several of the members exhibited their collections, which were greatly appreciated and showed that the members were working along the right lines.

At the election of office-bearers Mr. J. A. Hampson was elected President, Mr. C. J. Meeuwis Vice-chairman, and Mr. K. Gillings Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

Any collectors from the area will be most welcome at the meetings.

★

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, F. C. Ferguson; *Hon. Sec.*, H. Endemann, P.O. Box 514; *Meetings*, 1st and 3rd Mondays, 8 p.m., Technical College.

2nd February: This was the Society's annual general meeting and excellent reports were submitted by the various officers immediately concerned with the different aspects of the Society's work. Most of the office-bearers were re-elected for the year 1948.

16th February: This meeting took the form of a dinner to celebrate the Society's Golden Jubilee. A note about this has already been published.

1st March: Mr. Wolf gave a paper on German issues, followed by an exhibit. He dealt particularly with the many varieties of the inflation issues, which he had obviously studied very closely.

15th March: This evening we had the pleasure of a visit from the East Rand Society when Mr. Legator gave us a wonderful display from his Union collection, followed by Mr. Suklje, with K.G. VI issues in blocks of four, practically complete.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF RHODESIA

President, Mr. F. W. Porter; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. G. C. Whitehead, P.O. Box 803, Bulawayo; *Meetings*, 1st Wednesday in each month, at 8 p.m. in the Presbyterian Church Hall, c/o Abercorn Street and Fifth Avenue, Bulawayo.

It was unfortunate that the Native disturbances in Bulawayo took place on the day of the Society's meeting, as a result the attendance was very much below standard. The business which was to have been discussed was carried forward for the following meeting, and it is hoped that the display of the stamps of Burma by Col. Gardner, who was unavoidably away, will be given in the near future.

At the May meeting a special resolution was passed, only after prolonged and somewhat heated discussion, raising the subscriptions payable by members. Several items of current interest were brought forward by different members, and expressions of protest were heard against the high values of the forthcoming Silver Wedding Issue for the Crown Colonies.

An exceptionally fine collection of the modern issues of New Zealand and its Dependencies was displayed by Mr. Ely. The outstanding merit of the stamps of that country, both in regard to design and printing can only really be appreciated when seen in such an exhibit. Not only did Mr. Ely hold the attention of all present by his display, but his talk on New Zealand and its stamps provided a fund of information.

It was decided that the exhibit at the next meeting would comprise a sheet by each member, representing "The Most Interesting Page in My Album."

J.E.C.

★

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

President, Dr. A. Kaplan; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. B. Glassman, P.O. Box 4967; *Meetings*, 2nd Tuesdays and 4th Mondays, Public Library, 7.45 p.m.

11th May: Competition night arranged by Messrs. Enoch and Lydall. Small portions of 25 stamps were shown, members being asked to name (a) the country, (b) the denomination, and one mark was given for each of these. Mr. R. T. Lilley scored a possible, 50; Messrs. L. F. Strong and W. Oppenheim tying for second place with 47.

18th May: The exhibit was provided by Mr. H. B. Marcuson who showed British Empire commemoratives, from the Q.V. Golden Jubilee issue of Great Britain in 1887 onwards. There were only one or two items missing in the whole series. All were in fine mint condition, beautifully mounted and written up. Mr. J. Burrell spoke on the exhibit, which was a much appreciated one.

I.I.

★

ORANGE FREE STATE AND BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. C. A. Larsen; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. R. G. Lyon, Box 702, Bloemfontein; *Meetings*, 3rd Fridays each month, Oranje Koffiehuis, Bloemfontein, 7.30 p.m.

At the April meeting, Dr. Freund showed one of his "side-line" collections, entitled "The History of Flight." On about 50 pages, the complete development of the Conquest of the Air was shown with a brief write-up and with all stamps issued so far which show some kind of historical or experimental flying machine or airship. Two new members were enrolled at the meeting.

The May meeting had a varied programme. A highlight of the evening was the listening-in to a broadcast talk on philately by Dr. Harvey Pirle. A portable wireless set had been especially brought along by the ever alert president of the Society, Mr. C. A. Larsen. The talk was thoroughly enjoyed by everybody. Two displays were also shown. The first one was by Mr. J. W. Hodgson, consisting of an extensive collection of "Animal stamps." The display was neatly arranged on maps of the world and was very instructive indeed. Mr. Hodgson assured the meeting that the collection was built up by him with practically no outlay, but was acquired through "swopping," etc. Dr. Freund tabled some Mafeking Siege covers not shown before. Again two new members were enrolled.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL

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

The May meeting was another treat for philatelists; it was also pleasing to see so many present. We can be proud of the nice start that has been made with regard to our Library. Our thanks are in no small measure due to Mr. Selwyn Smith, who as Librarian has made a wonderful job of the whole thing. We trust that members will take advantage of some of the fine reading matter that is available. The competition under the direction of Mr. Selwyn Smith once again proved that he had something novel and interesting up his sleeve. Mr. Percy Williams, who needs no introduction to philately, exhibited his fine collection of Natal for the "Percy Bishop" trophy. His paper was most comprehensive and instructive and the exhibition of his stamps was a treat. The earliest postmarks were highly commented upon, and generally speaking the collection was one that has to be seen more than once to be appreciated. Mr. Maskell in proposing a vote of thanks certainly had all those present with him when he said that this exhibition was indeed a philatelic treat and the material worthy of study by the specialist.

W.H.W.

★

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. G. K. Forbes; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. G. P. Smith, 13 Trafalgar Square, Port Elizabeth; *Meetings*, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in Room 3, City Hall Basement, at 7.45 p.m.

The annual general meeting was held on 18th May, and 40 members were in attendance.

Mr. Forbes stated on leaving the chair that he did not wish to resume office, as he thought a younger member should be elected. Mr. Kirschner however, proposed Mr. Forbes, and he was returned unopposed amidst applause.

The Secretary then read the report of the year's working.

Other officers were then elected as follows: *President*, Mr. G. K. Forbes; *Vice-Presidents*, Mr. G. Bulbring; Mr. T. van Dyker; *Auctioneers*, Mr. Forbes, Mr. Levey; *Auction Committee*, Mr. G. P. Smith, Mr. Warren; *Exchange Supt.*, Mr. Warren; *Visitors' Committee*, Dr. Harris, Mr. G. Bulbring, Mr. Dave Berg; *Auditor*, Mr. McMillan; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. G. P. Smith; *Press Correspondent*, Mrs. L. E. Campton.

It was decided to have a children's night to encourage and to help the younger set, also to have an Auction Committee.

Six new members were then welcomed into the Society, making the total over 100.

L.E.C.

★

THE PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. L. L. Brown; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. W. Kruste; *Meetings*, Second Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m. in the Berea Park Recreation Club.

12th May: Mr. A. Blick gave another of his short but informative talks. On this occasion he covered the prices as quoted by various catalogues. Generally speaking the American catalogue (Scotts) being 25 per cent. down on the Union catalogue and on Stanley Gibbons. This was most noticeable with the S.A. King George V issues and also the 1925 Air Mails, while the prices for the London printings are also very much below Stanley Gibbons. Mr. Blick also tabled a portion of his Union collection. Mr. W. Howie in thanking Mr. Blick for his talk and display, remarked that it was a collection like that of Mr. Blick which showed up the limitations of the average collector.

W.K.

GRAHAMSTOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. E. A. Carr; *Hon. Sec.*, P.O. Box 11, Grahamstown. *Meetings* every 2nd Thursday at 6a, Dundas Street. Visitors heartily welcome.

The May meeting was held on the 13th, about eight members being present. There was no special feature but Mr. Maurice Fletcher and Mr. Tom Drury brought parts of their collections which were passed round and evoked much discussion. There was much general discussion on stamps and a very pleasant and informative evening was spent. The Society is trying to arrange a local exhibition but is "stuck" at the moment and is seeking some other local exhibition to join with for the purpose. We are not sufficiently strong to stage an "all philatelic" show and hope to find an art exhibition or similar affair for a joint exhibition. Two years ago we showed some stamps at the Cage Bird Show but stamps and birds are not a good combination. Perhaps some other society who has had similar difficulties could give us some advice.

S.C.C.

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Kenya, 1906-7, 10r., wmk. Mult. C.A.	£3/10
New Guinea, 1931 Air set, 1d. to £1 complete	£7/15
1935 Air, £2 and £5	£7
Nigeria, 1936, 1d. to £1 complete	£19
Sudan, 1935 General Gordon Commem., complete	£10
Swaziland, 1933, 1d. to 10/- complete	£14/10
	£5/10

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(Continued from page 106)

trated. The sections on stamps give a lot of details which are not given in ordinary catalogues. Those dealing with cancellations include both ordinary forms and unusual types, also many forgeries. The number of countries dealt with makes it impossible to list them in detail.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES

Stanley Gibbons' Simplified Stamp Catalogue, 1948 Edition. Price 15s. nett in Britain, postage abroad 1s. 1d.

We welcome this arrival, as it is a pleasure to receive any new up-to-date catalogue. This edition incorporates much new material such as war and post-war issues of Europe and recent issues of many countries about which it was previously difficult to obtain information or specimens.

The scope of the "simplified" catalogue is well known; it does not list all the stamps as given in the large S.G. catalogues, merely a selection of them such as the moderate collector can regard as representative of his particular country.

More need not be said about it. It is probable that few will be able to obtain copies unless they already knew about it and had orders placed. We say this because the publishers ask us to state that because of paper rationing and the tremendous demand for copies, the book was sold out immediately upon publication.

Reliant Stamp Catalogue priced and illustrated, of the stamps of the British Empire, and Egypt, Eire and Iraq. Published by the Reliant Stamp Press, Ltd., 167 Strand, London, W.C.2. Price 6s.

This is considerably more than just a price list, but it is not a highly specialised catalogue listing all varieties of shades, proportions, etc. Within these limits, it is very good and the pricing reasonable. Included with the book is a short list of stamp dealers who are prepared, stock and market fluctuations permitting, to supply stamps at the prices quoted.

An interesting little feature is the marking of some stamps with an asterisk; these are items tipped as elusive and, in the opinion of the compilers, likely to rise in value.

We are accustomed to Egypt and Iraq being included with, although not now parts of, the British Empire, but it is new to us to find Eire put in this category. Have the compilers seen the shadow of a coming event?

Stamp Cavalcade, by A. O. Crane, 18 Maple Ave., Harrow, Middlesex, England. Price 3s. 6d. nett, postage to South Africa 7d.

This is really a number of historical sketches, ranging the world over from 1750 B.C. to 1938 A.D., using stamps as pegs to hang the stories on. We get, therefore, stories from past histories of Japan, China, Persia, Rumania, Russia, Portuguese India, Panama, Cape of Good Hope, U.S.A., Haiti, Liberia, Arabia and Czechoslovakia. The sketches have the considerable advantage

over formal history records in that they include humorous aspects, the elimination of which makes conventional history books often so dull.

Can be recommended as bed-time reading for both stamp collectors and non-collectors.

Stanley Gibbons Catalogue, Part III, United States and Possessions, 1948. Price 3s. 7d. Post free.

The splitting up of the big "Foreign" Gibbons will, we think, be welcomed by collectors, and this fascicle is a very handy-sized work suitable for most collectors, although it is not, of course, quite so full as American specialised U.S. catalogues. There are quite a few alterations in the text from the 1945 issue. Descriptions of the earlier types are clearer, those *premieres gravures*, now known to have been merely printer's samples or essays, have been omitted, a number of unnecessary shades have been cut out, the imperf., gumless varieties of the National Parks and other series (commonly known as the "Farleys") have been included.

We do not wish to be carping critics, but a more consistent scheme of listing issues of the "Possessions" would be an advantage. The Canal Zone (Panama) stamps only start with the 1904 issue; stamps previously used there will have to be looked up in either the Central or the South American parts. Stamps of Cuba are given for the period it was under U.S. protection, 1899-1902, not for the periods prior to or subsequent to those dates. Under Danish West Indies all the issues are given from 1855 to 1915, when the islands were purchased from Denmark and became the U.S. Virgin Islands. Similarly with Hawaii all the early stamps of independent Hawaii are given. The Philippines are treated like Cuba, with Japanese occupational stamps included.

Collectors would know better where to look for the issues they were interested in (particularly in view of the splitting up of the big "foreign" catalogue) if either (a) all the stamps of any territory now or in the past a U.S. possession were given, or (b) only the stamps of the period it was a U.S. possession.

Plauderei ueber Briefmarken, by Hans Bellefontaine, Aachen.

This booklet, "Chats on Stamps," deals briefly with the origins and development of postal systems, with stamps and stamp collecting. The author joins in the present-day "Battle of the Gum", and predicts a win soon for the used stamp over the gummed unused one.

Billig's Philatelic Handbook, Vol. VII. Fritz Billig, Jamaica 3, New York. Price \$4.00.

This is a veritable mine of information dealing with stamps and postmarks of various countries, all over the world, lavishly illus-

(Concluded on p. 105)

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of the

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of the

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Second printing will be available soon at 7/6 plus postage.

A supplement is also being issued, bringing above catalogue up to date at 9d. per copy plus postage.

Order Your Copy Now

Self Praise

Last month we told how a South African customer had written to tell us that we supplied him with stamps before he would have received a reply from his nearest town. That's a sample of the service we give oversea customers.

Now we will quote from a letter recently received from Australia: "A few words about your new-issue service and this is not 'kidstake.' It is the service I have been looking for for the last 14 years and what a money saver it is. I saved £1/12/4 on the Pakistan set alone compared with any service out here. It is stamp collecting made easy. 'The Com. Stamp Coy.' collect them all and all I do is stick 'em in."

Now that is two aspects of our business, but apart from service in general and our new issue service in particular there is the question of what other stamps we offer. We send out each month a price list devoted entirely to KG VI issues and it is more comprehensive than any other two lists which we have ever seen. That's a fact and you can see for yourself, if you will send an air-letter for a copy (we'll send it by air, too). And regarding prices, they are as cheap as we can possibly make them. If you don't collect KG VI stamps, don't waste postage, for we sell no others, but if you are interested in the most popular group of all, send that air-letter, and then your only regret will be that you have not done so before.

The Commonwealth Stamp Coy.,

7, Leather Lane, Liverpool 2: England.

GREAT BRITAIN

The Silver Wedding commemoratives have duly arrived here. The £1 stamp is an admirable effort; the 2½d. has nothing wrong with it, but it somehow misses being a striking stamp. The editor of a leading philatelic paper, in a personal letter, writes: "Personally, I do not think it compares with the South African issue, which is a real gem."

The Channel Islands pair are frankly very disappointing. We have so far seen no description of what the main designs are meant to signify, but imagine they depict kelp gathering on the seashore. They are not very clear, however, and they raise the general question of whether or not pictorial efforts should be completely self-explanatory or, otherwise, be definitely named.

The sky background of the 1d. is good, very good, but that of the 2½d. might be a map of the English Channel or of the Dardanelles, both gone wrong—perhaps it is a depression over Iceland.

But that is not the worst feature: the small crown hanging in mid-air above the King's head has a ludicrous effect. We hope we are not committing *lese-majeste* when we say that on first glance at the stamps we were reminded immediately of a one-time popular pantomime figure, "Willie-off-the-yacht," a gentleman in yachting costume with a small sailor's straw hat perched precariously on the top of his head.

★

AUSTRALIA

We are informed by the High Commissioner for Australia that three commemoratives will be issued in 1949 on the occasion of the Royal Visit there. Denominations will be 2½d. (Internal and Empire rate), 3½d. (Foreign letter rate), and 1s. 6d. (oversea air rate). They will be on sale at all post offices during the period of the Royal Visit. The actual date of issue has not yet been decided.

From "The Australian Stamp Monthly" it is learnt that at the end of February a mail left for Macquarie Island where a post office will be established during occupancy by the Australian National Antarctic Expedition. Their special postmark will be similar to the one recently supplied for Heard Island, reading "A.N.A.R.E. Macquarie Is. AUST."

★

STUDY CIRCLES IN SOUTH AFRICA

At the East London Congress a proposal was made to consider the formation of study circles. This proposal was referred to the forthcoming Congress at Pretoria in order that it could be investigated in the meantime.

Will collectors who are interested please give their views on this subject either to the Editor or to Commander (s) C. E. D. Enoch, R.N.R., Rayman Lodge, Sherborne Road, Parktown, Johannesburg, as soon as possible?

Commander Enoch is anxious to have the views of other collectors on this subject so that he can collate these in time to prepare a scheme for the inception of study circles for the approval of Congress next October.

PHILATELIC FEDERATION
CONGRESS AND EXHIBITION

The 1948 Congress will be held in Pretoria on October 18—20 under the auspices of the Pretoria Philatelic Society, which will also organise an exhibition.

Both functions are to be sponsored by the Pretoria Publicity Association as part of their Jacaranda Week celebrations and they will be held in the City Hall buildings.

The provisional programme indicates that a very interesting time should be had by visitors, but as some of the suggested items are still subject to confirmation in various quarters, it is not yet being published. It may be said, however, that Pretoria is usually very full in Jacaranda Week and intending visitors should not delay too long in booking accommodation.

A request has been received from the Philatelic Society of Rhodesia to hold Congress in Bulawayo in 1950, their Jubilee Year.

NEW ZEALAND

The special stamps to be issued on the occasion of the Royal Visit next year will be of 2d., 3d., 5d. and 8d. denominations; they will be on sale for three months, during which time they will replace the equivalent ordinary stamps. The selection of these values has been made to give the greatest coverage for surface and airmail rates throughout the world.

U.S.A.

The Florida Historical Research Institute has sent us details of a proposed issue in December of 24 Florida poster stamps intended to stimulate interest in American stamps and history. Particulars can be furnished to anyone interested.

MR. DOUGLAS ROTH

It will be noted from our advertisement columns that Mr. Douglas Roth, a very prominent English dealer, is arriving at Cape Town on 10th June and after that will be touring the Union. He is also officially representing the B.P.A.

He brings with him a fine selection of "Classics," so perhaps we will now learn what "Classics" really are! At any rate we will learn what he considers should be included under that heading.

A RHODESIAN STUDY CIRCLE

We have received an intimation from Mr. W. G. Nodder, of 6 Quarry Close, Hansford Square, Combe Down, Bath, England, that it is proposed to form a Rhodesian Study Circle if a sufficient number of interested collectors respond.

The field of study will cover the Rhodesias and Nyasaland, all and every aspect of the philately thereof. It is hoped to publish a quarterly news sheet, run an exchange section, and ultimately to publish a handbook.

Membership will cost 5s. a year and anyone interested should communicate with Mr. Nodder.



INCHES that save miles!

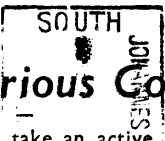
The story of South Africa's progress has been one of continual conquest of the miles. To-day that battle is still being waged—and won.

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FORTHCOMING AUCTIONS in LONDON

June 14/15: Valuable Colonial Properties, including several fine collections offered entire, and other properties, strong in British East Africa, Cape of Good Hope, Gt. Britain, N.S. Wales (fine range of Sydney Views), etc., etc.

June 21/22: Fine and Rare Postage Stamps, including the Colonial portion of the Oakey Collection comprising chiefly of 20th Century in O.G. condition, and strong in Commemoratives.

June 28/29: Foreign and Colonial Sale, strong in France, Gt. Britain, (159 lots) Greece, Newfoundland, etc., also "Collections and Various" including valuable collections offered entire.

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Proprietors and Publishers:

THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

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Vol. 24, No. 7.

JULY, 1948.

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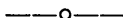
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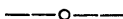
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Vol. 25, No. 7.

JULY, 1948.

Whole No. 280

UNION NOTES.

New 1s. Printing.

Mr. R. Axer, Capetown, notes that the 1s. denomination printed from the new cylinders Int. 14 and Ext. 6027, was on sale in that area on the 10th June and we agree with his comment that the new shades of brown and blue are much more pleasing than those of the issue now disappearing. The new stamp is now on sale at a number of the Post Offices on the Reef and it should be noted that the marginal arrows of this issue have been printed in the same colour as the head plate, i.e., brown, instead of, as previously, in the frame plate colour of blue. Mounting a strip of four with the top or bottom margin is probably the simplest method of identifying a change of this nature.

Printings of the 1½d. "Small Mine" Stamps.

Mr. A. Lichtenstein of Bloemfontein has compiled some interesting notes on the different printings of the 1½d. "Small Mine" issue, which first made its appearance in August, 1941, and remained on sale until April this year. He writes as follows.

"With the disappearance of the "Small Mine" and its replacement by the "Bantam Mine," it may not be out of place to summarise and classify the various printings of the "Small Mine" stamps. According to my observations, there are four distinct printings, from three different plates (cylinders) and two different glass positives which can be listed in the following chronological order.

(1) PLATE 1. FROM GLASS POSITIVE 1.

Referred to in the Union Standard Catalogue as from unnumbered cylinders. Colour, yellow buff and dull greenish slate; black sheet numbers. First stamp on sheet inscribed in English. Identified by the following features and flaws:

- (a) White line through top and bottom arrows and side arrows widely pronged.
- (b) Green line in left margin opposite rows 6 and 9.

- (c) Dot over "R" on stamp row 10, No. 1.
- (d) Heavy green vertical line through stamp No. 4 of rows 8 and 9.

An additional variety pair with a small dot and green line extending from the top right-hand corner of stamp No. 13 of row No. 1 is shared by:

(2) PLATE 2. GLASS POSITIVE 1.

Referred to in the Union Standard Catalogue as printed from Int. cyl. 31 and Ext. cyl. 6924. Colour, orange buff and deeper greenish slate; black sheet numbers. Identified from the following well-known varieties:

- (a) Row 1/11, top left-hand corner cut off.
- (b) Row 3/4, blob in headgear tower.
- (c) Row 10/9, dot below the large numeral "1" in the value tablet.
- (d) Row 10/19, dot between the large numeral and the figure "2" in the value tablet.

This issue was used for "Official" stamps and tabulated in my (continuation) Check List No. L 62.

(3) PLATE 2. GLASS POSITIVE 1.

Same plate as No. 2 printing and with the same varieties, but colour true gold and dark slate blue; red sheet numbers. Was used for "Official" stamps; No. L 67.

(4) PLATE 3. GLASS POSITIVE 2.

New glass positive with No. 1 stamp on the sheet now inscribed in Afrikaans. Colour, orange brown and pale slate blue; red sheet numbers. Only variety noted is the broken foot to the large numeral "1" in row 9 No. 19. (The cylinder numbers for this issue are presumably those given in the "Recent Printings" information published in "The South African Philatelist" for March, 1948, as 5 Int. and 33 Ext. The stamps were noted on sale in the Reef area in December, 1947.

Current ½d. and 1d. Perforation Varieties.

Mr. Lichtenstein notes that in the present ½d. sheets of 180 stamps, a marginal perf.

hole is missing in the right-hand margin between rows Nos. 6/7, and again lower down the sheet between rows 17/18. Also, that the same variety occurs in the small sheet setting of the 1d. value, but in this case between the top margin and row No. 1, and between rows 11/12.

He also points out an unusual feature of the 1d. sheets in the fact that they contain two rows of "smaller" stamps instead of the one row generally present as a result of the perforation adjustment. Rows Nos. 4 and 15 both have the "smaller" stamps and since the same factor was noted in rows Nos. 1 and 12 of the 240 sheet 1d. value, on sale in March this year, the subject will be enlarged upon in a later issue.

In a list of flaws submitted by Mr. S. C. Chantler, two items in the 1d. value, not so far recorded, take the form of a small break in the top frame line above "FR" in stamp row 1/6, and a black dot in the sea near the stern of row 3/3.

1½d. "Bantam" Mine Issue.

A note from Mr. F. W. Burnard, Johannesburg, mentions that he received a letter on the 2nd April with a 1½d. "bantam" mine bearing the cancellation I.IV.48. This is the earliest date so far recorded for the new stamp.

Mr. A. Lichtenstein draws attention to two other quite prominent flaws which can be collected in a block of eight stamps, viz.:

Row 5/4—White stop after "Africa."

Row 7/3—Full stop (black) after "Afrika."

Another New Air Letter Form.

The postal authorities and/or the Government Printer have been experimenting a lot recently with Air Letter forms; they have now produced one which is both attractive and serviceable. The 6d. stamp is of the same general design as the last one, but is a trifle larger, is clearer and better set out as regards the imitation perforated margin. The front has a nicely designed surround of diagonal bars; the paper is white, very slightly blued in front; on the back where one writes, it is a little more deeply blued but in small white lettering many times repeated over the whole sheet, is "Union of South Africa—Air Mail—Unie van Suid-Afrika—Lugpos." Best of all, from the ordinary user's point of view, there is a single good-sized flap for closing, and this appears to be adequately gummed.

Postal Africana.

A magnificent offer has been made by Mr. A. A. Jurgens to the South African Museum, Capetown. He is willing to present his 29 large volumes of covers to the nation provided a suitable room is provided to house it. This room must be fire, damp and burglar-proof, with no windows, be lit by electric light and with a steel strong-room door. It is understood that in 1943 the Government promised an £18,000 additional wing to the museum which would contain such a room, but so far there is no indication when, if ever, this would be started.

It would be a thousand pities if this offer falls through as the collection is literally unique, a word much overworked but in this instance justified. There is nothing else like it, never can be, and it is quite irreplaceable, containing as it does letters from Jan van Riebeeck, Simon v. d. Stel and every Governor on to the time of Sir George Grey, to say nothing of all the many more plebian representatives of the pre-adhesive stamp period.

W.N.S.

Collectors' Wants & Offers

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Nyasaland Stamps, Leopard design, few sets at 4/-. Orders executed for current issue at 15%.
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STUDY YOUR COUNTRY'S STAMPS

"CONDITIONITIS"

The following is quoted from George B. Sloane's column in a recent issue of "Stamps." We give it without comment, other than that it may give some readers furiously to think. He refers specifically to U.S. stamps, but it might apply to others.

"Where a rigid standard of perfection condition in United States stamps becomes the all-important governing feature in the formation of the collection, the underlying propulsion is invariably the financial angle, the resale value, the expected profit.

"Everyone, of course, wants good-looking stamps—this is natural and understandable—but where condition is carried to extremes, as it frequently is, where the collector is contented only with copies which are calibrated for perfect centering, copies in absolute and precise balance, the collection in time must become a wearying and dangerous mental hazard.

"Often, after finding them, he worries whether they are good enough, and whether he might have gotten another copy 'just a little better,' had he only seen some more or waited a little longer. If the dollar sign is not the guiding star, then perhaps a psychiatrist could more accurately diagnose the motivating reason.

"At any rate, stamp collecting at this stage has ceased to be a pleasurable pursuit. If it is agreed, then, that it is a cold-blooded speculation, do these people give as much thought and planning to their investments in stocks, bonds and other securities? A bad case of 'conditionitis' can spoil the hobby for anyone."

1947 STAMPS

"Mekeel's Weekly" quotes from the "New York Times" that stamp issues for 1947 amounted to 2,416 from 139 governments. This figure should be cut a little as the U.S.A. is credited with 66 varieties, but only 17 of these were for postal purposes.

The U.S.S.R. leads the parade with 120, then follow China, Roumania and Austria with 102, 99 and 87 respectively, the rest of the field being quite a way behind these.

PHILATELY AND X-RAYS

Two papers by Mr. W. H. S. Cheavin in the March-April issue of "Philately" indicate that X-rays will play an important part in the examination of doubtful stamps. These two papers deal (a) with the identification of chalky-surfaced papers and (b) the recognition of repairing by added paper. Without going into any technical detail, it may just be said that it is the presence of filling material, such as calcium or barium salts, in the paper which absorb the "soft" (Grenz) X-rays employed and show up in the radiographs. Difficulty only arises when the printing ink contains an atomically heavy element such as mercury or lead; a picture of the design may then obscure the picture of the paper content.

.COLONIAL SILVER WEDDING ISSUE. A COMBINED PROTEST

The British Philatelic Association and the Philatelic Traders' Society have sent a joint protest to the Secretary of State for the Colonies about this proposed issue. The President of the Royal Philatelic Society has authorised the statement that, apart from the financial and trading aspects, with which his Society is not concerned, the views and opinions expressed in the joint memorandum will be fully endorsed by the Society.

The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa is associating itself with this protest in the following letter sent on 16th June by the Hon. Secretary of the Executive Council to the British Philatelic Association:

"At a recent meeting of the Executive Council of this Federation a resolution which had been submitted by the East London Philatelic Society was discussed. The resolution, which was supported by a large number of constituent Societies, deplored the proposed issue of Colonial Silver Wedding stamps which would cost a collector in South Africa about fifty pounds.

"The Executive unanimously agreed to support the protest as it was felt that whilst there was no objection whatever to the issue of commemorative stamps on this occasion there were most serious objections to the high face value of the proposed series.

"My Executive is of the opinion that the real purpose of the issue is to extract a substantial sum of money from Philatelists, a great many of whom cannot afford to spend such a large amount. Most collectors, as you are aware, desire to acquire complete sets of stamps, but on account of the high cost of this issue will most likely decide to boycott it.

"It is a matter of sincere regret that Great Britain should be associated with an issue, which in the minds of many Philatelists will be linked with other similar emissions by certain countries. They serve no real postal need and are merely a means of raising money from stamp collectors. A great many collectors in South Africa are collectors of Georgians and would wish to include the Silver Wedding stamps in their collections but on account of the cost will have to omit them, thus leaving undesired blanks in their albums.

"It is suggested that compilers of leading Stamp Catalogues such as Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., should be requested not to catalogue the series. This would be most effective.

"If the high values of the series have already been printed it is hoped that it is not too late to ask that they be reduced in value to a maximum equivalent of 1s. by means of a surcharge."

[We have heard from both the B.P.A. and S.G. that the Colonial Office have turned down all suggestions for altering the high values. Messrs. S. G. also state that they cannot omit listing the stamps; collectors must do their own boycotting.—Ed.]

BARBADOS

By J. R. SIMPSON.

(Notes read with a display given to the Philatelic Society of Natal.)

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before presenting my Barbados stamps for your inspection, with your permission I should like to read you a few brief notes, firstly of this country itself and then of the stamps.

BARBADOS. IS the most easterly of the West Indian Islands, and one of the oldest and most British of Britain's possessions, having been annexed in 1605; although its area is only 166½ square miles, it contains a mixed population of 180,000 inhabitants, over 1,000 to the sq. mile.

Barbados has figured prominently in the history of many of the most important and most decisive of Britain's Naval victories, as well as in the old filibustering expeditions known in those days as the "Expanding of the British Empire." It was in 1655 that Jamaica was annexed to Britain by a force sent from Barbados, as was also Tobago in 1672. It was from Carlisle Bay, Barbados, that Sir George Rodney sailed with Sir Samuel Hood in April, 1782, to win the glorious victory of the Virgin Islands over the French Count de Grasses, and thereby to re-establish the supremacy of England in the West Indies. One of the first statues to the memory of Lord Nelson was erected in Barbados in Trafalgar Square in 1813, and the first stamp in commemoration of the same hero was issued in Barbados in 1905.

The island, which is mainly built up of coral with only a small portion of its volcanic origin exposed, is looked upon as the health resort of the other West Indian Islands and of British Guiana; the climate, whilst being wholly tropical, is delightfully salubrious to an extent that can be appreciated only by those who have lived there, like myself.

In 1703 Queen Anne instituted the first post in the shape of "Monthly Packets" between England and Barbados with the following charges:—

For every letter not exceeding two sheets of paper the charge was 1s. 6d., and for every packet weighing not over one ounce the charge was 2s. 8d.

This "Packet Agency" was abolished in 1858, and postage stamps were issued for overseas packets and letters.

The first stamps of Barbados were prepared from the steel plates originally designed by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., Ltd., for Mauritius in 1849, with only the name of the country altered; they were issued in Barbados in April 1852. These stamps were imperforate, and continued in use until 1860 when pin perforations were adopted. From that date and up to the present time the perforations of Barbados stamps have been of great variety both in number and qualities and need a great deal of study.

WATERMARKS. Distinguishing the various watermarks is of very great importance in the examination and selection of early British Colonials, and it is often very difficult to discern the difference between them.

In 1870-1874 the large 6-rayed Star watermarked paper was used in Barbados, though it had been in use for the South Australia 2d. stamps since 1854, and subsequently in Ceylon, New Zealand, St. Helena, Tasmania and Victoria.

The "Small Star" paper was specially manufactured for the stamps of Queensland, and used first in August, 1860, and was subsequently used for Natal and St. Lucia and also for Antigua, Grenada, St. Vincent and Turks Island. It was used in Barbados from 1871-1873.

From 1875-1881 the Crown C. C. watermarked paper was used by Messrs. De la Rue & Co., with Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co's engraved steel plates. In 1882-1886, electrotyped plates of the Queen's Head issue replaced the engraved plates; these stamps were printed on the Crown CA watermarked paper.

In 1892-1899 stamps with the "Seal of the Colony" and with Crown CA watermark and 14 perforations were brought into use. This includes the first farthing stamp used on May 5th, 1896. The date of the official gazette with permission to use this stamp for newspapers was January 23-96, and between that date and the date of arrival of the farthing stamps in the Island, "Payment in coin was received at the General Post Office," and the newspapers were franked "Paid in Barbados" by a hand stamp. You will see tabled a specimen of this hand-stamped paper.

The Jubilee Issue 1897-1898 was printed on the Crown C C watermarked paper, as also the Nelson Centenary issue of 1906.

In 1906 the commemoration (Olive Blossom) 1d. stamp was printed on multiple Crown CA watermarked paper, and this paper remained in use until the 1d. supplementary Victory issue of 1921, when the Multi-Script CA watermark was introduced and is in use up to the present date.

A change from 14 perforations first occurred in 1932 when the new 1½d. issue was perforated 13½ x 12, and this was followed by the ½d., 1d., 2½d. and 1s. values. In 1933 a further alteration to 13½ perforations was made with the 1d., 1½d. and 2s. 6d. values.

In January, 1938 the new King George VI stamps were issued, the difference between these and the former issue being that the head of George VI replaced that of George V in the representations of the Arms of Barbados and the inscription "Postage & Revenue" deleted, and all the colours from the 3d. value upwards were changed, the perforation being 13½ x 12.

Since 1925 the recess printings of Messrs. De La Rue have remained in use except for the special short term Commemoration stamps of the Tercentenary of the Colony and the Silver Jubilee and Coronation stamps. Almost

the whole collection of Barbados entails a study of watermarks and perforations, for which patience and good eyesight are essential requirements.

Amongst my collection shown here I might draw your attention to some of the stamps which I have found difficult to obtain:—

1. Several of the Britannia early issues.
2. The 1873 dull rose (5s.).
3. The Queen's head higher values 1882-1886, and the ½d. on 4d. surcharge of the same, 1892.
4. The Victoria Jubilee issue on blued paper, 1898.
5. The Nelson Commemoration Supplementary issue of 1907.
6. The King George (inset head) higher values, 1912.
7. Large Seal 1918 issue, higher values 1916-1920.

During my visit to Barbados last year, the Post Office ran short of 1d. stamps and the current 2d. red stamp with 14 perfs. was overprinted one penny. These being quickly absorbed, the same 2d. stamps of 13½ x 13 perforations were similarly overprinted, but as the penny stamps supplied from Britain arrived soon after, the latter stamps were no longer issued, and have become very scarce. Some of the overprints are known to have been forged locally. I bought mine at the G.P.O.

CRUELTY TO STAMPS

The little note "Heavy Hand" in our February issue has brought forth from readers several examples of brutally postmarked stamps. We do not purpose just yet, at any rate, publishing a black list of specially offending post offices; nor shall we sponsor the founding of an S.P.C.S., although there is room for such an effort, as we have pretty good evidence that in some cases heavy post-marking is not just an accident or a casual happening but is done deliberately or with malicious intent.

It is very disappointing to a collector when his special first-day covers and/or commemorative issues are ruined by a heavy postmark or by several of them, quite unnecessary when one would have served the purpose.

It is a bad advertisement for South Africa and not conducive to a sale of our stamps abroad when such covers are returned to the senders with caustic remarks about the awful postmarks.

Would the *argumentum ad pecuniam* appeal to the postal authorities? If they are anxious to increase the sale of stamps amongst collectors—and most governments do seem to be keen to do so these days—they must not only provide attractive stamps but they must arrange that they are not ruined from the collectors point of view when they are cancelled.

There are some cancelling dies with which it is practically impossible to cancel lightly; the circles and the lettering are so thick that a heavy mark is inevitable. No operator can be blamed if he has to work with such a can-

celler. For such a contingency we can only recommend that such cancellers be gradually replaced by others with finer lines and letters, especially in the larger post offices where probably most "philatelic mail" is handled. The latest introduced types of machine cancellers are good examples of "fine" types.

Switzerland is an excellent example of a country which not only produces attractive stamps but her postmarks that do not ruin them philatelically speaking.

In many countries it is a common custom for collectors to mark special mail "Philatelic Mail—Cancel Lightly" or something to that effect. This is often effective but we see some grumbles that the instruction or request is by no means always observed by the postal clerks.

In the Netherlands we understand that the postal authorities have gone a step further, according to a statement recently appearing in "Stamp Collecting." If collectors put such a notice on their envelopes (presumably a label officially supplied) it will ensure that the stamps are lightly postmarked. If they are not, damages can be claimed from the Post Office.

That is really encouraging stamp collecting! Dare we hope for similar action here?

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1918, 3/- green and violet, very fine	£2/10
Basutoland, 1933, ½d. to 10/- complete	£6/10
Br. Guiana, 1934-44, 1c. to \$1, complete	£7/10
Canada, 1897 Jubilee, \$2, \$3, \$4 and \$5, good condition but heavy postmarks	£27/10
Cayman Is., 1935, ½d. to 10/- complete	£10/10
Dominica, 1923-33, ½d. to £1, 21 stamps, complete with colour changes. All lightly cancelled	£15
G.B., 1867-83, 5/-, pl. I, wmk. Maltese Cross, centred to top	£1/15
Do., £1, do.	£14
Do., 5/-, blued paper, wmk. Anchor, well centred and nicely cancelled	£8/10
Do., £5, white paper, wmk. Anchor, good appearance, but has slight imperfection	£12
1884, £1, wmk. Crowns, fine specimen	£10
Do., wmk. Orbs., rather heavy pmk., cat. £25	£16/10
1902-10, £1, K.E., superb. Datea 19th July, 1911	£4/5
1913, £1, K.G., parcel post cancellation	£7
Hong Kong, 1903, \$10, K.E., wmk. Crown C.A.	£3/10
Kenya, 1906-7, 10r., wmk. Mult. C.A.	£7/15
New Guinea, 1931 Air set, ½d. to £1 complete	£7
1935 Air, £2 and £5	£19
Nigeria, 1936, ½d. to £1 complete	£10
Sudan, 1935 General Gordon Commem., complete	£14/10
Swaziland, 1933, ½d. to 10/- complete	£5/10

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ISRAEL

"Stamp Collecting" reports that the first provisional postage stamps of Israel are the Jewish National Fund stickers overprinted with the Hebrew word "Dvar" (Post). There are 11 of these, ranging from 2 to 100 mills. Mr. S. Legator informs us that a definitive set was issued on 16th May, with nine values, 3 to 1,000 m. The stamps are inscribed "Hebrew Post" in Hebrew and Arabic; the symbols on them are all of coins struck during the 1st and 2nd wars against the Romans during 66-70 A.D. and 130 to 135 A.D.

The individual stamps are as follows:—

3 m. A bronze coin from the First War of Liberation (fourth year). The inscription is "The Redemption of Zion."

The symbol is a palm tree with baskets of fruits gathered for the "Festivals of First Fruits."

5 m. A bronze coin of the First War of Liberation (second year). The inscription is "Freedom of Zion."

The symbol is a "Leaf of the Vine."

10 m. A bronze coin of the First War of Liberation (third year). The inscription is "Year Three."

The symbol is a "Holy Jug."

15 m. A bronze coin of the Second War of Liberation (first year). The inscription is "Redemption of Israel."

20 m. A silver coin of the First War of Liberation (second year). The inscription is "Shekel of Israel—Second Year."

50 m. A silver coin of the Second Year of Liberation. The inscription is "First Year of the Redemption of Israel."

The symbol is "Three Palm Branches and a Citrus Fruit used in the Festivals of the Tabernacles."

250 m. This consists of the two sides of the silver "Shekel" of the First War of Liberation (second year). The obverse inscription is "Shekel of Israel."

The symbol is a "Holy Chalice."

The reverse inscription is "Holy Jerusalem." The symbol is "Three Pomegranate Flowers on a stalk."

500 m. This is the same as stamp value 250 m. except that it relates to Year Three of the War.

1000 m. This is the same as stamp value 250 m. except that it relates to Year Four of the War.

★

INDIA

We understand there will be four Ghandi memorial stamps, 1½a, 3½a, 12a, and 10R, also that they are being printed in Vienna.

We have to thank some unnamed sender for a souvenir envelope of the first flight of "Air India International" from Bombay to the United Kingdom on 8th June.

O.V.S. LOCALLY MADE
POSTCARDS WITH ADHESIVE
STAMPS

When I wrote the article in last year's November issue on the locally made Orange Free State Postcards with adhesive stamps I expected that some South African collector would challenge some of my statements, but, sad to relate, not one did.

It has been left to Mr. S. G. Rich to pick up the gage. He is an American who spent some five years in South Africa and is still a keen collector and student of its stamps; he is a frequent contributor to American philatelic papers and author, *inter alia*, of the "Philately of the Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902," a book which should be in the hands of every South African collector.

But to come to our immediate business. I think it is usually understood that when the original value of a stamp is altered by an overprint it is called a "Provisional."

Mr. Rich, in his article in the May issue, p. 76, writes that without a single exception the stamps used were the regular adhesive stamps. What about the provisional 1d. on 3d. December, 1890 (S.G. No. 54/5)? This stamp was surcharged in full sheets just like the Hong Kong stamps of 1879, Nos. P1, P2 and P3.

Since writing my article in November I have received a letter from the printer who actually made these postcards, and he states that after affixing the stamps to the cards all the printing on them was done at one operation—new value, coat-of-arms, lines for the address and wording.

So far, so good, but what about the 2d. with the red 1½d. overprint? I cannot agree with Mr. Rich that this red overprint was applied after the stamp was affixed to the card, nor do I agree with him that the red overprint is on top of the black overprint of the shield—just the reverse. (From examination of my specimens I agree with Mr. Tamsen that the black shield is on top of the red 1½d.—Ed.) If the red 1½d. had been applied after affixation of the stamp it would have meant two operations for the printer. Moreover examination of a number of the red overprints reveals small varieties, which makes it practically certain that these stamps had their overprint applied on sheets, which were then supplied to the printer to be stuck on cards and further printed in black. This puts this particular stamp on a par with the Hong Kong items.

As regards cancellation of these cards by postal clerks, there may have been instructions issued to postmasters, which were more or less acted upon. But postmasters must have wondered why they were not supplied with these different stamps separately for ordinary postal use. Besides, a lot of very strange things happened postally in South Africa in the years 1890 to 1899—regulations were one thing, observing them was quite another.

EMIL TAMSEN.

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ART and ARTISTS on STAMPS

DR. WALTER HESSE

(Continued from Page 96 of June Issue)

So, there are only those stamps here that show pieces of art and the man who produced them. Collecting and mounting and writing them up has given scope to all my inclinations. In collecting them, I could for myself solve the long-standing problem of whether one should go in for the "real" stamp, i.e., the postally used label, or the mint

the main interest of the collection had its fulfilment with the writing-up of the sheet, or better, previous to that, in trying to find a fitting quotation for it.

There was a stamp portraying Rembrandt. It showed his likeness. But now, how could I show what Rembrandt means, to me and to



Ludwig van Beethoven
 * Bonn, 16. 12. 1770. + Wien, 26. 3. 1827.

Obolo

Clarinetti in A
 Clarinetto Solo

Baritono Solo

Violino I

Violino II

Viola

Violoncello e Contrabasso

Freu-de schön-Gei-ter-heit-ken, Tod-ter aus E-ly-sium.

Symphony 9, D Minor, Op. 125, IV

M 420
G C30

AUSTRIA

10356
1922

stamp that looks so much nicer; here, obviously, it had to be the mint stamp, as the aesthetic reasons were the deciding ones.

But it has been the mounting and writing up that has been the most enjoyable part of it, as it would be for anybody. As the contents of the stamp, its associations mattered more than anything else, more than comparative rarity and certainly more than possible flaws.

others? Obviously by showing one of his creations on the same sheet. But which one? Obviously that which seems to me to portray his style, his craftsmanship, his sensibility at their best. That meant looking through all his work, once and once more, selecting, discussing, and, finally, photographing that one which I had decided upon. And all the joy of the matter was in that.

Or there was Germany's greatest poet, Goethe. There is so much one thinks his unsurpassably best work. Fortunately, there are two stamps, two possibilities of a final choice. So the most beautiful poem of the German language could come in, and still "Faust" need not be left out. And so with Mozart, so with the philosophers, the sculptors, the stone masons; for everyone the most suitable and matching quotation had to be found. And where the work itself was shown on a stamp, something had to be said about its worth, its fate, its history. The enjoyment lay in selecting the text for the illustration that the stamp offered, and the final writing-up was nothing but a continued smacking of one's lips.

And in this way those little labels really make you do a good job of it. I am sure I should never have read the whole of Whitman's "Leaves of Grass," had it not been for a feeling that I might find a stronger, more telling line than the one I knew; when I had waded through the whole book, I had found one! When will I be able to help myself, with an English stamp in front of me, to Shakespeare, Ben Jonson, Milton, Gainsborough and Purcell?

There remains very little to tell about the "how." Every stamp has its own sheet, and every stamp has its quotation, either a written line, or the photograph of a painting, or a musical quotation. The issuing country is used for the heading, and the catalogue numbers of both Gibbons and Michel (the German catalogue) are given; the only other inscription, except for a necessary biographical note (birth place and life dates), is the attempt to give vent to still another of my crazes: to catalogue myself what I have. So every sheet has its number of five figures.

The first one stands for the Continent, 1 for Europe, 2 for Asia, 3 for Africa, 4 for America, 5 for Australasia. The next two numbers are those of the country, in alphabetical order, so that 103 stands for Austria. Next comes the century of which the stamp speaks, 1 for the time before Christ, 2 for the Middle Ages, and the following numbers for every century since 1500. Lastly, the branch of art is numbered. Literature in every form, whether prose or poetry, drama or philosophy, has 1, painting, etching, drawing has the number 2, sculpture is 3, religious architecture 4, profane architecture is 5, music 6, theatre 7, dancing 8. All the other arts, whether the art of the goldsmith or the hairdresser, fashion, weaving, toy-making, and so on, share number 9, so that 0 may stand very selfishly, alone for the so-called art of photography. So far, this branch has only one example, that French stamp honouring Daguerre and Niepce.

That is all. If it looks as if it had taken too much time, meant too much painstaking labour, let me reiterate that it was joy, and not work, even if it took some time. And let me refer you to the example Mark Twain and the quotation used for him—that remark about the difference between work and hobby

that I have made the motto of this paper. It was pure enjoyment; and I have learnt a lot by it. Perhaps, after all, we do collect stamps in order to enrich our general knowledge?

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GERMAN POST-WAR STAMPS

Collectors of German issues of 1945-46 have been in great doubt as to what should be regarded as really "collectable" of the numerous local issues. They should be greatly helped in their judgment by an article published under the title of "A Who's Who of German Post-War Stamps" in the May issue of the "American Philatelist" by Mr. H. C. Schulz. This is a translation of a memorandum by the Hallensia Stamp Club which, it is stated, is being accepted as authoritative by collectors and catalogue makers in Germany.

Nine conditions are laid down as tests for considering the eligibility of some 74 stamps to qualify, and on this basis they are divided into four groups—(1) fully recognised for listing; (2) officially issued, but not quite fully meeting all the conditions laid down; (3) officially issued, but fulfilling only a few of the required conditions; (4) issued by interested parties and not worthy of being considered legitimate postage stamps.

Only 21 reach the fully recognised grade; more than half are put in the fourth group as "unworthy"; the remainder fall into the second or third groups as just deserving of some recognition, but not that of full catalogue ranking.

KENYA

The following statement is quoted from a note in the *Philatelic Magazine* sent by Mr. M. T. Larsen from Nairobi.

"The Kenya 1935 5c. perf. 13 x 11½ is selling there for £65 to £100, according to condition. The normal perf., but with very black frame, is changing hands for £700. Latest discovery is a current shilling with watermark sideways."

Money must be plentiful and there is no Stock Exchange on which to lose it!

Mr. W. Tunstall reports anent Meter Posts that the Kenya farmers at Nakuru appear to have two franks with "Tanganyika" on them, as he has now seen a second one with N14 in larger figures followed by CENTS in place of merely C.

The Crown Agents have released new printings of the 5c., 30c., 50c. 2s. and 5s., but there are no striking shade differences. "Stamp Collecting" reports that the 5s. was last released three months ago, perf. 14¼; this time it has reverted to the normal 13¼ x 13¾. More headaches!

MOROCCO AGENCIES

In 1937 unoverprinted British stamps gradually replaced those overprinted "Morocco Agencies", although stamps overprinted "Tangier" still continued in use.

Mr. de Righi has an interesting article in "Stamp Collecting" on the thirty-odd K.G. V and K.G. VI "Used Abroad" stamps, which have been on sale at British P.O.'s in Morocco since 1937.

GILBERT & ELLICE
POSTAGE DUES

Has anyone ever seen Gilbert and Ellice Islands Postage Due stamps in used condition? There are eight denominations, but S.G. do not give any prices for used specimens.

Dr. J. L. Grumbridge has an article on them in the May issue of "Gibbons' Stamp Monthly". He quotes a correspondent in the islands as saying: "I have never seen any used out here. In fact, I do not think they exist." Later the same individual wrote: "I have managed to unearth for you a Postage Due Stamp. Our local postmaster has never handled any." He tried to get it used by posting an unstamped letter to himself. The Postage Due stamp was put on the envelope, but was carefully *not* cancelled by the postmark.

HUNGARY

The Ministry of Communications report the issue on 15th May of a set of 10 air-mail stamps, 1 to 40f., featuring inventors and discoverers of various nations. Also of a 2 f. air stamp with a surtax of 18 f. which is to go towards the reconstruction of the Budapest Chain Bridge. The stamp features the bridge. The latter issue appears to come definitely into the "ramp" class.

B.P.A. EXPERTISING

In a survey of their work for the latter half of 1947, when some 897 items were examined, they report some very clever forgeries of British departmental overprints, one being so clever that a leading expert on these stamps gave a different opinion about the same stamp twice in one morning. However, from examination of a large number of these overprints, they have now arrived at a formula which they think will solve any case.

In one bunch of Mafia stamps there were seven with forged overprints, four bogus items, four genuine and one genuine but an unissued variety.

Dangerous forgeries were S.W.A. 1923 inverted overprints and Seychelles overprints, especially varieties of the 1901 surcharges.

Rhodesian double heads perf. 15 x 14 or 14 x 15 should be looked at with suspicion if the stamp is in the slightest degree smaller than the normal. Genuine stamps were widely set on the sheet and there is a fair amount of room to allow of faked perforation on two sides.

The latest issue of "Philately" for a change chronicles some of the genuine stamps that have been before the bench. Among them are the following:

Basutoland "Officials" have been comparatively frequent and everyone has passed the tests. At this rate almost every one should be certified.

A South-West African variety is a block of four of the 1927-30 1d., two stamps with misplaced overprint so that two stamps were without the overprint.

An item we are very pleased to see "certified" is the Union 1930 1d. in a block of four with centres omitted. This was classed "as genuine but probably from a proof sheet." That puts it in its place and we would like to see a good many other items which have been fetching high prices as "the real MacKay" of recent years, put along with it.

JIPEX SHEETS

The April number of the "Nederlandsch Maandblad voor Philatelie" has a long article on these sheets, including lists of the 21 different settings of the marginal advertisements in the two denominations.

ROTOGRAVURE PRINTING

The "Essay Proof Journal" (April, 1948) has an excellent account by Stephen G. Rich of the essential features of this form of printing stamps, including a description of the different kinds of screening employed. An incidental statement is of some interest, "the newest stamp-making process and the only one of which no product has ever been counterfeited."

N. RHODESIA

"S.G. Monthly" notes under releases of printings on 15th March by the Crown Agents, a few slight shade changes in the 2d., 3d. and 6d., but the 1d. (Plate No. 4) is chocolate instead of reddish-brown and they are listing it as a definite shade variety.

For
CLASSIC ISSUES

Write to

**DOUGLAS
ROTH,**

B.P.A.

c/o Standard Bank of South Africa Ltd.,
Adderley Street,
Cape Town

Mr. Roth will be in Johannesburg towards the end of July. Philatelists who would like to meet him, write to Douglas Roth, c/o South African Philatelist, P.O. Box 7012, Johannesburg

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All the above for £16 12s. 6d.
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Trade enquiries welcome.

The Status of the Mafeking Siege Stamps

FACTS ABOUT A FASCINATING AND CLASSIC ISSUE

By Dr. K. FREUND

(Continued from p. 99 of June issue)

CHAPTER TWO

1. THE INAUGURATION OF THE NEW SIEGE MAIL SERVICE

The first official announcement of the new postal service appeared in "The Mafeking Mail—Special Siege Slips", a daily siege newspaper, on March 22, 1900. It was in the form of a brief memorandum and had a rather animated style:

"LOCAL MEMS

Private letters will in future be sent by the Intelligence Department, by runners, in batches of 30 (letters, not runners) at a time. First come, first served, the communications will be despatched in the order they are received. Don't all speak at once."

The merry spirit of this memorandum has occasionally been criticised and misinterpreted as betraying the alleged flimsiness of the service. Actually it was meant to be just a preliminary announcement to break the pleasant news of the new service to the rather downhearted population which had clamoured so persistently for proper postal facilities and which in general was depressed by the constant shelling and by other effects of siege warfare. Many of Baden-Powell's despatches and notices were full of this infectious cheerfulness which kept up spirits.

The words "First come, first served" gave a hint of possible restrictions (which were specified in a later announcement). The last sentence "Don't all speak at once" was a reflection on the frequently expressed demand for the service and implied an expected rush.

The statement that each batch would consist of thirty letters was merely a rough advance estimate. According to the information I have, this original limitation was considerably surpassed in most cases. Frequently *up to 100 letters* were carried by a runner per trip (see similar information in "S.G.M.J.", October, 1900, p. 91).

A fully detailed announcement of the arrangements, schedules and rates followed two days later, on March 24, 1900, also in "The Mafeking Mail". The details speak for themselves. They appear to have been carefully worked out and are another indication of the genuine character and purpose of the service. Here is the announcement in full:

"NOTICE

New Arrangements for the Transmission of

Telegrams and Dealing with Letters.

The Bombproof at the end of Minchin's yard, at Headquarters, will be open daily to receive Letters and Telegrams for North and South, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. (Sundays excepted). The following are the rates for Telegrams: Via the North, 9d. per word, plus a fee of 1s. for a receipt, duly stamped; Telegrams for Cape Colony and Natal will be accepted by this route.

Telegrams via the South for Cape Colony and Natal will also be accepted, the rate being 1s. for 12 words, plus a fee of 1s. for a duly stamped receipt.

Cablegrams 4/9 per word via the North
Cablegrams 4/- per word via the South plus 1/- receipt fee.

The sale of stamps for letters for local delivery will be restricted.

Letters for Northern and Southern routes must be handed to the Postal Official on duty, and stamps cannot on any account be sold.

(The italics are ours.—Ed.)

RATES OF POSTAGE—LETTERS

Local delivery (within town limits), 1d. per ½ oz.

Delivery at Outposts and Forts, 3d. per ½ oz.

Letters for United Kingdom, Cape Colony and Natal via the South, 6d. per ½ oz.

Letters for United Kingdom, Cape Colony, Natal and Rhodesia, via the North, 1s. per ½ oz.

Newspapers for local delivery, ½d. per paper. Book Post 1d. per oz.

PILLAR AND WALL LETTER BOXES

Pillar or Wall Letter receivers are erected at the following places in Mafeking and are cleared at the times mentioned:—

Pillar and Wall Boxes	Latest Time for Posting Letters etc. for each Collection	
	Morning	Afternoon
Dixon's Hotel	9.55 a.m.	3.55 p.m.
De Kock's Corner	9.40 a.m.	3.40 p.m.
Victoria Hospital	9.30 a.m.	3.30 p.m.
Post Office	9.35 a.m.	3.35 p.m.
Railway Division	9.30 a.m.	3.30 p.m.
Whiteley, Walker & Co.	9.45 a.m.	3.45 p.m.

The following table shows the hours at which the Letter Box is closed for the

different Suburban Offices, and the hours at which mails are due to arrive at this Office:—

Letter Boxes close at Mafeking at	For	Letters due at Mafeking at
5.0 p.m.	Brickfields	9.0 a.m.
5.0 p.m.	Baralong Stadt	9.0 a.m.
5.0 p.m.	B.S.A.P. Fort	9.0 a.m.
5.0 p.m.	Cannon Kopje	9.0 a.m.
5.0 p.m.	Native Location	9.0 a.m.
5.0 p.m.	Western Outposts	9.0 a.m.

J. V. Howat, Postmaster.
Mafeking, 22nd March, 1900."

What must strike one most in this Notice first of all, is the reference to the restriction

in mint state *had nothing whatever to do with sinister philatelic motives*. Those budding stamp collectors that may have been in the besieged place (they will be everywhere at any time) regarded *only a used stamp as a worth-while item*. It was the prevalent opinion in Mafeking, as Mr. Howat, the late siege postmaster has told me, that a stamp was only of value for "collecting" if it was already cancelled, thus having some sort of guarantee for its genuineness (see also the statement in "The Stamp Collector", June, 1914, p. 45). The same idea prevailed also in the Cape at that time (see "S.G.M.J.",



Fig. 3. Back of Registered Cover

Back of registered cover—showing the complete gamut of cancellations from the besieged Mafeking to England—(Mafeking—AP 13; Crocodile Pools, where the Native runners first contacted British lines—25. APR; Bulawayo—red registered cancellation 22 MY; Cape Town—registered cancellation 22MY; London—registered cancellation 8 JU).

of the sale of stamps. The policy was, *not to sell stamps over the counter in mint state* ("stamps cannot on any account be sold"), but letters had to "be handed to the Postal Official on duty". This principle was later reiterated again in a Notice appearing on April 7 in "The Mafeking Mail". It is the explanation for the fact that there are comparatively so few *unused* Mafeking stamps about. The fact that there *are* actually Mafeking stamps in mint state in existence shows that occasionally the strict orders from high quarters must have been transgressed, especially when the civil postmaster, a subaltern official, gave in to a higher officer to save him the time of repeated purchases. *It cannot be emphasized enough, however, that such occasional purchase of a few stamps*

November, 1900, last paragraph).

As for the other details cited in the Notice above, we see that they covered both, the "abroad" as well as the "local" service, with particular care and attention being given to the latter. Let us view these two departments of the siege postal service separately.

2. THE "ABROAD" SERVICE

The Notice makes it clear that the civilian population had the choice of two routes. If the Southern route was preferred by a letter-writer, he indicated this by writing "via Kimberley" on the envelope, while covers forwarded by the Northern route were usually marked "via North", "via Beira" or simply with an "N".

It is interesting to note from the Notice

above that letters for the Cape Colony could also be forwarded via the North. This route, as stated before, was actually preferred in spite of double the charge. In general, letters on transit were forwarded by the most suitable route offering itself each time, causing some "round trips". Thus, letters for England travelling via the North landed in many instances at Cape Town after all, from where they were forwarded by sea.

The original instruction that letters should be sent only in very small home-made envelopes was now relaxed and letters could be sent from now on in normal covers.

Fig. 3 is the reproduction of a cover from my collection which illustrates well, with its various intermediate cancellations, the main route on which the bulk of the siege mail was forwarded:

It is hardly necessary to emphasise that mail-running still remained a risky affair and that a good percentage of the mail was intercepted by the Boers. Capt. (later Col.) H. Greener narrates briefly in "Stamp Collecting", May 18, 1929, p. 149:

"On a still night or early morning, should our sentries have reported shots in the far distance, we concluded that our dispatches had not got out or that there would be no post in that morning."

When Gen. Snyman's Camp was taken later on, a large amount of this intercepted mail was found and recovered, but—strange to say—every postage stamp had been torn off. Which goes to show that there must have been some stamp collectors among the Boer warriors too.

Very important in assessing the status of the Mafeking stamps is the fact that the siege mail, its rates fixed by the siege authorities and the stamps themselves, were *fully acknowledged and respected as valid by all authorities on the transit and receiving stages*. It was definitely *not* a case of an obscure military issue being benevolently overlooked and allowed to pass. The problem of membership of the Postal Union, with the besieged Mafeking still being regarded as part of the Cape Colony, did not come so much into the picture in this regard. It was probably more a tacit agreement of mutual accommodation, based on the fact that large batches of letters and newspapers had to go in the opposite direction from abroad to the besieged town. On the last stage, these batches from abroad had to be taken over by the native runners on their return journey at great sacrifice and expense, the Mafeking military authorities receiving nothing for the delivery of this mail.

Here, anyway, are some facts which make it quite clear that the Mafeking stamps were regarded as fully valid to pay postage for the complete journey to the final destination abroad:

All letters coming from the besieged Mafe-

king were first checked at the *Base Camp Post Offices* as to their correct postage. Such checking marks can be found on many covers (see also confirmation by Bulawayo postmaster in "S.G.M.J.", November, 1900, p. 97).

The letters were then checked again at the *post office in Bulawayo*, as Mr. J. H. Powell, the postmaster of Bulawayo at that time, informs us (*ibid.*). The examining clerks initialled the envelopes and marked the value of the stamps affixed. I possess quite a number of covers showing such pencilled checking marks, which include the figure of the correct postage rate and the initials "J.H.P." (postmaster's initials).

Letters which went as far as *England*, were checked there again on arrival. In this regard I may refer again to Stanley Gibbons' report which was cited in the introductory article of this series and which stated that "double rates" (postage due) had to be paid by the receiver for letters which came from the besieged Mafeking but were not properly franked with the necessary Mafeking stamps.

(To be continued.)

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BRAZIL

A Rotary International Convention at Rio on 16th May provided an excuse for a couple of commemoratives showing Rio harbour and Rotary's cogwheel symbol; the latter also figuring in a special cancellation.

RHODESIA

The Following S.G. Nos. Are Available From Stock
Of The "KINGS & QUEENS" Mint And Used:-

ALL MINT.

S.G. Nos.: 119 at 6d.; 120 at 2s. 6d.; 121 at 2s.; 122 at 1s.; 123 at 9d.; 124 at 2s.; 125 at 2s.; 126 at 2s. 6d.; 127 at £7; 129 at 1s.; 130 at 1s. 6d.; 131 at 6s.; 131a at 3s.; 132 at 3s. 6d.; 133 at 4s.; 134 at 5s.; 135 at 6s. 6d.; 137 at 10s.; 138 at 15s.; 139 at 10s.; 140 at 3s. 6d.; 141 at 15s.; 141a at 5s.; 143 at 20s.; 144 at 4s.; 145 at 4s.; 145a at 30s.; 146 at 15s.; 147 at 15s.; 148 at 15s.; 149 at 5s.; 150 at 7s. 6d.; 151 at 4s.; 152 at 4s.; 152a at £5; 153 at 8s.; 154 at 35s.; 155 at 25s.; 155a at 30s.; 156 at £7; 158 at 17s. 6d.; 159 at 30s.; 160a at 55s.; 160b at 35s.; 162 at £6; 163 at 65s.; 165 at £9; 166 at £10; 166a at £12; 170 at 40s.; 174 at 12s. 6d.; 176 at 55s.; 184 at 10s.; 185 at 20s.

USED:-

S.G. Nos.: 119 at 2d.; 120 at 3d.; 121 at 2d.; 122 at 2s.; 124 at 2d.; 125 at 2d.; 123 at 2d.; 128 at 1s.; 129 at 1s.; 130 at 1s. 3d.; 131 at 2s. 6d.; 131a at 4s.; 133 at 2s.; 135 at 1s. 3d.; 136 at 5s.; 137 at 4s.; 138 at 7s.; 140 at 3s.; 141a at 3s.; 143 at 12s.; 144 at 1s. 9d.; 145 at 2s.; 145a at 5s.; 147 at 7s. 6d.; 148 at 7s. 6d.; 149 at 4s.; 150 at 5s.; 151 at 3s.; 152 at 2s.; 153 at 7s. 6d.; 154a at 20s.; 169 at 1s.; 171 at 2s.; 170 at 6d.; 183 at 12s.; 184 at 10s.; 175 at 20s.; 176 at 10s.; 160 (pair) at 45s.; 165 at £10; 166a at £12; 167 at 6d.; 169 at 2s.; 172 at 6s.; 173 at 6s.; 174 at 6s.; 177 at 7s. 6d.; 178 at 50s.; 180 at £10.

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REVIEWS AND NOTICES

International Stamp Dealers' Directory—
1948. Harris Publications Ltd., 445
Strand, London, W.C.2. Price 5s. net.

Contains what is probably a nearly complete list of British dealers with their specialities, also a list, probably not quite so complete, of dealers in other parts of the world. There are also notes on sources of supply, British import and export regulations, world Trade Societies, world periodicals and the state of the market in various countries. In other words, it covers fairly fully the whole field of commercial philately.

Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Norway.
Published by the "Norsk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift", Postbox 46, Hovik, Norway.
(No price stated.)

This is the first edition in English, translated by Mr. R. King-Farlow from the 10th (1947) Norwegian edition. It is a priced, fully specialised catalogue, with lots of information not obtainable in ordinary catalogues, and will be indispensable for advance Norway collectors.

Curiously enough, the Norwegian missionary stamps used in Madagascar in 1894-95 are described and figured, but there is no reference (even to condemn!) the Bouvet Island post.

Varieties to Look For and Have you Noticed?
by A. D. Crane. Published by H. & A. Wallace Ltd., 94 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2. Price 2s. each, postage 1d. extra.

These may be considered together, as they are both reprints of notes contributed by the author under pen-names to the publishers' monthly Bulletin.

The first deals with a number of varieties in British Empire stamps, some fairly generally known, others by no means so generally. The second is not concerned with varieties in particular, so much as with information about various features in the designs of a number of modern Empire stamps.

Much of this information would need a lot of hunting to get elsewhere and most readers will find much that is new to them.

The books would be extraordinary helpful to anyone arranging a Philatelic Quiz.

Olympic Games Covers. Messrs. Harris Publications Ltd., of 445 Strand, London, W.C.2, have submitted envelope with a two-colour design showing the two towers of the Wembley Stadium, which would be very suitable for the special XIV Olympiad stamps.

They are being sold at 1s. 6d. a dozen (postage 3d.). Trade terms on application.

Austrian Dealers Meet. The first meeting of Austrian dealers since the liberation is to be held at Bregenz, Vorarlberg, on August 30 to September 1. They purpose having buses running from the Imaba Exhibition at Basle for the convenience of foreign visitors.

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CLASSICS

With reference to our April editorial on Classic Issues, an article appears in the March-April issue of "The Stamp Lover" by Mr. Raymond Lister, dealing with stamps as miniature works of art.

On an artistic basis he would broadly divide stamps into five groups, Primitive, Classic, Romantic, Neo-classic and Propagandist. We need not go into this in detail, particularly as no two persons are likely ever to be in full agreement on a question of artistic merit, but remembering how we came to raise the question at all of what constitutes a "classic" it is interesting to note his dividing line between the Classic and the Neo-classic issues. He takes the Mafeking issue featuring Baden-Powell and S. Major Good-year as the first of the neo-classics, adding "it is even more justifiable to begin with the Baden-Powell stamp if it is remembered that it was produced by photography and was a herald of the present-day photogravure issues."

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S. RHODESIA

The following note is quoted from "Stamp Collecting":—

Part of the supply of 1d. "Royal Visit" stamps (1947) appears to have been printed on thin, almost pelure paper. A block of four submitted by Mr. Jim Davis (Wembley) has the design showing through quite clearly on the back.

SWITZERLAND

June 15 saw the emission of four semi-postals in connection with the National Fete, three with typical houses, the fourth showing a frontier guard. All beautifully produced as usual. Thanks to Mr. E. Pape for a first-day cover.

NEW ZEALAND

Mr. Eric Cowell reports the great doings at Port Chalmers and Dunedin on 23rd March, when the scenes of the landing of the Free Church settlers a century earlier were re-enacted. The special stamps in connection with the celebrations had been issued a month earlier, and have had a large sale.

Pitcairn Island, whose stamp issue in 1940 raised such large funds, is not so very isolated as might be imagined. A Government official who had spent 18 months there and has written a history of the island, states that on an average it had a visit by a large ship once a week.

Mr. T. F. Allpass reports a friend in Roturua (in the volcanic hot springs area) stating that remarkable colour changes occur in stamps there from the action of the sulphur in the atmosphere. His friend states in particular that the silver leaves in the Union Silver Wedding stamps will rapidly turn black if the stamps are kept exposed freely to the air. He also states in connection with the Otago centenary stamps, that the proper pronunciation of that town's name is as if it were spelt "Otago" not as if it were spelt "Otawgo," as seems generally to be the case outside of New Zealand.

U.S.A.

It was thought that the five stamps announced in the May issue completed the programme for 1948 but now five more are reported. One has in fact already reached here on letters, the Swedish Pioneers Centennial previously vetoed by the President. The other four honour respectively, Clara Barton, founder of the U.S.A. Red Cross Society, the Oregon territory centennial, the coming of the five civilized Indian tribes to Oklahoma, and the 100 years of peace and co-operation between the U.S.A. and Canada.

The Harmer sale of the International Refugees Organisation stock of stamps (unidentifiable German loot) was a great success, the 507 lots realising 17,759 dollars as against the estimate of just over 10,000 dollars.

Thanks to Mr. George H. Camp for first-day covers with the Wisconsin Centenary and the Four Chaplains stamps.

GREAT BRITAIN

Distinguished Philatelists, 1948.

Elections to the Roll of Distinguished Phil-

atelists at the Bournemouth meeting of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, have been announced as: A. Brun (France), S. Graveson and H. R. Harmer (England), and Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie (South Africa).

Monsieur Brun is probably the best known "expert" in France; he has been a voluminous writer and has served on innumerable juries at international exhibitions.

Mr. Graveson has been the leading spirit of the Postal History Society since its formation and has served as its President. Apart from his special interests, one of his favourite collections is "Madagascar."

Mr. Harmer is known the world over as a philatelic auctioneer. He has also assembled what is probably the best-ever collection of forgeries, which he has often shown at philatelic meetings.

The Editor of this magazine wishes to state that he regards the fourth election as being very largely a tribute to South African philatelists in general. His personal writings no doubt helped in the Congress' choice but the standard of "The South African Philatelist" probably played the larger role, and for this he has to thank the contributors for the past fifteen years. It is a great honour to be the second South African on this Roll, the only previous representative being Emil Tamsen.

The Congress had an attractive special post-mark provided.

WANTED set 100 Cigarette cards "Postage Stamps—Rarest Varieties" issued African Tobacco Manufacturers, pre-war. Also Jugoslavia S.G. Simp. 1948 Nos.

J. HAHN

10 DU TOIT STREET, PAARL

PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

A meeting of the Executive Council was held on 10th June with ten members present. The principal matters dealt with were briefly as follows:—

The Grahamstown Society was formally admitted to membership, but the S.A. Collectors' Association was considered as not eligible.

The Postal Administration was forming a committee to consider designs, etc., for postage stamps and asked the Federation to nominate a representative on it. Dr. Harvey Pirie was nominated. Various suggestions were made to him as suitable to lay before this committee when it met, e.g., bilingualism, simplicity of designs, printing, desirability or otherwise of semi-postal issues, etc.

Mr. Ferguson reported on arrangements for the Congress and exhibition to be held in Pretoria on 18-20 October.

It was decided to voice a protest about the projected issue of high value commemoratives of the Royal Silver Wedding in the British Colonies. This is given on another page.

Full minutes of the meeting are sent to all constituent societies.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor,
South African Philatelist.

Sir,—After reading in "Philately" the criticism of the pair of Emerald green shilling Cape which was exhibited in the B.P.A. exhibition, I wrote and told the owner, Mr. L. B. Goldschmidt, about what had been said as I thought it no more than right that he should know. Dr. Goldschmidt has now replied as follows.

Yours, etc.,
A. A. JURGENS.

Dear Jurgens,

Many thanks for drawing my attention to the criticism in "Philately" of the pair of Cape Triangular Emerald Green one shilling on piece with red postmark.

I would not wax hot under the collar about criticism having been made of this piece. It is true the item was only on show for the B.P.A. exhibition and was not for sale or competition but this fact does not debar an individual from forming and, if he so wishes, expressing in print an adverse opinion of it. After all, it is only an opinion and as such is not infallible. On the opposite side of the scale are other competent assessments: Hurst, after adequate study, made over-handsome offers to purchase; Frank Godden at the Jipex exhibition, at which my daughter's collection of Capes won a Gold Medal, tempted us to dispose of the item to him and stated that it was one of the prize pieces in the collection. Then there is your opinion which is backed by study of a wealth of material that is unrivalled.

The adverse criticism given in "Philately" seems to be based solely on the colour of the ink of the red postmark. You and I would have no difficulty in exhibiting examples of identically coloured ink used for postmarking purposes, viz., despatching and receiving marks on covers or for cancellation of stamps.

The pair of emerald greens is a perfect pair. What motive would anyone have in risking the spoiling of a valuable asset by adding

a questionable postmark to it? The addition of the postmark would cause a big risk of lessening the market value of the piece rather than increasing it.

No method exists that would settle this difference of opinion with a hundred per cent. certainty. "Quot homines tot sententiae."

Destructive criticism is easy to make and easier still when the criticised object belongs to the other fellow. It is so easy that it can be done with full honesty of intent. I credit the author of this criticism with honesty of purpose. I disagree entirely with his conclusion, however. I am happy to retain the item in the collection as an authentic and very pleasing example of a pair of emerald greens with red postmark.

Regards.

Yours, etc.,
L. B. GOLDSCHMIDT.

Malta

The current issue is soon to be replaced by a set to commemorate Restoration of Self-Government. Complete your set now, before it is too late.

Any values—mint 5%, use 15% on face. 1938 old colours. ½d.—3d., mint 2/9, used 3/- set. Silver Wedding (booking), mint 22/-, used 24/- set. Self-Government (booking) against 10/- deposit.

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CHASWELL STAMPS
P.O. Box 408, Valletta, MALTA

(Concluded from page 128)

formed Roodepoort Stamp Club. This took the form of a "buffet supper" with many tasty dishes—it was a Philatelic Alphabet to which nearly every member of the club contributed. The result was a pot pourri of many countries. Exquisite Egyptians, Australian Atrocities, Deutsche Dutch (Netherlands issues during German occupation), Hellish Heligolands (almost all forgeries or reprints), Unusual Unions (printer's waste!), etc., etc. All together a most excellent display showing the advantage of co-operation between members to put up an exhibit of interest to all.

I.I.

Fine British Colonials:

Selections of the above are sent on approval to serious collectors against references.

- Range 1. Early issues, which can be selected from at one-third of catalogue price.
- Range 2. Modern issues (1900 on) in mint state, mostly at 50% off catalogue.
- Range 3. Modern issues (1900 on) superb used, mostly at 50% off catalogue.

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SOCIETY NEWS

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. H. Suklje, Benoni; *Hon. Secretary*, Miss S. O. Jeffrey, P.O. Box 572, Benoni; *Meetings*, Regent Hotel, Benoni, 3rd Tuesdays, 8 p.m.

At the May meeting there were 14 members present and Mr. Suklje presided. The chairman congratulated the Pretoria Society on their "Quiz" and hoped that there would be many more as the evening was enjoyed by all.

It was unanimously agreed that the East Rand Society continue to hold one meeting a month at Benoni as the membership did not warrant two evenings.

Mrs. G. Wood, who was exhibitor for the evening, showed her Swiss collection, which was very well received.

There were 12 members present on 15th June. Mr. Suklje informed members that he would be away on long leave for six months. Mr. E. N. Rigg, Vice-president, agreed to act in Mr. Suklje's place and Mr. Legator was elected Vice for the unexpired portion of this year.

Congratulations were sent to Dr. H. Pirie on his election to the British Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

The following members read short papers on various items of philatelic interest: Mrs. G. Wood, Paper and Perforations; Mr. Franklin and Miss Aronsohn, Printing, various forms; Miss Jeffrey, A Guide to Technicalities by Arthur Brook; Mr. Suklje, Story of the Universal Postal Union. S.O.J.

★

THE PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. L. L. Brown; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. W. Kriste; *Meetings*, Second Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m. in the Berea Park Recreation Club.

9th June: Thirty-five members and visitors attended for the holding of our first quiz evening. Three teams, consisting of No. 1, Messrs. J. A. W., and G. J. Kriste, No. 2 Messrs. W. Howie, H. Bond and E. Walker, and No. 3, Messrs. L. McLachlan, R. Capell and H. Herom, competed. The quiz covered questions on postage stamps of the Union of South Africa and the evenings proved to be educational to a large number of members present. The winners of the quiz was team No. 2 with 12 points, team No. 1 was second with 9 points, and team No. 3 third with 7 points.

W.K.

★

CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, K. M. Cameron; *Hon. Sec.*, S. Kaganson, P.O. Box 1973; *Meetings*, 2nd and 4th Thursdays, at Yorkshire Buildings, Strand Street, at 7.30 p.m.

27th May: The 37th annual general meeting was held with a large attendance in spite of the excitement of the General Election. The secretary reported that the membership at date amounted to 207, an increase of 25 over the previous year. He also announced that during the year Mr. W. L. Ashmead and Mr. A. A. Jurgens, F.R.P.S.L., were added to the Roll of Distinguished S.A. Philatelists. To these two members the Society extended their warm congratulations. The financial report disclosed a very strong financial position. Sales from the Exchange Packet Section amounted to no less than £1,163 with a large number of books still in circulation. Commission from various auctions amounted to £17 9s. 10d. Tributes were paid to the retiring President, Mr. C. G. Mummery, and his successor, Mr. K. M. Cameron, was elected with applause. Mr. E. C. Solomon, M.P.C., was unanimously appointed Vice-President. The remaining office-bearers elected were: *Hon. Secretary*, S. Kaganson; *Hon. Treasurer*, J. E. Hall; *Hon. Exchange Superintendent*, C. R. V. Solomon; *Hon. Librarian*, W. G. Combrink; committee,

Messrs. A. V. Jacob, L. H. Rivers, L. Simenhoff, F.R.P.S.L., and W. D. Vallance.

10th June: At very short notice our President, Mr. Cameron, displayed his collection of the stamps of Great Britain overprinted for use abroad. We had not previously had an exhibit of this nature, and with neat presentation and excellent condition it attracted the keen attention of all members. Among the many fine pieces were high values of Levant, Morocco Agencies, and Zululand. The exhibit was brought right up to date with the inclusion of the recent Great Britain 2½ and £1 overprints.

In discussing the proposed Silver Wedding issues for the Colonies no one spoke in favour and many expressed themselves very forcibly.

L.H.R.

★

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. G. K. Forbes; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. G. P. Smith, 13 Trafalgar Square, Port Elizabeth; *Meetings*, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in Room 3, City Hall Basement, at 7.45 p.m.

Mr. Kirschner was responsible for the evening when members met on 15th June, and he gave one of the finest and most interesting displays ever seen in Port Elizabeth.

There were about 75 pages of Silver Jubilee, with errors and distinctive marks which must have taken a great deal of time and patience to collect. Each page had descriptive notes explaining how these marks occur and why. Some pairs had English first, and others Afrikaans. Others showed how the head plate became worn and resulted in a white face. Others had gelatine flaws and bubbles, and then again, there were the frame plate printings, each with its distinctive mark or dot.

Mr. Kirschner gave a talk and explained how most of the dots, shades or marks became evident. He was awarded 3rd prize in Johannesburg in 1936 at the Philatelic Exhibition for Philatelic research, and awarded a bronze plaque. Mr. Forbes, when thanking Mr. Kirschner, said it was a real collection, and his writing up first class.

This collection was sent to the White Train during the Royal Visit for the King to see, and Sir Alan Lascelles sent a letter to the Hon. J. G. Carinus, the Administrator, when he returned the collection, thanking him on behalf of the King, for the great pleasure he had in examining it.

The meeting closed after a large auction.

L.E.C.

★

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

President, Mr. W. Redford; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. B. Glassman, P.O. Box 4967, Johannesburg; *Meetings*, 2nd Tuesdays and 4th Mondays, Public Library, 7.45 p.m.

8th June: Annual general meeting of the Society. Reports from the President, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Exchange Superintendent showed that the Society had had a satisfactory year.

Election of officers resulted in the following being elected: *President*, Mr. W. Redford; *Vice-President*, Mr. J. Burrell; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. B. Glassman; *Hon. Treasurer*, Mr. M. Jecks; *Hon. Exchange Superintendent*, Mr. J. W. Schubart; *Hon. Publicity Officer*, Mr. I. Isaacs; members of committee, Mr. H. B. Marcuson, Commander C. E. D. Enoch and Mr. B. J. Simpkins. Mr. E. C. Sprighton, Mr. L. Buchen and Dr. A. Kaplan are ex-officio members of the committee.

During the evening the constitution was amended to allow the committee to co-opt one or two members. It was announced that the committee wished to co-opt the Hon. Editor of the "S.A. Philatelist," Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie. Dr. A. Kaplan read a paper on the Matabele Commemorative of S. Rhodesia and showed a fine selection of these stamps as well as other S. Rhodesia items. The exhibit included sheets of the 2d. and 3d. small Falls. Several of the 1½d. perf. 12 K. George V were included. There was a 5s. King George V printed on the gummed side of the paper and numerous other varieties.

Mr. H. Schwartz spoke on the exhibit.

28th June: Programme provided jointly by the West Rand Stamp Club and the very recently

(Concluded on page 127)



INCHES that save miles!

The story of South Africa's progress has been one of continual conquest of the miles. To-day that battle is still being waged—and won.

Blasting their way through mountain ranges, S.A.R. engineers are steadily eliminating severe curvatures and gradients and tedious detours. Every inch hewn for these cuttings and tunnels means that miles are saved

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AUGUST, 1948.

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The Late Mr. Leonard A. Wyndham,
Author of "Air Posts" of South Africa

The collection is contained in 9 (nine) volumes (seven of which are in full bound Morocco leather and two ordinary loose-leaf albums). It is beautifully written up, fully described and contains over 600 covers, about half of which are Pilot Auto-graphed.

Owing to the bulky nature of the collection, it cannot be sent round on approval, but any prospective purchaser will be allowed to appoint someone in Cape Town who may inspect the collection by appointment with the undersigned.

A printed catalogue of the complete collection, as contained in each album, is being prepared, and a copy of this will be sent (when ready) to any person interested upon application.

This collection has not previously been offered for sale and will not be operated upon until after the expiry of the date fixed for the receipt of tenders, which will be announced in the catalogue.

Collectors of Air Posts should not miss this opportunity of securing one of the finest collections of its kind in existence; in fact, it is a collection which is world-wide famous for its outstanding items.

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PER GRAF ZEPPELIN

Give Yourself 'Airs'

1932
FRANZ
JOSEPH'S LAND
—ARCHANGEL

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Afghanistan 1939, 3 values, cat. 47/6	22/6
Albania 1930, 7 values, cat. 38/9	28/6
Belgium 1930, 4 values, cat. 12/6	9/6
Czechoslovakia 1930, 9 values, cat. 29/8	21/-
France 1930, 50 francs, used, cat. £6 (rare)	89/6
Italy 1933, Balbo Transatlantic Mass Formation Flight, 2 values, cat. £2/10/-	25/6
Jugoslavia 1937, 8 values, cat. 27/3	16/6
Netherlands Indies 1931, 3 val., cat. £4/15/-	72/6
Russia 1932, Franz Joseph's Land to Archangel Flight, 2 values, cat. £2/15/-	41/6
Russia 1933, Stratosphere Record Flight, 3 values, used, cat. 22/6	18/3

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Russia 1930, Graf Zeppelin Friedrichshafen to Moscow Flight, 2 val., used, cat. 25/-	17/6
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130, BEACH ROAD
THE STRAND, C.P.

1933
RECORD
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AUGUST, 1948.

Whole No. 281

UNION NOTES.

Bantam 2d. Imperf. Variety.

Mr. J. Burrell, Krugersdorp, has shown us an advertisement in the June issue of "The Philatelic Adviser" (England) offering for sale a block of four of the 2d. Union small war effort with vertical imperf. Most of us know of, and have also seen, the ½d., 1d. and 1½d. imperf varieties of the Union "Bantams", but this is the first intimation we have had that the variety also exists in the 2d. denomination.

"Pretoria Printings," ½d. Typo Plate 2, On Sale Again.

Mr. R. Axer, of Cape Town, excited our interest during the earlier part of July with a letter bearing three ½d. unhyphenated Union postage stamps and containing a report that sheets of the old ½d. Pretoria Printing with jubilee lines all around and two nicks in the bottom right-hand corner (Plate 2), were appearing on sale at some of the smaller post offices in that area. And a short while later Mr. A. Hilton Sydow, Cape Town, confirmed the truly surprising fact that after 20 years a small post office had supplied him with a sheet of the Union UNHYPHENATED stamps printed TYPOGRAPHICALLY from the old ROYAL MINT electrotyped flat plates, last used in 1928 onwards.

These particular plates, Mr. Sydow points out, were made at the Royal Mint in 1925 and from the characteristics in the jubilee lines, he has identified them as HEAD PLATE No. 2 and FRAME PLATE No. 2. The last ½d. Typographed stamps printed just prior to the advent of the ½d. Rotogravure issue, about 1930, emanated from HEAD PLATE No. 2 and FRAME PLATE No. 1 (See "Plate Combinations of the ½d. Electrotyped Stamps of the Union of South Africa". By A. H. Sydow. "South African Philatelist," January, 1945.)

The sheet examined is described as being different to the 1928 printing in the fact that the current issue is printed in Grey and Green on very poor quality unwoven

paper, whereas the earlier stamps were printed in Black and Green on white wove paper. The top, bottom and right-hand margins are perforated through, but the left-hand margin is untouched; the set-up generally associated with the London printings. Large arrows appear at the centres of the lateral margins only and, as already mentioned, there are two nicks under the right hand bottom corner stamp, exactly similar to the original Pretoria Plate 2 printing.

The watermark is the usual upright multiple Springbok's head, but one of the sheets examined by Mr. Sydow showed the left-hand margin UNWATERMARKED. He notes that there are no major varieties present and from a printing point of view, considers this 1948 issue a much better production than the 1928 example in his collection. He is of the opinion that this flat-plate issue is due to a shortage of paper in the web, i.e. large rolls for the rotary printing machines in Pretoria.

So far, there have been no reports to indicate a large general distribution throughout the Union and apart from the Cape Town area, only one small post office on the West Rand is known to have had any of these stamps for sale. Other branches will probably show up at a later date when present counter stocks are sold out, but in the meantime it will certainly prove interesting to learn the official reason for this unusual issue. If, as Mr. Sydow believes, these stamps are a 1948 production, then it can only be due, as he remarks, to a shortage of paper or a desire to avoid waste by using up old stocks of flat-plate sheets.

(Note.—We have since learned from Mr. J. Robertson, Johannesburg, that in conversation with the Controller of Stores he was informed that only small quantities of these stamps were available and they had been distributed to small offices.)

New Printing of the ½d. All-Green Roll Stamp.

Following the fairly recent return to the

use of the ½d. bi-coloured stamps in the slot machines throughout the Union it would appear that a change has again taken place for a new all-green ½d. denomination is now on sale in some of the machines. Mr. J. W. Schubart, Johannesburg, has shown us a strip of three produced through a screen with a coarse mesh distinctly visible through a magnifying glass. We have not heard if the change is likely to be permanent, or if it has turned up other than in Johannesburg, but the variety is worth noting and being on the look-out for. Incidentally, one of the three stamps examined showed a flaw in the form of "a feather" near "S" of "south", and the adjoining Afrikaans stamps had a fairly distinct "crack" in the left-hand panel next to the cluster of leaves.

Retouched 1939 2d. Official.

Referring to the note in our May, 1948, issue on the retouch of the bottom frame line in Row 1/Stamp 6 of the 2d. Official (S.G. No. O27), Mr. A. Lichtenstein, of Bloemfontein, has confirmed that both the "break" and the "retouch" exists in the normal and also the overprinted Official stamps of each colour, i.e. S.G. 58 and 58a, and S.G. O27 and O33. Therefore a complete group of this particular variety would consist of one of each of the above numbers with the "break" in the bottom frame, and also one of each with a "retouched" frame, thus making a total of eight items in all.

Mr. Lichtenstein also mentions that all sheets printed from these cylinders (Int. 29 and Ext. 43) bristle with minor varieties, innumerable small dots, hair lines, etc., some of which are quite interesting. He advises that before any collector parts with any duplicates of these stamps—which have received a lot of spotlight in the overseas philatelic press lately—he may do worse than look for the following varieties, the sheet position of which is given in the following list.

- Row 1/No. 4 Ladder into sky.
- Row 1/No. 6 Broken or retouched left bottom frame line.
- Row 2/No. 2 "G" of "Postage" closed.
- Row 2/No. 4 Tree on Union Buildings.
- Row 9/No. 4 Full stop after "Posseel".
- Row 15/No. 5 "E" of "Postage" joined to bottom frame.
- Row 16/No. 4 Dot below centre of "A" of "Postage".
- Row 18/No. 2 Dot between "GE" of "Postage".
- Row 18/No. 4 Two dots after "Postage".
- Row 20/No. 2 Vertical bar through "E" of "Postage".

All of the foregoing can be found in S.G. 58 and 58a, and the corresponding Officials, L50 and L63 (S.G. O27 and O33).

Issue of 1d. and 1½d. Sheets with Cylinder Numbers.

Several reports have come in from collectors in the Cape and Transvaal to the effect that the 1d. sheets containing 180

stamps, and the 1½d. "Bantams" (Pictorial), are now disappearing from the counters and being replaced with normal sized sheets of 240 stamps (and in the case of the 1½d., with normal-sized stamps) and both issues bear the eagerly-awaited marginal imprint of the cylinder numbers.

Mr. A. H. Sydow states that the 1d. denomination was placed on sale at the Maitland Post Office on the 10th July, 1948, and submits sketches showing the wording "Cylinder No. 6 A" and "Cylinder No. 6 B" printed in the lower portion of the left and right-hand margin respectively. Cylinder No. 6 A" and "Cylinder No. 6 B" printed in the lower portion of the left and right-hand margins respectively. Cylinder No. "6 A" refers to the vignette (Van Riebeeck's Ship) part of the stamp and No. "6 B" to the frame. The wording covers a length of the margin measuring a little over the height of the two bottom rows and, of course, the imprints are in the same colour as that section of the stamp which they identify, i.e., "6 A" (on the left) in grey for the vignette and "6 B" (on the right) in carmine for the frame. In the case of the former, the imprint reads in an upward direction, whereas for the frame, the wording reads downwards.

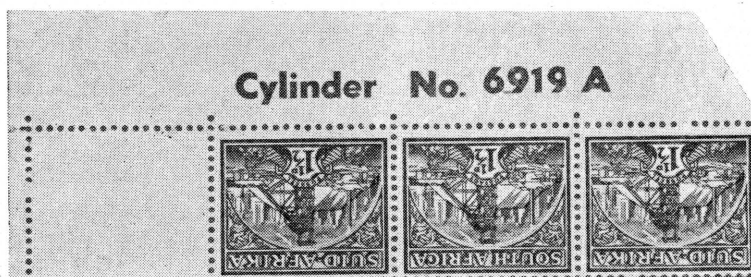
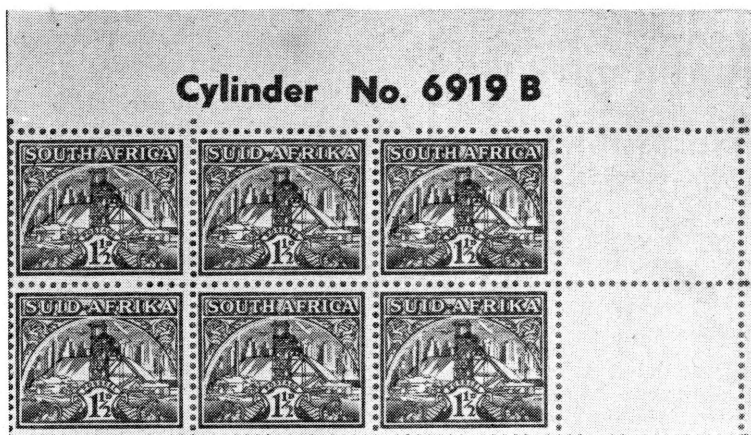
The printing conditions are noted as Screenless Rotogravure for the stamp frames and vignettes, and SCREENED Rotogravure for the cylinder letters and numbers and Mr. Sydow gives the following interesting comparison with a previous Union issue.

- (1) New 240-set sheet of 1d. with Cylinder Nos. in margin. (a) Stamps—Vignette and Frame—Screenless Gravure (2 colours). (b) Cylinder Nos.—Screened Gravure (2 colours).

Note that the figure "6" in the marginal imprint bears a resemblance to the "6" in the marginal figures of the "360" in the Bantam War Stamps (also screened gravure) and it is evident that the letters and figures have been taken from the type-set masters, as in the case of the Bantam war issues.

- (2) The booklet stamps with advertisements attached—the issue which was also overprinted "JIPEX". (a) Stamps—Vignette and Frame—Screenless Gravure (2 colours). (b) Advertisements attached—Screened Gravure (2 colours).

Sheets of the 1½d. with cylinder numbers and medium-sized "Gold Mine" stamps (not Bantams) printed as before, in a horizontal setting, were issued in a Cape Town suburban post office on the 15th July. Sketches show the wording "Cylinder No. 6919 B" printed at the right-hand end of the top margin, and "Cylinder No. 6919 A" printed at the same end of the bottom margin. Both top and bottom imprints extend over a length of the margin equal to a little more than the width of the last two vertical columns (stamps Nos. 19 and 20) and as with the 1d. value, the colour of the imprint identi-



fies the frame or vignette cylinder number. Thus "No. 6919 B" is printed in green, the same colour as the frame and gold mine, and "No. 6919 A" in bright gold, the colour of the centre background. The wording in the top margin reads from left to right, but in the bottom margin it is reversed so that the sheet has to be turned upside down in order to bring the letters and number into a normal reading positions.

From the foregoing it will be evident then that the 1d. cylinder number imprints and stamps can be collected in the form of bottom corner strips or blocks, and in the case of the 1½d., right-hand corner strips or blocks. Further notes on these issues will be given next month.

Sequence of ½d. Union Officials.

In continuation of his Check List (published in the April, 1942 "South African Philatelist"), Mr. A. Lichtenstein has forwarded the following information showing the various Official overprints on the ½d. denomination since its design was changed in 1937.

L 46.—Redrawn (current) design; thin arrows; black sheet numbers; issued about July, 1938. Colour, brown-black and dark olive-green; clear overprint spaced 12-12½ mm.

L 55.—Issued about 1940 or 1941. Heavy arrows, crossed by three white lines diagonally.

Bright blue sheet numbers; sepia-brown and deep-green stamps; clear overprint, 11½-12½ mm.

L 60.—Issued about 1947(?). Heavy solid arrows; black sheet numbers; iron-grey and dull green stamps; heavy overprint, 11-12 mm.

L 65.—Issued 1947. Same basic stamp as L 60 in slightly paler shades, but "Official" reading up and "Offisieel" down. Heavy shiny overprint, 10 mm.

6d. Razor Blade Booklets again on Sale.

Mr. A. H. Sydow mentions that these booklets, which were formerly vended in the machines at the Central Post Office in Cape Town, are now on sale at most suburban offices in that area. He points out two constant flaws, which can be found in the 1d. denomination and not so far recorded in the "S.A.P."

(1) *English Inscribed Stamp.* Complete break in pennant and also a white vertical mark extending from the bottom of the value tablet circle to the foot of the numeral "1" on the same stamp.

(2) *Afr'kaans Inscribed Stamp.* Retouch on hull of ship, which appears as a large whitish flaw, but crossed by grey lines of retouches; reminiscent of the retouch between the horns of the early roto ½d.

W.N.S.

Nyasaland

THE PROTECTORATE'S AIR POSTAL HISTORY.

By I. H. C. Godfrey

Continued from page 22, February, 1947

No new developments occurred between August, 1935, and February, 1937, at which time preparations were in hand for the commencement of the *Empire Air Mail Scheme*, whereby all first-class mail would be carried from the Protectorate by air, without surcharge and without the option of surface conveyance to countries participating. These preparations necessitated many changes being made in the time-tables of *R.A.N.A.*, *Imperial Airways* and *South African Airways*, as, early in 1937, *Imperial Airways* were substituting flying-boats for land planes on their Southern African services and, during the month of February, no direct air connection between Nyasaland and the Union of South Africa existed. Letters prepaid at current air-mail rates of postage had, for a short time, to be forwarded by rail beyond Salisbury and a single-lined cachet in black reading "BY AIR TO SALISBURY ONLY" was applied at the Blantyre Post Office to such correspondence.

JUNE 29, 1937: The FIRST STAGE of the far-reaching *Empire Air Mail Scheme* was introduced in Nyasaland on this date, when all first-class mail was automatically sent by air to Great Britain and to the following African territories at the rate of 2d. per half ounce: Union of South Africa, Southern and Northern Rhodesia, Bechuanaland, Basutoland, Swaziland, South-West Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and Zanzibar. In addition, the Belgian Congo, Mozambique and Angola were included in the scheme.

No official commemorative covers were issued to mark the great event.

DECEMBER 10 to 25, 1937: Following the lead of Great Britain the Protectorate's postal authorities agreed to waive surcharge on underfranked correspondence entering Nyasaland during the first Christmas season after the inauguration of the scheme. This concession lasted for sixteen days and during that period special "No Tax" labels were affixed to underfranked letters. These interesting labels (which might, logically, fall into the category of postage due stamps) were printed in black on white un gummed paper approximately 100 mm. by 74 mm. in size. They drew the attention of the recipients of underpaid letters to the amount which, normally, would have been payable by way of surcharge, and to the new scale of postage rates. Covers bearing the labels and the necessary Postage Due impressions

are extraordinarily scarce and unused labels are likewise difficult to find.

The actual wording on these labels was as follows:—

"NOTICE: A Postal Surcharge of should have been payable on this Article. As an exceptional arrangement the Postmaster-General has waived the amount of surcharge on letters received in Nyasaland during the period 10th-25th December, 1937.

Will you please advise your correspondents that the rate of postage on letters to Nyasaland is as under:—

From United Kingdom, 1½d. per ½ oz.
From Union of S.A., 1½d. per ½ oz. From S. Rhodesia, 2d. per ½ oz air mail, 1d. per 1 oz. surface mail. From Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, 20 cents per ½ oz."

FEBRUARY 23, 1938: The SECOND STAGE of the *Empire Air Mail Scheme* came into force from this date. Generally speaking, all Empire Territories East of Suez were included, excepting Hong Kong and Australasia. Mails for Canada and Newfoundland were carried to Great Britain without surcharge. Certain other places, not in the Empire, but having British Postal Agencies were also brought into the orbit of the "All Up" scheme, namely Egypt, French Colonial possessions in India and Tibet.

MAY 23, 1938: FIRST REGULAR INTERNAL AIR-MAIL SERVICES. BLANTYRE to LILONGWE (155 miles). FORT JAMESON (80 miles).

The *Royal Air Force* experimental mail flights in May and June, 1933, have already been described. Just five years later, almost to the day, a regular twice-weekly airmail service was inaugurated by *R.A.N.A.* over the identical routes. On this occasion, however, no publicity was given and, instead of letters requiring to be prepaid at 1s. per half ounce, ALL first-class mail matter addressed to the Northern parts of Nyasaland and to North-Eastern Rhodesia was carried by air as a matter of course.

The air service between Salisbury and Blantyre, which had been in regular operation since March, 1934, was extended at very short notice 235 miles further north-eastwards on May 23, to Lilongwe and to Fort Jameson in Northern Rhodesia.

Mr. R. A. Bourlay, piloting a De Haviland Dragon Rapide "VP-YAU", left Blantyre at 7.15 a.m. and, after calling at Zomba en route, reached Lilongwe one and three-quarter hours later. No special markings were applied to mail matter carried on this flight and, as airmail labels were not used, first flight covers can only be identified by the backstamping: Registered articles and mail addressed to Postes Restante, only, were so treated. These covers bear the Lilongwe backstamp "23.5.38—9.15 a.m.". No Nyasaland mail was carried to Fort Jameson on this flight and the only items available, therefore, to depict this stage of the new *R.A.N.A.* service are those posted abroad, which were

flown through the Protectorate. Fort Jameson was reached at 11.10 a.m., and some of the mail carried was backstamped there "23 May 38—2 p.m."

MAY 25, 1938: *Return Flight*—LILONGWE to BLANTYRE.

Mr. R. A. Bourlay started his return flight from Fort Jameson at 2 p.m. on May 25; Lilongwe was reached at 2.45 and Blantyre at 4.55 the same afternoon, covers requiring backstamps were so treated at Blantyre the same day.

JULY 28, 1938: The THIRD AND FINAL STAGE of the *Empire Air Mail Scheme* came into force on this date. British Oceania, generally, was then included in the "All Up" scheme, namely—Australia and New Zealand, Fiji, Gilbert and Ellis Islands, Lord Howe Island, Nauru, New Guinea, New Hebrides, Norfolk Island, Papua, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Western Samoa. "THE CROWNING POINT OF A MAGNIFICENT ACHIEVEMENT." Mails were flown by R.A.N.A. to Beira to connect with the *Imperial Airways* flying-boat, "*Corsair*," in command of Capt. G. S. Long.

JANUARY, 1939: During the first days of the month, R.A.N.A. extended their Trans-Nyasaland Service a further 682 miles westwards from Fort Jameson, N.R., to Mongu in Barotseland, the route being: Salisbury—Blantyre—Lilongwe—Fort Jameson—Lusaka—Mumbwa—Mankoya—Mongu. There is no record of any Nyasaland mail having been conveyed on the inaugural flight and, in any case, as all the new points of call are in Northern Rhodesia, the service does not really come within the scope of this article.

SEPTEMBER 8, 1939: On the outbreak of war with Germany, Civil Aviation throughout the Empire was greatly disorganised and all regular time-tables were immediately scrapped. Only one service a week, for instance, operated between Great Britain and Southern Africa. Further drastic curtail-

ments were necessitated when Italy declared war against the British Empire in June, 1940.

SEPTEMBER 8, 1939: A Post Office Notice cancelled the *Empire Air Mail Scheme* from this date and the public was notified that a flat airmail rate of 1s. 3d. per half-ounce would be charged for ALL Empire destinations. Erroneously, this notice implied that the postage to adjacent territories was likewise increased and this was subsequently corrected.

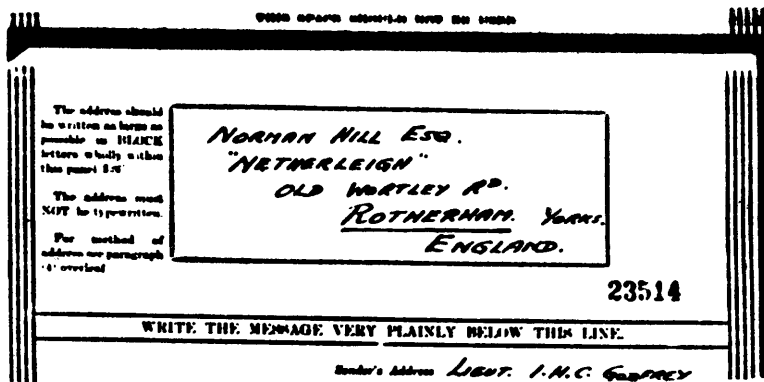
The chaotic state of air communication shortly after the outbreak of war was responsible for long delays in the delivery of letters: for example, registered airmail posted on September 8, at the new rate of 1s. 3d., was not received in Johannesburg until eight days later!

JANUARY 1, 1940: War-time exigencies compelled the Southern Rhodesia Government to take over control of all civil aviation in the Colony. *Rhodesia and Nyasaland Airways* came under military control at the beginning of 1940 and, thereafter, operated as an adjunct to the Southern Rhodesian Air Force under the name "SOUTHERN RHODESIA AIR SERVICES". Civilian mail continued to be carried at surcharged rates, but for security reasons no disclosure of new, or alterations in existing, services was made public.

Many of the Postal Services of Nyasaland were linked with those of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika for the duration of the war, and directives regarding Airgraph and Airmail Letter Card services were issued by E. A. Command HQ at Nairobi.

Regular air services within the Protectorate were suspended and were not reinstated until January 1, 1945.

MARCH 17, 1942: The first civilian and military AIRGRAPH SERVICE was introduced on this date, messages being processed by Messrs. Kodak Ltd., Nairobi, for the United Kingdom only. The first despatch reached England on April 5.



Unfranked forms, requiring postage of 6d. to be affixed, were sold at the post offices at 4 for 1d. They differ from those used in

other territories in that the borders have four vertical lines instead of the more usual oblique ruling.

APRIL 20, 1942: Airgraph service extended to Eire.

AUGUST 18, 1943: Airgraph service extended to Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, New Hebrides and Tonga.

AUGUST 24, 1944: Airgraph rate reduced to 3d. and forms issued free by Post Offices.

AUGUST 24, 1944: Civilian AIR LETTER SERVICE introduced. Forms issued free by Post Offices and required to be franked with 6d. stamps. The ordinary grey General Colonial issue, not peculiar to Nyasaland, has been in use since the start of the service.

Acknowledgements are made to the pilots named in this article and to Messrs. L. J. Davidson and L. E. Creasy for much of the above information. The chronology is doubtless incomplete, and any additional information will be welcomed.

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"Melita" o'p'd. "Postage" (S.G. 143-152) . . .	14/-
"Self-Govt. 1947" (booking) mint . . .	26/3
used	28/6
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S. Africa to England	18/6
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Reversed Perforations and Cyclometer Numbers of Certain Union Rotogravure Postage Stamps and Postage Due Labels

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

As a result of the scrutiny from time to time of a considerable number of sheets of the various issues of the Union's Postage Stamps and Postage Due Labels hitherto produced by the rotary photo-gravure process at the Government Printing Works in Pretoria, it was deduced that during the simultaneous operations of printing and perforating stamps in the web on the machine there existed some sort of working liaison between the harrow or multiple comb perforator and the numbering device or cyclometer which typographed the sheet control numbers on the lateral margins of the sheets of stamps.

Compilation of data derived from the scrutiny of a large number of sheets of stamps and labels manifested *inter alia* the existence of two sets of characteristics indicative of such working liaison between perforator and cyclometer which are categorised thus :—

(a) In all instances where the four-figure sheet control numbers were typographed two-fold on the *right hand* margins of sheets, such

sheets were perforated in *downward* directions. *Vide* Diagram "A" hereunder.

(b) In all instances where the four-figure sheet control numbers were typographed two-fold on the *left hand* margins of sheets, such sheets were perforated in *upward* directions. *Vide* Diagram "B" hereunder.

For the purpose of exemplification, the diagrams following were planned from complete sheets of stamps housed in my Union collection.

CATEGORY (A)—FOUR-FIGURE CYCLOMETER.

Normal Perforations : Downward Direction of Perforation and Right-hand Margins Showing Sheet Control Numbers.—Multiple comb perforator, Type A, of the gauge $14\frac{3}{4}$ by $14\frac{1}{4}$ used in connection with a 360-set sheet of 1d. National Defence Stamps of miniature or bantam format with large numerals "360" gravure-printed in carmine on lateral margins and sheet control numerals 6618 typographed two-fold in scarlet on right-hand margin. Spurs of the eleventh horizontal row of combs pointing downwards—Rows (1)—(A) and (12)—(11).

DIAGRAM "A."

Row	(1)—(A)	...	...	m.d.m.	d.m.d.	m.d.m.	d.m.d.	m.d.m.	d.m.d.
„	(2)—(1)	...	...	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.
„	(3)—(2)	...	...	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.
„	(4)—(3)	...	...				
„	(5)—(4)	...	...				
„	(6)—(5)	...	...				
„	(7)—(6)	...	...				
„	(8)—(7)	...	...				
„	(9)—(8)	...	...				
„	(10)—(9)	...	...				
„	(11)—(10)	...	...	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.
„	(12)—(11)	...	...	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.

Second Descending.

6618

„ (13)—(12)	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.
„ (14)—(13)	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.
„ (15)—(14)						
„ (16)—(15)						
„ (17)—(16)						
„ (18)—(17)						
„ (19)—(18)						
„ (20)—(19)	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.
„ (21)—(20)	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.
„ (22)—(A)	d.m.d.	m.d.m.	d.m.d.	m.d.m.	d.m.d.	m.d.m.
„ (1)—(A)	m.d.m.	d.m.d.	m.d.m.	d.m.d.	m.d.m.	d.m.d.

First Descent

6618

CATEGORY (B)—FOUR-FIGURE CYCLOMETER.

Reversed Perforations : Upward Direction of Perforation and Left-hand Margins Showing Sheet Control Numbers.—Multiple comb perforator, Type A, of the gauge 14½ by 14½ used in connection with a 360 set sheet of 1d. National Defence Stamps of miniature or bantam format with large numerals “360” gravure-printed in carmine on lateral margins and sheet control numerals 6884 typographed two-fold in scarlet on left-hand margin. Spurs of the eleventh horizontal row of combs pointing upwards—Rows (22)—(A) and (11)—(10).

The significance of the letters and stops incorporated in the foregoing Diagrams “A” and “B” are as follows :—

- (1) “d” for “DRA NASIONALE VEILIGHEID OP U HART—KOOP UNIELENINGSERTIFIKATE” and “m” for “MAKE NATIONAL SECURITY YOUR OWN—BUY UNION LOAN CERTIFI-

CATES—both sets, slogans in miniature, located in horizontal rows marked (A) in juxtaposition to the top and bottom rows of stamps.

- (2) “a” for an Afrikaans inscribed stamp and “e” for an English inscribed one.
- (3) Interposed stops for the lines of intermediary vertical rouletting.

For the purpose of discernment both diagrams exhibit exaggerated deviation from the normal alignment of the vertical rows of perforation holes of the first and second descents of the perforator as well as exaggerated demarcation of their horizontal junctures in Diagram “A” between Rows (12)—(11) and (13)—(12) and in “B” Diagram between Rows (10)—(9) and (11)—(10). The bracketted figures (11)—(10) for instance, represent the eleventh horizontal row of combs encompassing the tenth horizontal row of stamps.

DIAGRAM “B.”

(22)—(A)	d.m.d.	m.d.m.	d.m.d.	m.d.m.	d.m.d.	m.d.m.
„ (1)—(A)	m.d.m.	d.m.d.	m.d.m.	d.m.d.	m.d.m.	d.m.d.
„ (2)—(1)	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.
„ (3)—(2)	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.
„ (4)—(3)						
„ (5)—(4)						
„ (6)—(5)						
„ (7)—(6)						
„ (8)—(7)						
„ (9)—(8)	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.
„ (10)—(9)	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.

6884

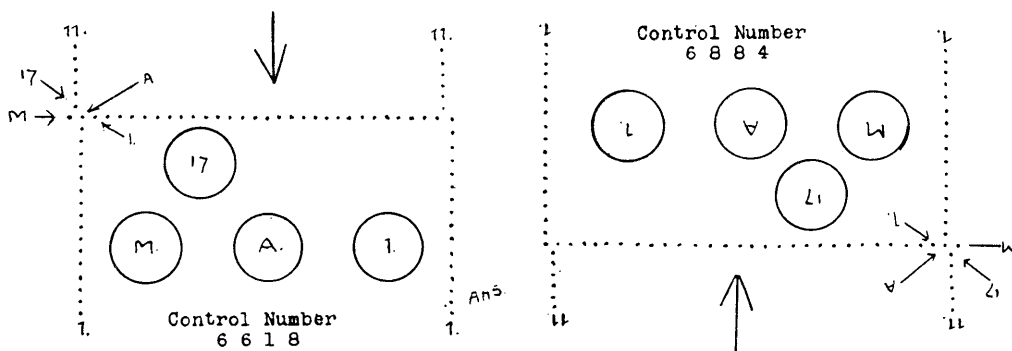
First Descent.

„ (11)—(10)	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.
„ (12)—(11)	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.
„ (13)—(12)						
„ (14)—(13)						
„ (15)—(14)						
„ (16)—(15)						
„ (17)—(16)						
„ (18)—(17)						
„ (19)—(18)						
„ (20)—(19)	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.
„ (21)—(20)	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.	e.a.e.	a.e.a.
„ (22)—(A)	d.m.d.	m.d.m.	d.m.d.	m.d.m.	d.m.d.	m.d.m.

7889

Second Descent

DIAGRAM "C."



The following have been found with reverse perforations in Category "B":—

(1)	1d. National Defence (Bantams)	—	Left-hand	Control Number	...	...	...	6884
(2)	½d. Postage Due (large)	—	„	„	...	...	...	5285
(3)	1d. „ „	—	„	„	...	...	...	4322
(4)	3d. „ „	—	„	„	...	...	...	5744
(5)	3d. „ „	—	„	„	...	...	...	0336
(6)	6d. „ „	—	„	„	...	...	...	2481
(7)	2d. „ „	—	„	„	...	...	...	9628

Diagram "C" depicts in both normal and reverse positions the junctures of the perforation holes penetrated by a comb of the first horizontal row of combs from a first descent and by the spurs of a comb of the eleventh horizontal row of combs from a second descent of the perforator. Observe the positions of the perforated hole made by the leading needle (17) of the eleventh row of combs in relation to the positions of the perforation holes made by the marginal needle (M) and the apex needle (A) of the first row of combs. Perforation hole 17 is out of alignment with perforation hole A.

REVERSE PERFORATIONS.
CATEGORY "B."

The four-figure control numbers shown afore have been taken from sheets and panes in my collection.

The 3d. item (4) is the one with black figure of value and item (5) the one with ultramarine figure of value. The 2d. item (7) is the one with typographed figure of value. The 2d. Postage Due with the rotogravured figure of value has been found with normal perforation only.

The Postage Dues were perforated by multiple-comb perforator Type C of the gauge 14½ by 14½.

In addition to the two sets of characteristics of working liaison between perforator and cyclometer categorised as (a) and (b) heretofore in this article, a third set is now added:—

- (c) In all instances where the five-figure sheet control numbers were typographed two-fold on the right-hand margins of sheets, such sheets were perforated in upward direction

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GERMANY

"Philatelie-Equator" sends from Hamburg two stamps, 24 and 50 pfg. issued on 22nd May in connection with the 1948 Export-Mess (this is not to be too literally translated—it means "Export Market"). They feature a merchant at his scales with buyer and seller in attendance. The two values were printed together as well as separately. The cover shows an interesting postmark with an elephant, honouring the centenary of the famous Hagenbeck Zoo.

A forgery gang has been arrested in Duisburg. One of their efforts was forgeries of the AM-Post 8 pfg, 80 pfg and 1 RM, Brunswick issue, which they produced in small sheets, some gummed, some un gummed. Another was the so-called Tunis parcel stamp of the 3rd Reich.

New stamps were not ready for issue at the same time as the new currency appeared so provisionals were made by overprinting the old stamps with multiple posthorns. These are likely to have a very short life and to be much sought after.

Someone unknown has sent a first day cover with stamps of the "Leipziger Messe 1948" (the Leipzig Spring Fair), large pictorials 50 and 84 pfg.

*

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The postal administration has sent a nice day-of-issue (10th June) envelope with cachet in connection with the 11th Sokol Congress and special cancellation on 4 stamps. Two (1 and 3 Kcs) bear a portrait of Dr. Jindrich Vanicek, the other two (1.50 and 2 Kcs) feature Dr. Josef Scheiner; these gentlemen were leaders in the Sokol movement.

There was also a 1.50 Kcs stamp issued on 14th May in honour of the centenary of the abolition of serfdom and two stamps were announced for 20th June to mark the centenary of the Constituent Assembly in Kromeriz.

They have also sent another special envelope with two stamps (1.50 and 3 kcs) featuring two portraits and entitled "Kromerizsky Snem 1848-1948" but with no further information as to what the commemoration is.

CONGRESS AND EXHIBITION,
PRETORIA, 18th—20th OCTOBER

Full details of the Philatelic Congress and Exhibition to be held in Pretoria, October 18-20, 1948, under the auspices of the Pretoria Philatelic Society, were sent to all constituent Societies of the Federation and to a number of individual philatelists some time ago.

But as the Congress is open to any philatelist to attend as a visitor, an outline of the proceedings is here given:—

Monday, 18th.—Opening ceremony 10.15, and Congress sitting until 5.30. Evening free.

Tuesday, 19th.—Tour by bus to visit Johannesburg G.P.O. Congress sitting in the evening, 7.45 to 10 p.m.

Wednesday, 20th.—Visits to Mint and Government Printing Works. Congress sitting 7.45 to 10 p.m., including final round of the All-Federation Quiz and a display of philatelic films.

For those who can stay on there are possibilities of visits to the Mint, Government Printing Works and Iscor on Thursday, 21st, and a bus tour round the city on Friday, 22nd.

The Exhibition will be open during 18th to 20th; there will be stickers, commemorative envelopes and a special postal cancellation available.

Leaflets covering conditions of the competitive exhibition are obtainable from the Exhibition Secretary, P.O. Box 514, Pretoria.

Book your accommodation at once as it will be Jacaranda Week in Pretoria with many attractions and many visitors.

(Concluded from page 144)

The following thirteen Societies took part in the Quiz; they are given in the order determined by the marks allotted to them in the 1st round, and the first eight now pass on to the 2nd round:

Cape Town Philatelic Society, West Rand Stamp Club and Philatelic Society of Johannesburg, O.F.S. and Basutoland Philatelic Society, Copperbelt Philatelic Society, East London Philatelic Society, Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society, Pretoria Philatelic Society.

Springs Philatelic Society, East Rand Philatelic Society, Pretoria Railway Philatelic Society, Philatelic Society of Natal, Grahamstown Philatelic Society.

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SOCIETY NEWS

CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, K. M. Cameron; *Hon. Sec.*, S. Kaganson, P.O. Box 1973; *Meetings*, 2nd and 4th Thursdays, at Yorkshire Buildings, Strand Street, at 7.30 p.m.

24th June. Mr. Protoulis gave us the second instalment of his whole world Air Mail collection. This consisted of the letter "C" beautifully mounted. Starting with a complete range of the regular Canada Airls, including the rare varieties, he showed us thirteen pages of the semi-officials. In the latter were many items which most of us did not know existed. Carrying on from here we saw complete collections of the various countries up to Czechoslovakia. Even the very complicated Canary Islands were there. Mr. W. G. Combrink spoke on behalf of Mr. Protoulis who was unavoidably absent in the Transvaal. In proposing a vote of thanks, Mr. Oates emphasised the extraordinary completeness of the exhibit.

After disposing of formal business a debate took place on the question as to whether it was desirable that famous collections should be buried in museums. Members' opinions were varied and some very interesting points were raised.

8th July. Mr. Kaganson gave a display of "Unions without tears." This was a practically complete collection of normal Union stamps. In a few well-chosen words he pointed out how much interest is to be obtained from collecting Unions without worrying about all these unimportant dots and minor varieties so dear to many. Judging by remarks passed by members as they moved round the tables, the exhibit was much appreciated, and should stimulate interest in these issues. Mr. Simenhoff proposed a vote of thanks.

The meeting closed with the first round of the inter-Societies Quiz.

L.H.R.

★

GRAHAMSTOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. Eric A. Carr; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. O. Turner; *Meetings*, 2nd Tuesdays at 8 o'clock, 8a Dundas Street. Address for correspondence: P.O. Box 11.

The June meeting was held on the 10th when a general and informative discussion was of much interest.

The July meeting was on the 8th, and an inter-Society Philatelic Quiz was held. This feature showed up several gaps in members' philatelic knowledge. We hope to stay in this inter-Society quiz as long as possible.

Mr. Eric Pote, our Exchange Superintendent, was auctioneer when a number of sets were put up and sold.

Mr. O. Turner showed a used block of six Transvaal 1d., red, 1895 issue, imperforate between pairs. This item was the centre of much interest.

S.C.C.

★

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

President, Mr. W. Redford; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. B. Glassman, P.O. Box 4967, Johannesburg; *Meetings*, 2nd Tuesdays and 4th Mondays, Public Library, 7.45 p.m.

At the meeting held on 13th July, the Philatelic Section of the Jewish Guild paid an official visit to the Society and provided the exhibits.

Mr. B. Glassman showed King George VI Pictorials. These included all the obsolete colours and perforations. Commander Enoch, who spoke on the exhibit, pointed out how every item in the exhibit was a well-centred copy. He complimented Mr. Glassman on the arrangement of the exhibit.

Mr. J. A. Davidson showed Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika. It was an almost complete straight collection in mint up to the £1 values. There were

some used items and specimens up to the £10 value. Mr. J. Burrell spoke on the exhibit.

Mr. L. Buchen showed Switzerland commemoratives and air mails. There were several flown covers and miniature sheets. Mr. W. Redford spoke on the exhibit.

Mr. I. Isaacs showed flown covers of Southern Africa, including South Africa, South-West Africa and Southern Rhodesia. There were several covers of the Schlesinger Air Race. Mr. Redford spoke on the exhibit.

26th July. Mr. W. Redford showed Southern and Northern Nigeria. This was a practically complete collection of all values, including numerous shades and specimen stamps. There were several fine used copies. The exhibit included a fine mint specimen of the £25 value Northern Nigeria of 1904. Commander Enoch spoke on the exhibit.

During the evening the Society held the first round of the Quiz organised by the Society for competition by all constituent Societies of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa. The Quiz team consisted of Messrs. Chapman, Glassman, Jacks, Joseph, Oppenheim, Schwartz, Commander Enoch and Rev. Noel Roberts.

I.I.

★

ORANGE FREE STATE AND BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. C. A. Larsen; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. R. G. Lyon, Box 702, Bloemfontein; *Meetings*, 3rd Fridays each month, Oranje Koffiehuis, Bloemfontein, 7.30 p.m.

There was a record crowd of members and visitors at the July meeting which had been announced as a "Quiz evening." Formal business was quickly dispensed with. Further arrangements for the Junior Stamp competition were discussed and its final date was fixed for Saturday afternoon on 28th August. An auction sale of some stamp lots was also rushed through. But then excitement ran to fever pitch, when at last the long-awaited quiz was started. This quiz, a knock-out competition held among all Union Societies under the auspices of the Johannesburg Philatelic Society, was held with all the pomp and with all strict formalities pertaining to it. There was an able quiz-master (Mr. M. Liss), a gong-master (Mr. Gus Smith) and a recorder (the secretary). Whenever one of the eight questions was read out by the quiz-master and put before the whole meeting, an excited buzzing went through the crowd, while the gong-master held his threatening gong (a nickel-tray snatched from the cafe equipment) to strike at the completion of one minute. However, just in time fingers shot up and an answer was given each time. Due mention must be made in this regard of Mr. A. Lichtenstein, who took the lion share in replying (in true "Eric Rosenthal" fashion). Whether with success, only the future will tell. The Society is going now through a tense state of waiting for the result of this first round of the quiz competition.

K.F.

★

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. G. K. Forbes; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. G. P. Smith, 13 Trafalgar Square, Port Elizabeth; *Meetings*, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in Room 3, City Hall Basement, at 7.45 p.m.

At the business meeting on Tuesday, 20th July, Mr. Forbes was in the chair and presided over a large gathering. A warm welcome was given to two visitors, Mrs. T. Blick of Pretoria, and Mr. Paviour of East London. The display was by Mr. Wilson of Uitenhage, and he tabled about 100 pages. The greater part was of Union Officials, both mint and used, and in many cases blocks of four. This series was nearly complete. The remainder was from his general collection, and consisted of Australia, India, St. Lucia, Solomon Isles and Chile. There were also a few very interesting covers. Mr. Campbell also showed some U.S.A. covers, commemorating the chaplains who served during the war.

The first round of the Inter-Quiz was held with Mr. Levey as Quiz-Master, and members are waiting for the results. Mr. Levey auctioned about 70 packets, and the meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

L.E.C.

THE JEWISH GUILD PHILATELIC SECTION

Chairman, I. Isaacs; *Hon. Secretary*, B. Joseph, 143 London House, Loveday Street, Johannesburg; *Meetings*, last Thursday, Jewish Guild Memorial Hall, Von Brandis Street.

At the meeting held on 24th June the exhibit was provided by Messrs. B. and J. Joseph who showed British Empire, chiefly George VI. The exhibit included the commemoratives of the King George V reign as well as the air mails. Rare varieties of perforation and obsolete colours were included. The exhibit included the perf. 12 1½d. S. Rhodesia and the perf. 14, 1s. of the same country, both unusual items to-day. The exhibit was practically complete in the King George VI section. Mr. Glassman spoke on the exhibit.

I.I.



EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mrs. R. Alabaster; *Secretary*, W. J. Gillespie, P.O. Box 673. *Meetings*, 2nd Fridays, above Colosseum Theatre Tea Room, at 7.45 p.m.

Although your correspondent has been backward, not so the Society, for the meetings have been well attended and displays have been of a very high standard. Mr. Thornton has given us two fine displays, and need no comment apart from the pleasure of saying that Mr. Thornton's displays are always a joy to see and really worth spending much more time on than is allowed in the short evening session. Mr. Courlander gave us a glimpse of his fine collection of West Indies, or should I say a portion of it. Another member whose displays are worth more time to gloat over than members have at meetings.

I will venture to say, however, without any wish to transgress on the method of the collector's own desire and joy, or to attempt to belittle the collection (rather the reverse) that from the viewpoint of the modern collector these displays by our specialists and older members of their classics are difficult to appreciate to the full as little or no writing up is done and the many rare and fine items pass without comment.

Col. Grey gave another such display of mint items complete to top values, but sad to say the setting up was much discussed and the splitting of sets on to other sheets already containing sets of other issues was considered bad mounting.

I trust this criticism will be accepted in the spirit of construction rather than in any other way.

In the meantime our two Past-Presidents are away on long tours, business and otherwise, Mr. Jensen across the world on business and pleasure and Mr. Durkin on a protracted tour of Southern Africa. We hope to have them return fit and full of the joys of life.

W.J.G.



THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL

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

July meeting was not as well attended as usual. This was most likely due to the fact that quite a few were away on holiday; nevertheless the evening was a most enjoyable one. Miss O. Hillman-Liggett is to be congratulated on the competition she brought along. It caused a lot of headaches. Mr. Appleby proved the winner after spinning a coin with two ties. We trust the ladies will now come along with some exhibits and show us how they set out, and write up their collections. Mr. J. Lyle, who needs no introduction to Philatelists, always has something to show. This time he exhibited his George VI for the "Percy C. Bishop Cup"; what a fine lot they were. Members commented on the fine set out. Stamps on black and then on white certainly make them stand out. Mr. Owens thanked Mr. Lyle for his effort. We hear Mr. A. J. Cornelius is to exhibit his Newfoundland in August. Philatelists will get a treat to see the old classics which these days are hard to find. We would like to remind visiting philatelists that they are more than welcome to attend our meetings.

W.H.W.

THE PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. L. L. Brown; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. W. Kriste; *Meetings*, Second Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m. in the Berea Park Recreation Club.

At the July meeting Mr. W. Newlands read a most interesting and illuminating paper about Burma, its history and its peoples, its characteristics and its products. Philatelically speaking, Burma began to issue its own postage stamps on 1st April, 1937, so it is a comparatively young country. Mr. Newlands dealt very thoroughly with the stamps used during the Japanese occupation, detailing all the different overprints, surcharges and cancellations. Mr. Newlands tabled his collection of this country, and it must surely be the best of such collections in the Union. It is complete from the first issue of 1937 right up to the present day, with very few exceptions, these being mainly those mentioned in Stanley Gibbons—not priced. Only 12 stamps are required to complete this very fine collection. Mr. Newlands was thanked for his entertaining and interesting paper and exhibit by Mr. W. Howie.

W.K.



ALL-FEDERATION QUIZ FIRST ROUND

Below are given the questions and answers of the first round.

Thirteen Societies took part. They are here listed in the order of marks awarded, and the first eight survive to take part in the second round.

Q. 1: What sized blocks of the following denominations of the Union war-effort "Bantams" are required to show all the Language-Perforation-Roulette varieties? ½d., 2d., 4d., 1s.

A. 1: ½d., block of 6; 2d., block of 4; 4d., vertical strip of 3; 1s., vertical pair.

Q. 2: What well-recognized varieties occur in the Vignette of most of the values of the St. Helena King George V issue of 1922?

A. 2: (1) Cleft in rock; (2) broken flag; (3) broken mast; (4) white stern.

Q. 3: When were pre-Union stamps demonetized and thus made invalid for pre-paying postage in the Union?

A. 3: 1st January, 1938.

Q. 4: In the 1898 issue of Nyasaland, often called the "Cheque Stamp Provisionals" there is a surround of double lines horizontally and vertically. What is the wording of the inscription between this surround and the cheque stamp?

A. 4: Internal Postage.

Q. 5: For what other country or countries have Union stamps been overprinted?

A. 5: S.W.A., Kenya, Basutoland, Bechuanaland, Swaziland.

Q. 6: What additions to a "Stamp Zoo" collection can be made from the stamps of South-West Africa?

A. 6: Springbok and Oxen on overprinted Union stamps; Gom Paauw, Eland, Zebra and Wildebeeste on definitive stamps.

Q. 7: What watermarks occur normally on stamps of the Cape of Good Hope? (Sideways, Inverted or No Watermark varieties not wanted.)

A. 7: Anchor on triangulars; Crown C C; Crown C A; Cabled Anchor.

Q. 8: Name as many as you can of the Union of South African stamp issues which are bilingual, i.e., with both official languages on the one stamp.

A. 8: 1910, 2½d.; 1913, all king's heads; 1925 Airm; 1929 Airm; 1935 Jubilees; 1941 Large War 2d. and 1s.; 1942 Bantam 4d. and 1s.; All Postage Dues.

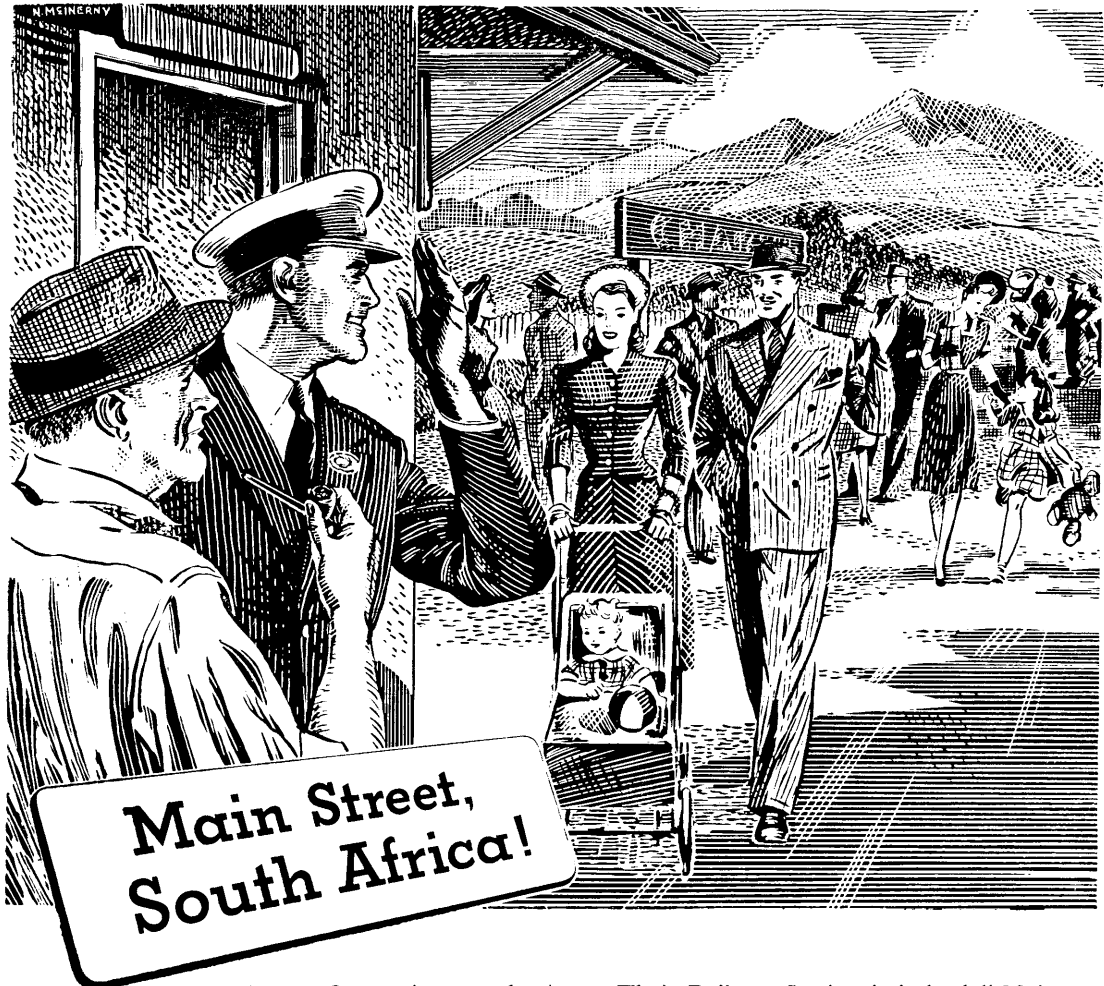
Q. 9: Seychelles 1938-1941 issue. Several denominations have had the colours changed since they were first issued. In what denominations has a change occurred and what are the two different colours in which each has appeared?

A. 9: 3c, green to orange; 6c, orange to green; 9c, scarlet to blue; 20c, blue to yellow; 30c, carmine to blue; 75c, grey-blue to mauve; 1R, yellow-green to black.

Q. 10: What countries have issued triangular stamps?

A. 10: Cape, Union and S.W.A.

(Concluded on page 141)



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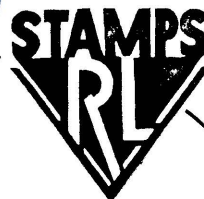
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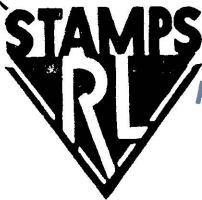
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Union Notes

Re-Issue of Unhyphenated ½d. Typo. Stamps

Following on the information given in last month's issue of the "South African Philatelist" to the effect that ½d. unhyphenated typographed stamps had recently appeared on sale again in Cape Town, reports have now been received which show that supplies of these stamps have also been available at several of the smaller post offices in the Transvaal and O.F.S., but generally only in small quantities.

In a conversation with the Government Printer on the subject of this typographed production, Dr. A. Kaplan of Germiston was informed that the re-issue of the ½d. flat-plate stamps from the old Royal Mint electrotyped plates had been decided on for the purpose of using up a stock of cut paper. Since the supply on hand was unsuitable for the rotary machines it was considered that in these days of paper shortage it could be utilised to advantage with the old flat-plates, but now that the printing had been completed there was very little likelihood of any further production of this sort.

The official figures for the printing are not yet available, but we understand the issue amounted to 11,000 sheets.

Cylinder No. Issues of the 1d. and 1½d. Denomination

The Union 1d. value, with the original setting of 240 stamps per sheet—instead of 180, as in the recent small sheets—and the Cylinder No. "6 A" and "6B" inscribed in the bottom corners, is reported as now being generally available throughout the Union. This also applies to the new 1½d. Gold Mine stamp with Cylinder No. "6919 A" and "6919 B", which has been issued to take the place of its immediate predecessor, the Bantam Gold Mine.

In the case of the 1d. value, the stamps themselves show no particular changes from the printings which have been on sale for the

last year, and apart from shade differences, are the same in colour, design and format (18 x 22 mm.) as the previous issues. The multiple Springbok's head watermark is upright, No. 1 stamp on the sheet is inscribed, as before, in English and the four figure sheet numbers are printed in red in the upper and lower portions of the right hand margins. With the return to the 240 stamp setting, the arrows at the top and bottom of the sheet are back again to their central position for equal division of the sheet, and as a matter of interest, the "narrow row"—caused by the perforator adjustment—appears in row No. 10 of those sheets so far examined.

It is of particular interest to note that the "smoke trail" across the sun rays, which has shown up on the fifth stamp of row No. 2 as a diapositive variety on all the 1d. printings (including the 180 stamp sheets) since the bilingual layout was first changed in 1947 with Cylinder 5 Int. and 2 Ext., has appeared again in this latest production.

The new 1½d., printing with inscribed Cylinder Nos., is a reversion to the 22 x 18 mm. format and "Small" mine design which was on sale immediately prior to the "Bantam" mine issue. The bilingual setting (No. 1 stamp in Afrikaans) is unchanged and the colour of yellow-buff, or gold, and dark slate blue is similar to the previous issues of this denomination. The watermark is the same as before and the red sheet numbers again appear in two places along the bottom margin, but the marginal arrows are slightly different in the fact that each appears with a series of six to seven white horizontal lines drawn through the green prongs and producing an effect which easily distinguishes them from any previous printing.

None of the flaws of the previous Small mine issues appear in the new printing and of those so far noted, none can be considered as particularly prominent though two or three are certainly interesting enough to collect. Mr. J. F. Keogh of Heilbron notes that these 1d. and 1½d stamps (and incidentally, also the current ½d. typographed issue) were placed on sale at that post office on the 20th July and his record of the printing varieties is included in

the following lists. The items are tabulated in the order of Row/Stamp.

1d. *Denomination.*

- No. 1/12 Flaw in top frame line over "S".
- No. 2/4 White flaw on "GE" of "Postage".
- No. 2/5 "Smoke Trail" in sun rays.
- No. 9/3 Red spot outside left hand frame line.
- No. 11/3 Black dot in numeral of "1d."
- No. 15/4 Red spot on yardarm under top pennant.
- No. 18/7 Red mark at bottom frame line under "MS".
- No. 18/11 Red mark at outer edge of right frame line.
- No. 19/8 Red spot in sun rays.
- No. 20/11 Red dot in numeral of "1d."
- Sloping red line from top frame line above the first "A" of "Afrika" to the right frame line.
- No. 20/12 Continuation of the red line in 20/11 from the left hand frame to edge of oval.

1½d. *Denomination.*

- No. 1/15 Green stroke in background under aeroplane.
- No. 3/16 Break in right hand outer frame line.
- No. 3/17 Similar flaw to No. 3/16.
- No. 4/19 Half circle above "C" in "Africa".
- No. 5/19 Green spot at left of large chimney.
- No. 6/5 The nicks in bottom frame near right corner.
- No. 6/6 Flaw between "FR" and dot after "A" of "Afrika". Green spot in background under "I" of "Afrika".
- No. 7/1 Green spot in background.
- No. 7/5 Green dot right of small chimney.
- No. 11/2 Small nick middle of right hand frame.

Flaws in the 6d. Razor Blade Booklets

In addition to the two varieties which occur in the 1d. value, and mentioned in last month's "Union Notes," Mr. T. F. Allpass, Johannesburg, has noted the following constant items in the same series and would be glad of any information as to their position on the sheet prior to cutting up into the booklet size.

- (1) *English Inscribed Stamp.* Shortened left leg in the first "A" of "Africa".
- (2) *Afrikaans Inscribed Stamp.* Faint dot instead of hyphen.

Variety in the 1d. "Sunset" Issue

A letter received from Mr. Allpass showed a strip of the recent dark-centred 1d. value in which the vignettes are out of alignment with the frames and producing the effect of a "new moon" at the right hand side of the ovals.

Varieties in the New 1s. Denomination

Mr. A. H. de Villiers of Pretoria records a bluish bleb near the heads of the gnus on stamp No. 5 of the 9th row of the current 1s. brown arrow issue now on sale in most towns of the Union. The flaw is located on the left

hand peak of background mountain range and readers who have enquired about the errors in this new printing will find the information in the following list.

- No. 4/5 "Stop" between "RI" of "Africa."
- No. 5/6 Blue mark near vertical centre of right hand inner frame line (vignette side).
- No. 9/5 Bluish blob on left hand mountain peak.
- No. 14/5 Sloping line in front of horns of rear gnu. Blue spot in "F" of "Africa".
- No. 16/5 Two vertical brown lines through "F" of "Africa".
- No. 19/4 Blue spot on shoulder of rear gnu.
- No. 20/5 Damaged flower top left hand corner.
- No. 8/1 "Scar" on shoulder of rear gnu.

Return of the ½d. 240 Setting Rotogravure Sheets

Several correspondents have noted the re-appearance of the ½d. 240 stamp rotogravure sheets in place of the smaller sheets of 180, but unlike the new 1d. and 1½d. issues, the ½d. has not yet shown up with inscribed cylinder numbers.

The production is similar to that on sale prior to the issue of the smaller sheets in May this year, but the small flaws noted in several of the frames of the previous printing do not appear in this current issue. Moreover, the marginal arrows have been redrawn and now show a series of fine horizontal lines through the prongs in a similar manner to those on the new 1½d. sheets described in a previous paragraph. The vignette cylinder is evidently the same as before, however, and the Springbok with the tagged ear and the spot on its nose, which has appeared on stamp No. 4 of the 3rd row (No. 1 of the 3rd row in the 180 stamp sheets) since the bilingual arrangement was changed towards the latter part of 1947, is again in evidence in this latest issue.

In connection with these new ½d. stamps, Mr. de Villiers mentions a slight irregularity in the setting of the Springbok's head in the bottom row. The first stamp on the left shows the horns slightly protruding over the top of the centre circle into the green, but the condition gradually adjusts itself along the row until, at the 12th stamp, the horns are within the circle and a slight gap appears between the top horizontal line and the tip of the horns.

Printings of the Current 2d. Pictorial

Mr. D. F. Evans, Dorking, England, notes that according to the "Recent Printings" information published from time to time in this magazine, there have been three printings of the current 2d. pictorial with the following cylinder numbers.

- A.—No. 6913 Int., 10 Ext.—Recorded June, 1945.
 - B.—No. 6913 Int., 64 Ext.—Recorded Nov., 1946.
 - C.—No. 8 Int., 21 Ext.—Recorded Feb., 1947.
- He has drawn up a list of the characteristics of the three printings as they appear in the

items in his possession, but not having facilities for studying complete sheets, would be glad of confirmation on his observations, especially in regard to the features, or differences between the issues denoted as "B" and "C".

Type A.

1. Arrows the same as No. 7 in Union Standard Catalogue.
2. Value tablet circle touches upper curve of "2".
3. Dot below first "S" of "Posseel"; Row 1/Stamp 1.
4. Dot in "R" of "Afrika"; Row 1/Stamp 1.
5. Horizontal line through tablet right hand scroll; Row 1/Stamp 2.
6. "Albino line" above "I" (Africa) top frame line; Row 1/No. 2.
7. Purple dot between inner and outer frame above "R" (Afrika); Row 1/No. 3.
8. Broken inner frame, lower right hand side; Row 1/No. 4.

Type B. (Also overprinted "Official.")

1. Arrows the same as No. 7 Union Standard Catalogue.
2. Circle of value tablet does not touch the "2".
3. Dent in upper frame above "F" (Africa); Row 20/No. 3.
4. Dot in "U" (South); Row 20/No. 1.

Type C.

1. Arrows similar to No. 8/9 Union Standard Catalogue.
2. Comparison between the "S's" of "South" in Types A and C show that in the former the "S" is much broader.

Bantam Postage Dues

The question of the size of the sheets of the 1d. Bantam Postage Due stamps has been raised by Mr. Evans. He notes that in the April, 1945, issue of "The South African Philatelist," the information under "Recent Printings" records that 2,100 sheets of 60 stamps per sheet were delivered by the postal authorities, but in the 1948 edition of the "Rex" Catalogue, the size of these postage due sheets is given as 360 (18x 20) stamps.

We have not had an opportunity of seeing a complete sheet of any of the four denominations of the bantam postage dues and so are unable to answer the query, but have observed that they appear to have been distributed to the majority of post offices in panes of 60 stamps, i.e., 6 x 10.

New Post Office Letter Card on Sale

Following the appearance of the much improved Air Letter Form in June this year, the postal authorities have now issued a 1½d. Letter Card, essentially for internal use. It is designed on the same lines, and is of the same size as the latest Air Letter Form, but is impressed with a 1½d. postage stamp and the paper is a pale greenish tint in front and more deeply greened on the writing portion at the back. Small white lettering covers the whole of the back writing portion with the words "Union of South Africa—Letter Card—Unie van Suid-Afrika—Briefkaart." The front design, bearing the title, the Union Coat of Arms, and the 1½d. stamp depicting the Union Buildings with the statue of General Botha in the foreground, is printed in deep claret and the same colour is used for the folding lines and the instructions regarding the use of the card.

Its postage stamp covers conveyance by air or surface mail, to destinations within the Union and South-West Africa, Mocambique, Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland. The form may also be used for correspondence by surface mail with all Commonwealth countries and, if additional postage stamps are affixed, with countries to which higher rates of postage are applicable. It will not be accepted for registration, and may not contain enclosures.

A New Meter Post Type

Mr. C. Calitz forwards a Neopost Meter Mark, of a type which has not previously been illustrated. It came from Wilderness and is numbered 484, which considerably exceeds the 469 recorded by Mr. R. Axer in our May issue.

New 3s. Booklets

Booklets containing twelve 3d., twelve 1d., and twelve 1½d. postage stamps are now on sale at the face value of 3s. each. This recent announcement by the Postmaster General is a very welcome one for apart from the distribution of the remainder of the "Razor Blade" stock, the public have not had an opportunity of purchasing Union booklets since 1941.

New Slogans

Several varieties of slogans have appeared, all aiming at raising funds for the world's children. The wording and settings vary according as to whether they are fitted to continuous machine cancellers or the single mark cancellers; the size of the lettering may also vary in one and the same design.



Following are varieties so far noted, but possibly there are more:

Single Mark. In two lines, with straight lines above, between and below "Gee een dag se loon en red 'n kind/Help Unac save the world's children." Also, similarly arranged, wording as in (a) below.

Continuous Marks. In two lines between alternate circles or squares,

- (a) "Give one day's/pay and save a child"
"Steun die V.V./Kindersfonds vandag."
(b) "Gee een dag se/loon en red 'n kind"
"Help Unac save the world's children."

Mail for Marion Island

Owing to damage done recently by gales and loss of stores, communications are being re-opened sooner than was expected. H.M.S.A.S. *Bloemfontein* left Durban on 17th August with a relief party and carried mails, calling at Port Elizabeth for stores and personnel, however, before finally leaving the mainland. The *Bloemfontein* returned to Port Elizabeth on 3rd September, with mail.

New Stamps for Old

The first move towards getting a new general issue of stamps has been taken. Their designing is being thrown open to world-wide competition and £1,200 has been authorised as prize money for accepted designs.

A committee has been appointed to draw up the rules for the competition and to act as judges on designs submitted, the details will be gazetted shortly. The committee consists of two representatives of the Post Office, one of the Government Printer, Prof. E. Roworth, Director of the National Art Gallery, Cape Town, Mr. P. A. Hendriks of the Municipal Art Gallery, Johannesburg, and Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie, representing the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa.

The new issue will consist of 12 denominations, a 9d. stamp being added to the present series of eleven. The ½d. and 1d. will be of the present size, others will be the size of the present 2d. The ½d. 1d. and 3d. must be predominantly green, red and blue in colour respectively, to meet U.P.U regulations; in the case of the other denominations no prescribed colour or colours are laid down.

W.N.S.

★

GOLD COAST

The new pictorial set, 12 values, ½d. to 10s., was issued on 1st July. They are attractive stamps with very varied designs and the King's head in a small oval vignette. Incidentally how much more attractive he appears in these minus the crown suspended in mid-air above his head in recent British stamps. Can it not be realised that a crown, if it is to appear at all, should be on the head, and then only if full Royal regalia is worn?

AUSTRALIA

The High Commissioner for Australia announces that on 12th July there will have been put on sale a 2½d. stamp honouring William James Farrer whose pioneer research work on wheat breeding was responsible for producing varieties resistant to drought and disease and giving marked improvement in yield and quality of flour.

Australia owes much to him for putting her in the forefront of the wheat producers of the world.

This stamp was issued as announced, and we are indebted to Mr. W. Yeoman, of the Pacific Stamp Supply, Sandringham Street, Victoria, for a first-day cover.

The stamp bears Farrer's portrait, is in vertical format, red in colour, perf. 17 x 15, and will be on sale for three months.

The July issue of the "Australian Stamp Monthly" figures and describes an "A.I.F." overprint on K.G. V ½d. and 1d. stamps in letters 5½ mm. high. The specialised Rosenblum catalogue refers to ½d. stamps with a similar overprint 8 mm. high which had passed through an Army P.O. in Belgium in 1919, but these new items have not been previously described. Two covers have turned up with these stamps on them, uncanceled, the envelopes having printed inscriptions of the Orient line of steamers. One has an A.I.F. censor mark; the other is uncensored but has a South African 2½d. stamp postmarked 12 Jan. 17 at Pietermaritzburg.

Can any reader throw any light on them?

For
CLASSIC ISSUES

Write to

**DOUGLAS
ROTH,**

B.P.A.

c/o Standard Bank of South Africa Ltd.,
Adderley Street,
Cape Town.

Mr. Roth has brought to South Africa
one of the finest stocks of classic
stamps ever brought into the country.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor, "S.A. Philatelist"

WHY THE D ?

Sir,—No, I am not motivated by a desire to vituperate but, as I abominate anything which tends to desecrate King's English, I wish to expostulate against two words which are being insinuated in philatelic literature, viz., **HYPHENATED** and **UNHYPHENATED**, and which seem likely to be perpetuated and widely disseminated through your well-circulated journal, unless they are eliminated in the immediate future.

I have investigated widely in an attempt to discover who first perpetrated this solecism and, as **hyphenated** occurs in an early edition of the S.G. Catalogue I am disposed to believe that it originated there. Whence **unhyphenated** emanated I am unable to demonstrate.

In an attempt to enumerate the aggregate of English words which terminate in the suffix **-ATE** I calculate that a figure somewhat in excess of 600 is a moderate estimate.

Now according to the principles formulated by grammarians to regulate the formation of compound words, by affixing **-ate** to a noun there eventuates a word to indicate having the quality or object named, e.g., **passionate**, **fortunate**. As appropriate to the present debate the word **imperforate** will operate.

Further, in forming a compound word an agglomerate of prefix, root and suffix of disparate languages is not legitimate. Accordingly, as **hyphen** is Greek, the alternate to **hyphenate** is **anhyphenate**. The prefix **un-** being English, its Greek equivalent is **an-**. There culminate therefore the adjectives **hyphenate** and **anhyphenate** which are both accurate and adequate.

There is nothing intricate in this process; but, as a complicated undertaking, just contemplate the job of conjugating a verb to **unhyphenate** and you will appreciate how inappropriate is the attempt to justify such a conglomerate.

If therefore you will kindly cogitate over the matter I anticipate that you will cooperate in an endeavour to obviate the possibility that even an undergraduate might asseverate that philatelists are illiterate, or at least not well educated. Thus with your blue pencil you could absquatulate (much better word than eliminate, expurgate or even annihilate: what?) that **d—d D** wherever it permeates any article communicated to you for publication.

It may be interesting to observe that about 90 per cent. of the words ending in **-ate** are verbs; the others mainly adjectives; the remainder nouns; and a few may be either both or all three of these parts of speech, e.g., **intimate**. In the written form there is nothing to discriminate the parts of speech, but in articulate speech verbs of three or more syllables are accentuated on the antepenultimate

with the suffix enunciated as spelt. The adjectives and nouns might terminate without the final **-e**, so far as their pronunciation goes.—Yours, etc., W. J. PLOWS.

[The absquatulation Mr. Plows suggests we undertake would indeed be a labour of Hercules, but without the prospect of success which that gentleman attained. Without claiming to be grammarians, we may admit that the writer's postulate is correct, if by correct is meant following the general rule.

But, we would ask him, does a language grow and develop according to fixed grammatical rules or principles, or are these rules and principles not merely culled from what happens in most cases? The latter, we fancy. When new words are formed, the tendency is, if possible (we may leave aside jaw-breaking chemical compounds and such like), to use something that comes easily to the tongue, not necessarily to follow majority rule.

Mr. Plows quotes "imperforate" as appropriate to his argument. We agree it is not a hybrid in derivation and is therefore "correct" in following the general rule. It also comes easy to the tongue, and we commonly speak of "imperforate" stamps. But when we refer to stamps with perforations do we not, nine times out of ten, say "a perforated stamp rather than "a perforate stamp? So what the D?

So with "hyphenated" and "unhyphenated"; they trip more lightly than "hyphenate" and "anhyphenate" and we think will remain enshrined in that illogical language, English, despite the efforts of sticklers for grammatical purity. To conjugate the verb "to unhyphenate" is, we agree, an absurdity; nevertheless, we feel that its past participle, used as an adjective, like many another past participle, has come to stay, and we do not feel called upon to absquatulate it. In conclusion we may remark that the Oxford English Dictionary does not mention **HYPHENATE**; it does give **HYPHENATED**, stating it to be the U.S.A. equivalent of **HYPHENED**. So what?—Ed.]

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EGYPT

It does not need much excuse for new stamps here. The latest are (a) a tall 10 mils green stamp, featuring a long column of marching troops, issued on 15th June in honour of the first Egyptian victory on Palestinian territory at Gaza; (b) stamps overprinted "Palestine" in Arabic and French. These are not valid on correspondence posted in Egypt, only in occupied territory.

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ISRAEL

"Stamp Collecting" reports six new stamps (5, 10 and 25 mils), all with the same basic design, a map of Palestine as divided by the partition plan into Arab and Jewish areas. Over this the words Israel Post and the value are surcharged in black. Three stamps have the words together at the bottom, in three (otherwise identical) the superscription is divided, post at the top, value at the bottom.

SOUTH WEST AFRICA

THE 1931 PICTORIAL STAMPS

By W. H. BOTTOMLY

(Communicated before the Pretoria Philatelic Society)

These stamps were engraved and printed by Messrs. Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. Ltd., New Malden, Surrey, England. This pictorial issue followed a long series (1923 to 1931, of overprinted stamps of the Union of South Africa, there being no less than 5 different types of overprints on the King George V and pictorial issues, of great interest to collectors and highly priced to-day. South-West Africa was then a new country for collectors and the overprinted stamps became very popular.

When the new pictorial stamp issue was proposed, the designs were put out to competition, but in the end only two of the designs submitted were used for the new issue, viz. for the 1d. and ½d. stamps.

The general scheme for the design of the stamps was to make them as representative as possible of the whole of the mandated territory. I have often felt that the brief note given in the catalogues of the various stamps, such as "Kaffir Huts", "Bogenfels", etc., does not convey much to the average collector, and I will endeavour in this talk to supplement the information given in the catalogue, trusting that after I have finished you will have obtained a better idea of the country where the stamps are issued, and the subjects they picture.

I think it better to start with the £1, the highest value, which shows the Okuwahaken Falls on the Kunene River, representative of the most northerly part of the territory. The design itself was taken from a photograph. At the time the stamp was issued the falls were situated in the disputed zone between Ovamboland, the most northerly territory of South-West Africa, and Portuguese West Africa, better known as Angola. This zone was a bone of contention between the Portuguese Government and the Union Government as the boundary was geographical only. Owing to the valuable water rights involved the dispute was eventually decided by a Commission who awarded the territory to the Portuguese.

The falls are not normally large, about the size of the Howick Falls in Natal, although, of course, during the rainy season they deal with a large volume of water. I doubt whether it would be possible to get anywhere near the falls during the rainy season to take a photograph. I visited this northern territory in 1916-17 and had a good opportunity to see the country and study its inhabitants. I may say at this stage that

the country is reserved to the various tribes of the Ovambos who then, and still do, like a very primitive life. The whole territory is a forbidden land for Europeans and is closed off at the two border posts of Okaukweje and Namuteni. All travel northwards from these points is governed by permit and unless one has a very good reason for visiting the territory permits are not granted. The country beyond these points forms one of the finest game reserves in Africa until the inhabited portion of Ovamboland is reached. The only white official residents in Ovamboland are the Native Commissioner and small staff who guide the Natives in the whole of the territory. The Ovambos have always exercised their own discipline through their chiefs and headmen, and the Native Commissioner is there to help and assist in an advisory capacity only. This native territory contains no general stores, has no currency as we know it, no taxes or controls, certainly no building or housing controls. The women wear a quaint long head-dress, quite different from that of our own native territories. Some of the huts are built in the nature of a large thatched umbrella and most of them are stockaded. I will put up a few photographs showing the method of hut building, nature of the country and views of the country after rain fall, which is usually very heavy in the summer season. Owing to the flat nature of the country practically all the water lies around for a long time making transport very difficult.

I am afraid that time will not permit me to talk any longer on this one stamp, but I may say in conclusion that owing to the nature of the award given on the disputed zones, we have to-day the position where the highest value stamp of this country depicts scenery in a friendly neighbouring foreign territory.

We can now pass on to the 10s. value, which depicts the "Welwitschia" plant. This design was also taken from a photograph. The plant is a succulent only found in one part of the territory, viz., the Kaokoveld, which is on the west coast. This territory is the country adjoining that known as the "Skeleton Coast". Most of you will have read Marsh's book dealing with these parts. It is one of the largest succulents known and very rare, so much so that the South-West African Protectorate Government has protected it and a fine of £50 is imposed on

anyone damaging or removing the plants. Apart from the leaves the plant is a weird looking object and one could be seen at the last horticultural show held in Pretoria. It was in the exhibit made by the Zoological Gardens and this would appear to have been the right place to exhibit it as without the leaves it looks like nothing better than two pieces of elephant hide sewn together at one spot. The plant itself was named after Dr. Frederick Welwitsch, who discovered it. A short article on this plant was in the "Sunday Times" a short while ago and I will hand it in for perusal by anyone who did not see it at that time. These two stamps, the £1 and 10s., cover more or less the little-known portions of the territory and we will now get a little nearer civilisation with the 5s.

The 5s. stamp design is also taken from a photograph. It shows a true native werf of huts as built by the natives in that area. Judging by my experience in the country I would say that it had been built by natives of the Herero tribe; the huts are very well built and show a great improvement on the primitive building of the Ovambos. It must also be remembered that we are back in civilised country again. The photograph was taken near Korub, which, as most of you will remember, was the scene of the surrender of the German Forces in South-West Africa in 1915. On this occasion the German Forces were at a range of koppies in a very strong position; the main South African forces, under General Lukin, with General Botha, the Commander-in-Chief, were at Otavifontein some distance away. Another force under General Britz had moved out of Otjiwarongo, gone west through Outjo and Okaukuejo, making for Namutoni in the German rear, and another force under General Myburgh had turned east making for Grootfontein and Tsumeb with the same idea. It was at Korub that General Franke asked General Botha for an armistice, and something occurred here that, although it does not deal with stamps, is still interesting in the telecommunication line. I think I could explain it better by reading at this stage an extract from Lt.-Col. H. F. Trew's book, "Botha Treks".

"Korab Camp looked a very tough nut to crack. From whatever direction our troops approached it, they had to advance across open plain without a vestige of cover. We both agreed that it was going to cost many lives before it could be successfully assaulted. Next day we heard to our astonishment that Von Franke had sent in asking for a conference the following morning at Kilometre 500 on the railway.

"The General left the Otavi Barracks, where we were quartered early next morning, taking with him only Colonel Collyer and two of his personal staff. As he was getting into the car he noticed one of the officers with a camera, and ordered him to leave it behind, saying: 'I have been in the same position as Colonel von Franke myself, and

I know how much I disliked the English officers snapping their cameras at me.'

"As to what occurred at that conference, I have only heard at third hand, but I believe this is substantially correct. The Germans arrived at kilometre 500 in a train flying the white flag. The conference took place under a tent fly pitched near the line.

"The General appealed to Franke to surrender as he was already surrounded and further bloodshed would be useless. Von Franke apparently did not realise that Brits and Myburgh had got right round in his rear. General Botha told him that he would be much surprised if that morning Brits did not reach Namutoni and Myburgh Tsumeb.

"As they were talking Myburgh had just entered Tsumeb and Brits was in Namutoni before the conference ended. Von Franke appeared very impressed, and asked for an armistice to draw up terms of peace which would be submitted at a subsequent meeting.

"General Botha said he would grant the armistice, but that, as he was out of touch with the forces in Franke's rear, he could not bind them. Von Franke then announced that a telephone line from Otavifontein ran to both places passing through his camp at Korab. Part of the line had been dismantled, but he would have it in working order by 8 p.m. that evening, and if the General telephoned he would see that he was put through to both places in succession.

"Just before 8 p.m. that evening, the General walked across the barrack square to the room in which the telephone was situated. He was accompanied by his A.D.C. Major Louis Esselen. As they reached the door the latter said to the General: 'You won't be able to say anything confidential to Myburgh or Brits because Von Franke is bound to have someone tapping the line who speaks both English and Dutch.'

"As a matter of fact the General did have something confidential to say, he wished to warn them both not to be caught off their guard because of the armistice, and he wanted to ascertain how they stood with regards to supplies.

"Esselen rang up and was put through to Namutoni and asked for General Brits. When he heard the latter on the line he handed the instrument over to General Botha. When conversation started, Esselen at first looked surprised, and then smiled, for the General was talking Zulu, a language Brits understood. At the finish of the conversation, Esselen got through to the telephone and asked for Myburgh. When the latter was eventually brought to the telephone the ensuing talk again took place in the Zulu language, with which Myburgh was very conversant.

"At the end of the discussion General Botha hung up the instrument, and with a quiet smile remarked to his A.D.C.: 'I think I have burst up old Franke.'

"What an extraordinary happening: a Commander-in-Chief conveying his instruc-

tions to two generals, all wearing British staff uniforms, in the language of the savage.

"I have often laughed when thinking of the scene in the German camp at Korab that evening. The efficient German operator, understanding both English and Dutch, waiting for the conversation to begin, with Von Franke at his side. The beginning of the talk, and a look of bewilderment coming over the face of the gentleman tapping in, and his hurried explanation to his impatient O.C. 'They talk a strange language, it is all hisses and clicks.'"

So, perhaps, if that was the case, the choosing of a native subject for this 5s. value stamp was not a bad choice. The occasion is now commemorated by means of a bronze plaque giving a description of the surrender, mounted on the large tree near the spot where it occurred.

The 2s. 6d. value shows a view of Zebra and Wildebeeste at a drinking pool outside Namutoni, 4 or 5 miles distant on the way to the Etosha Pan. It is also taken from a photograph and depicts the wild life of this part of the country, which is a boundary of the game reserve in South-West Africa. The German Government had built a fort at Namutoni and this was the terminal of the telephone line on that side of the country. Now, of course, the Native Commissioner in Ovamboland is connected by radio-telephone with his outposts, also with the Kaokoveld, Windhoek and other places and things are much easier than in the old days when a runner had to be employed. Unless one has been in the territory you could never imagine the extent of the game herds when they are trekking. They have the whole country from the Bechuanaland Border to the west coast to move in safety and wildebeeste, zebra, etc. are there in their tens of thousands. There are also lots of lions and other wild animals.

(To be continued)

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U.S.A.

The American philatelic press is raging furiously against the ever increasing flood of commemoratives, and more particularly against Congress for instructing the P.M.G. to make immediate issues, after the latter's programme for the year had been announced.

A writer in "Stamps" says that Congress, urged on by a heterogeneous assortment of pressure-groups, has embarked perhaps unwittingly, on a programme of collector exploitation which is fast making the U.S. Government a laughing stock wherever serious philately is discussed. Many serious collectors may close their albums in disgust.

Our sympathies go out to them, but at 3c or 5c a time their lot is not so bad as the unfortunate collectors of British Colonials these days. The primary purpose of postage stamps seems to be almost forgotten—to pay postage; raising funds from collectors seems now to be more important. Well, collectors have the remedy in their own hands: perhaps sometime

they will come to the conclusion that there really is not much fun in collecting things that are just manufactured for them to collect.

The latest arrivals are (a) the 5c air stamp honouring the Golden Jubilee of Greater New York City, issued on 31st July; (b) a 3c stamp honouring 100 years progress of women, issued on 19th July; it features heads of Elizabeth Stanton, Carrie C. Catt and Lucretia Mott. Thanks to Mr. George H. Camp for special first day covers.

NETHERLANDS

From a correspondent in Holland it is learnt that two stamps, one for 10 cents and one for 20 cents, will be issued on August 31st in honour of Queen Wilhelmina's golden jubilee.

These stamps show the Queen's head with "Nederland" at the top and the value along the bottom margin. The design is a large upright one containing in addition to the above the dates 1898-1948: the stamps will be on sale for one month.

Very early in September two values of the new series showing Princess Juliana as Queen will be put on sale. The design will comprise a front face portrait of the new Queen within an up-ended square supported by heraldic lions and the name of the country at the top and the value below.

We have received a cover with a special postmark "10th Int. Congr. of Philosophy/11-18 Aug. 1948/Amsterdam." It also includes the Amsterdam coat of arms. At first glance it was mistaken for a Congress of Philately mark.—J.W.S.

SOUTH AFRICAN STUDY CIRCLE

We have received particulars of the formation in Britain of a South African Collectors' Society, it being a club and study circle for collectors of South African stamps.

They propose having a monthly bulletin and the issue of the "S.A. Philatelist" to members, an exchange packet and a new issue service. The Secretary is Mr. C. E. Sherwood, 105 Marford Crescent, Sale, Cheshire, England.

Our best wishes for their success.

PAKISTAN

The Pakistan Philatelic Bureau, Karachi, informs us that a set of 4 stamps are to be issued shortly in celebration of the independence of the state; they are being printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., London. The stamps are: 1½a, blue with illustration of the Constituent Assembly; 2½a, green featuring Karachi airport; 3½a, sepia with the gate of Lahore fort; 1 R, motif a Star and Crescent with leaf pattern in Saracenic style.

EXCHANGE WANTED

Mr. R. W. Strain, of 408 East College, Athens, Texas, U.S.A., a graduating senior in the Texas Technological College, would like to exchange U.S.A. for Union.

I want to buy Greece, 1861 - 1882; Large Heads;

Anyone having any of these for disposal, please write to me.

Current Superb Used British Africans Now Available:

Nyasaland, Complete Sets at	50/0
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Mauritius, Complete Sets at	35/0
Zanzibar, Complete Sets at	35/0
Nigeria, Complete Sets at	17/6
Gambia, Complete Sets at	35/0
Sierra Leone, Complete Sets at	52/6
Gold Coast, Complete Sets at	27/6
Ascension, Complete Sets at	27/6
Basutoland, Complete Sets at	25/0
Bechuanaland, Complete Sets at	25/0
Swaziland, Complete Sets at	25/0
St. Helena, Complete Sets at	27/6
Aden, Complete Sets at	40/0
Somaliland, Complete Sets at	30/0
"Royal Visit," Complete Sets, 26 values, mint 10/0, used	12/6
Kenya, Short Sets, 1 cent to 1/0, at	1/3
S. Rhodesia, "Royal Tour," F.D.C., at	4½d.
"Olympic Games," F.D.C., at	2/9
Nyasaland, obsolete Leopards, Complete Sets, 18 values, mint 85/0, used	95/0
C.C. "Peace" Sets Complete, Mint at 30/0, used at	40/0
British West Indies: All high values of current issues available at 33% over face value for superb used.	

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The National Provincial Bank, Ltd., 66 Trafalgar Square, London, W.C2,
England.

Write to: **T. Mc MICKING,** (P.T.B., B.P.A., F.R.G.S)

Cholo, Nyasaland, British Central Africa.

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THE "MULTIPLE COMB" PERFORATOR.

A letter recently received from a collector in Grahamstown, Mr. S. C. Chantler, drew attention to a missing perforation in the present Union 2d. issue (S.G. 107—Greenish Grey and Violet) and the position of the variety was given as occurring in the right-hand margin of the top row and also in a lower portion of the sheet on the same side. The defect was stated as having been present on a number of sheets available in Hermanus at a time when the 2d. was appearing in a particularly bright shade of violet.

A subsequent examination of a sheet of this value, purchased on the Reef towards the latter part of 1946, showed that the variety must have been constant throughout the printing of that particular batch of stamps and the missing perforation occurred at what would have been the tenth hole down (not counting the corner perf.) in the right-hand margin of Row No. 1—Stamp 6, and again at Row No. 12—Stamp 6. The variety, it is worthy of note, does not appear in later sheets of the same denomination which were printed with the frames in a much deeper shade of violet and purchased in the early part of 1947.

It is evident that one of the punches in the perforating equipment was not functioning at the time when the printing of the sheets with the missing perf. was being carried out, and as a matter of interest to those who are not acquainted with the Rotogravure process at the Union Government Printing Works, it may be explained that the reason for the duplication of the defect in the 12th row is due to the perforator on the particular machine used for these stamps being of the "multiple comb" type, which in this case, perforates a group of eleven rows at each beat. A sheet of the current 2d. denomination consists of 20 rows of stamps with a blank space—equal to the size of the stamp—at the top and bottom of the sheet. The total number of rows per sheet is thus 22 in all, and as the roll of paper, on which the stamps have been printed, passes through the machine, each beat of the eleven-row perforator operates over a section equivalent to half the length of a sheet, though not necessarily always in any specific half, such as the top or bottom portion, so called by reason of the centre dividing arrows in the lateral margins. Hence a perforation variety caused by a defective punch failing to function correctly in any one row, must be repeated again at the eleventh row further on in the line of travel of the sheet through the machine.

The point on a sheet at which the perforations of one beat join up with those preceding it is generally indicated by the slight overlap which occurs at the junction of the two groups and shows up in the form of an oval, or very often a figure "8" hole. In those denominations, such as the current 3d., 1d. and 2d. values, designed with the side of

stamp lying parallel to the length of the sheet, the enlarged holes will be found at the bottom corners of a row of stamps which are slightly smaller between the top and bottom perfs. than those in the adjoining rows, and this difference in measurement is due to, and is in effect, the amount of the overlap. For a denomination printed with the side of the stamp lying parallel to the width, or shorter axis, of the sheet, such as the present 1½d. issue, the junction of the perforation groups occurs at the left-hand side of that row of stamps, which by reason of any overlap, is smaller in its measurement between the side perfs. Where no overlap is present then the junction of the two groups is not quite so easy to determine, but can generally be found by a close examination.

In numerous cases the overlap of the perfs. will be found at the centre line of the sheet, but as mentioned earlier, the perforator need not necessarily always be operating over the same particular section of a sheet. In consequence, therefore, where the overlap shows up at some other row than the centre one, it will be found occurring again, to more or less the same degree, at another point eleven rows distant from the first.

This overlapping of the perforations is due to the necessary adjustment, which must automatically take place in the action of the perforator, to ensure the pins continually falling on the narrow gutter spacing between the stamps when it happens that the overall length of the printed portion of the sheet differs slightly from that Standard measurement for which the multiple perforator was designed. For it must be evident that the number of variable technical factors which can arise in the rotogravure process of printing the stamps, such as, for instance, paper texture, thickness and shrinkage and the necessity of ensuring that the diameter of the cylinders is within a few thousandths of an inch of a standard dimension, make it practically impossible to consistently produce sheets of stamps of exactly the same overall length.

It follows then, that since the spacing of the perforating pins in their permanently fixed setting of eleven complete rows cannot be altered to align with the slightly narrower gutters of a batch of sheets, the printed portion of which is, say, 1½ millimetres shorter than the Standard overall length, it becomes necessary to employ the alternative method of altering the mechanical action of the perforator in its relation to the speed of travel of the paper through the printing machine. This can be done by an adjustment to the timing of the perforator so that in its operation of making two beats per sheet, the second beat will follow the first slightly quicker than would be required in the case of sheets of stamps coming through the machine at the Standard length and having gutters of the normal width. By this adjustment to the timing, a slight overlap is produced which causes the adjoining row of stamps to be

smaller between perfs., and we thus get the "narrow row," but the creepage and consequent misalignment of the perforations, which would otherwise take place as the roll of printed stamps travelled through the machine, is thereby avoided.

It should be mentioned that there is another rotary printing machine in the Government Printing Works which operates with a "single comb" perforator and therefore all sheets of Union stamps examined need not be expected to show the perforation conditions resulting from the use of the "multiple comb" equipment. But because of its much greater speed in printing, the machine employing the latter device is probably used for the majority of the postage stamps and therefore the "narrow row" is more often present than not.

It is hoped that the foregoing general notes will assist in explaining a number of those points on perforations which often prove so puzzling to new collectors of Unions and for further information on this subject reference should be made to other articles which have appeared from time to time in the pages of this magazine.

W. N. SHEFFIELD.

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GREAT BRITAIN

The 1948 Olympiad has come and gone. Numerous firms, etc., had special covers for the occasion and at the Wembley Stadium there was a special cancellor with the five international rings, the Olympic badge.

The special stamps were issued on the opening day, July 29th, all featuring the badge in one way or another. Our impression of them is that the 1s. is good, the 3d. would have been excellent had it not been for the crown perched in mid-air above the King's head; the 2½d. and the 6d. are, well, just stamps. There was also a special Air Mail Letter Card issued, the 6d. stamp on it being of the same design as in the postage stamp set.

Thanks to "Stamp Collecting," Miss N. Campbell, Messrs. E. Hunt, J. A. L. Franks, P. H. Robbs, H. Davidson, C. Drewe and Col. G. Crouch for covers.

MALTA

We are informed by the British Institute Philatelic Association—the only Philatelic Association in Malta—that they are preparing a Handbook on the Stamps of Malta and would welcome correspondence from anyone interested in Maltese stamps and prepared to assist with contributions and suggestions.

Write to the President, Mr. C. J. Whelpdale, c/o British Institute, Valetta, Malta.

BELGIAN CONGO

"Le Philatelite Belge" reports the interesting occurrence of Paquebot cancellations on mails coming across Lake Tanganyika from Kigoma, the terminus of the Tanganyika Territory Central Railway.

10/- LEEWARD ISLANDS WARNING

If you get used specimens of the current 10s. Leeward Islands, green and red/green, on cover or on piece be very careful in trying to soak them off. We have been shown two specimens which had been immersed in water and the impression of the headplate had completely disappeared.

FRANCE

Still they come. An 18 fr stamp in July for the centenary of the death of F. René, Viscount Chateaubriand. On 18th June a 6 plus 4 fr. in connection with the 1st International B.C.G. Congress, with a portrait of Dr. A. Calmette, the discoverer of that famous vaccine for the prevention of tuberculosis. New varieties of "Mariannes" are foreshadowed, also a "Leclerc" stamp.

AUSTRIA

A beautiful set of ten semi-postals has been issued, the surtaxes to provide funds for the fight against tuberculosis. They feature flowers and are presented in three colours, the basic designs being engraved and recess printed while the colouring is applied in two colours in typography.

Another semi-postal set has been announced as to appear this month, eight values to assist in the reconstruction of Salzburg Cathedral.

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The Status of the Mafeking Siege Stamps

FACTS ABOUT A FASCINATING AND CLASSIC ISSUE

By Dr. K. FREUND

(Continued from p. 122 of July issue)

3.. THE RATES FOR "ABROAD" MAIL

Even the postage rates for letters which went broad to various parts of the country or to England, have come in for a certain amount of criticism. These rates were fixed, as we saw in the Notice of 22nd March, 1900 (cited p. 127), at 6d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. via the South and 1s. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. via the North.

It appears that some critics, in their tendency to condemn anything in connection with the Mafeking issue but with little knowledge of the true facts, have considered these rates unnecessarily high. A few explanatory remarks are therefore necessary.

A simple calculation discloses that far from affording any profit, the rates were not in the least sufficient to cover the fees of £25 which had to be paid to the runners for every trip. Even if one considers that batches often contained up to 100 letters each, the 6d. and 1s. rate respectively, multiplied by one hundred, could procure but a minor portion of these high runner fees.

One must remember also that an additional aggravating debit item for the military authorities was the cost of the stamps which they had bought at face value from the local civil post office. As we shall see in a later chapter dealing with the stamps, as much as one-third of the postage, in some cases even a half, represented the actual cost price which the authorities had paid themselves when purchasing the stamps.

One may ask: What, then, induced the authorities to decide on just these rates and what made the whole scheme, in spite of it, feasible?

First of all, there were several factors which helped to increase the revenue to some extent:

(1) In quite a number of cases, the weight of letters was more than $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., thus requiring double the rate, i.e., very frequently 2s. per letter.

(2) Registration of mail was possible (see cover, fig. 3, p. 121), although this was not mentioned in the otherwise much detailed Notice of 22nd March, 1900, owing to an oversight. The extra fee for registration was 6d. per letter.

(3) Telegrams and Cablegrams were also accepted and this, according to the cited Notice, must have brought in fairly considerable amounts for the runner fund. These "wires" had to be taken along by the runners together with the letter packages and were only properly transmitted when British lines had been reached. The rates for these wires were rather expensive (4s. and 4s. 9d.

per word in the case of cablegrams), but a censure of "philatelic" manipulation is certainly out of the question as far as they are concerned. Anyway, they helped to reduce the deficit which the letter service was causing.

(4) Lastly, the fee of 1s. for a duly stamped receipt for every telegram as well as cablegram (see Notice) brought in some additional revenue.

Still, all this revenue taken together could not quite make up the expenses and the runner fee of £25 each time. Nevertheless, the authorities made up their minds that a 6d. or 1s. per letter (depending on the route) was really the utmost with which they could tax, in all fairness, the letter-writing public.

This sober and fair attitude of the Mafeking authorities deserves the highest praise. If they really had been as unscrupulous as some critics would like to make us believe, they could have used many ways to augment their revenue. They could have easily dispensed with the restrictions concerning the sale of stamps which they had laid down in their Notices on Baden-Powell's instructions, like those which pronounced that "letters must be handed in" and "stamps cannot on any account be sold." Nothing would have been easier than to order many more printings of stamps, especially when the novel and cheap photographic process was devised (this process was confined to two low values only). They could then have offered stamps freely for sale without any restriction, to the satisfaction of eager collectors. After all, this is being done by practically every modern government throughout the world with no qualms and with no objection from anybody. No doubt, this would have provided them with sufficient revenue to cover the full expenses caused by the runner service.

However, they did nothing of that sort. It is an indisputable fact that they refrained rigorously from putting stamps freely on the market and confined themselves strictly to meeting purely postal requirements.

The allegation that certain officers or other subaltern persons have dealt in used Mafeking stamps for private gain has nothing to do with the strict handling of the stamps by the authorities themselves and with the problem of the postal rates. This allegation shall be dealt with in a chapter dealing with the alleged "speculative" character of the stamps.

The straight attitude of the Mafeking authorities was actually based on two good reasons and motives: The first one was the consideration that the dispatch of private communications was an essential public ser-



vice which should not depend on whether it paid its way or not. Contact with the outside world had to be maintained under all circumstances as far as was possible.

The second reason derived from the fact that the military postal authorities were actually identical with the **Intelligence Department**, as the first informal Announcement ("Local Mems," p. 120) made clear. This means that in many cases the runners had to take the **official despatches** along, too, together with the civilian mail, as they used to before the inauguration of the new service. As far as these official despatches were concerned, the military budget had to provide for them in principle, so that any shortage in revenue could not be regarded as a severe, untoward loss for the authorities.

In summing up, one must agree that there is very little one could justifiably say to the detriment of this "abroad" service with its courageous runner-postmen and its purposeful, much-travelled mail.

In the next chapter we shall deal with the necessity of the local mail service.

(To be continued)

STAMP DESIGNS

In the March issue of the "British Philatelist" there are some extracts from a recently published volume entitled "Letters of Eric Gill," who was the designer of the frames of the current low values of British stamps. It is interesting to have the views of a designer clearly stated and a few quotations are here given.

Referring to the clamour by some British collectors for pictorial stamps, he says: "From my point of view the whole idea of a picture stamp is essentially unreasonable. The essential things on a postage stamp are the statement that the thing is a stamp (the words 'postage,' etc.), the denomination, and some sign that the thing has official origin (the King's head, a crown, etc.). It seems to me that to use a pictorial subject is simply pandering to sentimentality and the appetite of collectors for anything curious. But if, for reasons unknown to me, it is decided to use a pictorial subject, then I think it is desirable that the situation be faced quite frankly and that a really good photograph (i.e., good for the purpose) of the subject chosen be made and the necessary information be frankly imposed upon the photograph and no attempt made to combine the two things, because they are essentially incompatible. . . . What I am really opposed to is any attempt to combine a photograph of such and such with ornamental border, etc. . . ."

"It is difficult to imagine anything worse than a combination of ornamental border, a view of, say, Windsor Castle, and photograph of the King. . . . I don't suppose that H.M. Government is prepared to take my advice . . . but why should there not be one rational P.O. in the world . . . why must we all follow one another sheepishly in these outrageous sentimentalities?"

Mutatis mutandis, views worth keeping in mind in connection with our proposed new issue in South Africa.

S. RHODESIA POST OFFICES

The following list of Post Offices and Postal Agencies operating in Southern Rhodesia as at June, 1948, has been supplied by Mrs. M. Cawood, of Salisbury:—

Antelope Mine, Arcturus, Ardbennie, Avondale, Balla Balla, Banket Junction, Battlefields, Beatrice Mine, Beit Bridge, Belingwe, Bellevue, Berubesi, Bikita, Bindina, Bolton, Borrowdale, Bromley, Buhera, Bulawayo, Bulawayo Station, Busthtick.

Chakari, Chatsworth, Chibi, Chipinga, Colleen Bawn, Concession, Craigmores, Cranborne, Dadaya, Daisyfield, Darwendale, Dawsons, Dett, Duchess Hill, Eiffel Flats, Eastnor, Eldorado, Enkeldoorn, Essexvale, Featherstone, Felixburg, Figtree, Filabusi, Fort Rixon, Fort Victoria.

Gadzema, Gatooma, Guinea Fowl, Glendale, Gokwe, Glengarry, Golden Valley, Great Zimbabwe, Greystone, Gulu, Gwaai Siding, Gwanda, Gwelo, Harari, Hartley, Hatfield, Highlands, Heany Junction, Heany Camp, Highlands, Hillside, Hopefountain, Hunter's Road, Insiza, Inyanga, Inyazma, Iron Mine Hill, Jumbo, Junction Gate.

Karoi, Kezi, Keynshamburg, Kirriemuir, Kwenda, Lalapanzi, Lancaster, Legion Mine, Lonely Mine, Lower Gwelo, Luvere, Madumabisa, Macheke, Makwiro, Mangwendi, Marandellas, Marula, Mashaba, Matetsi, Matopoo, Mazoe, Melfort, Melfort, Meyrick Park, Miami, Mnene, Mount Darwin, Mount Silinda, Mrewa, Msonneddi, Mtepatapa, Mtoko, Mutambara.

Nelly Mine, Ncerna Dam, Ngondoma, Nil Desperandum Mine, Norton, Nuanetsi, Nyal-sira, Nyamandhlovu, Odzi, Parktown, Penhalonga, Plumtree, Queensdale, Queen's Mine, Que Que, Raylton, Rocky Spruit, Rusape, Salisbury, Salisbury—B.S.A.P. Camp, Sanemstowship, Sawmills, Selukwe, Shabani, Shamra, Shangani, Sinoia, Sipolilo, Somabula, Soti Source, Syringa.

Tandaai, Theydon, Trelawney, Turk Mine, Umniati, Umsweswe, Umtali, Umvuma, Victoria Falls, Vumba, Wanderer Mine, Wankie, Watsomba, Wedza, Wellesley, West Nicholson, Wilton, Zaka, Zawi.

At the moment the postmarks of Mount Darwin are in green ink, and those of Bikita and Wellesley in purple.

MINT SETS

3 Hungary Horthy Air-Mail	1/3
2 Hong-Kong Victory	5/0
2 Cyprus Victory	1/0
4 Hungary Red Cross 1944	1/0
2 Seychelles Peace	1/3
10 Austria Flowers	3/3
5 Abyssinia Red Cross	0/8
2 Pitcairn Peace	1/3

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Second Printing of the Standard Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of the Union now available, 7/6 plus postage. Supplement, bringing this Catalogue up to date, 9d. plus postage.

SOCIETY NEWS

NYASALAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. McMicking; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. I. D. Arthur, Limbe Trading Co., Ltd. Limbe; *Meetings*, Tobacco Auction Floor, 5 p.m.

10th May. Twelve members present. A vote of sympathy was passed with the relatives of the late Mr. Hullneck who was one of the Society's pioneers. It was announced that the 10s. Nyasaland Silver Wedding stamp would be violet in colour, not green as originally stated. A number of approval books were on view.

14th June. Ten members present. As matters of interest the new Gold Coast issue due on 1st July was reported, new Gibbons British and U.S.A. catalogues and the steadily rising cost of the complete Silver Wedding issues. Approval books, both local and overseas were circulated.

L.D.A.

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PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

President, Mr. W. Redford; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. B. Glassman, P.O. Box 4967, Johannesburg; *Meetings*, 2nd Tuesdays and 4th Mondays, Public Library, 7.45 p.m.

At the meeting on 10th August, Mr. I. Buchen showed stamps of German occupied Poland and German occupied Czechoslovakia. He read a short paper on the exhibit.

The exhibit was an almost complete one and included many commemoratives, as well as small sheets of the stamps. The stamps of Czechoslovakia of this period well illustrated the history of the occupation from the occupation of Sudetenland after the Munich conference to the complete annexation of the country as a portion of the German Reich.

During the evening the second round of the Quiz took place, the Johannesburg team having done sufficiently well in the first round to keep in the contest.

At the meeting of 23rd August Mr. Alan Morris, M.B.E., gave a talk on paper illustrated by projections on a screen. He particularly emphasized the making of paper for stamps, but his lecture covered the whole of the manufacture of paper in general. He also explained how paper is the base for many plastic materials, and explained many others of its uses. He exhibited several materials and chemicals used in paper manufacture. He was assisted by Mr. Senior who worked the projector. Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie expressed the thanks of the Society to Mr. Morris for a most interesting exposition.

I.I.

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THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF RHODESIA

President, Mr. F. W. Porter; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. G. C. Whitehead, P.O. Box 803, Bulawayo; *Meetings*, 1st Wednesday in each month, at 8 p.m., in the Presbyterian Church Hall, c/o Abercorn Street and Fifth Avenue, Bulawayo.

May. This was an interesting evening, the exhibits being presented by members who brought along "the favourite page" from their collections.

June. It is not often that we in Bulawayo have the good fortune to view a world-famous collection, but on this occasion Mr. A. V. Jacob, of Cape Town, an ardent collector of Rhodesia was present to give a talk on the stamps of this country, and to display a selection of the stamps about which he had spoken. To attempt to describe any of the stamps here would hardly do justice to a collector who has taken top honours at International Exhibitions, but such a display of proofs, essays, printings and rarities has never before been seen by members of this Society. It was fitting that such an evening should have been honoured by a record attendance of more than fifty members and visitors, and a vote of very sincere

thanks on behalf of all those present was accorded to Mr. Jacob by the President.

On account of this fare, the more mundane business of the Society was left over for the following meeting, and although it was hoped that we could take part in the Quiz contest organised by the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg, it could not be fitted in to the programme.

July. Although too late to enter officially for the contest mentioned above, the Quiz was held for the entertainment of members, and as a result of the answers given, interesting discussions took place. From the philatelic knowledge (or lack of it) displayed, and the keenness to answer the questions, it is evident that such competitions should feature more regularly in the annual programme.

No exhibit was provided at this meeting, but a programme was drawn up for the remainder of this year. Routine business was soon disposed of, after which Mr. Fox gave an interesting chat on the objects of the "Rhodesian Study Circle" which has recently been formed in England. Himself a keen collector of the stamps of Southern Rhodesia, he expressed the opinion that such an organisation should prove invaluable to members, and philatelically speaking, should put this country back on the map. Various topical matters were discussed, and a call was made from the Chair for members to bring forward for discussion at meetings any such items of current interest.

J.E.C.

★

THE PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. L. L. Brown; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. W. Kriste; *Meetings*, Second Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m. in the Berea Park Recreation Club.

Mr. Fredericks, of the Pretoria Philatelic Society, very kindly attended on 11th August and gave the members a lot of advice about the building up of their collections. He suggested that every opportunity to view exhibitions and specialised collections should be taken in order to study different setting out, mounting and writing up, etc., and by thus learning, improve upon their own methods. Mr. Fredericks exhibited two of his subject collections, namely, the zoological and the cartographical which are both good examples of the advice he had just given the members.

The annual general meeting of the Society will be held on 8th September, and all members are earnestly requested to be present.

W.K.

★

THE JEWISH GUILD PHILATELIC SECTION

Chairman, I. Isaacs; *Hon. Secretary*, B. Joseph, 143 London House, Loveday Street, Johannesburg; *Meetings*, last Thursday, Jewish Guild Memorial Hall, Von Brandis Street.

At the meeting held on 29th July Dr. Kaplan showed his collection of Holland classics. These comprised the issues until 1871. They included numerous shades of both the perforate and imperforate issues and every item was a picked perfect copy. There were numerous essays included, as well as mint blocks and pairs and some fine used specimens.

Mr. I. Isaacs showed covers of the Rhodesian and Nyasaland Airways first flights including the Salisbury-Blantyre service.

I.I.

★

GRAHAMSTOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. Eric A. Carr; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. O. Turner; *Meetings*, 2nd Tuesdays at 8 o'clock, 8a Dundas Street. Address for correspondence: P.O. Box 11.

The August meeting was held on the 11th with nine members present. Intimation of the resignation of Mr. Wm. Redford as Business Manager of "The South African Philatelist" was received with much regret, and a resolution of appreciation passed for transmission to the Federation.

The reprinting of the 3d. Waterlow Typographical issue was discussed and much interest taken in this emission. A general discussion of Union stamps brought out a number of interesting facts and the

collections of our country's stamps owned by two of our members were examined with interest.

No quiz was held this month as the necessary questions had not been received from the Johannesburg Society.

S.C.C.

★

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. H. Suklje, Benoni; *Hon. Secretary*, Miss S. O. Jeffrey, P.O. Box 572, Benoni; *Meetings*, Regent Hotel, Benoni, 3rd Tuesdays, 8 p.m.

At the July meeting there were 16 members present and Mr. Shepherd presided as Mr. Rigg was ill. The members took part in the correspondence quiz, Mr. Wells being the question master and Miss Aronson the timekeeper. After the quiz Mrs. Wood presented a small competition, guess the stamp, which was eventually won by Mrs. P. G. Wells.

Mr. P. Gutsche provided the exhibit of the evening. He showed a wonderful collection of Germany, almost complete, which had been handed down from father to son. Although the hour was late and Mr. Gutsche wanted to cut it short, the members would not hear of it and saw the collection complete.

Seventeen members were present at the August meeting when Mr. E. N. Rigg was in the chair. Mr. J. Shepherd was the exhibitor of the evening and he tabled his Gibraltar, Samoa, Ascension and Falkland Island collections.

Mrs. P. G. Wells agreed to exhibit her own choice at the next monthly meeting and it was also agreed to hold the annual general meeting with election of officers for the year 1948-49.

S.O.J.

★

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL

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

Our August meeting was a bumper one with quite a few visitors from up country whom we are more than delighted to have with us. The President, Mr. G. Milner Palmer, spoke about the forthcoming Congress and appealed to members to enter for the competition in Pretoria. He is quite correct when he says that Durban should be represented, and what is more, there is some fine material here in Natal which is worthy of exhibiting. Mr. J. Lyle brought along a competition which was a real teaser. It applied only to Union stamps and proved popular, Mr. Middleton being the winner. Mr. Selwyn Smith, our Librarian, I think must feel somewhat disappointed at the poor response for books, particularly first of all as there is some fine material in the library, and secondly that the list which he compiled is comprehensive and easy to carry about. It is there for your benefit, so why not use it?

The exhibition for the evening for the "P. C. Bishop Trophy" was well received. Mr. A. J. Cornelius' Newfoundland collection being much admired. These old classics are always a diversion from the modern material of which one sees so much. Perhaps it is that collectors, "Oh," my apologies, I mean philatelists have a lot of fun looking for these old elusive and expensive items.

The evening closed with a feeling that not only had it been enjoyable but profitable.

★

ALL-FEDERATION QUIZ

SECOND ROUND

We regret that the results of this cannot yet be published. Through some mischance one Society did not receive the questions in time, so all eight Societies (except two obviously knocked out) have been asked to carry on with the third round.

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William Redford, Box 7012, Johannesburg.

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B. Savitz, 69 Greenvale Road, London, S.E.9, England.

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Sam Legator, Box 133, Brakpan.

A few certified stamps from the Roosevelt Collection. Enquiries invited. Stamps, 111 Langton Road, Montclair, Durban.

Specialist of South Africa wants exchange with advanced stamp collectors in South Africa, South-West Africa, Basutoland, Swaziland, Bechuanaland, etc.

Please write by airmail to: Karl-Ludwig Meyer (21b) Wasserscheide/Post Burbach, British Zone of Germany.

Stamp Catalogues, 1948.—Whole World: Gibbons' Simplified 18/3; Scott 46/8; Yvert 33/9. British Empire: Whitfield King 10/-. United States: Gibbons 4/-. Union of South Africa: N.P.S. 7/9. Prices quoted cover postage within the Union. Orders now taken for Gibbons King George VI arriving shortly and British Empire to year 1938 against deposit respectively 2/- and 5/-.

Globe Postage Stamp Company, Slave Tree Corner, Church Square, Box 3001, Cape Town.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES

1948 Supplement to the 1946 Union Catalogue.

This is now obtainable from Mr. W. Milner-Palmer, P.O. Box 588, Durban, at 6d., although members of the Federated Societies can obtain it through their Society at half-price.

It appears under the joint names of the editors of the original catalogue, Messrs. A. E. Basden and L. Simenhoff. We understand that the former had the work very well in hand before his lamented death, but that his share of the work of seeing it through the press has been done by Mr. L. Bevis.

There are three pages (size of original catalogue) of corrections and additions, and about the same amount of text dealing with new emissions since the 1946 catalogue went to press.

Standard Catalogue, Part II, Foreign Countries. Whitfield King & Co., Ipswich, England. Price 15s.

This, the 47th edition, is the first occasion on which their catalogue has been published in two volumes, part I being the British Empire. It is nevertheless a sturdy volume of 930 pages, listing 68,600 standard varieties with just about a tenth of that number of illustrations.

The scope of the catalogue remains as before, information as to watermarks being given, but perforation varieties and minor alterations in design are not listed, although the publishers deal in such items for more advanced collectors.

Information about war and post-war emissions from some countries is still difficult to obtain and there are perforce a fair number of blanks in the pricing of some such stamps.

Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, Year Book, 1948.

This little volume was issued in connection with the 30th Congress held at Bournemouth on 25th-28th May. Much of it is only of ephemeral interest and to those who were present, but it contains several interesting short papers read at the Congress: these are:

"Have you joined a Study Circle?" by Harry Green. Points out the advantages of such circles and gives a lot of advice as to how to run them.

"The Lighter Moments of Philately," by W. Dennis Way. Very interesting and amusing reading. Might be termed pleas for the general and side-line collectors as against the specialists and the arch-fiends, the super-specialists.

"Collectors and Governments," by Antony Walker. The precedent laid down by Britain in 1840 was sound, but it was abandoned in 1947. The only justification for commemorative issues is the instability of the govern-

ment concerned and their need to bolster up decaying fortunes by pandering to collectors. Collectors who encourage such aims are not acting in their own interests for once Pandora's box is opened, it cannot be closed again.

Universal Post and Check to the Forgers. Erich Haide, (24a) Balje ueber Stade, British Zone, Germany.

The former is a Bulletin devoted largely to an exposition of modern forgeries and the latter is a special issue of it. The author states that forgers of recent issues, war issues more particularly, are rampant and he is out to fight them.

The "Universal Post" (No. 2) has a useful specialised article on the various printings of the A.M. Post stamps of Germany. "Check to the Forgers" deals mainly with forgeries of such war stamps as the Inselpost, the Tunis package stamps (Afrika Corps Palm stamp), the Ruhr pocket stamp and various German post-war local issues. Forgeries of the Czechoslovak 1920 Airmail and Russian 1922 Airmail stamps are also dealt with.

Altogether a lot of useful information for collectors of modern Europeans.

To Collectors of French and French Colonial Stamps. It is proposed to form in Montreal an Association of Collectors of French and French Colonial Stamps, if a sufficiently large number of applicants is forthcoming. It is intended to publish a bulletin, run a new issue service for members and also an exchange club. The suggested subscription is 1 dollar annually plus an entrance fee of 1 dollar. Anyone interested should write to Miss Zélie Corlier, 6973 Christophe Colomb, Montreal, Que., Canada.

Local Postage Stamps Catalogue. Messrs. E. F. Hurt and L. N. and M. Williams have issued a Supplement to their Priced Catalogue of Local Postage Stamps which appeared in four parts during 1942-45. This contains some new entries, also additions or alterations of old ones. Currency exchange uncertainties make it impracticable to issue a revised price-list for the whole catalogue at present, but it is stated that the original work has so stimulated interest in "locals" that it is clear that many of the prices quoted are relatively too high and very many others far too low. Obtainable from Mr. E. F. Hurt, Yardley Gosion, Towcester, North Hants, England, at 8s. or \$1.80 U.S.A.

Reliant 1948 British Colonial Catalogue, Supplement No. 1.

This is the first of the proposed quarterly supplements bringing the catalogue up to date with new issues, price changes and some corrections. The publishers state that the sale of the 1948 catalogue exceeded that of the 1947 one by almost 10,000 copies. Obtainable at 6d. (or 1s. 6d. for the four quarterly numbers) from The Reliant Stamp Press, Ltd., 167 Strand, London, W.C.2.

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STAMPS OR GUM

"Gibbons Stamp Monthly" in referring to the resolution passed by our Federation at the East London Congress, agrees that sanity is on the side of the reformers and that there is a slow but steady deterioration in the condition of most stamps, due to the interaction of gum, paper and printing ink, and gum is probably the principal factor.

The solution of the problem is for believers in the "no gum" theory to be prepared to pay the same prices for ungummed stamps as other people do for stamps with full gum, and they fear that no amount of propaganda will achieve the desired result.

There's the rub. We must just wait till our stamps fall to pieces to be convinced.

BRAZIL

Dr. M. de Sanctis forwards notes of two stamps (Cr. 0.40 and 3.80) issued on 10th July in connection with an International Exhibition of Industry and Commerce, held at Quitandina, near Rio de Janeiro, with a special postmark which features the grand new hotel there.

KERMADEC ISLANDS—N.Z.

We are indebted to Mr. E. G. Cowell of Auckland for a cover from the Kermadec Islands, a small group lying north of New Zealand and east of Norfolk Island.

They are administered by the N.Z. Government, but only have a mail once a year. The postmark is a single circle one 34 mm. in diameter with "Raoul Island/Kermadec Islands" round the periphery, and "N.Z./—4 MY 48. 1 in. in the centre. This is a real post-office cancellation and is probably rarer than the unofficial Tristan da Cunha mark.

GERMANY

More and more complications! The Soviet authorities in Berlin, as a retort to the Western currency reforms, have overprinted the general German issue with "Sowjetische/Besatzungszone." The "cold war" in Berlin has now invaded the philatelic field.

In the French Zone there are to be three sets, 14 stamps each, in their provinces, in the reformed currency.

We are still being inundated with new magazines, requests for exchanges of papers, stamps, etc. To clear our files, here are the names of some of these correspondents, for the benefit of those interested:—

Philatelie-Equator, Postfach 85, Hamburg 36.

Die Lupe, Postfach 6, Hafenstrasse 44, Duisburg—Ruhrort.

Internat. Briefmarken-Anzeiger, N.W. Verlag, Neuss a. Rh.

Hans Bellefontaine, Postfach 807, Aachen. Hugo Weiland, Box 38, Grimmitschau L Sa. 10b.

Carl Bender, Postfach 139, Falkenstein/Vogtl. Russian Zone.

Wilhelm Burgsmuller, Akazienstrasse 8, Kriensen (Harz).

THE FEDERATION.

A Meeting of the Executive of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa was held in Johannesburg on 21st August, representatives of six Transvaal societies and of the Phil. Soc. of Natal being present.

An application was received for membership from the recently formed Northern Transvaal Philatelic Society, with headquarters at Pietersburg.

Important for the future of the "South African Philatelist" was the notification received from Mr. W. Redford that for business reasons he found it necessary to relinquish the post of Business Manager as from 30th September.

The Hon. Editor also intimated that for several reasons he considered it advisable that there should be a change in editorship about the same time.

This matter will have to be decided on finally at the forthcoming Congress; constituent societies are asked in the meantime to give their serious consideration as to how Our Magazine is to be carried on. Opinion was unanimous that, however it was done, it was highly desirable that the editorial, business and publishing departments should all be in one and the same centre.

Congress and Exhibition. The Pretoria Society reported that arrangements were well in hand for all the functions of October 18-20 and the meteorologists promise that the Jacarandas will be on their best behaviour.

All that is needed now is a good attendance, so Roll Up all you philatelists! You will be very well catered for, both philatelically and socially. All the fun of the fair, numerous prizes for exhibits, raffles (including one for a full set of Silver Jubilees), special cancellation mark, souvenir labels and envelopes, and meet the Jacaranda Queen.

All information obtainable from P.O. Box 514, Pretoria.

East London reports that their Exhibition Award Plaques are really arriving and will be distributed very soon.

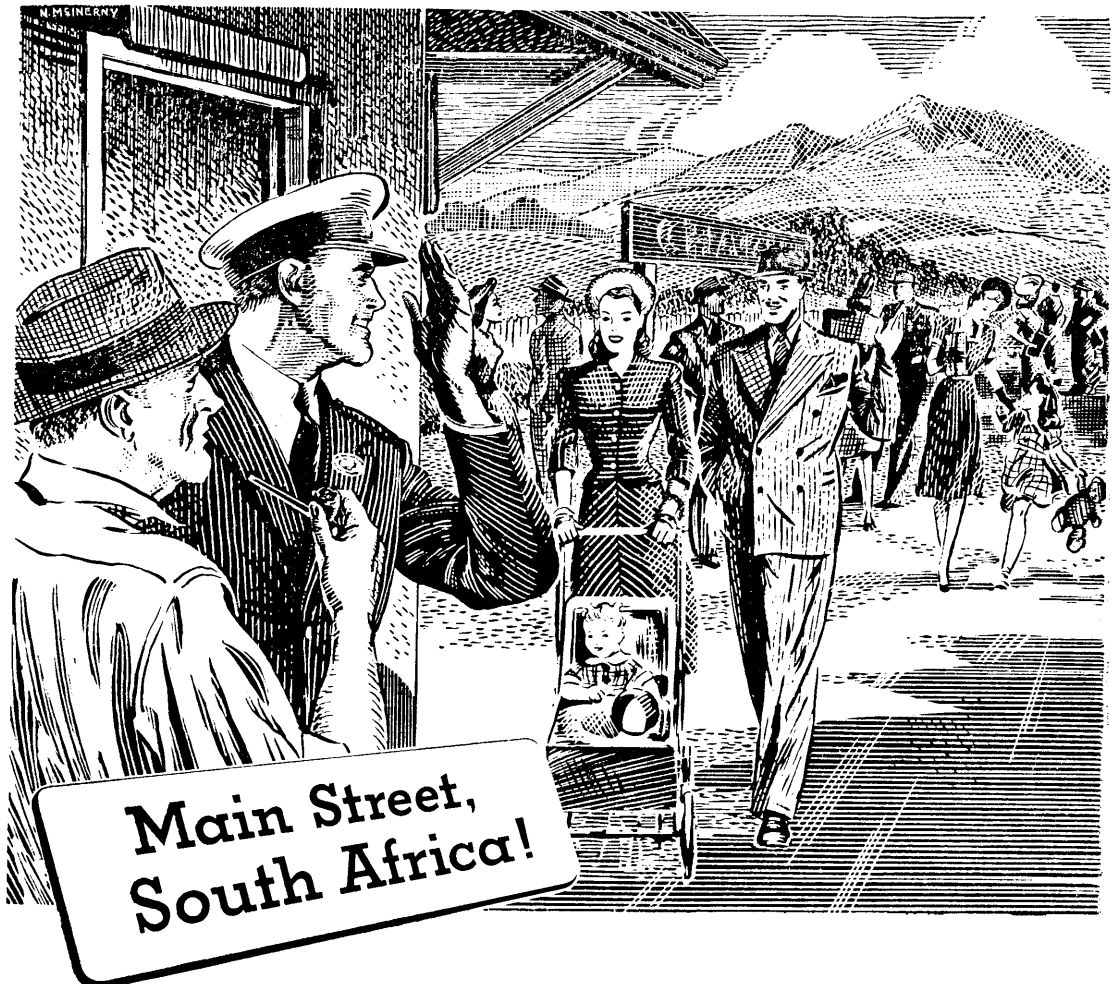
E.A.F. AND M.E.F.

"Stamp Collecting" reports that these overprints on British stamps for the use of the British Military Administrations in the former Italian Colonies, are now obsolete.

In Eritrea there has been issued a new set, British stamps 3d. to 10s. with "B.M.A./Eritrea" and a value in cents. Also a similar set for Somalia. A third set is expected for Tripolitania but it is probable that all three issues will be short-lived as something different is likely to appear after the Allied Commission in Italian Colonies comes to a decision about their future.

Later. The third set has appeared.

It has the overprint "B.M.A./Tripolitania" at the top of the stamps and at the bottom, a new value in figures above the letters "M.A.L.," which stand for Military Authority Lire.



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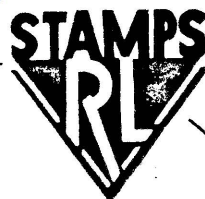
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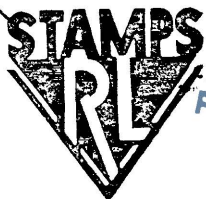
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Union Notes

New 3/- Booklet Notes

The recent issue of 3/- booklets has created a considerable amount of interest among Union collectors, and though full particulars of the printings and slogans have not yet become available, two correspondents have sent in noteworthy items of information.

Mr. A. Hilton Sydow, of Cape Town, mentions that these booklets appeared on sale at the Central Post Office in Cape Town about the 14th August, 1948, and judging from a partial replat of the different sets he had been able to purchase up to the time of writing he was confident that an unsevered sheet of each of the three denominations, ½d., 1d. and 1½d., comprised 126 units, produced in the form of 21 6-set panes of stamps with two rows of intervening advertisements.

In the case of the ½d. panes, his accompanying sketch shows the make-up of the 240-set, 180-set and 126-set sheets as all derived from

a 240-set diapositive which in its turn was derived from a 4-set master negative. The originals were evidently those prepared for the sheets issued towards the latter part of 1947, which had the 1st and 240th stamp inscribed in English instead of, as previously, in Afrikaans and in our June "Union Notes" Mr. Sydow pointed out that the subsequent 180-stamp sheets had been produced by removal of the first three columns of the 240-stamp setting. His observations now show that by masking, or removal, of the 1st, 5th and 9th columns, and also Nos. 3, 6, 9, 12, 15 and 18 horizontal rows of the same diapositive, a sheet setting of 126 stamps has been produced which allows division into 21 6-stamp panes and at the same time provides marginal room for the slogans at the top and bottom of the panes.

The slogans have been etched in the horizontal rows left blank by the elimination of the stamp designs and an examination of the middle stamp in the top row of the ½d. panes bearing the words "Pack Parcels Properly" will show a diapositive flaw in the form of a black line between the horns of the Springbok. This same line appeared on the 3rd

Sheet Format of 240-set ½d. Stamps.

Column	...	...	...	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Row 1	...	...	...	E	A	E	A	E	A	E	A	E	A	E	A
Row 2	...	...	...	A	E	A	E	A	E	A	E	A	E	A	E

Sheet Format of 180-set ½d. Stamps.

Column	...	...	...	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	(8	9	10	11	12
Row 1	...	...	...	•	•	•	A	E	A	E	A	E	A	E	A
Row 2	...	...	...	•	•	•	E	A	E	A	E	A	E	A	E

Sheet Format of 126-set ½d. Stamps.

Column	...	...	...	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Row 1	...	...	...	•	A	E	A	•	A	E	A	•	A	E	A
Row 2	...	...	...	•	E	A	E	•	E	A	E	•	E	A	E
Row 3	...	...	...	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Row 4	...	...	...	•	E	A	E	•	E	A	E	•	E	A	E
Row 5	...	...	...	•	A	E	A	•	A	E	A	•	A	E	A
Row 6	...	...	...	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Row 7	...	...	...	•	A	E	A	•	A	E	A	•	A	E	A
Row 8	...	...	...	•	E	A	E	•	E	A	E	•	E	A	E
Row 9	...	...	...	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

stamp of the top row in the 240-set sheets when first issued with No. 1 stamp in English and it is also present, in the same position, on the sheets of 1d. stamps which have recently taken the place of the 180-set issue.

In the foregoing table, in which "E" denotes the English stamps and "A" the Afrikaans, Mr. Sydow makes his interesting point clear and also shows how the bilingual layout of stamps in booklet panes of the same denomination changes from one form to the other according to the original position of the pane in an unsevered sheet:—

The 1d. and 1½d. denominations contained in the books are set out in the same form as the 1d. panes and they also have the same pictorial design and colours as the current issues obtainable in the normal sized sheets. The watermarks are unchanged, being upright in the case of the 1d. and 1d. and sideways (facing left) on the 1½d. stamps. Books so far examined show the perforations carried through all four margins of the panes and the slogan inscribed along the top and bottom margins are printed in the same colour as the frame designs.

The slogans deal with postal business and since, during the last few weeks, only a limited number of the phrases have made an appearance, a full list is not yet available for publication. Mr. T. F. Allpass of Germiston has, however, noted that though the general policy seems to have been to make up the booklets with the ½d., 1d. and 1½d. panes all bearing the same slogan, a certain amount of selective interchanging appears to have taken place and submits the following list recording the slogans so far seen and also their position in the four types of "mixed slogan" booklets which he has been able to purchase.

Text of Slogans.

	<i>Upper Margin.</i>	<i>Lower Margin.</i>
A.	Air — — — Mail	The Quickest Mail
Aa.	Lug — — — Pos	Die snelste pos
B.	Post Early for Quick Delivery	Vroeg gepos beteken Vroeg Afgelewer
Ba.	• • • •	• • • •
C.	• • • •	• • • •
Ca.	Registreer waarde- volle briewe	Register valuable letters
D.	Pack Parcels Pro- perly	Verpak pakkies be- hoorlik
Da.	• • • •	• • • •

Mixed Slogan Books.

		½d.	1d.	1½d.
1	...	B	A	B
2	...	Ca	B	Ca
3	...	D	Ca	D
4	...	A	Aa	A

The familiar "Speed Bird" drawing found on the Union "By Air Mail" blue letter labels appears between the words "Air . . . Mail" and also "Lug . . . Pos," in the slogans denoted by A and Aa in the above list. Mr. Allpass notes that the advertisements printed

on the covers and interleaves are the same in all booklets and gives the date of issue on the Reef as the 13th August, 1948.

Postage Due Stamps

Changes appear to be taking place in the Union Postage Dues and we have received samples of the 1d. and 2d. values from Mr. J. K. Keogh, who states that these particular items are now in use at the Heilbron Post Office.

He notes that in reverting to the form it appeared in immediately prior to the Bantam issue, the 1d. has been redrawn and its format is now approximately 17½ x 21½ mm. instead of the 18½ x 22½ mm. of pre-war days. This change has increased the size of the gutters between the stamps in the same manner as that fairly recently adopted for the ½d., 1d. and 6d. postage denominations. In addition, the numeral "1" is now shorter and broader than the figure used in the previous issue and its pence value is denoted by a capital "D" instead of a small letter. Both the frame and figure have been produced through a fine mesh screen and the colours are bright carmine and black.

The 2d. denomination has changed in colour only, it is still in the Bantam size and is similar in shade to the bright violet frame of the current 2d. postage stamp. The 3d. large size (Union Catalogue No. D27) has been noted as in use again at Heilbron, but apparently no change has yet taken place in this value.

As a matter of interest on a point dealing with the sheet size of the Bantam Postage Dues, mentioned in our last issue, Mr. Keogh has shown us a communication he received from the Postmaster-General in December, 1947, which informs him "that the Bantam Postage Due Stamps are supplied by the Government Printer in sheets of 60 stamps and it is, therefore, unfortunately not possible to supply you with a full sheet as requested".

Faint Watermark on Recent 1d. Printing

A block of 12 of the 1d. pictorial denomination with the bottom edging attached and the watermark so faint as to require a particularly close examination to discern its presence, was recently submitted to us for inspection by Mr. H. W. James, Cradock.

The item came from the bottom right-hand corner of a sheet of 240 stamps which appeared on sale about a year ago and probably formed part of the first batch of the new printing recorded as having the language setting changed. Examination of mint blocks taken from a number of other sheets of the same printing all show the watermark to be well and truly defined and Mr. James's specimen must evidently have come from an abnormally poor watermarked portion of the roll of paper. It is of interest to note that he also possesses a strip of four Union 1d.,

taken from a sheet issued for sale between the years 1936-1938, which has the same faint watermark variety, though probably not quite so pronounced as in the later block. **Change in 2d. "Official" Overprints**

The use of two distinctly different types of fount in the production of the overprints on the latest issue of the 2d. "Officials" has been pointed out to us by Mr. A. Lichtenstein, of Bloemfontein. Examination of a sheet shows that though the overprints read down, as before, and are on the same greenish grey and violet-coloured stamps (S.G. 107) of the previous issue, the type has been mixed, but apparently in a selective manner, which has resulted in a varying change in the sequence of the settings at every fourth row. With one set of type measuring about 1¾ mm. high, the other is slightly larger at 2 mm. and the corresponding length of the overprints increases from 14 to 15 mm., in the case of "Official", and from 15½ to 16½ mm. for "Offisieel".

The various combinations which result from the mixing of the two founts are sufficiently interesting to justify setting out in tabular form and the chart below shows just where the long and short overprints are situated on the sheet. Note the change every 4th row and the fact that all the stamps in column No. 6 have a short English overprint: those in column No. 3 are entirely free from any variation.

Chart Showing the Position of the Short Overprints on Current 2d. Officials.

Row No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	...	•	E	•	•	•	A&E
2	...	•	E	•	•	•	A&E
3	...	•	E	•	•	•	A&E
4	...	•	E	•	•	•	A&E
5	...	•	•	•	•	•	A&E
6	...	•	•	•	•	•	A&E
7	...	•	•	•	•	•	A&E
8	...	•	•	•	•	•	A&E
9	...	•	A	•	E	•	E
10	...	•	A	•	E	•	E
11	...	•	A	•	E	•	E
12	...	•	A	•	E	•	E
13	...	A&E	•	•	•	E	E
14	...	A&E	•	•	•	E	E
15	...	A&E	•	•	•	E	E
16	...	A&E	•	•	•	E	E
17	...	•	•	•	A&E	•	E
18	...	•	•	•	A&E	•	E
19	...	•	•	•	A&E	•	E
20	...	•	•	•	A&E	•	E

A = Offisieel = 15½ m/m instead of 16½.
 E = Official = 14 m/m instead of 15.

Frame Flaw and "Ghost" Arrow in Current 2d.

The frame line flaw recorded on page 71 of our May issue has shown up on sheets of the 2d. stamps now appearing on sale at

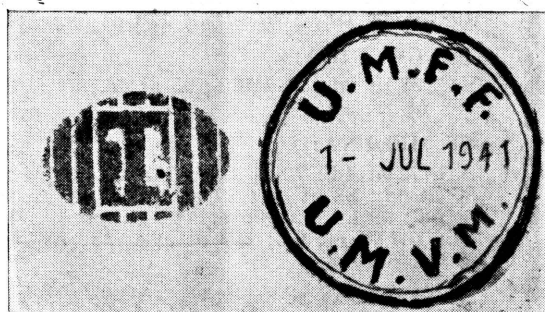
post offices on the Reef. The variety takes the form of a thinly printed portion of the inner frame directly under "TH" of SOUTH and "D-A" of SUID-AFRIKA, and it appears most prominent in those stamps on the left-hand section of the sheet. Apart from a slight shade change, the colours of greenish grey and violet are the same, but the four-numeral red sheet numbers, printed on the right-hand margin, have been replaced with five-numeral black sheet numbers.

Another variety in the current 2d. is the "Ghost" arrow in the right or left-hand margin (sometimes both margins) opposite the top row of stamps. In most cases, this additional imprint is so faint as to be hardly noticeable, but sheets have been seen in which it is well defined and Mr. A. Lichtenstein has shown us a very good example of this extra arrow in a top left-hand corner block.

TWO MYSTERY MARKS

Herewith two mystery marks, not related in any way to each other, for explanation.

1. The smaller one, on the left, is photographed from an impression made by the actual die, and has been submitted by Mr. R.



Axer. We understand it was recently unearthed in a cabinet in the Cape Town Post Office, but no one seems to know anything about it.

2. The mark on the right, from a rough but reasonably accurate sketch, has been seen on several war-time service covers, both on specimens posted in the Union and on others coming to the Union. The censor's department disclaimed all knowledge of it and various military departments approached also could offer no clue as to its origin and meaning.

Can any reader oblige?

S. RHODESIA POST OFFICES

In the list of these offices given last month some errors in spelling crept in. Herewith are corrections, the name as printed being given first with the correct spelling immediately following: Berubesi, Bembesi; Bindina, Bindura; Busthtick, Bushtick; Gulu, Gutu; Inyazma, Inyazura, Luvère, Luveve; Matopoo, Matopos; Ncerna Dam, Ncema Dam; Nyal-sira, Nyabira; Sanemstownship, Sauerstownship; Shamra, Shamva. Keynshamburg is believed to be now defunct.

OBSOLETE MINT GEORGE V.

BASUTOLAND:

S.G. 1 at 2d.; 2 at 2d.; 3 at 6d.; 4 at 1s.; 5 at 2s.; 6 at 2s. 6d.; 7 at 6s.; 8 at 15s.

SWAZILAND:

S.G. 11 at 1d.; 12 at 3d.; 13 at 8d.; 14 at 1s.

BECHUANALAND:

S.G. 99 at 2d.; 100 at 4d.; 101 at 8d.; 102 at 1s. 3d.; 103 at 1s. 6d.; 104 at 2s. 6d.; 105 at 4s. 6d.; 106 at 8s.; 107 at 12s. 6d.; 108 at 15s.; 109 at 25s.

SOMALILAND:

S.G. 60 at 2d.; 61 at 6d.; 62 at 4s. 6d.; 63 at 1s. 6d.; 64 at 1s. 4d.; 65 at 1s. 6d.; 66 at 2s.; 67 at 2s. 6d.; 68 at 3s. 6d.; 69 at 3s. 9d.

ZANZIBAR:

S.G. 310 at 1d.; 311 at 2d.; 312 at 2d.; 314 at 4d.; 315 at 5d.; 318 at 1s. 2d.

N. RHODESIA:

S.G. 18/21 at 8s. 6d.; 20 at 2s. 6d.

GOLD COAST:

S.G. 77 at 3s.; 85 at 2d.; 90 at 1s.; 94 at 2s. 6d.; 105 at 1s.; 106 at 1s.; 107 at 3s.; 108 at 1s. 6d.; 109 at 3s.; 110 at 5s.; 111 at 10s.; 113/116 at 20s.

TANGANYIKA:

S.G. 93 at 2d.; 94 at 3d.; 95 at 4d.; 96 at 6d.; 98a at 5s.; 100 at 1s. 3d.; 101 at 2s. 6d.; 102 at 2s. 9d.

ST. HELENA:

S.G. 72 at 4d.; 73 at 10d.; 73a at 6d.; 74 at 1s. 3d.; 75 at 2s.; 76 at 2s. 9d.; 77 at 3s.; 87 at 6d.; 88 at 3d.; 89 at 1s.; 90 at 1s. 9d.; 91 at 3s. 6d.; 95 at 30s.; 97 at 3d.; 98 at 4d.; 99 at 1s.; 100 at 1s.; 101 at 1s. 3d.; 103 at 4s.; 104 at 3s.; 105 at 4s.; 106 at 7s.; 107 at 8s. 6d.; 108 at 10s.; 109 at 15s.; 110 at 30s.; 114 at 9d.; 115 at 1s.; 116 at 2s. 6d.

ASCENSION:

S.G. 1 at 1s.; 2 at 3s.; 3 at 5s.; 4 at 6s.; 5 at 7s.; 6 at 20s.; 9 at 17s. 6d.; 10 at 1s.; 11 at 1s. 3d.; 12 at 2s.; 13 at 2s. 3d.; 14 at 2s. 6d.; 15 at 15s.; 15a at 4s.; 16 at 70s.; 17 at 5s.; 18 at 10s.; 19 at 20s.; 20 at 50s.; 22 at 3d.; 23 at 6d.; 24 at 9d.; 25 at 6d.; 26 at 2s.

All Mint Silver Weddings of the British Empire at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. over Face Value

All Used Silver Weddings of the British Empire at 25 per cent. over Face

ALL SUBJECT UNSOLD — POSTAGE EXTRA — CASH WITH ORDER

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England.

Write to: **T. Mc MICKING**, (P.T.B., B.P.A., F.R.G.S.)

Cholo, Nyasaland, British Central Africa.

The "Air Mail Letter Cards" and "Air Letters" of East Africa . . 1941-1945

by

I. H. C. GODFREY

The Air-Mail Letter Cards of this area form a somewhat confused group because of the variety of printing establishments responsible for their production.

The material from which this compilation is made was collected by the writer when serving in the East African Command in Abyssinia, Somalia and British East Africa during the period covered, and it may still not be complete. Any records of additions or corrections will be welcomed.

Notice of the introduction of the Air-Mail Letter Card service, to expedite delivery of soldiers' mail, was first given in the Nairobi Press on 11th August, 1941, a few days after the first distribution of forms to the various units. Only four forms—Types 9, 9a, 10 and 10a—had an actual stamp printed as part of them, although Types 6a, 7 and 8 were distributed by the Army Post Office in Nairobi already franked with a 25 cent. Meter Mark in red (see Fig. 1); the others all re-

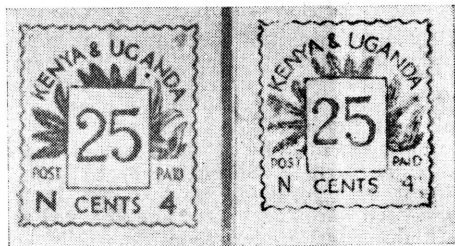


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

quired stamps to be affixed to the value of 3d. or 25c., except on special occasions, when "Postage Free" concessions were granted.

The early types—Nos. 1 to 3—are to be found with a variety, and sometimes with a combination of franking, as the postage stamps of the following territories were valid for use during that period: Great Britain, Union of South Africa, Southern and Northern Rhodesia and, possibly, the Gold Coast, Nigeria and Nyasaland as contingents from those three Colonies were also serving in the Command.*

*Readers are referred to Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie's article "Army P.O.'s.—Real Allies" in the February and March, 1946, issues of the "South African Philatelist."

Towards the end of 1942 a number of *bogus* Air-Mail Letter Cards made their appearance in retail shops in Nairobi and elsewhere, and an Official Notice was issued banning their use except at the normal air-mail postage rate of 1s. 30c. per card. Such cards are not listed in this article.

By the 7th July, 1944, Empire air communications had so greatly improved that Air-Mail Letter Cards could be sent to the whole of the Western Hemisphere at the normal rate of 25c. for Canada and Newfoundland, and 75c. to other American countries. Shortly afterwards an "AIR LETTER" Service for civilians was introduced in Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, the postage rate being double that charged to the military. (This service was commenced on 1st September, 1944, in Uganda, and the following day in Kenya and Tanganyika.)

On three occasions special Christmas Greeting Air-Mail Letter Cards were issued to members of E.A. Command in limited quantities: five to each man, one of which was "Postage Free". No special distribution was made in 1941.

As from 14th June, 1945—shortly after the end of the war in Europe—all postage fees were abolished for members of the Empire Services attached to East Africa Command: letters up to 1 oz. in weight and all "Air Letters" (Types 12 and 12a were current at the time) being accepted for conveyance by air free of charge to the "Home Countries" of serving personnel.

All printings of the following are in blue, various shades.

TYPE 1—AUGUST, 1941

Printed in Nairobi by the *Southern Rhodesia Survey Unit* on white paper blued on inside front. No flaps for closing, but top and right borders inscribed "Affix gummed strip here/Do not turn over until censored".

Inscriptions: Top left ("T.l") "By Air Mail". Top centre ("T.c") "Air Mail/Letter Card/If anything is enclosed this card/will be sent by ordinary mail". Top right ("T.r") "Affix 3d./British/Stamp here". At bottom right is "GT. BRITAIN" underlined above the instructions running the width of the form "When folded the letter card must conform in size and shape with/the blue border

within which the address only may be written".

Although this, and other early types have the printed address "Gt. Britain", the cards could be sent to the "Home Countries" of serving personnel—e.g. The Rhodesias, Nyasaland and West Africa as well as to the United Kingdom. Most used cards of this period bear a red or black rubber stamp impression "ON ACTIVE SERVICE", which was applied at the same time as the Base Censor mark "E.A. No. 02" (Nairobi).

Size of blue border .. 116 x 93 m.m.

TYPE 1a—AUGUST, 1941

As above, but slightly larger print.

Size .. 123 x 98 mm.

TYPE 2—AUGUST, 1941

200,000 printed in Addis Abeba by *Southern Rhodesia Survey Unit* on thin white paper, captured from the Italians, watermarked "AEROSTALE" above an eagle with outstretched wings. The front slightly blued outside, deeply blued inside; flaps top and right for closing. Inscriptions as Type 1, except that the space for the stamp is outlined and the type and lay-out are not identical.

Size .. 121 x 97 mm.

TYPE 3—SEPTEMBER, 1941

75,000 printed by *Southern Rhodesia Survey Unit*, Nairobi, on white paper watermarked "Extra Strong/Italica", blued similarly to Type 1 and inscriptions the same, although the types of the various parts are different and "GT. BRITAIN" is omitted from bottom right. No flaps for closing and borders inscribed as Type 1.

Size .. 114 x 94 mm.

TYPE 4—MAY, 1942

Printed by the *Government Printer, Pretoria*, on coarse buff paper similar to that of the Union Active Service Letter Cards of 1941, but only faintly blued inside. Inscription as Type 3, except that T.r. reads simply "Stamp/must be/affixed/here", and there are no instructions about closing as the form has a gummed flap at top.

Size .. 128 x 97 m.m.

TYPE 5—1942

Printed by *Southern Rhodesia Survey Unit* in Nairobi, partly on white paper watermarked as Type 3, partly on faintly creamy white unwatermarked paper. Various shades of bluing, both inside and out, from pale blue to near purple. Inscribed as Type 3, but type somewhat different.

Size .. 115 x 94 m.m.

TYPE 6—OCTOBER, 1942

695,000 printed by the *D.P. & S.S. (Directorate of Printing & Stationery Services, Union Defence Force)* at Nairobi, on very

flimsy pink paper slightly blued. Inscribed as Type 4, although type differs.

Size .. 113 x 96 m.m.

TYPE 6a—OCTOBER, 1942

A portion of the above printing was franked in red with a 25 cent. Kenya and Uganda meter mark by the *D.P. & S.S.* before supplies were sent to the A.P.O. for distribution. The reason for this was to eliminate the necessity of providing postage stamps to isolated A.P.O.'s in occupied enemy territory where, previously, when no stamps were available, cards were inscribed in ms. "Prepaid OET—25c." and the necessary franking was done at the Base. The meter used was an old type (in which the word Tanganyika does not appear)—Licence No. 4—and was supplied to the military authorities by the Remington Typewriter Agency, Nairobi.

AUGUST, 1943

From this date until the end of the war, one "Green" (so called because of similar green-coloured British and South African forms) or "Privilege" card was issued per month per man. They were immune from Unit censoring but might still be subject to base censorship. The cards have an additional checkered or hollow blue triangle at bottom left, and on the back of the form is the inscription "*I certify on my honour that the contents of this letter are of a private and family nature only . . . Signature*". In some cases this is preceded by the words "*The following Certificate must be signed by the writer:—*".

TYPE 7—AUGUST, 1943

Stiffish white unwatermarked paper, not blued. Inscriptions the same as those on Type 1, but the address "GT. BRITAIN" omitted, and there are differences in both type and lay-out. The origin of this card is unknown, but, as it still bore the words "Affix 3d. British Stamp here" at this late date, it was probably part of old imported stock. All cards seen bear the 25c. red meter mark described under Type 6a.

Size .. 113 x 90 m.m.

TYPE 8—AUGUST, 1943

Origin unknown. Very similar to Type 7, but differing in the following respects: T.l. "AIR MAIL" instead of "BY AIR MAIL": T.r. "Affix Stamp here" only, and top and right borders read "Affix gummed strip here". These cards also bear the 25c. red meter mark, and only the "Privilege" variety, with hollow triangle, seems to have been issued in East Africa.

Size .. 113 x 93 m.m.

TYPE 9—AUGUST, 1943

Printed by the *Government Printer, Pretoria*, on buff-coloured paper. Inscriptions and lay-out identical with those of Type 4, except that at T.r. there is a *printed* 25 cent Kenya and Uganda stamp. (See Fig. 2.)

The stamp was copied in detail from the old meter mark described under Type 6a, even to the inclusion of the Licence Number "N.4". This imitating of a private stamping machine mark for Official use must surely be unique in "stamp" designs.

Size .. 128 97 mm.

TYPE 9a

"Privilege" Card—checkered triangle.

TYPE 10—MARCH, 1944

Pretoria print. Identical in every respect with Type 9, but *top corners bevelled* to save paper, as was the case with the Union Active Service Letter Cards of that date. 25c. printed stamp.

TYPE 10a

"Privilege" card—checkered triangle.

TYPE 10b

Ordinary card without printed stamp.

TYPE 11—JUNE, 1944

50,000 printed by *D.P. & S.S. (U.D.F.)*, Nairobi, on white unwatermarked paper with no bluing, and no border line around the front. Inscriptions: Top and right borders "Affix gummed strip here"; T.l. "Air Mail/Letter Card/If anything is enclosed/this letter will be sent/by ordinary mail"; T.r. "Affix/Stamp/Here" Four dotted lines for address.

Folded size .. 125 x 110 mm.

TYPE 11a

"Privilege" Card—hollow triangle.

TYPE 12—1945

Forms now styled "AIR LETTERS" instead of "AIR MAIL LETTER CARDS". Imported British Army form "W.3077": grey paper with gummed flaps top and right.

TYPE 12a

"Privilege" card—hollow triangle.

(To be continued)

★

BRAZIL

We are indebted to Dr. Mario de Sanctis for three stamps issued on 10th July in connection with the International Exhibition of Industry and Commerce held at the Quintandinta Hotel, Petropolis, near Rio de Janeiro with special postmark. Also another issued on 13th August commemorating the centenary of the National School of Music, again with a special postmark which includes musical staves.

★

HUNGARY

The Postal Department informs us that on 27th July there were issued the 10, 12, 20, 40 and 60 f. denominations to complete the centenary set started coming out on 15th March. Also a new 60 f. stamp honouring the

centenary of the birth on 27.7.1848 of Lorand Eotios, distinguished physicist.

★

CAPE POSTAL HISTORY

The "Cape Times Magazine" of 28th August has a number of fine illustrations of star items in the collection which has been offered by Mr. A. A. Jurgens to the South African Museum.

★

UNION 2½d. COMMEMORATIVE

We are very pleased to have heard again from Mr. Lancelot A. B. Sharpe. He at one time sent us lots of information, but dropped out during the war; he now writes:

"Lobdell, in his book on the Union Georgian stamps, remarks on p. 15 on the rarity of the 2½d. on covers from Natal dated 4th November, 1910 (day of issue), and states that only one such cover has been reported. I am lucky enough to have another, with a pair of stamps, registered at Durban on that date. I also have a fine used block of four from the same place on that date."

★

AN UNRECORDED UNION "OFFICIAL" VARIETY

Mr. Lancelot A. B. Sharpe has also sent us from England a photograph of an envelope in his collection. This is an O.H.M.S. cover sent from Pretoria by air on 28th August, 1931, to The Secretary, Office of the High Commissioner for the Union, London. It is franked by two 2d. "Official" stamps and a 6d. which is the particular subject of this note.

It is a 6d. of the June, 1931, issue and the overprint has been so misplaced, the "Offis-eel", properly belonging to one stamp has been printed on the next stamp to the left, with the result that "Official" and "Offis-eel" are



transposed, although not at the usual distance apart found on a normal stamp. Mr. Sharpe reports further that he has a used block of 6 (2 x 3) which shows, as it were, this transposition in action—the overprints sloping gradually down from right to left so that in the end they would appear as seen in the illustration.

We have been informed that a collector in the Union has a specimen with this overprint on the white margin of the sheet; probably there would have been, at the other end of the row, a stamp without overprint.

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Mint Seychelles

S.G.		S.G.	
2c.	1	2c.	53
8c.	3	3c.	54
4c.	2	6c.	55
10c.	4	18c.	58
13c.	5	30c.	59
16c.	6	45c.	60
2c.	9	3c.	64
4c.	10	3c.	65
8c.	11	3c.	66
10c.	12	2c.	67
13c.	13	3c.	68
16c.	14	30c.	73
3c.	15	45c.	74
12c.	16	75c.	75
12c.	17	1½r.	76
18c.	29	2½r.	77
36c.	30	30c.	84
3c.	41	45c.	85
3c.	42	4c.	122a
3c.	43	9c.	123a
6c.	44	12c.	124
30c.	50	15c.	125
30c.	51	20c.	126

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SAFETY IN BUYING.

S. RHODESIA METER POSTS

Supplementary to the list of these given in our May issue by Mr. R. Axer, the following have been sent by Mr. W. G. Nodder. The letters S, B and G after them indicate postmarks of Salisbury, Bulawayo and Gwelo respectively:

- UMV 232 Farmers Co-Op. S.
- N 10 Rhodesia Co-operative Milk Co. (1936), Ltd. B.
- N 23 S.A.T. Co. (in diamond) when you are building. S.
- N 26 City of Salisbury, S. Rhodesia. S.
- N 27 Rhodesia Oxygen and Acetylene Co., Ltd. B.
- N 32 Hadden and Sly, Ltd., Drapers, Outfitters, etc. S.
- N 35 Rhodesia Oxygen and Acetylene (Co.), Ltd. S.
- N 36 Barbour's Service at its best. S.
- N 44 (undecipherable). S.
- N 48 The Rhodesian Bata Shoe Co., Ltd. G.
- N 173 The ABC Guide for profitable advertising. B.
- N 374 The Salisbury Board of Distributors, Limited. S.

Incidentally, it may be noted that Mr. Nodder has an article in the "Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly" of 14th August, with quite a lot of interesting details about this country's stamps.

U.S.A.

Latest commemoratives to arrive are the 3c honouring William Allen White, author and editor, issued on 31st July; the 5c, featuring the Niagara Falls Bridge, symbolic of 100 years peace and co-operation with Canada, issued on 2nd August; a 3c honouring Francis Scott Key, author of the words of "The Star Spangled Banner," on 9th August; a 3c on 11th August "Saluting Young America," in connection with the Youth Month; a 3c Oregon Territory Centennial on 14th August.

BRITISH STAMPS USED AT ADDIS
ABABA

"Stamp Collecting" of 14th August gives fuller details of this usage than we have seen noted hitherto.

They were employed between 6.4.41 and 31.1.42, being affixed in and cancelled by the Army Base P.O. This arrangement lasted till the Ethiopian postal service was re-organized under South African direction and with the return of the Emperor shortly afterwards the Addis Ababa post office canceller was used and continued to be applied to British stamps, in limited numbers, up till 22.2.42 when the new Ethiopian stamps were put on sale.

More recently British stamps have been used on letters from the British Military Mission attached to the Ethiopian army, but this is about to be withdrawn and such items will be scarce.

The Dawn of S. African Philately!

Cape of Good Hope

1853-1863/4

¶ I specialise in these ever-popular TRIANGULARS, and can always be relied upon for out-of-the-ordinary pieces as well as the normal items.

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¶ Also G. Britain, 1840-1940, early B.N. America, Pence Ceylon, Mauritius, N.S. Wales, N. Zealand and various W. Indies.

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SOCIETY NEWS

CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, K. M. Cameron; *Hon. Sec.*, S. Kagan-son, P.O. Box 1973; *Meetings*, 2nd and 4th Thursdays, at Yorkshire Buildings, Strand Street, at 7.30 p.m.

22nd July. The exhibit for the evening was Australian Commonwealth Commemoratives by Mr. R. Axer. This complete collection was displayed in mint imprint blocks of four. Mr. Axer, who is an authority on Australian stamps, gave some interesting facts on these interesting issues which are now so popular. It would be very difficult to get together a display of this nature at the present time.

12th August. A record attendance of some sixty members, and the occasion this evening was in the nature of a red letter evening. Quite recently the University of Cape Town Philatelic Society became affiliated to our Society and honoured us with a visit in force. Each member exhibited a few sheets. Without exception pages were carefully and tastefully mounted, and great individuality was shown. Most of the stamps were modern, but the quality came as a great surprise to the hosts. Their *President*, Mr. M. Peisach, explained that the Society was formed eighteen months ago and, when circumstances permitted, meetings were held every two weeks. The present membership was 15. It is unanimously agreed that this was the pleasantest social and philatelic evening we present members can remember, and all look forward to a repetition.

L.H.R.

★

THE PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. L. L. Brown; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. W. Kriste; *Meetings*, Second Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m. in the Berea Park Recreation Club.

15th September. The Society celebrated its first birthday by holding the annual general meeting and reports submitted by the various officers indicated the wonderful progress made by the Society since its inception. Membership has grown from the original 18 Foundation members to 70 to date, of which number 33 are country members located all over the Union and South-West Africa. Philatelists who are employees or pensioners of the South African Railways, Airways and Harbours are eligible to join. The following were elected to hold office for the ensuing year: *President*, Mr. L. L. Brown; *Vice-President*, Mr. H. W. Bond; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. W. Kriste; *Hon. Treasurer*, Mr. H. Heron; *Hon. Exchange Supt.*, Mr. L. B. McLachlan; *Librarian* and *Hon. Asst. Secretary*, Mr. T. Gulson. The committee is looking forward to a bumper year.

W.K.

★

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mrs. R. Alabaster; *Hon. Sec.-Treas.*, Mr. E. H. Williams, P.O. Box 198, East London; *Meetings*, 2nd Fridays, Colosseum Theatre Tea Room (upstairs).

July. This was well attended and a full and pleasant evening it was. Our two roving tourists, Messrs. Jensen and Durkin, returned full of tales and good spirits, and were accorded a warm welcome home. Mr. Jensen from his extensive tour overseas through his homeland—Denmark, Canada and America with many experiences to relate, both philatelic and otherwise. Mr. Durkin from his tour of Southern Africa, with tales of adventure and a nasty or the proverbial Rhodesian mosquito's stain.

The first round of the All-Federation quiz was put over with varying results, mostly fairly satisfactory. In fairness to the competitors, it must be said that some of the questions were worthy of more than the one minute allowed as the answer had to be left incomplete at the completion of time. The displays for the evening were contributed by Messrs. Paviour and Stander. The U.S.A.'s tabled by Mr. Paviour made a very creditable and enjoyable

display. Mr. Stander showed mint imprint blocks of modern Australia and a welcome variety with world maps and stamps of the world depicting birds from around the globe. Mr. Dickenson congratulated Mr. Stander on the patience and time needed to set his Birds of the World on Stamps.

August. Another well-attended meeting with many visitors from Southern Africa and overseas. Business was soon disposed of and the enjoyable surprise of our entry into the second leg of the quiz was announced. Quiz master Mr. Gillespie and timekeeper Mr. Durkin again carried out duty with Mr. Williams doing long-shorthand.

The response to questions was an improvement on the last batch, and results were fairly good with many complete answers, and we hope to enter the next leg.

Mr. Watson then displayed his Gt. Britain which has won for him so many awards; comments and sighs were numerous, but Mr. Watson the Chief still thinks the collection could be further enhanced by improved setting out. An enormous task admittedly, but what about it? Complete! Aye, it is and all with the 1½d. 1924/26 tete-beche mint and G.V. £1 green plate 221-1d. red in ½ sheet, the Edward Jubilee in miniature sheets mint blocks, etc.; there is little missing.

Mr. Thornton displayed his Natal collection and again sighs and wishful comment were prominent. The 1857 on blotting paper with the 1d. tete-beche, the 1s. blue of which only 1,257 were issued, strips of 6 Queens used with ½d. overprint on piece, the inverted overprint, covers, officials and a small selection of Zululand.

★

MARITZBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, R. Morton; *Hon. Sec.*, S. P. Sherry, 76 Jesmond Road, Pietermaritzburg; *Meetings*, 2nd Fridays, 7.45 p.m., Women's Club.

The annual general meeting was held in April, Mr. Morton, who has done yeoman service as Secretary since the foundation of the Society, being elected President.

At the May meeting Professor Hattersley gave a most interesting talk on the Classics of Queensland, illustrated by pages from his own collection.

The June meeting provided a very full programme with a talk on the M.E.F. overprints by the President, followed by a talk, illustrated by a most comprehensive display, on the stamps of Holland by Dr. Young.

The main item on the programme at the July meeting was a display of the stamps of the Union of South Africa. Several members contributed to the display which was most comprehensive, ranging from essays and colour proofs through all the definitive issues and including postage dues and officials and many of the better known errors and varieties. The display proved most instructive, and it is hoped to hold further "one country" displays in future.

At the August meeting members were asked to bring three pages from their collections for display and to give a brief talk on the main points of interest in the stamps concerned. Miss Bremner, Major Compton and Messrs. Arbuckle, Draper, Emerton, Morton, Sherry and Turner took part in this display which included issues of Great Britain, Hong Kong, Switzerland, Natal, Cape, Tripolitania, St. Lucia, Ascension, St. Helena, Channel Islands and covers of the inter-provincial period.

★

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. G. K. Forbes; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. G. P. Smith, 13 Trafalgar Square, Port Elizabeth; *Meetings*, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in Room 3, City Hall Basement, at 7.45 p.m.

The business meeting was held on Tuesday 17th August, with Mr. Forbes in the chair.

The Secretary stated he had not received any news about the Quiz held last month.

Owing to the absence of Mr. Fowler, who was responsible for the evening, Mr. G. P. Smith deputised and tabled about 70 covers, mostly of the Royal Visit. Many of these were cancelled on the Royal Train in various parts of the Union and the

Rhodesias. The rest of the covers were of Princess Elizabeth's 21st Birthday, and the Royal Wedding. A few were from Newfoundland and Australia.

Four new members were admitted to the Society. Mr. Levey then auctioned about 40 packets of stamps, and some of the issues from Stanley Gibbons.

L.E.C.

★

ORANGE FREE STATE AND BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. C. A. Larsen; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. R. G. Lyon, Box 702, Bloemfontein; *Meetings*, 3rd Fridays each month, Oranje Koffiehuis, Bloemfontein, 7.30 p.m.

The August meeting had a very good attendance. The first half was taken up with various formal matters concerning the Exchange department, the Pretoria Exhibition and Congress, and the Annual Junior Stamp Competition. The exhibit of the evening was given by Mr. M. Pienaar who showed a fine, representative collection of the stamps of Holland. The display was the more appreciated as Mr. Pienaar had joined the philatelic ranks only recently and gave a good example to other more reserved newcomers of what can be done with enthusiasm in a short time.

On a Saturday afternoon during August, the long-awaited Junior Competition took place in which about 75 scholars of Bloemfontein schools participated. Every visiting child received free refreshments, every participant in addition a free stamp packet. The excitement of the children was great and their enthusiasm was stimulated by the display of picked pages from the collections of advanced collectors. The collections handed in for competition were judged in three age-groups from standard 3 upward. Quantity and rarity were not so much considered, but neatness and original arrangement. One boy in the second section received a special award, the "President's prize," for a really unique and well-written-up collection.

On a Saturday night, also during August, Dr. Freund visited the St. Andrew's Boys' College and gave there a brief talk on stamp collecting and thereafter an extensive display of stamps depicting "Sports" (roughly 300 pages).

In September, the annual general meeting was held, when the retiring officers gave their reports for the past year, which showed a satisfactory state of affairs all round. The following office-bearers and committee members were elected for the ensuing year: *President*, Mr. C. A. Larsen; *Vice-President*, Dr. K. Freund; *Hon. Secretary-Treasurer*, Mr. R. G. Lyon; *Exchange Superintendent*, Mr. A. J. Denne; *Publicity Officer*, Dr. K. Freund; *Hon. Auditor*, Mr. F. B. Cattell; *committee members*, Messrs. R. A. Brown, J. Howarth and J. W. Hodgson.

At both the August and September meetings the All-Federation Quiz was held, the Society having been fortunate to be in the running so far.

K.F.

★

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

President, Mr. W. Redford; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. B. Glassman, P.O. Box 4967, Johannesburg; *Meetings*, 2nd Tuesdays and 4th Mondays, Public Library, 7.45 p.m.

At the meeting held on 14th September Mr. J. G. Kupferman showed a fine selection of the stamps of France.

The exhibit included some pre-stamp covers, flown covers and field post covers. There were numerous fine used early Republican and Empire stamps. Many were in blocks and pairs.

Modern commemoratives were shown both mint and used. There were numerous paquebots and other unusual commemoratives, also French stamps used in Algeria.

Newspaper stamps, postage due stamps and cancelled stamps as well as a few specimen stamps of the early issues were all included. Commander Snock, who spoke on the exhibit, pointed out how nearly complete the exhibit was. During the evening the third round of the "Federation" quiz was held.

I.I.

THE JEWISH GUILD PHILATELIC SECTION

Chairman, I. Isaacs; *Hon. Secretary*, B. Joseph, 143 London House, Loveday Street, Johannesburg; *Meetings*, last Thursday, Jewish Guild Memorial Hall, Von Brandis Street.

At the meeting held on 26th August, the exhibit was provided by Mr. W. Oppenheim. Mr. Oppenheim showed a few sheets of rarities from several countries, including British Colonial Commemoratives, Air Mails, rare perforations, and shades, etc. Every stamp was in perfect condition and was shown to advantage.

Mr. L. Buchen spoke on the exhibit, which was very much appreciated.

I.I.

★

ALL-FEDERATION QUIZ

SECOND ROUND

Below are given the questions and answers of the second round:

Q. 1: What intra-Union Aerial Posts were there prior to the introduction of the first regular airmail service in 1925, and in what years did they take place?

A. 1: (1) Kenilworth-Muizenberg, 1911-12. (2) Red Cross, Cape Town, 1918. (2b) Red Cross, Transvaal, 1918. (3) Pigeon Post, Cape Town, 1919. (4) Handley Page Flight, 1920.

Q. 2: Ascension. What were the distinguishing features of the stamps in use here during the following periods: (a) 1910-1922, (b) 1922-24, (c) 1924-33, (d) in 1934.

A. 2: (a) British stamps; (b) St. Helena stamps overprinted "Ascension"; (c) K.G.V stamps of St. Helena type; (d) K.G. V Pictorials.

Q. 3: Zululand. When did it become administratively part of Natal and when did the issue of Zululand stamps cease?

A. 3: (a) 31st December, 1897, and (b) 30th June, 1898.

Q. 4: What were the highest denominated stamps issued in respectively (a) British East Africa Protectorate; (b) Uganda Protectorate.

A. 4: (a) 50 rupees; (b) 5 rupees.

Q. 5: Union of South Africa. Who were the printers of, and what printing processes were used for: (a) The 1925 Air stamps; (b) The 1929 Air stamps.

A. 5: (a) Cape Times, photo-litho offset; (b) Government Printer, typography.

Q. 6: At least six countries in the area of the Quiz have stamps overprinted with the words "Half Penny" or "One Half Penny." How many of them do you know.

A. 6: British Bechuanaland, Cape of Good Hope, Mauritius, Natal, Rhodesia, Transvaal Colony.

Q. 7: Rhodesia had a set of commemorative stamps in 1905. What was the set commemorating?

A. 7: (a) The visit of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, and (b) the opening of the Victoria Falls Bridge.

Q. 8: Natal Fiscals used for Postage. Five values of the Queen's Head Revenue stamps of 1903 were so used—what were their denominations?

A. 8: 5/-, £1, £1 10/-, £5 and £10.

Q. 9: German South-West Africa. The issues of stamps for this territory in 1897 and in 1898 were German stamps with an overprint. Two types of overprint were used. What were their distinguishing features.

A. 9: 1897, Deutsch-Südwest-Afrika. 1898, Deutsch-Südwestafrika.

Q. 10: St. Helena issued a Centenary set in 1934. What event in 1834 was this set commemorating?

A. 10: British Colonisation.

The survivors of this round, given in the order of marks allotted were: West Rand Stamp Club, Orange Free State and Basutoland Philatelic Society.

Philatelic Society of Johannesburg, and the East London Philatelic Society.

THIRD ROUND

Q. 1: What watermarks may be found on the stamps of the first issue of Rhodesia (British South Africa Company)?

A. 1: (1) Parts of Wm. Collins Sons & Co.'s monogram, and Pure line wove bank; (2) Same with Extra Strong 139; (3) W.T. & Co.; (4) 1011; (5) Wiggins Teape & Co., London.

Q. 2: By whom were the 4d. Triangular stamps of South-West Africa perforated?

A. 2: John Meinert, Ltd., Windhoek.

Q. 3: Give the names of the countries to which below stamps showing the following overprints: (Note: Quiz-masters must describe each overprint so that teams may write them down).

- (a) 4 Cents
 (b) SIXTEEN CENTS
 (c) 18 CENTS
 (d) Two & Half

A. 3: (a) East Africa and Uganda Protectorates; (b) Mauritius; (c) Seychelles; (d) Zanzibar.

Q. 4: Natal. What noteworthy postal and philatelic occurrences took place here in the early months of 1895?

A. 4: A shortage of 1d. stamps, to meet which (a) letters were accepted and marked "One halfpenny received in money"; (b) 6d. stamp overprinted "Postage/Halfpenny." These were quickly bought up; (c) 1d. stamps overprinted "Half."

Q. 5: Mauritius stamps are known used elsewhere than in that island itself. Where, and how can such usage be recognized?

A. 5: Seychelles 1860-90, B 64 postmark. Rodriguez 1860-90, B 65 postmark; after that a double circle postmark with "Rodriguez."

Q. 6: Name the denominations and give the date of issue of the Union stamps printed by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons.

A. 6: ½d., 1d. and 6d., 1926.

Q. 7: What happened to the territory of the "New Republic" subsequent to its being a self-governing state?

A. 7: In 1887 or 1888 it was amalgamated in the Z.A.R. In 1903 the territory was transferred to Natal.

Q. 8: At least 6 privately organised local posts, complete with stamps or labels, have operated in the territory covered by our Quiz. Name them.

A. 8: (1) Mount Currie Express; (2) Fox Hill (Natal) post; (3) F.H.B. Express, N. Transvaal; (4) Tati Concessions; (5) Reuter's Telegrams, Matabeleland; (6) Schulke and Mayr, German East Africa; (7) The Uganda Missionary issues might perhaps be included.

Q. 9: Give all the watermarks you can think of, which are to be found on the stamps of the Bechuanalands (British Bechuanaland and Bechuanaland Protectorate).

A. 9: There are 14, all of which can readily be found in Gibbons' Catalogue, except the single Springbok on the overprinted 1d. Union, meant for fiscal use but sometimes found postally used.

Q. 10: What is the rarest 5s. stamp of the Cape of Good Hope and what are the other 5s. issues?

A. 10: Crown CA of 1883. The others are Crown CC, cabled anchor orange and brown orange (all Hope seated), and the K.E. VII head. (

The marks of the four Societies participating were very close, but after careful consideration the adjudicators decided that the two to enter the final round were the West Rand Stamp Club and the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg. The last scenes will take place at the Pretoria Congress.

Collectors' Wants & Offers

(Threepence per word per insertion with minimum of 3/- per insertion).

Beginners and medium collectors — try our approval service.

Benoni Stamp Shop, Box 485, Benoni.

Wholesaler requires regular supplies of Basutoland, Bechuanaland, N. Rhodesia, Nyasaland, S. Rhodesia, Swaziland, S.W. Africa, in large or small quantities. Send or write by Air Mail to:

B. Savitz, 69 Greenvale Road, London, S.E.9, England.

Sierra Leone wanted. Full Gibbons Catalogue prices offered for superb used copies of Numbers 43, 47 to 53, 74, 77 to 84, 90, 93, 94, 95, 123 to 127, 132, 133, 133A, 146A, 147, 147A.

William Redford, P.O. Box 7012, Johannesburg.

Wanted, Union of South Africa essays, proofs, specimens, rarities, unusual and specialist items. Also good Union Collections. Send on approval or write:

Sam Legator, Box 133, Brakpan.

Stamp Catalogues (Current) — 1949 George VI: Gibbons' British Empire, Part 1, 5/-; 1948, Whole World: Gibbons' Simplified, 18/3; Scott, 46/3; Yvert, 33/9. British Empire: Whitfield King, 10/-; United States: Gibbons, 4/-; Union of South Africa: N.P.S., 7/9. Prices quoted cover postage within the Union. Orders now taken for British Empire to year 1948 against deposit of 5/-.

The Globe Postage Stamp Company, Slave Tree Corner, Church Square, Box 3001, Cape Town.

Wanted.—Union of South Africa first day covers, also commemorative covers. Please send details and price to:

M. van Laun, P.O. Box 3642, Johannesburg.

All different: 200 Great Britain £4; 300 Brazil £3; 500 Italy £2 15s.

F. G. Fifoot, P.T.S., 125 College Road, Moseley, Birmingham, England.

AUSTRALIA

The High Commissioner intimates that there was due to appear on 13th September a 2½d. stamp in honour of Ferdinand von Mueller. An international Scout Jamboree is being held from 19.12.48 to 9.1.49 and a special 2½d. stamp will be on sale at all post offices during that period. The proposed 2½d. Henry Lawson stamp will be issued early in 1949 and this will be followed by the series of 2½d., 3½d. and 1s. 6d. stamps commemorating the Royal Visit to Australia.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The Postal Administration has sent us a special envelope with three stamps, 1.50, 3.00 and 5.00 issued in honour of the centenary of the 1848 risings, cancelled with a special mark in red. The stamps feature portraits of, respectively, M. J. Hurban, L. Stur and M. M. Hodza.

BRITISH COLONIALS

From various sources we gather the following:

Ascension: 1d. colour to be black and green and design changed to that on the present 10s. value. The 1½d. to be changed to black and claret and the 2d. to black and red.

Falkland Islands: 2d. value to be re-introduced, black and red, swan design; 2½d. changed to Upland Goose design, in black and blue-black; 6d. to be in black only, not black and brown as previously stated.

St. Helena: 1d. to be in black and green, 1½d. black and claret, and 2d. black and red.

SURCHARGE OR OVERPRINT
THE USELESS DISTINCTION

Our June issue carried a short article by Mr. Stephen G. Rich on the futility of making a distinction between a surcharge and an overprint on the basis that the former indicated a change in the value of the stamp, the latter not.

He now sends this additional note:

Those among us who insist upon differentiating the words "surcharge" and "overprint" have never yet even attempted to answer one essential question. That is: Of what use, validity, or other value is the distinction between

an overprint that changes face value of stamp and one that does not?

The fact, as I see it, is that the distinction they want to make is not one that corresponds to any need in considering or classifying stamps. It does not correspond to any actual difference and in fact separates things that belong together. The most conspicuous case to show this might be the Transvaal 1901-2 E.R.I. issue, in which the terms separated, make a distinction between the two ½d. stamps that corresponds to nothing significant . . . certainly to nothing of any philatelic importance.

—Stephen G. Rich.

INDIA

The Gandhi memorial set was put on sale on 15th August, the first anniversary of India's independence. There are four values: 1½a, 3½a, 12a and 10R. They were printed in Switzerland by photogravure and are to be on sale for three months, if not exhausted by then.

GERMANY

According to "Stamp Collecting," the Russian zone can now be credited with 12,960 different provisionals from 810 post offices. When the Russians had to counter the currency reform they had not got the "Sovjetische Besatzungs Zone" overprint ready so all offices were authorised to overprint their stocks with their postal money order stamp. These were on sale from 24th June to 2nd July, and were valid up to 10th July.

We are informed by Karl Ludwig Meyer of (21b) Wasserscherde/Post Burbach/British Zone that he is secretary of a South and South-West Africa Study Circle. They publish a monthly news-sheet and have a handbook on S.W.A. in preparation which will probably be published this year. Membership fee is 2s. 6d.

"Philatelie-Equator" announces that the 700th anniversary of Cologne Cathedral set of 12 stamps previously reported, has been cut down to four values, amounting in all to 92 pf. for postage and 78 pf. surtax which goes to the rebuilding fund.

Dispersing a valuable collection of BRITISH COLONIALS

The 19th century portion at approximately one-third catalogue and the later issues one-half catalogue.

Applicants for approvals will receive my personal and prompt attention.

REFERENCES PLEASE.

J. BIRD,
116, HIGHLANDS HEATH, LONDON, S.W.15., GREAT BRITAIN.

Some Plate Indications of the Halfpenny Stamps of the Union of South Africa

by

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

The bicoloured electrotyped ½d. stamps of the Union of South Africa were printed on paper watermarked multiple "Springbok Head", firstly by Waterlow and Sons Limited, of London Wall, England, and subsequently by the Union Government Printer in Pretoria, from flat electrotyped plates manufactured by the Royal Mint in London. For the purpose of this article these plates are designated "Head Plates" and "Frame Plates".

Each "Head Plate" comprised 240 (20 x 12) vignette cliches each of which exhibited a head of a "Springbok" on a lined background. Each "Frame Plate" comprised 240 (20 x 12) frame design cliches one moiety of which *inter alia* included the recessed negative lettering the unhyphenated "SUIDAFRIKA", together with "POSSEELINKOMSTE", and the other moiety the negative lettering "SOUTH AFRICA" with its concomitant "POSTAGE REVENUE". The Afrikaans inscribed and the English inscribed frame cliches were located in alternate positions throughout the plate. The cliches on each "Head Plate" and on each "Frame Plate" were surrounded by co-extensive jubilee or guard lines.

For the printing of these electrotyped stamps two Head Plates and two Frame Plates were utilised in London and in Pretoria in combination as follows:—

(1) *In London*—1925-1926.

Head Plate No. 1 and Frame Plate No. 1.

(a) On paper with watermarks in normal positions.

(b) On paper with inverted watermarks.

(2) *In Pretoria*—1926-1928.

Head Plate No. 1 and Frame Plate No. 1.

(a) On paper with watermarks in normal positions.

(b) On paper with inverted watermarks.

(3) *In Pretoria*—1928-1930.

Head Plate No. 2 and Frame Plate No. 2.

(a) On paper with watermarks in normal positions.

(b) On paper with inverted watermarks.

(4) *In Pretoria*—1930-1931.

Head Plate No. 2 and Frame Plate No. 1.

(a) On paper with watermarks in normal positions.

(b) On paper with inverted watermarks.

(5) *In Pretoria*—1948.

Head Plate No. 2 and Frame Plate No. 2.

(a) On paper with watermarks in normal positions.

It is interesting to record that in spite of vigilant searching, stamps printed from the combination of Head Plate No. 1 and Frame Plate No. 2 have not been found up to the present. And incidentally it may be recorded also that the Union OFFICIAL—OFFISIEEL overprints have not been found on stamps printed from the combination Head Plate No. 2 and Frame Plate No. 1.

The London printed stamps were perforated by a comb machine which functioned from left to right across a sheet horizontally, whilst the Pretoria printed stamps were perforated by a comb machine which functioned from right to left across a sheet horizontally. The 1948 Pretoria printed stamps were perforated by a harrow machine which functioned from top to bottom across a sheet vertically. In the table, p. 180, the letters used and their significances are LM—Left Margin, TM—Top Margin, BM—Bottom Margin and RM—Right Margin; PP—Partly Perforated, I—Imperforate, and P—Perforated; HP—Head Plate and FP—Frame Plate.

A number of sheets of stamps printed in Pretoria from Head Plate No. 2 and Frame Plate No. 2 were issued with all stamps in vertical row No. 1 of each sheet in imperforate condition on their left sides; the left-hand margins of these sheets were also in imperforate condition.

PLATE INDICATIONS

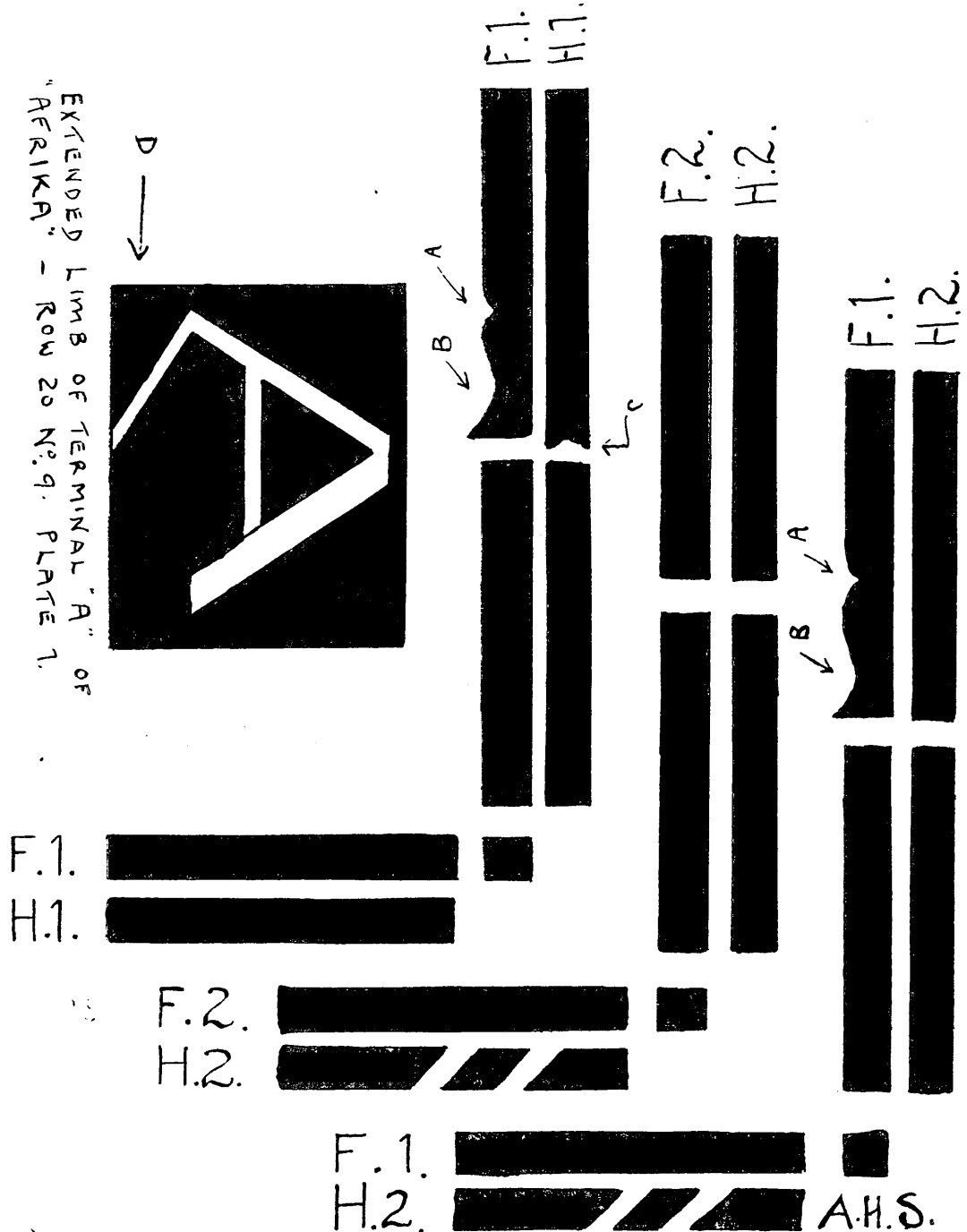
1. *Head Plate No. 1.*

(a) For indications in jubilee lines above stamps Nos. 6 and 7 of Row 1, see "H.1" in Sketch No. 2.

(b) For indications in jubilee lines below stamps Nos. 6 and 7 of Row 20, see "H.1" in Sketch No. 3.

(c) No diagonal cuts in jubilee line below stamps No. 240 or No. 12 of Row 20.

(d) Two points in jubilee line marked "c" in Sketch No. 1 infra.



Sketch No. 1

2. *Frame Plate No. 1.*

- (a) For indications in jubilee lines above stamps Nos. 6 and 7 of Row 1, see "F.1" in Sketch No. 2.
- (b) For indications in jubilee lines below stamps Nos. 6 and 7 of Row 20, see "F.1." in Sketch No. 3.
- (c) Small pointed indentation together with larger rounded indentation in the jubilee to the right of stamp No. 228 or No. 12 of Row 19, marked "A" and "B" anent "F.1" in Sketch No. 1.
- (d) Diagonal extension of left limb of the terminal "A" of "SUIDAFRIKA" on stamp No. 237 or No. 9 of Row 20, marked "D" in Sketch No. 1.

3. *Head Plate No. 2.*

- (a) For indications in jubilee lines above stamps Nos. 6 and 7 of Row 1, see "H.2" in Sketch No. 2.
- (b) For indications in jubilee lines below stamps Nos. 6 and 7 of Row 20, see

- (1) Rounded indentation in jubilee line adjacent to stamp No. 12 of Row 2, and also in jubilee line adjacent to stamp No. 12 of Row 15. Indentation in jubilee line below stamp No. 4 of Row 20.

Sketch No. 1 shows the jubilee lines adjacent to stamps Nos. 228 and 240 and in order to economise space it includes an enlargement of the "A" flaw referred to supra. Sketches Nos. 2 and 3, show the jubilee lines above and below stamps Nos. 6 and 7 of a sheet. The reference letters and numerals—H.1, F.1, H.2 and F.2—signify Head Plate No. 1, Frame Plate No. 1, Head Plate No. 2 and Frame Plate No. 2 respectively.

THE 1948 PRINTINGS

On the evening of the 9th July, 1948, Mr. Axer apprised me per telephone that he had visited a certain Cape Town Branch Post Office and that his attention had been specially attracted by surrounding jubilee lines which appeared on sheets of ½d. denominated postage stamps which were then on sale.

	LM	LM	TM	BM	RM	RM
London HP 1 and FP 1	PP	I	P	I	P	.
Pretoria HP 1 and FP 1	.	P	P	I	I	PP
Pretoria HP 2 and FP 2 (1928)	I	P	P	I	I	PP
Pretoria HP 2 and FP 1	.	P	P	I	I	PP
ⁱ Pretoria HP 2 and FP 2 (1948)	.	I	P	P	P	.

"H.2" in Sketch No. 3.

- (c) Broken horizontal jubilee lines above stamps Nos. 1, 2, 8 and 9 of Row 1. Broken vertical jubilee adjacent to stamps No. 1 of Rows 8 and 16.
- (d) Two diagonal cuts in jubilee line below stamp No. 240 or No. 12 of Row 20, marked "H.2" in Sketch No. 1 at the foot hereof.
4. *Frame Plate No. 2.*

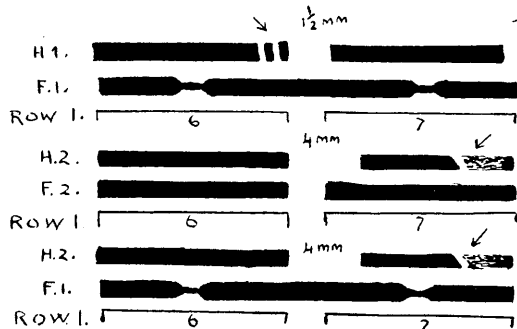
- (a) For indications in jubilee lines above stamps Nos. 6 and 7 of Row 1, see "F.2" in Sketch No. 2.
- (b) For indications in jubilee lines below stamps Nos. 6 and 7 of Row 20, see "F.2" in Sketch No. 3.

Subsequent closer examination revealed that jubilee lines below stamp No. 240 of a sheet exhibited two cuts diagonally. I thereupon asked Mr. Axer to procure and to forward me on the morrow a complete sheet of these stamps. Eventually I was pleasantly surprised to discover that the erstwhile electrotyped plates, namely Head Plate No. 2 and Frame Plate No. 2, had been brought into active service again at Pretoria after a lapse of 20 years, and at the same time that saying of yore entered my mind—SEMPER ALIQUID NOVI EX AFRICA.

Thus to Mr. Axer belongs the credit for the discovery of the re-introduction of the Union's unhyphenated and typographed ½d. stamps depicting the "Springbok Head", but it should be noted that almost simultaneously and independently they were found at a Transvaal P.O. on the West Rand and have since

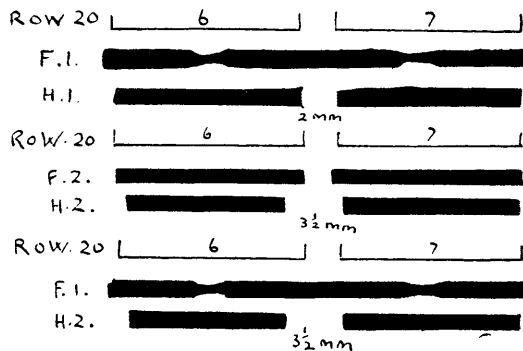
that time been on sale at a variety of places (mostly small offices) throughout the Union.

From the 9th July, 1948, onwards these stamps were on sale at the Mill Street P.O. and the Caledon Square P.O. in Cape Town.



Sketch No. 2

It was noted from used copies that at a later date they were on sale also at Caledon, Wellington and Malmesbury. It has been reported that they were on sale at Barkly West during July, 1948.



Sketch No. 3

REVIEWS AND NOTICES

Stanley Gibbons' Priced Catalogue of K.G. VI Stamps. 1949. 1st. Ed. Price 3s. 6d. plus 2d. postage.

As with life generally, speaking of catalogues gets more and more complicated. At one time collectors just said "Gibbons" and everybody knew what was meant. Now we have Part I, British Empire; Parts II to VIII, Foreign Countries; a "Simplified"; and now comes "King George VI". We are not really complaining, because in a way it is making things easier; collectors will not require to buy catalogues of great numbers of countries which do not interest them, but only those which do.

The present volume is really only a section of their Part I, British Empire catalogue, but brought up to date and somewhat elaborated by including more watermark varieties, shade and paper varieties and the grouping together of stamps of each gauge of perforation. It is not intended, however, as a highly specialised work.

Included in it are lists for the corresponding period of stamps of such countries as Burma, Egypt, Iraq, Transjordan, Palestine and the Native States of India, which, while now independent, were formerly included in Empire catalogues.

Some 4,500 stamps and 1,000 illustrations are included and it will be found particularly useful by that large group of collectors who concentrate on the stamps of the present reign.

Greece. We have received a copy of a

philatelic magazine, but it is literally "Greek to us". Any reader interested should communicate with Sophocles Pantaleon, P.O. Box 365, Athens.

Iraq. The Mesopotamia Stamp Gallery, 6/111 Bab-el-Agha Ave., Baghdad, sends us an advertising price list, posted in London and understamped, so that we had to pay 9d. on it.

We only refer to it because of one curious bit of information contained therein. Iraq is to have an air mail set soon and two miniature sheets, one perforated, the other imperforate, are also to be issued. There are also to be two similar sheets of the current set with the young King's portrait.

These sheets, however, are only being made for collectors and they are not recognised even by the postal authorities issuing them as valid for postage. A lovely ramp!

Mekeel's Weekly. Celebrating the issue of their 3,000th number, our contemporary came out on 5th July with a special issue, the front page featuring their Vol. 1, No. 1, of 7th January, 1890, although actually they began life with an error, it should have been 1891. This error was carried on two issues before correction.

We have found an error in this issue. A short note illustrates the "4 Potatoes Stamp" of Tristan da Cunha and in the text it is stated that the island is now under the Government of the Union of South Africa with the same regulation as to postage. Not quite correct; it is still a dependency of St. Helena.

Nederlandsch Maandblad voor Philatelie. We are informed that Mr. J. H. van Peussem has finished his term as editor and his post has been taken over by Mr. J. C. Norenburg at Bergselaan 101A, Rotterdam, Holland.

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SOUTH WEST AFRICA

THE 1931 PICTORIAL STAMPS

By W. H. BOTTOMLY

(Continued from page 152 of September issue)

(THE 2s. 6d. STAMP CONTINUED)

The Etosha Pan itself is a most interesting feature. I have seen this pan so dry that a motor-car could race over it, and also after rains, when all the water runs down from Ovamboland, fills up the pan and links it to the smaller pans in the country. There is no run-off from the pans by way of rivers and I presume this water is the source of the artesian water in South-West Africa. From one spring at Namutoni that water rushes out in full force, and nearer Tsumeb there is the Ojikoto lake, said to be an old crater, which maintains its water level under all conditions of drought. I doubt if the bottom of this lake has ever been sounded, on one occasion it was sounded up to 700 feet and then bottom was not reached.

We can now take the 1s. 3d. value, which shows Eland in the veld. This also is taken from a photograph, the picture being taken on the Omataka Ranch of the South-West Africa Cold Storage Co. This ranch is situated in the country between Okahandja and Otjiwarongo, north of Windhoek. As most of you are aware the Eland is the largest and most docile of all the antelope family in South Africa, and requires more protection than the lighter and quicker animals. The meat is excellent and in size and weight the male is quite equal to an ox. For this reason, perhaps, the ranch is a good place to protect them. In design the stamp differs from the others of the issue in so far as it is one of the few stamps ever issued in which the name of the country is included in the vignette. In fact, Messrs. Bradbury Wilkinson seem to have incorporated quite a number of different styles of borders and lettering into this issue, but as in this case it was the subject of the stamp that was the main feature, I do not think that the different styles of bordering and lettering are of much account in such an issue.

The 1s. stamp is also from a photograph and shows a view of the country near Windhoek taken on the road leading to Okahandja. Apart from the view there is nothing of special interest in this stamp.

The 6d. stamp, taken from a photograph, takes us to the coast and shows a view looking across Luderitz Bay to the island nearby. The Island contains the hospital and is now connected by a short causeway to the mainland. The town was originally founded by one Luderitz who was a German trader. One can imagine that it took a lot of pluck

and determination to start a venture in such a place as Luderitzbucht must have been say 80 or more years ago. It was built on a rocky spit backed by sand dunes and could only have been built up to its present size through the diamond mines found in the vicinity. On a fine day it is a pleasant spot for a few hours stay, but with the terrific winds that prevail at times it is anything but a pleasant place to live in. It is also a place without any natural water supply, and all water has either to be condensed from the sea water or brought in from outside, hence the high water charges in this coast town. There is practically no rainfall at Luderitz, one inch in a year or so being considered quite good. Like most areas in the coastal belt under desert conditions there is, however, a very heavy dew, so much so that it is possible at times to get quite a good run of water from the roofs of the buildings. Near this town at Diaz Point and Halifax Island are the Guano Islands. These, with their penguins as inhabitants, are a wonderful sight and perhaps as these birds do not require fresh water, they may be considered among the luckiest of the inhabitants of these parts. I put forward a few photographs showing the town and neighbouring country for your viewing.

The 4d. stamp, depicting the Waterberg Mountains, is taken from a photograph of a painting. The original painting was made by a German scholar named Blatt, who was about 15 years of age when the painting was made. The district is near Otjiwarongo and shows typical South-West Africa scenery in the district. As regards the geographical position it covers that portion of the country between the 5s. stamp of Korub and the 1s. 3d. stamp of the Elands.

The 3d. stamp gives a good view of the Government Buildings in Windhoek, as situated during the occupation period. The grounds around this building have now been laid out in ornamental gardens and lawns and the view is more beautiful than that shown on the stamp. The buildings are undoubtedly the best in the town and were completed by the German Government just in time to be taken over by the Union troops during the South-West African campaign. Windhoek, in spite of its small population, is a very clean and pretty town. It has been greatly improved during the last 30 years and can now boast of a good water

supply and electric light, far different to the position 30 years ago when the main source of water was the hot thermal springs which fortunately rise to the surface at almost the highest point in the town. These at that time provided hot running water in the houses, a boon in winter, but not so good in the hot summer time. I am putting up some views taken in Windhoek and neighbourhood so that you can judge the type of country there.

The 2d. stamp is also from a photograph and shows the "Bogenfels" on the sea coast situated just south of the Pomona Diamond Fields, which area now forms part of the Consolidated Diamond Holdings. This rock feature is a break in the natural formation caused by erosion from the sand blast of the air and the action of the sea. The rock formation in this part of the country is subject to much erosion from the strong winds and loose sand, the rocks, in fact, become sandblasted and the quartz layers in the rock formations stand out in ridges from every part of the rock exposed to the action of the winds. The Bogenfels itself is rather difficult to explain, but I can say that from the sea bed to the top of the arch is fully 200 feet, and from the top of the rock, which can be approached from the land side, it is possible to look down through holes formed by erosion and see the breakers dashing against the shore side of the rock. This represents more or less the southerly part of the territory at the coast and I think the stamp is one of the most pleasing of the series. I am putting up a larger size photograph of the feature to enable you to see better the size and type of the surrounding country.

The 1d. and ½d. stamps are, as I before mentioned, taken from designs submitted in the competition. The 1d. depicts a cross as erected by the early Portuguese explorers with a Portuguese Galleon on the sea in the background; the Bushman typical painting designs in the borders are of the discovered views found in the country. The ½d. stamp depicts a Gom Pauw and was submitted in the competition by a school-girl being educated at the Government School, Swakopmund. It is quite a pleasing design and represents the bird life of the country.

Regarding the airmail stamps, in both of these the planes have been superimposed on photographic views of Windhoek. The 3d. stamp shows a view looking from the Native Hospital across the river bed towards the Lutheran Church. The 10d. value shows a view from the Government Buildings looking out over the river in the opposite direction. Bradbury Wilkinson do not appear to have made much of a success of the superimposed planes; they appear too large for the stamps and I have been told that they are not true to type. These stamp values are no longer used in the territory and the stamps can no longer be purchased from the post office there.

The later value 1½d. monocoloured stamp, introduced when the 1½d. airmail services

to all parts of the Commonwealth and Empire started, was designed by Bradbury Wilkinson from suggestions put forward by the Director of Posts and Telegraphs. The stamp shows the various methods of transport used in carrying an airmail letter into and out from the country, and includes a Junker Aircraft, the Athlone Castle Mail Steamer and one of the latest express engines of the period. The true types of transport were obtained from the office of the High Commissioner at South Africa House from models at that office.

This was also the occasion of a new issue of Postage Dues, after a long series of over-printed Union issues. It was, in fact, the first British country to break away from the standardised tablet issue seen up to that date and the fore-runner of more pleasing designs, such as those of Newfoundland, New Zealand and others.

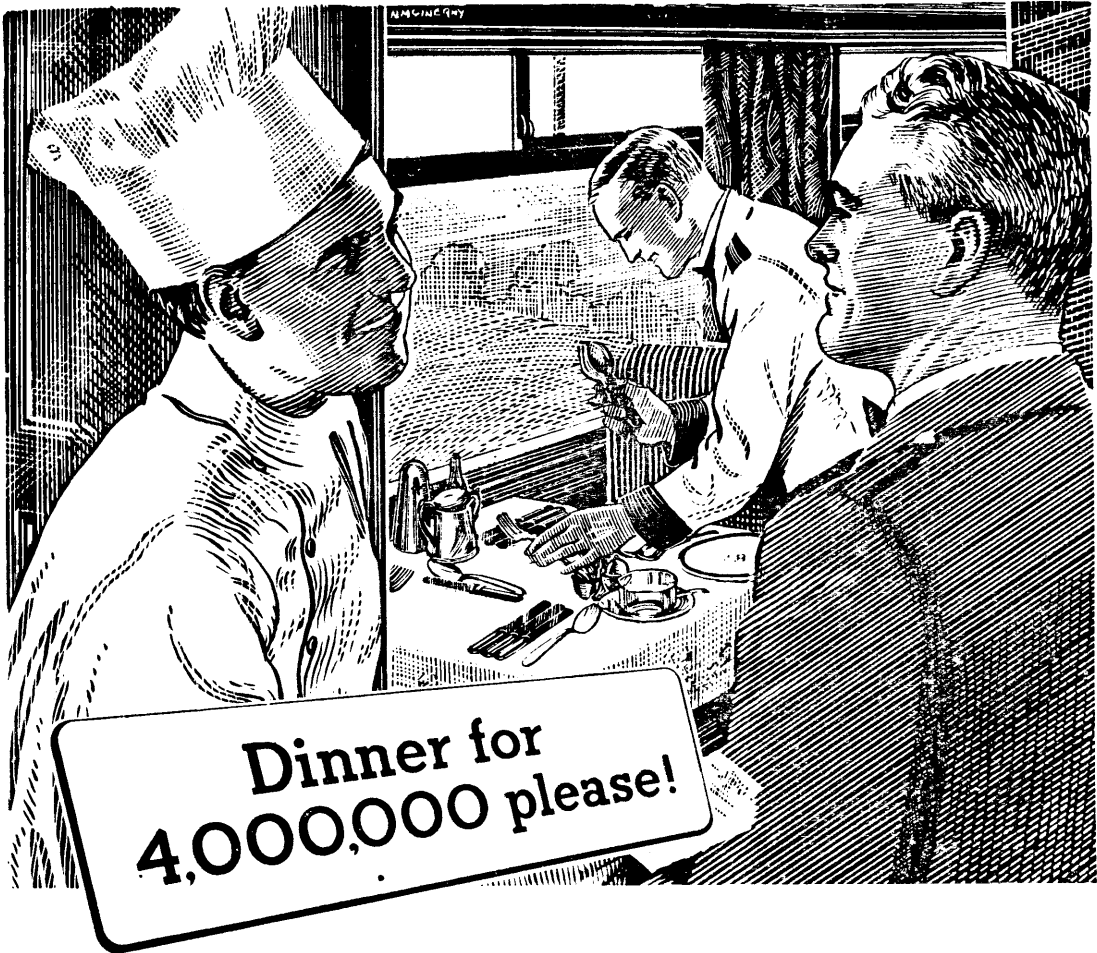
Well I hope I have succeeded in giving information about this country and its stamps which will make it more interesting to you as collectors in the future. The issue was arranged directly by the South-West African Administration and approval was obtained from the Union Government to use the springbok watermarked paper on which it was printed. I trust that when our own new issue is made, due consideration will also be given to the outstanding physical and natural beauty spots in the Union. If a bilingual stamp can be built up I am sure we shall all be pleased. That this can be done is shown by the bilingual issues made by South-West Africa for the Silver Jubilee. This is, I think one of the best-designed issues of the country and one of the most pleasing.

In bringing these few observations about the pictorial stamps of South-West Africa to a close, I have to thank Col. J. Venning, D.S.O., the first Director of Posts and Telegraphs in South-West Africa, who has willingly given me every assistance in filling in information about the country and its postal services and particularly with regards to the situation of some of the views shown on the stamps. We are also indebted to him for the opportunity he has afforded us to see the original printings on card which I am showing now. He was at the time responsible for getting the issue built up and I think you will agree with me that it is a very creditable effort.

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NOVEMBER, 1948.

Whole No. 284

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PRETORIA CONGRESS AND EXHIBITION.

The 10th Congress of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa held under the auspices of the Pretoria Philatelic Society on October 18-20 has come and gone.

The Pretoria Society, celebrating its Golden Jubilee this year, staged a very fine Exhibition, running contemporaneously with the Congress and also had numerous other philatelic and social entertainments for the delegates attending.

They gave, indeed, "one glorious hour of crowded life," the only complaint, in fact, heard was that it was so crowded that it was impossible to do justice to everything, particularly perhaps the Exhibition, which few delegates had time to see and study properly. The general public, who visited it in abundance, were much better off in this respect.

Both Congress and Exhibition were officially opened in most gracious manner by Her Worship the Mayor of Pretoria, Mrs. M. M. Curson, M.P.C. Later on she translated her words of welcome to Pretoria into deeds, in the shape of a civic luncheon.

Monday afternoon saw Congress in session; the evening was free, the great event being the crowning of the Jacaranda Queen, Mrs. Anne Brink.

Tuesday morning and afternoon were entirely occupied by a visit to the G.P.O., Johannesburg, where the work of the postal, telegraph and telephone departments was fully demonstrated. The visitors were much impressed and among them there will be in future more admiration than criticism of the amazing task carried out by the G.P.O. Congress resumed in the evening.

In the daytime, Wednesday, there were visits to the Government Printing Works and to the Mint. At the former delegates saw and, we hope, learnt a lot about the printing of stamps.

In the evening the business of Congress was concluded, the final round of All-Federation

quiz was carried out before a large interested audience; the questions were very stiff and the contest ended in a tie between the West Rand Stamp Club and the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg, and each team getting 11 marks out of a possible 32.

Then came the highlight of the proceedings when the Congress and Exhibition awards were presented to the winners by the Jacaranda Queen.

After the showing of several films kindly lent by the Postmaster-General, Queen Anne, her Princesses, the General and the rank and file of the delegates departed, and the curtain rang down on this year's great philatelic event.

Congress

Only a brief summary of the main decisions taken can be given at the moment.

The "South African Philatelist" will continue in existence, Mr. L. Buchen taking over the post of business manager, vacated by Mr. W. Redford. Mr. Buchen will also become Secretary/Treasurer of the Federation, in succession to Mr. N. Welsford who is retiring to farm in the country. Dr. Pirie will carry on temporarily as Hon. Editor.

Mr. A. H. Sydow and Mr. N. Welsford were elected to the Roll of Honour of Distinguished Philatelists, the former for his long continued research work, especially on Union stamps; the latter for his long service in the general interests of philately and philatelic societies in Durban and in Johannesburg.

The Skinner Cup, given for the best work done since the previous Congress, was awarded to Mr. L. Simenhoff, a well-deserved award, although admittedly some of the work he had done was rather earlier than the last Congress.

Papers for competition were submitted (a) by Dr. A. Kaplan, on the recently issued 3s. booklets, (b) a joint paper by Dr. Pirie and Mr. Sydow on the Maritime Postmarks of S. and S.W. Africa. The meeting decided that the papers were so different that they could not be regarded as competing with each other,

but that both were worthy of Congress awards and so plaques were awarded to all three writers.

One study circle was founded, viz., for the Rhodesias, and the circle is going to undertake the Federation's next publication, a handbook on these countries. Dr. A. Kaplan, Box 132, Germiston, is taking on the secretarial work of the circle.

A draft new constitution for the Federation and a model one for societies were submitted. They will be referred to societies for consideration.

Exhibition

Here follow the "Impressions of a Visitor." It might just be added that the postal authorities provided a post office at the exhibition with a special postmark. This was identical in style with that used earlier in the year at East London and figured on p. 19 of our February issue; the wording is "National Philatelic Exhibition" at the top, "Nasionale Postseitentoonstelling" below, with, naturally, "Pretoria" in place of East London in the centre.

The casual visitor to the recent Philatelic Exhibition held in conjunction with the Golden Jubilee of the Pretoria Philatelic Society was very hard put to choose between the rival attractions of the philatelic fare provided and the natural beauty of the setting in Jacaranda Time. His difficulties were but enhanced when the various Congress and Exhibition Awards were presented to the lucky winners by no less a Pretorian beauty than the Jacaranda Queen herself, who graced Congress with her presence on the closing evening, accompanied by her full retinue of Princesses. Truly, a memorable Congress and one which other centres will find hard enough to emulate, let alone improve upon!

Turning to the stamps themselves, it was difficult to tear oneself away from the selection of Mr. A. V. Jacob's Gold Medal Collection of Rhodesia. This was easily the most outstanding collection on exhibit and well merited the highest award of the Exhibition which it earned its owner. Among the array of outstanding items shown, the writer particularly noticed the following highlights:

2s. Large Arms overprinted "SPECIMEN," only 2 known strips of 3, centre stamps without overprint.

4s. Large Arms overprinted "SPECIMEN," block of 6 and vertical strip of 6, one stamp without overprint. Only one other copy of this error is known.

No. 54—P in Penny inverted.

No. 56—R in Three inverted.

No. 57—T in Three inverted.

No. 65—"Company" omitted; 4 copies of this rarity.

No. 84c—Block of 8, four normal and four imperf. se tenant. Only 2 similar blocks are known.

No. 255—Used strip of three, imperf. between, on piece, believed to be unique.

There were many other rarities on view from this collection, and, in addition, a won-

derful array of proofs and essays, but space forbids any but the most passing reference.

Examination of other exhibits on show disclosed a vast quantity of material with which to whet the appetite of philatelic jealousy. Among the many items of interest which caught my eye may be cited the following:

Union of South Africa

Mint corner control block of 4—£1 of 1913 issue.

Tête-bêche ½d. and 1d. of both the London and Pretoria printings.

Cape of Good Hope

1d. vermilion and 4d. pale bright blue wood-blocks on entires.

Plate proofs in pairs of Perkins Bacon 1d. in black, without watermark and in rose with watermark sideways.

1855-8—1s. mint block of six.

S.G. 14—4d. woodblock, used pair.

Rhodesia

4d. bisect used on piece dated May 2, 1899.

South-West Africa

D.13. mint pair.

Die proofs of Coronation issue.

6d. small war with inverted overprint mint and used.

Fine selection of both German and Union stamps used in S.W.A. without overprint.

Orange Free State

4 on 6d. rare. Copies of all three types with inverted surcharge.

Mafeking

S.G. 23. Fine used copy, variety "stamp reversed."

Southern Rhodesia

S.G. 14a. 5s. error of colour.

S.G. 27a. 5s. printed on the gummed side, mint corner block of 4.

1½d. 1924. Unique pair imperf. between horizontally.

6d. 1924. Unique block of 4 imperf. between.

½d. 1924. Strip of 11, imperf. between.

African Airmails

Fine display of flown cards Kenilworth-Muizenberg 1911 flight.

Flown pigeongram dated August 2, 1919.

First flight Johannesburg to Durban dated November 15, 1919.

Proofs of 1929 Air Mail Issue.

George VI (All World)

Complete mint set 1939 New Guinea Air Mail Issue.

Seychelles

Queen Victoria Issues with "SPECIMEN" overprint.

Egypt..

Comprehensive lot of pre-stamp "local seals," including some used copies.

1914 Issue, imperf. used on cover.

1929 Prince's birthday with centre in brown. used set.

Pre-stamp covers.

Early British and French stamps used in Egypt, including Q.V. 1s. green used on entire with "BO2" postmark.

Princess Ferial overprint, mint control block of 8, one stamp error Arabic reading "1493" for "1943".

Official stamps in mint corner block with control.

1884 Postage Due—Proofs.

1889 Postage Due—2 m/m. bisected on pieces.

Ruanda-Urundi

1941/2 overprinted on Belgian Congo 2F50 on 10F mint copy with inverted surcharge.

Miscellaneous

Luxembourg Dudelage Exhibition sheet pair of 2F stamps used with special Exhibition postmark.

British Guiana 2 cent on cover with special philatelic exhibition postmark dated October 21, 1911, probably the rarest of all special postmarks used in the British Empire.

In addition to the foregoing there was a wealth of equally interesting material on view and apologies are offered to those owners whose treasures have been omitted from this report, but my only excuse is that something had to be cut out, and the knowledge that the items described are but a tithe of the feast may prove an incentive to absentees to visit the next Exhibition and Congress personally instead of leaving it to others to tell them what they missed!

★ ★ ★

NEW ZEALAND "HEALTHS"

The two 1948 stamps of this ever popular series were due for issue on 1st October, to be on sale for four months. They are 1d. + ½d. and 2d. + 1d., both bicoloured and showing the same design, a boy seated at a window watching a field game going on outside.

Reviews and Notices

Catalogue Thiand.—This is the 31st edition of a moderately specialised priced catalogue of the stamps of France and the French Colonies in a handy size of 240 pages. The section on France itself includes not only the stamps, but also lists of pre-cancels, proofs, millesimes, corner-dates, etc.

The arrangement of the modern issues has been simplified to such an extent that it is not possible to disentangle the sequence of the various issues; in this section the catalogue is merely a heterogeneous price list of little value to a collector seeking knowledge about these issues. On the credit side, however, a serious attempt has been made to classify the various local issues made at the time of liberation in 1944.

There are maps and short historical and geographical notes with each colony. Published by H. Thiand, 24 Rue du Quatre—September, Paris (2e). Price 100 Frs.

The New Light Philatelic Magazine.—The New Light Philatelic Society of Shanghai sends us a special number of their magazine (Vol. 15, No. 3—English Section) dealing with the Shanghai Stamp Exhibition held on May 19-25, 1948. This is crammed with pictures, the descriptions being sometimes in Chinese only, sometimes in both Chinese and English. There are a few articles, some in English, some in Chinese, and numerous advertisements, also of mixed vintage.

One certainly gets the impression that philately in Shanghai must be popular and is taken seriously.

F. Hugh Vallancey, of 7 The Drive, Sidcup, Kent, has sold his extensive publishing and philatelic literature and book-selling business to Mr. Ramsay Stewart, 54 Frederick Street, Edinburgh.

The Ace.—We regret to hear that Capt. Robt. Oakes is obliged through ill health to give up the African Collectors' Exchange Club, of P.O. Box 5403, Johannesburg, and the business is for sale. Our best wishes go out to him for recovery in health.

Dispersing a valuable collection of

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The 19th century portion at approximately one-third catalogue and the later issues one-half catalogue.

Applicants for approvals will receive my personal and prompt attention.

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The "Air Mail Letter Cards" and "Air Letters" of East Africa . . 1941-1945

by I. H. C. GODFREY

(Continued from page 171 of October issue)

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GREETINGS ISSUES

TYPE 13—OCT./DEC., 1942

Total printing 105,000, of which 20,000 were printed in red at top right "POSTAGE FREE". As Type 6—very flimsy pink paper overprinted in red vertically, at left "CHRISTMAS", at right "GREETINGS" and at bottom centre "1942". The overprinting was done from more than one plate and consequently there are varieties, the most noticeable being in the alignment of the final "S" of each inscription.

Printed in Nairobi by D.P. & S.S. (U.D.F.).

TYPE 14—OCT./DEC., 1943

An attractive illustrated card, printed by the *Government Printer, Pretoria*, in blue, red and brown on buff paper, format as Type 10.

Front: Blue triangular panel at left top inscribed "XMAS GREETINGS" in two lines with a lighted candle under the letter "X". Bottom right: Smaller blue triangle with "BY AIR MAIL" in red. Usual printed instructions.

Inside: Pale blue background. Head and shoulders of an Askari with red fez and brown tunic, between an exploding cracker and the words "Greetings/from/East/Africa/Jambo!".

One card in every five was handstamped in purple "Postage Free".

TYPE 15—NOVEMBER, 1943

As the supply of illustrated cards proved to be inadequate, a further issue of plain cards was made. These are very similar to Type 8, but differ in size and set-up of print, and in the top right corner is printed "POSTAGE/FREE".

Size .. 115 x 93 mm.

TYPE 16—OCT./DEC., 1944

A blue and white illustrated card printed by the *Government Printer, Pretoria*. *Front*: T.l. "CHRISTMAS GREETINGS" in large type in two lines. Bottom right: "By Air Mail" beneath a picture of two buck. *Inside*: A picture of Mount Kilimanjaro with an elephant (left) and two zebra (right), in blue. All cards inscribed "POSTAGE FREE" in blue print at top right.

CIVILIAN "AIR LETTER" FORMS 2nd SEPTEMBER, 1944

TYPE 17—KENYA

No special Air Letter forms were on hand at the G.P.O., Nairobi, when the service was inaugurated and, therefore, a temporary improvised card was issued to the public. It was obviously printed locally for civilian use for, at top right is the instruction "Affix/50 ct./Stamp/Here". However, at bottom right originally appeared the printed address "CEYLON ARMY COMMAND". Before being issued these words were obliterated in black.

Printed in blue on poor quality buff paper, the inscriptions read: T.l. "By Air Mail", T.c. "AIR LETTER/If anything is enclosed, this letter/will be sent by ordinary mail"; "Sender's name and address" on back and "To open cut here" on top flap. Four ruled lines for address. See also Type 19.

Size of folded card .. 123 x 110 mm.

TYPE 18—TANGANYIKA

100,000 printed by *Government Printer, Dar-es-Salaam*, on poor quality buff paper, inscribed in blue as Type 17 with additional instruction on flap "Fold and gum"; the words "By Air Mail" boxed and five dotted lines for address.

Size .. 110 x 96 m.m.

TYPE 19—UGANDA. 1st SEPT.

White unwatermarked paper, mottled green on both sides of the centre portion, printed in blue type: T.r. "By Air Mail"; T.c. "Air Letter/if anything is enclosed this letter/will be sent by ordinary mail"; "Affix/50 ct./Stamp/Here". On reverse "Sender's name and address". This type of form was later in use in Kenya.

Size .. 126 x 98 mm.

TYPE 20—CROWN COLONIES ISSUE

When the above distinctive types of Air Letters had been used up, supplies of the General Colonial issue were sent out from Gt. Britain and these are still current at the time of writing. They are identical with Type 12—grey paper with gummed flaps—but the words "Army form W.3077" are omitted, and on the back appears "Sender's name and address:—".

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Stanley Gibbons' George VI	4/9
Union Catalogue	7/6
Supplement	0/9

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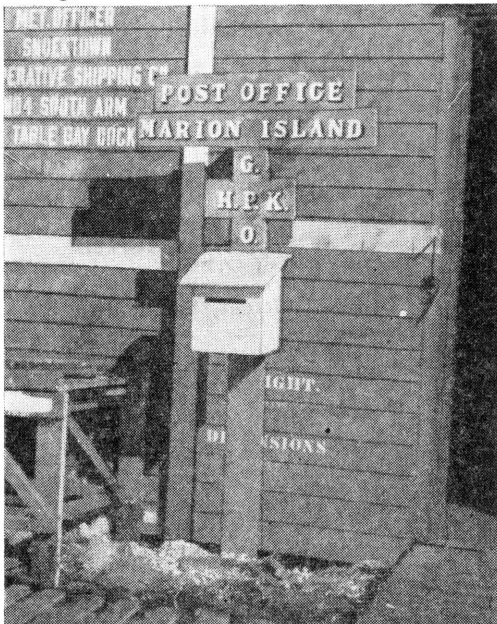
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Cape Town.

MARION ISLAND

We are indebted to Mr. A. B. Crawford, now back in civilisation, for the accompanying photograph of the Union's most southerly post office. He was acting-postmaster there for some six or seven months following the "annexation" by the Union. This, in addition to being governor, meteorologist-in-charge, surveyor, etc.—a veritable pooh-bah in fact.

He informs us that his successor did not come armed with any canceller, nor with any supply of stamps—a somewhat curious state of affairs, seeing it has been officially stated that mails from the island will be



considered as in every respect the same as ordinary inland mail.

It is interesting to note on the wall of the "post office" building the stencilling "Met. Officer, Snoektown," etc. This is a reminder of the fact that the occupation of the island was officially known in the Defence Force as "Operation Snoektown".

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New Zealand. 100 different N.Z. stamps (a superb selection containing Healths, airmail, jubilee, peace, centenaries, etc.) only 12/6. Geo. VI 19 values to 3/- f. used (includes all obsolete issues) 5/-.

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B. Savitz, 69 Greenvale Road, London, S.E. 9, England.

Sierra Leone wanted. Full Gibbons Catalogue prices offered for superb used copies of Numbers 43, 47 to 53, 74, 77 to 84, 90, 93, 94, 95, 123 to 127, 132, 133, 133A, 146A, 147, 147A.

William Redford, P.O. Box 7012, Johannesburg.

Wanted, Union of South Africa essays, proofs, specimens, rarities, unusual and specialist items. Also good Union Collections. Send on approval or write:

Sam Legator, Box 133, Brakpan.

Stamp Catalogues (Current) — 1949 George VI: Gibbons' British Empire, Part 1, 5/-; 1948, Whole World: Gibbons' Simplified, 18/3; Scott, 46/3; Yvert, 33/9. British Empire: Whitfield King, 10/-; United States: Gibbons, 4/-; Union of South Africa: N.P.S., 7/9. Prices quoted cover postage within the Union. Orders now taken for British Empire to year 1948 against deposit of 5/-.

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Union Notes

Postage Due Stamps

Correspondents have written confirming the appearance of the new 1d. postage due stamp mentioned in our October issue and also recording a change in the frame size and the numeral design of the large 3d. postage due. It was noted last month that the pre-war 3d. denomination (South African Catalogue No. D 27b) was taking the place of the war issue bantam stamp and it would now appear that this earlier printing is being superseded by one in which the design has been redrawn. Mr. A. H. Sydow gives the date of the appearance of the new 1d. denomination at Cape Town Central P.O. as about the 15th September and that of the new 3d. as the 8th September at the Maitland P.O. (Cape). He adds the following information on these two issues.

Both stamps have the same frame design as those of the immediate pre-bantam issue with "SUIDAFRIKA" still anhyphenate, but the design of the frames slightly smaller in order to allow a wider perforation gutter margin between any two rows, vertically and horizontally. They also differ from the previous issue in that the frames are screened. The figures of value have been copied from the same masters as those of the bantams themselves and an examination will show the "3D", the "1D", the large rounded stop and the capital "D" (as opposed to the lower-case "d" in the pre-bantam issue) similar in all respects to the bantam stamps, but of course in a larger size. The colours in the new 3d. are dark blue and blue, and those of the 1d. black and crimson.

Mr. Sydow's paper, "Classification of the Union Postage Due Labels," published in the November and December, 1946, issues of the "South African Philatelist," disseminated the distinguishing features of the conventional sized dues as well as the bantams and he now gives the following summary of the rotogravure printings which he considers will also correct the misdescriptions on page 99 of the "South African Catalogue." For instance, item No. D 24—3d. black and Prussian blue—the figures in this issue were never meshed or solid, but were lined although the white lines in the figure were generally gen-invisible to the naked eye owing to the spreading of the inks. In the case of the frames, the white diagonal lines seen in this stamp are not the result of screening for none was used, but they actually form part of the design in the original drawing. These diagonal lines are contained in the design for the purpose of breaking up the solid fields of colour and thereby reducing the technical difficulties of printing the design when screens are not being used. They can be found not only in postage dues but also in many screenless postage stamps and in effect form rests on the cylinders for the doctor blades of the printing

machine. Mr. Sydow intends to prepare a paper on this subject in due course and in the meantime his list of the printings is set out below.

ROTOGRAVURE PRINTINGS OF POSTAGE DUES

(1) Rotogravure Frame, Value Typo, 1932:

D 22, 1d.: Black and green.
D 23, 2d.: Black and purple.
Numerals: Solid, Flat Zincotyped Plates.
Frames: Lined Screenless Roto Cylinder.

(2) Rotogravure Frame and Value:

D 24, 3d.: Black and Prussian blue.
D 25, 1d.: Black and carmine.
D 27, 3d.: Blue and blue.
D 28, 6d.: Green and brown ochre, green and red orange.
Numerals: Lined, Screenless Roto Cylinder.
Frames: Lined, Screenless Roto Cylinder.

(3) Rotogravure Frame and Value:

D 26, 2d.: Black and purple.
Numerals: Meshed, Screened Roto Cylinder.
Frames: Lined, Screenless Roto Cylinder.

(4) Rotogravure Monocoloured "Bantams,"

1943 to 1948:
D 28a, 1d.: Grey green.
D 29, 1d.: Carmine.
D 30, 2d.: Violet.
D 31, 3d.: Blue.
Combined Design: Meshed, Screened Roto Cylinder.

(5) Redrawn Rotogravure Issue, August, 1948:

(D 33), 1d.: Black and crimson.
(D 34), 3d.: Blue and blue.
Numerals: Meshed, Screened Roto Cylinder.
Frames: Meshed, Screened Roto Cylinder.

Sixth Slogan in 3/- Booklets:

To his list of five different sets of slogans published last month, Mr. T. F. Allpass, of Germiston, records the following sixth text as appearing on each pane of stamps in a booklet recently purchased:

(E) Address Letters Fully (upper margin)
Adresseeer briewe volledig (lower margin)

Mr. I. Blagrave-Ellis, Pietermaritzburg, draws attention to the fact that the colour of the frame of the 1d. booklet stamps is greenish blue instead of green, as might be inferred from the notes on this subject in the October issue. He also notes that the centre of the 1d. in the booklet issue is much more brown than black.

Bantam 2d. Unrouletted Variety:

Following the note published in our August issue on the existence of the bantam 2d. imperf. variety, Mr. W. Kalmer of the South African Railways, De Doorns, C.P., has kindly shown us a mint block of four of these stamps with no trace of rouletting between the vertical pairs. His letter states that he also possesses a pane of 30 of these stamps similarly unrouletted between and we offer

him our congratulations on his good fortune in finding such an unusual and interesting item.

Sheet Format of Bantam Postage Dues:

The query raised in our September issue regarding the number of stamps in a complete sheet of bantam postage dues has been answered by several readers as 360 and Mr. A. Hilton Sydow has added the interesting information that the four denominations were printed from cylinders with the sheet setting divided into two panels of 180 stamps, each panel consisting of ten horizontal rows of 18 (10 x 18), as illustrated in his accompanying diagram.

They were sold in panes of 60 stamps—10 rows of 6—some with top and bottom margins only, some with top, bottom and left lateral or side margins and some with top, bottom and right lateral margins. The four figured red cyclometer numbers appeared in the right hand lateral margins of the sheet and their position in the panel varied from a place near the top to one nearer the bottom.

horizontal member of the headgear and close to the main structure on stamp No. 4 of the top row which has not previously been recorded and for the convenience of readers the varieties so far mentioned have been brought up to date and the list is set out below:

Row 1, Stamp 4: Broken cross-bar in lower part of headgear.

Row 2, Stamp 6: Shading around "A" defective.

Row 4, Stamp 18: Broken chimney top.

Row 4, Stamp 20: Spot at top of headgear.

Row 5, Stamp 4: White fullstop after "Africa."

Row 5, Stamp 14: Small black mark in south-west corner.

Row 7, Stamp 3: Black fullstop after "Africa."

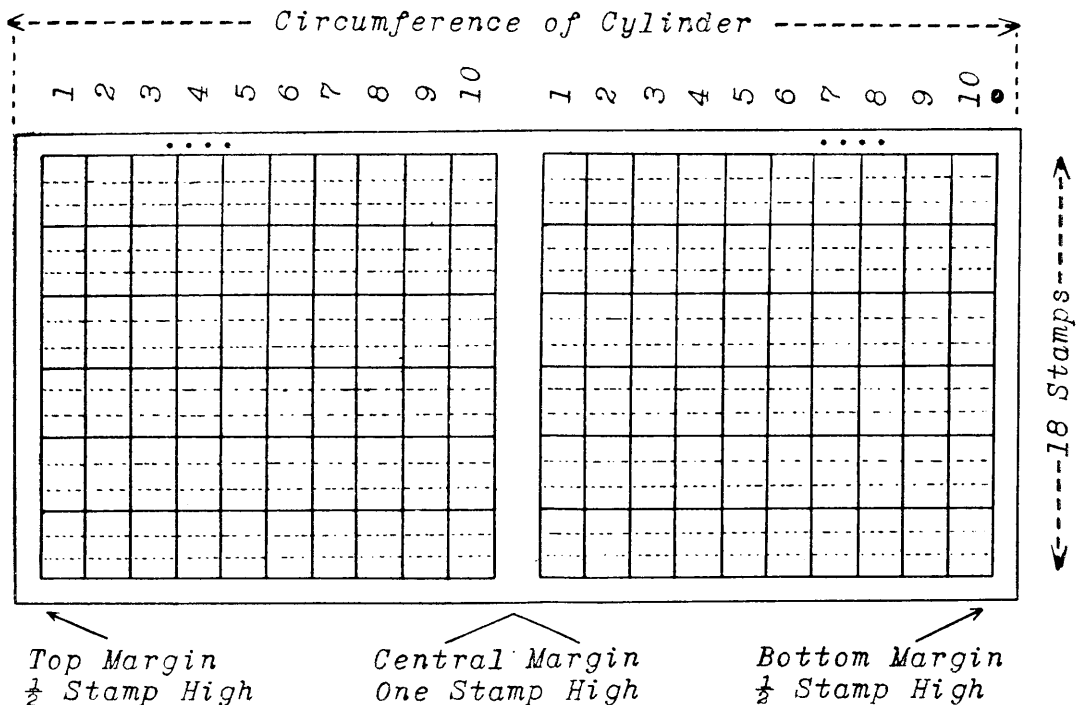
Row 12, Stamp 1: Mark on side of chimney.

Misplaced Roulette Variety in 1d. Bantam Issue:

A block of six from the left hand side of a sheet of the 1d. bantam stamps shows the rouletting misplaced to the extent of running

BANTAM POSTAGE DUE SHEET

Printed in Sheets of 360 Stamps divided by a Central Margin into Two Panels of 180 Stamps per Panel



Printing Varieties of 1½d. "Bantam" Gold Mine:

Mr. T. F. Allpass notes a constant flaw in the form a broken cross-bar in the lowest

through the numeral of the value tablet instead of in the gutter between pairs. The item, which was shown to us by Mr. J. Burrell, of Krugersdorp, is from the 1945 issue

with the "360" figures printed in rose carmine in the lateral margins and as a matter of additional interest the particular block examined was from the printing in which the cyclometer numbers were registered in red on the left hand side of the sheet instead of in the more usual position on the right.

All-Green ½d. Roll Stamps

Referring to the note in the August issue on the new printing of the ½d. all-green roll stamps, which have recently appeared in the stamp vending machines at the Central Post Offices in Cape Town and Johannesburg, Mr. A. H. Sydow is of the opinion that this new issue differs from the original all-green stamp in that a wider line-spaced screen has been used. He records that various types of screens are manufactured and used anent the rotogravure process and gives as examples 2:1, 3:1 and 4:1 screens. There are also the vertical and horizontal lined screens and those formed with a diagonal lined mesh. Specimens of such can be seen in the full-faced portraits of King Fuad on the stamps of Egypt printed by photogravure by Harrison and Sons, Limited, and probably more easily identified by means of photographic enlargement.

Double Image Variety on Union Rotogravure Postage Due

Mr. A. H. Sydow reports the existence of a very noteworthy unique item in Union Rotogravure issues which, though recorded in the Standard Catalogue of Union Stamps as a variety, has not yet been given the distinction it deserves. This is the 2d. Postage Due, D26/Va (page 99 of the Catalogue), noted as having a thicker "2", downstroke of "d" and stop, and which is, in fact, the only example of a DOUBLE IMAGE found by Mr. Sydow in the process of rotogravure.

The combination of the double figure of value, "2", the double pence symbol "d" and a double stop, emanated from a DOUBLE IMAGE on the numeral diapositive, which in turn originated from a DOUBLE EXPOSURE via the STEP AND REPEAT CAMERA. The plate holder was very likely moved horizontally during the process of preparing the diapositive from the Master Negative and consequently the complete figure of value, "2d.", was etched negative as a DOUBLE IMAGE on the numeral cylinder after carbon tissue was screened.

Our correspondent is of the opinion that this is something entirely new in philately, since he has not read of the discovery of a DOUBLE EXPOSURE variety in any stamps of other stamp-issuing countries printed by the photogravure or rotogravure process. The famous double-impressions on the ½d. denominations of the Union King's Head and the Union Springbok Head postage stamps were, of course, typographical printings and in drawing attention to this interesting variety on a Postage Due stamp, Mr. Sydow states that he has not yet discovered

anything of a similar nature on any of the Union rotogravure printed Postage Stamps.

1d. Cyl. 6A/6B—Printings Flaws

The following additional list of small printing flaws in the current 1d. issue has been compiled by Mr. S. C. Chantler, Grahams-town.

Row No. 10/5	Black mark above pennant.
12/3	Red blob on leaf right-hand side.
12/6	Red dot in "F" of AFRICA.
12/9	Red mark above "F" of AFRIKA.
13/2	Line through the stop and circle of value tablet.
15/12	Broken lines in right-hand side panel. Vertical line springing from stern of ship.
16/7	Diagonal black line through sun rays.
18/3	Several black specks in sky.
19/1	Black spot above tip of pennant.
19/4	Hook in sky at right of top mast.

W.N.S.

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Cholo, Nyasaland, British Central Africa.

The Status of the Mafeking Siege Stamps

FACTS ABOUT A FASCINATING AND CLASSIC ISSUE

By Dr. K. FREUND

(No. VI.—Continued from page 158)

(Note: *The three covers* illustrated on p. 157 of the September issue were shown for their *checking marks* of the Bulawayo postmaster and of Base camp post offices. These marks prove that the Mafeking rates and stamps were fully acknowledged and respected as valid by the authorities on the transit stages; see also description p. 122, July issue.)

CHAPTER THREE

THE LOCAL MAIL SERVICE 1. THE PROBLEM OF LOCAL COMMUNICATION

The mere mention of the Mafeking Local Mail Service has caused many a raised eyebrow among uninitiated critics. It is still regarded by many as having been just an unnecessary philatelic stunt. The stigma created about it by repeated disparaging remarks has tended to reflect unfavourably on the whole problem of the stamp issue itself. This, although the local service was only a branch of the general postal scheme in which the meritorious "abroad" service played no mean part, as we have seen.

Critics have usually referred to the small extent of the territory concerned, with the boundaries of the besieged town stretching only a few miles outward towards the enemy trenches (see for instance the cynical letter in "S.G.M.J.", February, 1901, p. 187). The typical litany of the critics goes usually in something like the following strain: "Mafeking was little more than a village. If an inhabitant felt the urge to air his view about something or other to one of his friends, why, he could have easily shouted his message over the back fence to him, and be done with it. Why the employment of a whole postal system?"

Well, matters and conditions were not quite as simple as that in the invested town of Mafeking. The problem of a local mail service first arose and became acute in connection with the *chain of defence fortifications* which were being thrown up and completed all around the town.

Right from the first day of the siege, hectic efforts were made to complete and improve the defences of the town which appeared to be very open and vulnerable. Except for a slight slope to the south, the terrain around it was flat and practically bare. There was only a strip of scrub, one mile wide, in the north-east, a couple of "koppies" on the southern plain, and the Molopo river was

flowing from east to west to the south of the town. A whole chain of defence works was feverishly built up, with an all-over perimeter of between 5 and 6 miles. The various defence jobs were improvised on the spot and every conceivable material was used in them. Existing bulwarks were made use of, reconditioned and improved. Thus, *earth-works, lunnetts, gun emplacements, redans, trenches* and well-constructed *forts* were built up in profusion. These posts had all to be manned, a small-sized individual fort being garrisoned with from 15 to 40 men (see photo of Maj. Godley's headquarters in the Western Outposts, p. 98 of June issue). *All these men, isolated in their various defence outposts, were naturally anxious to keep in touch with the town and its people.* The best solution to this problem of communication appeared to be the introduction of a *special mail service.* A postal administration with its own stamps was already being organised in regard to the "abroad" service, so that only slight additional arrangements had to be made for delivery of local mail outside in the exposed "dangerous" zones.

2. THE OUTPOSTS AND FORTS—6 POSTAL ZONES

Such a lot has been said against this local service in ignorance, and such a wrong impression is generally prevailing about it, that it is imperative to put here on record, first of all, a detailed account of the main outposts and fortifications, where the men had to spend many weary months in solitude. Only then can one get a good idea about the territory which had to be serviced regardless of whether it extended a few or many miles, and only then can one appreciate the need for this local branch of the Mafeking postal service.

The defence works consisted of a network of six large fortification areas protecting the whole periphery of the town. Each one of these areas consisted of various smaller defence units, of groups of forts and posts. These six large fortification areas represented separate *postal zones* for the local service and were enumerated as such in the Notice of March 22, 1900 (see p. 121, July number). Here are these six main zones:—

1. *Brickfields*

Situated east of the town on the northern bank of the Molopo river, they were an intricate net of defence arrangements with

various trenches criss-crossing the territory, with ramparts and a number of *forts*, which were given numbers (*Fort 1, Fort 2*, etc.). There were men's quarters in the so-called Maxim House, quarters for the Officers commanding this area. Field dressing stations, and other military buildings. The men stationed there were mainly Cape Police.

Further east in this area, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from town, *MacMullan's Farm* was situated on a ridge which was the scene of heavy fighting and later became the Boer headquarters.

In a north-east direction, also belonging to this zone, was the *Convent* with its gallant, courageous nuns. A mile away from the Convent, to the east, was the so-called *Grandstand* and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles further was the base of the *Waterworks*, which extended in a *trench* in the same direction for nearly a mile.

Also lying in this zone were the *Railway Works*, the *Fort Victoria* and the *Cemetery*, all of which were garrisoned by the Railway Volunteers.

Various *trenches* connected the railway and the Convent in a large arc. These trenches were manned by the Protectorate Regiment, by the Town Guard and by other local volunteer corps.

2. Baralong Stadt

This native township was situated west of the railway, on both sides of the Molopo river. It was nearly as big as the inner town of Mafeking itself, and was garrisoned by the B Squadron of the Bechuanaland Rifles. The whole of its edge was furnished with loop-holes and *trenches*. To the south-west of it was *Capt. Marsh's Fort*. Further behind it, in a westerly direction, was the *Fort Molopo*. Still further, the *Limestone Fort* was embedded in a valley on the other side of which lay the Boer laager and entrenchments.

3. B.S.A.P. Fort

This was a large old stone fort stretching from south-west to north. Col. Hore's headquarters were here and, as the name indicates, a contingent of the British South African Police. Nearby were the so-called *B.S.A.P. Barracks*, a separate complex of buildings.

4. Cannon Kopje.

One of the most important Mafeking fortifications, lying a mile from town eastward on a hill in a key position. It was a very old, large circular stone fort. Col. Walford, with another detachment of the British South African Police was stationed there.

5. Native Location

Another postal zone; this was a small suburb different from the Baralong Stadt, situated between Cannon Kopje and the town on the southern bank of the Molopo river. Its residents were halfbreeds and Fingos. Police and men from the Protectorate Regiment were on guard here.

6. Western Outposts.

This was a large area with a number of smaller Forts, under the charge of Maj. Godley. There were the so-called *Fort Godley*, *Fort Cardigan*, *Maj. Godley's Headquarters* (lying further up from the Fort bearing his name) and still further westward *Fort Miller*. The farthest "advance" fort was *Fort Ayri*, manned with Cape Police.

Also to the Western Outposts belonged the so-called *Hidden Hollow*, a large trench arrangement situated between the Fort Godley and the Baralong Stadt. Here were also the large *Women's Laager* and the slightly smaller *Refugee Laager*, the latter manned by the C Squadron of the Protectorate Regiment.

The photograph of Maj. Godley's Headquarters (p. 98, June issue) gives some idea of what all these numerous posts and forts looked like.

There were, of course, many more Forts on the border of the inner town itself. Here are some: In the south-west: *The Pound*, garrisoned by Cape Police. In the east: *Early's Fort*, *Dixon's Redan*, *Dell's Fort* and *Ellis's Corner*. On the eastern front: *Ellison's Kraal*, *Musson's Fort*, *De Kock's Fort*, *Recreation Ground Fort* and *Early's Corner*. To the left of the convent: *Hospital Fort*.

These latter Forts, however, belonged more to the town area itself, which was a postal zone on its own and was serviced by a special "in town" post (in contrast to the "outpost" service), about which we shall say a few words later.

All these details about the various Forts may appear rather boring and uninteresting nowadays, but they have to be put on record here in order to refute once and for all those cynical "know-alls", who were under the impression that Mafeking was just a "dorp" and communications could easily have been "shouted over the back fence of one's house".

(To be continued)

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Edw. VII MCA. Comp. mint (S.G. 48-57)	42/6
Geo. V. Ser. 1d.—2/- mint (S.G. 97-103)	36/-
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"Self-Govt. 1947" (booking) mint	26/3
used	28/6
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SOUTHERN RHODESIA

The *Stamp Lover* has an article by Mr. W. G. Nodder on the Matabeleland Commemorative.

GERMANY

Dr. van der Merwe of Viljoenskroon writes anent the remark in our September number that German issues are getting more and more complicated, that he has received most of the latest issues from a correspondent in the British zone and he hopes the following notes may be of interest to collectors of these stamps.

From 21 June, the day of the monetary change-over, both the cypher and workers' general issues were overprinted. The cypher issue received the posthorn net only; the workers' issue received three types of overprint (1) posthorn net, (2) row of post-horns with curls above and below. These two types were valid throughout the Anglo-American zones. The third type of overprint was in the Russian zone, where the words "Sowjetische Besatzungs Zone" were applied. These stamps were also hand-stamped with the numbers of the various postal districts. Dr. van der Merwe has sets with three for Berlin, 27 for Leipzig and some values of 41 for Auerbach.

This handstamping, in black or in purple, is in two lines, diagonally applied, the number top left and the name of the district bottom right. The application was obviously done on unused sheets; single stamps may show bits of more than one name, but there is no sign of the marks on covers bearing the stamps.

The Berlin set so handstamped is from 2 to 84pf. The Leipzig set also includes the four mark values. So far as is known the only district to include them, and only in limited numbers.

Some varieties Dr. van der Merwe has, are as follows: 60 pf. net-overprint on red stamp of first issue (later issue being brownish).

50 and 80 pf. net overprint inverted.

2, 4 and 24 pf. row overprint inverted. Vertical pair of 24 pf. row overprint, one normal, one inverted.

60 pf. red with "Sowjetische Besatzungs Zone".

Meanwhile "Philatelie Equator" sends us more and more information; we could almost fill our whole number with it.

On 29 Aug. two more Leipzig Fair stamps appeared. The French zone issues are now complete (till the next lot!).

The posthorn overprints were exactly 84 days in circulation and 83 different stamps received such overprints—their mint value being approximately 1,000 new marks or \$100.00.

On 1st September the new set of 25 stamps (2 pf. to 5 Dm.) were put on sale in the Western zones. They are attractive pictorials.

Berlin has its own stamps, however, all of these 25 pictorials, together with various

previous issues, were overprinted BERLIN diagonally for use in the three western sectors of the capital.

Their latest bulletin states that between September 1 and 19 there were 195 different stamps in circulation in the four zones, a number practically identical with the number issued in Britain from 1840 to 1935.

★

KENYA NGTES

With reference to our warning notice in May about a confidence trick worked in South and East Africa and in England on collectors and dealers, Mr. W. Tunstall informs us that the man concerned, a Maltese who had been in the E.A. Command, was given a three-year sentence in England for fraud and false pretences, but within a fortnight of starting it committed suicide by hanging himself in his cell.

Rapid expansion of the use of meter-post stamps is taking place, both of Neopost and Universal types.

The sensational report quoted in our July issue, Mr. Tunstall says, is rather like that of Mark Twain's death, somewhat exaggerated. He has heard of one 5c perf. 13 x 11½ changing hands at about £12, not £65-£100 as reported.

As regards the 5c normal colour, but black in colour, said to be fetching £700, he says the facts are: In 1938 or 39 there was a fire in an up-country garage. When a safe which had been in it was salvaged, a supply of 5c stamps therein were found to be black in colour, but with no signs of any actual scorching. A few were kept as souvenirs, the rest were returned to the post office and destroyed.

To prove that such black stamps were simply colour changelings, a friend of Mr. Tunstall's produced such items quite easily by heating normal stamps.

The September "Philatelic Adviser" has an interesting illustrated record by Mr. Norman Hill of 5 types of postmarks from a novel group of Travelling Post Offices operating in Kenya, some of them apparently for as long as five years already. To encourage thrift five vans tour the country districts, essentially as travelling savings banks, though they also do general post office work. Their postmarks show either M.P.O. (Mobile Post Offices) or S.B.V. (Savings Bank Van) with the name of a district.

OBITUARY.

We regret to hear, just as we go to press, of the death of Harry Marcuson. He was a very popular figure amongst Johannesburg collectors and will be sadly missed.

THE ORIGIN OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN 1d. STAMP, "TREFOIL" WATERMARK.

By Capt. J. A. B. VAN WYK

In 1928 orders for a machine and cylinders to print stamps were placed in London by the South African Government. The machine "The Goebel Rotary Stamp Printing Machine", was actually made by Messrs. Goebel Ltd., of Darmstadt, Germany.

The design of the then current 1d. postage stamp was completed in Holland, where the positives were made and the cylinders etched, and these were then despatched to Darmstadt, so that they could be fitted to the machine.

These cylinders were proved on the two-colour stamp machine, which had just been built. The proofs showed that the etching had not been too even, and the cylinders were taken to the Technical College, Frankfurt, where they were fine etched and proved with satisfactory results.

The next step was the testing of various gummed papers in order to select a suitable paper for South African conditions. Four or five grades of paper, including some with the "Trefoil" watermark, were sent from London to Darmstadt, so that proofs of the stamps could be obtained. The proofs were duly made and forwarded to London.

It is known that most of these proofs were burnt, but some evidently escaped destruction, whether by accident or design. Stamps with "Trefoil" watermark were sold in 1940, while others have recently appeared on the market (end 1947 and beginning 1948). Enquiries have shown that there are from 200 to 300 of the "Trefoil" specimens in existence. These are evidently some of the proofs which escaped destruction. Enquiries have also shown that none of these proofs were kept in Germany, and no blame is to be attached to Messrs. Goebel, Ltd.

It is in London that the leakage occurred.

It is, of course, quite legitimate for proofs to be made to test the efficiency of the cylinders. It is unfortunate, however, that proofs should eventually find their way on to the market.

It is true that proofs of stamps of different countries often come on the market and they seem to be legitimate objects of collection.

The fact that proofs are often eagerly sought after by collectors and that these "Trefoil" watermarked stamps are legitimate objects of collection as proofs does not alter the fact that the issue of such stamps was not authorised by the Union Postal authorities. It is a great pity that the countries of the Postal Union do not agree to pass uniform laws, making it essential that all proofs be clearly stamped across with the word "Proof". If laws were also passed making the possession of such proofs without a permit a criminal offence, it would not be detrimental to the hobby of philately.

(Capt. van Wyk informs us that he knows the name of the individual, and his firm, responsible for the marketing of these stamps, but it is considered inadvisable to publish the names.)

Although the marketing of these stamps, without making it known that they were proofs, may be—and is—considered philatelically as morally indefensible, no action could be taken on the grounds that it was legally a wrongful procedure.

Capt. van Wyk is a police officer and he ought to know!—Ed.)

★

SOUTHERN RHODESIA VARIETIES

Mrs. M. Cawood, of Salisbury, notes the following varieties recently seen:

(1) A pair of current 1d. postmarked *Penhalonga*. One normal 21 m.m. wide and the other only 17 m.m. wide, perforations running through I of Rhodesia and U of Revenue.

(2) Current 1d. with white space, 2 m.m. by 4 m.m., under A of Rhodesia (probably due to piece of paper between plate and printing paper).

(3) Current 1s. with head misplaced to left and upwards so the epaulette (left) cuts frame enclosing 1s.

(4) Current 1s. with marks on face (minor) near right ear (two).

(5) 1940 Jubilee 1½d.—A variety of this stamp known as the "collar" variety appears to be very elusive and is not well known. It must have been corrected as some stamps I have show traces only. There are three shading lines on the right collar front.

(6) In the *Victory Issue* the numerals on the sheet margins are not constant in position. I have sheets of the 1d., 3d. and 6d., in which the numerals are above the row next to the right-hand and the top margin ceases above that row.

New Post Offices

Mrs. Cawood reports that new post offices (additional to those in the list given by her in our September issue) were opened on 1st October at Coropark, Dahlia and Sinyative.

★

CANADA

A 4c stamp in honour of the centenary of Responsible Government appeared on 1st October. It features the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, with inset portraits of Queen Victoria and King George VI. Thanks to Major Ian Morgan and Mr. J. F. Babb for first day covers.

★

AN APOLOGY

We must apologise to Messrs. "Chaswell Stamps", of Valetta, for making the address in their advertisement in our August number read P.O. Box 408, Valetta, Italy," when, of course, it should have been Malta. We hope that neither they nor any correspondents have been inconvenienced through this mistake.

SOCIETY NEWS

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. G. K. Forbes; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. G. P. Smith, 13 Trafalgar Square, Port Elizabeth; *Meetings*, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in Room 3, City Hall Basement, at 7.45 p.m.

The meeting on 21st September, with Mr. Forbes as chairman, was a large gathering.

Capt. Graham was responsible for the evening, and tabled about 60 pages of "Birds of the British Empire."

Each stamp had a bird in its design and there were only two blank pages.

The collection was divided into four sections. The first was called Flightless Birds, the second Sea Birds and Waterfowl, the third Birds of Display such as Peacocks, Pheasants, etc., and the fourth Perching Birds.

Capt. Graham had spent much time and trouble to get his collection together, and on each page was a write up about the birds' habits and habitation. It was one of the most interesting displays for some time, and he deserved the hearty vote of thanks the members accorded him.

Mr. Forbes said the second round of the Quiz papers had been delayed through being wrongly addressed, so the 2nd and 3rd round would be run off at the same meeting.

Three new members were admitted and the meeting closed with an auction.

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PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

President, Mr. W. Redford; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. B. Glassman, P.O. Box 4967, Johannesburg; *Meetings*, 2nd Tuesdays and 4th Mondays, Public Library, 7.45 p.m.

At the meeting held on 27th September the exhibits were provided by several members showing a few sheets each.

Mr. B. Joseph showed New Zealand Health Stamps in pairs, and Mr. Chapman New Zealand commemoratives in plate No. Blocks. Mr. Lydell showed selected Unions, including used Jubilees in large blocks. Mr. Glassman showed commemoratives of such countries as Hungary, Norway, Canal Zone, Israel and Nicaragua. Mr. W. Oppenheim, covers of the latest issues illustrated with some amusing comments. Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie covers from Marion Island together with a photograph and map. Mr. I. Isaacs, Tin-Can mail covers.

Mr. J. Burrell brought a special lamp under which shades of stamps are sharply distinguished. He showed several of his stamps under it and the number of shades not distinguishable in ordinary light was astonishing.

Tuesday, 12th October. The evening's entertainment took the form of a competition arranged jointly by Mr. Lilley and Mr. Robertson. In this some 36 questions were read out and the answers, which always could be quite brief, had to be written down. A second part consisted of stamps with parts of them covered up, which had to be identified. The grade of the questions was such that the promoters said they expected an average of a third to a half to be correctly answered by anyone. Top marks of quite a bit over a half were gained jointly by Messrs. Schubart and Oppenheim.

Monday, 25th October: Mr. W. Redford showed a fine collection of Gold Coast. It was almost complete in mint, used and specimens. The exhibit included a mint copy of the £1 green and gold Queen Victoria, one of the rarest stamps in existence. There was also a copy of the 1/- George V with error of watermark, multiple S.A. instead of multiple C.A. Only two copies of these are known. There were bisects and covers included, including a cover postmarked Northern Territories. The exhibit was shown on sheets which had been written up by the late Gilbert Allis.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF RHODESIA

President, Mr. F. W. Porter; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. G. C. Whitehead, P.O. Box 803, Bulawayo; *Meetings*, 1st Wednesday in each month, at 8 p.m., in the Presbyterian Church Hall, c/o Abercorn Street and Fifth Avenue, Bulawayo.

September meeting: The attendance at this meeting was below average, but those present sharpened their wits and made short shrift of the quiz questions, admitting afterwards that they were more difficult than the previous set. Unfortunately, due to late receipt of the first set of answers by the organisers, the Society is no longer participating in the contest, but the questions are entertaining, and a good test of philatelic knowledge. Mr. Munro spoke a few words on his exhibit, Sierra Leone, and his collection was examined and admired by the members present.

October meeting: It was gratifying to see a larger attendance again, particularly in view of the fine exhibit of old New Zealand stamps, provided by Mr. Billau. This, following an exhibit of modern New Zealand at a recent meeting, has provided members with a representative selection of all the stamps of that country.

A new feature, introduced at this meeting, was a synopsis of current news, culled from various philatelic publications, and presented in this form for the benefit of those who have not the opportunity of studying the many and various magazines. Arising from this, members indulged in a spirited discussion on ways and means of brightening the evening's programme still further, and it was decided that in future tea will be served at the conclusion of the formal agenda, after which informal discussions and exchange will take place.

Our President, Mr. Porter, will be representing the Society at the forthcoming Congress in Pretoria, the first time for many a year that the Society has had personal representation.

★

CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, K. M. Cameron; *Hon. Sec.*, S. Kaganson, P.O. Box 1973; *Meetings*, 2nd and 4th Thursdays, at Yorkshire Buildings, Strand Street, at 7.30 p.m.

26th August: Before a good attendance of members and visitors, Mr. A. M. Jones tabled a portion of his magnificent collection of Orange Free State. Less than 200 sheets were seen as members spent so much time studying the mass of material initially laid out there was no time left for the balance. Many rarities were shown and where necessary they were accompanied by Royal Society Certificates. We understand that the undisplayed balance consists of postal history and all look forward to seeing this at a later date.

9th September: Another fine attendance turned up to see Mr. W. D. Vallance's delightful display of the beautiful and always popular stamps of Canada. There were many fine items, but a mint block of four of the 1926 2c on 3c with double overprint caused a continuous block in the traffic. Mr. Vallance gave us some very interesting information regarding the 1868 to 1888 Queen's Heads.

L. H. R.

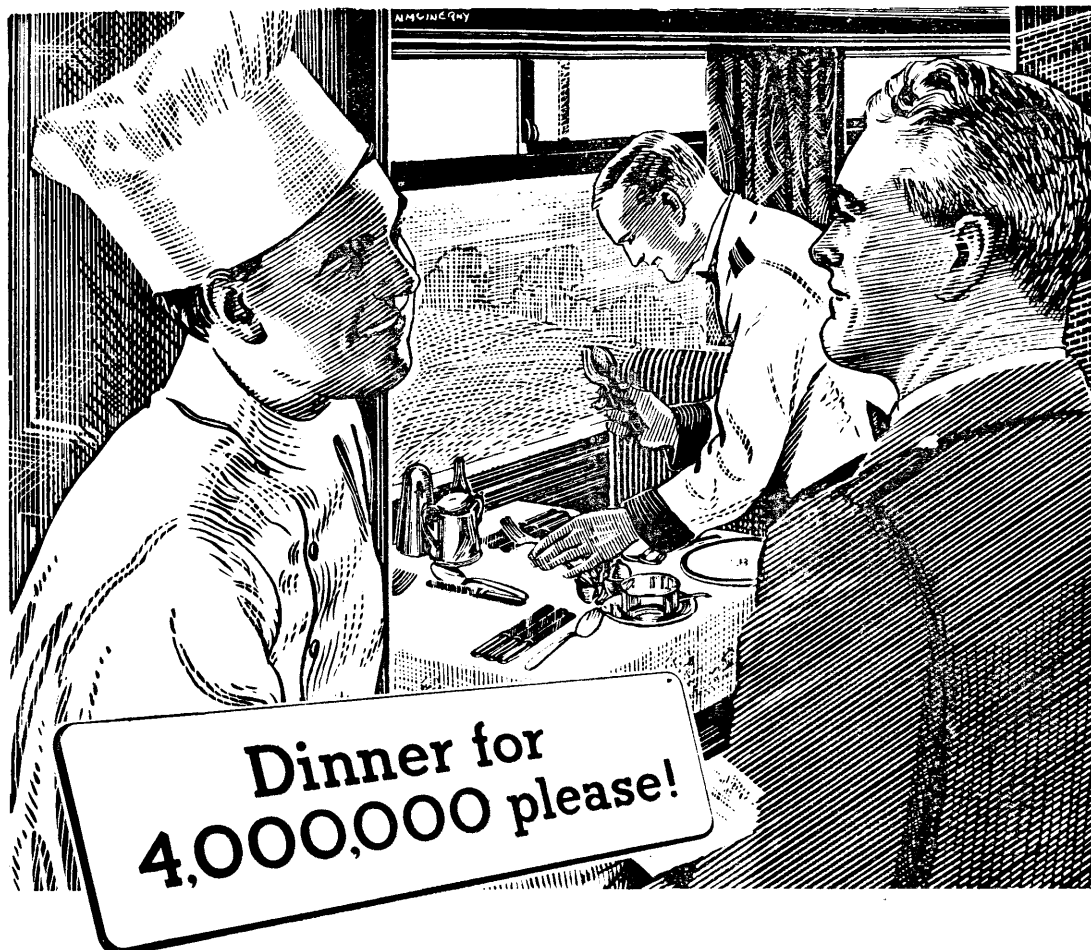
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NYASALAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. McMicking; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. L. D. Arthur, Limbe Trading Co., Ltd. Limbe; *Meetings*, Tobacco Auction Floor, 5 p.m.

Monday, 12th July: At this meeting various new issues were shown. The All-Federation Quiz was tackled (but the results were never sent in.—Ed.) and there was the usual circulation of approval books.

Monday, 9th August: A variety of new issues again were on display. There was little available in the way of approvals, but several members had brought along their collections for inspection.



As the steward puts the finishing touches to his table, he hears the Chef checking with the Chief Steward the number of passengers coming through for dinner.

Then as though by the rhythm of the wheels, he hears that number being multiplied . . . 200, 400, 4,000, 400,000, 4,000,000! Four million meals!

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THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

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Vol. 24, No. 12.

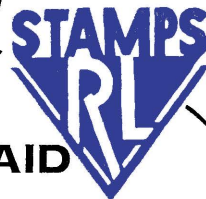
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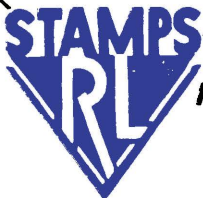


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DECEMBER, 1948.

Whole No. 285

**THE
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A Merry Christmas

and

A Happy New Year



Here is a happy child shown on this year's Christmas label. Collect these and help to keep or make some child well and happy.

**NOTICE
CHANGE OF
ADDRESS**

As from 1st January, 1949, the business management of the **SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST** is being taken over by Mr. L. Buchen. Dr. Harvey Pirie continues, temporarily at any rate, as Honorary Editor.

The new address, for both business and editorial matters is P.O. Box 4012, Johannesburg.

UNION NOTES.

Plate I of the 1½d. "Small Mine" Issue

Following Mr. A. Lichtenstein's listing of the first four printings of the 1½d. "Small Mine" stamps in our July notes, Mr. J. W. Schubart, Johannesburg, has made the interesting discovery that Plate I of the series can be identified by the much coarser screening of the design than is present in any of the subsequent printings.

The used block of four on which he first noted the difference, bears the postal cancellation "Krugersdorp Sep 1941" and an inspection under a magnifying glass shows up the waffle-plate appearance of the design, especially in the shading on the mine dump. Examination of a mint pair of these stamps with the marginal side arrow of the widely pronged type attached, presents the same pronounced coarse screen effect apparent in the cancelled block and confirms that the item formed part of the issue described in the July list as having been produced from the unnumbered cylinders of Plate I.

Comparison with the stamps of Plate 2—well known by the two main varieties of a patch of buff colour on the headgear of one stamp and a large dot at the left of the numeral "2" in another—shows this design to have been produced in a very much finer mesh than is apparent in the stamps of Plate I and the marked difference between the two printings, in those specimens so far examined, makes it a very simple matter to pick out the much rarer first issue.

The colour of Mr. Schubart's used block is yellow buff and dull green and in this respect there is no difference between his item and copies of one of the Plate 2 printings which appeared in the same background and frame shades. No record has so far been noted of the number of sheets printed from the unnumbered cylinders, but apparently it could not have been so very many for looking back through the 1941 and 1942 issues of the "South African Philatelist," the first consignment of 30,500 sheets of "Small Mine" 1½d. stamps was delivered by the Government Printer on the 24th June, 1941; they appeared on sale at some post offices on the Reef in August, 1941, and the patch of buff colour on the headgear of the fourth stamp in the third row of Plate 2 printing was recorded as an observed variety in the November, 1941, issue of the magazine.

New ½d. "Official" Stamp

Mr. J. Robertson, of the Robertson Stamp Co., reports the appearance of a new ½d. "Official" stamp, the format of which is slightly smaller than that in use during the last few months.

As in the preceding issue, the overprints "Offisieel" and "Official" both read downwards and the same size fount has been used, though perhaps not quite so heavily. The spacing, however, which varied throughout the sheet of the previous production from 11½ to 12 mm., is much more consistent at 11½

mm. and only about three stamps in the new sheet have been noted with a different measurement of 11 mm.

The stamps themselves are part of the ½d. denomination produced last year immediately prior to the change in the language setting. The first and the last stamps on the sheet are inscribed in Afrikaans and their general appearance is similar to those for the "Officials" preceding them, but the format is smaller and in consequence the gutters between the stamps show an increase from approximately 1½ mm. to 2 mm. In contrast to these sizes, the gutter measurement of the current ½d. ordinary postage stamps, with their still smaller format and changed bilingual setting (No. 1 stamp in English), is approximately 23mm.

The frame colour of the new "Officials" is more in the shade of bluish green than the dull green of the previous issue, but the centres are in greyish black, as before. The sheet numbers of four numerals are printed in red instead of black and the solid marginal arrows of the earlier printing appear on the new sheets in about the same size and form, but broken up by thin criss-cross lines. The upright watermark is unchanged.

Pretoria Printing Twisted Headplate Variety

A letter received from Mr. A. H. Sydow of Cape Town gives some interesting particulars concerning the 1d. Twisted Headplate (ship tilted) variety recorded under the number 35 Vg on page 31 of the South African Standard Catalogue.

The item, he notes, is given in the Catalogue as in Row 16, No. 9, but its correct position is in Row 19, No. 9 and the ship appears on the stamp in a slanting position as a result of having been printed from a "SUBSTITUTED ELECTRO." The original cliché cracked and was removed by cutting out and another cliché, cut from a booklet plate, was welded into the position. The electrotyped 1d. plate was made by the Royal Mint in England, but the stamps were printed at the Government Printing Works in Pretoria.

Post Office Letter Cards

The 1½d. Letter Card, figured on p. 147 our September issue has now appeared in another language form, i.e., with Brief-Kaar the left and Letter Card at the right. impressed stamp is the same in both forms.

The 6d. Air Letter Form, reported on p. 110 of our July issue has also been on in two language varieties. In one the pressed stamp has Suid-Afrika at the top and South Africa below; in the other positions are reversed.

Quantities of Stamps Printed

These official records, which for some years we have been receiving approximately quarterly from the Postal Authorities, have not appeared since our June issue. We have been informed that pressure of business and shortage of staff has interfered with their compilation, but it is hoped that they will be brought up to date shortly.

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SOME OLD TRANSVAAL STAMPS

6. Notes on the Davis Issue of 1874.

By R. BROOM, F.R.S.

In the great paper by E. B. Yardley on the Transvaal stamps published by Stanley Gibbons in 1906 we find the following statements (p. 472):

"Some time in 1874 Mr. Jeppe sent the plates, or some of them, to Messrs P. Davis and Son, of Pietermaritzburg, and in the month of September, 1874, that firm delivered 603 sheets of the 1d. (24,120 stamps) and 1,015 sheets of the 6d. (40,600 stamps), each sheet comprising forty stamps . . . and as neither 603 nor 1,015 is divisible by 2, it is probable that Messrs. Davis printed from single plates. Moreover, as mentioned before, I have not been successful in finding a specimen of the 6d. showing any of the flaws or scratches characteristic of the tete-beche plate, and therefore probably Messrs. Davis used only the right-hand plate for their printings of the 6d. . . . Messrs. Davis used two kinds of paper, one a medium compact opaque paper showing little or no grain, and the other a thin, soft, wove, inferior paper, rendered transparent by the gum or the oil of the printing ink."

According to the Catalogue, the stamps are believed to have been issued in September, 1874.

Recently I was fortunate in being able to purchase a nice little collection of about 140 of the Davis 6d. stamps. The large majority have been used fiscally and a considerable number of them are dated. The dates extend from 11th June to 11th September, 1874.

Fortunately the great pioneer and authority on old Transvaal stamps—Emil Tamsen—is still with us, and I wrote to him about the dates of the Davis issue. He replied as follows:

"You will note that when I copied the Government Record I found no date, only month "Sept." given as receipt of the Davis stamps. Now your copies (show) that these stamps have been used much earlier, most likely in two deliveries, because Gibbons quotes two different papers and colours, which I never noticed but which could not happen in one printing. Perhaps most likely the printer would only send his a/c with the last lot of stamps and that being (the) official date for Govt."

Yardley's division of the stamps into "thin, transparent" and "thicker, opaque" papers is not quite satisfactory, and it is quite impossible to divide the stamps I have into these two groups. In all the stamps webbing can be seen. In some it is very distinct; in others indistinct. No doubt there are thin transparent stamps, almost like Pelures, and there are white opaque stamps, but there are so

many intermediate varieties that no hard, clear division can be drawn between them.

The June and July stamps are transparent; most of those dated September are opaque; those dated August are of both sorts. Probably there were two issues, one in June which was on thin nearly transparent paper, and one in August which was mainly on opaque paper. Certainly the issue must have been as early as June, 1874.

I have plated all the stamps and all certainly belong to the left pane or right plate. I have a fair collection of the 1d. and all these also belong to the left pane. So it seems practically certain that Davis used only the right plates.

* * *

LONDON INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION, 1950

The Council of the Royal Philatelic Society are sponsoring an International Stamp Exhibition in London which will be opened on 6th May, 1950.

His Majesty the King has graciously granted his patronage. There has not been an International Exhibition of this kind in London since 1923, as the projected Centenary Exhibition for May, 1940, had to be abandoned because of the war.

An Executive Committee under the chairmanship of Sir John Wilson, has been appointed, and in order to insure the utmost co-operation from all philatelic interests, the British Philatelic Association has nominated five members to serve on the Executive.

Advertisement rates for the periodical publications to be issued between now and May, 1950, and for the Exhibition Catalogue, have been announced and can be obtained from the "South African Philatelist" or by application to the Exhibition Publicity Committee at the "Royal's" headquarters, 41 Devonshire Place, London, W.1.

AUSTRALIA

Owing to a temporary shortage of paper the 1d. Princess Elizabeth stamp has been issued on unwatermarked paper, but further printings will probably revert to the normal watermarked type. Make sure of getting this interesting variety if you are a Commonwealth collector.

SUDAN

A 2p stamp was issued on 1st October featuring the familiar camel postman. At top is "Sudan Stamp Jubilee." "Stamp Collector" calls this the camel postman's last ride.

Whitfield King and Co.'s "Press Notes" reports 10m and 5p stamps as appearing in December in honour of the opening of the Legislative Assembly. The official note about them states that although three new issues have appeared this year, this does not indicate a change of policy by the postal department nor any desire to stimulate artificially the demand for stamps by dealers or collectors. Good news!

NETHERLANDS

The recently issued stamps for the Golden Jubilee of Queen Wilhelmina's reign and the two values of the Queen Juliana inauguration issue were not issued on the days on which these events actually took place—31st August and 6th September, respectively—but on the 30th August for the first set and 7th September for the second. Covers bearing date stamps of the 31st August have been seen but they are irregular as all post offices were closed on that day.

It has been made known in Holland that the Juliana stamps will be reduced in size despite the fact that they were to be the fore-runners of a new definitive issue. It is not yet known whether the present design is to be retained or whether an entirely new series is contemplated.

The date of issue of the annual child welfare set was announced as being 15th November, so that by the time this appears in print the stamps will have been received here. The illustrations seen show that different designs will be used for each of the five values, as follows:

- 2+2 cents, Yellow-green, Boy in a canoe,
- 5+3 cents, Blue-green, A girl swimming,
- 6+4 cents, Grey, Boy on a sledge,
- 10+5 cents, Red, Girl on a swing,
- 20+8 cents, Blue, Skater.

The designs are by André van der Vossen and are 21 x 32 mm. in size with an overall size for the stamps of 25 x 38 mm. printing, no doubt, by J. Enschedé and Sons of Haarlem.

The postage due series in the new design by J. van Krimpen, has been amplified by the addition of six new values, one of which—the 3 cents—was redundant before its issue. This came about through the alteration of postal rates before printing was complete. It is learnt from the "Nederlandsch Maandblad voor Philatelie" that an enquirer at a philatelic counter of one of the larger cities in Holland (the philatelic counters are usually able to supply stamps not otherwise obtainable) told that no stocks of this stamp were available but that he should apply to the post office at the Hague. All copies of this postage due stamp available to collectors are likely to be mint ones and a genuine used copy extremely rare.

The design of the present Hartz van Krimpen set of Queen Wilhelmina was adapted for use in the Netherlands Indies, but it, too, will be superseded by stamps bearing the likeness of Queen Juliana. The life of the Wilhelmina stamps will be a very short one as the set was issued in August and Juliana stamps are already in preparation. I am informed that from 1st January, 1949, all stamps of the Indies will be overprinted "Indonesia" in conformity with recent developments of a constitutional nature.

J.W.S.

Collectors' Wants & Offers

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Sierra Leone wanted. Full Gibbons Catalogue prices offered for superb used copies of Numbers 43, 47 to 53, 74, 77 to 84, 90, 93, 94, 95, 123 to 127, 132, 133, 133A, 146A, 147, 147A.
William Redford, P.O. Box 7012, Johannesburg.

Wanted, Union of South Africa essays, proofs, specimens, rarities, unusual and specialist items. Also good Union Collections. Send on approval or write:
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AUSTRALIA—SOUTH AFRICA DIRECT AIR ROUTE

What may be the beginning of a new chapter in aero-philately was made on 20th November when a Qantas air liner completed a direct trial flight from Sydney to Johannesburg in a flying time of 39 hours 58 minutes. The crossing of the Indian Ocean was made via the Cocos-Keeling Atoll and Mauritius. A few private letters were carried on this flight, but only to some V.I.P.s in the Union, not to the public in general.

AIR MAIL NOTES

Mr. I. H. C. Godfrey sends the following:

An Unrecorded Pioneer Air Mail.
Aug. 31st, 1913—*Kimberley—Bulawayo*
Attempt.

To quote from the late Mr. L. A. Wyndham's "The Air Posts of South Africa" (page 69):—

"Apart from the souvenir cards carried on the first South African Aerial Post and the pamphlet issued by the John Weston Aviation Company . . . there are, so far as is known, no tangible mementoes of South Africa's pre-war aviation history."

In Mr. H. R. Harmer's auction catalogue for October, 1948, an item from the P. H. Oakey Air Mail Collection is illustrated. This does not appear to have been recorded hitherto. It is a specially printed cover inscribed—top left "AEROGRAM

NO CHARGE FOR DELIVERY"
"POP"

Top right in small type: 50 H-P

The cover is franked with two 1d. K.E.VII Transvaal stamps postmarked 31st Aug. 1913.

This interesting item was apparently flown part of the way between Kimberley and Bulawayo by the pioneer aviator, Mr. C. Compton Patterson, who was operating a flying school at the time near Kimberley. The plane made a forced landing and the flight was abandoned, the envelope subsequently being date-stamped at Bulawayo on 3rd September, 1913.

Can any reader supply further information on the flight?

★

U.P.U. STAMPS

It is understood that the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Universal Postal Union is to be celebrated next year by the issue in all member countries (which means pretty nearly the whole world) of a commemorative stamp or stamps. In all the motif will be the same.

IRAQ

Following up the notice in our October issue that there were to be air mail miniature sheets which would not be available for postal use, we are now informed that these sheets, perf. and imperf., will be available for franking purposes.

EXCHANGE WANTED

A collector in Sweden, who has just seen a copy of the "S.A. Philatelist", calls it "indeed an interesting paper" and has sent along a two-year subscription. He describes himself as a very keen collector of stamps from Southern Africa and wishes to get in touch with a collector here. He can exchange European (especially Scandinavian) stamps for those of Southern Africa. He is Mr. C. F. Hegardt, of Gimlevägen 7, Djursholm 2, Sweden.

GERMANY

Pity the poor collector of present-day German stamps, for the spate of issues still continues!

"Philatelie Equator" reports that the Soviet Occupation Zone overprint appeared in October on 16 values of stamps showing various portraits; also on 7 values of "Berlin Bears" and on 5 of the numerals issue.

In the French Zone there has been an "Op-pauer" issue of 4 semi-postals.

A special cancellation has been used in the Western Sectors of Berlin honouring the 100th day of the Air Lift.

TWO MYSTERY MARKS

These were figured on p. 167 of our October issue. Mr. J. J. Plows reports that the small oval barred mark with what looks like a letter T, is from a seal formerly used for sealing mailbags.

In connection with the large circular mark, Mr. S. C. Chandler recalls that the early contingent of South African forces to go to East Africa was known as the Mobile Field Force (later to become the First Division), and that the letters U.M.F.F./U.M.V.M. therefore probably stand for "Union Mobile Field Force/Unie Mobil Veld Maagte." This is practically certain, and similar lettering (M.F.F. and U.V.M.) is to be found in Army Censor's marks, but it still does not clear up whether the mark was a censor's one or the cachet of some military department or unit.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The postal administration sends a special envelope with 3 stamps (1.50, 2 and 5 Kcs) in honour of the new constitution proclaimed on 9th May, 1948. All the stamps bear the head of the new President, and were actually billed for issue on Independence Day (28 October) but they must have appeared earlier as they reached here before that date.

BRAZIL

Dr. M. de Sanctis reports the issue of 29th July of a Cr. 5.00 Stamp, honouring the 3rd. centenary of the founding of the city of Paranagua, and on 1st August of Cr. 0.40, commemorative for the Natl Children's Campaign.

Also, on 13th August, of a Cr. 1.20 stamp in honour of the centenary of the Natl School of Music.

AUSTRALIA

An Australian National Philatelic Exhibition has been decided upon, to be held in Melbourne in September, 1950. Competitive entries will probably be limited to Australasia. Mr. J. R. W. Purves is president of the Exhibition Executive Council. General enquiries should be addressed to Mr. A. W. Bunn, 67 Victoria Street, Footscray W. 11, Victoria.

NYASALAND AIR POSTAL HISTORY

Mr. I. H. C. Godfrey sends the following notes, supplied to him by Mr. C. D. Twynam, Nyasaland, as supplementary to his article on page 134 of our August issue:

15th January, 1945—Civilian Air Letters: The imported grey Colonial type of form was soon exhausted, so orders were placed with the Government Printer, Zomba, to supply temporary needs. These forms are distinctive, being printed in black on white paper. The first printing bears the number 1599 in the lower left corner, and the second (6th March, 1945) "1712-S.87." The forms were sold at four for a penny.

17th September, 1946—Blantyre-Lilongwe-Ft. Jameson: Airmail Service reopened by Central African Airways, the successors to Southern Rhodesia Air Services.

GREAT BRITAIN

It has been officially stated that there is not to be any stamp issue honouring the birth of Princess Elizabeth's son.

The new £1, of same size and design as the 10s., but of a warm brown colour, appeared on 1st October, when the Silver Wedding set was withdrawn.

U.S.S.R.

"Stamp Collecting" reports receipt of "23 further Russian labels, only one of which, a 60k with a view of the Kremlin, is a definitive issue." The others deal with propaganda for this, that and the other.

KENYA

The Crown Agents have released new printings of the 1, 10 and 20 cents and of the 1s., 3s., 5s. and 10s. values. There are some slight shade changes and the 5s. once more reverts to perf. 14½; it has been a most changeable value as regards perforations.

PROTECTORATES' ISSUES

The Silver Wedding stamps for Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland appeared on 1st December and will be on sale for three months or until the supplies are exhausted. Denominations in each case are 1½d. and 10s., and the common design is the portraits of Their Majesties as on the British £1 stamp. The 1½d. measures 24 x 42 mm. and is perf. 14 x 14½, while the 10s. is 32 x 42 mm. and perf. 11½ x 10¾. A special commemorative envelope was on sale in all three Protectorates on the day of issue of the stamps.

QUITE NATURALLY

Uncle Dick was seldom sick
He never saw a doctor,
He just lived on to ninety-three
Doing his Philately.

SAM HALL

(with apologies to Irving Berlin)

STUDY YOUR COUNTRY'S STAMPS

The

SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST

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Union 3s. Booklets

By Dr. ALEC. KAPLAN.

(Paper given a Congress Award, Pretoria, October, 1948).

The Government Printer is to be congratulated on his production of the 3s. booklets, which were released late in August. The booklets contain two small sheets of six stamps each of the ½d., 1d. and 1½d. values; seven pages of advertisements and postal information and one sheet of four Ail Mail Labels. The whole is enclosed in stiff covers, neatly stitched on the left.

The front cover shows the Union Coat of Arms together with "Union of South Africa"/"Unie van Suid-Afrika" and "Postage Stamps/Posseels" 3/-; above a trade advertisement.

Each small sheet of six stamps shows postal slogans in the margins above and below, with the side margins blank. Only six different slogans were used. These six slogans were arranged to cover 21 small sheets which made up the complete sheet for the cylinder printing.

As is well known a complete sheet of South African stamps consists of 240 stamps arranged in 20 vertical rows of 12 stamps each horizontally. This size is the size required for the cylinders in rotogravure printing. In order to make booklets, a binding margin is required for each block of six stamps, so that in the case of these booklets the sheet was spaced out as shown in diagram.

It will be seen that the normal vertical rows of the sheet, Nos. 1, 5 and 9 and the horizontal rows Nos. 3, 6, 9, 12, 15 and 18 are left blank. This gives three small sheets in each two horizontal rows, and a total of 21 small sheets.

The rotogravure method of printing used for our South African stamps is too well known to need recapitulation, but a short description of some of the essentials in printing booklets will make the subject much clearer. New cylinders, both Interior and Exterior were laid down in the normal manner of 20 rows of 12 stamps each. The Carbon Positives were transferred to the cylinders, both Interior and Exterior on each of the three values ½d., 1d., and 1½d., a total of six cylinders.

The unwanted rows, namely, horizontal rows 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, and 18 and the vertical rows 1, 5, and 9 were painted over with bitumen and then the cylinders were etched. This left the rows named blank.

Now the slogan were set up as shown in diagram. One positive was made of the slogans and from these three Carbon Tissues were prepared, one for each value.

Now the slogan Carbon Positives were applied to each of the Exterior cylinders and

the portions of the cylinders, which had already been etched previously were now painted out with bitumen, and the cylinders again etched. This second etching now only brought out the slogans on the blank spaces left by the previous etching.

The Interior cylinders, naturally, were only etched once.

The cylinders were now complete and the cylinder numbers were:

½d. Interior 88 Exterior 81.
1d. Interior 69 Exterior 89.
1½d. Interior 64 Exterior 6920.

The sheets were then printed, numbered in red and perforated in the usual way. All the sheet numbers are in red.

The sheets were then stacked and cut as shown in diagram. After cutting the stamps, advertisements, air mail labels and covers, these were stitched into booklets. An attempt was made to keep all these small sheets in the correct order, namely, sheet 1 together (with the same slogan) on all three stamp values, and the same order of pages of advertisement, etc. In this the Government Printer was only fairly successful as some booklets have appeared with mixed slogans on the small stamps sheets.

I am reliably informed that 300,000 booklets were ordered and that only a sufficient number of sheets were printed to cover that order. That being so, then 14,286 large sheets were printed and such sheets will not appear for sale, as has happened in the past. It is thus obvious that of the 21 small sheets only 14,286 sheets exist of each. Six slogans were used, which I shall number as follows:

Slogan 1. Pack Parcels Properly; Verpak Pakkies Behoorlik.

Slogan 2. Registreer waardevolle Briewe; Register valuable Letters.

Slogan 3. Post Early for Quick Delivery; Vroeg Gepos Beteken Vroeg Afgelewer.

Slogan 4. Air (Emblem) Mail; The Quick-est Mail.

Slogan 5. Lugpos (Emblem) Lugpos; Die Snelste Pos.

Slogan 6. Address Letters Fully; Adresseeer Briewe Volledig.

To facilitate the description of these small sheets I have numbered them horizontally, so that the first horizontal row of small sheets will be 1, 2, 3 and so on.

It will be remembered that the first Vertical Row of the large sheet was eliminated; also that the first stamp in a large sheet of stamps is in English; hence the first stamp of the small sheet is in Afrikaans and all the other sheets correspond accordingly.

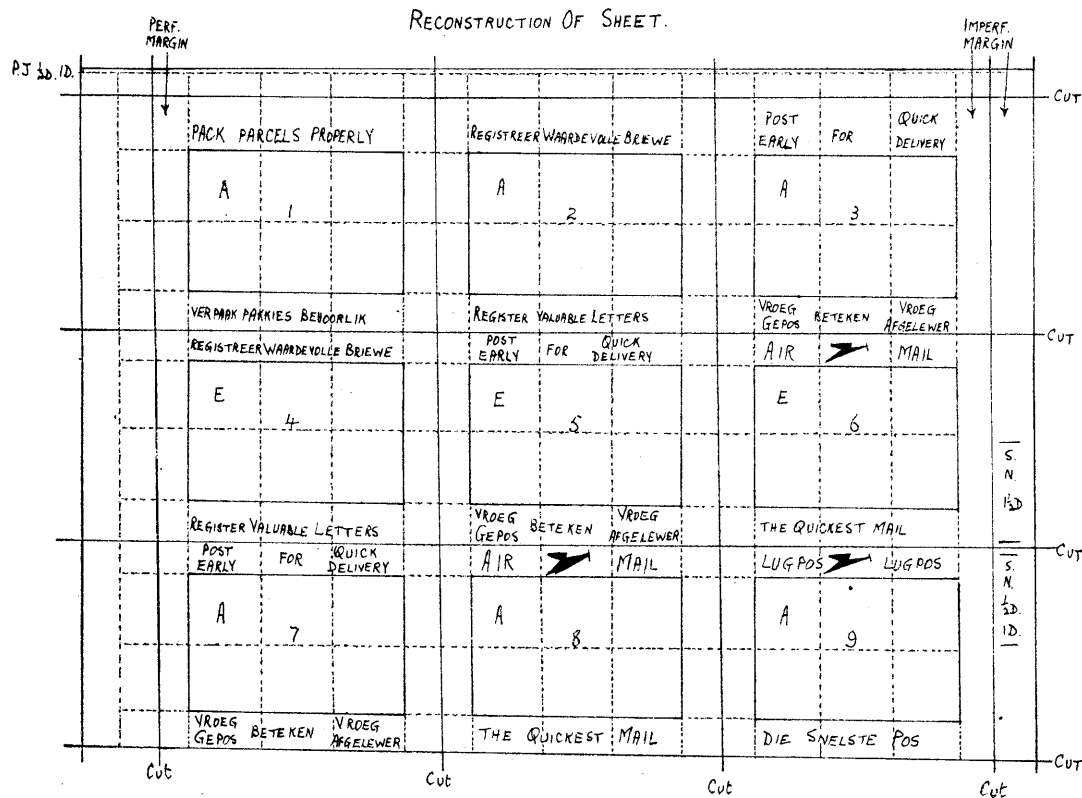
South African stamps are perforated by a comb machine, which perforates 12 horizontal and 11 vertical rows in one operation. This leaves both vertical margins imperforate.

The first row of stamps has been eliminated as the large sheet was cut through this row, hence in the small sheets of stamps all left margins are perforated through and only seven small sheets have the right margin imperforate.

3. BOOKLET STAMPS

P.J. = JUNCTION OF PERFORATIONS

S.N. = SHEET NUMBERS.



P.T. 14D	AIR MAIL	LUGPOS	LUGPOS	ADDRESS LETTERS FULLY	CUT
P.T. 15D	E 10	E 11	E 12		
	THE QUICKEST MAIL	DIE SNELSTE POS	ADRESSEER BRIEWE VOLLEDIG		CUT
	LUGPOS	LUGPOS	ADDRESS LETTERS FULLY	PACK PARCELS PROPERLY	
	A 13	A 14	A 15		
	DIE SNELSTE POS	ADRESSEER BRIEWE VOLLEDIG	VERPAK PAKKIES BEHOORLIK		CUT
	ADDRESS LETTERS FULLY	PACK PARCELS PROPERLY	REGISTREER WAARDEVOLLE BRIEWE		
	E 16	E 17	E 18		
	ADRESSEER BRIEWE VOLLEDIG	VERPAK PAKKIES BEHOORLIK	REGISTER VALUABLE LETTERS		CUT
	PACK PARCELS PROPERLY	REGISTREER WAARDEVOLLE BRIEWE	POST EARLY FOR QUICK DELIVERY		
	A 19	A 20	A 21		
P.T. 16D	VERPAK PAKKIES BEHOORLIK	REGISTER VALUABLE LETTERS	VROEG GEPOS	VROEG BETEKEN	VROEG AFGELEWER
	Cut	Cut	Cut	Cut	

On each sheet of stamps there are two rows of horizontal perforations, showing the comb perforator junction.

In the ½d. and 1d. stamps, this perforation junction appears above the top slogan of sheets, 1, 2, and 3 and in the centre row of small sheet 10, 11, and 12.

In the 1½d. stamp it appears under the top slogan of sheet 10, 11, and 12, and above the bottom slogan of sheet 19, 20 and 21.

It must be remembered, however, that variations in these are possible, due to adjustments of the machines during printing.

We are now able to place these 21 small sheets in their correct order as they appear on the full sheet. It will be remembered that there are the following small sheets with their respective slogans:

Slogan 1. Small sheets Nos. 1, 15, 17, and 19. Only Sheet 17 starts with an English stamp. Sheets 1, 15 and 19 start with an Afrikaans stamp. Sheet 15 has the right imperforate margin. It is necessary to differentiate between Sheets 1 and 19.

Slogan 2. Sheets 2, 4, 18 and 20. Sheets 4 and 18 start with an English stamp. Sheet 4 has perforate right margin. Sheet 18 has imperforate right margin. Sheets 2 and 20

commence with an Afrikaans stamp and must be differentiated.

Slogan 3. Sheets 3, 5, 7 and 21. Only Sheet 5 starts with an English stamp. Sheet 3, 7 and 21 start with an Afrikaans stamp. Sheet 7 has the right margin perforated. Sheets 3 and 21 have the right margin imperforated and must be differentiated.

Slogan 4. Sheets 6, 8 and 10.

Slogan 4. Sheet 8 starts with an Afrikaans stamp. Sheet 6 starts with an English stamp and has imperforate right margin. Sheet 10 starts with an English stamp and has perforated right margin.

Slogan 5. Sheets 9, 11 and 13. Sheet 11 starts with an English stamp. Sheet 9 starts with an Afrikaans stamp and has imperforate right margin. Sheet 13 starts with an Afrikaans stamp and has perforated right margin.

Slogan 6. Sheets 12, 14 and 16. Sheet 14 starts with an Afrikaans stamp. Sheet 12 starts with an English stamp and has imperforate right margin. Sheet 16 starts with an English stamp and has perforated right margin.

Now for the differentiation between Sheets 1 and 19; 2 and 20; and 3 and 21. Sheets 1 and 19

	Sheet 1.	½d.	Sheet 19.
Stamp 2. Black line between Springbok's Horns.			Stamp 6. Green dot under 'A' of 'Postage.'
Stamp 3. Green dot on top of stamp. Tail of 'p' of 'verpak' broken.			
Stamp 2. Red dot top left margin. 3 and 6 black line runs through both vertically.		1d.	Red dot over 'Y' of 'properly.'
Stamp 2. Green dot above.		1½d.	Stamp 1. Green dot over last 'A' of 'Afrika.'
Stamp 4. Green blob above headgear. Sheets 2 and 20.			Perforation junction below stamps 4, 5, 6.
	Sheet 2.	½d.	Sheet 20.
Stamp 1. Green spot between horns.			Stamp 6. Green dots right bottom corner.
Stamp 2. White line right bottom.			
Stamp 3. Green spot right bottom margin.			
Stamp 2. Line to right of top pennant.		1d.	Stamp 1. Red dot in 'U' of 'Suid.'
Stamp 3. Green dot in margin below		1½d.	Green dot to right of headgear.
Sheets 3 and 21			Perforation junction below stamps 4, 5, 6
	Sheet 3.	½d.	Sheet 21.
Stamp 2. Green spot in right upper corner.			Stamp 2. Large green dot in top margin.
Stamp 3. Break under 'E' of 'posseel.'			Stamp 6. Green spot above 'i' of 'Africa.'
Stamp 3. Smudge in frame line above 'S' of 'Suid.'		1d.	Stamps 5 and 6. Break in plate running diagonally through both stamps.
Stamp 4. Green dot in upper right corner.		1½d.	Stamp 6. Small green dot in right margin.
			Perforation junction below stamps 4, 5, 6.

It will be seen that it is a relatively simple matter to plate these sheets.

Although only one set of cylinders was used, the printing was spread over several days. Fresh ink was made up periodically and hence differences in shades can be found.

In conclusion I wish to place on record the great assistance given to me by Mr. M. F. Swanepoel, the Post Office Publicity Officer, who spared no effort in helping to obtain information and details. The gratitude of all serious philatelists is due to him.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES

Antarctic Posts, by Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie, F.R.P.S.L. Published by Stamp Collecting, Ltd., 27 Maiden Lane, Strand, London, W.C.2. Price 7s. 6d. 8vo. p.p. 71. Card Covers.

A fascinating booklet breathing the air of romance and adventure, recalling to mind such famous explorers as Sir Ernest Shackleton, Capt. R. F. Scott, Sir Douglas Mawson and Rear Admiral Byrd, Dr. Pirie has treated his subject both historically and philatelically and has made this little book interesting to stamp collectors and non-collectors alike. The cumbersome and dull chronological sequence has been dropped with advantage and the author has introduced a novel system whereby he takes one on a circular geographical tour round the South Polar regions.

An account is given of all the famous expeditions to these regions, together with a detailed description of the postal services available. He is not satisfied with the Antarctic regions only, but includes the sub-Antarctic regions, such as Tristan, Bouvet, Kerguelen, Auckland, and the Falkland Island Dependencies. These serve to round up in detail the full history of man's attempts to conquer the Southern cold areas.

Dr. Pirie claims that the Antarctic Posts rank as full postal services and not as Local Posts. He has stated his case fairly and convincingly. In all, great praise is due to the author for a very well written book. To the philatelist the field has been covered in great detail and a mass of new information is included. To non-stamp collectors, the book is a very interesting summarised account of the history of the Antarctic and sub-Antarctic exploration.

The booklet is produced on a very good art paper, the illustrations are well chosen and excellently reproduced. The price of the booklet is 7s. 6d., although it is not mentioned on the cover, and every collector should have a copy on his shelves.

ALEC KAPLAN.

Danish Exchange Clubs. We have received copies of two publications concerning Exchange Clubs with headquarters in Denmark. One, the "Guldbord Gazette," of St. Strand-

straede 4, Copenhagen K., is entirely in English. The other, the "D.F.C. Tidende," Box 240, Aarhus, is partly in English, but mainly in Danish.

Avion Constellation, of 18 Rue Wurtz, Paris XIII, is a good monthly review, in French, of Aerophilately in all its aspects.

The St. Lucia Philatelist No. 1, 1948. Published by Messrs. Robson Lowe, Ltd., for the St. Lucia Philatelic Society. Price 2s., postage 3d. extra.

This is an excellent production which should be in the hands of all West Indies collectors. Numbers are to be published annually and, in time, they will constitute a complete handbook on the postal history and stamps of St. Lucia. The first number has a most readable selection of articles, some dealing with early aspects, some with quite modern features.

Philatelic Press Notes. Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. have submitted a first edition of these, which are essentially notes on new issues, etc., such as appear at the beginning of their monthly "Bulletin."

Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue 1949, Part IV. Central America. Price 5s.

This is a further part of the "Foreign" Gibbons', now split up into various parts. It includes Mexico with all its sub-sections and the various small Central America republics, also the Cuban and Dominican Republics and Hayti in the West Indies. Cuba and Porto Rico as Spanish colonies are not included, whilst Porto Rico and the Panama Canal Zone were dealt with in Part III as U.S.A. Possessions.

The volume runs to 190 pages; the illustrations have, as a new feature, been reduced to three-quarters natural size, enabling a larger number to be given, but illustrations of watermarks and overprints have not been reduced in size.

Prices have been revised and appear to reflect present market quotations reasonably well.

(Concluded from page 220)

The November meeting livened up a bit and apart from a general discussion on matters philatelic a 'quiz' was held when each member brought six questions for submission to the others present and proved a very popular feature. This quiz showed up the fact that Grahamstown has provided not less than two designers of postage stamps in the past, a fact of which very few of us were aware.

Our secretary, Mr. O. Turner, who has very ably carried out his duties since last May, has had to resign owing to removal to East London, and he goes with our very good wishes and thanks. His place will be filled, pro tem, by the writer of these notes.

Mr. Peter Dunkin and Mr. J. V. Jensen, from East London, will be visiting us in December and will display their collections of Rhodesia and Denmark respectively. We look forward to their visit with much keenness.

Philatelists passing through or visiting Grahamstown during the holidays, or at any other time for that matter, are heartily invited to contact our President at 6a Dundas Street, or the Secretary, at 8 Mutual Buildings, when they will be assured of a hearty welcome.

S.C.C.

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BRITISH COLONIALS

"Silver Weddings."—Messrs. Stanley Gibbons are suggesting that the Royal Philatelic Society should strike a further blow against unnecessary Colonial high values by announcing publicly that in any exhibition sponsored by them (when "completeness" is usually one of the factors taken into account in judging) the absence of the Colonial Silver Wedding high values (and any others which might be specified from time to time) would not count against the exhibitor.

The firm, although accepting orders at the moment for these stamps, have announced that they will not keep stocks of them, nor will they be buyers of them in the future. We understand a similar policy is being adopted by many dealers.

Kenya.—"Gibbons' Stamp Monthly" reports that the 1c and 20c have appeared with new centreplate 7A. The 1s. latest printing has lost its warm brown shade and the 3s. is in a lighter blue. The 5s. is back to line-perf. 14.

Swaziland.—Fresh printings of the ½d., 1½d., 4d., 6d. and 1s. were released at the Crown Agents on 19th August. The new 1½d. is of a deeper shade; the 6d. is much different from the October 1947 release which was midway between bright purple and magenta. It is now a very bright magenta with a little more blue than the original magenta shade; the 1s. is slightly deeper than before.

The Status of the Mafeking Siege Stamps

FACTS ABOUT A FASCINATING AND CLASSIC ISSUE

By Dr. K. FREUND

(No. VII—Continued from page 197)

3. THE BICYCLE MESSENGERS OF THE "OUTPOST" SERVICE

Once the men had moved into their various posts, an early change and relief from their assignments was not practical for many reasons. There they had to stay on and were cut off from the outside world to a still greater degree than the rest of the beleaguered population (see Mr. C. J. Weir's interesting description of his "7 long, weary months" in a Fort, told in his excellent "Diary of the Siege," Edinburgh, 1901).

Regular *dispatches* and *instructions* had to be sent to the men in the outposts. They

with their beloved ones "out on the front". Very severe and strict regulations *forbade* any unauthorised leaving of town and any *visit to the outposts*. Only in very special cases, special permits were granted.

The introduction of a local post was therefore the only logical solution and a genuine necessity.

The delivery of mail to and from the Outposts was done in the evening and at night by a *corps of Cadets*. This corps was organised by Lord Edward Cecil to take over miscellaneous duties so as to relieve more men for more dangerous duties. Here is



Fig. 7. The Siege Post Office in a Dug-Out. In front, the civil postmaster, Mr. J. V. Howat, and a postman of the Bicycle Cadet Corps.

also required *information* about the war happenings in general and about the moves of the Boers outside in the cordon in particular. Last, but not least, in order to keep up their morale, they had to receive regular *communications from their town folk*. The more so, as the people in town were in no less danger than they themselves, the town being for most of the time under a constant rain of shelling and bombing.

The town people on their part, as one might expect, wanted to be in constant touch

an account by Maj. F. D. Baillie, given in his "Diary of the Siege" (Westminster, 1900), about this messenger corps:

"The Cadet corps have been lately doing their messages on donkeys captured from the Boers. Like the other mounted corps, however, their ranks are gradually being depleted for the soup kitchen. The corps is formed of all the boys in Mafeking, ranging from nine years upwards. It does all the foot orderly work, thereby sparing several more men for the trenches, and is dressed in khaki

with "smasher" hats and a yellow puggaree. It is commanded by a youth, Sergeant-Major Goodyear, the son of Captain Goodyear, who was wounded in the brickfields, and is directly supervised by Lord Edward Cecil. It drills regularly, and the boys are wonderfully smart."

From this account we learn that the Cadets originally did their messenger service on *donkeys*, but that these animals disappeared gradually in kitchen and ration pots. The boys had therefore to look for something less perishable and less liable to attract epicurian demands. They agreed on *bicycles* to carry them on their "beats" to the forts and outposts.

The *charge per letter per ½ oz.* was 3d. The revenue derived from this postage served to pay for the upkeep of the donkeys and their food, later on for the purchase of bicycles, their repairs, and for other running expenses, like boxes, bags, etc.

The people certainly did not mind spending 3d. per letter for the privilege of communicating with their men-folk in the outposts.

One must know that the authorities actually had in view at first to leave the financial management of the local post altogether in the hands of the cadets themselves, thus leaving the official funds untouched in this regard. The original idea was that the cadets should collect a *cash fee* for every letter carried. This scheme was, in fact, given a brief try-out, but it proved to be no success. The boys, practically all of whom were of minor age, turned out to be unreliable with regard to accurate accounting and were also in most cases short of ready change. The local service was therefore fully absorbed into the general postal system as far as the financial side was concerned and in particular the special postage stamps were put at the disposal of this service, too.

4. THE LETTER-WRITING MAFEKING PEOPLE

The people in Mafeking certainly did not mind spending threepence per letter for the privilege of communicating with their men-folk in the outposts. One is somehow reminded of recent times when air-schools were set up at the boundaries of various South African towns during World War II: In order to get in touch with one of the chaps stationed at such an air-school, the same fee of 3d. was required, in this case—to be sure—for a phone call.

Of course there were no such general phone facilities in Mafeking during the siege, and a 3d. letter, arriving in the evening for the outpost-men, or at 9 a.m. in the morning for the town people, had to do in each case.

It cannot be emphasised enough, however, that in the case of the Mafeking people the problem of communication was made singularly acute through the *restrictions of the special permit system*, mentioned above. *Any visit to, or leave from, the outpost zones is in principle strictly forbidden.* The main consideration was that to let the public move

about freely in the dangerous zones of the outskirts would have meant certain death for all of them from the ever alert enemy guns and rifles. Thus, the inhabitants and their men "on the front" were simply left with *no other alternative* but to indulge in busy letter-writing.

The large majority of them did so with no ulterior motive (philatelic or otherwise). They really *felt* like writing to each other. The contents of their letters may have been only everyday-life matters, seemingly unimportant to anyone else, but with every new dawn they were pleased to be "still alive and kicking" and felt the urge to express these feelings in their letters to each other. They were separated from their beloved ones, but still with them thanks to the mail service. It was this spirit which *kept up their morale* and helped them to win through gloriously against heavy odds.

One can safely assume that there may have been a budding stamp collector here or there, taking advantage of the postal facilities in order to acquire a souvenir in the form of the novel stamps. What of it? Proportionally, they were far less in numbers than the large army of "new issue" and "special cancellation" addicts of our times.

The malpractice of these few philatelic enthusiasts could not, in any way, detract from the fact that the local service as such was absolutely necessary, as we have seen in detail, and that most of the mail matter was genuine and sincere.

5. THE "IN TOWN" SERVICE

This branch of the local post operated in the built-up town area itself. It was only of minor importance and its mail was less copious than the "Outpost" mail. Actually, it owed its existence mainly to the fact that facilities were in any case provided by the establishment of the main local ("Outpost") service.

Still, there was a certain demand for such a service, too, owing to the extraordinary circumstances created by the heavy bombing and shelling which went on with little respite. The Boers were able to bombard Mafeking with their heavy guns at "point blank" ranges and to bring their trenches within rifle range of the town, so that they could shoot up the streets. The inhabitants were therefore obliged to live in "dug-outs" or "bomb-proofs," as they were called. Even the Post Office had to be transferred into a dug-out, as the photograph (fig. 7) shows. How crippling such shelter-life can be with regard to daily routine, can easily be appreciated by those who have lived similarly in shelters during the "blitz" period of more recent times. The only difference was that in Mafeking the "all-clear" (sounded by a big horn on the market place) was often painfully missed for considerable periods.

The people who were thus handicapped found it most convenient to have the cadet corps service at their disposal to do some errands for them and deliver messages. Pil-

lar and Wall letter boxes were conveniently placed at various places throughout the town (see Notice of 22nd March, 1900, cited in the July number, p. 120), so that posting facilities were within easy and quick reach of everyone.

The handling of the "in town" mail was reserved for the *smaller* of the boys who, as Capt. H. Greener once put it, "could never be kept underground for long, anyway."

The charge per message resp. letter was 1d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. which was well worth it and which princely fee one would not dare to offer a native boy nowadays for a similar service.

The 1d. charge provided additional funds for the upkeep of the boys' corps, whose main job, it must not be forgotten, was actually the more important and urgent "Outpost" service.

(To be continued)

★

CORRESPONDENCE

WHY THE "HYPHENATE" OR THE "D"?

I much appreciate your courtesy in publishing my previous letter *in extenso*.

One of the labours of Hercules was to cleanse the Augean stables: I am trying to get rid of matter in the wrong place, and I deem it unfortunate that you hesitate to participate in my crusade against what I consider an impropriety, and you enunciate several queries which necessitate that I elaborate my thesis.

Tastes differ, and I may be somewhat obstinate, but that word UNHYPHENATED irritates me when I see it in print, and I consider ANHYPHENATE (pronounced an-hi-fen-at) much more euphonious. Also it is a syllable shorter, and if the final d is eliminated the compositor has less types to set to compensate.

As regards *imperforate*, I thought that word illustrated the idea I wish to promulgate. According to the dictionary a verb is a word which designates being, doing, or being acted upon. That implicates action and, while *perforate* entails something doing, as soon as we use the negative, action ceases. Therefore, as there can be no verb to *imperforate*, there is no past participle *imperforted*.

I admit there is a tendency when fabricating a new word to choose what slips easily over the tongue, but that principle must not predominate. If we philatelists wish to originate a word to be incorporated in our "illogical" language I asseverate that it should be effectuated in accordance with the laws elaborated to regulate our etymology. Surely you would not advocate a deliberate breach of those rules.

In conclusion may I remark that no dictionary I have investigated did I ever find to be immaculate (even lexicographers are occasionally inaccurate), and the last place on earth from which to expect perfect English is the U.S.A.—judging by some of the films and so-called comics (!) emanating from that happy land.
J. J. PLOWS.

Sir,—Mr. Plows' letter on the term 'unhyphenated' raises a point of language detail rather than of philately. Let us, however, go to the root of the matter. The simple and straight phrases "with hyphen" and "without hyphen" serve us better to describe the stamp varieties than the terms which irk him. Let us therefore use these phrases and avoid all difficulty—besides running more closely true to the genius of our language.

Really, there is no need to use the term "hyphenate" or its derivatives or privative or the privative's derivatives. They are all clumsy and long substitutes for clear and simple phrases.

"Hyphenated" can hardly rank as a solecism, since it is the past participle of the verb "to hyphenate," in normal use as an adjective. The word itself and its participle are recorded in dictionaries from a fairly early date: Webster has had them since 1890. The term is so completely naturalized in our tongue that the use of the native English prefixes and suffixes on it, as in "unhyphenated," will hardly strike anyone save a Greek scholar as other than proper.

In cold fact, is there really any basis of fact for the claim that we are supposed to use prefixes from the same language as that from which the root-word comes? That idea has been widely spread—but isn't it a mere arbitrary invention of uninformed persons who knew little of the genius of our own language?

STEPHEN G. RICH.

(This correspondence is now closed.—Ed.)

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REPLY PAID POSTCARDS

The "Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly" has a short note on this little-known form of postal service. We had such cards in South Africa in several of its provinces when they were independent units, also in the very early days of Union, for inland, but not for foreign service.

A number of countries still have them, for both inland and foreign use, but they are not very much used and neither collectors nor postal officials are very familiar with them.

When they go abroad from the country of issue and the reply is posted in the country sent to, it is very liable to be marked "T" (for Tax, meaning postage not prepaid), but, of course, this is not collected on arrival in the country of issue.

Another thing that has happened, e.g. in the case of a British Reply Paid Postcard sent to the West Indies, the reply half on arrival back in Britain has been offered by a dealer as an example of "British used abroad". In a sense, of course, it was, but not in the ordinary sense in which that term is used.

ISRAEL

The Department of Posts informs us that a series of 5 stamps (3, 5, 10, 20 and 65 mils) was due to be issued at the New Year, 26th September, and subsequent festivals during the month. They are all bicoloured, bear the emblem of a flying scroll of the period of the Kings of Judea. Underneath this is a streamer with the words "Joyous Festivals".

U.S.A. WEEKLY ISSUES

Latest arrivals, all 3c stamps, but in an assortment of colours, are: 25 Aug., Harlan F. Stone, Jurist; 30 Aug., Palomar Mountain Observatory; 7 Sept., Clara Barton, Founder of the American Red Cross; 9 Sept., Centennial of the Poultry Industry (why, oh why, was this not printed on *laid* paper?); 21 Sept., Honouring Gold Star Mothers; 22 Sept., Centenary of Fort Kearney, Nebraska, a stronghold on the Oregon trail; 4 Oct., Volunteer Firemen; 29 Oct., Juliette Gordon Low, founder of the U.S.A. Girl Scouts.

Thanks to Mr. George H. Camp for first-day covers.

TWO OUT-OF-THE-WAY UNION
CANCELLATIONS

1. Mr. J. W. K. Schofield records on a 2d. Postage Due Stamp a mark reading "Charge not collected/Fresh label required" in two lines 20 m.m. apart with a large cross connecting the opposite upper and lower ends of the two lines.

Such a mark appears to be applied under the following circumstances: A letter is insufficiently paid, it has a postage due stamp or label put on at the post office for the amount due and a postman takes this with

him on his rounds. If the letter is refused by the addressee or there is no one on the spot to pay him the amount due, he takes it back to the post office and the stamp is then cancelled with the mark described.

Mr. Schofield has shown us such a cover with two 2d. Postage Due stamps, one cancelled as described, the other with an ordinary handstamp cancellation. Apparently the letter was presented for acceptance a second time and the 2d. was then received by the postman.

2. During 1941-47 Mr. A. H. Sydow has found a number of stamps (large and small war effort pictorials, Victory and Royal Visit issues) which had escaped cancellation by the old continuous type of machine canceller, being hand stamped in Cape Town with an old Cape style barred oval mark with number in a rectangle in the centre of the oval. The number in this instance was 1047, and it happens, curiously enough, that this mark was illustrated in our Vol. 16, 1940, p. 101.

H. R. HARMER, LTD.

The Bond Street Auction Season of 1947-48 closed recently, but the coming season started again on 13th September.

The season just finished almost maintained the record breaking figure of the previous year and fully one-quarter of the sums realised went to overseas clients. In spite of everything there seems, therefore, to be little slackening of interest in philately.

Latest information is that the new season has opened in great strength.

HUNGARY

The postal authorities inform us that they were issuing in the middle of September an airmail set of ten stamps (1-40 filler), each one featuring a world-famous writer. Those so honoured are Shakespeare, Voltaire, Goethe, Byron, Poe, Mark Twain, Tolstoi, Gorki and one Hungarian, the poet Sandoi Petófi. About the same time there will appear a 3 + 18 f. stamp, the surtax going towards the reconstruction of the Budapest Chain-bridge.

On 17th October two 30f. commemoratives appeared, one for "Stamp Day," the other for the 17th Trade Union Congress.

BRITISH COLONIALS

Singapore.—A new heading for our albums. Stamps were issued on 1st September, the type being exactly that of the original Malayan stamps of K.G. VI, but with the wording at the bottom "Singapore."

Ascension and St. Helena.—New colours in preparation, 1d. black and green; 1½d., black and claret; 2d. black and red. In the case of Ascension this is a reversion to the original colours, but the design will be that of the current 6d.

SOCIETY NEWS

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mrs. R. Alabaster; *Hon. Sec.-Treas.*, Mr. E. H. Williams, P.O. Box 198, East London; *Meetings*, 2nd Fridays, Colosseum Theatre Tea Room (upstairs).

September. A good gathering and marked by the long awaited distribution of plaques gained at the National Exhibition. Top of the list with no less than five plaques was our own Mr. C. H. Thornton. Congratulations to all those who are now in proud possession of their trophies which are of a fine standard and well worth holding. The distribution took up most of the evening, but did not detract the attention of all present from the fine display given by Mr. Kruger who displayed George VI complete to date with the exception of three items over a range of 45 countries. A fine effort and a real pleasure to view.

October. Inclement weather had the better of many members and the gathering was small but enthusiastic, so much so that members looked for another quiz night. May our lot be good at the final in Pretoria!

Mr. L. Hillman displayed his collection of United States, Historical Maps and cards. A collection that is really interesting from the point of view that it has taken three years to prepare with a multitude of information obtained from many and varied sources with cuttings, maps, and pictures grouped with the various stamps depicting that item of history. The interest and pains taken by Mr. Hillman in building up his collection is unbounded and was well rewarded by two speakers who were eulogistic in their comments.

W.J.G.

★

THE PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. L. L. Brown; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. W. Kriste; *Meetings*, Second Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m., in the Berea Park Recreation Club.

13th October. Visitors in Mr. and Mrs. Bevis from Durban and Messrs. Combrink and Petroulis from Cape Town paid a very welcome visit, and Mr. Bevis showed his collection of United States Commemoratives. Mr. Bevis was thanked by the chairman for so kindly bringing along his collection all the way from Durban and giving the Pretoria Railwaymen a treat.

Mr. W. Kriste read a paper on the postal history of Swaziland, from the pre-stamp period through various stages such as the "Condominium" period, the Transvaal period, the Inter-Provincial period, to the present day. One point of interest brought out was that during January, 1933, it was possible for stamps of seven countries to be correctly used, viz., Cape, Natal, Free State, Transvaal, Griqualand West, Union, and the new Swaziland stamps.

Two meetings were held during November, the first on 10th November, when Mr. A. T. Blick read a paper which started a full discussion between the members, the subject being "The hinges and methods used for mounting mint stamps." Mr. Blick is at present experimenting with hinges of various shapes, with a view to reducing the area of the hinge affixed to the stamp, thus reducing the likelihood of damage to the gum or even to the stamp itself when removing old hinges.

The second meeting was held on 24th November when Mrs. Butler read an extremely interesting paper entitled "Stamps worth fortunes" wherein she described and gave the history of such items as the Mauritius Post Office, the Cape triangulars and wood-blocks, the British Guiana 1c, and many others. Mrs. Butler also showed her collection of "Oddities and Rarities." As an extra treat, Mr. J. W. Hodgson, on a visit from Bloemfontein, tabled his zoological collection and his method of approach and mounting and writing up of this subject was a real eye-opener. The paper and the two exhibits were thoroughly enjoyed by the members.

W. KRISTE.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. G. K. Forbes; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. G. P. Smith, 13 Trafalgar Square, Port Elizabeth; *Meetings*, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in Room 3, City Hall Basement, at 7.45 p.m.

On Tuesday, 19th October, at a large meeting, Dr. Harris showed some 80 pages of a very unique display.

He called it "The Story Behind the Stamp." Each stamp on display had to do with medical purposes, such as T.B. hospitals, Red Cross, Nurses, blind, hospital ships and science for healing. Dr. Harris gave a talk and mentioned each page in turn, and stated that the main object was not the price or value of the stamp, but what it represented. He had studied and read in detail, and had many books on most subjects. Each stamp had its own significance, and he said that he had often given more than catalogue prices for certain stamps, for if one didn't buy at first opportunity, the opportunity might never arise again.

On display was a disinfected envelope used during the Great Plague. This envelope had two slits in it, into which disinfectant had been sprayed. Dr. Harris stated it was of no use, and when asked why not, he explained that the plague was caught from vermin, not from germs carried in envelopes.

One interesting page was from Russia, showing the different medals given to women, who had large families. The more children, the better and bigger the medal.

Dr. Harris also related many personal stories behind the stamps, which unfortunately, cannot be detailed, owing to shortage of space. Much time and patience and study has been given to this wonderful collection.

When Mr. Forbes gave the vote of thanks, he said that it was one of the most interesting evenings the Society had spent, and that Dr. Harris was a real philatelist, as he had studied in detail the objects of each individual stamp, whether a cheap or expensive issue.

Mr. G. K. Forbes was in the chair when the meeting opened on 16th November 1948. This was members' night, when each member had to display three sheets, each sheet to be well written up, or a fine pair.

The first item was to elect the judges. The chosen ones were: Mr. Millard, Mr. Bullbring, and Mr. van Dyker. These members did not take part in the display. The winners finally announced were: First, Mr. Ingram; second, Mr. Watson; third, Dr. Harris. Mr. Forbes then informed the members that Mr. Watson had kindly handed in his prize money to be donated to the Red Cross.

Three new members were accorded a cordial welcome to the Society from the President. Owing to the absence of Mr. Levey, Mr. Forbes then auctioned 50 packets, which were quickly sold. The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

L. E. C.

★

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. E. N. Rigg, Benoni; *Hon. Secretary*, Miss S. O. Jeffrey, P.O. Box 572, Benoni; *Meetings*, Regent Hotel, Benoni, 3rd Tuesdays, 8 p.m.

At the annual meeting of the above society, held on 21.9.48, the following officers were elected: Mr. E. N. Rigg, president; Mr. P. G. Wells, vice-president; Miss S. O. Jeffrey, secretary/treasurer; Mr. H. Suklje, news editor; Mrs. J. M. Wells, exchange superintendent; committee, chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, Mr. W. D. Gillmore and Mrs. G. Wood.

The exhibit for the evening was New Zealand, presented by Mrs. J. M. Wells.

Owing to the Pretoria festivities the October monthly meeting was postponed until the 26th. Mr. E. N. Rigg was in the chair, and there were 16 members present. The exhibits for the evening were: Canada by Mr. W. D. Gillmore, and Nyasa and George VI by Mr. J. Doyle.

Mr. J. Shepherd, the Society's official delegate to Congress at Pretoria, gave members a brief report of proceedings there, and congratulated Pretoria Society on the excellence of the organisation. He was much impressed by the visits to the Johannesburg Post Office, the Mint and the Government Printers.

S. O. J.

CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, K. M. Cameron; *Hon. Sec.*, S. Kaganon, P.O. Box 1973; *Meetings*, 2nd and 4th Thursdays, at Yorkshire Buildings, Strand Street, at 7.30 p.m.

23rd September. Once more our old friend Mr. A. A. Jurgens favoured us with an exhibit, this time the Cape Historical Collection that has been offered to the nation. Commencing with examples of "briefstok" cleft stick letters, the collection proceeded to show original letters addressed to every Dutch Governor from 1652-1795. Then a complete collection of the Dutch official seals with the actual signatures of the Governors. A section dealt with the establishment of the posts in the Cape and included the signature of the first Postmaster, A. B. Bergh, the first Commissioner, Van Oudtshoorn, and Acting Governor Rhenius, who signed the P.O. Proclamation. V.O.C. handstamps were there in profusion. The exhibit closed with the first British occupation 1795-1805 and second British occupation 1806-1853.

14th October. Mr. E. C. Solomon, M.P.C., gave us what must be the finest display of Queen's (i.e., Victoria) which the Society has had. The stamps exhibited ran right through the long reign from A to Z and it is impossible to give any description in these short notes. They were all represented from the ten a penny to one or two real rarities. L.H.R.

★

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, F. C. Ferguson; *Hon. Sec.*, H. Endemann, P.O. Box 514; *Meetings*, 1st and 3rd Mondays, 8 p.m., Technical College.

The Society was too busy for some months with preparations for the October Congress and Exhibition to send in the usual news about their meetings. Herewith is just a brief summary of their doings in recent months:

5th July. A "Brains Trust" evening on questions set by Messrs. Dodd and Hawke. Won by Mr. Wright.

19th July. Paper and exhibit by Mr. Giovanetti on the issues of the 2nd Z.A. Republik.

3rd August. Talk and exhibit by Mr. Oppenheim on the issues of K.G. VI.

16th August. A forum talk on various subjects and an exhibit by Dr. Broughton of Ruanda-Urundi.

6th September. Ladies' night, including a paper by Mrs. Butler on "Philatettes" (Lady stamp collector—Philatelists).

20th September. Visit by members of the Philatelic Section of the Johannesburg Jewish Guild, with exhibits by Messrs. Isaacs, Joseph, Buchen, Glassman and Dr. Kaplan.

4th October. Paper and exhibit by Mr. Obermayer on Orange Free State issues.

18th to 20th October. Congress and Exhibition.

★

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF RHODESIA

President, Mr. F. W. Porter; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. G. C. Whitehead, P.O. Box 803, Bulawayo; *Meetings*, 1st Wednesday in each month, at 8 p.m., in the Presbyterian Church Hall, c/o Abercorn Street and Fifth Avenue, Bulawayo.

Acting upon suggestions from members to brighten up proceedings at the monthly meetings, the committee have decided to cut formal business to the absolute minimum, and to arrange for light refreshments to be served during the evening.

The first of these "brighter" evenings took place at the 3rd November meeting, and it was gratifying to notice that the attendance was slightly above average, though there is still room for improvement.

Mr. Porter, our President and delegate to the recent Congress, gave a report on the business of the Congress, and details of some of the exhibits. He also outlined briefly some of the points to be watched in connection with the organisation of a Congress and Exhibition—factors that will be most useful in view of the provisional arrangements made for the 1950 Congress to be held in Bulawayo in conjunction with the Jubilee celebrations. Mr. Porter was thanked for his report, and congratulated upon his award at the Pretoria Exhibition.

The Review of Current Topics was again well received, and as was hoped, provoked further discussions amongst members.

A selection of the stamps of the United States of America was displayed by Mr. Rendsburg. Because of the vast philatelic output of the U.S.A. only a small, but nevertheless a very representative display was given, ranging from the earliest to the current issues. A feature calling for particular comment was the method of mounting adopted by Mr. Rendsburg; many stamps being mounted in cellophane pockets which facilitate their easy removal from the album page, but do not touch the gum on mint stamps.

After the exhibit, tea was served, and the rest of the evening was devoted to social matters and the exchange of stamps between members.

J.E.C.

★

THE JEWISH GUILD PHILATELIC SECTION

Chairman, I. Isaacs; *Hon. Secretary*, B. Joseph, 143 London House, Loveday Street, Johannesburg; *Meetings*, last Thursday, Jewish Guild Memorial Hall, Von Brandis Street.

At the meeting held on 28th October, Mr. I. Isaacs showed flown covers of Imperial Airways flights.

The exhibit included the Christmas Flight of 1931 from London to the Cape and several stages of the opening London-Cape Service of January, 1932. Transatlantic flights were also included.

Mr. L. Buchen spoke on the exhibit.

I.I.

★

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

President, Mr. W. Redford; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. B. Glassman, P.O. Box 4967, Johannesburg; *Meetings*, 2nd Tuesdays and 4th Mondays, Public Library, 7.45 p.m.

At the meeting held on 9th November, Mr. J. W. K. Schofield showed a portion of his collection of Capes.

The exhibit included a number of pre-stamp covers with the V.O.C. letter stamp and a number of ship letters.

There were several plate proofs of the Triangular and Rectangular stamps.

Numerous mint triangulars were included with many large blocks. An outstanding item was a block of 4 of the 5s. rectangle, watermarked Crown C.A.

There were numerous woodblocks in fine used condition and many on cover. There was also the woodblock error of colour 1d. blue in fine used condition.

In the rectangular stamps all shades were present and in the overprint stamps all the varieties were shown.

Dr. Pirie spoke of the exhibit in very warm and complimentary terms.

At the meeting held on 22nd November there were three exhibits by tyros, i.e., members who had not exhibited at society meetings previously.

Mr. Stern exhibited King George VI stamps of Africa south of the equator, excluding Union and S.W.A. Most of the stamps shown were in fine used condition.

Mr. Basson showed Egypt and many rarities were included.

Mr. Bernard showed Union and the exhibit included numerous varieties.

Mr. Bernard was awarded the first prize for his exhibit by vote of the committee. Dr. A. Kaplan spoke on the exhibits.

I.I.

★

GRAHAMSTOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President, Mr. Eric A. Carr; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. S. C. Chantler, P.O. Box 169; *Meetings*, 2nd Tuesdays at 8 o'clock, 8a Dundas Street.

No notes have been sent in for some time as there has been very little to report.

Mr. Douglas Roth paid the Society a visit in September but owing to the shortness of the notice only a few members were able to take advantage of his visit. It is understood that those who were present spent a very profitable and enjoyable evening.

(Continued on page 213)



IT is nearly three in the morning and pouring with rain. The signal along the line pierces the darkness, and the Patrolman knows that in a few minutes the night mail will be passing through.

To him falls the task of keeping this stretch of line safe and clear. Yet he knows that when the night mail goes by, and his lamp blinks its greeting, the only answer will be a cheery wave from the train crew. They will know that all is well.

The passengers are sleeping. None of them even knows of this Patrolman, and few are aware of the many others like him who keep their vigil day and night . . . who work while we sleep . . . constantly and carefully checking and testing equipment along the fourteen thousand miles of our Railways so that rail travel throughout our land will be continually maintained at the highest standards of safety, comfort and reliability.



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