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THE SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST

VOLUME 32 — 1956

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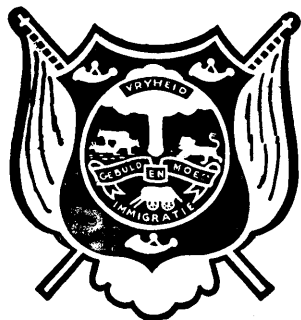
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The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

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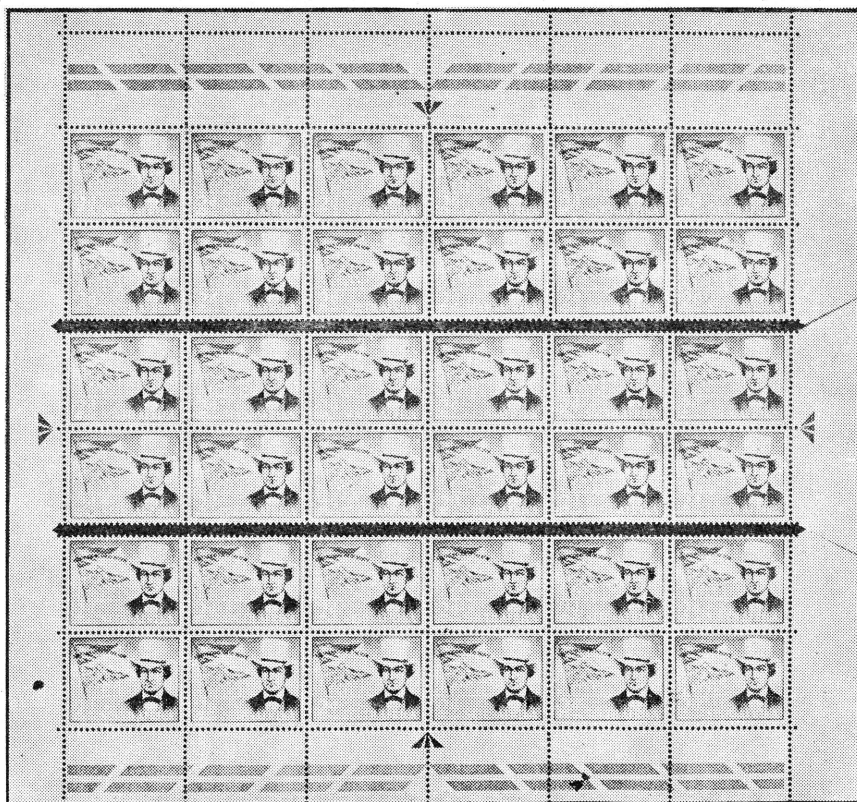
UNION NOTES

Sub-Editor: Mr. W. N. SHEFFIELD,
Box 99, Cleveland, Transvaal.

Covenant Commemorative Stamp

The special 2d. postage stamp issued to commemorate the Union Covenant Celebrations held in Pietermaritzburg last month, became available at all post offices in the Union on the 1st of December 1955 and as announced in the official bulletin published in our November number, was on sale during the month of December only.

Printed in the two colours of blue and rose, the stamp bears a portrait of Andries Pretorius, the hero of Blood River, together with an outline of the Church of the Vow and the flag of the Republic of Natalia in the background. As mentioned in the November copy, "The Church of the Vow is now used as a museum and is being extended to provide accommodation for the display of valuable items relative to the history of the Voortrekkers. The main points of the celebrations are the Vow which was made before the battle of Blood River and the Church which was built in fulfilment of the Vow. Hence the theme of the celebrations is 'The Reaffirmation of the Vow'."



The words of the theme and also the name of the country, are inscribed in English or Afrikaans on each alternate stamp and it is understood from official sources that this return to a unilingual arrangement was adopted because of the difficulty of effectively incorporating the bilingual versions and the figure of value in the space available on a single stamp.

Printed by the rotogravure process at the Government Printing Works in Pretoria in sheets of 120 stamps — 20 rows by 6 — from cylinders 17 (Int.) and 14 (Ext.), the perforated margins at the top and bottom each bear blue coloured double bars divided up into short lengths by diagonal cuts as shown in the accompanying illustration. There is no cylinder number printed on the sheets, but the usual four marginal arrows are present in blue and four-figure red serial numbers appear twice in the right hand margin.

The stamps are perforated 14 and the multiple Springbok Head watermark is upright. Size of design, 27 by 21 mm. and size of the stamp, 30.2 by 24.2 mm.

No prominent varieties appear to be present in this issue, but small blue spots can be found in one position or another on nearly every stamp in the sheet. Some of these have been recorded and we give below a list of those published in the November 1955 number of "The O.F.S. Philatelic Magazine," the monthly organ of the Orange Free State and Basutoland Philatelic Society, Bloemfontein.

Row—

- 1/5 Blue dot under third "E" of HERBEVES-TIGING.
- 2/3 Two blue dots on right side of face.
- 2/4 Little "streamer" (blue) flying from flagpole to left.
- 2/6 Blue spot at left bottom next to Church.
- 3/5 White dot over "U" of SUID.
- 4/5 Blue dot at right bottom of Church.
- 5/1 Blue dot at left side of hat.
- 9/1 Blue spot after "D" of SUID. (top).
- 9/2 Blue spot in left top corner of Church.
- 11/1 Blue spot in left gable.
- 11/2 Blue spot on the right next to face.
- 12/6 Blue spot in hat brim. (Above right eye).
- 15/4 Blue spot in hat brim. (Between right eye and ear).
- 15/5 Blue spot on right of last "A" of AFRIKA.
- 16/4 Blue spot over "I" of SUID.
- 17/4 White spot under "UT" of SOUTH.
- 20/2 Blue spot after "d" of "2d."
- 20/3 Blue spot under Church door.

Mixed Fount on 1½d. "Officials".

We illustrate below a pair of 1½d. "Officials" recently discovered by Mr. Andrew D. Grantzow of Irvington, New Jersey, U.S.A., as bearing overprints which had been produced from two different sizes of type.

The stamps are those listed in the Union Handbook/Catalogue as "O80", with clear shiny overprints on basic stamp "46D", a printing which incidentally was also employed for the previous issue of 1½d. "Officials" listed as "O71."

It was in this latter issue that a reader of "Gibbons Stamp Monthly" discovered the diacritical spelling variety recorded in our January and March "Notes" of 1953 and it is interesting to learn that a mixed fount variety has now come to light on the subsequent issue of 1½d. "Officials" catalogued as No. O80 and for which the same basic stamp was used.

Mr. Grantzow, in his letter on the subject, states that though the overprint OFFISIEEL is the same on both items of the pair, and measures 15½ mm. in length, a heavier type was used for the OFFICIAL overprinted on the English inscribed copy and that the length of this word measures 15 mm. as against 14 mm. for the same word on the joined Afrikaans stamp. The difference in the letters and length of the overprint is clearly visible in our accompanying photograph.

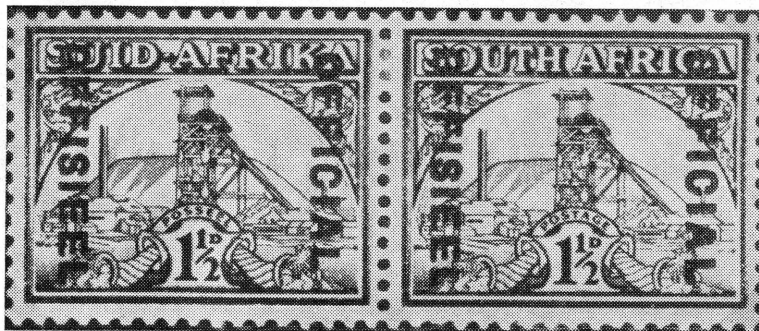
Following receipt of Mr. Grantzow's information, examination of a sheet of these particular "Officials" revealed that the error occurred only in two positions, namely on the 2nd and 12th stamps of the bottom row (i.e. 12/2 and 12/12) and that his pair was from the bottom left hand corner of a sheet. The fact that this variety, like that of its predecessor in the "O71" issue, has only now turned up after so many years, makes this latest discovery all the more intriguing for all those who collect the Union "Officials" and we have much pleasure in congratulating Mr. Grantzow on his good work.

New Post Office in Port Elizabeth Area

We learn from Mr. C. Clement of Port Elizabeth that a new post office ESTADEAL opened up for business in that city on the 1.11.1955. It is situated in the Deal Party Estate, a factory area in Port Elizabeth.

Plating Flaws on 6d. Pretoria Centenary Stamp

For those who would like to try some plating work on copies of the 6d. Pretoria Centenary Stamp, the following small printing flaws, all of which appear to be constant, have been



selected from a list furnished by Dr. Leslie Levy of Johannesburg.

Row

- 1/ 1 Dot outside right forehead.
 1/ 2 Minor dot/Shirt front.
 1/ 3 White blob under '8' of 1855.
 1/ 7 Brown smudge from lower lip towards chin looks like a '3'.
 1/14 Dot to right of chin.
 1/16 White blob on and over forehead under "T" of SOUTH.
 1/19 Postagl.
 2/ 1...Distinct dot on shirt front.
 2/ 3...Dot on right eyebrow.
 2/16 Dot over right cheekbone.
 2/18 Small white dot under "T" of SOUTH.
 3/ 6 Dot between PRETORIA and face.
 3/ 8 Dots under "IC" of AFRICA.
 3/ 9 Cloud effect over left shoulder.
 3/16 Minor dot left of forehead.
 3/18 White blob between "A" and "F" of AFRICA.
 4/ 1 Distinct white oblique line under second "5" of 1955.
 4/ 2 The "9" of 1955 has a broken tail: looks like "o" and a dot.
 4/ 9 Minor dot on shirt front.
 4/14 Minor white dot over "KA" of AFRIKA.
 4/20 Minor dot under "H" of SOUTH and also one in the upright leg of "K" of AFRIKA.
 5/ 1 Minor dot near right side of moustache.
 5/ 4 Dot under second "R" of PRETORIA.
 5/ 6 Brown lines under "TH" and "A" of SOUTH: appearance of planes in sky.
 5/15 Minor dot on shirt front.
 5/16 Minor dot in downstroke of "6" of value.
 5/20 Distinct white dot under "T" of SOUTH.
 6/ 3 Minor dot behind left ear.
 6/ 4 Dot on chin.
 6/ 6 Minor dot over left eyebrow.
 6/ 7 Dot under right eye.
 6/13 Horizontal line across top of head under SOUTH AFRICA.
 6/14 Brown blob next to right cheek.
 6/15 Same as 6/13.
 6/16 Dot on forehead.
 6/17 Same as 6/13.
 6/18 Same as 6/13.
 6/19 Small brown oblique line under "E" of PRETORIA.
 6/20 Brown "gash" and dot on forehead.

New Printing of the Current 2/6 Animal Stamp

A note in the Union Study Corner of the November 1955 issue of "The O.F.S. Philatelic Magazine" records information by Mr. M. Sacks . . . "that new supplies of the 2/6 denomination have now also the sheet numbers in red figures, not in black anymore."

Notes and Printing Flaws on the Animal Series

A Capetown reader draws attention to the fact that in the 4½d. animal stamps some sheets have the black sheet number opposite the 3rd stamp in the bottom left hand corner, i.e. next to the cylinder number 76/47, while in others the black number is opposite the fifth stamp which is some distance from the cylinder number.

This variation in the placing of the sheet number occurs in all printings from time to time and its position is really dependent on the setting of the mechanism for bringing the cyclometer into operation as the roll of paper travels

through the machine. The gear can be adjusted to cause the numbers to be printed in any position along half the length of the sheet and they will continue to show in the same position throughout the run of that particular printing or until some readjustment of the mechanism is carried out by the operators.

The letter from Capetown also notes two errors in the listing of varieties in back numbers of the "South African Philatelist" and the following corrections should be made:

November 1954—Page 198. Under the heading "2d. Cyl. 56", delete the variety against Row 3/8 and insert "Dot behind 'k' of AFRIKA."

January 1955—Page 1. Under the heading of "1½d. Leopard" correct "Row 12/25" to read "Row 12/5."

One further note mentions three printing flaws on stamps of the 2d. Animal series produced from Cylinder No. 56 which have not been previously recorded. They are as follows:

Row—

- 1/12 Dot behind right ear.
 8/10 "Bearded" Zebra.
 9/ 5 Extended "I" in Postgeld.

"Douane" Overprint on ½d. Warthog Stamp.

The appearance of the overprint DOUANE on the ½d. Warthog stamp for use in the payment of Customs Duty has been noted on mail matter received from England by Mr. H. A. Horman of Johannesburg.

The word DOUANE overprinted on Union postage stamps is not, as was recently stated by a contributor in an American contemporary, "the name of a large commercial house" or . . . "department store," but is the French version of CUSTOMS and such stamps are used for the payment of Custom duty on packets containing printed advertising matter addressed to persons in the Union from Overseas.

The charge is determined by the nett weight and is ½d. for packets under one ounce; from one to three ounces, 1d.; from three to five ounces, 2d.; from five to eight ounces, 3d. and thereafter to the nearest 1d. based on actual weight.

The sender is allowed to assess the duty at the rates mentioned above and then prepay the amount by affixing to the packet postage stamps of the Union overprinted DOUANE which are



obtainable at the office of the High Commissioner of the Union of South Africa in London.

The new stamp illustrated herewith takes the place of the 3d. Springbok Head postage stamp previously overprinted and used for the same purpose. Incidentally, the Afrikaans spelling of the word DOUANE which one frequently comes across in the Union itself, is DOEANE and the pronunciation is similar to the French.

THE PERFORATION OF THE COVENANT STAMPS

by

Dr. T. B. BERRY.

When discussing the Covenant stamps with Mr. Eric Walker, our attention was arrested by the apparent smaller perforation holes on certain sheets of the printing. Upon close examination of a large number of sheets, kindly placed at our disposal at the Philatelic Agency, Pretoria, we came to the conclusion that our observation was correct. Some sheets bore a general perforation hole of a smaller gauge — the difference being apparent to the naked eye.

The condition may be accounted for by the fact that two different multiple-row perforators (eleven-row perforators) had been used, a newer one and one which had seen more service, and that during the printing of the stamps, the perforating device had been changed.

Consideration of the design of the perforator will elucidate the condition. The pins of the perforator are conical in shape, and are set in the perforating device so that their apices point away from the paper, while the bases of the pins point towards the paper, and come in contact with the paper to perform the act of perforation. With usage, the edge surrounding the base of the pins becomes dull, slightly rounded, thereby impairing the cutting efficiency of the pins. To restore the cutting edge of the pins, an extremely light skin of metal is machined off the bases of all the pins, and thus the size of the base of the pins is correspondingly reduced. A repetition of this "sharpening" process results in pins of a reduced diameter. Consequently, a perforation, holding pins of this description, will punch smaller perforation holes, and if it is replaced on the printing machine by another perforator, particularly a less worn one, the perforation holes of the sheets subsequently printed, will be larger, which is the condition under consideration.

On further examination of the sheets, it was observed:

1. That the four-figure red cyclometer number, which is imprinted twice on the right vertical margin, appeared opposite the 3rd and 4th, and the 14th and 15th horizontal rows on the sheets containing the smaller perforation holes, whereas the number was positioned one stamp higher on the sheets containing the larger holes, namely opposite the 2nd and 3rd, and the 13th and 14th horizontal rows.

2. That the "strike" of the eleven-row perforator was not in the same position on the two sheets, but was one complete row of stamps out. In the printing containing the small holes, the perforator included rows one to eleven in one strike, and rows 12, to the bottom margin and the top margin in its next strike, the junction of the two strikes of the perforator being between rows 11 and 12.

In the printing of the larger holes, the perforator included the top margin to the 10th horizontal row, and the 11th row to the bottom margin in its two consecutive strikes — the junction of the two strikes being between the 10th and 11th rows.

3. The sheets containing the small perforation holes were the first ones to be issued to the Philatelic Agency at Pretoria, and on being exhausted, have now been followed by a further supply bearing the larger perforation variety. It would thus appear that the small perf.-hole printing was the first, but if the sheets were stocked after being printed, and the distribution to the various post offices had been made from the top of the pile, the reverse would be the case. Unfortunately, it is not possible to determine the condition, nor to offer an explanation as to the interchange of perforators during the printing process. Suffice it, therefore, to forewarn readers of the two types of perforation, and to pass on the information in an attempt to enliven an otherwise disappointing issue.

GREAT BRITAIN SPECIALIST SOCIETY

A move is afoot to form what we suppose might alternatively be called a "Great Britain Study Circle". Those specialists actively concerned were to have an inaugural meeting at "The Royal" on 3rd December. The convener, Mr. R. A. G. Lee, of 24 Chelmsford Square, London N.W.10 would be pleased to hear from anyone who might be interested in this venture and possibly contemplate joining up.

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"HOPE"

When Officially opening TEPPEX, the Hon. J. J. Serfontein, Minister of Posts and Telegraphs spoke as follows. He spoke mainly in Afrikaans; Mr. J. D. Rossouw has made the translation.

"In thanking the Chairman for his welcome this morning I am indeed honoured and gratified to be called upon to open this unique exhibition, and immediately wish to state that the Chairman, all present and myself disagree with those persons who assert that stamp collectors are mad. We regard ourselves as rational beings and that is why we are present. To preserve the beautiful and attractive from the past is a certain guarantee of the continuation thereof for the future and this is true of all times and generations and is aptly expressed in Nederlands

"In 't verleden ligt het heden
In 't nu wat worden zal".

which freely translated reads "The past mirrors the present and the present the shape of things to come."

The progress and development of a nation is mirrored by the country's modes of communication; it is noteworthy that from the beginning of time the uplift of a nation and the development of a country is always most clearly reflected in the manner in which the ideals are preserved from generation to generation and handed on to posterity. In what we collect from the past and the present for retention for the future lies not only in the glory of the past, but also faith in the future. Were it not for you here this morning as well as the thousands interested in the collection and preservation of stamps and ancient documents, such as are on exhibition here to-day, many of the irreplaceable cultural gems of the past would have been lost to us as a nation as well as to the world in general.

The urge to collect and save has been in evidence from the earliest times even before stamps were used for the delivery of communications. The mile stones in the development of our nation dates from the use of post office stones on the shores of Table Bay and the large old "Melkhout" tree at Mossel Bay, likewise the stamps collected and preserved by all who have the time and money available for the accumulation of these valuable relics.

To a large extent the mode of life of a country is also reflected in its stamps. The date of issue largely determines what is presented thereon, we find that "Hope" appears on the first issue made in this country in 1853, this was indicative of the hopes which our forebears cherished for the growth and advancement of a young nation and for the future of its fatherland.

By post we communicate between country and country, nation and nation, household and household, and heart and heart. Throughout the centuries these good influences made their presence felt. A letter has two prerequisites. It must be stamped and clearly franked and should be legibly addressed. The art of collecting in which you indulge is like a letter which clearly bears the imprint of the past and is addressed to posterity, and carries a

message of good wishes and mutual respect and trust.

The symbol of Hope is not only a beautiful memory of the past but also serves as a firm foundation upon which to build for the future.

Ever since South African stamps became available they have been well known and have always been keenly sought after by Philatelists throughout the world. This is the reason, why this exhibition, whilst not an international one, has nevertheless excited interest in circles far beyond the boundaries of our country. This is borne out by the display from the reference collection of the United Kingdom and direct participation by the American Philatelic Association.

This exhibition coincides with the Pretoria Centenary celebrations and a fitting tribute is paid to the postal history of the Transvaal. Organised postal services came into being there under the aegis of Mr. H. Jeppe in 1850. The first postage stamps were issued in 1867 and I am informed that so great was the demand by interested parties and collectors throughout the world that the entire issue was bought up by collectors.

I extend my best wishes for a pleasant and successful meeting to the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa which is holding its Annual Congress this week, may old friendships be renewed and new ones cemented.

It is my privilege and pleasure to declare this exhibition open.

PRINCIPAL T. B. DAVIE.

We regret very sincerely the news received from England of the death of Dr. T. B. Davie, Principal of the University of Capetown, on Tuesday, 14th December, 1955.

Known to many of his students and to a wider circle throughout South Africa as a keen philatelist, he brought to his studies of stamps the same scientific spirit that characterised his research work in medicine before he became immersed in administrative work. He communicated several papers on Union stamps to our magazine, his last being no longer ago than August and September, 1955.

The following short account of his career is taken from the 'Rand Daily Mail'.

Dr. Davie, in addition to being principal of the University of Cape Town, was also its vice-chancellor and he was a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. He was born in Prieska.

In 1914 he took the arts degree at the University of Stellenbosch and was a school teacher in Johannesburg during the time of the Rand rebellion when he was wounded in the leg.

During World War I he served with the Royal Flying Corps.

He started his medical education at the University of Liverpool in 1924 and was a junior lecturer there from 1933 to 1935. His first chair was at Bristol University from 1935 to 1937. But he returned to Liverpool on his appointment to the George Holt chair of pathology. In 1945 he was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the Liverpool University, and held that position until he was appointed Principal of the University of Cape Town in 1948.

CORRESPONDENCE

KRUGER ESSAYS

The Editor,

The South African Philatelist.

I have to inform you that the article about the current issue of Kruger stamps by Dr. K. Freund in the December, 1955 issue of the South African Philatelist consists of fallacious suppositions based on false premises.

In the first place, the photograph on which the stamp is based is authentic — indeed it bears President Kruger's signature. The photo was taken by a different photographer from that mentioned by Dr. Freund and in fact in another country.

Secondly, an exact replica of the photograph was made by the artist except that, as stated, he was requested to draw the outline of the top hat more distinctly as otherwise it would have been quite shapeless in the final printing of the stamp. This was only done after careful consideration.

The owner of the photograph — who is a descendant of President Kruger's — requested that particulars should not be published. The fact that the Department had to respect his wishes was also explained to Dr. Freund who was in any case assured in writing that there was no doubt about the genuineness of the photo.

Yours sincerely,

L. C. BURKE,
Postmaster-General.

SPRINGBOK ½d. LONDON PRINT.

The Editor,

South African Philatelist.

Sir,

The acquisition of a complete sheet of the London printing of the first Springbok has raised some difficulties in my mind, and I hope some of your readers may be able to assist in solving them.

The sheet is entirely normal as to shades, perforation and general aspect but it was rather a shock to find that of the ten varieties listed in the Handbook only a single one was present, namely, the "extended left limb of 'A' on 20/9. This has its usual appearance. In particular, the 'retouched ear' on 8/6 does not appear. Unfortunately, I have never been able to procure a copy of this retouch so cannot pursue this question further but — how does one build up a new surface on an electro?

The other flaws could all be due to particles of dried ink, etc., becoming impacted in the recesses on the electro. In this way they would appear as coloured areas, reducing the size and altering the appearance of letters, etc. Since they were all absent, it seemed likely that my sheet came from a very early state of the plate. It must however, be reported that it was not absolutely the first state for the "extended left limb" flaw showed normally whereas in its first state there is only a slightly prolonged serif to the A not joined on to the thickened white line adjoining. I do not know whether this has been reported before but my single copy (in a mint strip) seems clear enough.

Now for another point. On 9/3 there is a flaw involving the upper side of the lower bar and the area adjacent. It is about 5 mm. wide and is a fuzzy speckled, white flaw such as one finds commonly enough on electro prints, including the Pretoria prints of this same Springbok. I have another large block showing this 9/3 flaw and in both cases the lowest edge of the adjoining stamp, 9/4, is slightly abnormal. If this largest of flaws is really constant, as it appears to be, how has it escaped the catalogue? and how did the electro get worn so early in its life?

Finally stamp 15/8 shows a very fine flaw of the "open D" variety. It also affects the letter D and the whole of the right side of the letter is missing. It seems unlikely that it should be unknown to collectors if it is constant, but is it?

Yours sincerely,

GORDON WARD.

PRETORIA STAMP EXHIBITION

The Editor,

S.A. Philatelist.

Sir,

Art Exhibition would in my opinion be a more fitting description. Where else can one see this amazing mass display of drawings, sketches, photographs, maps, calendars, exposés on art, geography, zoology, painters, musicians etc.; in short, practically everything except one little item, the postage stamps I came to see. Where are the times when collecting stamps meant what the word implies, namely forming and whenever required displaying of stamps of one country, either in full or in part? The new revolutionary trend our hobby has obviously taken has left me simply bewildered. Much as all the many artistic talents shown on the occasion of this Exhibition are to be admired they cannot disguise the clear fact that they have after all little to do with the origin and aims of genuine stamp collecting, which appears to be in serious danger of being distorted and misguided.

It should be interesting to hear other collectors' views, and I hope, Mr. Editor, you will open the columns of your paper to them.

STAMP COLLECTOR.

(Stamp Collecting of to-day, may have changed its direction somewhat in the hands of many collectors, but the "Impressions" by A Visitor published in our December issue seem to indicate that there were quite a lot of stamps to be seen at TEPPEX. What do others think? —Ed.)

MARION ISLAND.

The "Gamtoos" arrived back in Capetown from the island at the end of November but cover collectors have been sadly disappointed.

Although the Acting Postmasters there have never had a date-stamp for cancelling stamps, in the past they have applied an official cachet which indicated clearly that the cover had been posted at the island.

This custom has now apparently been abandoned for some collectors (possibly all) have had their covers returned with an intimation from the post office that mail sent for posting at the island was no longer being marked there in any way.

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proofs and great rarities.

Catalogues will soon be available and any-
body in South Africa requiring a copy of this
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who assisted in the cataloguing of this collec-
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SHORT NOTICES

Orange Free State Study Circle. This group of enthusiasts, numbering only 36, may be small but they are extremely active.

The amount of new material they are digging out in connection with the stamps and postal history of the O.F.S. and O.R.C. is simply amazing. Philatelically this territory is generally looked upon as a "dead country", but if you are at all interested in it, and have seen the Bulletins published by the circle, you would soon discover that it is very much alive.

There are members in various parts of the world, but not so many in South Africa as there might be. We would strongly recommend all serious O.F.S. collectors to join up; the Bulletin alone is well worth the annual subscription of £1 1s. Write to its Hon. Editor, Mr. S. G. Laurence, 11 Beech Avenue, Horsforth, Yorks., England.

B.W.I. Philatelist. If this group of British Colonial stamp issuing territories be your fancy, it would be worth your while getting the "B.W.I. Philatelist" published by Mr. E. F. Aguilar, Box 406, Kingston, Jamaica, at 10/6 per annum. It contains many interesting items on the stamps, postmarks and postal history of the British West Indies.

FRANCE

The Minister of Posts reports the issue on 11th November of a 12 fr. stamp featuring the head of the writer Gérard de Nerval, who died in 1885.

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Brakpan,
Transvaal.

REVIEW.

Stanley Gibbons' Simplified Catalogue, 1956.
(S.G. Ltd., 391 Strand, London W.C.2. Price 18/6).

There is obviously a demand for a catalogue of this type as otherwise it would not have "come of age" with its 21st edition. Originally it listed some 50,000 stamps, now there are 90,000; this in spite of cutting out all varieties of watermark, perforation, shade, minor differences of design and other varieties. The prices given are those of the cheapest variety of the stamp listed. There are 65 pages more than in last year's edition and the publishers are wondering how much longer even a simplified listing can be contained in a single volume.

ANTARCTIC NOTES

Relatively speaking it looks as if Post Offices will be rather crowded in the Antarctic for the next year or two.

Elsewhere (under U.S.A.) we have noted that the American Navy's expedition "Deep Freeze" is to have several P.O.'s on its ships and (?) ashore.

Australia is busy at Mawson and has already reported finding a new mountain range some hundred odd miles inland.

A Russian expedition is reported as having sailed to set up a base somewhere to the west of the Australians at Mawson.

France has had Madagascar stamps overprinted for use in Kerguelen, St. Paul-Amsterdam Is., and Adelie Land, but whether or not there is to be a regular expedition is not yet known.

A British Commonwealth Expedition is to set up a base at Vahsel Bay, in the extreme south of the Weddell Sea and they are to have specially overprinted Falkland Islands Dependencies stamps. It is proposed to make a trans-Antarctic crossing to the Ross Sea, no doubt calling in on the Americans at the South Pole en route.

There are rumours of a Norwegian Expedition and possibly also of some others.

ALUMINIUM STAMPS

Anything other than paper has only very very rarely been used for printing stamps on. (The so-called gold-beaters' skin used in Prussia 1866 will be thought of, although that was actually a paper rendered transparent with resin).

Hungary has set a new fashion by printing stamps on thin aluminium foil. According to the "Philatelic Trader" a 5 ct. value was issued in October to mark an International Congress of Light Metal Industry. The stamps have no watermark, they are benzine-sensitive and only 60,000 were printed.

PHILIPPINES

The Bureau of Posts reports the issue on 12th December of two airmail stamps (30c. and 70c.) featuring respectively Lt. Basa and Lt. Goza, two heroic airmen who lost their lives fighting Japanese in 1941.

U.N.O.

Two stamps (3c. and 8c.) were scheduled for issue on 9 December, honouring Human Rights Day. They have been designed by an English member of the International Panel of Stamp Designers, and printed by Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, London.

AIR MAIL NOTES

COCOS (Keeling) ISLANDS. The administration of this group of Islands in the Indian Ocean was transferred from Singapore to Australia on the 23rd November, 1955. As this is an important point of call on the Australia to South Africa air route QANTAS, the operating Company, commemorated the event by affixing a purple cachet to mail matter posted on that date, the inscription on which reads: "COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS — MAINLAND/Inauguration of domestic postal services." An aeroplane is depicted flying between Cocos Islands and Perth, which is an anachronism as this section of the route was discontinued the previous month when larger aeroplanes were introduced, and Darwin was substituted for Perth as a point of call.

Mails posted at Cocos Islands on the 23rd November reached Johannesburg on the 5th December.

AEROGRAMMES

SWAZILAND. — The overprinted 6d. aerogramme with the word "POSGELD" described in the August Air Mail Notes apparently had a very short life, for the Postmaster at Mbabane states that the following consignment received from Pretoria were of the old type with the word "POSSEEL". This promises to be a scarce item as, shortly, Swaziland will have its own definitive Aerogramme or Air Letter sheet.

I. H. C. GODFREY.

AUSTRALIA

A letter receiving box was placed on the top of Mt. Kosciusko on 23rd December. This will be cleared once a week during the summer season and mail posted in it will be given a pictorial type of hand postmarker, which will include the words "The Summit, Mt. Kosciusko, N.S.W., Roof of Australia" and will also indicate the height, 7,308 ft.

The Pan-Pacific Scout Jamboree held at Clifford Park, near Melbourne from 28 Dec., 1955 to 9th Jan., 1956, had a temporary post-office and at least three different special pictorial post-markers.

Australia has had its first big stamp printing error.

Two copies have been reported of the 3½d. Y.M.C.A. stamp issued last August, with the red triangle missing.

U.S.A.

The 7c. of the new ordinary series, bearing a portrait of Woodrow Wilson has been announced for issue on 10 January.

The U.S. Navy's Expedition "Deepfreeze" left for the Antarctic in November and the ships will carry both special cancellers and official cachets. There will be three cancellers used, reading: (1) Little America, Antarctica, USN; (2) Byrd Station, Antarctica, USN; (3) Pole Station, Antarctica, USN. No guarantee can be given which cancellation will be used on any particular mail matter.

The catalogue of the 2nd Caspary Sale, covering U.S.A. issues from 1847 to 1861, is announced by Messrs. H. R. Harmer Inc. as likely to be the largest philatelic auction catalogue ever issued. It will run to nearly 200 pages and many of the illustrations will be enlargements.

NEW REPUBLIC STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY

J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

(Continued from page 163 of September, 1955 issue.)

C. The Adhesive Stamps.

I do not propose to list or describe these in full detail, as that would mean practically only copying the listing given in Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue, but some comments on them seem to be required and what I have to say is largely based on Tamsen's writings or on the paper by C. A. Stonehill, "New Republic — Used and Abused", London Philatelist, Vol. LX, 1951, p. 97.

When I started getting together notes on the New Republic stamps I realised how much I was indebted to what Mr. Stonehill had already written about them in the paper just mentioned.

I sent him a copy of my first draft notes, together with some specific queries. He replied and suggested that we might possibly combine in a joint communication and so avoid the frequent recurrence of "Stonehill says this" and "Stonehill says that". I welcomed the proposal, but unfortunately it did not materialise, owing to the development of ill-health on this part. This led to his death in the early part of 1955.

He had, however, sent me some answers to my queries, together with some notes of his own. In the circumstances therefore, it is necessary to quote him frequently, and I have made full use of his notes, with, of course, due acknowledgement of their origin.

In the first place one must touch on the question as to whether or not all the many values were really necessary and whether or not the higher values were ever postally used. That any value may have been used for fiscal or revenue purposes can be taken as granted but on the point of whether or not higher values were ever postally used there is a great difference of opinion.

The extreme view at one end of the scale is as given in Robson Lowe's "Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps" Vol. II, Africa, p. 67, where it is stated "only the 1d. and 2d. values were recognised as valid for postal duty . . . the others were manufactured for and delighted the hearts of early stamp collectors."

Stonehill represents the other end of the scale and makes out a good case for there having been a real need for high values for postal use and that some did do real postal duty. The answer to why there was a need lies in the one word 'Gold'. He refers to Tamsen's earlier writings where it is stated that

there was gold prospecting in the New Republic and that samples of supposed gold-bearing quartz were sent by post for analysis. This, of course, is similar to what happened in the early Rhodesian days, when even higher value stamps than the New Republic ever had, were used for sending gold parcels by post.

In his article in Gibbons Monthly Journal, 1903, (written fully ten years later and presumably representing a matured, considered opinion) Tamsen states categorically that all the stamps were available for postal, telegraphic and fiscal use, adding "the high values, above 10/-, were seldom used postally, but I have seen all values up to £1 used on parcels. Many of the obliterated specimens come off old telegrams, but used copies of any kind are scarce."

I hate appearing to throw a spanner in the works, but Tamsen did not remain constant in his views in later life about the postal use of high value New Republic stamps.

I had occasion to write to him in 1946, asking his opinion about four fairly high value stamps (I forget their exact denominations now), apparently postally used. This was before I had read his articles. Here is his reply quoted exactly:—

"All four have been used for fiscal purposes. 6d. and 1/- are the only high values which can come postally used. There was no parcel post or telegraph in those days. The date hand-stamp would cancel any value if the clerk was too lazy to write his initials."

This of course, is completely as variance with the categorical statement of 1903 quoted above. Which is one to believe?

I have tried in various ways to get confirmation of the possible use of high values on parcels or on telegrams, but with no success.

Attempts to get information from "old-timers" who might have been in touch with Vryheid in New Republic days and known whether gold parcels were sent by post or not, have led nowhere — no information either for or against.

A search through official Post Office records (for the making of which I am indebted to the Publicity Officer of the Post Office) does not encourage one to believe that there were telegraphic facilities at Vryheid in New Republic days. There is no mention of a telegraph office there in the Annual Reports or in the Post Office Guides of either the Z.A.R.

or of Cape Colony during the period 1884-1888. (It should be stated that the publications of both these territories gave lists of post-offices with the range of services provided, in countries adjacent to them). The first mention found of Vryheid being linked up telegraphically was of date 1891, when, of course, it was part of the Z.A.R. and no longer of the New Republic. Such evidence as there is therefore is against the use of high value N.R. stamps telegraphically.

Unfortunately we have nothing but Tamsen's statements to go by in deciding this matter. To-day the only recorded used New Republic stamps on cover or on piece large enough to be identified as having been through the post, are the 1d. and 2d. values. Stonehill, in writing to me, states that he knows of no others either.

Stonehill sums up his article by saying "There can be no doubt but that a genuine need existed for stamps of medium and high value nor any longer, I hope, any doubt but that such values were actually and properly used."

It is quite possible — one might even say, highly probable, that some high values were cancelled to order, or by favour, without ever really doing postal duty. How else is one to account for cancelled stamps with full gum, or on pieces of paper which, whatever they may have been, were certainly not pieces of envelopes? Be it remembered also that the New Republic postal officials stemmed from the Transvaal and that many of the Transvaal postal officials of the period were very addicted to capitalising on philatelic interests.

Stonehill illustrates in his article a number of "used" high values (up to £1), as substantiating Tamsen's views about their postal usage. These, however, are not on cover or even on piece, and I am not much impressed by their value as evidence; they might quite well belong to the "cancelled to order" group.

Now to come to the actual stamps.

According to Tamsen, D. J. Esselen, the State Secretary, went to Europe in 1885 and there purchased apparatus and a supply of paper for the local manufacture of stamps. The paper was ready perforated 11½ and gummed. He says: The machine, if such it can be called consisted of a rubber stamp, with moveable figures for values and dates, similar to those in general use in offices. In his earlier papers he speaks either of just "a handstamp" or "a machine."

That it was a **rubber stamp** seems to have been accepted without question until quite recently. Stonehill did not question the matter in his paper, but in his letter to me he appears to have been studying his stamps more closely and he now queries the **rubber** in no uncertain manner, maintaining it must have been a metal stamper.

His argument in favour of a metal rather than a rubber stamp is as follows:

- (a) There is very little variation in the breadth of the impressions of the letters, whether the impression be a light or a heavy one. Similarly with the width of the frame line.

There would have been more variation with a rubber stamp, especially after it had been in use for some time.

- (b) It seems impossible to envisage a gadget like the ordinary post office handstamps where the changing of the date and time is done by a rotating wheel. There was both the value and the date to be altered.
- (c) He postulates a metal stamp with horizontal slots into which the figures of value and the dates could be slipped. The values must have been made up by single figures and letters, otherwise one would not get such variations as "5s. 6d." and "5/6" or "3s." and "4/s.", for example. Such an arrangement would immediately account for the fact that the position of the value varies continually horizontally but not vertically. Also it would explain why the letters "d" and "s" in the values are often found somewhat crooked in position. Such a multitude of moveable type can be readily envisaged in metal but not in rubber.

I discussed this problem with a printer who had formerly been in the Government Printing Works. Incidentally he had also recently been in charge of a large collection of New Republic stamps, which contained a number of large blocks, almost full sheets. His views were:

- (1) That the printing could not have been done with a small handstamp of about the size commonly used in the post office for date stamping. The alignment in sheets was far too good for such printing to have been possible. He was certain it must have been done with a small machine probably one with a frame about 6-7 inches high and a spring which lifted the stamp after each impression. Such a machine could have been guided along a ruler or block of wood to give the alignment. "Rolling" would also have been practically absent with such a machine.
- (2) He did not feel certain about the question of Rubber v. Metal, feeling that rubber might have been possible, although other features favoured metal.
- (3) He agreed that rotating wheels were out of the question for changing values and dates. Moveable slugs must have been used in some way and this would certainly have been easier to arrange for with a metal die than with a rubber one.
- (4) He could not quite follow how Mr. Stonehill's idea of a horizontal slot or horizontal slots would have worked, but, as he said, this kind of printing was rather off the line of printing with which he had been associated.

So there we are on the question of Rubber v. Metal! But just exactly where I am not certain. I feel, however, that Mr. Stonehill has made out a strong case against the slavish acceptance of the rubber handstamp view.

I had hopes that it might be possible even at this late date to obtain objective proof by tracking down the machine in Pretoria if, as Tamsen states (see later) it was sent there

when the New Republic merged with the Transvaal. But, alas!

The Postal Museum had no record of ever having had it or seen it. I got one of the staff of the Transvaal Museum (a keen philatelist) to search for it there, as that institution originally had the Z.A.R. collection of stamps and still has the Otto plates of the Transvaal stamps. But nothing could be found.

The printing of the stamps at Vryheid is described by Tamsen as having been done one stamp at a time by one or more of the Treasurer-General's clerks, and in his office usually as overtime work after ordinary business hours. Usually a few sheets of each value were printed at one time and when these were used up a fresh lot was made.

During the whole of 1886 each stamp was dated, the dates being those of the printing and not necessarily the date of issue.

An embossing machine was then obtained, but from where or just when it was brought into use is not known. This had the coat-of-arms of the Republic and each stamp was embossed with this, usually again one at a time, although some stamps have the embossing so faintly done as to suggest that sometimes several sheets were put under the machine at once. The embossing was done usually after the printing of the stamps, but again apparently not invariably.

Tamsen makes a curious, repeated, mistake in his illustrated description of the embossed coat of arms. The motto of the New Republic appearing on the ribband under the shield, and as can be made out on the stamps where the embossing is clear, is "EENDRAGT REGTVAARDIGHEID EN LIEFDE". He features it as "EINDRAGT MAAKT MAGT"; This is the Z.A.R. motto, but even so, not quite correct, with "EINDRAGT" instead of "EENDRAGT".

For a period one gets stamps both dated (1886 and early 1887) and embossed, then the dating was dropped and the embossing only appears on the stamps.

According to Tamsen the printing was on the whole good except for the 1d. and 2d. of 30 Aug, 86 although there are numerous small printing flaws such as double or partially double impressions, defective or missing letters, bad centering on the paper, etc. Some major errors such as letters or figures missing, and embossing omitted, are listed in Gibbons, and of course tête-bêche items must be mentioned.

Two kinds of paper were used for the stamps, yellow and blue granite but it has not been discovered why two types were employed, if there was any special reason. Tamsen toys with two possible reasons but he did not accept either as satisfying. One possible reason might have been that one colour was intended for postal stamps and the other for revenue stamps; if this were so the intention was not adhered to. A second possibility might have been that one colour was intended for stamps used at headquarters, the other for stamps supplied to country offices; he dismisses this explanation with the remark that it would only have caused

confusion. Actually the two papers appear to have been used indiscriminately or on no apparent principle.

UNCATALOGUED VARIETIES.

Having some uncatalogued varieties and having noted others in various collections a short listing of these may not come amiss, although it is not claimed that the list is complete; perhaps it is not even anything like it. Stamp Nos. given are those of Gibbons' listing in catalogues prior to their revision in the 1955 catalogue.

Unrecorded dates. A 10s. 6d. on blue granite paper dated 6 SEP 86. A 1s. on blue granite paper dated 2 JUL 86. A 1s. 6d. on blue granite paper; pair with Arms tête-bêche. I know there are others coming under this heading, but have lost the reference to them.

Month before Day in date. Some such varieties are recorded; others are Nos. 77, 138, and 164 (additions to the normals of these dates).

Wide spacing between 6 and SEP in dates. Nos. 18, 30, 35, 39 and 42.

"7" in date dropped in level. Nos. 139, 156, 170; and 185.

Stem of "7" in date short. Nos. 63a and 87. **"d" and/or "s" in values slanting.** Nos. 58, 66, 83, 84, 114, 175, 180, 189, 196 and 209.

"6" of "6d." omitted. No. 99. (Similar to 58a). **Double Printing** (a) Involving the whole stamp, Nos. 51b, 126, 227 and 229. (b) Involving only parts, Nos. 27, 50, 85, 98, 105, 107, 170, 197, 200, 202, 211, 212, 213, 221 and 231.

Defective Printing. Missing letters or even words and partially printed letters are fairly common. They seem to be most common in "Zuid Afrika". Seen in 7, 9, 15, 18, 42, 47, 80, 83, 91, 154, 196, 197, 202, 211, 212, 222 and 229. A block of eighteen of No. 19 has "Zuid" entirely missing from one stamp in the block. Defects in other words are not common.

Misplacements. Nos. 212 and 213 with the "6d." and "6d." much to the right of the centre.

Imperforation — whole or partial. Vertically Nos. 27, 76, 171, 217, 202, 224 and 227. Horizontally, Nos. 20, 43, 80 and 224. Both ways, Nos. 61, 196, 202 and 211.

Embossing varieties. Clearly double, No. 150. Embossed from the wrong side, Nos. 162, 165, 178 and 191. Embossed from both sides, No. 190.

It may be noted that the Royal Collection, as listed by Sir John Wilson, contains quite a few otherwise unrecorded items, both unlisted dates and various printing flaws or errors.

Proofs or Essays.

There is no record of the total number of stamps printed.

In the official collection in Pretoria there was a sheet of stamps reported by Tamsen as a "proof sheet." This consisted of seven horizontal rows, six of them with eight stamps, the seventh with only four. The arrangement of values on the sheet is shewn on the accompanying sketch.

6d	6d	4d	4d	4d	3d	3d	3d
6d	6d	9d	9d	9d	1s	1s	1s
2/6	2/6	2/-	2/-	2/-	1/6	1/6	1/6
2/6	3s	3s	3s	4s	4s	4s	5s
7/6	7/6	7/6	5/6	5/6	5/6	5s	5s
£1	£1	10/-	10/-	10/-	10/6	10/6	10/6
£1	30/-	30/-	30/-				

This sheet is a yellow paper one with the Republic coat-of-arms correctly embossed on each stamp. Actually it is still in the Pretoria postal museum, and is as described by Tamsen, except that one stamp, the second 6d. in the top row, has been removed.

At the Cape Town International Stamp Exhibition of March-April, 1952 Mr. Stonehill had a New Republic exhibit. In this he showed what he regarded as an Essay; this is an impression from the usual handstamp on thick blue laid paper, imperforate, the value expressed being £7 10s.

The printing of all the stamps, with one exception, was done with violet ink; the exception was in the case of the stamps with the earliest known date — 9 Jan 86 — some of which are in black in addition to others in the usual violet.

In July, 1888, when the New Republic merged into the Z.A.R. it is recorded by Tamsen that the stamps on hand were sent to Pretoria where the P.M.G., after keeping them for a little while, disposed of them to local collectors. The lower denominations were sold at face value, the higher at a discount. In the Annual Reports of the P.M.G. of the Z.A.R. the amounts received from the sale of the remainders of New Republic stamps are given as follows: 1889, £6 11s. 7d.; 1890, £61 5s. 6d.; 1891 £21 11s. 0d.; 1892, £1 6s. 6d. The handstamp and embossing machine were also sent to Pretoria but their ultimate fate is unknown. He also reports hearing that no blank sheets used for printing the stamps on were sent; either the stock had been all used up or it was disposed of locally as waste paper.

(To be continued.)

UNION 4d. TRIANGULARS

[The following letter (which was found by Mr. John Mendelssohn in a recently purchased collection of Union stamps) was written by Messrs. Bradbury Wilkinson & Company to an enquirer about these stamps. As it contains information hitherto unpublished, Mr. Mendelssohn suggests it should be published in full. We have pleasure in doing so; the only part not included is the name and address of the individual to whom the letter was written.—Ed.]

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your favour of the 8th inst. enclosing copies of letters received from the

High Commissioner's Office of the Union of South Africa, informing you that you are at liberty to apply to us for particulars regarding the postage stamps we are printing for the Union Government.

I beg to answer your questions in connection with the 4d. triangular stamps as follows:—

1. There was no actual design prepared for this issue, our instructions being to reproduce the old Cape stamps, simply changing the lettering. Therefore, one cannot say that there was any actual artist responsible for this design.

2. As to why a triangular imperforate stamp was issued I really cannot say, and I can only imagine that it was done in order to make this issue as similar as possible to the old Cape stamps.

3. They were not printed bi-lingually on one sheet for the reason that our original instructions were that all these stamps were to be cut singly and put up in envelopes of 60. This being the case it obviously did not matter whether they alternated English and Dutch on the sheet or not. As a matter of fact, they were printed in sheets of 240 stamps, 120 English and 120 Dutch.

4. We received an order to print 3,000,000 of these stamps of which we delivered to the High Commissioner's Office, London, the following:—

125	Sheets of 120 English	—	15,000 stamps.
125	Sheets of 120 Dutch	—	15,000 stamps.
75	Sheets of 60 English	—	4,500 stamps.
75	Sheets of 60 Dutch	—	4,500 stamps.
75	Envelopes of 60 English	—	4,500 stamps.
75	Envelopes of 60 Dutch	—	4,500 stamps.

48,000 stamps.

The balance was sent to South Africa, but cut singly and put up in envelopes. Of this balance 75,000 English and 75,000 Dutch stamps were overprinted in black for use in South West Africa.

5. I cannot answer your question as to why only sheets of stamps were delivered in London, although when we were asked to do this, I pointed out to the High Commissioner's Office that unless stamps were obtainable in sheets in South Africa, it was obvious that the few sheets which were sold in London would soon be at a considerable premium. I might add that we have since received a fresh order for an additional 3,000,000 of these stamps of which 400 sheets evenly divided between English and Dutch are to be sent to South Africa, and a similar quantity to the High Commissioner's Office in London. As far as I know the balance of this new order will be cut singly as before.

With reference to the reports in the Press of new colour trials being made for this triangular stamp, I would say that the stamps which have been issued are printed in a fugitive ink, and this has caused some criticism with regard to the colour, and it has been suggested that on future orders we use our ordinary plate ink. However, this question is still under discussion, and no proofs of other shades have been submitted.

You may be interested to know that we have received orders for 2d., 3d., 1/-, 2/6, 5/- and 10/- stamps all to be plate printed in two colours, but no designs have been approved of these new values as yet.

Yours faithfully,

SOCIETY NEWS

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

October 3rd. Dr. Reiserer, recently returned from overseas, provided the fare for this occasion. In a most interesting talk he surveyed trends in the philatelic world in the countries he visited while abroad, with particular reference to his experiences in Germany. Much of what we were told was absolutely new to the majority of us so that, as well, the evening was a most instructive one. A short exhibit of selected German items followed Dr. Reiserer's talk.

October 17th. Our friends from the East Rand Philatelic Society paid us their annual visit and certainly surpassed our expectations in the entertainment that they provided.

Mr. W. N. Sheffield brought along his collection of sheets or part sheets of the Rotogravure issues of the Union of South Africa. When we record viewing a complete sheet of the 1½d. large gold-mine with missing background and a complete sheet of the ½d. 'cross-hatch' printings amongst others an idea can be formed of the magnificence of the material we were privileged to see. Mr. Sheffield modestly claims that the 1½d. sheet referred to above is probably the most valuable Rotogravure printing item of this country. Catalogued at 100/- per pair his claim seems a slight understatement of value.

Mr. E. Rigg tabled an extremely interesting collection of covers collected during the 1939-45 War when the collecting of stamps themselves was made very difficult indeed on account of the exigencies then existing. In all innocence, but probably not, Mr. Riggs has acquired some most interesting items of postal stationery which are today very difficult to locate anywhere.

Mr. Sam Legator, who led the East Rand Delegation, could not be outdone by his co-members and he produced a magnificent collection of Unions for us to digest. This collection had recently been exhibited at the Stockholm International Exhibition where it won an award so that the standard of the exhibit left absolutely nothing to be desired. Essays and proofs were there in profusion while all the rare London printing pictorials, Pretoria tete-beches and numerous imperforate items were there in almost completion. Altogether an outstanding show, and to Mr. Legator and his supporters from East Rand go our sincere thanks for a wonderful philatelic feast.

November 7th. The annual visit from the Afrikaanse Filatelistiese Vereniging van Pretoria took place and again a thoroughly enjoyable and entertaining programme was provided for us by our visitors.

The exhibits were as follows:-

(1) Mr. de Swardt—a mint collection of Southern Rhodesia.

(2) Prof. Gonin—a collection of the Pro-Juventute Issues of Swaziland.

(3) Mr. van Proosdy—a collection of Egypt and Turkey.

The exhibits covered a wide, and for a number of us, novel field and certainly made us aware of the interest attached to the collecting of stamps from countries that are not so popular amongst us.

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The **November** meeting was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed.

Mr. Leo Hellman reported on Congress and the Pretoria Exhibition. He paid glowing tributes to the splendid organisation both of Congress and the Exhibition and also to the very kind hospitality provided for delegates.

One new member (Overseas) was elected. Members were very pleased to learn that the Federation had decided to accept the Society's invitation to hold Congress here in 1959, when the Society will have been in existence for 50 years.

The action of the Secretary in extending the badge competition until the end of November was commended.

A competitive display took place, there being five entrants, and the displays were much enjoyed.

Mr. C. P. Durkin displayed the issues of Aden and St. Helena. Mr. Jack Sparkman thanked Mr. Durkin for the very fine display. Various items of philatelic interest were passed round and the usual auction was held. J.P.S.

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

November 7th. Mr. W. G. Combrink made a fine showing of the 1938 and 1945 issues of Nyasaland George VI, exhibiting some 160 sheets which illustrated the derivation of the designs, together with proofs and artists sketches. The plate and cyclo-meter markings were also shown in order to identify the various printings. M.F.S.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN.

November 10th. Mr. John Galbraith showed his early classics of Ceylon to a very large number of the members. These were a really fine collection and included among other rare items, all in fine condition, the 1857 half penny mint on blue paper, the 1859 1/9 yellow green mint, 1857 2d. green block of 20 used, 1859 4d. rose, 1857 5d. chestnut strip of three used, and 1862 only recorded soldiers letter of that period. It is seldom that the Society has the opportunity of seeing such a collection and those who attended were richly rewarded in being present.

November 24th. At this meeting there was a bumper attendance to see both the "Old" and the "New". Among those present was a welcome visitor, who by the way is a member, in Dr. Hesse of Johannesburg. Two members exhibited. Firstly Mr. H. Bernaud showed Precovers and early covers of German States. These were chiefly the preadhesive covers with handstruck stamps, covering cities of Hamburg, Danzig, Hannover and finally German states. Where covers bore the early stamps these were in superb condition. An interesting cover was one posted from Dantzig in 1885 during the Crimean War. The other exhibit was "Modern Varieties" shown by Mr. H. R. Savage. These were as expected of the highest order and covered the British Commonwealth from 1937 onwards. It is reasonably easy to get a number of these varieties in mint condition but to see the rare items as used specimens meant much searching. The collection showed much research and included such items, as the Pakistan handstamped issues, the 4d. grey green Postage Due Southern Rhodesia postally used on cover, and a block of four of the 1d. S.W.A. inverted overprint of the Victory Issue. Needless to say the mounting was excellent and every variety of paper, printing, etc. shown. Again a very fine evening which was enjoyed by all. M.F.S.

CAPE TOWN THEMATIC CLUB.

November 14th. Members were fortunate in seeing Dr. P. L. Vautier's collection of France. This fine collection was mounted in a very good and new method. His early issues of the classic period with proofs, etc. were in accordance with the normal catalogue but the later issues were arranged in Thematic manner which was not only interesting but also showed the stamps up to advantage. For some time members have looked forward to seeing this collection and found same fully up to expectation. It is not often that a country is shown in full as on this occasion.

November 23th. Capt. M. F. Stern showed his collection of Czechoslovakia, which included postage dues, newspaper stamps, etc. and was from No. 1 up to the very latest emissions. In many instances the first-day covers as well as miniature sheets were exhibited. The exhibitor gave a full talk on the country itself, the divisions of the stamps, the thematic value of the country which covers almost every section of that branch of philately, and finally a short resume of the first issue, namely the Hydracony issue. There was a very good attendance to see this collection, proving that the modern states, if complete and well mounted, can still draw a crowd. M.F.S.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG.

Our meeting on **November 8th.** benefitted from Congress in a charming manner; quite a number of visitors to Pretoria were still in the neighbourhood, and came to the meeting, among them even the most recent V.I.P. Mr. Eülbring of Port Elizabeth, the new President of Federation. Naturally, members also turned up in force, for we had very cleverly arranged (sometimes, we, too, can foresee events!) that the winner of the Grand Prix of TEPPEX, Mr. A. R. Kleiner, would be the exhibitor. He did not show his 'Seychelles'; he didn't have to. This time, it was Jamaica — which he has been collecting for several weeks already. It was not a Grand Prix collection — yet; but we believe our modest friend is wrong maintaining that it would take him ten years to make it into one! To add to the enjoyment of the evening, Mr. Glassman conducted a Quiz, and all of us started eagerly to partake in it. But the master surely overrated our average powers of observation, and, once more, the only ones who were able to write down something were the three intellectual musketeers of the Society, Commander Enoch, and Messrs. Economides and Seligmann. We shall not disclose how little even those scholars of philately managed to write down correctly.

Another large and specialised exhibit was the feature of the meeting on **23th November.** Equally well attended, and equally enjoyable; Dr. P. Keller showed a quarter of his collection of "Poland", mainly those issues which originated in the turmoil

of 1918 to 1920, when the occupying armies were leaving and most postmasters revelled in the opportunity to produce local stamps. The exhibitor was not only most courageous grappling with a very difficult theme, where every genuinely used cover represents a rarity; but, more so, in that his lucid and detailed information on the emissions showed a candour which refused to claim an official status for them when there was the least doubt. What emerged was a most interesting and instructive study of the postal history of an exciting and unhappy period, and that was far more satisfactory than would have been an accumulation of stamps with rank and catalogue quotation.

13th December. Mr. H. Schwartz showed his collection of Ascension, from the earliest (Great Britain stamps) to the most recent. The overprinted St. Helena and the definitive issues included both mint and used stamps. There were several of the "clef rock" and other varieties.

Mr. Schwartz read some notes on the exhibit. Commander C. E. D. Enoch spoke on the exhibit.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF THE WESTERN RAND.

The **November** meeting was held at the residence of the Chairman, Mr. S. Vermaak, on Wednesday, November 23, 1955, at 8 p.m.

Mr. S. Vermaak presided with 11 members and 2 visitors present.

Mr. Vermaak gave a brief resume of what took place at Congress.

Mr. Burrell stated that things were going ahead nicely for the Hobbies Fair which would take place in Krugersdorp in March, 1956.

After the tea interval, Mr. Vermaak read a paper on the Third Definitive Issue of South African stamps, the animal series and tabled a display of these. It was a most interesting exhibit and Mr. Yelland spoke on it afterwards.

After a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Vermaak for the very enjoyable evening, the meeting closed at 10.30 p.m.

The January meeting will be held at the Krugersdorp Town Hall. B.S.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL.

"Unusual" was surely the keynote of the agenda at the **December** meeting.

Apart from the fact that it was but the second meeting in the new clubroom at Essex House, Smith Street, there were several unusual items during the evening which commenced with a recorded lecture on "The Chalon Portrait", given by Mr. Robson Lowe, the famous London Philatelist and Auctioneer. Illustrated by eighteen slides, recorded on tape, and first published in the Journal of the Royal Society of Arts, this lecture has been acquired by the Philatelic Society of Natal and may be hired by any Society Member of the Federation. Technical details are given at the end of this note.

Then followed a display by a distinguished South African Philatelist, Dr. Alec Kaplan, who showed his collection of the current Animal Issue of the Union, in mint condition. Dr. Kaplan's remarks added greatly to the interest evoked by such an up-to-the-minute display, for which he was thanked by Mr. Gerald Walsh.

In the absence, through illness, of the regular auctioneer, Mr. Joe Lyle, the auction was conducted by the well-known South African Stamp auctioneer Mr. John Wicks, with conspicuous success.

The business part of the meeting, too, had its surprise, for Mr. R. F. Robinow presented the Society with a most unusual poster issued by the Quantas Airways, depicting stamps of the twenty-four (I think!) countries served by that Corporation; a beautiful example of design and printing dear to friend Robinow's heart.

Even the sandwiches were 'extra-special', no doubt in honour of our distinguished guest! C.S.S.

Details of Recording:

On Tape: recorded at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. per sec.; 5 in. reel; time 30 mins. approximately.

Slides: 18, standard, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. square.

Hire Charges: Nominal. Apply Hon. Sec., P.O. Box 588, Durban.

NEW ZEALAND

A Southland Centennial series is about to be issued. The 2d. value, appearing this month, features the harpooning of a whale in Foveaux Strait. The other two values will be a 3d., with a farm girl, sheep and cow, and a 8d. with a picture of the almost extinct Nōtornis bird.

SOME RECENT AUCTION PRICES

Robson Lowe.

Germany. 3 stamps used at **Lamu**, 1889-90, £3 10s.

G.B.-Australia. First aerial Post cover, signed by Pilot, £65.

Australia. Cover from Macquarie Is., 1911 Mawson Exped. £13.

Falkland Is.

1911 'Deutschland' postcard from S. Georgia, £24.

1918 Cover with 'Deception Is. Pmk.', £22.

7 mint stamps with Handstamp 'South Georgia' on them, £75.

Natal. Die Proofs of 1d., 3d. and 6d. of 1895-62, £33.

G.B. James Chalmers Essays (See S.A. Ph. Dec. issue), £190.

Cayman Is. 1d. on 5/- 1907-08, Surcharge double, £38.

Do. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 4d., 1908, £30.

Malta. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. G.B. canc. 'A25' (1873-80), £50.

Do. 10/- 1919-20 mint, £36.

H. R. Harmer.

France. 9 entire 'Ballon Montés', £12 10s.

G.B. 1840 V.R. Official 1d. black, £13 10s.

Sierra Leone. 1933 Wilberforce set mint, £28.

G.S.W.A. Windhoek Exhib. flown card, £29.

Falkland Is.

9d. with Handstamp 'South Georgia' below stamp, on cover 1912, £20.

2d., similar, £20.

Cover with handstamp 'Paid 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. at St. Georgia', £90.

2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 2d. S. Georgia provisional, used on postcard, £38.

Cape of Good Hope, 4d. slate blue with re-entry in 'ENCE', £27.

Do. 4d. blue block of 6, one with re-entry in 'CE', £100.

Do. 1/- Used block of 20, £210.

Do. Woodblock deep bright blue, used, £230.

Kenya. 1925-27, nine Die Proofs, 2s. 50c. to £100, £25.

First "Caspary" Sale. This was held in New York on 15th November, there being only U.S.A. Postmasters' Provisionals sold. The total realization was \$225,340.50; the highest single item was a unique cover with a James M. Buchanan, 10 cents, Baltimore stamp in black on bluish, which fetched \$14,000.00.

THE FLYING DUTCHMAN

De Vliegende Hollander, a Netherlands Association of Aero-Philatelists is celebrating its 20-year existence in 1956 by holding an aero-historical exhibition at The Hague, probably about Easter-time (31 March to 2 April, 1956) although the exact date is not yet fixed. A wide field of exhibits and of prizes is promised.

Entry is open to members of "De Vliegende Hollander," and you may join now on payment of 6/- or 11 International Reply Coupons. Write to the Treasurer, Mr. W. Dekker, Ijsselsteinstr. 36, The Hague, Holland.

CENTRAL AFRICAN FEDERATION

We are informed by the Robertson Stamp Coy. that the 4d. value is shortly to appear in roll form. The 1d. has already appeared, in a new dark shade and new perforation. Presumably the 4d. will also have this new perf. An interesting feature of these two stamps is that they have been printed in Denmark.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST

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Whole No. 371.

UNION NOTES

Sub-Editor: Mr. W. N. SHEFFIELD,
Box 99, Cleveland, Transvaal.

Harrison Essay on Watermarked Paper.

We have received a letter from Mr. W. L. Freshwater of Hermitage, Berkshire, England, recording the discovery of a Springbok design Harrison essay on un gummed **watermarked** paper and enclosing a copy for our inspection.

It is a screened photogravure production similar to the item listed as "g" (Section II) on page 54 of the Union Handbook/Catalogue, but with the differences that it appears in carmine instead of blue; its perforations (14) and design measurements (20.75 mm. x 17 mm.) are the same as the **screenless** essays catalogued under Section I and it is printed on water-marked paper.



Mr. Freshwater's accompanying sketch shows the design of the watermark which he notes is somewhat like two ropes coiled together and is clearly visible on the copy we have seen. He adds that the essay was printed in sheets of 100 and that the watermark appears 16½ times horizontally and 15 times vertically. It thus covers the stamps and surrounding margins in a manner that each stamp shows at least part of two watermarks and in some cases, part of four.

A further note on this interesting subject has come to hand from an East Rand correspondent who was recently in communication with Mr. Freshwater and received from him the following additional information which we have pleasure in passing on to readers.

"The new essay — I have made enquiries from the dealer who sold the lot to me. As far as I can gather, the person who sold to him originally bought a large box of mixed material, old collections, auction lots, boxes and folders, etc. In one of the folders containing German inflation issues and similar stuff were the essays and the whole folder looked as if it had not been touched for twenty years or more."

Missing Eyebrow Variety on 4d. Triangular Issue.

A letter from Mr. G. R. Rankin of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, U.S.A., contains an enquiry about the missing eyebrow variety on the 4d. Triangular stamps listed on page 65 of the Union Handbook/Catalogue.

He states that one of a block of four English triangulars in his collection shows no trace of an eyebrow and though this variety is catalogued as No. 26/Va on an Afrikaans inscribed stamp, there is no mention of it in the Handbook as being present on any copy of the English issue, No. 26A.

An examination we have since carried out on a sheet of each of these triangulars shows that in the case of the Afrikaans issue, there is **only one stamp** on which there is no trace of the eyebrow, but on several others it is very faint, or so poorly defined as to appear in a distinctly shortened form at the end nearest the nose.

On the English stamps, there are also instances of the eyebrows being poorly defined or less than normal length, but not so many as on the Afrikaans copies and in no case could we find the eyebrow completely missing. It is quite possible, however, that in the course of the printing this variety also developed on one of the English issues and though we have no record of it being as constant as the item listed in the Handbook there is no reason why there should not be many more copies about.

Unrecorded Varieties on 1d. Plate XI Stamps.

Referring to the note and illustration on page 170 of our October 1955 issue, Mr. A. Tabachnick of Pietermaritzburg, states that the varieties shown on these Plate XI stamps are definitely constant. He has the same items in a block of six (2 rows by 3) and the black line visible in the photograph actually crosses the

corner of the fifth stamp and ends at the mast-head of the ship in the sixth stamp.

Mr. J. B. Levy of Bloemfontein also has this item in his collection and confirms that these varieties were a constant feature of the Plate XI printing.

Hyphenated 2d. Plate IV Stamps—Unrecorded Variety.

A constant cylinder flaw in the form of a short bar immediately above the "P" of POSTAGE in the 2d. Plate IV hyphenated issues (U.H.B. Nos. 47 and 47A) has been shown to us by Mr. John Lewis of Bloemfontein.

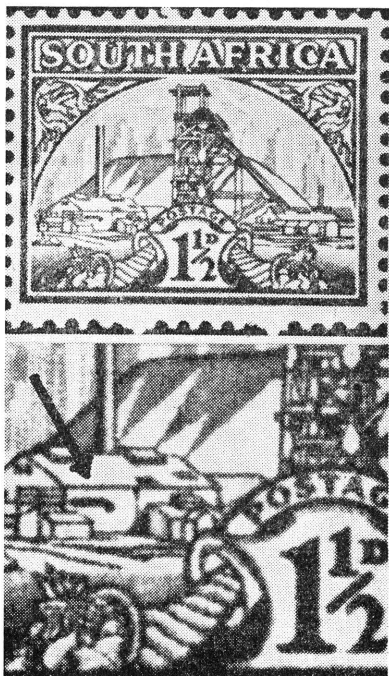
It occurs on the first stamp in the 19th row — bottom left hand corner of the sheet — and is an interesting item in both the blue and violet printing (No. 47) and the pale grey and purple stamps (No. 47A), which collectors can be on the lookout for and add to the lists given on pages 131 and 132 of the Union Handbook/Catalogue.

It is also constant, of course, in the same position of the sheet, on these particular stamps which were overprinted "Official" and designated in the Handbook under the two easily remembered numbers "O56" and "O65".

"Bent Window" Variety on 1½d. Medium Gold Mine Stamp.

A constant variety not previously mentioned and which takes the form of a "bent window" in the mine building at the left of the headgear illustrated herewith, has been shown to us by Mr. L. E. Orkin of Pretoria.

It occurs in the sheet position Row 9/Stamp, 20 of Plate IX, the issue of the medium format stamps which appeared in July 1948 with the cylinder numbers 6919A/6919B printed on the



margin at the top and bottom right hand corners of the sheet.

Minor Printing Flaws on O.F.S. Centenary 2d. Stamps.

We give below a list, furnished by Mr. D. T. Goodhead of Durban, of a number of small printing flaws which were constant on the 2d. denomination of the Orange Free State Centenary issue.

Row—

- 2/2 Diaeresis above "e" of "Posgeld".
- 5/2 Brown dot above right top corner of wagon in coat of arms.
- 8/1 Small dot between "i" and "8" of 1854.
- 8/2 Top of "t" of "Postage" damaged.
- 9/1 Small white dot immediately above "S" of "Suid".
- 16/5 White dot above "a" of "Afrika" opposite foot of feather.
- 17/5 Small brown dot left of tree in coat of arms.
- 19/4 Small brown dot in feather below "9" of 1954.

Semi-Perforations on Union Commemoratives.

Writing in connection with the interesting article on "Semi-Perforations: Coronation 2d. Blue, 1953" by the late Dr. T. B. Davie, which appeared in our August and September numbers of last year, Mr. E. J. Beunders of Belville, Cape, notes the presence of these semi-perforations on stamps of the Van Riebeeck Tercentenary, Cape of Good Hope Centenary O.F.S. Centenary, Third Voortrekker Issue, U.P.U. Issue and other Union commemoratives. He draws attention to the large additional field that has been opened up to the specialist by the study of a feature in the printing of the Union stamps which Dr. Davie found so prevalent in the 1953 Coronation issue and for which, when it appears under such constant conditions, he coined the suitable term of "semi-perforation."

Covenant Stamp Printing Flaws.

Further to the list of minor printing flaws published in our January number, we give below an additional selection received from Mr. John Selve of Pretoria.

Row—

- 1/6 Vertical line through hat.
- 2/6 Extra button on shirt.
- 7/4 Mark on "S" of SOUTH.
- 9/2 Spot left of flag.
- 10/5 Mark on "T" of POSTAGE.
- 10/6 Spot on bridge of nose.
- 11/5 Mark at bottom of "2".
- 14/4 Spot in church.
- 15/2 Spot in flag.
- 16/6 Spot on brim of hat.
- 17/5 Spot just above stamp.
- 18/3 Spot on "2" and below mast.
- 18/6 Red mark on "A" of AFRIKA.
- 19/6 Red smudge above shoulder.
- 20/1 Extra button on shirt.

As we go to press we have just heard of the sudden death of Mr. W. Redford. A fuller notice will appear in our next issue.

Stamp Booklets to be Discontinued.

We have received a letter from the Publicity Officer of the Publicity Section of the G.P.O. Pretoria, confirming that for the reasons given in the following report which appeared in the "Star", Johannesburg, on the 3rd November, 1955, it has been decided to discontinue the printing of postage stamp booklets.

"NO MORE BOOKS OF STAMPS."

"Because of the cost of making up booklets of postage stamps and the small demand for them, the Post Office will not have these booklets printed after the present stocks have been exhausted, an official said in Pretoria today."

"The booklets, which contain a dozen each of 2d., 1d. and ½d. stamps, are sold to the public at 3/6 each."

We might add that these 3/6 booklets are still available at some post offices in the Union and as reported in our May 1955 "Notes", an interesting feature which only came to light last year was the discovery that both white and toned papers had been used in the printing of some of these stamps.

THE PRESIDENTS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC

The recent Centenary celebrations of Pretoria have stimulated an interest in Transvaal History and we have had several requests for short accounts of the Presidents of the South African Republic. An eminent Pretorian has kindly supplied the notes which follow. Dates, etc., have been well checked and may be taken as completely reliable.—Ed.

The Republic had three Presidents — M. W. Pretorius, T. F. Burgers and S. J. P. Kruger. While the City of Pretoria proudly displays statues of all of them, it was not until the 10th October (Kruger's birthday) of 1955 that philatelic honours were accorded by the first official issue of postage stamps, bearing the portraits of two of the Presidents, Pretorius and Kruger. (It would seem that unlike the practice of some other countries, our heroes have to be gone a long time before they are postally recognised). There is also in Pretoria the Kruger House Museum where the many varied relics include coins and magnificent medallions.

An outline of the life of each of these Presidents follows:

Marthinus Wessel Pretorius (1819-1901). The eldest son of Andries (who, as commandant-general of the Voortrekker emigrants in Natal in 1838 avenged the murder of Piet Retief and his party at Blood River, and negotiated the independence granted by Britain to the Transvaal Boers in 1851. Pretoria was named after him.)

Marthinus was elected first President of the newly formed South African Republic (i.e. consisting of the districts of Pretoria, Potchefstroom and Rustenburg) in 1857, and in 1859 he was elected President of the Orange Free State. In 1863 he resigned and acted as mediator between various Transvaal parties until he succeeded in ending civil strife. In 1865 he again became President of the South African Republic, the Transvaal now being a united community. Pretorius, essentially a peacemaker, had brought about union between several Boer sections.

Once gold and diamonds were discovered (1869 and 1870) he attempted to increase the boundaries of the Transvaal to the east and west, with a view to gaining concessions for mining and an outlet to the sea. Referring the matter of boundaries to the arbitration of Keate, whose award went against the Boers' claims, Pretorius was compelled to resign the presidency (1871). In 1880 he was appointed, with Paul Kruger and Piet Joubert, by insurgent Boers to carry on a triumvirate government of the Transvaal. This continued until 1883 when Paul Kruger was elected as President. Pretorius then withdrew from public life and died at Potchefstroom in 1901.

Fine statues of Pretorius, father and son, sculptured by Coert Steynberg, stand in front of Pretoria's elegant City Hall; they were ceremonially unveiled by a great-grandson of Marthinus, on the 21st October, 1955. The great crowd that attended the event included visiting Mayors of Paris, Bonn and Amsterdam — representing three countries to which many South Africans owe their roots.

The statue of Andries shows him mounted on his favourite horse, Somerset, which he had lent Dick King to help in the famous ride to Grahamstown.

(To be continued.)

KING'S HEAD UNIONS

? Used on 1 Sep., 1913.

In our issue of May last year, Mr. S. G. Rich raised the question as to whether the definitive Georgian stamps, issued on 1.9.13 were actually used on that day. He had never been able to find any postmarked with that date.

In our August issue Mr. Kupferman showed a 2d. postmarked at East London on 1st Sept., 1913.

Mr. W. Tunstall, of Uplands, Kenya, now reports a 1d. stamp used at Cape Town on the day of issue.

It is emerging therefore that some stamps were used on the day of issue. More may yet be reported, but it looks as if there had not been any rush on 1st Day Covers.

ST. EDWARD'S CROWN

A writer in the "Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly" reports that he has found that it is possible to remove portions of the watermark from one stamp and transfer them to another.

With the new issues of G.B. there is now a plentiful supply of genuine St. Edward Crowns, which a faker might use for making the scarce varieties on various colonial stamps.

For obvious reasons he does not reveal the method whereby the change-over can be effected.

XMAS AND NEW YEAR GREETINGS.

We have pleasure in acknowledging Christmas and/or New Year Greetings from:—

Robson Lowe, H. R. Harmer (London and New York), Stanley Gibbons, Stamp Collecting, B. J. Hunter (Brighton), Yam Chi Chuen (Hong Kong), Finlandia 56, Central News Agency, Several Philatelic Societies in the Union, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Nel (V.d. Bylpark), Fred T. Williams (California).

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1935 Bellini (6)	3/6
1937 Famous Italians (10)	17/6
1937 Child Welfare (10)	7/6
1937 Augustus (10)	4/6
1938 Proclamation Empire (10)	4/6
1938 Proclamation Empire Air (6)	3/6
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The Early Cancellations of East Africa and Uganda

By Dr. W. E. FLOOD.

The study of cancellations, and other postal markings, is more than the mere recording of items which have passed through one's hands. It involves the study of the history of the postal services and this, in turn, may involve a study of the history and geography of the country itself. This is particularly so in the case of British East Africa and Uganda. There was no pre-stamp period. The postal services developed as the country developed. Post offices came into existence as the need arose; some which flourished in the early days are unrecorded in the modern guide and their locations seldom shown in an atlas. In trying to identify these early offices — how many there were, where they were, what cancellations they used — I have read the histories of the Imperial British East Africa Company and sifted many a book on exploration and travel. My story of the postal services is not complete and I hope that friends in Africa will be able to supplement, or even correct, the information which I give.

British East Africa, which extended inland from the Indian Ocean, was first administered by the I.B.E.A. Company and then (from 1895) by the government. Stamps were first issued in May 1890. Uganda, then lying north, west and east of Lake Victoria, was (and still is) a protectorate. Stamps (the famous typewritten stamps) were first issued in March 1895. There was a vague "no man's land" between the two territories but the boundary lay (prior to 1902) roughly at the Rift Valley. It is important to note that a large area of land lying east of the lake was originally in Uganda — forming the Eastern Province. This area was transferred to East Africa in 1902 and incorporated in the newly formed East Africa Protectorate. Hence certain post offices, e.g. Kisumu, were first in Uganda and later in East Africa.

The postal services of the two territories were originally separate, in fact the typewritten and typeset Uganda stamps had franking power only within the country's boundary. The services were amalgamated in 1901 so that rates of postage prevalent in, to, and from East Africa applied to Uganda also. (The ½a. and 2½a. Uganda provisionals of 1902 were issued because Uganda did not previously have stamps of these denominations). The new Edwardian stamps were inscribed East Africa and Uganda Protectorates and, of course, were valid in both territories.

The construction of the Uganda Railway between Mombasa and Lake Victoria was begun in January 1896 and the first locomotive steamed into Port Florence (Kisumu) in December 1901. The whole line was opened for public use in 1902. Considerable extensions have since

been made. Sir Charles Eliot (H.M. Commissioner for the Protectorate 1901-4) wrote: "Never perhaps has a railway been so prominent . . . East Africa may be said to have come gradually into existence at exactly the same rate as the rails advanced". Of course it revolutionised the postal services (previously dependent upon native porters); it also brought new "towns" and post offices into existence — Nairobi is an outstanding example — and perhaps accounted for the decline of others not on the route. The railway also gave rise to a number of interesting Railhead and T.P.O. cancellations. (And I am indebted to coolies brought over from India to build the line for writing home and thereby providing many of the covers now in my collection!)

The period of my study may be taken as from 1890 to about 1910. I have concentrated on the earlier ten years or so and I have no doubt that my record of the later cancellations is far from complete. Indeed I would not suggest that my record of the earlier marks is complete and I would welcome additional information. I have arranged the results of my study in the following order: (1) Mombasa, (2) other offices in the original British East Africa, (3) railway cancellations, (4) offices in Uganda, (5) offices in the transferred territory, (6) miscellaneous cancellations. I have numbered the types according to my own scheme.

(1) Mombasa.

The office at Mombasa, the principal seaport of the territory, accounted for the cancelling of the large majority of the stamps used during the first ten years of the postal services. The first cancellation M1 consists of a single circle, 21 mm. in diameter, with the name at the top and the date in two lines below. In my earliest specimens (October and December 1890) the index letter, above the date, is C but in all later specimens the letter is A. (Exceptionally I have one specimen, 1897, in which there is no index letter). In the date, the month usually precedes the day, e.g. JU 8 91, but from 1897 onwards the day more often precedes the month, e.g. 3 DEC 98. The mark was normally struck in black but I have one example in grey-blue. It remained in general use until 1900 and was much used as a backstamp as well as a cancellation.



M1



M2.

Another common cancellation M2 consists of concentric circles with blacked-in corners. It was the forerunner of the general East African type EAI. It appears to have been introduced in about 1892 and to have remained in use until the end of the century. (As a "freak" I have the mark on a 10R. Edwardian stamp of 1907)

Normally the month precedes the day but after 1897 they are sometimes reversed. The index letter is usually A but I have one example, 1897, in which the letter is B.

Type M3 with a straight panel across two concentric circles, has a diameter of 25½ mm. It is similar to the general type EA2 but the lower segment is left blank. My earliest specimen is dated 22 DE 99; after the turn of the century the year was given in full. I have not seen an example dated later than 1905.

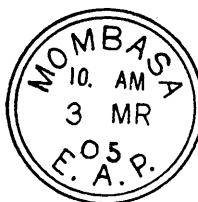


M3



M4.

A number of new types of cancellation were introduced during the first decade of the new century. Type M4, apparently introduced in 1900, consists of a single circle of diameter about 25 mm. The year is given in full. There appear to be two sub-types of this mark: one, diameter 24½ mm., has a number of breaks in the circle and impressions are rather coarse, while the other, very slightly larger, has a perfect ring and impressions are clear. The mark was also much used as a backstamp. Later cancellations have E.A.P. (East Africa Protectorate) at the foot (cf. the general types EA3 and EA4). The double circle type M5, with the time above the date, is common from 1905 onwards. The single circle type M6 is found both with and without the time. My earliest date is 1905. There is also a similar but rather larger type.

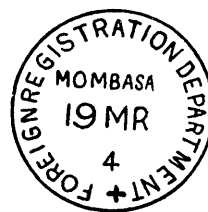


M5



M6

Finally, Edwardian stamps are sometimes found with a cancellation inscribed Foreign Registration Department. I also have this mark as a backstamp on a registered cover from Kampala to Bombay. The year is often abbreviated to a single figure.



Foreign Registration.

(2) Other Offices in the Original B.E.A.

Four types of cancellation, common to a number of offices, were used during the period under study. The "square" type EA1 is the oldest. There are four rings, in addition to the solid corners, though the Escarpment mark, exceptionally, has only three. The ornament at the base, shown dotted in the illustration, only appears on a few of the marks — those of Escarpment, Kikurgu, Machakos and Ndiu — and, of course, is in solid black. The index letter may be A (e.g. Machakos), B (e.g. Kiu) or there may be no letter (e.g. Escarpment).



EA1



EA2.



EA3



EA4

Type EA2, with the date panel across the middle and E.A. PROTECTORATE in the lower segment, was introduced in many of the offices at the beginning of the century. Type EA3, consisting of a double circle with E.A.P. at the foot, came into use rather later. Nairobi (like Mombasa) added the time above the date. A single circle type EA4, with or without the time, came into use late in the period under study.

"Clerical errors", such as inverted or reversed figures, may be found in many of the earlier marks. I have not specially recorded all of them. Nor have I shown whether the day precedes the month or vice versa. In the tabulation which follows I have given the dates of specimens in my own collection; the ranges

may well be extended. The asterisk (*) means that none of my specimens is sufficiently complete or legible for me to state the year. I have shown the index letters for type EA1. The small letters after the names of the offices refer to the notes given at the end of the table.

Office	Type EA1	Type EA2	Other Cancellations
Escarpment	1901 (no letter)	—	—
Kibwezi	—	1910	—
Kikurgu (a)	1897-8 (B)	*	—
Kilindini (b)	1898 (no letter)	1900-02	—
Kismayu	—	1900-03	Type EA3 1909 onwards.
Kiu (c)	1899-02 (B)	—	—
Lamu	1891 (A)	1901-03	A single ring cancellation, similar to M1, was in common use from 1890-99.
Machakos	1898-01 A	1901-05	—
Makindu	—	1901-03	—
Malindi (e)	1894-99 (A)	1902-03	—
Nairobi	—	1900-05(f)	Type EA3 1905 onwards. Type EA4 1910. Also see section 5.
Ndi (g)	*(B)	—	—
Rabai	—	1901-10	—
Taveta (h)	—	1900-11	—
Victoria St., Nairobi	—	—	Type EA3 1910 (time). Type EA4 1910 (no time).
Voi	—	1900-09	Type EA3.
Wasin (i)	—	1903	—

Notes.

(a) For many years the Kikurgu mark (type EA1) has been denounced as a forgery. No place of this name exists; the nearest spelling is Kikuyu. Typeset Uganda stamps are sometimes found well plastered with this mark but, of course, Kikuyu is not in Uganda.

I submit that Kikurgu is indeed a mis-spelling of Kikuyu and that the mark was genuinely used to cancel B.E.A. stamps. I have two B.E.A. stamps which were apparently cancelled in the normal way (1897 and 1898) and also a cut-out backstamp has been reported to me. I have examined a number of the cancelled Uganda stamps. All have the same date! — JU 3 98. I think that this is a case, not of forgery, but of "cancelled to order". I imagine that a traveller leaving Uganda, perhaps for England, brought a supply of typeset Uganda stamps with him. As soon as he crossed the boundary

he went to the first post office he found (Kikuyu) and asked for the stamps to be cancelled. The postal clerk obliged and did the job thoroughly; he applied the cancellation heavily and covered the sheet(s) as nearly as possible with geometrical exactitude.

Type EA2 shows the proper spelling Kikuyu.

(b) Type EA1 has KILINDINI at the top and MOMBASA at the foot. I have one specimen (on cover) struck in grey-blue.

(c) I have one specimen without the index letter and with the year abbreviated to 2.

(d) I have several specimens with the year given as 19 (various months from January to December). One piece shows part of an arrival mark giving the date as oi.

(e) Type EA1 shows the older spelling MELINDI.

(f) One of my copies of type EA2 shows the whole of the date inverted. Another is struck in violet.

(g) Ndi was the end of the first stage when mail was carried to the interior by porters. The mark shows the spelling NDII, a recognised but less common alternative. The year is omitted from all of my copies and in one the day of the month has been added in manuscript.

(h) I have read that the Taveta office was opened in 1897 or 1898. I therefore suspect that type EA1 exists.

(i) Type EA1 has been reported to me but I have not seen it.

It is possible that a few more offices using the early type of cancellation may come to light. I expect that my list of offices using the later types may be considerably extended.

(To be continued)

Natal P.O.A. Cancellations

By J. H. H. CHAMBERLAIN.

The vagaries of the Postal Authorities of the Colony of Natal place us in a difficult, in fact an invidious, position from the point of view of preparing a "Post Office Agencies' Check List."

To give a concrete example of the way the numbered P.O.A. cancellation was distributed, let us take "P.O.A. 18" and trace its wanderings over a short period of 12 years:

In 1891 it served at LANDSEND (Natal Border) — in Northern Natal — the following year found it as the official cancelling-stamp at THOMPSONS (near Umzinto) — Southern Natal. After remaining there for a further year it became the official indicator at CLARK ROAD, DURBAN — Eastern Natal — here it was to remain until this Agency reached the status of a Post Office in 1896. After a year's rest it was sent out to the TABLE MOUNTAIN MISSION STATION (Served through Cato Ridge and Pietermaritzburg) — Inland Natal — where it was still in use up to 1901.

Here we have evidence of this particular cancelling stamp's official allocation to FOUR different and widely separate places during this short period.

How is it possible for anyone, without having the evidence obtainable on "dated" sovers, to attribute this P.O.A. 18 cancellation on a stamp to any one specific place? It is not.

So our desire to build up a postal history in a collection of "Postal Cancellations" breaks down.

Fortunately however there were some of these P.O.A. "cancellers" which served throughout their life at the offices to which they were originally allocated and in such cases only may they be "identified" with certainty.

An interesting record on my files is that of P.O.A. 60. This was sent to "WALLACETOWN R.S." (Railway Station) in 1892. A change of name — to Inchanga — (which is still its name), was made shortly afterwards. The item is rare and I rather doubt whether it was actually used after the re-naming of the place. No trace of any re-allocation of this canceller was found.

Actually when the Postal Department extended their facilities in the post Anglo-Boer war period, prior to Union, a large number of Agencies was set up and the 'numbers' on them extended up to ?. Again some Post Offices are known to have retained the P.O.A. canceller after a 'Named' date-stamp had been issued to them: generally speaking only the old-time Postmasters who were interested could give constructive help on this phase. Most of these gentlemen have now left us.

The Postal Cancellation Collection of The Philatelic Society of Natal has no specimens of the following P.O.A. numbers: 12, 15, 39, 47, 50, 56, 68, 69, 79, 82, 87, 92, 99, 100, 103, 105, 106, 107, 108, 110, 111, 113, 114, 116 and 118.

Anyone having specimens, either ON or OFF cover, is asked if he would be good enough to make a donation of them to the Philatelic Society of Natal. Please send to me at "Seaforth," Albion Place, Morningside, Durban.

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CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor,
The South African Philatelist.

Sir,

KRUGER ESSAYS.

I have read the letter written by Mr. L. C. Burke, the Postmaster-General, and published in your January number. This letter attacks in no uncertain terms my statements in regard to a photograph which is the final item in the concluding chapter of my extensive study on various Kruger Essays.

The first blame which alleges that I described the original photograph on which the recent 3d. Kruger stamp was based as "not authentic" or "not genuine", comes as a surprise. On the contrary, I went to great lengths to describe the authenticity of this original photograph, by relating how it was obtained "on short loan from the family of the late President for the specific purpose of preparing the stamp design" and that "it was immediately returned to the owners on completion of the design" (p. 220).

Owing to the exclusiveness of this photo, another photograph was substituted and reproduced in my article which according to the confirmation kindly given to me by the authorities is very similar to the original one used by them.

I would like to state that I did not slip up in regard to the name of the photographers. The postal authorities (whose ready co-operation in all philatelic matters is greatly appreciated by all philatelists) informed me in a letter of August 1955 that "information in regard to the date when the original photograph was taken and the name of the photographer is not available." The details in my article concerning the reproduced "similar" photo are definitely correct.

In regard to the "artist's replica" (stamp design) which was based on the original authentic photograph, I have merely voiced the opinion of several "Kruger" experts (non-philatelists), namely that the artist in his drawing must have deviated slightly in certain outlines from the generally accepted version of President Kruger's portrait. This opinion was somehow strengthened by the fact that the artist was admittedly requested by the authorities "to draw the outline of the tophat more distinctly", whatever that may have involved.

We would like to assure the authorities that our enquiries were made not in idle philatelic curiosity, but in the interest of South African history.

We are all interested to learn now that there is one only photograph in existence, unknown and apparently never seen by the outside world, which in certain respects is different from all the other numerous Kruger photographs in existence, and different from the idea and picture the general public had of the beloved "Oom Paul."

K. FREUND.

CANADA

Two more additions have been made to the Prime Ministers series; a 4 c. with portrait of R. B. Bennett and a 5c. featuring Sir Charles Tupper.

NEW WARTIME ITEMS.

S.W.A. Campaign 1914.

Prompted by the recent publication in this magazine by J. Hunter of Censor Marks of this campaign, I can put on record what appears to be a hitherto unrecorded type of Army postmark from this area.

It may be briefly described as a Field P.O. mark of the type of the Base P.O. marks as illustrated by Simenhoff in the S.A. Ph. of Dec., 1938, p. 184.

In more detail it is a double-circle mark of 30 mm., with "Army Field P.O." at the top and "4" at the bottom. The date and time (30 Dec. 14 3 P.M.) cut the inner ring and they are flanked by "South" and "Africa" above and below. No key to its location.

A few Field P.O. marks previously described are single-circle ones but the majority are rectangular.

1945 "Maritime Mail" mark which is not Maritime.

In the S.A. Ph. of Feb., 1949, p. 33, Pirie and Sydow describe the camouflage use of Paquebot marks on shore-posted mail at Durban.

In his "World War II Philately of Southern and Eastern Africa" Pirie describes a "Mystery mark" on an Air Letter Form with a Durban Censor's seal, the mark being a 33 mm. circular one, in violet from a rubber stamp, reading "Maritime Mail". The letter was believed to come from an oil tanker operating between Lourenco Marques and the West Indies and it seemed to be an open question whether the mark was a South African or a West Indian one.

I recently acquired an Air Letter franked with two 3d. Bantam stamps which are cancelled by the "mystery" mark described above. The letter was written from the V.A.D. Quarters, Royal Navy Hospital, Durban on 3rd Jan., 1945.

I suggest that this is a parallel case to the usage of Paquebot marks as described by Pirie and Sydow, that there is no need to postulate a possible West Indian usage, and that it is no longer a "Mystery" mark. E. G. KINSEY.

SHORT NOTICES.

Melville Memorial Junior Prizes. The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain have issued their rules for this competition, which is open to any Junior under 17, provided the entry is submitted through a society affiliated to the Congress.

Entries to be in by 1st March, 1956. Full particulars can be supplied to anyone contemplating entering.

H. R. Harmer 30th Annual Résumé. This hardy annual blossoms more brightly and largely every year. It is a record of sales by auction and by private treaty in the organization's London, New York and Sydney houses and is again, as usual, a record of steady increase in all three. The grand total is over £800,000 — big business.

Malta Study Circle. The records of the defunct Malta Study Circle have been found and Mr. Robson Lowe has been asked to convene a meeting of philatelists interested in the stamps of Malta.

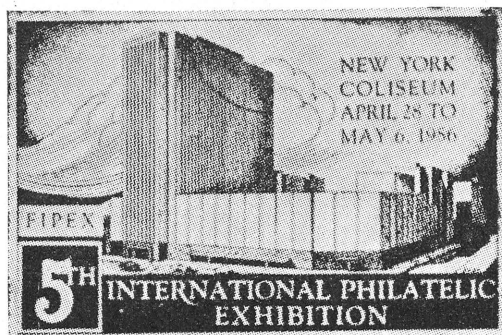
Anyone who might be interested in becoming a corresponding member is invited to write to "Robson Lowe (Malta Study Circle), 50 Pall Mall, London S.W.1."

Stamps in Battledress. The September issue of "The German Philatelic Review" is entirely taken up with a translation of J. Hosang's "Gehazhte Kriegspropaganda" under the title "Stamps in Battledress". It is a description, with a number of illustrations of the various propaganda forgeries of stamps and postmarks made in Germany in World War II.

India's Stamp Journal. The December issue of this monthly, edited by Mr. Jal Cooper (and now completing its 18th year) is mainly taken up with a description of the Educational Stamp Exhibition held in Bombay in November. It appears to have been on a big scale and very successful.

Norsk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift. A special number (7-10) of this journal is mainly occupied with a long account of "Norwex" with numerous illustrations of the exhibition and persons connected with it. There is also a shorter account of "Stockholmia 55", of the F.I.P. Congress held there, and several papers on Norwegian stamps, cancellers and sea-posts.

Rhodesian Postal History and Postmarks. Mr. W. G. Nodder starts an account of The Rhodesia's Postal History and Postmarks in the Dec. 10th number of 'The Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly'; this will be run as a serial. It should be of interest to Rhodesian specialists in particular.



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REVIEWS

More Special Postmarks, by Francis J. Field Ltd., Sutton Coldfield, England. Price 3/-.

Although this firm is best known for their Air Stamps and covers, and their monthly magazine "The Aero Field" they have an extensive side-line in special postmarks on cards and covers.

This catalogue lists them in 3 groups: Philatelic and Postal; Medical, Health, Scientific and Technical; and World History. The marks (quite a few illustrated) should appeal to many types of collectors.

LIPSA, Illustrierter Briefmarken-Katalog,

Deutschland 1956. VEB Bibliographisches Institut, Leipzig; Price Eastern DM 4.20.

This is one more of the many specialised catalogues on Germany, containing the Old German States as well as the occupational issues and local emissions of the Eastern Zone, in addition to all other normal German issues. Moreover, it is so strictly modelled on the well-known "Michel" German catalogue that it follows its arrangement, text and illustrations to an embarrassing extent. However, there are significant differences, due to its being published in the Eastern Zone, and omissions and additions comply with the political regulations and feelings.

It omits, as did the very first editions of "Michel", all stamps issued under the Hitler regime, complying with a law which forbids the sale of such issues. Taking this law very literally, its listings stop with the end of 1932, so that some Hindenburg stamps appear but not all, not even all those on mesh watermark, and only resume with the Allied occupation stamps of 1945. Further, among the local issues of the Eastern Zone, all those stamps are omitted which were manufactured by blotting out Hitler's face. But, like its Michel predecessor, it slyly overlooks to apply the same censorship to Danzig whose complete issues are listed up to 1939, even to the extent of illustrating designs containing the swastika, but calling the watermark modestly merely "crosses". Obviously, all Michel references to names and addresses of experts for particular issues are omitted.

In his preface, the editor draws attention to these omissions and calls them the result of a "conscious" policy; but he makes up by additions. Those that are really helpful are a number of illustrations which amplify those to be found in "Michel", among them excellent ones in the "Building series" of 1948, and also one to enable the collector, at last, to see what the "inverted green background" of the 20 mark stamp of 1921 (S.G. 171b) looks like. Additions of text, however, are irksome for the most part. They are introductions to the different chapters, and in all cases no more than attacks against the "imperialist policy of the capitalistic state portrayed in the following stamps", or subservient and often slimy bows to their present overlords; Stalin is being liberally quoted. The good idea, too, to give a fairly detailed postal history as a preface to the catalogue, compiled by a professor, is marred for "Western" tastes by lengthy references to terror actions of Postmaster-General Stephan against the Trade

Unions, to the "brutal fight of the German Posts against all progressive movements", and to the truly democratic character of the post official in the Eastern Zone, while his Western counterpart remains "reactionary".

All in all, for those who like to take their philately with a liberal admixture of politics, there is quite a lot of amusement to be found in a book, beautifully produced at about half the Western price, and quoting nearly all stamps at double the Western quotations, except for the most recent Eastern issues which are about as cheap as in Western Germany.

Political Philately, then, and an interesting sidelight on the total war which has now entered even our hobby, and which has produced the distinction between capitalist collectors (who collect for gain) and worker collectors (who collect for education). The editor of the brochure whose impressive title is "President of the Central Committee, Section Philately, in the Cultural Organisation for the Rejuvenation of Germany," knows where he stands in the battle for democratic education through philately. We don't.

Philatelic Societies' Year Book, published by the B.P.A., 3 Berners Street, London, W.1. Price 1/6.

A most useful reference booklet giving one particulars about the B.P.A. (including its Expert Committee), Affiliated Societies in Britain and elsewhere, Specialist Societies and Study Circles and finally a list of Dealer-members of the B.P.A.

U.S.A.

On 20 December a 3c. stamp commemorating the centennial of the birth of Andrew Mellon, a former Secretary of the Treasury under three Presidents.

A 7c. stamp of the new ordinary series appeared on 10 January. It features President Woodrow Wilson.

SOME RECENT AUCTION PRICES.

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FRANCE.

Two semi-postals (the surcharge being for the benefit of the French Red Cross Society) were issued on 17 December; a 12f. plus 3f. featuring an infant with a bird-cage, and a 15f. plus 5f. featuring an infant with a goose.

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PHILATELISTS: SOUTH AFRICA.**

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| *G. T. Allis. | *A. E. Basden. |
| *A. J. Cohen. | *A. A. Jurgens. |
| *Sir. H. L. Gorges. | P. C. Bishop. |
| *Saul A. Klagsbrun. | J. H. Harvey Pirie. |
| *G. Blockey. | Wm. Redford. |
| *Chas. Hand. | A. Hilton Sydow. |
| *J. Herbert Curle. | N. Welsford. |
| *G. H. Houbert. | K. Freund. |
| *J. Ritchie. | Alec. Kaplan. |
| E. Tamsen. | G. K. Forbes. |
| L. Simenhoff. | Sam Legator. |
| *W. J. Harrington. | E. Hunt. |
| *L. A. Wyndham. | Andrew Watson. |
| G. N. Gilbert. | *B. L. R. Fox. |
| C. H. Thornton. | W. N. Sheffield. |
| *W. L. Ashmead. | J. H. H. Chamberlain. |

The names are given in order of date of election to the Roll of Honour. Names of members deceased are marked with an asterisk.

W. HOUTZAMER.

We regret to learn of the death of Mr. W. Houtzamer, the London dealer. He will be much missed, especially by the more advanced collectors, as he had an international reputation of being one of the most knowledgeable of philatelists.



We will buy . . .

**Sets — Packets — Singles — Mixture —
Kiloware.**

As the largest wholesale stamp firm in the United States, we are constant buyers, in large quantities of all kinds of postage stamps. Of special interest to us are:—

- ★ Cheaper and medium grade STAMPS IN SETS, attractive cheap SINGLE STAMPS, and carefully made PACKETS.
- ★ LARGE HOLDINGS AND REMAINDER STOCKS of all countries.
- ★ MIXTURE (KILOWARE) of South Africa, British Colonies, Europe, virtually all other countries of the world.
- ★ UNITED STATES STAMPS, airmails, commemoratives, regular issues.
...For our retail trade we will welcome offers of relatively small quantities of medium and better grade sets.

Send us a detailed list of your offers, which will receive our prompt careful attention. References, in any part of the world, will be sent on request.

DEAL WITH THE BEST KNOWN AMERICAN IMPORTER.

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"YOUR BAVARIANS"

By F. G. FROELICH.

(Notes accompanying a display to the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg.)

Of all the German states, Bavaria was the first to issue postage stamps. She did so in 1849 and, although incorporated in the German Reich in 1871, kept on using her own until March 31st 1920. Her postmarks remained in use for a few years longer.

When I began to collect postage stamps Bavaria became a "dead" country. This philatelic coincidence is purely accidental. The first strange-looking stamp I ever noticed was a Bavarian one which came in my parents' mail. I took it to school to impress an older and therefore superior classmate. He asked me for more. When I brought him a similar one, he pointed out to me in a rather pointed manner that my first stamp had the overprint "Peoples Republic", and that this second one was without it. At that time both types, the one without and the one with overprint were still in use. His heartwarming encouragement, aimed so high but landing rather low, was my kickoff into Philately. The shock received then has forever prevented me from reaching for the Wuthering Heights, where every duplicate becomes a variety and where nothing can come between the great luminaries and their stamps, least of all a postmark.

In 1936 I arrived at the shores of Van Riebeeck without my stamps but two years later I had made already so much money, that I could afford to buy from a local dealer some second-hand and empty album pages. The stamps which I have, ever since, mounted on them can rightly be called "Your Bavarians," because almost all of them came out of our Society's Exchange packets and the title has not been chosen as an excuse for any lack of quality, which can be noticed here and there, but does not worry me. On the contrary, I gladly make myself ridiculous by telling you what no "real" philatelist dares to admit, namely that you could get sound knowledge from defective stamps. I have remained a Junior collector partly through force but mainly by choice. Only as a Junior am I in such strong position to show you so many empty spaces, thereby providing you with a fine opportunity to have plenty to talk about.

Speaking of talking I remember that the question has been asked whether it is really necessary to give a talk together with a display. The answer could be yes, if we consider that stamp collecting has deteriorated into Philately thereby reaching the crossroads: stamp collecting as a science or stamp collecting as an art. The careful ones have chosen the first one because in Science everything can be proved and they have reached a point close to Astronomy being so exact in everything, be it ever so remote. Art has the disadvantage that it cannot prove anything but it has the advantage that it can be satisfying without proving something. A writer re-writes his manuscript, the architect designs and re-designs, the composer considers in detail the melodial, rhythmical and harmonic designs he does not

always pinch, and the artist observes and sketches. Similar approach, when made in philately, will look rather strange but knowing that only two years ago a dealer in Germany bought a Bavaria collection consisting of 52 volumes, which was not even a famous one and knowing about the large number of philatelic books on various towns and districts plus the Postal History published half-yearly by the Provincial administration, my shortcut through the stamps of Bavaria might after all be quite realistic.

With a bit more realism the number of women participating in our hobby would probably be greater. They know that it is more becoming to them to show off with a new hat than with a New Issue purchase and that it is far more successful to boast with a new husband than with a crippled Hawaiian Missionary. It would be wrong to conclude from their almost complete absence that women have no part in it. Everyone knows that organised Philately would be impossible without feminine blessing. That such is always given with the greatest hesitation does not alter the fact that stamp collecting is a virtue. Would it be a vice the Non-Europeans would have imitated us a long time ago and would have formed themselves into dangerous societies as we have done. Had it been a vice our children would have inherited our urge to collect postage stamps. As things are, we have to look for recruits elsewhere because it is our duty to assure our widows of customers.

Knowing quite well that collectors are born and cannot be made, we must let them come to witness the struggle and to see even the disorder of a philatelic workshop, so that it may dawn on them, and on us sometimes too, that the rubbish box is still the cradle of Philately and that polish and sparkle are only an end.

DO YOU INTEND SELLING

your collection, specialised or general, big or small, surplus material, dealer's stock or any other type of Philatelic Property?

IF SO, why not consult me before disposing! MY NEEDS ARE UNLIMITED: I pay cash for everything I purchase.

I spend well over £10,000 per annum and you could have your share in it!

My main outlet is to the trade — I do not maintain that I can pay fancy prices, but I am almost always able to make a fair offer.

Thirty years of experience in both retail and wholesale Stamp dealing are at your disposal — Do not delay consulting me.

ELIEZER BLUM,

P.O. Box 1669 CAPE TOWN.
Established in South Africa since 1930.

U.N.O.

The following programme is announced of stamp issues in 1956:—

17 Feb.: 3c. and 8c. stamps honouring the International Telecommunication Union.

9 Apr.: 3c. and 8c. stamps honouring the World Health Organization.

24 Oct.: 3c. and 8c. stamps, United Nations Day.

10 Dec.: 3c. and 8c. stamps, Human Rights Day.

NEW REPUBLIC STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY

J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

(Continued from page 14 of January issue)

POSTAL STATIONERY.

Tamsen records the preparation of stamped envelopes made by impressing the handstamp used for the adhesives directly on envelopes at the top right corner, all of them being dated 4 JA 87.

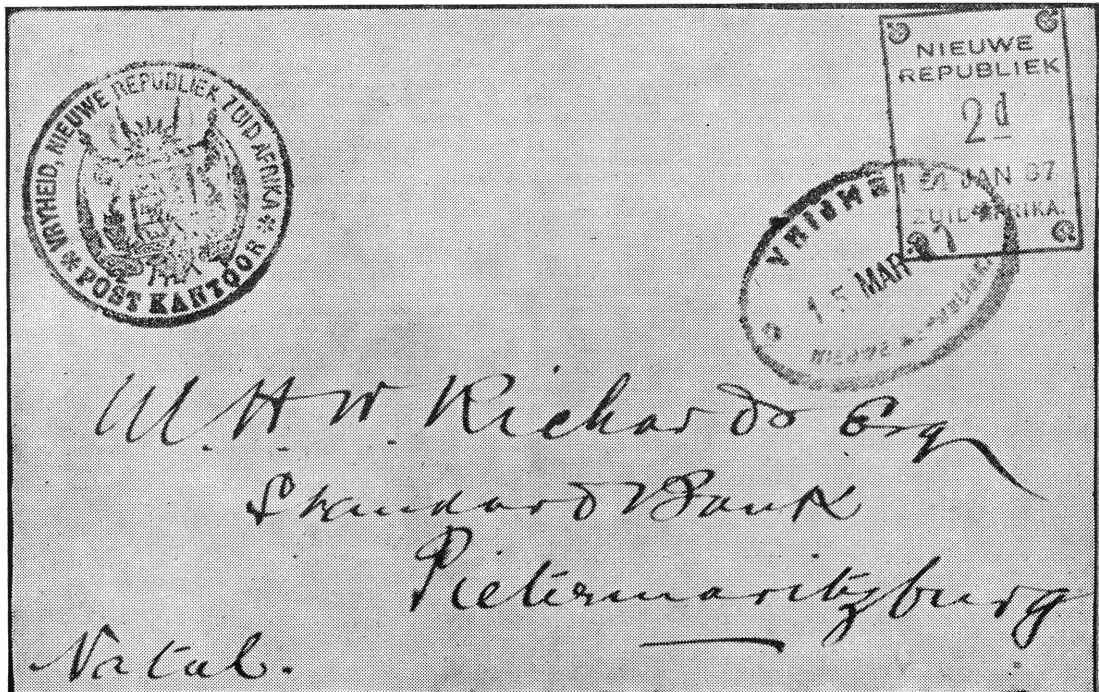
He describes four sizes of envelopes so treated, fifty of each size being made; then, because of some irregularity over their production (he never discovered exactly what) their manufacture was stopped. The value on all the stamp impressions was 2d. The four sizes of envelopes he gives as follows, in mm.: (a) 145 x 93 on white paper; (b) 223 x 100, 229 x 102 and 254 x 105, all on blue paper.

In Robson Lowe's Encyclopaedia five sizes are given, with measurements in inches; four of them correspond pretty closely with the sizes as given by Tamsen, but there is an additional one on blue paper $8\frac{1}{2}$ in. x $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. (224 x 112mm.). He prices them unused, but not used; the

variety on white paper being priced higher than those on blue paper.

I know of only two specimens of these imprinted envelopes in used condition and both, curiously enough, are of the white paper variety. One is in the Stonehill collection and was on show at the Cape Town International Exhibition in 1952. It has a Type 2 postmark dated 6 Jan., 1887, i.e. two days later than the date of the stamp.

The other is in the Hunt collection; it has a Type 2 postmark dated 15 Mar., 87, cancelling the stamp, but there is also a Type 3 mark in the top left corner of the cover (see illustration). As is noted later in the section dealing with postmarks, Tamsen noted the occurrence of this mark on covers but not cancelling stamps and regarded it as an office cachet entitling to free postage. That opinion may have some support from this cover, for it is addressed to Pietermaritzburg but has no Natal stamp on it. The Natal postal authorities may have regarded the cachet as entitling it to free postage in Natal.



Cover with imprinted stamp, also official Post Office cachet.

CHAPTER 3.

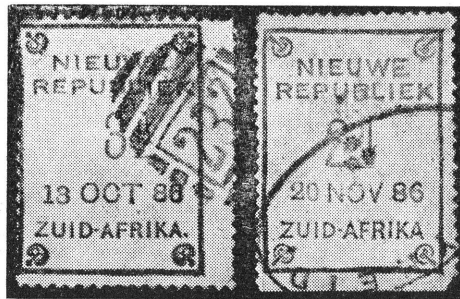
FORGERIES.

There do not seem to be many forgeries of New Republic stamps about, although they were early on the market. There is a description of some in "The South African Philatelist" Vol. 1, 1895, p. 4. (This was a short-lived little magazine, owned, edited, printed and published by S. Klagsbrun, and the article is practically certainly written by him.)

He describes six specimens, of 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d. and 9d. denominations, all printed in violet on yellow paper and dated 13 Oct., 86. He adds "The texture of the paper, colour of gum, and perforation are identical with those of the genuine and I have no hesitation in saying that the originator of these forgeries must have become possessed of the original paper on which the genuine stamps were printed and had a rubber stamp made." He further adds "These forgeries also appear postmarked 8 Nov., 86 with the original postmark (? what is here described as Type 1.—J.H.H.P.), which had evidently also come into the hands of this unscrupulous person."

In the Hunt collection there are ten specimens (some of them, quite possibly those described by Klagsbrun) with similar characters. There are the same denominations; the dates are 24 May 86 (1), 13 Oct. 86 (7) and 20 Nov. 86 (2)—evidently the forger could change his dates. Some of the ten specimens are unused, others have cancellations indistinguishable from the genuine Type 5 cancellation, and there is one which has possibly a type 1 cancellation in black, but it is too blurred to be quite certain of it.

Fortunately the forgeries are readily recognisable; the main distinguishing features are (See illustration).



Genuine.

Forgery.

(1) The letters of the wording on the stamps are slightly larger than in the genuine, especially noticeable in the "Nieuwe Republiek".

(2) There is no stop after AFRICA, as in the genuine.

(3) The corner ornaments are not identical; in the forgeries the loops of the "scissors" are smaller and so are the blobs at the point of the scissors.

A Bogus Issue.

The late Mr. E. F. Hurt described in "The Philatelist" of Aug., 1946, under the heading "Mystery Stamps", what appears to be a bogus issue of New Republic stamps.

He records seven stamps, all of format 18 x 22 mm. perf. 11, and printed on plain paper. The design has at the top and bottom "NEUE REPUBLIK/IN SUDAFRIKA"; at the sides the



Combination Cover: New Republic and Natal Stamps.

denomination is given thus "TWO/PENCE". The values of the seven stamps are 1d., 2d., 3d., 5d., and 1, 5, and 10 skield (whatever skield may be!). In the pence values the central design shows, more or less correctly, the arms of the Nieuwe Republiek; in the skield values the central design is a full-rigged three masted ship. Some of the stamps have what purports to be a cancellation, this being a double-circle mark in black or in carmine with an ornate star design in the centre and "Republik/Sudafrika" between the circles.

The spelling on this issue is suggestive of a German origin.

COMBINATION COVERS.

As is stated in the letter quoted a little later on (p. 34) from Mr. D. J. Esselen who was the Government Secretary of the New Republic, and as has, of course, been long recognised, the New Republic was not a member of the U.P.U. and its stamps were therefore valid for payment of postal transmission only within its own boundaries.

But for carriage of postal packets beyond its boundaries arrangements were made with the postmasters of Utrecht in the Z.A.R. and of Dundee in Natal for the affixing of stamps of the Z.A.R. or of Natal as the case might be.

Possibly the authorities had an arrangement similar to that which was in force at Steynsburg between the Swaziland and the Z.A.R. authorities prior to 1889, a deposit being kept on which the local postmaster operated for the payment of stamps to be affixed on packets sent with each mail for the payment of the necessary Z.A.R. or Natal stamps.

But whatever the details of the arrangements may have been covers are well known, although they cannot be said to be exactly common, bear-

ing Z.A.R. or Natal stamps additional to those of the New Republic. The latter show a New Republic cancellation and the former, if they are Z.A.R. stamps, a Utrecht place-date cancellation or the numeral 11 in concentric circles (which is known as used at Utrecht); if they are Natal stamps, a Dundee place-date cancellation.

It may be inferred, however, that some persons who had fairly frequent correspondence going outside the New Republic kept stocks of the necessary stamps themselves and affixed them straight away along with the New Republic stamps. In the Hunt collection, for example, there are several covers addressed to the 'Volksstem' newspaper in Pretoria with the New Republic and Z.A.R. stamps affixed close together; the Vryheid cancellation on the former also slightly touches the Z.A.R. stamp as well, although the latter has an additional Utrecht obliteration.

More commonly, however, the New Republic and the other stamps are well separated on the cover and the Vryheid cancellation is only on the New Republic stamp.

Robson Lowe states that the internal postage rate in the New Republic was 1d. per ½oz., but on what authority I know not. Support is given by a local letter recorded in the "Royal Collection" bearing only one 1d. stamp. It is noticeable however that on some fifteen combination covers in the Hunt collection, thirteen with Z.A.R. and two with Natal stamps, the postage in New Republic stamps is in every case 2d., either a 2d. stamp or two 1d. ones; but of course the explanation may be that they all weighed over ½oz. and under 1oz.

There would not appear to have been any Registration within the Republic itself. Two of the "Volksstem" letters referred to above are



Combination Cover: New Republic and Z.A.R. Stamps.

registered but the registration has been done in Utrecht with 4d. Z.A.R. stamps in addition to the usual 2d., whilst there is only the usual 2d. in New Republic stamps.

A writer in "Stamps" of 22-3-47 describes and figures three New Republic-Natal combination covers of which he was, and very rightly so, proud.

But he makes a very stupid mistake in attributing the necessity for Natal stamps to scorn on the part of Natalians for their small Boer neighbour. He appeared to be quite unaware of such a thing as U.P.U. regulations and to be equally ignorant of the fact that letters going to the Z.A.R. had to have stamps of that territory affixed.

He is also somewhat at sea in asserting that he had cleaned up the market of such covers when in South Africa in 1892-95. There were still some left.

Finally one recorded item in the "Royal Collection" by Sir John Wilson may be noted. This is a Natal stamped postcard bearing also a 1d. New Republic stamp, a ½d. Z.A.R. stamp and an F.H.B. Express stamp.

Purely internal covers are much scarcer than "combination covers" which went outside the New Republic. Stonehill illustrates two in his article, each having only 2d. N.R. stamps.

One is the Postal Stationery item already mentioned as being one of two known used specimen of this; it is addressed to "Goede Hop, N.R." The other has a 2d. stamp with a Type V postmark dated 28 Mai 88, and is addressed to "Mooimeijesfontein, naby Nondwene, Nieuwe Republiek."

POST OFFICES.

Only one post office, that in Vryheid, is definitely known, but in Tamsen's writings there are indications that he thought others existed although he states definitely that he did not know how many there were nor what obliterations were used elsewhere than at Vryheid. He states that all his used stamps were cancelled with one or other of the four types of obliterator he recognised as having been used at Vryheid, or else with a date and initials in M/S, which was perhaps the method employed at all the outlying offices.

Also it will be remembered that in discussing the two kinds of paper used for the stamps he referred to the possibility that one colour might have been intended for stamps to be used at headquarters and the other colour for stamps to be sent to country offices.

I might also quote from a letter in the files of the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg written in 1907 by D. J. Esselen, who had been the Government Secretary of the New Republic, as this letter gives possible support to the view that there were more post-offices than the one in Vryheid. He says:—

"The stamps of the New Republic were not recognised by the U.P.U. For letters going beyond its borders they were used to carry the letters to the border Post Offices of Utrecht or Dundee where arrangements were in force with the postmasters of these towns for stamping such letters with stamps of the South African Republic or of Natal as the case might be."

The stamps were valid for postal and revenue purposes within the New Republic and were sold under proper authority of the Government over the counters of the respective public offices."

As the query sent to Mr. Esselen presumably referred to postage stamps, the final phrase in his letter may refer to Post Offices, although of course it is possible he was referring to other offices where revenue stamps could be obtained.

(To be concluded)

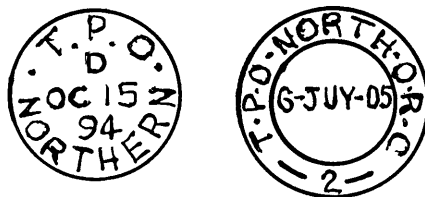
O.V.S. AND O.R.C. T.P.O. MARKS.

No complete account of the T.P.O.'s and their marks of either the O.V.S. or the O.R.C. is as yet available. In the meantime, therefore, it would seem important to record such scraps of information as may be found from time to time; in this way a sufficiency of bricks may be accumulated to make an edifice.

T.P.O.'s in the O.V.S. started in 1894, and a brief account is given in this magazine of June 1950, p. 88. Restarted in 1902 after the war a Free State (or O.R.C.) T.P.O. operated till 1919, when its run was taken over by the Transvaal T.P.O. which then operated over the stretch Johannesburg—De Aar.

I have recently acquired what is rather a mystery mark. It is a 22 mm. single-circle mark backstamping a postcard sent from Heidelberg Z.A.R. to Bethulie; the wording is T.P.O. at the top, NORTHERN at the bottom, date in two lines in the centre OC 15 94 with index letter D above.

I put this forward as possibly the first postmark of the O.V.S. T.P.O. started in 1894. That it is in English does not rule it out; ordinary town postmarks in the O.V.S. occur sometimes in English and then it must be remembered that the railways at this time were actually operated by the Cape Government Railways. So it seems to me that the initial postmark of the newly instituted T.P.O. might quite well have been in English.



Coming to the marks of the O.R.C., in the 1950 article mentioned above there is a drawing of a single-circle mark of T.P.O. NORTH/O.R.C. on a K.E. VII O.R.C. stamp, although the year of the mark is not legible.

Mr. L. H. Lomax, England, has sent me a drawing of a double-circle mark (25 mm. and 16 mm. diameters) with the wording "T.P.O.: NORTH:O.R.C./2", date in one line in centre 6—JUY—05. This is a backstamp on a cover from Winburg. I have several partial marks recognisably of this type, all on K.E. VII O.R.C. stamps. Only one has the year clear —04 and one has the numeral 3 quite distinctly at the bottom.

J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

SOCIETY NEWS

PAARLSE POSEELVERSAMELAARS- VERENIGING.

15 Nov.: Die volgende was aan die woord met hul uitstallings:

(1) Mnr. N. C. Combrinck het Petroleum op Posseëls vertoon, en dis verbasend hoeveel posseëls olie, direk en indirek, vereer. Dit strek vanaf Azerbaidjan se hulde aan die „Tempel van die Ewige Vure” te Baku, die ontdekking en ontginning van olie, tot die verbruik in lokomotiewe, vliegtuie en skepe.

(2) Mnr. J. G. le Roux het die posgeskiedenis van die Kaap 1652-1853 vertoon en kortliks die ontwikkeling in die poswese geskets met voorbeelde van al die posttempels wat mekaar vervang het van tyd tot tyd.

6 Des.: Lede van die Royal Cape Filatelistiese vereniging van Kaapstad was ons gaste en vertoëners. Hul uitstallings en praatjies was uiters interessant en die volgende was aan die beurt:

(1) Mnr. A. M. Jones — die poskaarte van die O.V.S. en O.R.C.

(2) Mnr. I. E. Hall — Wêreldposunie-seëls, uitgeslote die Britse Ryk.

(3) Mnr. L. Simenhoff en Mevr. J. Hall — V.S.A. Gedenkseëls.

(4) Mnr. W. G. Combrinck—Niassaland. J. G. le R.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

An attendance well above the average was present for our second **November** Meeting. Official business was quickly disposed of, and then the President, who had just returned from attending Congress in Pretoria, gave us a very clear and comprehensive picture of the deliberations there. He spoke in glowing terms of the excellent arrangements made by the three Pretoria Societies for the comfort and entertainment of Delegates.

Our members were delighted to hear that our Mr. G. Bülbring had been elected President of the Federation for the ensuing year, and that the 1956 Congress would be held in Port Elizabeth. It was with considerable pleasure that we heard that the highest award at the Teppex Exhibition, the Grand Prix, was awarded to Mr. A. R. Kleiner, our representative on the Federation, and that Mr. Bülbring had received a Silver Medal for his "German States."

Unfortunately, the gentleman who was to have exhibited this evening had been called out of town a few days previously, but Mr. G. K. Forbes stepped in at a moment's notice, and showed us an outstanding collection of the classical stamps of Australasia. The entire exhibit was of the Victorian period, and included many rarities and 'specimens' etc.

The Meeting concluded with a most successful auction.

The last meeting of the year held on the **6th December** has left nothing but pleasant memories in the mind of your correspondent. A record number of members and visitors appreciated a very fine collection of the stamps of Great Britain belonging to our oldest and Life member, Mr. W. Harmer. One could almost feel the love and care Mr. Harmer had lavished on this pet of his, and everyone enjoyed the stamps displayed. They embraced all issues from 1840 to 1955 with many fine pieces and lovely cancellations, also a good range of Officials and so on. He was thanked appreciatively and warmly by Mr. G. K. Forbes.

The other happy memory is the enthusiastic manner in which members have got to grips with the work for next year's Congress and Stamp Exhibition in Port Elizabeth. The dates for these events were fixed for the 1st to 6th October, 1956 with the Port Elizabeth Technical College as venue. The first committees were elected and members came forward with offers of help, so we look forward to a happy time of preparation for the big events.

The meeting closed with the President wishing all a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

December 5th. This was a members' evening at which many members displayed a few sheets of their pet collections. Mr. T. A. Drower displayed a really magnificent collection of Iraqi Air Mail covers, which was the outstanding exhibit.

M.F.S.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN.

December 6th. The Society paid its annual visit to the Paarl Society, the following members showing: W. G. Combrinck "George VI Nyasaland"; A. M. Jones "O.F.C. Postcards"; I. E. Hall "Foreign U.P.U.s"; Mrs. J. Hall "U.S.A. Commemoratives"; L. Simenhoff, F.R.P.S.L. "U.S.A. Commemoratives, Early Carriers and Omaha Exhibition." These meetings between Clubs spread good feeling and are events looked forward to.

December 8th. On this occasion Mr. J. H. Bruce showed for the first time his collection of Great Britain. A large number of members attended to see this well got up collection, which among other items, showed the plating of the 1d. Blacks and 1d. Reds (including a corner block), the Mulready covers and caricatures, a good range of the 1911 Coronation Airmail cards (brown, red and green), and a fairly full collection of the stamps of Great Britain. This was more than appreciated, and great interest was shown. Members are now looking forward to seeing more of Mr. Bruce's collection. M.F.S.

CAPETOWN THEMATIC CLUB.

December 12th. Mr. N. C. Combrinck showed his two thematic collections "Agriculture on Stamps" and "Petroleum on Stamps". The first is a well written up collection and particularly good is the order of arrangement. The second is one which he has just commenced and will prove even more exciting than that on Agriculture. On both these subjects Mr. Combrinck is really knowledgeable and in addition to the exhibits, he gave one of the best talks on the subjects that the members have listened to for many a day. The only pity was that more members did not come to see these two exhibits and hear the talk. At any rate it is hoped that we will see the "Petroleum on Stamps" again when Mr. Combrinck has completed same. Needless to say the writing up of the collections was something to be seen in order to realise how well this can be done. M.F.S.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Owing to the nearness of Christmas and the fact that many members were apparently too busy with preparations etc., the attendance at the meeting held on the **14th December, 1955**, was very poor; only nine members and one visitor being present. However, Mr. P. F. Retief provided a very interesting display of Austrian stamps, including old issues, modern issues, Charity stamps, newspaper stamps and postage-dues. Mr. R. F. G. Bompas in thanking Mr. Retief, stated that Austria was a most interesting country to collect as there was such a variety of printing designs. He congratulated Mr. Retief for the neatness and set-out of the various sheets of stamps, wishing him the best of luck in his search for the missing items; Mr. Retief had done very well considering that he had only been collecting Austria for about nine months.

Before closing the meeting at 9.45 p.m., the chairman, Mr. S. J. Hagger, conveyed his Best Wishes for a Very Happy Christmas to all members present. Mr. P. F. Retief, on behalf of all members of the Germiston Society, suitably replied. I.S.B.

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

There was a fair attendance of members and visitors at the **December** meeting, when apologies for absence of members engaged in seasonal festivities or absent from town were recorded.

The Secretary arranged a very interesting and enjoyable quiz on Union stamps. Mr. Geo. Feros was the winner.

The Port Elizabeth Society wrote offering interchange of Club Exchange packets and the suggestion was welcomed by members.

Mr. Leo Hellman was declared the winner in the competitive display held in November.

Two competitors took part in the December competition and some interesting pages on Israel and Rhodesia were on view.

Very fine displays of early Germany by Mr. T. A. Harper and of post-war Germany by Rev. H. Pluddemann were enjoyed. Mr. Leo Hellman thanked the exhibitors for their splendid displays and emphasised the finer points of each display.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the ladies for providing refreshments, and the President wished all members the Compliments of the Season. J.P.S.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

There was a good attendance at the **December** meeting when our worthy President, Mr. L. L. Brown, tabled a small but extremely interesting exhibit covering George VI overprints. This exhibit made us realise that there are more overprinted stamps of the British Empire than we realised. Thanks a lot, "Pop" for the exhibit. At the meeting Dr. Been made a most generous offer to the Society of two cups to be competed for annually by members of the Society. The one is to be awarded for the best paper read at a meeting and the other for the best exhibit tabled during the year. This fine gesture by Dr. Been is greatly appreciated and accepted with sincere thanks. The Committee, together with the donor will frame rules for acceptance by the members for these awards and details will be given through our monthly bulletin. As these awards will also be open to our Country members, they are earnestly requested to prepare their entries with a view to competing for either or both these awards.

December must be a lucky month for the Society as Mr. W. Newlands presented us with a fine table for use at our meetings. This table is going to be of great assistance to us and I would like to express our thanks and appreciation to Mr. Newlands for his fine gift.

Well, Teppex is over, except for the few loose ends which need tying and it is to be admitted that the event was most successful. The exhibition itself was wonderful and the layout and lighting arrangements were excellent and the Pretoria Railway Philatelic Society may well be proud of the part played by them in this most successful philatelic week. I would like to extend our heartiest congratulations to our members who attained awards at the exhibition. Mr. D. Slater Kinghorn received a silver award with felicitations by the Jury, while Dr. T. Berry received a silver award. Mr. J. A. Erasmus and Dr. J. Sheril received Certificates of Merit and Graham Kriste a juvenile certificate plus a special Pretoria award. Nice work chaps.

While on the subject of awards, I would also like to congratulate another of our members, Dr. T. Berry on being awarded the Skinner Cup. This cup is donated annually to the person who has done outstanding work for Philately during the year and the award is just a reward for his work done for Union philately. Well done Doctor! W.K.

O.F.S. & BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

There was a good crowd again at the **November** meeting. The "President's (Mr. A. H. Scott's) Exhibit" consisted of a collection of "Switzerland". This is a straight-forward show which, as the owner takes pride in stating, is gradually being built up with a minimum of outlay, with mint and used material mixed unpretentiously, but which already contains some scarce items too. Mr. C. Kachelhoffer was responsible for the second exhibit, a complete set of the Christmas seals of Norway. The so-called Scale-Printing Proofs, the latest craze in Northern Europe and in North America, were also shown. They show various stages of the colour printing process of Xmas seals, and are freely available to the general public in the countries that issue them. Mr. K. also showed a number of pictorial First Day covers from Holland.

An auction sale of various stamp lots was conducted under the "hammer" of Mr. J. Hodgson, an able and witty auctioneer. Dr. K. Freund gave a resumé of the happenings at the Pretoria Congress and related some interesting technical tit-bits picked up during the visit to the Government Printing Works. Mr. Kachelhoffer reported his personal impressions gained at the Pretoria Exhibition.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG.

In **December** we had, as usual, only one meeting (since we must be considerate once a year and spend SOME time with our families). It was a very good meeting, both in attendance and fare, in spite of falling on the 13th. Mr. H. Schwartz displayed a beautiful lot of "Ascension", not a very large exhibit, naturally, but one which contained most of the out-of-the-way items which even that young entry in the catalogue has been able to provide. And what it lacked in numbers of sheets, it made

up by its most pleasant arrangement and presentation. Very fittingly, it gave those of us who will for ever remain juniors, some hope for 1956 and the day when we have sufficient courage to show our small possessions. W.H.

DIE AFRIKAANSE FILATELISTIESE VERENIGING VAN PRETORIA.

Alles staan nog steeds in die teken van kongresse, uitstallings, vertonings en eufesvierings en eers as die drukte so effens bedaar het sal dit moontlik wees om 'n opname te maak wat versamelaars instaat sal stel om die gebeure in die Hoofstad in sy regte perspektief te sien en veral te kan bepaal in hoe 'n mate ons stokperdjie daarby gebaat het.

Dit is egter beslis nie te vroeg nie om te kan verklaar dat die Kongres en Teppex 'n reusesukses was en ons wil die organiseerders van albei van harte geluk wens. Ons van die Hoofstad wat met hulle in voeling was weet hoevel tyd en sweet dit gekos het maar hulle kan die sekerheid hê dat dit die moeite werd was.

Wat dit uitstallings op Teppex betref is daar nie die minste twyfel nie dat die gehalte hoog was. Veral die Afrikaanse afdeling was goed verteenwoordig en die peil wat gehandhaaf is is baie bemoedigend vir die toekoms.

Dit is egter jammer dat die reëlings in verband met die beoordeling van die Afrikaanse afdeling veel te wense gelaat het. Hierdie feit het ongelukkig aanleiding gegee tot heelwat ontevredenheid in wyer kring en op die jongste vergadering van hierdie Vereniging is misnoë uitgespreek deur deelnemers sowel as beoordelaars.

Die nuwe jaar wat voorlê sal ook weer soos altyd sy nuwighede op die gebied van die philatelie oplewer en ons hartewens aan al ons kollegas is dat hulle nuwe hoogtes sal bestyg in die vreugde wat die beoefening van seëlversameling aan die entoesias bied. R.C.

BASUTOLAND.

Mr. G. N. Gilbert has received a letter from a Mr. D. H. Vernon of Harrow, a collector of Basutoland, and sends the following gist of the letter:—

I have recently read your book on Basutoland and thought I would bring to your notice an item in my collection. This is a pair of 4d. blue C.G.H. with "G" overprint, with a fine Maseru Basutoland De 17, 1890 ring cancellation, your type 1. As you mention that you have only seen one other example of Griqualand stamps used in Basutoland, I wonder if you have had any other such items reported to you.

FIPEX.

News releases roll in every week and the exhibition will certainly not suffer through any lack of publicity. The closing date for entries was 15 January, but a month before that, over half the 2,000 frames were booked up. Everything is on a colossal scale — the Coliseum Building is the largest and most fabulous of its kind in the world; the exhibition is to be the Olympiad of philately; the medals and special awards are to be furnished by Cartier, will cost about \$20,000 and will be the most attractive and elegant ever offered at an international stamp exhibition.

From the final prospectus it is learned that there will be a special section for Junior Collectors.

The latest News Release states that the U.S. Post Office is honouring the exhibition with four postal issues — a 3c. stamp, a 2c. postal card, a 6c. air mail envelope and an 11c. souvenir sheet.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST

PROPRIETORS AND PUBLISHERS :

The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

Honorary Editor: Dr. J. H. HARVEY PIRIE }
Business Manager: Mr. J. MICHELSON. } P.O. Box 375. Johannesburg.

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Whole No. 371.

UNION NOTES

Sub-Editor: Mr. W. N. SHEFFIELD,
Box 99, Cleveland, Transvaal.

Harrison Essay with Overprint.

Following the report in our February issue recording the recent discovery of a Harrison Essay on watermarked paper, Dr. T. B. Berry of Bryanston, Transvaal, has forwarded the accompanying reproduction of a photograph of what may prove to be yet another specimen of this particular experimental design, but which in this case bears an overprint.

In his letter on the subject, Dr. Berry mentions that the item has only recently made its appearance and that no reference to it can be found in the relative literature. He continues as follows:—



"The Essay, a photograph of which is enclosed, consists of the conventional "Harrison Springbok" design, is cross-meshed screened and was printed by photogravure upon un-

watermarked and ungummed white paper in monocolour sepia-brown. It is imperforate, measures 21 mm. x 17 mm. and carries two overprints:—

(1) A vertical orange-brown line, unscreened and $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. wide running through both stamps at 3 mm. from their left hand side margins and continuing through the intervening margins, and

(2) The German word "Muster", meaning "Model" or "Pattern", typographed horizontally in black ink on the right half of the stamps and positioned below the buck's neck."

"It is difficult to reconcile the overprint being in German, for it is stated that the proposed design for the penny postage and revenue stamp was submitted to the Union Government about 1923 by Messrs. Harrison & Sons, Ltd., of London and Hayes, and that the main features were suggested by Mr. Guy Harrison and were worked out by a Dutch artist."

Dr. Berry asks "Were the Harrison Essays then printed in Germany?" and adds that

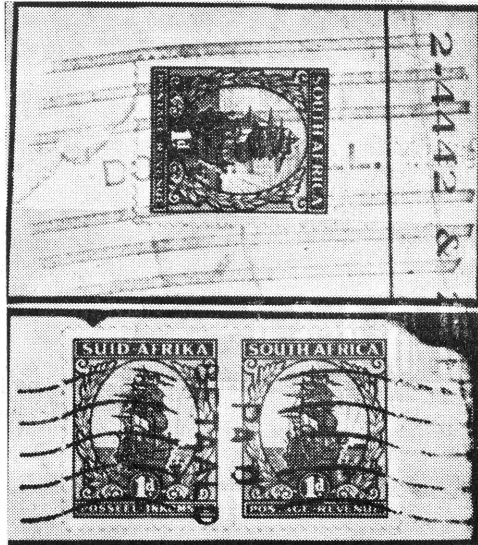


should any reader be able to offer an explanation, or throw any light upon this latest finding in essays, his assistance either direct or through these columns would be very much appreciated.

Incidentally, while on the subject of these interesting essays, we reproduce above a photograph sent to us by Dr. T. B. Berry showing the actual watermark which he found, and has clearly depicted with the aid of benzine, on a copy of the recently discovered Harrison Essay illustrated on page 17 of our February number.

Some Current Parcel and Letter Cancellations.

We reproduce in our accompanying photograph four examples of current parcel and letter cancellations recently shown to us by Dr. J. W. Harris of Port Elizabeth.



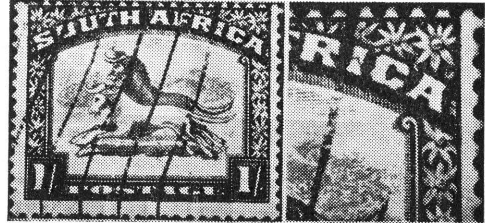
The top one is a good specimen of what might be termed the bar roller type used with violet ink for the cancellation of stamps on parcels. The second, in black ink and the third, printed in red, are two of the PAID/BETAALD machine cancellations used on letters and the last one is something new recently received by Dr. Harris on a parcel from Johannesburg and is simply a rubber stamped "Post Paid"



cancellation, which he remarks, is hardly the sort of thing one would expect to see used in such a large and important centre of the postal system.

Unhyphenated 1/- Plate I Variety.

An unrecorded variety on a copy of the 1/- unhyphenated Plate I stamp issued in 1932 (Union Handbook/Catalogue No. 42) has been shown to us by Mr. H. W. James of Cradock, Cape.



As illustrated in the accompanying photograph, it takes the form of a distinctive "V" shaped mark across the middle of the "I" of AFRICA and to the best of our knowledge has not been previously recorded. Mr. James also notes that there is a faint black line running vertically through the front feet of the lower Gnu in the design.

"Ladder" Variety—1½d. Gold Mine

Mr. T. Goodhead of Durban has shown us a used copy of the 1½d. Hyphenated "Gold Mine" issue, printed in metallic gold and slate green, with the "Ladder" variety in the bottom right-hand corner of the stamp, but bearing an inverted watermark. This variety is listed on page 127 of the Union Handbook/Catalogue as being present on the Plate II and Plate III printings with upright watermark only.

SOME NOTES ON THE LISTING OF VARIETIES.

During the course of conducting the "Union Notes" column, enquiries have frequently been received from readers as to why certain flaws on South African stamps have not been listed in the Union Handbook/Catalogue and also why others of apparently no greater importance have been given all the prominence of catalogue status and a financial value.

Some readers ask if it is only those flaws listed in the Handbook/Catalogue which should be collected and all others ignored and also, since there is apparently some form of discrimination, just who determines the matter and what is the basis used for deciding when a flaw ceases to be one of minor importance and becomes worthy of inclusion in the Handbook. In other words — just what does a flaw have to have in its character to be raised to catalogue status and classed as a "Variety."

These questions probably arise in the mind of every Union collector at some time or another and there is no doubt but that they are of considerable interest to the thousands of enthusiasts who have made a study of the many varieties that have appeared throughout the

years in the production of the Union's stamps, especially those of the rotogravure printings. The fact that the majority of those listed in the earlier issues of stamps, have been handed down through the years by the collectors of those days, might be accepted as explaining one part of the problem, but still leaves open the query as to what the present and future policy of cataloguing is likely to be.

At the last Congress of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa held at Pretoria in November 1955, the East London Philatelic Society tabled a motion which read "That those responsible for the official publications and handbooks of the Federation should draw up a set of rules or regulations which would govern the listing items of catalogue status", and the fact that the matter was raised at Congress showed that some enlightenment was desired on the subject.

In the discussion on the motion, I mentioned that despite its wide interest and the value of having some form of guidance, it was a difficult matter to deal with and that to formulate official rules or regulations would probably give rise to a number of problems. I gave a brief outline of my own ideas on the grouping of the various varieties and pointed out to the meeting that the majority of the minor flaws that appeared on the Union's stamps did not attain catalogue status.

The motion was lost, but I thought at the time, and still think, that the subject is an important one and at the risk of venturing into a field of trouble by enlarging on my ideas of separating the sheep from the goats in the listing of varieties I have set out below the general principles which I have found most convenient to work to. For one reason or another they may not have always been strictly followed, but I think it will be found that they at least form a basis for differentiation and may help to clarify the subject in the minds of the many newcomers to the collecting of the Union's stamps.

First of all, one must accept that all faults defects or variations from the perfect stamp as designed by the printers, are in a general sense VARIETIES and then split up this term into the following three groups:—

- (1) Errors of Production.
- (2) General Varieties.
- (3) Minor Printing Flaws.

By using these headings as a basis for comparison we can next proceed to list the items which might be considered as coming within the range of the different groups and deal first with the most important:—

Errors of Production.

It can be stated immediately that these are, broadly speaking, the most sought-after of the varieties, especially by the ardent collector. They are nearly always the result of some technical fault in the mechanics of production, or a definite slip-up on the part of the printers, and since they are generally in short supply they are eagerly snapped up by keen collectors and, in consequence, their market value can range through various degrees to sometimes quite high figures. As first class items always in demand, they naturally rank first on the

list of varieties for catalogue status and include such examples as:—

Errors of colour; Joined papers; Imperf. copies; Inverted, double or missing overprints; Missing headplate or frameplate or Missing watermark, etc., etc.

This list is not intended to cover anything like the possibilities that may come within the group, but only to serve as a guide and readers will have no difficulty in thinking of many similar varieties on the same level.

General Varieties.

This next group can be considered as coming second in importance and the items summed up as being generally the result of some slight defect on the multopositive, or the cylinder, which has shown up during the course of printing as a constant and prominent flaw on the design. Many of these defects have quite a popular appeal, probably because there is frequently something of the human touch about them and to illustrate the point one has only to think of the three following well known varieties:—

"Cleft skull" — Silver Jubilee.
 "Masked Princess" — Royal Visit.
 "Broken Knee" — Cape Centenary.

In the Handbook/Catalogue, the lists under the various pictorial printings cover a fairly wide field and there is no doubt that if space and cost of production had allowed, collectors would have liked to have seen a great many more included. The point is, however, that for consideration at catalogue level this group should include only those items with some particular significance such as:—

Colour; Shade; Watermark; Perforation; Paper, and similar factors, or some prominent printing defect which by its presence on the design provides the stamp with an attraction or interest of its own that is likely to appeal to the majority of collectors as a variety worthy of acquiring, mounting and exhibiting.

Such a definition, of course, rules out the inclusion of the small dots and dashes commonly known as "Flyspecks" and we now come to the consideration of these particular features in the third and final group.

Minor Printing Flaws.

The small dots, flecks, and other blemishes of the so-called "Flyspeck" order, which one frequently finds on the stamps printed by the rotogravure process, all come under this heading.

Their importance to the student lies in their often invaluable usefulness for identifying stamps produced from different cylinders and but for their presence on the designs of the earlier issues much of the research work and interesting information that has come to light from time to time on the Union's first rotogravure printings, would have been completely lost to collectors. With the recent discontinuance of showing the cylinder numbers on the sheets the employment of these little characteristics will continue to play an important part in determining a change of printing, but like many others, I am definitely of the opinion that their sphere of recording should be confined to the pages of the "South African Philatelist."

Here, as in the past, they will form a permanent record which can always be referred to, and whether it be a one-printing commemorative issue in which the interest of the "Specs" lies in the pleasure they give to the collector who likes to do a little spare-time plating work, or one of the many printings which the student is keen to place in its correct order of production, the information can be made available and at the same time the Union Handbook/Catalogue will be kept within reasonable limits of size and cost.

W. N. Sheffield.

(NOTE: As Mr W. N. Sheffield is going overseas for a considerable period, the "Union Notes" columns will be in the capable hands of Dr. T. B. Berry.—Ed.)

AIR MAIL NOTES

BELGIAN CONGO and RUANDA-URUNDI.

Towards the end of 1955 Belgium's African Colonies were provided with their first "Aerogramme" (Air Letter) sheets — nearly eight years after the Mother country commenced using these forms (15th February, 1948.)

One sheet, of large format 6.25 x 4 in., bearing an imprinted 4 Franc stamp (Purple for the Congo and Green for Ruanda-Urundi) was issued for each territory. Pale blue paper watermarked with vertical lines and bordered with a deep blue and yellow aeroplane (?) design.

In both issues French takes precedence over Flemish in the inscriptions, whereas the sheets of Belgium have always been strictly bi-lingual i.e. separate sheets have been issued.

The stamp depicts a 4-engined monoplane flying over mountainous country and tropical vegetation.

I. H. C. Godfrey.

UAT AEROMARITIME.

Capt. M. F. Stern reports that a special flight was made by a French airliner, a Douglas Super DC6B on the occasion of the official opening of the D. F. Malan airport at Cape Town on 26th October, 1955.

68 cards were carried on this flight round the Cape Peninsular area, each having a special cachet applied. This flight does not qualify as an "official" one.

Wants, Offers & Exchange

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

WANTED "Bouvet Island" 1955 Covers. — J. H. HARVEY PIRIE, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

NATAL, St. HELENA, GAMBIA, SEYCHELLES, SIERRA LEONE, O.F.S. I am now breaking up fine Collections including some modern. Douglas Roth, Mona Crescent, Newlands, Cape.

WANTED Local Posts, General, Priced Selections of items.—GEO. K. FORBES, P.O. Box 3, Port Elizabeth.

APPROVALS: British Colonials and World for all collectors.—BENONI STAMP SHOP, Benoni.

STAMPS.—Want lists invited for any country; specialities Union, S.W.A., British Africa.—LACY'S, 57 Plein Street, Cape Town.

HAVE you ordered your VOLUME II (Supplement) Handbook/Catalogue, Union of S.A. Stamps? Just published, right up to date. Edition practically sold out, so don't delay. Price 23/6 post free from Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

1840-1890. For the stamps of any country in this period write DOUGLAS ROTH, Mona Crescent, Newlands. C.P. Phone 694282.

SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST—New reduced prices for back numbers. Limited stocks of complete volumes for the years 1934-1942 inclusive are available at 12/- per volume. Odd numbers for these years 1/- per copy.

Copies of Volume 9 (1933) are available at 1/- per copy except for the July issue. Odd numbers of the first 8 volumes (Nos. 1-8) 1923-1932 are available at 6d. per copy. Complete volumes for these years are sold out. 1934-1954 odd numbers are available at 1/- per copy. On orders under 10/- please add postage. Early application is strongly recommended.—Business Manager, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

WANTED: Cape of Good Hope Rectangulars on covers in superb condition especially pairs, blocks, also O.F.S. and C.G.H. combination covers. C. R. Reynolds, Box 105, Beaufort West.

WORLD-WIDE EXCHANGE. Details free on request.—International Stamp Land, P.O.B. 24, Sheungwan, Hong Kong.

EXCHANGE Gibbons or Scotts Basis etc. mint Canada plate blocks, used and mint singles for similar Union material. Joseph Koke, Box 389, Dauphin, Manitoba, Canada.

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OBITUARY

DICK REDFORD.

Philately in South Africa has suffered a severe blow by the untimely death of Wm. Redford (more commonly known to his friends as "Dick").

It had been intended to have a biography of him in this issue, as a member of the Southern African Roll of Honour of Distinguished Philatelists; for this article the illustration which appears here had been chosen in place of an ordinary photograph. This was done with Dick's knowledge and, indeed, with his approval, for he owned the original cartoon and had it framed in his study. It was originally published in 1939 in "The Philatelic Chronicle" (a short-lived Johannesburg magazine) with the caption "The Guardian of Philately". Autobiographical notes (especially philatelic ones) were to have been supplied for the article, but, alas, they were not prepared in time.



Dick started his active career in Cape Town, and in his very early days tried his hand for a year or two as an actor and also as a racehorse owner. He found his metier, however, in 1903 when he joined the "Cape Argus" as an advertising salesman.

He was connected with advertising in one capacity or another ever since then and for some time has been one of the chief Directors of the Schlesinger Organisation. He was due to leave, with Mrs. Redford, for America at the end of March as representing South Africa at the International Advertising Convention; this he had been looking forward to with almost boyish enthusiasm. Whilst there he had hoped also to see something of "Fipex".

For many years he was a keen Rotarian and may well be described as having been the embodiment of Rotary's motto "Service before Self." He carried this principle into his business and public life, as well as into his hobbies. He was Chairman of some four or five bodies connected with public service, in addition to being an executive committee member of about twenty others. It was no unusual thing for him to attend four or five committee meetings a day, and this for four or five days a week. There can be little doubt but that he had consistently overworked himself for years and that this was responsible for his untimely demise at the age of 69.

In spite of his busy business and public life he could relax, and when officially off duty was the pleasantest of companions. His main hobby, apart from a weekly game of bridge and acting as a steward at meetings of the Transvaal Racing Club, was stamp collecting. This had been nearly a lifelong game and the meticulous care which marked his business and public life was seen here also; he had an absolute passion for 'condition' in his stamps and nothing less than perfect specimens would satisfy him.

In addition to being a member of the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg, a past President, many years of committee membership, and still a very regular attender, he was also a member of the Pretoria Society and of the "Royal" of Cape Town. Of the latter we understand that he was about the most senior on their list of membership, having joined about 1914, and was President in 1919/20.

One of the founders of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, he was an early President for several years; for a considerable period he was Hon. Business Manager of "The South African Philatelist", seeing it through its teething troubles and well launched as a going concern. He was elected to the Federation's Roll of Honour in 1948.

Of overseas institutions he was a Fellow of the Royal Society, London, and a member of the West Indian and of the O.F.S. Study Circles in Great Britain. In America he was a member of the American Philatelic Society and of the Collectors' Club in New York.

As a collector he had had many interests and at one period he stated that he had nearly forty countries on the go. Latterly he had cut down his interests considerably. Some few years back he disposed of a Transvaal collection, a very fine one rivalling almost the Curle collection, but he always remained extremely knowledgeable on Transvaal stamps.

His favourites of late were Orange Free State, Niger Coast and Nigeria, Seychelles and several West Indian countries.

His genial presence and his ever-ready willingness to help and advise will be sorely missed. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Mrs. Redford.

SIERRA LEONE.

Mr. J. A. Thomas of 2 Dan Lane, via Cline Town, Freetown, informed us that the new issue of 3d. to £1 stamps was to go on sale on 2 January. He was prepared to arrange for first-day covers but his information arrived too late to publicise this in time.

The set duly appeared on the date mentioned.

The Early Cancellations of East Africa and Uganda

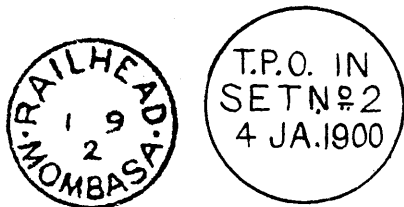
By Dr. W. E. FLOOD.

(Continued from page 24 of February issue)

(3) Cancellations of the Uganda Railway.

It has been reported that a Railhead P.O. was opened in 1897 or 1898. Presumably it moved with the advance of the line and, judging by dates of Railhead cancellations, continued to function for some time after the line reached Port Florence.

There are two types of Railhead cancellation. The more common is the square type EA1 inscribed RAILHEAD at the top and MOMBASA at the base. My specimens are dated from 1899 to 1902. (I have one example with the date 10 but as it is on a Q.V. stamp I suspect a "clerical error"). The year 1902 is abbreviated to a single figure. The mark is usually poorly impressed. I have the mark on cover, dated 29 DE 00 at Railhead and back-stamped 7 JA 01 at Mombasa — a considerable delay.



The other type consists of a small circle as illustrated. On my one specimen the date is given as 10 JA 3; I have seen another with the date wholly in figures as shown. Possibly this mark superseded the square mark.

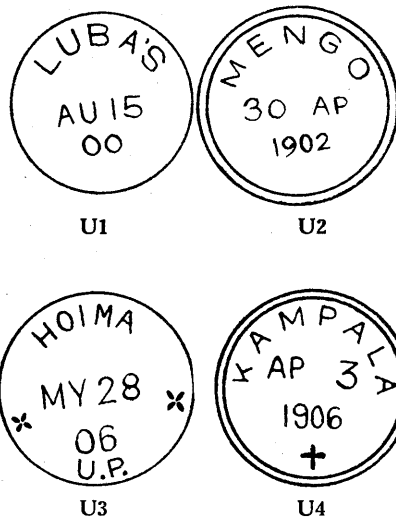
At the turn of the century a Travelling P.O. appears to have operated on the line, both during its construction and for a time after its completion. Although I have been aware of the T.P.O. cancellation for quite a number of years, and have acquired a number of specimens on B.E.A. stamps, I have been unable to find out anything about the service. Perhaps readers in Africa can help. I have marks inscribed SET No. 2 IN, SET No. 2 OUT, and SET No. 1 without any indication of direction. My dates range from 1900 to 1903. A cover with the T.P.O. cancellation 4 JA 01 is backstamped at Mombasa 13 JA 01 — again a slow journey.

(4) Offices in Uganda.

The typewritten stamps and early copies of the typeset stamps are normally cancelled with crossed lines made with black ink or red or blue pencil. Sometimes they are found cancelled with initials and/or the place of origin or date. Cancelling date-stamps were introduced in 1898. Kampala was the first office to use a date-stamp; the date has been variously recorded as

"August" and "autumn" but my earliest copy is November 7th. Other offices, e.g. Luba's and Ankole, soon followed.

I have found it convenient to distinguish four types of cancellation used during the period 1898-1910 though Kampala, Entebbe and Jinja used various types. (I have treated these three offices separately). The first general type U1 consists of a single circle. The original diameter was about 25 mm. but some offices used larger types. The simple double circle type U2, with the year in full, was used in fewer offices. Type U3, with side ornaments, appeared early in the



new century. Most examples have U.P. (Uganda Protectorate) at the foot but two offices, Bugangadzi and Nimuli, had UGANDA at the foot. Type U4, with the base ornament, is less common. I have found it for Entebbe, Kampala, Jinja and Masindi (single circle); I am not sure that it is a postal cancellation. A new double circle type, with U.P. or UGANDA at the foot came into use towards the end of my period. I have examples for Kampala, Entebbe and Jinja; it probably became general.

In the tabulation which follows I have given the dates of the specimens in my collection. I have seen, or heard of, dates outside my ranges, especially earlier dates for Ankole, Mumias and Naivasha. Type U1 for Buddu and type U2 for Eldama and Iganga have been reported to me. I have not thought it worthwhile to record sub-varieties in which (a) the day precedes the month or vice versa, or (b) the year is abbreviated to a single figure (fairly common around 1907). In all of these marks, inversions and transpositions of figures may be found.

Kampala. Kampala, the present-day commercial capital, now comprises a number of hills. One of these hills is called Mengo and is the site of the native headquarters. The Mengo cancellation, recorded in the table, was probably used for a while as a compliment to the native authorities. It is improbable that there was an office on Mengo Hill at the time, though an office was opened in 1950.

Type U1. 1898-1900 (and probably later).

Type similar to U3 but with more elaborate side ornaments and UGANDA at foot. 1902-08.

Type U4. 1905-7.

New double circle type, UGANDA at foot, time above date. It came into use about 1908.

Entebbe.—Entebbe (Ntebbe—place of stool or chair) is the site of the government headquarters. About 1899 an attempt was made to change the name to Port Alice (cf. Port Florence) and a datestamp with this name was issued but apparently not used for long.

Type U2. 1901-4 (probably earlier and perhaps later).

Type similar to U3, without side ornaments, with time above date. 1905-9.

Type U4. 1907.

New double circle type with U.P. at foot, no time. 1910-11.

Jinja.—Type U1. 1900-1.

Type U3. 1908-9 (and probably earlier).

Type U4. 1910.

New double circle type with U.P. at foot, no time. 1910-11.

Office	Type U1	Type U2	Type U3	Comments
Ankole	1901	—	1909	
Buddu	(Reported 1900)	—	—	
Bugangadzi	—	—	1904-6?	UGANDA at foot.
Eldama	*	(Reported 1900)	—	*Recorded in the Robson Lowe encyclopaedia but I have not met them. Also see section 5.
Eldoma	1899	*	—	
Fort Portal	—	1902	1908-10	
Gondokero	—	—	1907-8	
Hoima	—	—	1903-6	
Iganga	—	(Reported 1900)	—	
Kisumu	—	1902-5	—	Also see section 5.
Koba	1908	—	—	
Luba's	1899-00	—	—	Some with year omitted.
Masaka	—	—	1909-10	
Masindi	1899	—	1908	Type U4 single ring 1906
Mengo	—	1901-2	—	
Mumias	1902	—	—	Also see section 5.
Naivasha	1902	—	—	Also see section 5.
Nandi	1900	—	—	Also see section 5.
Nimuli	—	—	1904-8	UGANDA at foot. Often struck in violet.
Port Alice	1899	—	—	
Port Ugowe	*	—	—	*Recorded in the R.L. encyclopaedia but I have not met it.
Toro	1900	—	—	
Wadelai	1900	—	1906	Large circle in U1.

Notes.

Ankole (Nkole) is a district with the headquarters at Mbarara but the district name was used in the cancellation for some years. Similarly, Buddu and Toro are districts with headquarters at Masaka and Fort Portal respectively.

ly. A government station was established at Kakumiro (Lwekula's) in the Bugangadzi district in 1902 but it was transferred to Mubende in 1909. Iganga became a district station early in 1900 but the headquarters were moved to Jinja in 1901.

South Busoga, at the N.E. corner of Lake Victoria, was well populated in 1890 and Luba's (Luba's place) was an important station. But famine (1899-0, 1908) and sleeping sickness resulted in almost complete depopulation of the area. The site of Luba's is marked by the Thurston Memorial. Mumias (Chief Mumia's place) also fell into disuse but a new post office with this name was opened a few years ago.

Nimuli (or Nimule) and Gondokoro are little more than names now. Gondokoro and the Mahdi country, in the extreme north of Uganda, were ceded to the Sudan in 1914. The provincial headquarters, originally at Nimuli (south of Gondokoro), were moved to Masindi. Wadelai and Koba were on the Nile just north of Lake Albert. Wadelai was a military post opposite a Belgian post of the same name. Koba was a civil station mainly for the control of ivory brought over illicitly from the west. Because of the prevalence of sleeping sickness, the Acholi abandoned the area in favour of that on the Nimuli-Gulu-Atura road and the two post offices were superseded by that at Gulu (opened in 1911).

Eldama and Eldoma are alternative spellings, both acceptable in the early days, and the post office seems to have had some difficulty in deciding which spelling to adopt. Type U1 is inscribed Eldoma and type U2 with the spelling Eldama has been reported to me. (The Robson Lowe encyclopaedia additionally records each of these types with the alternative spellings but possibly a mistake has been made). A later cancellation (type EA3) is inscribed Eldoma Ravine (1910-11). The modern post office guide lists the office as Eldama Ravine.

A station was established at Mbale in 1904 but I have not found many examples of cancellations. I have one part mark (a double circle type) on a late Edwardian and also rather an unusual backstamp. This is a single circle with MBALE U at the top and the date MY 30 10 towards the bottom. Presumably the U stands for Uganda. Kaberamaido, Kamuli and Namasagali are also old settlements and possibly their offices may have opened during the first decade of the century. I have not been able to find out when Mubende and Mbarara first used their own cancellations.

(5) Offices in the Territory Transferred to the E.A. Protectorate.

At the time of the transfer of the Eastern Province of Uganda to the E.A. Protectorate, offices were already established at Kisumu, Mumias, Naivasha and Eldama (and perhaps at other places). The early cancellations of these offices have been noted in section 4. Further offices were subsequently opened.

Some of the offices adopted the general East African type EA3. I have examples from Kisumu (both with and without the time, 1908-12), Eldoma Ravine (1910-11), Naivasha (1910) and Nakuru (1911). A number of offices used a new type EA5. This consists of a single circle, about 25 mm. in diameter, with ornaments at the sides and E.A.P. at the foot. I have examples from Baringo (1904), Mumias (1903-10), Muhoroni (1903-07 including one struck in violet), Nakuru (1903-09) and Nandi (1910). Also, rather strangely, I have one example of the mark from Nairobi.

I also have a double circle Eldama mark (year '8') and a single circle Naivasha mark (1908?).



E.A. 5.



Experimental P.O.

(6) Miscellaneous Cancellations.

(a) **Experimental P.O.**—I have a number of examples of this mark, mostly on Q.V. stamps of British East Africa but also two on Q.V. stamps of Uganda, but I have not been able to find out anything about it. The impressions, in general, are not very clear, and only two of my specimens show legible dates — 1901 and 1902. I would much welcome information about this mark.

(b) **The Sudan "Retta"**.—This mark, consisting of a diamond of dots, was applied to casual mail collected from sparsely populated districts and handed to the nearest stationary post office for date-stamping. Mail from the north of Uganda, particularly Gondokoro, sometimes found its way through the White Nile Travelling Post. I have read that stamps were cancelled at some stage in Sudan in addition to receiving the retta but my one specimen has the retta only.

(c) **Other Cancellations.**—By about 1910 the number of new post offices was growing quickly. Some offices first used a large "skeleton" cancellation and others the standard E.A.P. types. These lie rather outside my field of study and I have not given much attention to them. For purposes of information I record the following which I have met: Chania Bridge, Eldore River, Farm 45, Fort Hall, Juja, Kericho, Kijabe, Kyambu, Limuru, Lumbwa, Molo, Njoro, Sergoit (spelling?) and Wasin.

Stamps may sometimes be found which apparently escaped cancellation in East Africa and were cancelled in transit or at the destination. There is little point in listing these "outside" marks; I have noted Zanzibar, Sea Post Office, a numeral cancellation of London, and even Lowestoft!

And on that amusing note I conclude my contribution to a fascinating story. I hope that others will add to it.

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The new 2½d. stamp necessitated by a change in postal rates is officially announced as going on sale on 15 February. The colour is orange-yellow.

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RHODESIAN VARIETIES

By ARTHUR V. JACOB, F.R.P.S.L.

(Paper read before the Royal Philatelic Society of Capetown.)

When I was approached by our Honorary Secretary to exhibit some part of my Collections, I thought that for a change I would present a Paper with Illustrations. In casting about for a suitable subject that might be of some interest to members, I decided on my main love "Rhodesia" and to deal with the Varieties of this interesting country.

No doubt you would like to know the reason why I collect the stamps of Rhodesia. It is a long story but it started some 35 years ago. I stayed in a boarding house with a friend of mine (yes, he was a male friend), we were both bitten with the bug of collecting stamps and we both had no money. He had a small collection of Rhodesia and I had a conglomeration of all countries — especially the Transvaal and some Mafeking — he wanted my Mafeking — I wanted his Double Heads, so we argued and argued. At last I agreed to give him my Mafeking and Transvaal for his Rhodesia and I am not sorry because, over the years, I have derived great pleasure in completing my Collection.

Apart from this I found that I had to do a great deal of research and I can safely say, there is still a large field of research open for those who can find the time to study the various issues. Unfortunately, these days, much as I would like it, I do not seem to be able to get that time which is necessary for research work. I can honestly recommend some of the younger generation to follow on in our footsteps and I can assure them that they will find in Rhodesia a country of untold wealth for research. There are Major and Minor Varieties — the latter are so numerous that it would take me more than the time at my disposal this evening to mention them all, so I intend to deal with the Major Varieties, leaving out proofs, specimens, etc. Where possible I have illustrated these varieties by presenting the stamps either singly or in blocks or sheets. Peculiar to relate, the very first stamp used in Rhodesia was a variety, being a Bechuanaland stamp overprinted Gubulawayo.

In 1888 the Missionary the Rev. J. S. Moffat, who was appointed the British Representative with headquarters at Bulawayo, instituted a Runner Postal Service between that town and Bechuanaland. As he had no dwelling place other than his ox-wagon from which he transacted his postal service, that ox-wagon was the first "Post Office" in Rhodesia (by which name we know the country to-day although it was then called Matabeleland). In June 1888 Mr. Barry May was Clerk of the Civil Commission and Postmaster-General at Vryburg and he packed boxes of postal requisites, including Bechuanaland Stamps of the 1887 issue, and sent these by runner to Rev. J. S. Moffat via Shoshong, Pilache, Tati and Gubulawayo. These included killers with the inscription "Gubulawayo, Bechuanaland" as well as "Tati, Bechuanaland" and were used on only one day, August 21st, 1888.

The story goes that Chief Lobengula objected to this description saying he was no vassal of King Khama, so to save any trouble Moffat then chipped off the offending word Bechuanaland. Later the issue of British South Africa stamps took place. Of the first issue of the stamp with Gubulawayo — Bechuanaland, there are only seven known with this postmark, two of which I am exhibiting. So far as the Tati-Bechuanaland postmark is concerned, I can only trace two such copies, one of which is in my collection.

In the first issue 1890, the chief variety is a minute dot found on the centre of the Tail of the left-hand supporter of the Coat-of-arms. This dot is to be found in the following values: 6d., 1/-, 2/-, 2/6, 5/-, and 10/-.

No varieties of the surcharge have been chronicled in the provisional issue of 1891. A variety that is hardly known is the violet postmark applied by the Bulawayo Post Office on the last day of the Matabele Rebellion, October 8th, 1896. I have a letter from the Postmaster-General explaining that the reason was that they ran out of black ink for the pad and had to substitute violet ink in its stead.

1891-94 issue. In this one finds the same variety as in the first issue, viz. the dot on the tail of the dexter supporting the Arms. There is no dot on the first vertical column of 6 stamps but the dot is to be found on the remaining stamps of the sheet and is also present in the margin. The letters RE of the word three are found joined on the 3d. value; this appears twice on a sheet on the sixth stamp in the third and sixth horizontal rows. There are some minor varieties such as broken and joined letters in the words of the value. In 1894, Capt. C. L. Newman, Reuter's Agent at Bulawayo, issued and printed what are commonly known as the Matabeleland Telegraph Service Stamps. These were utilized during the construction of the telegraph line from Tati to Bulawayo. I am exhibiting two sheets of these with a full description by the late H. C. Dann.

1895. One finds in both the 2d. and 4d. issue on No. 51 in the sheet the PENCE variety. This occurs through the last letter of pence viz., the E being damaged, making it appear like the letter F with a stop and on the 8th stamps in the first row of the 4d. value one finds the top arm of the E in the pence is slanting down. The first catalogued imperf. variety appears in this issue and is the 4d. A block of this variety is exhibited.

1896-1897. The major varieties are the 4d. Ultramarine and Mauve and the 8d. Green and Mauve. Both of these are imperf. between horizontal pairs. Then there is the 8d. Green and Mauve on Buff. The top row of the sheet of 60 stamps was perforated on three sides only, that is — between the stamps and top margin and on sides, the adjacent rows being entirely imperforated. There were five rows of ten stamps each, entirely perforated and the remaining ten stamps were perforated on three sides only. One of the rare imperforates is the 3/- Green and Mauve on Blue because only ten copies of this variety are known. This variety is found on the bottom row of the sheet which

was imperforate and the adjacent fifth horizontal row is imperf. on bottom only. The entire double row at the bottom of the sheet was sold over the counter in the ordinary course of business at the Fort Jamieson post office and constitutes one of the rarest stamps in Rhodesia. (I am indebted for this information to Mr. Meland's notes in the London Philatelist). There are two more varieties which are not generally known and that is the 1d. and 3d. which are imperf. and were on the lower row of the sheet.

Bulawayo Provisionals, April 1896. In March 1896 the Matabele natives rebelled, beginning hostilities by murdering the white settlers and Bulawayo was threatened as the whole country south of the Zambesi was in rebellion. Bulawayo was completely cut off from communication with Salisbury which was the Headquarters of the Postal Services and where the Company's reserve stocks were held. As the Bulawayo post office could not get fresh supplies, they had to resort to surcharging some of their surplus available stocks and hence the Bulawayo Provisionals came into being; that is the 1d. on 3d., 1d. on 4d., and 3d. on 5/-.

In the September 1896 issue of the "Philatelic Record" Capt. Norris Newman, F.R.G.S. states that the postal authorities said that none of the stamps so surcharged should be sold to the public and that all letters must be handed over the counter to the postal officers with the amount due for postage and then the P.O. Officials affixed the stamps on the envelope and defaced them. Against this there appeared in the August 1896 issue of the same paper the following information "As a protection against the whole stock being gobbled up by stamp speculators (where have I heard that before) all letters had to be handed into the Post Office and they were stamped by the officials, no stamp being sold to the public but, for receipt purposes, a maximum of six could be got on a very solemn promise that they were going to be used for receipts. I am sure that most of those (probably Philatelists!) who obtained these mint stamps must have broken their promises as from my experience I have found that the used stamps are very scarce, I do not think the information given above is correct as I happen to know that one very respected member of our society did have at least one complete sheet in mint condition, No. 45 of the 3d. on 5/-. From the information I have gleaned, I have come to the decision, rightly or wrongly, that the following quantities were printed:

No. 43—One penny on 3d.	1,200
No. 44—One penny on 4/-	1,200
No. 45—Three pence on 5/-	3,000

I have diverted somewhat to give you some information about this issue which I thought might interest you, and which I have condensed considerably — now I must revert to the theme of this paper, the varieties of these provisionals, and about this there has been great controversy. Robson Lowe in his Volume "The Empire in Africa" contends that the so-called errors or varieties are from clandestine printings, which information was no doubt based on a letter from a Mr. Furness who stated that these varieties were printed to order.

So far as my research is concerned, I cannot find any definite proof of this assertion and, in fact, Mr. Furness himself has no confirma-

tion and based his contention purely on second-hand hearsay.

Captain Norris Newman states that the printing by a local Bulawayo Printer was done somewhat carelessly and when one realises that in those far off days whisky was the main meal of the day, one can appreciate Captain Newman's remark. He goes on to say that the following appear:—

No. 43—One penny on 3d. Stop appears after the Penny.

No. 44.—One penny on 4/-. That on this stamp there were four errors on the first sheet, viz.: Capital P in Penny inverted. Fred Melville states that the variety appears on each in the 18 sheets surcharged. Then again, one sheet had only one-line debarment whereas there should have been 3 lines. This was at once altered, but he does not mention another variety and that is the "Y" in the Penny inverted.

Of the 3d. on 5/-, Captain Newman states that the Postmaster sent down to the printers 50 sheets of the 5/- to be surcharged; this was done in a better and bolder type. The first sheet showed only 4 errors, two "Rs" on the Top Half Pane and two "Ts" on the Right Half Pane being found inverted. (Mr. W. J. Harrington states that the inverted "T" in Three appears in the bottom row of first sheet and the inverted "R" in Three Nos. 14 and 29 on the first sheet). This was altered and all the other sheets were without error or variation. I think this latter information from two well known Rhodesian specialists, in my humble opinion is correct as both these stamps are exceptionally rare and are the highest catalogued values in Rhodesia.

I have viewed most of the leading collections in the world and I have seen, apart from my own, one of these varieties. If they had been clandestinely printed then surely there would be many of these varieties, which, as I have said, is not the case.

(to be continued).

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These initials stand for "Terres Australes et Antarctiques Francaises", which title has recently been applied to a 15fr. Madagascar stamp. This is meant for use at French P.O.'s in Kerguelen, St.-Paul-Amsterdam Is., and Terre Adelie. These areas were formerly regarded as dependencies of Madagascar, but they now appear to have been given a special French territorial status.

STAMP VALUES AND EXTRAVAGANCES

By ELIEZER BLUM

(Expressly written for The South African
Philatelist.)

In recent months several Union Collections comprising specialised material have been dispersed at different auction sales, both in this country and overseas, and I feel that at this stage some sort of appraisal of market conditions in general, and the strength of the demand for Union varieties and specialised material in particular, would be in place.

There has been a distinct trend by collectors to bid impulsively at auction for certain specimens, proofs and essay material which exist in large or small quantities, depending on the particular type of design, etc., which has resulted in producing a somewhat unrealistic picture of the market position affecting these specialities. To my mind, any type of essay or specimen belongs to an entirely different category from the normal general issues of a country, and therefore prices should not be driven to overstep the limits.

Recently, a set of Union specimens in faulty condition, realised close on £200 at an auction sale. This, to my mind, is a fantastic figure for such a set. The judgment and perspicacity of the bidder who has been prompted by the desire to acquire this set at any price must be explained as an impulse which, perhaps, is never to be repeated.

I should like to voice this warning and impress upon the minds of the experienced collector that excesses or the unrealistic elevation of these precursors of actual stamp designs and printings will, in the end, do more harm than good. Often, real rarities, stamps of an official nature, have been eclipsed in the face of these extravagant digressions from the normal path in philately.

Just to mention a few examples, I would like to put a few questions to those who are willing to pay £200 for a set of specimen stamps, their value and interest being only of importance to a limited number of specialists.

(1) How much would these collectors be prepared to pay for Union of South Africa, S.G. No. 3 (b) (stamp double printed) of which only three or four known examples exist? This stamp, if only by virtue of being listed in Gibbons Standard Catalogue, and at the same time also of the utmost importance to the Union specialist, should surely command a price of not less than, say roughly £2,000 as compared with £200 for a set of specimens. Can any collector in his senses really consider this variety worth £2,000 against a catalogue value of only £80? I say, most emphatically, "NO", and the relationship of values between certain stamps and trials must be established on a sound proportional basis. Recent realisations have disturbed the relations of values in this connection, and it is about time that prospective investors in Union material became aware of the necessity for adopting a more discerning attitude vis-a-vis such disparity in value.

(2) Although not attempting to criticize the S.A. Handbook Catalogue, may I take the liberty also, to ask why the Union London-printed Pictorial Issue 3d. listed on page 58 of the above handbook under No. 22 cd and priced at only £90, and of which only three examples exist, is priced at this figure; whereas on page 94 of the handbook the 2d. Tête-Bêche listed under No. 38 d.v.m. is priced at £50. I myself have handled perhaps a dozen or so strips, and numerous more examples of this variety are known to exist.

(3) Why should certain almost unobtainable Union rarities remain priced at ridiculously low figures and certain varieties and so-called rarities which exist in superabundance command prices out of all proportion to their scarcity and availability?

I could go on for some time and cite similar examples, but neither time nor space will permit of this indulgence. All I would like to point out is that, having devoted practically my whole life to the study and marketing of stamps in general, and the stamps of the Union of South Africa in particular, I feel that it is my duty at this juncture to sound a note of warning. I believe in a certain standard and stability in every sphere of activity when material considerations have to be taken into account.

The fact must be accepted that almost nine out of ten collectors are only concerned with the investment aspect in stamps, and in my experience I have yet to meet the collector who is prepared to throw away any amount of good cash provided he can satisfy his fancies with no regard whatsoever for the monetary aspect. If this be so, then on what actual experiences and value considerations are these realisations based? Is there an irresistible or a "wishful-thinking" type of professional, without the required knowledge of the material implications, behind all this, or is it due solely to the "money no object" attitude by the collector possessed of the means of indulging in these extravagances.

I am prompted by the desire to address these few lines to our philatelic public in order to try and promote a more balanced and rational economic basis for the continued stability and prosperity of the Union stamp market. In the past, judging from experience, I have found that exaggerations in any field of philately have ultimately been responsible for the complete rejection of an issue or a country, in a philatelic sense. But far be it from me to criticize or to claim sole authority for a proportionate revision of market values for Union varieties.

It is probably the earnest desire of every collector who is interested in the maintenance of a solid fundament to our hobby in this country that unrealistic thinking in terms of the material background to stamp values be seriously considered. South Africa is a young country and it must be admitted without being self-conscious about it that inexperience does manifest itself in every field of economic activity, and it is only reasonable to assume that in philately it cannot be otherwise. However, if the opportunity for rectifying certain discrepancies in thought and action affecting this hobby can be made, why not make a concentrated effort and try and introduce a basic solidity* to avoid disastrous consequences!

PRESIDENTS OF THE S.A. REPUBLIC

(Continued from page 19 of the February issue)

Thomas Francois Burgers (1834-1881) was born in the Cape Colony and graduated as Doctor of Theology at Utrecht, Holland. When M. W. Pretorius resigned as President of the Transvaal in 1871, Burgers was elected as his successor. It was Burgers who promoted a scheme for linking the Transvaal to Delagoa Bay by railway, and in 1875 he concluded a treaty with the Portuguese to carry out the project. He was also responsible for the introduction of South African Republic coinage when he ordered a small supply of sovereigns, bearing his own head, to be struck in England in 1874.

For various reasons the Republic fell into a condition of economic insecurity. Sir Theophilus Shepstone, sent to investigate matters, issued a proclamation annexing the Transvaal to Great Britain in 1877. Burgers resigned and accepted a pension from the British Government. One of his daughters still lives in Pretoria. In 1954 a statue to Burgers was erected in Burgers Park, Pretoria.

Stephanus Johannes Paulus Kruger (1825-1904) was born at Colesberg, Cape. On both sides of his ancestry, Huguenot names appear. Kruger accompanied his parents in the Great Trek to the North from Cape Colony in the years 1835-40, and settled in the Transvaal. He had little schooling and the Bible served as his only reading in his early life. Nevertheless, Kruger's official letters in his own handwriting many of which are in the State Archives, are of a standard which commands respect.

Kruger's potentialities for leadership, fearless fighting, intrepid hunting prowess, were recognised early and at 17 years of age he was made an assistant field cornet, while at 27 he commanded an expedition against insurgent Natives; he travelled widely in hunting excursions, including up to the Zambesi.

In 1856-57 Kruger and M. W. Pretorius, the latter at that time being commandant-general of Potchefstroom and Rustenburg districts, attempted to affect a union between the Transvaal and the Orange Free State governments, but this was not successful. Kruger developed into an astute politician and he had a phenomenal memory — valuable assets for any leader. In 1883 he was elected President of the Republic and held that office until the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer war in 1899. He died in exile in Switzerland in 1904, and was buried in Pretoria.

President Kruger's statues in Rustenburg (where he first settled as a farmer) and in Pretoria, and Kruger House in Pretoria, are much revered monuments to his memory.

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POSTAL HISTORY AND STAMPS OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS.

(A paper read by Mr. A. M. JONES before the Royal Philatelic Society of Capetown and copied from their News Letter.)

The group of islands, in the Bay of Normandy, known as the Channel Islands, between 80 and 100 miles from the South Coast of England and within view of France, consisting of Jersey (the largest island), Guernsey (the Seat of Government), Alderney and Sark are probably well known to most collectors, present here tonight. These islands formed part of the Duchy of Normandy, at the time of the invasion and conquest of England by William of Normandy, who subsequently became William, 1st King of England. From that date the islands resisted all attempts to be re-absorbed into France territory after the remainder of the Normandy Duchy was lost to the English Crown and have remained faithful subjects of the English Royal House ever since.

A system of local Government evolved and still exists, after various adjustments of legal processes, to this day. Their Autonomy has been confirmed by Royal Charter of successive English Sovereigns throughout their history. They are divided into Bailiwicks — a word of Norman origin — of which Guernsey is the Seat of Government and exercises control over the two lesser islands although both retain their own peculiar and individual forms of self administration. The islands were considered to be of considerable military importance and were garrisoned by British Infantry.

However after the outbreak of World War II it soon became apparent that the cost of maintenance of a garrison was not worth the expense and the evacuation of the military forces was duly carried out. Such of the inhabitants, particularly parents with children, as desired to be transported to England, as a safety precaution, when it became apparent that enemy action against the islands was likely to occur, were safely conveyed across the Channel. German aeroplanes landed on the Channel Islands aerodromes on the evening of Sunday, June 30th 1940 and German occupation became an accomplished fact, resulting in the Channel Islands attaining an amount of prominence which might not have been under normal circumstances.

The first Post Office was established in Guernsey in 1794. Prior to this date letters from England were sent to an Agent at a port, usually Southampton, and there awaited a ship to Guernsey. In the same way letters to England were taken to an Agent, usually a Shipping Agent or sometimes to a shopkeeper.

(To be continued.)

BRITISH COLONIALS PRINTED ABROAD.

In our January issue it was stated in connection with the recently issued ½d. and 1d. coil stamps for the Central African Federation that they had been printed in Denmark.

This is not quite accurate, and a description of the place and method of printing is given in the January number of "Gibbons Stamp Monthly."

The process is a new one called the Rotary Direct Plate process, which was experimented

with by Waterlow & Sons before and after the last war, and is now being used by their subsidiary company, the Imprimerie Belge de Sécurité, operating in Brussels.

The new 2d. of Nigeria is also being printed in Belgium, though it carries the usual Waterlow imprint.

Apparently up to 4 colours can be printed at one operation, and other manipulations—perforating, cutting of web into sheets, etc — are all done in a single transit through the machine.

SOUTH AFRICA MINT

KING'S HEAD COILS 4 cpl.	8/9
KING'S HEAD INVT. WK 3d. red.	17/6
KING'S HEAD INVT. WK. 3d. blue	10/-
KING'S HEAD INVT WK. 1/-	12/6
No. 37 HOR. CORNER PAIR	65/-
No. 38 HOR. CORNER PAIR	110/-
AIR MAIL 1925, 4 cpl.	37/6
AIR MAIL 1929, 2 cpl.	13/6

Write for list—

UNION STAMP CO.

P.O. Box 10225. Johannesburg.
(Office: 28 Clonmel Chambers, 70, Eloff Street)

ST. HELENA.

This year sees the island celebrating 100 years of postage stamps and on January 3rd there were three special commemoratives, 3d., 4d. and 6d. The design is of the now fairly common type of a stamp within a stamp, there being a reproduction of the 6d. of 1856 on a largish upright-format stamp with the dates 1856/1956 alongside, above being "St. Helena" the head of Her Majesty and the denomination.

NIGERIA.

To commemorate the visit of H. M. the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, the current 2d. stamp has been overprinted "Royal Visit 1956."

AUSTRALIA.

The P.M.G. has announced that there will gradually be issued a series of new ordinary stamps featuring birds, animals and flowers. They will be in two or more colours.

FRANCE.

On 14th January there was issued a 15fr. stamp of rather a gruesome design, representing the national memorial to the sufferers in the Deportation Camp of Natzwiller-Struthof.

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STAMP COLLECTING

Sir,

As a stamp collector of the old school, I could even say the very old school as my novitiate occurred nearly seventy years ago, I sympathise with the views expressed in the January issue of the S.A. Philatelist by "Stamp Collector" anent the modern trend of our hobby.

In my good old days all the stamp collectors amongst my rather limited circle of acquaintances invariably set out on the highly ambitious road of encompassing the whole world for their collections. Two factors, probably fostered this practice viz. the type of album marketed which gave space for every stamp issuing country of the world and the popular world-assortment packets sold at nominal prices. This vogue generally resulted in a vast number of empty spaces in those albums and, in many cases quite a few entirely blank pages.

Well, similar albums are still issued and similar packets are obtainable although much enlarged in both cases; so much so that the modern neophyte is scared to try the almost superhuman task of completing a world collection today.

But our friend "Stamp Collector" deploras the present state that 'collecting the stamps of one country either in full or in part' is being ousted by the appeal of Thematics, or as our American confreres term them, 'Topicals.'

Is he correct in his criticism based on the displays at the recent Pretoria Exhibition?

Analysis of the entries there including those in the Hall of Honour discloses that out of a total of 86 entries, excluding the Juvenile section, only 43 can be said to be what your correspondent describes as of one country or part thereof. The majority of those other 43 entries were certainly of the Thematic class, more 'arty' than 'philatelic.'

I am all for him in bemoaning the inroads Thematic collecting appears to be making into recognised stamp collecting, but if a multitude of others get pleasure from collecting stamps solely for the subject depicted in the design who are we to superciliously condemn or try to discourage this preference?

Is it not fairer to assume that stamps may be a great help to those who have a flair for ornithology, zoology, ichthyology, archeology, conchology or any other 'ology'?

In their own spheres, maybe, devout Topicalists dispise us philatelists.

However this may be we have to realise that Thematics have come to stay and future Exhibitions must cater for them. Possibly it would be more sensible to drop the word 'philatelic' and name future shows as 'Stamp Exhibitions.'

Old Stager.

The Editor,
"S.A. Philatelist."

Sir,

The letter in the January issue of the "Philatelist" headed Pretoria Stamp Exhibition recalled to my mind an incident at a meeting of the Cape Town Thematic Club when in the course of a talk there I unwisely ventured to criticise the relegation of the stamp to a very minor role in the building up of a Thematic

collection. Hell hath no fury like a thematic collector mildly criticised, as I found out that night.

Apropos of the letter to which I have referred above might I quote from an article from the pen of that doyen of Australian philately Mr. J. R. W. Purves, which appears in the December number of 'Philately from Australia.'

Mr. Purves writes: "Thematic collections should, it is thought, compete for a special class medal which bears no relation to the medals given to exhibits which conform to the older ideas of philately. This was done at Stockholm and we believe that the idea is a sound one. Irrespective of their merit it is very hard for "thematics" to measure up to the more purely philatelic collections. There the magnitude of the individual effort must be the main keynote in judging and where such factors as size of country, original research, difficulty of acquisition, time necessary to form the collection, rarity, etc., have to be considered, it is difficult indeed for a thematic collection (unless it is of a philatelic nature) to earn better than a bronze award, however meritorious it may be from a general viewpoint."

Their's my sentiments and I do commend Mr. Purves' remarks to the attention of the organisers of future Philatelic Exhibitions which might be held in South Africa.

N. Welsford.

PLEASE

can you offer us anything in Pioneer Covers of all countries, and also Pioneer (1911-1928) Semi-official Air Stamps, mint and flown—especially Colombia, Germany, Switzerland, Brazil and also RARITIES.

FRANCIS J. FIELD LIMITED,

Publishers of "The Aero Field"

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SHORT NOTICES.

Catalogue of K.G. VI Stamps, 1956 Edition, published by the Commonwealth Stamp Coy., 7, Leather Lane, Liverpool. Price 6/-.

The stamps of K.G. VI are by no means yet over and done with, as numerous new shades and varieties are still being discovered. This edition has been extensively revised; additions to the Malayan lists being outstanding. Price changes are also fairly numerous.

Stanley Gibbons Ltd. have received a Royal Warrant of Appointment as Philatelists to Her Majesty the Queen. A very pleasing tribute to their Centennial celebration.

Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. This year's Congress will be held in Brighton, 5-8 June, 1956. Any one thinking of attending should communicate with Mr. E. F. Hugen, 3, The Woodlands, London Road, Withdean, Brighton, Sussex.

NEW REPUBLIC STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY

J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

(Concluded from page 34 of February Issue)

POSTMARKS.

In dealing with these I shall adhere to the classification used by Stonehill.

Type I.

This, the earliest known postmark, is a double-circle one, the outer circle measuring about 30mm. diam. and the inner circle about 19mm. Between the circles is "Postkantoor" above and "Nieuwe Republiek" below with "Vryheid" in smaller type just inside the inner circle below 'Postkantoor', the rest of the centre being blank.

As has already been given in detail this mark is known almost only on Z.A.R. stamps presumably or definitely used before the issue of the New Republic adhesives and Tamsen, who first recorded it, thinks it quickly went out of use because it had no date.

There are several examples of this mark in the Hunt collection, all on Transvaal stamps; they are in violet, except on the pair shown on page 161, Sept. 1955 issue with the date in M/s., this is black.

Stonehill has two specimens, one in red on a New Republic stamp (S.G. 9), the other in black on a pair of rd. N.R. stamps unembossed on yellow, on piece.

Type II.

An oval of approximately 37 x 26mm. with 'Vrijheid' above and 'Nieuwe Republiek' in smaller, sloping type below; Maltese crosses at either end between the upper and the lower lettering and the date in one line in the centre. Sometimes when heavily applied the Maltese crosses are just large blobs. In violet, black, or red.

Type III.

This is a large single-circle mark of 35mm. diameter with "Vryheid Nieuwe Republic Zuid Afrika" at the top, and "Postkantoor" at the bottom, the two letterings being separated by small 6-rayed asterisks. The centre is occupied by the Republic's coat-of-arms; there is no date.

Tamsen notes the occurrence of envelopes with this mark on them, but not cancelling stamps. These he regards merely as official cachets or office marks entitling the letter to free postage; there are other similar marks with "Landrost Kantoor" (Magistrate's Office) in place of "Postkantoor", also official cachets, and not known cancelling stamps.

Type IV.

This is the "De Vletter" mark already fully described as a possible Postal Frank, used as a canceller without the Overprint "Gouvt. Zegel N.R." It is certainly known (or recognisable parts of it, at any rate) on stamps, but whether these marks are postal or fiscal cancellations is uncertain.

Stonehill writes:—

"As a cancelling stamp I approach it with the greatest reserve, for two reasons. First, it was apparently not known as used on any adhesives in 1892 nor yet in 1902 when Tamsen wrote his two principal papers. Tamsen was not a man to miss much! Secondly, this obliteration is never found on any of the common low values. In my experience to date it occurs exclusively on the more exotic values and exclusively on the first issue. I therefore reserve judgment on this cancellation which, if any, might have been reserved by the postmaster for the purpose of obliging his philatelic friends. I have seen other interesting values than those illustrated bearing De Vletter stamps, but of late have decided against including them in my collection."

To this I might just add:—

(1) In his New Republic display at Cape Town International Stamp Exhibition Mr. Stonehill showed the following specimens with this mark: 6d., 5/-, 5/6 and 12/6 on yellow paper and 7/6, 10/-, 10/6 and 12/6 on blue granite paper; all being dated stamps but in the case of three of them, dates not listed by Gibbons.

Whether the 6d. stamps in these two collections can be considered as low or non-exotic values and therefore come into the category of being likely, or possibly, postally used I am not prepared to say. And there Type IV must be left—in the air!

Type V.

This is by far the commonest obliteration used in 1887 and 1888. An oval of about 34 x 24mm. with 'Vryheid' at the top and at the bottom three small asterisks or stars arranged as an inverted triangle. Date in one line in the centre. In heavily impressed specimens the three asterisks may look like dots. In violet.

Type Va.

Only one specimen of this appears to be known, in Mr. Stonehill's collection. He describes it as like Type V but the word 'Vryheid' is rather different. The letters are larger, thicker and more closely spaced; the measurement from the foot of the 'V' to the left lower corner of the 'D' is only 21mm. as against 26mm. in Type V. He says "If it is genuine why is it so rare? But, on the other hand, if it was made to deceive, would it not be much more common than it is?"

Type VI.

I originally described this type in an article on "The Numeral Postmarks of Southern Africa" in the *South African Philatelist* of Oct., 1940, p. 147. It is a type which was abundantly used in Cape Colony and to a lesser degree in other countries of Southern Africa—a vertical

POST MARKS



I



II



III



V



VI



VII



Va

Types of New Republic Postmarks.

barred oval with a boxed numeral in the centre, the numeral in this instance being 232.

My four specimens of it, all in black on loose stamps, are on S.G. Nos. 9 (1d.), 26 (3d.), 40 (9d.) and 197 (2d). To these Stonehill has added Nos. 7 (1d), 17 (2d.), 31 (4d.), 45 (1/6) and 213 (9d.).

Jurgens in his "Handstruck Letter Stamps of the Cape of Good Hope" p. 110 records that this number was at one time in use at Barkly West and also at Rawsonville at the same period as it appears to have been used in the New Republic. But it is possible that the mark may have been duplicated and used outside the Cape of Good Hope as well as in it. This sort of thing is quite well known with similar marks in other territories. Stonehill adds "No one would willingly deface an otherwise perfectly good stamp with this ugly smudge, and as there is nothing known against it, we may accept it as perfectly genuine." With these sentiments I agree, except that I hardly consider the mark a particularly ugly smudge! I would suggest the possibility that it might have been used at an outlying post office.

Type VII.

This is a mark of Orange Free State type, a horizontal 11-barred oval with a number in the centre inside circle, the number in this instance being 27. Mr. Stonehill records what seems to be the only known specimen of this type. No. 27 is one whose place of usage has been identified as at Hoopstad, but it is possible that it may have been handed over to the New Republic as in the case of the Type VI oblitera-tor from Cape Colony. It may also possibly have been employed at an outside office other than Vryheid.

Type VIII.

This is a pen cancellation and Stonehill calls it a "type" because all copies are cancelled in the same hand, with the same initials (D.D. B.....) and in the same fashion — the initials (or is it a signature?) above the date in figures. He states further that it is so little ornamental as to put it above suspicion and thinks it may be a postal cancellation of some small office outside Vryheid. Further, it was only used on the 4th issue of stamps in 1887-1888.

I do not feel altogether happy about his in-ferences as to this being a postal cancellation, although, it would seem possible, as Tamsen originally stated, that M/S. cancellation may have been employed at outstations.

I have three specimens with a D.D.B. cancel-lation, one of which, on an S.G. 217 (2/6 stamp), fits in pretty well with the above description, but the other two do not.

In the first place they are on earlier, dated, stamps. One is on a 2/6 (S.G. No. 114) and the other on a 10/6 stamp with a date not listed by Gibbons, 6 Sep., 86. Secondly the M/S. cancel-lation is not quite the same as described by Stonehill or as on my S.G. 217. The D.D.B. ends with a / and the date is, on both of them, writ-ten as '2 Dec. 86', not all in figures.

Stonehill describes two further types, but as he considers them both either as fiscal cancel-lations or as official cachets entitling to free postage, much need not be said about them. They are both similar to Type III but with, in one case (?) "Uitvoerenden Raade" (? Minis-try of Foreign Affairs) in the other "Staats-Secret." (State Secretary), in place of "Post-kantoor".

SOCIETY NEWS

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF THE WEST RAND.

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Krugersdorp Town Hall on Wednesday, **February 25th, 1956** at 8.10 p.m.

Mr. Vermaak, the Chairman, presided with 13 members and 1 visitor present.

The outgoing Chairman, Mr. Vermaak, in his report, stated that the attendance had improved vastly during the year under review and this was mainly due to alternating the meetings at Krugersdorp and at Rodepoort and district. He also stated that once again several members had been fortunate to procure recognition at various Exhibitions held both in and out of South Africa.

Election of Office Bearers for 1956.

Chairman Mr. W. S. Yelland.

Vice-Chairman Mr. J. T. Burrell.

Hon. Secretary Mr. E. G. Simpkins, to hold office until July and then Mr. J. Keet to take over.

Committee Members Messrs. Sharpe, Richards and Bruwer.

Delegate to Federation and Congress: Mr. J. Keet. Alt. Delegate to Federation: Mr. W. S. Yelland.

The Meeting decided that the Club would purchase catalogues which would be available on loan to members at a small nominal charge.

Mr. Yelland, the new Chairman, announced the winner of the "P.S.W.R." Cup for 1955. This went to Mr. J. Keet for his Zoology. The Chairman presented the Cup to Mr. Keet and also a miniature to Mr. Burrell who won it the previous year.

Various members displayed numbers of sheets from their collections and these proved both interesting and instructional.

After a vote of thanks to the Town Council and to Mr. Bruwer for the catering, the Meeting terminated at 10.15 p.m. B.S.

MARITZBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Our Monthly Meetings are held on the Second Friday of each month in the Women's Club, Burger Street, at 7.45 p.m. Our Chairman is Dr. Lucas Young and we have about 20-25 members and visitors at each meeting. There are the usual reading of Minutes, Correspondence, Stamp Gossip and News, and then a display and talk.

At our **December** meeting Dr. D. L. Young gave a nice resume of the Pretoria Exhibition. Mr. S. P. Sherry gave a talk and Display of Stamps of Aden and its Protectorates.

After the tea interval, Dr. Young showed some of his prizewinning Exhibit of Norway, which he gave in a most interesting manner.

At our **January** Meeting Capt. Wilson showed some new issues and Mr. H. F. Martindale gave a display and talk of S.A. Union Stamps and varieties. C.H.B.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The meeting scheduled for **November 21st** last was unavoidably cancelled. A rather severe hail-storm struck our town at 5 p.m. and certain of us were caused not inconsiderable inconvenience in our homes. Consequently only a handful of members managed to reach the "Tech." for the scheduled meeting which was cancelled due to there being no quorum present. However, Mr. Newlands, who was to have exhibited that evening, very kindly offered to bring his display to the following meeting which was held on the **5th December**. This was the annual President's evening but, despite Mr. Newland's offer, Mr. Manville-Ford was not quite able to escape his obligations without some entertainment for us.

Mr. Newlands read a very interesting paper on the Postmarks and Postal History of the Natal Front of the Anglo-Boer War. This was most strikingly illustrated by the covers relating to that subject that Mr. Newlands brought along for our inspection. Besides the quality of the exhibit there was the most satisfying fact that a considerable amount of research had been put into his subject by the exhibitor. Following on this exhibit we were able to see a very commendable collection of Rhodesias & Nyasaland, Geo. VI to date, which was tabled by our President. Thereafter we were shown a very pleasing collection of Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, again by Mr. Newlands.

January 9th: Mr. R. A. Hudson was the convener of the evening's programme which was in the nature of a philatelic "dog fight" without quite the hostility that the expression may imply. The idea was that a number of members would each bring about ten pages of material which was perhaps typical of the way in which they wrote-up and arranged their collections, with the object of these being criticised or praised, as the case may be, by the other exhibitors, and for comparisons of style to be examined by all. Eight members participated and all spoke in favour of their particular styles of arrangement and write-up where warranted and then in most cases offered some very constructive and intelligent criticism of the other participants' displays. Altogether the idea, which was Mr. Hudson's sole conception, resulted in a most entertaining evenings fun and he is to be congratulated for the introduction of what we are sure will become a regular feature of our future programmes. Besides the point emphasised above, there was the added attraction of seeing extracts from several completely diverse collections. Those participating were Dr. Reiserer, and Messrs Manville-Ford, Slater Kinghom, Watson, Newlands, Wright, Weinstein and Mr. Hudson himself. J.M.W.

MIDLANDS STAMP CLUB.

S. Rhodesia.

Although not a member of the Federation we give here a short note of a meeting held on **13 December**.

Eleven members were present and an Executive Committee was elected:— President, Madame Claire Birsen; Chairman Mr. Shepherd; Sec.-Treas. Mrs. Markham.

It was suggested that educational meetings be held in the future, to further philatelic knowledge.

An annual subscription of 10/- was agreed to.

A proposal was approved that at each meeting two countries should be decided on for members to study and to display at the next monthly meeting.

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The forty-seventh Annual General Meeting was held on the 20th January 1956 and was fairly well attended.

Apologies for absence came from our old friends Mr. C. H. Thornton and Mr. Andrew Watson, owing to indisposition.

Reports were read by the Exchange Superintendents, the Treasurer and the President, and were adopted.

The following officers were elected.

President: Mr. J. P. Shingler; Vice-President: Mr. J. Joseph; Hon. Secretary: Mr. J. Sparkman; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. H. E. Williams; Hon. Auditor: Mr. J. L. Paviour; Hon. Librarian: Mr. L. Hellman; Hon. Exchange Superintendents: Mr. H. T. Harper, Mr. J. S. Hoal, Mr. J. Sparkman; Additional Members: Dr. F. Drusinsky, Mr. C. P. Durkin, Major C. Hasted; Hon. Press Superintendent: Mr. J. P. Shingler; Hon. Magazine Superintendent: Mr. J. Joseph.

The President paid special tribute to the very enthusiastic members of the Executive and the tireless Secretary, Mr. Jack Sparkman.

The Exchange Club continued to flourish and there had been an increase of 17 members during the past year. The President's cup for the Competitive Displays was won by Mr. Jack Sparkman.

Mr. L. F. Barnes, a Foundation member of the Society, and Mr. J. F. Paviour were elected hon. life members.

The first five awards of Diplomas of Fellowship of the Society were made to Messrs. T. A. Harper, C. H. Thornton, H. Courlander, A. Watson and J. P. Shingler.

Mr. Sparkman gave a display of his winning exhibit for the President's Cup, and the President gave a display of some special Union items. J.P.S.

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

This Society now meets at the Hotel Lanark, Beach Road, Fish Hoek.

January 9th. The old stalwart Mr. K. L. M. Alexander displayed his collection of covers illustrating the postmarks of the route followed by the recruiting "War Train" in 1943. The display is of great interest and other Societies have had the pleasure of seeing this unique collection. It certainly is something different. M.F.S.

CAPE TOWN THEMATIC CLUB.

January 23rd. This was the evening when the Committee entertained the members and exhibited. As can be expected the exhibits were of a very varied nature and there was something of everything to interest both members and visitors who attended. The exhibits were as follows:— K. Cameron, "Mozambique Company 1892-1940", which was a complete collection of these issues and a very fine lot; G. Petroulis, "Air Stamps of Bolivia and Canada", which embraced not only the official issues but also the rarer and interesting semi-officials, as well as private Company forerunner stamps; L. Simenhoff, F.R.P.S.L., "Fish, Reptiles, Marine Life, Insects and Beetles on Stamps" being only a small section of his fine thematic collection; M. F. Stern, "The Airmails of Africa 1954", showing how even now there are many new services and flights and that aero-philately is still alive. In addition an interesting competition was arranged with prizes, and was based on testing members' knowledge of position of countries and topical events shown on stamps, as well as general philatelic knowledge. Dr. C. R. v. d. Merwe and Mr. L. Simenhoff tied in the senior section and D. Langeveld won the junior section. M.F.S.

had also prepared for that evening, and which will have to be postponed until the second meeting in February. Perhaps he had foreseen that, for he had NOT brought his Siamese cat along. On **January 23rd** we had another of our popular "Members' Evenings", of which we have managed to squeeze four into the crowded curriculum of the year. No less than twelve entries of "ten sheets per member" were judged, and Mr. Redford may be proud of his first prize in view of such competition; but his "Niger Coast" sheets were really something outstanding. Second Prize went to a very fine show of "Belgium", Dr. von Varendorf's display, and third came an "Eastern States" exhibit, the property of a visitor, Mr. J. Berman, who must feel happily encouraged by so early a success. Needless to say there was a lot of time given to the many who had come to swap stamps, and if the Society had only charged a penny commission on each stamp changing hands, we might have less worries now over the size of the '1960 Fund. W.H.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN.

January 12th. The Society had a treat in that Mr. D. Roth gave a more than interesting talk on "Reprints", which could be followed easily by both the senior and less erudite members and really gave a full insight into this interesting section of philately, and which was followed by his fine exhibit of Reprints of only a few countries from his collection, and which included originals for comparison. The selection was made at request of members, and covered U.S.A., Australian States, Roman States, Alsace Lorraine, Baden, Bergedorf, Bosnia, Canada, Chile, Corrientes, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Prussia and France. It was the type of evening one would expect from an erudite philatelist, and appreciated by all who attended.

January 26th. This was Committee night and a grand display was offered to those who attended: I. E. Hall, "U.P.U. issues of Foreign Countries", colourful and well mounted; Mrs. Joan Hall, "U.S.A. Commemoratives", also well set out and always of interest; L. Simenhoff, F.R.P.S.L., "Bouvet and Tristan da Cunha covers", which proved of interest; H. Savage, "The complete used Stamps of Malaya 1937-49", also well mounted and written up and included many rarities, seldom found postally used; A. M. Jones, "Crown CC issues of the Cape", likewise a more than interesting exhibit; Dr. P. L. Vautier, "Preadhesive Covers of France, 1631 onwards, covers with the latest issues, recent balloon post, and Red Cross Booklets of France", all something different; C. R. V. Solomon, "Recent F. D. C's of the World", which were really a fine lot colourful and artistic. A large number of visitors attended and found the fare provided of outstanding interest.

9th February. The outstanding feature was the judging for the Jacob Cup — for the best exhibit of the year. It was a very close race between Mr. E. B. Lye's "Chalon Head issues of Queensland" and Mr. J. H. G. Galbraith's "Pence Issues of Ceylon". Both were magnificent "classic" exhibits and the Jury found it very difficult to decide between them. The latter was finally awarded the Cup, but only winning by a very short head. M.F.S.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG.

On **January 10**, Commander Enoch provided practically the whole fare of the evening. His main job was the display of that section of his magnificent "Siam" collection which deals with the first issues of the 20th century; and the many pages of mostly un-listed stamps which he showed, and more so, the paper which he had painstakingly prepared for them, proved not only the considerable and valuable research that is his personal contribution, but the many opportunities also which are still there for further study. Just because Siam has been, so far, an "out-of-the-way" country, this study has all the charm and attraction of originality, and the thrill for the individualist — and we are prepared to believe that Commander Enoch will not have it all his own way in future but that he has made converts and competitors. So much was to be seen and listened to and discussed that there was no time for the quiz which Commander Enoch

11th January, 1956. Owing to many members being away on holiday there were not many present at this meeting. Mr. S. J. Hagger was in the chair with six members and one visitor.

Once again Mr. W. S. Deverell gave a refreshing resume of the latest stamp news. Considerable interest was displayed in the announcement of the Caspari collection sale valued at £1,000,000. It being members' night, Mr. W. S. Deverell displayed a selection of modern mint Nyasaland stamps, while Master Deverell followed with some South African First-Day Covers with special cancellations. Mint modern British stamps overprinted for use in Morocco and the Middle East were shown by Mr. R. S. G. Bompas. Within the limit of ten sheets, Mr. S. J. Hagger's display was an exceptionally comprehensive study of the South African half-penny Springbok issue in used pairs. Thanks were suitably expressed by Mr. L. J. Picton and Mr. P. F. Retief.

8th February, 1956. Not many members of any society are keen to turn out to an Annual General but at the 4th Annual General Meeting of the Germiston Philatelic Society, 10 members and 5 visitors were most interested in the proceedings.

The President, Mr. S. J. Hagger, stated that as is usual at the end of the Society's year, we have to take stock, and I am afraid we must face the fact that we lost a little ground during the year just ended. There was a slight decrease in membership caused by the deletion from the roll of the names of those who had not renewed their subscriptions nor attended meetings for six months or more. As they were inactive, their loss will not be felt so much, but the factor which is causing your Committee the greatest worry is the generally poor attendance at the monthly meetings. So much so, that during the year the Honorary Secretary was instructed to send a "Questionnaire" to each member in an endeavour to get to the root cause of this non-attendance. As a result of the replies received, a proposal will come up later this evening to change the meeting night. If this is agreed to, and the change does not result in better attendances, then the whole matter will require serious consideration from the new Committee. During the last year, we paid visits to and received them from the Afrikaans, East Rand, and Johannesburg Societies. We were fortunate in being able to maintain a high standard in the exhibits we took with us, as did our guests, and these meetings were most pleasant for all present. A new feature was initiated by Mr. W. S. Deverell who has been giving at recent meetings, a resume of articles appearing in the latest issues of the various Philatelic magazines. This has been much appreciated by members. As you will have just heard, our financial position is very satisfactory, and our thanks are due to Mr. T. L. Ross for having acted as Hon. Auditor. I extend my personal thanks to the members of the Executive Committee for their unflinching co-operation, especially to Mr. I. S. Burniston, our Hon. Secretary/Treasurer, whose hard work has made my job an easy one. As usual, all our meetings have been held in this ideal venue, the premises of Volkskas, and once more we thank Mr. E. Muller and the Directors of Volkskas for according us this privilege.

The following Office Bearers were elected for the new year:—

President: Mr. S. J. Hagger. Vice-President: Mr. L. J. Picton; Hon. Secretary/Treasurer: Mr. I. S. Burniston. Auctioneer and Librarian: Mr. W. S. Deverell; Executive Committee members: Dr. A. Kaplan; Mr. E. Muller; Mr. P. F. Retief and Mr. R. S. G. Bompas. Honorary Auditor: Mr. T. L. Ross. Delegate to Philatelic Federation Mr. S. J. Hagger.

As is usual at an Annual General Meeting, the display was provided by the President of the Society, and this time Mr. S. J. Hagger tabled a vast collection of the "First Definitive Issue" of the Union of South Africa. In a short address, before tabling the various sheets of stamps, Mr. S. J. Hagger stated that he felt sure that many members had become very interested in "Unions" as we call them, and that they were ready to go on to a more detailed study of Union stamps. Unfortunately it had not been possible to write up the sheets in the manner I intended. However, I will be happy to answer any questions and to give a sort of "Running Commentary" while you are looking at them.

Mr. H. S. Hay, on behalf of the members and visitors present, thanked Mr. S. J. Hagger for providing the display at this meeting.

It was agreed that in future the Society would hold the monthly meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The Secretary stated that he hoped that by this change of date, more Germistonians would join the Society, he asked all members to recommend the Society to their friends and endeavour to induce them to become members; for the greater the membership the better the service we can render. I.S.B.

GOUGH ISLAND.

The long expected mail from the exploring party at Gough Island has at last arrived. All mail matter seen has the same markings (a) a single line 23-24 mm. postmark cancelling the Tristan da Cunha stamps; the wording is "Gough Island/South Atlantic" with the date in the centre in two lines "14 DE/55" and a 6 ray star above the date (b) The Expedition's cachet, a box 38 x 17 mm. with "Gough Island/Scientific Survey/ 1955-1956."



These are shown in the accompanying illustration. Above there is also shown the markings of the only other post there has been from Gough Is. viz., on the occasion of the visit of the Shackleton-Rowett Expedition's ship "Quest" in 1922. They overprinted British stamps with a boxed mark "Gough Island" and used a canceller reading "S-R Antarctic/Expedition". They had similar boxed marks "Tristan Da Cunha" and Enderby Land."

It has been announced in the public press that H.M.S.A.S. "Transvaal" will sail from Cape Town on 23 April for Gough Island, to evacuate the scientific party. The frigate is due back in Cape Town on 3 May.

A later announcement states that the Union Government, by agreement with the British Government, will carry on with Gough Island as a meteorological station as part of their contribution to the international geophysical year.

SWAZILAND.

The Controller of Posts and Telegraphs, P.O. Box 125, Mbane, has sent us an Official Notice stating that the new Q.E. stamps will be placed on sale on 2nd July, 1956.

Fairly full details of the issue, taken from the Crown Agent's Bulletin, were published in our December issue, but the following notes on the various designs are given in the Official Notice mentioned:—

- 3d. & 1/—The shaft and open-cast workings of the Chrysotile asbestos mine at Havelock in the Pigg's Peak District, North-West Swaziland.
- 1d. & 2/6—A high-velde view overlooking the Ezulwini Valley from Mbabane, height 4,000 feet above sea level, the Administrative Capital of Swaziland.
- 2d. & 10/—A Swazi woman with a hair style and clothing adopted only by married women to show matrimonial status.
- 3d. & 1/3—A Swazi courting couple wearing National dress.
- 4½d. & 5/—A Swazi warrior in ceremonial dress, worn only during the "Incwala", the annual Feast of the First Fruits which takes place towards the close of the calendar year.
- 6d. & £1—A Kudu bull, a large white-striped spiral-horned South African antelope, prevalent in the low-velde of Swaziland.

At the same time the following embossed stationery will also be placed on sale:—

1½d. Postcards, 6d. Registered Envelopes (G. size) and 6d. Aerogrammes.

Orders for 1st day covers, if accompanied by remittances (to include return postage and registration) must be pre-addressed and be received not later than 30th June. Specially positioned stamps or blocks will not be supplied.

FIPEX.

The latest news is that the Jury will have 51 members, under the chairmanship of Theodore E. Steinway. 18 of the Jurors are from outside the U.S.A. Over 40 of the Government's of the free nations of the world, out of the 74 invited, are sending official exhibits. South Africa is one of them.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST

PROPRIETORS AND PUBLISHERS :

The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

Honorary Editor: Dr. J. H. HARVEY PIRIE }
Business Manager: Mr. J. MICHELSON. }

P.O. Box 375. Johannesburg.

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APRIL, 1956

Whole No. 372.

UNION NOTES

Sub-Editor: Dr. T. B. BERRY,
Box 31, Bryanston, Transvaal.

BON VOYAGE. AU REVOIR

Subscribers to the S.A. Philatelist, particularly those who await each month the publication of "Union Notes," join with stamp collectors far and wide, in wishing Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Sheffield a pleasant holiday, a beneficial rest, and a safe return.

It is some eight years since Mr. Sheffield took charge of a section of the S.A. Philatelist wherein data pertaining to the stamps of the Union are assembled to form a permanent record for reference and research; new issues are recorded; problems concerning obsolete issues or stamps are elucidated, and generally, advice and assistance given on South African philatelic matters in an efficient and pleasant manner.

Stamp collectors are grateful for the interest and help they have been afforded — for a job so well and truly done. And, please, Mr. Sheffield, let us know what is "doing" in Unions overseas!

RECENT PRINTINGS

The Publicity Officer of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs has kindly supplied the following information covering the period from 22.10.1955 to 20.1.1956. For the previous list see our December 1955 issue.

Animal Series Postage Stamps.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. — Job No. 129852 contd. On an order for 75,000 sheets of 240 stamp per sheet, a total of 82,828 was supplied up to the final date of delivery on 10.11.55. Same cylinder as before, No. 84.

1d. — Job No. 125208 contd. On an order for 1,000,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, a total of 749,978 was supplied up to the final date of delivery on 19.1.56. Same Double Die Cylinder, No. 3, as before.

— On the same Job No. a number of sheets amounting to 226,653 and comprising 240 stamps per sheet was also printed during the period 27.9.55 to 19.1.56 from the old cylinder No. 12. Total sheets supplied on this Job No. up to the final date of delivery on the 19.1.56 was 976,631.

2d. — Job No. 132269. On an order for 1,000,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, the first batch of 19,000 sheets was delivered on 20.12.55 and the total supplied to date is recorded as 131,500 sheets. Same Double Die Cylinder, No. 20, as before.

3d. — Job No. 125209 contd. On an order for 150,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a total of 157,163 was supplied up to the final date of delivery on 22.11.55. Same cylinders as before, No. 16 Interior and No. 107 Exterior.

6d. — Job No. 103297 contd. On an order for 150,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a total of 151,706 was supplied up to the final date of delivery on 17.11.55. Same cylinders as before, No. 1 Interior and No. 121 Exterior.

Covenant Commemorative Stamp.

2d. — Job No. 131797. On an order for 150,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a total of 150,128 was supplied from the 27.10.55 up to the final date of delivery on 15.11.55. Cylinder numbers 17 Interior and 14 Exterior.

Pictorial Post Cards.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. — Job No. 125216 contd. On an order for 2,720,000 cards, a total of 1,806,080 has been delivered to date. Chambon printing machine and same cylinders as before.

Air Letter Cards.

6d. — Job No. 113233 contd. On an order for 6,000,000 cards, the total delivered to date is now 5,515,200. Same cylinder.

Roll Stamps.

1d. — Job No. 129844. On an order for 20,000 rolls of 506 stamps per roll and also 10,000 rolls of 1012 stamps per roll, 4,300 of the former and 2,580 of the latter have been supplied to date. First delivery 10.11.55. Same cylinder as before, No. 27 (Animal Series).

Customs Stamps.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. — Job No. 133106. Supplied by the P.M.G. and overprinted DOUANE on a flat bed machine from same process blocks on 17.11.55.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. — 2,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet.

MINOR PRINTING FLAWS ON THE 1d. BLACK WILDEBEEST PLATE II STAMPS — DOUBLE DIE CYLINDER NO. 3.

In response to enquiries from readers we give below a list of some of the minor varieties on the stamps of the second 1d. Black Wildebeest issue. As recorded in our October 1955 number, this particular printing was produced as a two-pane sheet of 480 stamps from a cylinder twice as wide as the normal 240 unit cylinder and

officially designated in the lists of "Recent Printings" as a DOUBLE DIE CYLINDER.

The illustration on page 170 of October last year shows the form of the complete sheet as printed, with short single bars in the top and bottom bars of the left hand pane and similar, but double bars, at the top and bottom of the right hand pane. Before leaving the printing machine the sheet is divided into two separate panes by a circular cutter operating down the middle of the blank space between the two panes.

Numerous small specks and flecks appear on most of the stamps of this issue, but only those that are easily distinguishable are given in the accompanying lists. Except probably in the case of No. 17/7 in the left pane and No. 3/11 in the right pane, which are fairly prominent flaws, all can be classed as in the "Minor Printing Flaw" category.

Left Hand (Single-bar) Pane.

- Row 1/3 — Spot under last "e" of Revenue.
 2/5 — Diagonal line just to left of "S" of Suid.
 4/2 — Spot under "S" of Suid.
 4/5 — Dot to left above "P" of Posgeld.
 10/1 — Dot at left of "S" of South.
 13/4 — Spot above "h" of South.
 17/7 — White blob above last "a" of Afrika.
 18/1 — Small horizontal mark in "d" symbol of value.
 19/8 — Dot to left under "S" of South.

Right Hand (Double-bar) Pane.

- Row 2/8 — Dot between "h" and "A" of South Afrika.
 2/10 — Heavy mark between mane and neck of Wildebeest.
 3/11 — Distinct diagonal mark protruding from foot of the "d" symbol of the value.
 4/12 — Dot under "o" of Postage.
 11/2 — Dot immediately under "S" of South.
 14/11 — Small blob to left of tip of right horn.
 17/7 — "Colon" mark between Posgeld and Postage.
 18/7 — Dot between "A" and "f" of Afrika.
 18/8 — White blob above and between "f" and "r" of Afrika.

SECOND PRINTING OF THE STAMPS OF THE ANIMAL SERIES

Mr. Eric Walker of Pretoria reports that a second printing of the 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 1/- and of both panes of the 2/6 and 10/- stamps of the Animal Series has been made. The same cylinders have been used, but the cyclometer numbers are printed in red in contra-distinction to the first printing which bore black sheet numbers.

Readers will be grateful for this information which may be considered to act as a check list of the printings up to date, and also of the opportunity to replenish their collections, in particular, the missing items of Pane A of the 10/- value which have been in short supply since its initial issue.

It may be appropriate, at this stage, to record an additional flaw of Pane A of the 10/- value to those already enumerated in the Handbook/

Catalogue, Volume II — the top edge of the vertical limb of the second '4' of the cylinder number '44' is rounded. This flaw which is present in both printings, affords a ready means of determining Pane A.

Incidentally, the sixpenny value has acquired an additional flaw since its first printing. An orange smudge, about 3 mm. in length, is present in the right vertical margin of the sheet opposite the junction of horizontal rows eleven and twelve. The flaw is probably due to an injury which the frame plate cylinder sustained since its previous use.

Current Issue of Cylinder Number Sheets of the 1d. and 2d. Values.

The recent distribution of 1d. and 2d. stamps from the Stores Department of the Government Printing Works to Post Offices in fulfilment of their monthly requisitions, was a "mixed bag." Sheets of the first printing of the 2d. value, bearing cylinder number 56, were included in the delivery with sheets of the second printing which bears no cylinder number. It was thus possible to purchase stamps of both printings concurrently over the post office counter. Similarly, sheets of the first printing of the 1d. value, bearing cylinder number 12, were obtainable with sheets of the second printing.

Current 2d. Sheets with Trimmed Margins.

The 2d. Zebra Stamps are now being issued with the vertical marginal "smudges" trimmed off by guillotining, the red cyclometer numbers being set closer to the stamps than in the previous printing. This preparation of the 2d. stamp now conforms to that of the 1d. value, as reported in our issue of November 1955.

"Union Used Abroad".

"Union stamps used abroad" is a legitimate section of a catalogue pertaining to the stamps of the Union of South Africa, but to observe a Union stamp bearing a Union cancellation, that of the Jan Smuts Airport in this case, upon a foreign inscribed news letter-head, is somewhat unusual. This condition is illustrated, and the explanation is simple — when one is in the know.

A passenger arriving by air, posted a Paris newspaper, complete in its wrapper, at the Jan Smuts Airport on arrival!



We are indebted to Mr. B. Glassman of Johannesburg for the timely viewing of an item, which under other circumstances might have been drawn from the philatelic magic-hat of one of our renowned quiz-masters.

Perforation Holes.

Mr. H. W. James, of Cradock, draws attention to the following interesting perforation items:



Firstly, an extra perforation hole on the lower margin of the illustrated Orange Free State Centenary Issue stamp. The variety is not constant, and its existence is difficult to explain in view of the manner in which the issue was perforated.

A similar condition of extra perforation holes may be found on the 10/- official stamp, Union Catalogue O86, wherein three extra perforation holes appear on the lower margin of some stamps of horizontal row number 19 of the sheet.

Mr. James and others would be grateful for any possible explanation of these interesting phenomena, readers may be prepared to volunteer.



Secondly, a missing perforation hole below stamp Row 1, No. 12, as illustrated in the accompanying top right hand corner block of the ½d., Plate V. The variety, which is not constant, and is uncatalogued, is the result of a perforating pin having fallen out of the perforator during the process of perforating the printing.

Incidentally, two interesting "fly spot" flaws appear on this block of stamps and call for attention, viz: a small black dot to the right of the Springbok's Head on stamp Row 1, No. 11, and a small green smudge on the upper edge of the vertical margin. These apparently insignificant headplate and frameplate flaws are constant, and are a reliable indication of Plate V printing of the ½d. issue.

Perforation Variety of the ½d. London

Typographed Pictorial Stamp.

Collectors of Union Stamps are familiar with the variety known as "double perforation" found in all three values of the Pretoria Typographed Pictorial Stamps issued in 1927, and illustrated in the 1952 Handbook/Catalogue, page 72.

The condition was caused by lack of synchronisation of the perforating mechanism with the printing process and shows up as an extra "beat" of the comb perforator in the right, or normally imperforate margin.

Mr. M. J. Rall of Heidelberg, Cape Province, has drawn our attention to the fact that this variety, hitherto unrecorded, occurred also in the left margin of the ½d. value of the London Pictorial stamp, and is illustrated in the block he kindly loaned us for inspection.



As this variety has turned up only now, some thirty years after the stamp was first issued, it would appear that a few sheets of the London printed stamps were issued with this double perforation, and that very few examples have survived, in direct contrast to the Pretoria printings wherein this perforation flaw is comparatively common in the ½d. and 1d. values.

STUDY YOUR COUNTRY'S STAMPS

THE CUSTOMS DUTY STAMPS OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

by L. J. Dodd and T. B. Berry

In these days of increased taxation, the phrase "Customs Duty Stamps" may convey to the average citizen the impression of yet another form of taxation. This is not the case.

Customs Duty Stamps were introduced to enable oversea business concerns to prepay the customs duty on packets containing printed advertising matter (with the exclusion of catalogues and price lists). The duty is charged on the net weight in terms of the Customs Tariff, the relative regulations being set out in the Union's Post Office Guide, viz:—

"Under 1 oz.	½d.
From 1 oz. to 3 oz.	1d.
From 3 oz. to 5 oz.	2d.
From 5 oz. to 8 oz.	3d.

Thereafter to the nearest penny based on actual weight."

"The senders of such packets may, if they so desire, assess the duty at the rate mentioned and prepay it by affixing to the packets postage stamps of the Union of South Africa overprinted "Douane," to be obtained at the Office of the High Commissioner of the Union of South Africa in London."

"Remittances by money or postal order are not accepted in payment of Customs Duty."

Prior to the introduction of these stamps, the recipient was surcharged the duty against delivery of the packet, when, as in the case of the Transvaal, stamps of the current issue (without overprint) to the value of the tax, were attached to a green label, 67 m.m. wide by 42 m.m. high, headed CUSTOMS DUTY, TRANSVAAL, and they were then cancelled by (a) "Customs Duty" in manuscript, (b) "Customs Duty" with rubber stamp, or (c) Johannesburg circular cancellation.

The surcharge was liable to cause annoyance to the consignee, particularly if the package was of no concern.

PRE-UNION CUSTOMS STAMPS

To provide an introduction to the Customs Duty stamps of the Union, a check list of their predecessors seems fitting, and is noted hereunder.

Customs stamps were originally brought into use by each of the four contributing colonies when they entered into a Customs Union and established a uniform tariff in 1905. The following dates of issue are reported, viz: 1906, Cape of Good Hope; 1908, Transvaal; 1910, Natal; and 1912, Orange River Colony.

The stamps were produced by overprinting selected values of the current issue of the adhesive postage stamps of the colony concerned, with the words "CUSTOMS DUTY." It should be emphasized that these stamps did not prepay any postal charges, and therefore it is purely fortuitous that they received any cancellation which might show a date of issue, especially as it is requested that the stamps should be placed at the bottom left hand corner of the label or cover of the packet containing the dutiable material.

THE OVERPRINT

The overprint was made in the first instance with a handstamp, and subsequently by typography on a flat bed machine when the usefulness of the stamps was recognised and the demand increased.

For the purpose of these notes, the authors have taken the liberty of arranging the various overprints and the relative basic stamps into a system of Groups.

GROUP 1

OVERPRINT TYPE I consists of the words "CUSTOMS DUTY" applied to the stamps by means of a handstamp in tallish narrow sans-serif capitals. The letters measure 2.25 mm. high, the word CUSTOMS 13.5 mm. wide and DUTY 7.5 mm. wide, arranged in two lines spaced 1.5 mm. apart. The overprint is in dull greyish-black ink, and it is suggested by the appearance of the overprint that a metal handstamp had been used.



Type I Overprint.

Type II Overprint.

Basic stamps

TRANSVAAL

Stamps of K.E. VII 1904/1909. SG. Nos. 264 to 275.

Values 1d. and 4d.

NATAL

Stamps of K.E. VII 1902/1903 Watermark Crown CA.

Values 3d., 5d., and 6d.

Stamps of K.E. VII 1904/1908 Wmk. Mult. Crown CA.

Values 1d. and 2d.

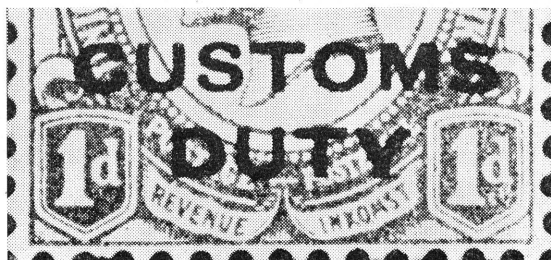
ORANGE RIVER COLONY

Stamps of K.E. VII 1903/1904 Wmk. Mult. Crown CA.

Value 1d.

GROUP 2

OVERPRINT TYPE II consists of the words "CUSTOMS DUTY" typographed on a flat bed machine in square block capitals. The letters measure 1.75 mm. high, and the words CUSTOMS 15.5 mm. wide, and DUTY 8.75 mm. wide, arranged in two lines spaced 1.5 mm. apart. The overprint is in jet black ink.



"S" Variety, Type II Overprint.

Variety. An interesting variety exists in this overprint in that the second "S" in CUSTOMS differs from the first "S" in some of the overprinted stamps, thereby indicating that two types of found had been used. In the normal the arms of "S" are square cut, while the variety has the arms of "S" cut diagonally. This variety is also to be found in the overprint of the stamps of Gt. Britain for use in the Morocco Agencies vide:— SG. Nos. 313/319, a De La Rue printing also, and so far has been noted in the material seen on 2 Transvaal stamps (SG. 265 and SG. 275), 1 Orange River Colony stamp (SG. 257), 2 Cape of Good Hope (SG. 71 and 72), and 9 stamps of the Union of S. Africa. (SG. 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 30, 31, 34 and 36).

Basic stamps

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

Stamps of K.E. VII 1902/1904.
Values 1d., 2d., 6d., and 1/-.

TRANSVAAL

Stamps of K.E. VII 1904/1908.
Values 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., and 6d.

NATAL

Stamps of K.E. VII 1904/1908.
Values 2d., and 4d.

ORANGE RIVER COLONY

Stamp of K.E. VII 1903/1904 Wmk. Crown CA.

Value 3d.

Stamp of K.E. VII 1904/1907 Wmk. Mult. Cr. CA.

Value 1d.

GROUP 3.

OVERPRINT type III is similar to Type II in all respects, except that red ink has been used, and this red overprint is found on the stamps of one colony.

Basic stamps.

TRANSVAAL

Stamps of K.E. VII 1904/1909.
Values 3d., 4d., and 6d.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Although the Union of South Africa came into being on May 31st, 1910, the Union's first definite issue was not made available until September 1913, the Customs stamps of the four contributing colonies doing duty meanwhile. Thereafter various Union emissions were overprinted for customs purposes, firstly with the words "CUSTOMS DUTY," and later with "DOUANE," the French version of the word "Customs."

GROUP 4

OVERPRINT TYPE II is used.

Basic Stamps.

- (a) K.G.V., 1st Definite Issue. Values ½d., 1d., 2d., 3d. black and orange, 3d. blue and blue, 4d., 6d. two shades, and 1/-.
- (b) London Pictorial Issue, Values 4d., 6d., and 1/-, (Perf. 14).

GROUP 5

OVERPRINT TYPE III is used.

Basic Stamps.

- (a) K.G.V., 1st Definite Issue, Values 3d. black and orange, 6d.

- (b) London Pictorial Issue, Values ½d., 1d., 2d. (Perf. 14 x 13½, Group III) and 3d., reported by Mr. T. A. Harper.

GROUP 6

OVERPRINT TYPE IV consists of the word "DOUANE" followed by a full stop, typographed on a flat bed machine in square capitals in jet black ink. The letters are 1.75 m.m. high, and the width of the overprint including the stop is 14 m.m.



Type IV overprint.



Type IV, Double overprint.

Basic Stamps.

- (a) London Pictorial Issue, Values ½d., 1d., 2d. (Perf. 14 x 13½, Group III), 3d. (Perf. 14 x 13½, Group II), 4d. (Perf. 14 x 13½, Group III)* and 1/- (Perf. 14 x 13½, Group II)*.
- (b) Unhyphenated Rotogravure Issue, Values ½d., Plates II and III, 1d. Plate IX, 2d. Plates I, II and III, and 3d. blue and blue.*
Variety: 2d. Plate II, Double overprint.
- (c) Hyphenated Rotogravure Issue, Values, ½d. Plates IV, V, X and XX, 1d. Plates X, XI, XII and XIV*, 2d. Plates IV, blue and violet, reported by Mr. S. J. Hagger, VIIa* and VIIb, 6d. Plate IV, and the 4d. and 1/-, as reported in Union Notes, S.A. Philatelist, Vol. 23, No. 4, April 1947, and Vol. 23, No. 11, November 1947.
NOTE: Those items marked with an asterisk (*), were on current issue at the Office of the Union's High Commissioner, London, during February 1956.

GROUP 7

OVERPRINT TYPE V consists of the word "DOUANE" not followed by a full stop, typographed in stereotype from new process blocks on a flat bed machine, in jet black ink; the letters are 2.5 mm. high, and the width of the overprint is 13.75 m.m.



Type V overprint.

**Basic Stamps.**

- (a) The Hyphenated Rotogravure Issue, Values ½d., Plates XX and XXI, 6d. Plate VI,* and the 1d. Plate XXII, 2d. and 1/- values, as reported in the Union Notes of the S.A. Philatelist, Vol. 27, No. 3, March 1951.
- (b) The Animal Series. Value available at the time of going to press, ½d.*

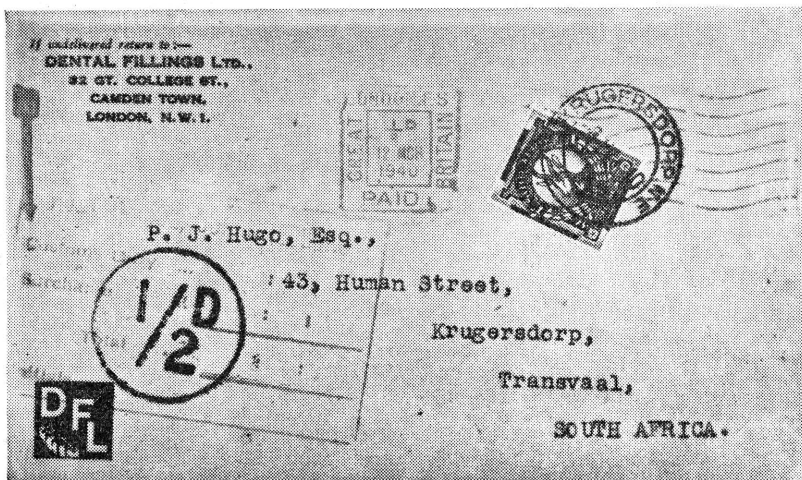
POST OFFICE, JOHANNESBURG

Customs duty : :
 Surcharge : :

Initials

A halfpenny surcharge is marked on the cover in black ink, and an unoverprinted postage stamp of the value of the duty (without penalty) is affixed to pay the duty, and is cancelled by the terminal post office's canceller — probably a relic of the system in vogue in the Precustom-Duty stamp days.

This article has been prepared with a view to consolidate the various sparse references already made to the Customs Duty Stamps of the Union, and to present a basis for establishing some record of an hitherto uncatalogued issue which today is slowly but surely attracting attention. The material has been assembled from items in our collections, and we would also like to thank Mr. T. A. Harper of East London for information about additional items, especially the 2d. Rotogravure with double overprint which is illustrated. It is more than probable that other values, and/or varieties, exist than those which have been noted. It would therefore be appreciated by those who are interested in these stamps, if any reader would add further information to what we, at the best, can hope to be only a preliminary check list of the Customs Duty Stamps of the Union of S. Africa.

**Non-Payment of Customs Duty**

It was noted earlier that the consigner is given the option of prepaying the customs duty, if he so desires, but no regulation appears to exist in the "Post Office Guide" pertaining to the condition when this option is not exercised. The Post Office is equipped, however, to handle such a condition in a manner distinct from that pertaining to the regulations concerning insufficiently prepaid letters or packets, and is illustrated in the accompanying photograph of a packet on which the customs duty was not prepaid.

The cover is overstamped in purple ink by a rubber stamp measuring 67 m.m. wide by 42 m.m. high of the following form:—

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FOR THOSE IN THE "KNOW"

SHANAHANS STAMP AUCTIONS

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RHODESIAN VARIETIES

By ARTHUR V. JACOB, F.R.P.S.L.

(Continued from page 47 of March issue)

Bulawayo Provisionals, May 1896.

We now come to the second Bulawayo Provisionals of the 22nd May, 1896. As Salisbury was cut off from all communication and, as the route to the Cape was still open, the Government of the Cape of Good Hope was approached by telegram through the Cape Town Agent of the British South Africa Company for a supply of stamps for immediate requirements. This request emanated owing to the fact that there were no more stamps available in Bulawayo. He thereupon sent sheets of the Cape of Good Hope. When these stamps arrived they were overprinted "British South Africa Company". Unfortunately, time does not permit me to enlarge upon this issue — but from specialist's point of view, there are numerous minor varieties in the printing etc. I am exhibiting pages to give you some idea of these varieties, as well as the thick and thin printings. This issue is one of the few which has been forged — why — I do not know.

The chief variety is one which is most popular with collectors (not confined to Rhodesian Collectors). No. 65 the 4d., the error being the word "Company" missing. According to all information it is said one pane of the 4d. value was found in which the word "Company" was omitted from the entire bottom row of the pane, probably due to the fact that the last line of the setting was not properly inked when the surcharge was applied. According to most collectors this is considered one of the rarest Rhodesian stamps and according to Mr. J. E. M. Coch there are only 6 copies in existence. Though I may be treading on thin ice, I feel, and have felt, for a number of years that the consensus of opinion as to the number of copies in existence is that there are more than 6 and such being the case, I have come to the conclusion that there were probably two, and may be four, panes printed with the bottom row having the word "Company" missing.

The other Major variety in this issue is known as the short "A", that is the second down stroke of the letter A in Africa is broken off short immediately below the cross bar. This variety appears in all values and is found on the 5th vertical column.

First Waterlow Printing 1897 which is the large arms re-engraved. The Major variety in this issue is No. 69 a.

3d. Brown Red — and Slate Blue which is found imperforated between pair. This imperf. is also to be found on No. 70a. the 4d. Ultramarine and Claret. No. 72a, the 8d. Green and Mauve, known is imperf. between pair; one sheet was found (amongst the remainders after cancellation) with the top row imperf. vertically between the columns.

Another important variety which is comparatively rare is No. 66. ½d. Grey-Black and Purple. This is imperf. on top, between stamp and margin, from the top row in the sheets. There are only a very few of these stamps in circulation. There is also an imperf. set of singles in value from ½d. to 8d. This set I assume was issued by

the Government for distribution to the postal authorities in other parts of the World. An interesting entire is one which is pen-cancelled at Sebakwe (Que Que) owing to the post office having no killer.

We now come to the 1898—1908 issue which is commonly known as the **Small Arms issue** and which some years ago came into rather disrepute owing to the sale of the what is known as "The Remainders." There appears in the S.A. Philatelist of November 1911 the following interesting and amusing paragraph. "There is a record of two complete imperforate sheets of the 1d. of this issue having been sold at the Bulawayo Post Office. One was sold by auction in London. The other was sold over the counter to a local newsagent, who next day complained in bitter tones to the Post Office Clerk of the trouble he had been put to in having to separate the stamps with a pair of scissors. This news did not reach the ears of a collector until a few days later and you can imagine the disgust of the newsagent when he learned that he could, without any difficulty have sold the stamps for many times more than what he gave for them." All values from the ½d. to the 2/6d. with the exception of the 2d. and 6d. are found imperf. between either or both, and imperf.:

The rarest item is No. 84c. being the 1/- Olive-Bistre, I am exhibiting a block se Tenant with an ordinary block. There are only three such Blocks known. Most of values are to be found with winged perfs. As far as I can trace, No. 84a the 2/6d. Bluish Grey Imperforate was only found amongst the remainders to the extent of 80 pairs.

The obsidional Currency Stamps of 1900 on cards; whether one can call this a "variety" is dependent on how you look at it. Anyhow I feel the following information may interest some members. In 1900 during the Boer War, Bulawayo was once again cut off from supplies as the Boers held the railway and main roads to Rhodesia. To remedy the scarcity of money, the Authorities issued cards to which Postage stamps of various issues were affixed. These were given to the natives in lieu of money and they were told that at some future date the Government would redeem same by paying them in cash. That is why you will find finger prints etc. on most cards. On the reverse side of the card was printed "The Civil Commissioner, Bulawayo. Please pay in cash to the person producing this card the face value of the stamp affixed thereto, if presented on, or after, 1st August 1900."

On the 13th July 1905, was issued the **Victoria Falls Stamps** which set was specially prepared to commemorate the visit of the British Association to Rhodesia and the opening of the Victoria Falls Bridge (which was completed in April 1905). The bridge was opened by Professor Darwin, President of British Association on the 12th September 1905. A special date cancelling stamp with the words British Association, Victoria Falls, with the date in the centre was prepared and used at the Victoria Falls Post Office during the visit of the Association to the Falls on the 12th and 13th September 1905. Covers may also show such cancellations at Bulawayo on the 9th and 11th September; the latter, in my opinion are very rare.

The only varieties of imperforates in this issue are in the 1/- value. One sheet was found with a single row of horizontal perforations missing, thus producing five vertical pairs imperforate between, and one sheet with the vertical perforations missing, except between stamp and margin. This latter is a very rare item, as is also a sheet with five pairs imperforate all round. This is not catalogued in Gibbons and is exceptionally rare.

We now come to the **small arms issue of 15th April, 1909 overprinted Rhodesia**. Peculiar to relate that though on May 3rd, 1895, the B.S.A. Company proclaimed their territory as Rhodesia after Cecil Rhodes (who died in March 1902), the stamps of this country did not bear its official designation until this issue, which was seven years after the death of Cecil Rhodes.

I am indebted to Mr. J. E. M. Coch who received a letter from the B.S.A. Company who said "The overprinting in question was occasioned by the fact that up to the year 1909, the name of the territory had not figured on any of the Company's postage stamps. In order to meet a general wish expressed to this effect, and in view of the approach of a new issue in 1910, it was decided that the remaining stock held of the 1898 issue should be overprinted "Rhodesia", pending the issue in contemplation, and referred to above."

Nevertheless, it is common knowledge that stamps were cancelled by the post office with killers bearing the name "Rhodesia" from the year 1897 onwards.

There are numerous minor varieties in this issue which should appeal not only to the specialist, but also to the ordinary stamp collector. Just to mention a few of these minor varieties, square, round, raised and merged stops in all values; merged or joined letters; no serifs to the "A"; thick and thin letters; the foot of "R" in Rhodesia varies, no serif to the "R" in Rhodesia etc. The major varieties are no stop after Rhodesia in all values up to and including 10/- with the exception of the 7/6d. This appears on the Row, a dot under the "D" on No. 116A being the 7½ on 2/6d. This appears in Rows inverted overprints on the 4d. . . . and 2/6d. . . . double overprint on the ½d. and 3d.

The 1d. imperforate between horizontal pair.
1d. winged perforation at top between stamp and margin.

6d. winged perforation at bottom between stamp and margin.

The £1 pair, the bottom overprint omitted. There are only ten such pairs and this is indeed a rarity.

Another variety not generally known is the £2 Red-Brown on white paper instead of bluish paper. Also I have found the £1 printed on white paper and this is the only one I know postally used — as the majority of these were used for Revenue purposes.

Very interesting stamps are the **Double Heads issued on 11th November, 1910**. These are the first stamps of Rhodesia where one finds the printer's guide line on the Head Plate, being a dot and then a small fine line. There are many varieties on the Head Plate, but I will mention only a few of the best known. Firstly the Gash in the Ear — this flaw appears on No. 2 in the top row in all values of the double

Working Plate in perforation 14 as also in the 8d. in perf. 13½.

There are a few minor varieties of this Gash, such as the short Gash, the Hook, the Queen's Thick Ear, Diagonal Gash etc. The next variety is known as the King's Curl, which was discovered many years after printing by W. Bernard Livermore. This appears in what I believe is the later printing on the first stamp in the left bottom row, viz. No. 41 and appears on most values in perf. 14. If the stamp is examined under a glass, it can be seen that the cutting consists of two curved strokes, close together, following the line of the curl above. Presumably it corrects worn lines on the forehead.

I will now revert to the Single Working Plates, where one finds numerous retouches and re-entries, especially in the ½d. stamp, I have displayed some sheets of these stamps which may interest you. On the 1d. stamp you will notice many flaws, but there is one which I class as a major variety and is known as the broken bar; that is, the bar is broken immediately below and between "OD" in Rhodesia. This is found in the stamps Nos. 71, 72, 73, 75 of the sheet in perfs. 13½, 14 and 15.

I should have mentioned previously the Double Dot variety. This is where two dots appear, one round and one square, under the "D" in the right hand value tablet. From the information I have, it seems that this variety only appeared in the first printing, as it seems it was rectified in subsequent printings. This variety is found on the 20th stamp of the sheet, that is the 0th stamp in the 3rd row, and is on the 13½, 14 and 15 perfs.

As some of you may be aware, an outstanding variety is the £1 Error of Color, being that this stamp was printed in a color similar to the 10d. They were sent out to the P.M.G. in Salisbury and returned to London for the reason stated. All the sheets were destroyed, except two each of fifty stamps. They were sold to Stanley Gibbons with the remainders and eventually purchased by a well known London dealer, T. Allen who advertised them in 1924 for £16 each. Since then they have become very scarce, and today they are worth about £60 each.

I now come to the Imperforate varieties which are very few. There was only one sheet of the ½d. which was sold at Umtali and I have the only imprint block in my collection, and I believe the only pair postally used on entire.

The 1d. Imperforate is found in horizontal and vertical pairs and an imperforate sheet. This latter sheet is reported to have been found in Bulawayo.

Another very important and extremely rare imperforate is the £1. As far as I can trace, there are only three pairs in existence, though there must have been at least five pairs. This is not catalogued in Gibbons but is mentioned in Robson Lowe's Book.

Another fairly prominent variety is what is commonly known as "the Repaints" — these are stamps which have had the background painted in when a white gap showed above the cap. I have exhibited a sheet of various values as examples.

I now come to the fairly well-known "large Rhodesia" variety, that is the word "Rhodesia" is printed larger than the ordinary Rhodesia.

This variety appears on the 6d. and lately I have found it on the 1d. The latter is very rare.

The Livingstone provisionals were the 1d. surcharged Half Penny by the Northern Administrative Press, Livingstone. The varieties in this issue are the spaced N.N., and the wide N.Y. The real rarity of this issue is the inverted surcharge. The late Mr. Stephenson, who was a book-keeper in a Livingstone store, told me that he sent his boy over for a few sheets and much to his surprise found that two of the sheets had inverted overprints. He immediately ran over to the Post Office and bought up the whole stock and to his utter disappointment, found that there were no more sheets having the inverted overprint. Nevertheless he sold them for a very nice price. The wide N N and N Y variety also appears in these sheets.

Finally we come to the **Admiral Issues of 1913/22 and 1923/5**. One finds the winged perf. variety on all sides of the 1d., 1d. and 1½d. These are fairly common in the 1d. and 1d. values but rather rare in the 1½d. In the 1d. and 1d. there are quite a few imperfs. at side in addition there are many examples of missing perfs. There are the catalogued imperfs. in the 1d., 1d. and 1½d. but the great rarity is the 2d. value in both the toned and white paper issues; this value is also found having a double perforation. When we come to the 1923/5 issue there are two exceptional rarities, these being the vertical and horizontal Imperfs. in the 1/- value. Lastly a new variety has only recently been found and is known as the "waxed moustache" variety. From my observations it seems to appear on the 37th stamp in the early printings of dies I and II and only appears in a few of the Higher Values and not in the 1d., 1½d or 2d.

LITERATURE

"Philately of Anglo-Boer War." (S. G. Rich)	21/6d.
"List of Union Post Offices"	2/6d.
"Union Catalogue Part II"	23/6d.
Scott's Catalogue Volume I — 1956	35/6d.
"Suidwestafrika" (Dr. H. W. Gewande), in German, fully illustrated	20/6d.

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NATAL, St. HELENA, GAMBIA, SEYCHELLES, SIERRA LEONE, O.F.S. I am now breaking up fine Collections including some modern. Douglas Roth, Mona Crescent, Newlands, Cape.

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STAMPS.—Want lists invited for any country; specialities Union, S.W.A., British Africa.—LACY'S, 57 Plein Street, Cape Town.

HAVE you ordered your VOLUME II (Supplement) Handbook/Catalogue, Union of S.A. Stamps? Just published, right up to date. Edition practically sold out, so don't delay. Price 23/6 post free from Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

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SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST—New reduced prices for back numbers. Limited stocks of complete volumes for the years 1934-1942 inclusive are available at 12/- per volume. Odd numbers for these years 1/- per copy.

Copies of Volume 9 (1933) are available at 1/- per copy except for the July issue. Odd numbers of the first 8 volumes (Nos. 1-8) 1923-1932 are available at 6d. per copy. Complete volumes for these years are sold out. 1934-1954 odd numbers are available at 1/- per copy. On orders under 10/- please add postage. Early application is strongly recommended.—Business Manager, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

WANTED: Cape of Good Hope Rectangulars on covers in superb condition especially pairs, blocks, also O.F.S. and C.G.H. combination covers. C. R. Reynolds, Box 105, Beaufort West.

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WANTED: South Africa KGV 1910, 2½d. 4th November 1910 First Day Cover. — J. Hammond, 66B High Road, East Finchley, London N.2. England.

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OBITUARIES

ARTHUR V. JACOB & E. C. SPRIGHTON

Death is taking a heavy toll of senior philatelists in South Africa at present.

Arthur V. Jacob passed away suddenly at Port Elizabeth on March 11 at the age of 63. He had been a President of the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town and of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa. When he first became a member of the Executive of the latter body he was jokingly known to the other members as "Amendment" Jacob. He was a fine worker for philately and became well known to collectors throughout South Africa through the work he did for the Cape Town International Exhibition both in Britain in the months preceding the exhibition and at SATISE itself.

As a collector his greatest love has always been Rhodesia, of which he had a magnificent collection. We understand that it is at the moment on its way to New York for exhibition there. A paper on Rhodesian varieties is at present being published in this magazine.

Our sincerest sympathy is extended to his widow and two daughters.

E. C. Sprighton was the second Hon. Life Member of the Johannesburg Philatelic Society to pass over this year. He was not so well known to the younger members as ill-health had forced his withdrawal from philatelic activities for a good many years. He was a Past President of the society and was always a tremendous worker for exhibitions and such like affairs. Those who remember JIPEX in 1936 will never forget him there.

His main collecting interest was Great Britain and he often showed portions of this at society meetings. For a short period after he retired from business he became a stamp dealer, but this phase did not last very long.

SHORT NOTICES

British Health Congress Special Postmark.

At the Congress of the Royal Society of Health to be held at Blackpool on 24-27 April special covers and a special postmark will be available. If addresses for covers and remittances are sent to the Royal Society of Health, 90 Buckingham Palace Road, London S.W.1, first day covers will be posted. Covers cost 1/- each with extra for postage.

Stamp Collectors' Exchange Club, Arkona, Ontario, Canada. We have received a copy of this Club's Magazine. They seem to be a very flourishing affair; in fact, we are informed by a South African member, that it is about the largest of its kind in the world, and an excellent medium for making contacts with other collectors. A year's subscription is 14/3d.

German Philatelic Review, 152 Finchley Rd., London N.W. 3 No. 17. A study and Check List of the Pre-Philately of the Saar, by Aug. Marx. German aspects of the Brazilian Condor Air Syndicate, by Werner Ahrens.

No. 18. Essays and Proofs of the DDR. A complete reproduction of a Government-sponsored publication with some 30 full page illustrations.

A 'Robert Burns' Stamp. The British Parliament turned down a request for a special stamp to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the great Scottish poet, but the "Scottish Secretariat" has issued a label, with a portrait and the inscription "Now's the day and now the hour." The 'value' is "Twa Plack"; the currency of the Burns period, a plack being equal to one-third of a penny.

Stanley Gibbons Centenary.

100 Years ago a 16-year old lad started dealing in stamps in his father's chemist shop in Plymouth; the story of his buying a sackful of Cape Triangulars for £5 is well known as being the most successful deal which ultimately led up to the world famous organisation of to-day.

The March number of their 'Stamp Monthly' is a special one giving the full history of the firm, the oldest stamp dealers in existence.

An exhibition was staged at the Waldorf Hotel during the week 12 to 17 March at which, in addition to many stamps from their own stock, there were to be some twenty or so exhibits from internationally famous collectors. Included among these were two from Mrs. G. Hunt of Johannesburg.

SOME RECENT AUCTION PRICES

H. R. Harmer.

Cape. 1853, pair of 4d. Plate Proofs in bright blue, on blued Watermarked paper, £25.

Great Britain. 1d. Black, complete reconstructed sheet, £135.

1/- 1862, Plate 3, S.G. 91, unused, £145.

6d. 1867-80, Plate 10, used (1 of 7 known), £270.

2d. Tyrian plum, S.G. 266a, £310.

10/- I.R. Official, S.G. O26, £1,025.

St. Helena. 6d. 1856, S.G. 2, unused, £11.10.0.

4d. 1863, S.G.5, unused, £8.10.0.

3d. thick bar, S.G. 12a, used, £13.10.0.

½d. surcharge double, S.G. 35a, unused £10.10.0

Robson Lowe.

Hong Kong, China, Etc.

1842 Soldier's letter with oval "Military Post Office China" £160.

1871 Cover with two H.K. stamps cancelled "N 1" (Ningpo) £190.

1929 K.G. V H.K. cancelled "Aberdeen" (Hong Kong) £60.

1863-74 8c H.K. cancelled "D 30" (Kobe) £95.

1901 Registered letter, H.K. stamps cancelled "Lui Kung Tau (Wei Hai Wei)" £150.

Newfoundland. De Pinedo 60c on cover, £120.

Nova Scotia. 1851 1/-, cold violet, used, £115.

Oil Rivers. G.B. 1d. with overprint transposed £29.

S.G. Type 10, in vermilion on G.B. 2½d. mint, £72.

French Occupation Cameroons, 10c with overprint on stamp with "Afrique Orientale" £90.

Great Britain. 1d. black Plate V, PB, 3rd state, £340.

Caspary Sales. No. 2, U.S. General issues 1847 to 1857-61 realised almost \$300,000. The star item was a 90c (with a 5c and a 10c) on cover to Spain in 1860, which fetched \$10,500.

REVIEWS

Radio Philatelia by Herbert Rosen. Published by Audio-Master Corp., 17th E. 45th Street, New York 17, N.Y. Price \$2.00.

A copiously illustrated handbook covering every aspect of "Topical" collecting of stamps dealing with Radio and, in a broader sense Telecommunications — telegraphy, telephony, radio and television. Here you will find the history, the inventors, radio anniversaries and conferences, radio stations, microphones, radio at sea and in the air, television, postmarks and slogans. All illustrated by stamps, over 500 of them!

Billig's Philatelic Handbook. Vol. 23. Fritz Billig, 168-39 Highland Ave., Jamaica 32, N.Y. Price \$5.00.

This contains a combined cross-index for all handbooks from No. 1 onwards in addition to the usual selection of articles of a very varied nature.

Those in this volume are:

1. A Rocket mail catalogue by Stephen H. Smith, a second revised edition. This covers the whole world and appears to be very full.

2. Postal markings of the Allied Forces in Great Britain 1940-46. By Norman Hill. This lists the markings of eleven different nations and is lavishly illustrated.

3. A Catalogue of the Postal Stationery of Iceland, 1879 to 1954, by F. A. Brofos. A priced list, used and unused, covering varieties.

4. Japan. Scenery Postmarks, by H. K. Thompson. Lists some eight groups of scenes, with their usage at fully 750 different post offices.

5. Norway. The stamps of the Private By-posts. A priced list of the 'locals' of some 22 places, including Spitsbergen and the Madagas-car Missionary issues. Illustrations of many of the types.

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U. S. A.

On 22 February there was issued a 1½c stamp of the new ordinary series; it features a view of the house Mount Vernon, Virginia.

March 19th was due for the appearance of the new \$5.00 of the ordinary series, depicting a likeness of Alexander Hamilton, first Secretary to the U.S.A. Treasury.

The spate of new stamps will continue, altogether seventeen having been announced for 1956. A number of these have already been reported; announced for the first time are a 3c for Labour Day, a 3c for the 200th anniversary of Nassau Hall (Princeton University), 3c Booker T. Washington Centennial and three 3c Wildlife Conservation Stamps.

ST. EDWARD'S CROWN

Apropos a writer's observations in the "Stamp Collector's Fortnightly" concerning the possibility of removing portions of a watermark from one stamp and transferring it to another, and referred to in our February issue, Mr. G. N. Gilbert of Westminster, writes to the effect that he would like to point out that as long as anyone has a block of stamps of four or larger, there is no chance that they have been tampered with.

He goes on to state that the faker could only deal with a single copy, of that he feels certain, and luckily, most of the Basutoland errors of crown are in blocks of four, six or larger, one of the stamps in the block having the error.

The usual method these enterprising gentry use is to float off the thin printed film of paper, and refloat it on the stamp with the watermark wanted, this stamp having also been treated in the same way to get rid of the top printed film. Even when very expertly done on a single stamp, the deception can usually be detected under a strong glass, round the perfs. Taking it all in all, he does not think anyone need worry very much.

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your collection, specialised or general, big or small, surplus material, dealer's stock or any other type of Philatelic Property?

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SWITZERLAND

Four attractive "publicity" stamps appeared on 1st March: a 5c with the first postal motor coach and posthorn; a 10c showing the north end of the Simplon tunnel, 20c — children on a pedestrian crossing with traffic signs, and 40c showing earliest and latest types of Swiss air liners.

"SHIPPING POSTMASTER" MARKS

Mr. R. D. Allen, London is very anxious to make as complete a record as possible of the "Shipping Postmaster" and "Assistant Shipping Postmaster" marks of Cape Town and Durban. He has already published in "The Springbok" of July—August 1955 an extensive list covering the period from 1909 onwards; this is based on the nomenclature of the listing in the "South African Philatelist" of Jan.—April, 1949 by Pirie & Sydow.

He feels, however, that his records are probably still quite a way from being complete and would be grateful if anyone possessing specimens would send him particulars — size, shape, date and several description. The early period is especially wanted. Particulars may be sent to c/o The S.A. Philatelist, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.



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POSTAL HISTORY AND STAMPS OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

By A. M. JONES

(Continued from page 50 of March issue)

The offices or shops which dealt with such correspondence were later called Post Offices. In times of peace urgent letters were often sent via France. The carriage of letters by private ships continued with a very irregular service which accordingly left the islands without mails for periods of five or six weeks. In 1891 the Government caused a census of letters to the Channel Islands to be made by the Postmaster at Southampton, over a period of one month, and from this it was deduced that about 30,000 were carried annually. During a war with France it was decided to establish a packet service as a "Matter of State" and a notice appeared in the London Gazette of the 3rd February 1794.

The first official mail was carried by the Cutter "Royal Charlotte", which sailed from Plymouth on the 13th February 1794, and the packet service was officially established by Act of Parliament, dated 28th March, 1794. It became necessary to appoint postmasters and, in Guernsey, Mrs. Ann Watson was appointed. The Post Office was in High Street. No postmen or letter-carriers were employed until 1830 and all letters had to be taken to and collected from the Post Office. The all-important item that merits philatelic attention is the type of postmark — both Postal and on Ships' letters in use in those days.

One of the earliest Guernsey postmarks, with the name Guernsey in capitals, in full, across the scroll — no date, etc.; this stamp was made of wood and at least two were in use — the first up to about 1817 and the second 1817 to 1830. In 1830 the first date stamp was introduced. It was made of steel and consisted of a circular design with GUERNSEY at the top — no border. Double arcs separated the "G" from the "Y" in the name. In the centre month and day, and below the year in full. Throughout 1844, when a 4 occurred in the day of the month, an inverted 7 was used, for the first 4 of 1844.

This stamp lasted until 1847, when it was replaced by a larger circular stamp allowing more room for the name — date and year as previously. A number appeared under the year and the stamp was known as a "travelling" date stamp. In the middle of August 1847 it was replaced by the standard type, double arc date stamp with sans-serif letters. A Maltese Cross cancellation was in use for a period and was succeeded by a numerical obliteration No. 324 in a grid-killer consisting of 3 long bars, at top and bottom and 3 short bars at sides. In July 1844 ships letters postmarks in use at the time were of several different types.

The Post Office usually paid the Postmaster 2d. per letter and charged the addressee 4d. in addition to ordinary inland postage. Guernsey Ship letters are scarce as few ships, except local vessels would make Guernsey their first port of call, on a voyage to England. The first ship

letter stamp was in use up to about 1830. The second was in use from then to the end of 1839 or early 1840. The third as far as is known was only seen on letters arriving by private ships instead of the packet boats. In August 1823 the States of Guernsey established, by Ordinances, a foreign Post Office for the purpose of having one Post Office where letters to Alderney and the neighbouring coast of France, could be received and delivered. Alderney was a Guernsey Sub Post Office and the P.O. packet boat service provided no service there or to the coast of France. The Ordinance was repealed in 1841.

Until necessity arose, owing to the German occupation, all stamps used on the Islands were the current issue of Great Britain, as the British Postal Authorities had consistently set their faces against a separate Channel Island issue. No doubt Postal Revenue, as a source of Government income, had something to do with this decision. The stamps on hand, when the Germans landed, consisted of ½d., 1d., and 2d. stamps as under:—

K. George V—1912-1924 issue.

K. George V—1934 issue.

K. George VI—1937 issue.

K. George VI—1940 Centenary Issue.

GERMAN OCCUPATION

It is essential to bear in mind the fact that the Channel Islands were practically cut off from all communication with Gt. Britain and the number of inhabitants, as the result of partial evacuation, had dropped from 45,000 to less than 24,000. There was a partial postal communication between Guernsey and Jersey but Alderney had been completely evacuated. Sark was a sub-post office of Guernsey but little letter traffic was carried on with any regularity, during the period of occupation. As the supplies from the outside world were completely cut off, there were only two alternatives facing the Acting Postmaster, Mr. H. C. Chapell. They were:—

(1) The production of a locally made article or (2) The use of the meter — frank at the head P.O. which entailed a personal visit to the Head Office for each letter posted over the counter. The difficulties attendant upon the franking of each individual letter weighed in favour of a locally produced article. Eventually the German authorities, being inclined to the latter scheme, put an end to all doubt. After due consultation with the Bailiff of Guernsey — Mr. Victor G. Carey — a scheme was drawn up and submitted to the German Authorities to which their approval was finally given. In the meantime similar arrangements were being considered in Jersey.

The stocks of ½d. and 1d. stamps on both Islands were being rapidly exhausted. The German Authorities stepped in and suggested that the 2d. stamps be diagonally bisected and used to augment the rapidly diminishing supplies of 1d. stamps. For the first time in history, therefore, there was seen an enemy country in the position to dictate procedure to H.M. Post Office. The procedure was adopted on December 24th, 1940, and notices duly appeared in the local newspapers. Thus occurred the first step in the philatelic history of the Channel Islands, when the German occupation was only six months old. There were approximately 20,000

members of the occupation forces. Among them were many ardent and experienced collectors. Thus the demand for the bisects was extremely heavy throughout the period of their validity. The bisected 2d. stamps franked by the Guernsey P.O. are unique as they are an issue, authorised by the G.P.O. within the Br. Isles although this was under duress of the German occupation.

The authorisation of the bisects was announced on December 24th, 1940, but owing to the Christmas holidays intervening "First Day" covers do not carry a date earlier than 27/12/1940. The bisected Centenary issues were by far the most plentiful of the stocks on hand — approximately about 120,000. The George V issue were naturally the scarcest and do not exceed 1,000 half stamps of each date. The bisecting of dealer's and collector's stamps was permissible, thus practically adding to the quantities in existence as the P.O. stocks were just about obsolete. The cessation of the validity of the 2d. bisects was 22nd February, 1941, although covers exist with a postmark dated 24th of that month.

In October 1940 plans were set afoot to produce Guernsey's first 1d. stamp. This meant the creating of the original design and going through every process that was necessary with whatever materials could be found. Mr. E. W. Vaudin, a talented artist and employee of the Guernsey Press Co. Ltd., was chosen to submit suggestions for the design. Another skilful employee of the same company — Mr. Charles H. Toms — an associate of the Royal Photographic Society of Gt. Britain, was entrusted with the difficult task of making the printing plate from the artist's design. In the meantime similar arrangements were being made and considered in Jersey for a local issue there. Stocks of the 1d. and 1d. stamps were fast disappearing in both Islands, and in Guernsey it was found that the 1d. stamps would not last until the local product was ready for sale. For this reason the bisected 2d, Geo. V and Geo. VI stamps were put into circulation."

The Production of The First 1d. Stamp.

The roughs were drawn out before the designer actually decided on two designs. These were drawn on Bristol Board and completed on November the 2nd, 1940. The design consisted of the Guernsey Coat of Arms on a solid background surrounded by a double outer frame enclosing a number of pearls. The word 'Guernsey' at the top of the design and the word 'Postage' at the bottom. The value appeared on a small six-sided white Shield about two-thirds of the way from the top. The 1d. value being practically out of use was the first stamp to be printed. It was frequently asked why a pictorial was not used. This was not practicable owing to the method of printing used locally. The only type used in the Channel Islands was what was known as letterpress, and it was seldom that this method was used for the printing of postage stamps. The lithographic and photogravure processes of printing were not in use commercially in the Channel Islands. The local issues were consequently printed from an ordinary printer's block.

The making of the blocks was entrusted to Mr. C. H. Thoms. The actual process used was what is known as Line Photo-Engraving which must not be confused with Line-Engraving. The

former process consists of making a photographic negative, with the exception that the image received on glass plate must be reversed from left to right to ensure the final prints being correct. The reversal is obtained by means of a reflecting prism next to the lens. Next the metal plate has to be sensitised. The plate consists of a sheet of zinc 2 mm. thick which is then meticulously cleaned and polished and thinly coated with a solution of bichromated glue which, when dry, is sensitive to light. The sensitised metal is then exposed to light, under the negative, in a special printing frame under heavy pressure. Exposure takes from 4 to 6 minutes at 18 inches from a powerful arc lamp. The plate is then placed under running water for a minute or two; the parts not acted upon by the light are washed away, leaving the design as a film of insoluble glue. The plate is then immersed in a strong dye bath which makes the image visible and enables the operator to judge if exposure is free from blemishes.

Next the plate is subjected to sufficient heat over a gas ring to bake the glue and make it adhere tenaciously to the metal, also giving it the property of acid-resisting. To the touch the plate is perfectly smooth all over at this stage. Etching. — The plate after being varnished on the edges and back, is subjected to a weak spray of Nitric Acid which acts on the unprotected parts of the image, i.e. the white parts, eating away the metal between the lines, leaving the design standing out in relief.

(to be continued).

UNITED NATIONS POSTAL RAMP

"Stamp Collecting" publishes a very serious indictment of the U.N. Postal Administration, taken over mainly from United States philatelic magazines. Some extracts are:—

"Business ever since 1951 has almost all savoured of bureaucracy and bungling. It could not have blundered more perfectly if it had planned to do so.

"The Chief let it be known that he would operate according to his own ideas, even though he knew absolutely nothing about such matters.

"First-day marks of 24 October, 1951 were applied to covers as late as the Spring of 1952. Two clerks (stamp collectors) who sent in suggestions for improving matters were dismissed.

"Of the staff of about 100 not one knows the rudiments of postal service. The actual handling of mail from the U.N. is done by employees of the U.S. New York Post Office.

"The U.N. Postal Administration is concerned solely with the sale of U.N. stamps to dealers and collectors.

"They have twice broken promises to collectors, by reprinting extra supplies when they found that original supplies (quantities have been announced) were insufficient.

"They have declared quite blatantly that the object of the numerous issues is for **propaganda purposes.**

U.N. stamps may be admitted as necessary for use at the U.N. Post Office, and they are recognised by the U.P.U.

It is the methods of their distribution which have raised the ire of philatelists. They are largely undignified and not what might be expected of such an institution. But even that might be pardoned if they were always morally honest.

C.S.A.R. & S.A.R.

In our June, 1955 issue, P. 103, it was noted that as regards the C.S.A.R. overprint on O.R.C. stamps, Tamsen had recorded in what he called the 2nd issue (1905?) that the ½d. occurs with the overprint in the middle of the stamp instead of at the bottom.

Mr. G. Feros of East London now records a 2d. stamp with this placing of the overprint.

Transvaal stamps perforated S.A.R. The ½d., 1d., 2d. and ? others so perforated were recorded by Tamsen as issued in Sept., 1910 and as in use till May, 1912. The three definitely recorded are now listed in the Union Handbook/Catalogue, Vol. II as IP 80A, B, and C, but are only priced as regards usage in the Transvaal.

Mr. G. Feros has submitted for expert opinion, a specimen with a postmark which is highly probably that of "Bloemfontein/Rail," June 1911. This of course would mean usage in the O.F.S., but as only part of the postmark is on the stamp it is conceivable that it might be part of "Braamfontein/Tvl."

Cape stamps perforated S.A.R. The only such stamp actually listed is the Edwardian ½d. — in the Union Handbook/Catalogue Vol. II p. 3 (IP 14A) — where it is priced 10/- used in the Cape, but is not priced used in other Provinces.

It is mentioned, however, in the June, 1955 article referred to above, P. 104, that "There are no published records of Cape stamps perforated C.S.A.R. or S.A.R., but it can be stated here that one or two specimens of the Edwardian ½d. and 1d. are known in South Africa perforated S.A.R. and used in the Transvaal in 1910 and 1911. So far none perforated C.S.A.R. appear to be known.

The Expert Committee has had submitted to it a specimen of the Cape Edwardian 1d. perforated S.A.R., postmarked Johannesburg, Dec., 1910.

**CENSOR MARKINGS
MOZAMBIQUE 1914-1918.**

In a recent communication (S.A. Ph. 1955 pp. 140 and 155) I dealt with the Censor Markings of South Africa, S.W.A. and E. Africa during World War I.

A recent acquisition somewhat widens the scope, inasmuch as it shows a censor's mark from a Prisoner-of-War camp at Lourenco Marques.

This item is a post-card sent from Johannesburg on 24 Mar., 1916 to a prisoner-of-war in a camp at Lourenco Marques. It has, in the first instance, a South African marking, presumably applied at Johannesburg, but not previously recorded, "Passed. Censor." in violet, in two lines of block capitals 5 mm. high.

Then there are the Portuguese markings, (a) a semi-circular mark with "Quartel General" round the tip, all caps. 3 mm. high, and, in very small lettering "Reparticao d'Informacoes" across the bottom; (b) "Censurado," quite separately. Both markings in red. J. HUNTER.

FRANCE

The Postal Administration advises of the issue on 11 February of a 15 fr. stamp featuring the Belfry of Douai in North France. Also on 21 February of a 15 fr. in memory of Col. Driant, a distinguished soldier, whose end came in the offensive at Verdun in 1916.

EMIL TAMSEN

Our congratulations to the G.O.M. of South African philately, and to Mrs. Tamsen, on the celebration last month of the 70th anniversary of their wedding.

Mr. Tamsen, now aged 94, is unfortunately no longer able to take any interest in philately.

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The Editor,
S.A. Philatelist.

Sir,

I visited Teppex, and I enjoyed a fine Exhibition, but I do share the views of other collectors in regard to their observations at the Exhibition.

Although there were some fine exhibits, and rarities to be admired and enjoyed one could not help feeling, when viewing some of the Thematic collections, that one was not looking at a collection of postage stamps. One wondered whether a collection of Artists' sketches, picture postcards, or a display by a Botany Class had not got mixed up with a Philatelic Exhibition.

There is little doubt that a great deal of hard work went into some of these Thematic collections; a high degree of artistic talent was evident, but can all this be reconciled with the main objects of stamp collecting?

One wonders, and shudders to think what would happen if some enthusiastic Thematologist decided to exhibit a Zoology collection! Could one picture the array of gaily plumaged birds, the beasts the reptiles and insects — labelled here and there with a stamp?

I can still feel the thrill of contemplating a completely reconstructed sheet of the Penny Black of Great Britain, and the anti-climax as I moved away to the picture postcards.

The Topical Collector might quite rightly argue that "for the outlay of a very modest sum of money he can acquire hundreds of Theme Stamps, and that he can derive untold benefit, and pleasure, from the wonderful therapeutic value of this great hobby"; but that "the specialist who interests himself in the Classical Issues must necessarily be a man of means, because the purchase of one single stamp might set his Bank balance back by a hundred pounds, or more." All this is true, but let the Thematologists be realistic, and reasonable, and not expect their artistic, and other meritorious efforts, to be placed on the same pedestal at exhibitions as collections in the higher realms of Philately where rarity research and study (not topical knowledge) are the cardinal factors.

We shall no doubt hear from the Thematologists!

C. R. REYNOLDS.

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SOCIETY NEWS

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The highlight of the **February** meeting was the magnificent Thematic Display by Professor G. H. van Rooyen of Bloemfontein.

Professor van Rooyen had very kindly posted these down to Dr. Drusinsky, who set out hundreds of album pages showing the theme of Postal Transport through the ages.

All members agreed that no more comprehensive Thematic display had been enjoyed by the members of the Society.

The Secretary was requested to thank Professor van Rooyen for this instructive and enjoyable display.

There were four competitors in the President's Competitive Display and members enjoyed them.

Three new members were elected and another highlight of the evening's programme was the showing by a member of the 2nd. Prussian Blue Silver Jubilee stamp of Great Britain in perfect mint condition. J.P.S.

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The 36th Annual General Meeting of the East Rand Philatelic Society, was held in Benoni, on 17th January, 1956.

The winner of the Sam Legator Trophy was Mr. C. Waner of Brakpan. A King George VI collection won Mr. C. Waner the Trophy.

Election of Officers for 1956.

President, Mr. L. Feinstein; Vice President, Mr. H. Suklje; Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. J. Bogner (Jnr.); Committee Members, Mr. W. N. Sheffield, Mrs. G. Wood, Mr. P. Baan; Exchange Superintendent and News Editor, Mr. C. Waner; Federation Delegate, Mr. S. Legator; Alternate to Federation Delegate, Mr. H. Suklje; Congress Delegate, Mr. L. Feinstein.

The retiring president was Mr. S. Legator, Vice President for the year 1955, until the death of Mr. Jack Shepherd, of Brakpan.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

17th January.

Our President welcomed a goodly number of members and two visitors to the first meeting of the year, official business being first dealt with.

Three members who had not previously shown any of their stamps combined for the evening's display. Mr. Monaghan had brought along a very good cross-section of British Empire stamps issued during the reigns of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II; Mr. Slabbert's contribution consisted of modern Netherlands stamps, many of them on very attractive covers and Mr. Smukler delighted with five pages from his Thematic Collection of Musicians and Musical Instruments. All three exhibitors are to be warmly congratulated on their fine effort and good example set, as Mr. D. Berg indicated when thanking them on behalf of the meeting.

During interval cakes kindly provided by Mrs. Douglas were sold for Congress funds. A good auction concluded the evening.

7th February.

The evening stood under the sign of Thematics. Mr. T. M. Winsley assisted by Mr. H. B. Youngleson entertained over 30 members and visitors to a very bright and varied show. They were able to enjoy stamps showing such diverse subjects as Horses, Arms, Native Life and Races, Flowers, Costumes, Animals including Birds, Insects and Fishes and finally Waterfalls and listen to a paper on various aspects of thematic collecting prepared by Mr. Winsley.

Dr. J. W. Harris, another enthusiast of thematic collecting, proposed the vote of thanks to the exhibitors, adding at the same time further thoughts on this very popular branch of stamp collecting.

After a successful auction everyone could look back on a most enjoyable evening.

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY

February 6th. This was the Annual General Meeting. In his Presidential Address he stated that he hoped that the Incoming Committee would establish the Junior Section on a firm footing, and do everything to encourage the younger element to join the Society.

The following committee was elected:—

President, Mr. W. H. L. Warren; Vice President, Mr. K. L. M. Alexander; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. E. R. Bower; Committee, Mrs. M. C. C. Montgomery, Messrs E. H. Sanderson-Smith, N. C. James, W. D. du Toit and T. A. Drower.

The good wishes of other Cape Town Societies go to this small but rising Society at the shank end of the Cape Peninsula. M.F.S.

THEMATIC CLUB OF CAPE TOWN.

February 13th. This was again the Popular All-Members Evening. It always is amazing to see what a mass of new and interesting items which are displayed at these meetings which draw most members and at the same time a number of visitors. On this occasion the exhibits were as follows:— "Miniature Sheets" by Mr. Geo. Petroulis; "Commemorative Issues of Nyasaland George VI" by G. Combrink — as usual a fine showing, with many rare items; Dr. P. L. Vautier's "First Day Covers of the World," which included as well the fine Stamp Centenary of Cuba set, Norway and Stockholm 55 stamps, and his thematic "Stamps on Stamps" which is always interesting; Capt. M. F. Stern's "Provisional used covers of the Transitional Period of Israel." For full measure however there was a guest collector in Mr. R. Woolcott who showed his collection of "Modern Russia" which was arranged in thematic manner, and was purchased by him when he was in Russia, representing the Australian Government. He is now a member of the Australian High Commissioners Office and gave a good talk on the stamps which he displayed. This exhibit was really something out of the ordinary and proved of the greatest interest.

February 27th. Members rallied to see what Mr. Geo. Petroulis called his "Odds and Ends." Those who came had no reason for regretting coming as it was one of the exceptional showings. First of all there were his fine, rare and well written up "Miniature Sheets" including the Liechtenstein Da Vinci sheets, showing among items the parachute. He then set out a section only of his Air Mail stamps, selecting this time the private and provisional air mail stamps of Canada and those of Africa, but included the Allahabad Flight cover of 1911 and the first Latocere South Atlantic flight March 2nd, 1928, a French balloon letter Rouen to Paris, proofs of airmail stamps and complete sheets of the Balboa flight stamps. And finally if all this had not been more than interesting, a further instalment of his thematic "Art on Stamps". He has, if it is possible to say it, actually improved on the setting out and increased generally the philatelic value of this collection. It is really a work of love, in its careful setting out and constitutes, not only in the Union, but even overseas an example of how to tackle such a subject. Notwithstanding his recent ill health this stalwart was there to exhibit and moreover to give a talk on his excellent showings. M.F.S.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

February 9th. This evening was spent in setting out the two exhibits selected by the Committee for competition for the Arthur V. Jacob Cup. The two selected were as follows (a) The Chalon Heads Issues of Queensland of Mr. E. B. Lye and (b) The Pence Issues of Ceylon of Mr. J. H. G. Galbraith. Both these exhibits I wrote up during 1955 in this column respectively in the May 1955 and January 1956 issues. It is no wonder that these two fine collections of the Classics should have been selected by the Royal. As it was the judges had no enviable task and finally the Cup was awarded to Mr. Galbraith.

February 23rd. On this evening the Annual General Meeting was held and a good number of members attended. The outgoing President, Mr. A. M. Jones, referred to exceptional high standards of exhibits shown during the year. It seems that there will be no difficulty in again arranging a full programme. The Committee have been very active during the year and especially on the Building Fund, which has grown to quite a figure. Also a proposed badge for the Society was tabled. The Trophies and miniature cups were presented by Mrs. Joan Hall, the energetic and able Hon. Secretary, these being as follows:—

Jacob Cup (best exhibit of year) Mr. J. H. G. Galbraith for his "Ceylon Pence issues".

Jurgens Cup (for best paper read) Mr. A. M. Jones for his paper "The Channel Islands."

Simenhoff Cup (best Ladies exhibit) Mrs. L. Grout for her "Union of South Africa."

Kagason Cup (for best Thematic collection) Capt. M. F. Stern for his "Architecture on Stamps."

The new committee for 1956 was elected:—

President, Mr. W. G. Combrink; Vice President, Dr. P. L. Vautier; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Ian Hall; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Joan Hall; Hon. Librarian, Mr. C. Versino; Hon. Exchange Superintendent, Mr. C. R. V. Solomon; Committee, Messrs R. Chapman, F. Wheeler, S. C. Raddall and Capt. M. F. Stern. M.F.S.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Eighteen members and two visitors attended the usual monthly meeting in the Berea Hall Supper Room on **Wednesday 8th February**. We were entertained by our worthy member, Dr. Berry, who exhibited a very fine collection of the King's head issue of the Union. As Mr. Newlands remarked when thanking Dr. Berry this is almost a reference collection of this particular era of the Union's stamps and it was a privilege to see such an excellent exhibit. Many varieties, specimens, plate-proofs and other outstanding items were on view and Eric Walker commenting stated that although this was the third time he had seen this collection it was one that always provided great pleasure — a sentiment fully endorsed by all members present.

For a number of years the Society has felt the necessity of properly housing the ever expanding library that is being built up. Largely through the efforts of Dr. Peisach, our librarian, the Society has now sanctioned the expenditure of approximately £41 for the purchase of an elaborate bookcase with glass-fronted sliding doors which, in the near future, will house our many philatelic reference books and should prove a credit to the Society.

Dr. C. Been of Pretoria has very kindly presented two cups to be competed for by members of the Society and it has been decided that two separate competitions will be run during the year for these trophies. The one competition will be open to members who have not previously won an award in a competition or exhibition while the other will be open to all members of the Society. It is considered that these two awards should provide a great stimulus to philately among our members and full rules governing the condition of entry will be published in the next bulletin. Our very sincere thanks are extended to Dr. Been for his most generous presentation.

Members of our Society, at our last monthly meeting, stood as a mark of respect to Mr. W. Redford of the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg who recently passed away. Mr. Redford was a really good philatelist who was always willing to help anyone with philatelic problems and the condolences of the Society are expressed to Mrs. Redford and family. P.M.J.M.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF THE WEST RAND.

The **February** meeting was held at the residence of Mr. Richards on Wednesday, 22nd 1956 at 8 p.m.

The Chairman Mr. Yelland presided over the meeting with ten members and three visitors. A lengthy discussion was held on the rules and exhibits of the Club's Floating Trophy which was eventually settled. The final arrangements for the Krugersdorp Hobbies Fair was made, with quite a number of Club Members exhibiting 25 sheets of their collection. This event will take place at the Krugersdorp Town Hall on March the 8th, 9th, and 10th 1956.

After the interval Mr. Richards displayed a small collection of Fiji and on behalf of the club Mr. Sharpe thanked the exhibitor. Although not written up, Mr. Sharpe said that amongst the early stamps there were some very good and rare items, also various watermarks and perfs.

Before the meeting terminated a hearty vote of thanks was conveyed to Mr. and Mrs. Richards for a very enjoyable evening. J.K.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

January, 23rd.

Mr. E. C. Wright entertained the members present at this meeting with a very comprehensive display of Postal Stationery. Mr. Wright prefaced his exhibit with a most interesting and delightfully informal talk which members much appreciated and which, together with the exhibit, called forth the most favourable comments and gave rise to some very fruitful discussions across the floor. The Society is indeed lucky to have a collector of Mr. Wright's calibre. Very few philatelists have his wide interests and, still fewer, his wide knowledge. **February, 6th.**

The Annual General Meeting. The retiring officers presented their reports which showed that the affairs of the Society are in a sound position. The drop in attendance at monthly meetings was discussed at some length and the committee, is to explore ways and means for effecting improvement. The election of officers for 1956 then took place the following members being appointed:—

President, Mr. E. A. Hudson; Vice President, Mr. E. Manville-Ford; Hon. Secretary, Election postponed until the next ordinary meeting; Hon.

Treasurer, Mr. C. S. J. Gouws; Hon. Exchange Superintendent, Mr. W. Impey; Hon. Auctioneer and Curator, Dr. H. O. Reisener; Hon. Librarian and Correspondent, Mr. E. Manville-Ford; Members of Committee: Mr. E. C. Wright, Mr. D. Slater-Kinghorn, Miss J. R. Taylor; Delegates to Federation, Dr. T. B. Berry, Dr. H. O. Reisener, Mr. R. A. Hudson.

February, 20th.

At this meeting Mr. J. M. Weinstein agreed to accept a further term of office as Secretary, but with modified duties, and was duly elected to fill the vacancy left over from the Annual General Meeting.

The evening's entertainment again fell on the broad shoulders of Mr. W. Newlands who, at short notice, stepped into a breach caused by the failure of a visiting exhibitor. Mr. Newlands started by giving an excellent talk aimed at getting more members to show collections. There was a reluctance on the part of members to show, largely he felt, because their collections lacked completeness. He exhorted members not to be shy and to set an example he tabled a collection of Nyasaland Protectorate. There certainly were gaps aplenty in the earlier issues and even a few in the later issues but they could not detract from what was a delightful display. The 'cheque stamps' were particularly attractive and the display of these was most comprehensive. Mr. Newlands proved his point and members were most grateful to him for a very entertaining evening. E.M.F.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG.

February 14. The 26th Annual General Meeting with a record attendance of over 60.

All the Reports of the various activities showed the Society to be in a flourishing condition. The retiring President, Mr. K. Lydall, in addition to a stimulating address conducted a most interesting Quiz. This was a story of a journey round the Union into which nearly a hundred place names had been worked, all of them afterwards evidenced by postmarks on Union stamps. It is hoped this will be published in due course.

Awards. The magnificent 'Hunt Cup', for outstanding philatelic achievement went, for the first time, to Dr. Harvey Pirie for his booklet on Swaziland and New Republic. It was presented to him by the donor, Mr. E. Hunt in person.

The Lang Cup went to Mr. R. T. Lilley, a decision applauded by all except the modest recipient. With it go the Society's best wishes for his overseas trip and the hope he will return.

The 'Redford' award went to Dr. T. B. Berry for his exhibit of Union Booklets and Coils; the 'Harvey Pirie' award to Mr. S. Hirschmann for his Israel; the Thematic award to Mr. I. H. C. Godfrey for his World Airposts and Dr. P. Keller was given the Society's award for having made the greatest progress during the year with his show of Poland.

Our New Executive Committee consists of the following:—

President, Mr. B. Glassman; Past President, Mr. K. Lydall; Vice-President and Joint Hon. Exchange Superintendent, Mr. P. C. Seligmann; Treasurer, Mr. M. Jecks; Joint Hon. Secretaries, Dr. W. G. Hesse and Mr. J. Michelson; two further Joint Hon. Exchange Superintendents, Messrs G. F. Duigan and B. Joseph; Dr. Harvey Pirie as Hon. Editor of the "S.A. Philatelist"; and five Committee Members, Mr. L. Buchen, Commander C. E. D. Enoch, Mr. J. Frick, Dr. P. Keller, Mr. R. Kleiner. It is quite a bit of a "new" Committee, for we are losing, for the time being, Mr. Lilley and Mr. Sheffield who are going overseas, and Messrs Froehlich and Isaacs also resigned, in spite of the disappointment their decision caused us.

Our second meeting on **27th February**, saw two very interesting exhibits, Mr. F. C. Ferguson's beautifully illustrated story of the posts of the Vatican City, and Mr. D. W. Sutcliffe's astoundingly many varieties of "George VI". Both displays set the pace for the new competition of the year, for both had gained awards at TEPPEX, and should be hard to beat. W.H.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL.

Tradition has been broken! The forty-fourth Annual General Meeting of the Society on **7th March**, was held in fine weather! Old Jupiter Pluvius did his damp best during the day, but missed the meeting by at least two hours. He must be losing his touch!

Another feature, more worthy of note, was the presence of Mr. J. H. Chamberlain, the Society's first President, who was presented by Mr. G. Milner Palmer, acting on behalf of the Federation, with the Certificate of Membership of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (S.A.), an honour recently

bestowed upon him at the Pretoria Conference. With characteristic modesty Mr. Chamberlain, in his speech of thanks, wondered what he had done to deserve the honour. The Natal Society could tell him, if there were time.

The retiring President, Mr. G. Milner-Palmer, referred to several matters of vital interest. He rejoiced in the unusually large number of new lady members, enabling the Society to hold a most successful Ladies' Evening. For the first time, too, a lady had won one of the Society's trophies. The President deplored, however, the general paucity of displays and appealed for more offers during the ensuing year.

Suggested changes in the method of electing the officers of the Society; the proposed Natal Handbook; and developments in the recording of talks by Mr. Robson Lowe were among the matters that received attention in a speech rounded off by thanks to all those who had co-operated in making the past year one of success.

Election of Officers.

President: C. Selwyn Smith; Vice Presidents: G. Milner Palmer, I. Bevis, H. R. Brown, J. Lyle, D. McK. Malcolm; Committee: W. H. Winde, N. Paterson, J. H. Wicks, F. King, G. Walsh; Hon. Secretary-Treasurer: K. I. Bevis; Sales Packet Superintendent: Mr. and Mrs. K. I. Bevis; Hon. Auctioneer: J. Lyle; Hon. Auditor: D. K. McIntyre.

Winners of Trophies.

P. C. Bishop Cup: (Commonwealth): Mrs. K. I. Bevis.

W. H. Winde Cup: (Foreign): C. Whysall.

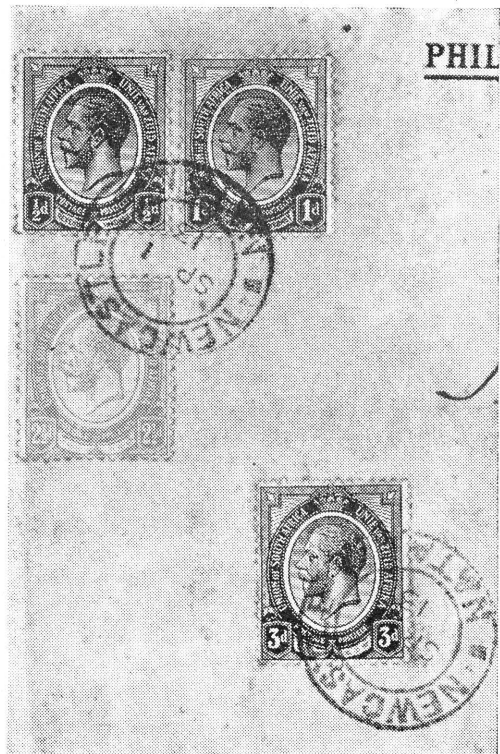
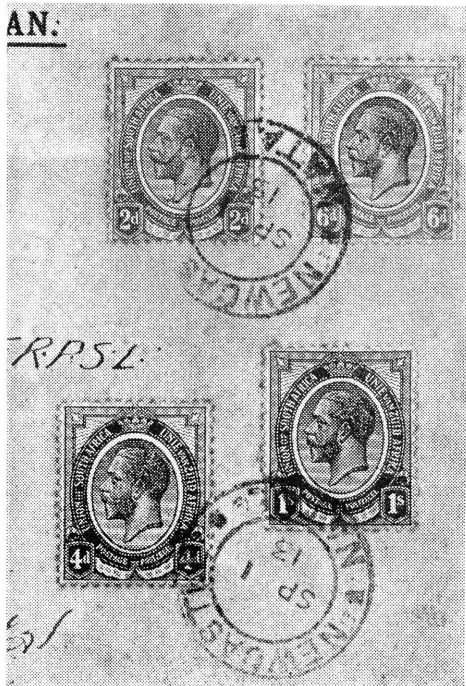
Union Cup: G. Walsh.

At the conclusion of the business, refreshments were served under the efficient direction of Mrs. W. H. Winde. Three most instructive and entertaining films: The Work of the G.P.O., Kew Gardens, and the Changing of the Guard brought a well-attended and happy gathering to its close. The only unhappy chap was old Jupiter P.

FIRST DAY UNION GEORGIANS

The 2½d. commemorative issued on 4 Nov., 1910 is quite well known with postmarks of usage on that date. What about the definitive issue of 1st Sept., 1913?

Mr. S. G. Rich raised the question in our issue of May, 1955 stating that for years he had been on the outlook for stamps used on that date but had never even heard of one, much less found one.



His note, however, raised two replies — see our issues of Aug., 1955, p. 136 and Feb., 1956, p. 19 — Messrs Kupferman and Tunstall recorded respectively specimens of the 2d. and the 1d. with postmarks of 1 Sept., 1913.

The remark was hazarded, when recording the find of the 1d., that there did not seem to have been any rush to get 1st Day covers! That remark was made too hastily.

Mr. J. H. H. Chamberlain came to light with a cover bearing all values up to the 1/-, posted at Newcastle, Natal of 1 Sep., 1913. In his covering letter he said he would have written sooner but could not lay his hand on the item of proof wanted. He further stated that he, and others, had sent off quite a few such covers.

They say it never rains but it pours; we had no sooner sent Mr. Chamberlain's cover to be photographed for reproduction here, than we were shown another cover by Mr. Jan H. Smith of Johannesburg. This has an oval Registered/Capetown postmark of 4 p.m., 1 SP. 13.

It has the eight lower value stamps, up to 1/-, but on the back are pieces of stamp edgings with the jubilee lines in the colours of the 2/6, 5/- and 10/- values, so it may be taken that all stamps of the issue were on sale and used on 1-9-13!

QUEEN ELIZABETH STAMPS

The only countries in the Commonwealth which have not either issued, or announced their plans for issuing, stamps of the Elizabethan era, are Pitcairn Islands and the Virgin Islands.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST

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Whole No. 373.

UNION NOTES

Sub-Editor: Dr. T. B. BERRY,
Box 31, Bryanston, Transvaal.

Second Printing of the 6d. stamp of the Animal Series.

In our previous issue we recorded, among others, the second printing of the current 6d. stamp. More material has since become available, thereby permitting Mr. Eric Walker, of Pretoria, to continue his investigation in respect of which he passes on the following information:

Three independent printings, the sequence of which is not recorded officially, have been made from the same cylinders and together comprise the second printing of this stamp. They all bear red cyclometer numbers, but differ in the following respects, as illustrated in the accompanying reproduction.

Printing A: No marginal smudge opposite horizontal rows 11 and 12; the sheet number is opposite rows 16 and 17; the perforation holes are of the large perf. type with the junction of the two beats of the multiple row perforator between rows 10 and 11.

Printing B: Marginal orange smudge present opposite the junction of horizontal rows 11 and 12; the sheet number is opposite horizontal rows 17 and 18, and is on the edge of the margin; the perforation holes are of the **small** perf. type with the junction of the two beats of the multiple row perforator between rows 11 and 12.

Printing C: Marginal orange smudge present opposite the junction of horizontal rows 11 and 12; the sheet number is opposite rows 14 and 15, and is on the edge of the margin; the perforation holes are of the large type perf. with the junction of the two beats of the multiple row perforator between rows 10 and 11, and the colour of the stamps is of a darker shade.

It will be observed that a printing has again been made during which the perforator was



changed. This aspect was reported in our January 1956 issue, concerning an article dealing with the "Perforation of the Covenant Stamps."

It might be appropriate at this stage to recall that three perforators exist at present at the Government Printing Works, Pretoria, and are used in the printing of the Union's stamps. One

type is a single comb perforator and is used upon its particular printing machine with the five-figure black serial numbers; the other two are of the multiple-row type, one carrying perforation pins of a slightly larger calibre than the other, and both may be used on the second printing machine on which the four-figure red serial numbers are registered. The "staggered perf." variety exists in the eleven row perforator carrying the larger pins and thereby giving the larger hole type of perforation.

Misaligned Perforations of the 2d. Covenant Commemorative Postage Stamp.

In our March 1955 issue, we recorded the presence of misaligned perforations appearing in certain stamps, an example of which is illustrated in the Union Handbook/Catalogue, Vol. II, page 196.

Since then, further examples have been brought to our notice, the most recent being by Mr. J. G. Walker of Linden, Johannesburg, who showed us an example of the "Drunken Perf." or the "Staggered Perf.," as this condition has now become to be known, occurring in the 2d. Covenant Commemorative printing. Its position may be observed in the vertical perforation between vertical rows two and three, and extends over a distance corresponding to the top margin of the sheet and horizontal rows one and two, as included in the first beat of the multiple row perforator, and also over horizontal rows 11, 12 and 13, as included in the second beat of the perforator on the sheet.

Incidentally, the "Staggered Perf." condition is also present in the second printing of the current 6d. stamp of the Animal Series, and may be located in printings 2A and 2C, in the above mentioned positions.

Georgian Double Strikes.

A communication received a little while ago from Mr. R. D. Allen, of London, England, refers to the excellent article on Georgian

Double Strikes, written by Mr. Donald D. Smythe, M.R.P.S.L., of San Francisco, and published in our issue of June 1955. Mr. Allen reports that he possesses a perpendicular strip of four ½d. G.V. stamps, tied on piece, post-marked, PRETORIA, May 28, 5.30 p.m., 1924, and that each of the stamps bears evidence of "double strike" markings, in particular, the "UN" and "ZU" on one stamp, and the "½d." value on another, are slightly doubled, while on another, the "ST" of "INKOMST" appears fainter than the letters in front of it.

Mr. Allen has exhibited his interesting specimen to the London Group of the South African Stamp Collectors' Society, but as we have not received the item, nor a photograph of it, we are not in the happy position to extend the same facility to readers of Union Notes.

Mr. M. J. Rall, of Heidelberg, Cape, has however come to our rescue by timely submitting a similar item, a ½d. Georgian stamp in a block of four, bearing evidence also of double strike markings, a photograph of which is reproduced showing clearly the white marks situated above "van" and also in the right hand numeral tablet, both reputed to be the result of printing from a partially dried inking roller.

Meter Franks — Specimen.

Specimen stamps are always interesting items and tell their tale of trial and error in the preparatory stages of their respective stamps. Collectors are accustomed to view them, and to compare them with the finished products, but in regard to Meter Stamps, there is no final pictorial product for comparison — just a bare cancellation accompanied by a slogan.

We are indebted to Mr. W. Newlands, of Pretoria, for the privilege of viewing and illustrating the accompanying "SPECIMEN Meter Frank Postage Stamp."



The Meter Frank is of Type 6, "Simplex" M.V., as illustrated in the Handbook/Catalogue, Vol. 1, page 318, the impression of the stamp being overprinted SPECIMEN, by means of a rubber stamp, 30 m.m. in length, in purple block capital letters 4 m.m. in height.

It is reported that two "specimen cancelled" window envelopes are presented free of charge by the vendors to the purchaser upon the installation and handing over of the franking machine.

Harrison Essay with Overprint.

Following upon Dr. Berry's enquiry, appearing in our March issue, concerning the interpretation of the overprint "Muster" appearing on the Harrison Essays and their origin, Mr. H. A. Hofman of Johannesburg writes inter alia:—

"The word "Muster" has also the meaning of "Sample", "prototype", and "specimen". If in Germany somebody wishes to sell, say some

oil, he takes an actual "Muster" of the oil he wants to sell, a sample, a specimen, and posts it as "Muster ohne wert" (sample of no value). This "Muster ohne wert" is actually a mail matter class in the German postal tariff, like "Printed Matter" or "Postcards." From the foregoing it will be clear that the word "Specimen" would be the right translation for the word "Muster", especially as far as our stamps are concerned.

Continuing his comment, Mr. Hofman offers a very feasible explanation concerning the printing of the Harrison Essays, when he states:—

"Sight should however not be lost of the fact that before the first world war, and during the intervening years between the wars, most printing inks used in Great Britain, and containing aniline pigments, came from Germany. It is therefore perhaps possible that Harrison made the plates, printed sheets in several colours with German inks, and sent some sheets over to Germany in order to have other inks matched, improved upon, etc., etc., and the Germans applied the overprint, a "Muster" on the sheets."

We are indebted to Mr. Hofman for the benefit of his knowledge of the German language, and for a possible explanation concerning the printing of the Harrison Essays about which issue so little has been recorded.

The "Anhyphenate" Penny.

The current issue of "The Springbok" contains a highly commendable article by Mr. E. W. Merriman of The South African Collectors' Society, entitled "The Anhyphenate Penny", wherein he catalogues a large number of constant spots and flaws, suitable for plating purposes, to be found on the 1d. value, Plates 1 to 6.

The author gathers his data from at least three stamps of each variety, all the stamps being in the used condition, the last postmarked April 30th 1931. The stamps are considered under two headings, English — and Afrikaans — inscribed, and the multipositive flaws are listed before the plate flaws, the sheet position of the flaw being given in many cases.

Mr. Merriman appeals for assistance in identifying the flaws which are numbered and illustrated on an accompanying illustration of the stamp, and for information concerning varieties not listed or listed incorrectly. He particularly desires this listing to be as complete as possible in view of the fact that the main theme of the Society's forthcoming exhibition will be the penny issues.

We would request all who are in a position to do so, to assist Mr. Merriman in his very noble effort, and extend to him our good wishes for a successful cataloguing of one of the Union's most interesting items — the unhyphenated penny stamp.

The Bloemfontein Hobbies Fair.

The March issue of "The O.F.S. Philatelic Magazine" contains an account of a very successful "Hobbies Fair" recently staged in the Bloemfontein City Hall by an organisation known as the "Round Table 25". Exhibits of all types and description were on show, and of course the members of the enthusiastic O.F.S. and Basutoland Philatelic Society did their best not to let the "King of Hobbies" down.

The Society staged a very admirable exhibit in the Club Exhibit Class, the theme being a "Pageant of Philately", and in spite of herculean efforts by many of its members, equivalent to the carrying off at least of a Grand Prix award, its effort was unawarded, but never the less appreciated. Two of its members, however, received individual awards: Dr. K. Freund received the Silver Cup Award for the best exhibit in the "Open Class — Collecting Hobbies", his exhibit being "Espionage Forgeries", and Mr. J. B. Levy, a Certificate of Merit award in respect of his collection of "Japanese Matchbox Labels".

We offer our congratulations to the successful competitors, and to the Society and those not so successful, 'may they enjoy better luck next time'.

Publicity Officer, Publicity Section, Pretoria.

After five and a half years of yeoman service, assisting enthusiastic collectors of Union Stamps among his many other duties as Publicity Officer, Publicity Section, Post Office, Pretoria, Mr. T. I. Ferreira has been transferred on promotion to another appointment in the Postal Service. In congratulating him on his well earned elevation, collectors far and wide will join in thanking him most sincerely for the assistance he so willingly rendered to one and all, and to Philately in general. We extend to him all good wishes for the future, good health and good luck, and trust that the knowledge he gained about stamps while attending to the requirements of collectors, will not be forgotten, but will stand him in good stead should he desire a hobby on his retirement.

We also extend a very hearty welcome to Mr. J. J. van der Watt who has assumed duty as Publicity Officer. All collectors look forward to making his acquaintance in due course, and under his regime the regular Saturday morning visitors to the Philatelic Agency in quest of something new — "The Saturday Morning Study Circle!" — now meet.

Stop Press!

As we go to press, Mr. Eric Walker, a Pretoria stamp collector who sleeps with alternate eyes open so as not to miss anything new in Unions, reports that an issue of the second printing of the 4d. "Elephant" stamp has been made from the original cylinders Nos. 53 and 93, and that the four-figure sheet number is in red opposite row 17, the perforation is of the small hole type, and the junction of the two strokes of the multiple row perforator is between the top margin and row 1, and also between rows 11 and 12 of the sheet.

As this is another instance in which a printing has appeared with two types of perforation, one may suspect that mechanical difficulties are being experienced at the Printing Works with the perforating mechanism, thus necessitating a change of perforator during the printing operation.

Missing Perf., 1/6 Aloe Stamp.

We have been shown a specimen of the 1/6 stamp, Aloes in Rock printing, wherein a missing perforation hole occurs in the vertical perforation between stamps 5 and 6 of horizontal rows 8 and 19 of the sheet.

The Edwardian Portraits of Southern Nigeria

By
J. E. FRANKLAND

The Edwardian issues of Southern Nigeria have the King's portrait in a fancy border, the design copied from their Victorian precursors. The portrait used on the first issue, with single watermark, is the standard De La Rue typograph portrait with uniform solid colour right round the head which was used for about half the entire De La Rue Edwardian output.

This continued unchanged on the appearance of the multiple watermark, and the subsequent introduction on some denominations of chalky paper. In 1907, however, a change was discerned; and readers of the Gibbons Catalogue are informed that this was due to the **retouching** of the portrait plate, the new portrait appearing only on certain denominations on **chalky** paper. A later note states that the new portrait was used throughout the subsequent "Universal Colours" issue.

The old and new portraits can most readily be distinguished by examining the fifth line of shading counting up from the chin outline. In the old portrait this line opens with a series of irregular dots or short dashes, much more broken up than its immediate neighbours. In the new portrait this line is continuous (or sometimes with one little gap). There are other very small differences but both obviously come from the same original master portrait.

The Gibbons catalogue is held in such respect that this alone seems to explain the absence hitherto of any comments on, or correction of, the catalogue notes mentioned above: for in fact they are quite incorrect.

Once one is warned not to take these notes for granted, does it not seem odd that a portrait should be **retouched** on unessential detail in the same identical way throughout a plate which contains no fewer than sixty clichés? And is it not odder still that such **retouching** should occur on a plate which had made total impressions in all denominations of under 30,000 and shewed no signs of damage or wear in the most recent of these?

The expedient of **retouching** is normally used only for prolonging the useful life of a plate which has been so damaged that one or two clichés are so unsightly that they have become sub-standard. It is much commoner on lithographic stones and engraved intaglio plates than on the comparatively tough steel-coated typography plates used by De La Rue. It is unheard of for a plate to need the identical retouch on every cliché.

What then happened in 1907 was in fact **not** that the plate was **retouched**, but that a **new plate** was introduced. Although very similar in style to the old one, it was laid down from a different master die, both master dies having been made simultaneously from the same original portrait.

These conclusions seem very simple and logical, but the processes of working back from the original doubt through successive interesting discoveries may interest the reader, and

incidentally shew that there is still an open field for study and research in the issues of over fifty years ago.

The original discovery was that the redrawn 1d. stamp of 1910 **always** has the **old** portrait, in flat contradiction of the catalogue note. The history of this stamp is worth recording. De La Rue were asked to make the 1d. stamps of several colonies in sheets of 240 instead of the conventional 60 to facilitate the handling of this, the commonest, denomination, in Post Offices. In one case (Gold Coast) the stamp was wholly redesigned when the requisite large size plate was made: in three others (British Guiana, East Africa and Uganda, and Southern Nigeria) minor but discernible changes were introduced. Each time the opportunity was taken to combine the previously separate key and duty portions of the design for monocolour printing in one operation. The new Southern Nigeria plate had the denomination 1d. clearly redrawn with larger "d," by observing which the two printings can be easily separated; and all the new stamps have the **old** portrait. It became clear that if the master die had been retouched in 1907 a new plate could not possibly have been made from it in 1910 with the **old** portrait.

This discovery prompted examination of the other stamps in the "Universal Colours" series, and quickly yielded another find. The ½d. stamp is generally found with the new portrait, but all the SPECIMEN stamps of the ½d. have the old portrait. It appears probable that some normals must also have been issued in this form, but at the time of writing none has been seen. The explanation may be that this, the first of the Universal Colours to be made, antedated (in the first printing) the new portrait plate.

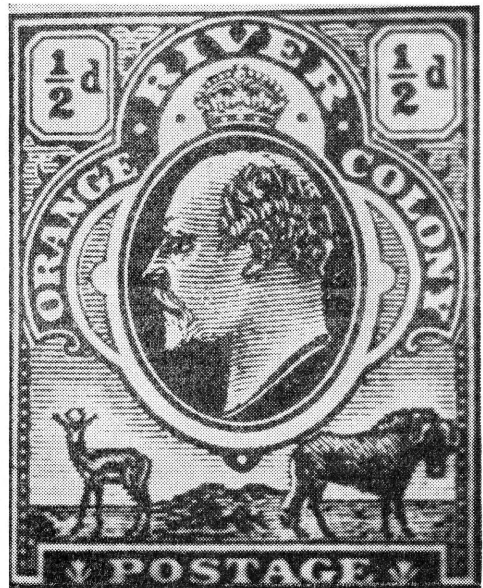
Checking over the previous series also yielded the discovery that the 2d. with pale centre (SG 22a) always has the new portrait. This is on **ordinary** paper, which effectively torpedoes the catalogue note that this portrait is not found on ordinary paper in this series.

There may be other departures not yet recorded: if any such are found particulars will be appreciated for publication.

These discoveries were, however, not complete and the question arose whether, in order to clinch the case, other examples could be found of the use of the **new** portrait on other stamps, preferably of earlier date, to confirm that the **new** master die was in fact contemporaneous with the **old**, though by some fluke not put into general use by De La Rue. This entailed much fruitless searching before it was discovered again on the 4d. of Great Britain (the redrawn monocolour stamp of late 1909). Examination will shew that all these have the "new" portrait. This was encouraging, but still later than the 1907 date of Southern Nigeria.

Finally perseverance was rewarded in the discovery of the "new" portrait on the ½d. of Orange River Colony, which in one bound brought the date back to 1903. No other instances have, as yet, been found of the use of this elusive master die.

In a later article I hope to discuss these and other Master Dies for the portrait, including some only known on early proofs and essays.



Enlarged photographs of the two instances of the use of the "old" portraits in the Universal Colour Series and the two known instances of the use of the "new" portrait other than in Southern Nigeria.

AUSTRALIA

The Postmaster-General announces that there will be **four** stamps to commemorate the 16th Olympiad in Melbourne, not three as was stated earlier. There will also be a 10d. special aerogramme.

A 3½d. stamp will depict the Arms of the

city of Melbourne; a 7½d. the Olympic Torch and the Southern Cross, this being indicative of the first occasion of the games being held in the Southern Hemisphere.

The 1/- and 2/- stamps will show scenes of Melbourne; they are to be printed by photogravure in several colours.

THE PIETERSBURG ISSUES

SOME OBSERVATIONS AND A KEY TO THEIR MAJOR ERRORS

By Dr. F. DRUSINSKY

(A paper read at Congress, Pretoria, Oct.-Nov. 1955)

As a collector, especially interested in the Philately of the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902, I was fortunate in obtaining the following proofs (as displayed) of the Pietersburg issues:

Two Sheets of the 2d. value.

Two Sheets of the 4d. value.

One Sheet and two half sheets of the 6d. value.

A closer study of these, together with reference to a few appropriate articles and a fair number of Pietersburg stamps, brought some very interesting facts and features to light.

Towards the end of 1900, after Kruger had left the Transvaal, the Transvaal Government was moved to Pietersburg. Their stamp supply was running low, and Dr. Reitz, the Secretary for State, issued an official order, still extant in the Curle collection, for the printing of these provisionals.

Mr. I. T. de V. Smit, Acting State Attorney and Controller of Currency, was placed in charge of their production. As no cut of the Transvaal coat of arms was available in sufficient quantities for printing, Mr. de Smit was required to initial **each stamp in manuscript** before making them available for use.

After due advertisement in the official gazette, these stamps were printed by the Pietersburg newspaper, "De Zoutpansberg Wachter." A type set forme of 24 stamps, comprised of four rows of six stamps each, was set up, with the middle two rows separated to form an upper and a lower pane.

On each sheet of 24 stamps, three different types are found.

Type 1. Large P in POSTZEGEL and large numerals 1901 fill the top 2 rows.

Type 2. Large P in POSTZEGEL and small numerals 1901, fill the third row.

Type 3. Small P in POSTZEGEL and small numerals 1901, fill the bottom row.

Each value was printed on previously gummed coloured paper.

1. **The Halfpenny green** for printed matter, and for affixing to postcards. 4,800 issued.
2. **The 1d. rose** as the normal local letter rate. 20,400 issued.
3. **The 2d. orange** as the normal letter rate for the Transvaal. 7,200 issued.
4. **The 4d. blue** as the double normal letter rate. 3,600 issued.
5. **The 6d. green** for registration purposes. 2,400 issued.
6. **The one shilling yellow** for telegrams only. 2,400 issued.

The 1d. value came into use approximately on 20th March 1900, while the others were issued on 3rd April 1900. An unknown proportion of the halfpenny, penny and twopenny stamps were perforated several sheets at a time. Thus blind perforations occur. A few sheets were even doubly perforated. The perforation is a rough one gauging 11.5 — with only a few stamps perforated on all four sides. Perforated

copies on cover or piece are comparatively scarce. On some sheets the 1d. value was initialled in red ink, while the remaining half-pennies and the rest of the issue were initialled in black. A few uninitialled sheets were passed, but at best these can only be regarded as proofs.

There appear to be two printings for each value. The first printing was bristling with errors, which were corrected by and large in the second printing. Moreover, from examination of the stamps and the proofs exhibited here, it becomes clear that the same form of type was used for all six values, with only the central value panel and the side value figures changed.

I would now like to draw attention to the fact that the errors in the first printings appear to be constant for the 2d., 4d. and 6d. values, and therefore presumably for all the values, making it possible to draw up a simple key to the major errors and thus making plating easy.

Let us number these stamps from one to twenty-four starting from the top left hand corner of the sheet, and the following data emerge to form the key:—

No. 3. PENNY for PENCE.

No. 5. POSTZFGEL for POSTZEGEL.

No. 6. AFB for AFR on right.

No. 7. REB for REP on left.

No. 8. AFB for AFR on left.

No. 9. POSTZEOEL for POSTZEGEL.

No. 10. AER for AFR on right.

No. 11. No stop after 1901.

No. 14. Right spray inverted.

No. 16. No stop after Z on left.

Inverted central figure of value in the 2d. and 6d. only.

No. 19. NCE of PENCE down, also wider central figure of value.

No. 20. Left spray inverted — wider central figure of value.

No. 21. POSTZEGEI for POSTZEGEL.

No. 22. No line under right upper corner figure of value.

No. 23. P in PENCE lowered.

No. 24. Left spray inverted.

In conclusion I would like to thank Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie for his interest, and encouragement to produce this paper. Also I would like to acknowledge the penmanship of Detective Sergeant Waldeck of East London, who so kindly illustrated the key for me. (This diagram was shown at Congress but is not reproduced. — Ed.).

Bibliography.

1. The Postage Stamp in War, by Fred. J. Melville.
2. Transvaal Postage Stamps by Curle & Basden.
3. The Philately of the Anglo Boer War by Stephen Rich.

OBITUARY

F. v. A. P. OBERMEYER

"It is with deep regret that we have to report the death of Mr. F. v. A. P. Obermeyer. Mr. Obermeyer was our oldest member having joined the Society in the early years of the century. Until recently he was a very regular attender of meetings and he will be sadly missed by all." (Pretoria Philatelic Society's News Letter).

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CONVERSATION PIECE OR HOW ITS DONE

By "CAECULUS"

A few days ago Caeculus called round for a chat to the house of his old friend Argus. He was greeted thus.

"Ave Caeculus. Do I see you wearing a new pair of glasses."

"You do indeed — I have just come from the oculist."

"Only what you might expect my friend, if you insist on spending all your time gazing through a magnifying glass in search of very small specks on very small stamps."

"Doesn't do my eyes a bit of harm, so the oculist says."

"These last articles of yours on plating the ½d. Bantams (See S.A. Ph. Nov. and Dec. 1955 issues) is sheer waste of time anyway, even if it did your eyes no harm. I can't even spot a retouched stamp let alone distinguish between 18 different retouches. How do you pick out a retouch?"

"It is very easy. If you are sorting through a lot of ½d's all you have to do is look at the corners. On all the stamps in the sheet except the top row, the corners make a perfectly clear and sharp angle. If either corner is at all blunted or broken, it is a retouch."

"Sounds easy, but even with your sketches and descriptions no one is going to take the time and trouble to plate them. It would take hours, in fact I doubt if it can be done at all."

"Do you happen to have any ½d. Bantams?"

"I have an envelope with about 30 stamps in it and "Retouched" written on it. I bought it with a job lot a long time ago, but I've never been able to make head or tail of them"

"Produce it and I'll bet you my So-called Unrecorded Retouch against your Alleged Gelatine Shift that I plate them all for you in less than an hour"

In due course the envelope was produced. Caeculus emptied the contents on the table. Argus was better than his word. There were 45 singles 2 triplets and 4 pairs.

"Nevertheless" said Caeculus "The bet stands. But I can only spare the time to go over them quickly and you can confirm them at your leisure"

"Says you?" said Argus.

"These preliminaries don't count" said Caeculus "as they are for your benefit", and he drew the following cryptic diagram on a sheet of paper.

ENGLISH			PERFORATIONS			AFRIKAANS		
Right	Nil	Left	Right	Nil	Left	Right	Nil	Left
1, 7, 13	5, 11, 17	3, 9, 15	4, 10, 16	2, 8, 14	6, 12, 18			

CAPE 4d. TRIANGULAR A THIRD MAJOR RE-ENTRY

In the March "London Philatelist" Commander F. W. Collins describes a re-entry on the 4d. Cape Triangular, additional to the two well-known. Actually Stevenson in his book

"The time" said Caeculus pointing to the clock "is exactly 7.17 p.m." and he rapidly divided the stamps into two heaps, English and Afrikaans. He then sorted each heap into three smaller heaps with (a) perforations to the right (b) roulette on both sides (c) perforations to the left. "Each of these six heaps," he explained to Argus who now had all his eyes wide open "contains 3 numbers only according to above chart".

He took up the first heap which contained 7 stamps, spread them out on the table, and soliloquised thus: "E stamps, perfs. right, Nos. 1, 7, or 13. There is one with a pronounced stroke in the top margin. Two more similar — Lets look at the chart — It it No. 1? — No; No. 7 — No; Ah there it is on No. 13; and two of them have the purple dots top left which distinguish the 4th printing. No. 1 is easy — there are two of them with the vertical stroke in top left margin. The other two are No. 7 by elimination — confirm later.

Now for the next heap — E, rouletted both sides —

Five in this heap — No. 5, 11 or 17. Everyone knows No. 17 with its strong line along top. Here is one. Neither can one mistake the white mark over the 1 of ½ on No. 5. Yes, here it is. — Two of them — The other two must be No. 11. No less than ten stamps in 3rd heap, E perf. on left — Nos. 3, 9 or 15 — Doesn't seem to be anything outstanding in these. Hello, here's a No. 14 strayed into the wrong bundle Can't mistake the strong dot N.W. corner — Put him back where he belongs — 2nd heap of A stamps Let us consult the chart Not so difficult after all — The distinguishing feature of these three stamps is the N.W. corner. A big slice off No. 3; No. 9 projects into the margin and No. 15 looks almost normal. There you are Five of No. 3; three of No. 9 and one No. 15"

But here Argus intervened.

"That's all right old chap. Don't strain your eyes any longer. You are 9½ minutes ahead of the clock. You can have my Gelatine shift . . . and I'll do the rest myself.

"Rightie Ho — Look out for No. 2. In the first three printings it was practically normal except for the N.E. corner which was slightly defective. So retouching was not really necessary, and this stamp is the most difficult to identify either in the retouched or the unretouched printings. You may also have a little trouble with lightly inked copies of Nos. 8 to 12 in which the spreading of the ink into the top margins may not be easily seen.

"Vale Argus — have a good time!"

describes a variety of Die B which he states "may be a re-entry". Commander Collins has now found two pairs of this stamp with its Die A and states that there is no doubt that they should be classified as a major re-entry. An excellent drawing illustrates his description.

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FRED JEPPE

FIRST POSTMASTER-GENERAL OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC

By "TANDING"

(This article appeared recently in the "Pretoria News", but is here given in slightly abridged form.—Ed.)

No actual biography exists of Friedrich Heinrich Jeppe, but the writer has gathered together as much material as he could about this colourful personality of the old Transvaal Republican days.

"Fred" Jeppe, as he was commonly and affectionately called, was born in Rostock, Mecklenburg-Schwerin in 1834 and followed his eldest brother Herman to the Transvaal in 1861.

We have no information about his school days and cannot be sure of the occupation or profession to which he was trained, though it seems likely to have been cartography and draughtmanship, at which calling (among others) he excelled.

Nor do we know the details of his voyage from Germany to the Cape (his daughter, Mrs. Mortimer, senior, believes he arrived via England where he stayed for a time).

His home language appears to have been English though he was at home in German and High Dutch. We are also in the dark as to his regular occupation when he did arrive in the Transvaal prior to being appointed Postmaster of Potchefstroom in 1866.

His brother Herman had settled in Potchefstroom in 1859, and it seems not unreasonable to assume that Fred was associated with him until he received his first government appointment.

We do know on the authority of Curle and Basden that in 1867 Fred compiled a map of the Z.A.R. in collaboration with Mauch, the German geologist and mining engineer, and produced it with the assistance of another famous German, the missionary Dr. Merensky of Botsabelo.

The following year, 1868, Fred Jeppe was appointed Postmaster-General of the young Republic and his first task in his new capacity was to place communications on a sound basis.

He remained at Potchefstroom during the early years of his incumbency, as the Head Post Office was not transferred to Pretoria when it became the capital in 1863.

From Potchefstroom Jeppe reorganised the postal services of the Transvaal, introducing mail-carts on the main roads between the capital, the O.F.S., the Cape and Natal.

For the convenience of the public he purchased and issued to postmasters, stamps of the Cape, O.F.S. and Natal to defray the postage on letters outside the Z.A.R. There were of course no stamps in the Transvaal in 1868 and postage had to be prepaid in cash.

Before carts were used the mail was ordinarily carried by native runner. One of the best known local routes was from Potchefstroom via Rustenburg to Pretoria and we have it on the authority of Mr. J. C. Vlok that hail, rain or snow notwithstanding, the native postman was never behind time.

The Free State route connected at fortnightly intervals with Kroonstad and that with Natal passed through Volksrust, then known as Meek's farm or Meek's Place.

Jeppe set about remedying the lack of postage stamps and ordered a supply through the agency of his brother, Julius, who was then still in Germany. Fred obtained the prior authority of the Volksraad subject to the condition that no cash payments would be required.

The first batch of stamps printed was the work of Otto, a printer of Gustrow in Mecklenburg-Schwerin: most of them were sold to dealers and collectors to raise the £60 needed for the dies, paper, gum, inks, cancellers, etc., also supplied by Otto and required to start printing in Pretoria.

Jeppe's activities as Postmaster-General are well known and have been so fully recorded by philatelic writers that it is not necessary further to elaborate on them here.

His recorded official transactions with the stamp printer Otto (a person who required careful watching), with the Executive Committee and the Treasurer-General and his work of reorganising and stabilising the postal services showed him to be a sound organiser and an efficient and progressive public servant. When he finally resigned he was 41 years of age.

Jeppe devoted the next few years of his life to preparing his well-known farm map and index of the Transvaal.

This map is still in use today and is a superlative piece of cartographical work the importance of which was recognised by the Geographical Societies of England and Portugal, each of which made him a Fellow.

When the Z.A.R. was occupied by Shepstone in 1877 and became known as the Transvaal State, Jeppe was re-employed in the public service. Apart from private cartographical work, his previous official experience had been in the Postal Department and the Treasury. In his new engagement he became Government Translator and Controller of Statistics in the Colonial Secretary's office at a salary of £400 per annum.

One must assume that in his spare time and as a hobby, Jeppe had collected important statistical and other information since in 1877, the first year of British administration and shortly after his appointment, he issued the first volume of his almanack and directory — an outstandingly useful and comprehensive volume, which also included information about surrounding territories.

The British occupation and Jeppe's employment ended with the Convention of London in August, 1881. Jeppe then concentrated on his maps.

Possibly too he maintained the statistical and population records on which the Jeppe almanack of occupation days had been based.

He may have been out of favour with the authorities of the second republic as a result of collaboration with the British (though he collaborated in the company of every landdroos bar one), certainly his outspoken article on apprenticeship and slavery in the Almanack of 1877 was unlikely to have been acceptable to the new regime.

Nevertheless in 1886, a commission consisting of the Chief Justice and Fred Jeppe was ap-

pointed to collect into one comprehensive whole, the local laws and enactments from the earliest times of the South African Republic (Transvaal).

Subsequently Jeppe was appointed Chief Draughtsman to the Surveyor-General, a post he held until his death. In the obituary notice in the "Press Weekly" on July 23 1898, Fred Jeppe is described as having been a quiet and retiring person who took no part in politics.

He was one of three brothers (the others being Herman and Julius) whose names were household words in the Republic. He left a large family and a host of friends. He was carried to his grave by some of Pretoria's most influential citizens and the last rites were conducted by Canon Fisher of the Cathedral.

Due to losses during the second South African War his family possess few relics of Fred Jeppe's achievements or of his varied and important services to the Republic over a period of more than 36 years.

His daughter, Mrs. Mortimer, has his original drawing for the cover of the programme of the "Gondoliers" performed by the "Idealists" (Pretoria amateurs of 1896) which is a masterpiece both of penmanship and design.

It reveals the technique of a skilled engraver as well as the artistry of a competent etcher. Postmaster-General, Treasurer-General, cartographer, translator, statistician, legal bibliographer, chief draughtsman, artist — he was outstanding at them all.

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REVIEW

Channel Islands — France Mail Services, 1683-1939, by Wm. Newport. Published by the Channel Islands Specialists' Society, 122 Woodyates Road, London, S.E.12. Price 3/9d.

This Society, formed in 1950, purposes publishing a series of booklets, covering ultimately the whole postal history of the Islands. The present booklet covers the mail services between the islands and France with the various markings found, on both British and French stamps. These include the "Boite Mobile" (movable letter-boxes on the steamers) services as well as the ordinary postings at offices ashore. A list is given of approximate values for the various markings; they are mainly in the £ class, some as high as £15.

LITERATURE

- "Philately of Anglo-Boer War." (S. G. Rich) 21/6d.
 - "List of Union Post Offices" 2/6d.
 - "Union Catalogue Part II" 23/6d.
 - Scott's Catalogue Volume I — 1956 35/6d.
 - "Suidwestafrika" (Dr. H. W. Gewandé), in German, fully illustrated 20/6d.
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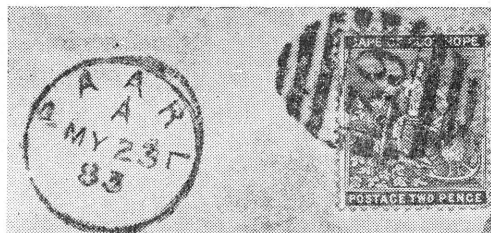
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CAPE NUMERAL POSTMARKS

The type of numeral postmark here dealt with is that described by Jurgens as "The Numeral Defacing Stamp of 1864" in his book "The Handstruck Letter Stamps and Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope," p. 63 and in the Supplements to it published in the "South African Philatelist," 1946, p. 48 and 1951, pp. 104 and 116.

These defacers or "killers" were generally accompanied by a place-date stamp so that their place of usage can be identified. There are many varieties of them, with differences in overall size, number and thickness of bars, etc., but this note is not concerned with these, merely with locations. The general type, however, is as shown in the accompanying illustration. An opportunity recently presented itself



to examine a large number of covers sent from all over Cape Colony to a shop in Cape Town. They were mostly dated in the 70's and 80's of last century, a few going back into the 60's and some extending into the 90's. The great majority had postmarks of the type here considered.

They were checked up with Jurgens' listings in the hope (which has been fulfilled) of being able to make some new records. Some comments and/or additions have also been made about numbers already recorded by him. A few numbers have been obtained from other sources, some on covers with place-date stamps, others on loose stamps with no locative marks available.

The notes following are arranged in numerical order of the "killers". In making comparison with Jurgens' lists it is stated that the number is, or is not, recorded in "A", "B", "C", or "D". "A" is the list arranged in alphabetical order on p. 108 of his book; "B" his list in numerical order, beginning on p. 109; "C" and "D" are the Supplements in the South African Philatelists of 1946 and 1951 respectively. It may just be noted here that his "A" and "B" lists do not always correspond exactly with each other.

* * *

13. Recorded in A and B as Stellenbosch. On cover from Victoria West in 1886, with a differently shaped "13" from that of the Stellenbosch mark. It could be confused with an 18, but the box differs in size from that of the 18 Graaff Reiniet mark.
17. Recorded as George in B with 34. A has 34 only.
19. Hope Town. Recorded in both A and B. There are two different types of the numeral 19. See also 61. Hope Town might really be 19 or 61.
22. Cradock is recorded in both A and B. Have specimens which are almost certainly No. 22 from, respectively, Colesberg in 1883 and George in 1890. Neither of these are recorded with numbers which could be confused with 22.
31. Recorded in A and B as Wellington. Have a very clear mark from Richmond, which is recorded as 81. (Query. Can this be a mistake of 31 for 81?). See 34 and 81.
32. Phisante Fontein. Recorded in A and B as either 32 or 52. Have specimen a clear 52. See also 52.
34. Wellington. Recorded in A only as 31; in B as Wellington (1899). Have clear specimens of 34 from Wellington from 1868 to 1891. See 17 (George), which is also recorded as No. 34.
37. Recorded in A and B as Humansdorp. Have specimen which may be a 37 from Middelburg, which has no recorded number likely to be confused with a 37.
52. Phisante Fontein. See 32.
55. Umtata. See 65.
59. Unrecorded. On loose stamp, so can only give as "Used in Cape".
61. Recorded in B as simply "Cape". See 19. Hope Town may be either 19 or 61.
65. Recorded in A and B as "Umtata, may be 55 or 65." Two samples which still do settle the question, although they are more like 65 than 55.
66. With a stop. Recorded in C as Willowmore. 66 without a stop being Vosburg.
70. Mosterds Bay. Recorded in A and B as Somerset Strand. Mosterds Bay is an older name for Somerset Strand, but the spelling is as given here, not "Mosterts Bay" as stated by Jurgens on p. 103.
81. Recorded in A, B and C as Touws River and Richmond. Have also a specimen from Montague Road in 1883, an office not recorded.
- 1?? Oudtshoorn. This town is recorded with 20, 284, and 791 or 794. Specimen is a 3-figure number but only the initial "1" is clear.
103. Piquetberg Road. Recorded in C as 193, but corrected in D to 103.
126. Unrecorded. On loose stamp, so can only give as "Used in Cape."
150. Jamestown. Recorded in C, although not in A or B.
153. Recorded in A and B as Clarksbury, but the spelling should be Clarkebury.
179. Spitzkop. Not previously recorded. In the Calvinia district.
183. Coerney. (Thanks to F. W. Collins for record). Jurgens gives it as 63 (mis-spelt Coeney in A).
190. Halfmanshof. Not previously recorded.
193. See 103.
200. O'Okiep. Recorded but spelling should be as shown, not "O'Kiep".
201. Graaff Reiniet. Recorded in A but not in B. Also recorded in C as used in Bechuanaland.
202. Recorded in A as Buffels Jachts River Bridge, similarly in B but with a ? mark. Have clear specimens from Beaufort (1874) and Beaufort West (1881).

216. Riet Vlei. Recorded in A, also in B as "Rietvlei?". Definite example spelt as two words.
219. Recorded from Lady Grey Bridge (now called Huguenot) in both A and B. Have specimens also from Middle Post (in the Calvinia district). Middle Post is not recorded, although there is a Middelpoort given in the A list with No. 219.
233. Kabousi. (Thanks to F. W. Collins for record.)
235. Malmesbury Station. This number is given only in the B list as "Used in the Cape".
251. St. Mathews. Recorded in both A and B, but the spelling in the postmark is as here given, not with two "T's".
261. Fish River. Only recorded in B as "Used in the Cape".
268. Butterworth. Previously given only in B as "Cape".
288. Newlands. Recorded in A as 223 and 228, in B 223 is given as Newlands?, 228 is given merely as "Used in Cape", whilst 288 is given as Newlands. Can confirm only 288.
294. Klipheuvcl. Number recorded only in B as "Used in Cape". In the Malmesbury or Hopefield district.
310. Jan Fouries Kraal (in Oudtshoorn district). Recorded only in B as "Used in Cape".
337. Unrecorded. On loose stamp, so can only give as "Used in Cape".
349. Hex River East. Recorded in A, also in B but with a ? mark. Can definitely confirm it.
356. Stutterheim. Recorded in the A list but not in the B.
366. Prieska. Recorded in both A and B lists, but with a ? mark in A. Can definitely confirm it.
391. Observatory Road. Recorded in A and B lists as "Observatory". Specimen as here given, date 1883.
407. Matatiele. Not previously recorded.
458. Haarlem. (Lange Kloof, Dist. Uniondale). Is given in both A and B as Robben Island, where 138 was also used.
485. Caledon. Recorded in both A and B as "Springbokfontein Caledon" but also used at Wynands River. "Caledon" is given in both lists as 486. Have clear specimen of Caledon as 485 in 1893.
488. Vredendal. Recorded in A and B as 480 or 488. Can confirm that it is really 488.
545. Steenkamps Poort. Recorded in A, also in B but with a ? mark. Can confirm that it is really 545.
657. Unrecorded. On loose stamp, so can only say "Used in Cape".
- 683?. Outspan Reserve. In Uniondale district. Neither place nor number previously recorded. The number is probably 683 but it is not sufficiently clear to be quite certain.
702. Beaufort West. Recorded in the A list, but not in the B.
726. Unrecorded. On loose stamp so can only say "Used in Cape".
754. Unrecorded. On loose stamp so can only say "Used in Cape".
- 794?. Oudtshoorn. The A list gives Oudtshoorn, 791 or 794; the B list says 791 Oudtshoorn?. Specimens not sufficiently clear to decide, although 794 looks more likely than 791.
- * * *
- The following four post offices have killers of this type: Abbotsdale, Komgha, Panmure and Red House, but the numbers are not distinct enough to make even possible guesses as to what they are, let alone probable ones.
- Sir Lowry Road (Cape Town) is recorded in both A and B as 134. I have a specimen, probably a 3-figure numeral, ending in a 6, or beginning with a 9, but the others do not show at all.
- Complete new records made, with locations, are:—
81. Montague Road.
179. Spitzkop.
183. Coerney.
190. Halfmanshof.
202. Beaufort and Beaufort West.
219. Middelpoort.
233. Kabousi.
235. Malmesbury Station.
261. Fish River.
268. Butterworth.
294. Klipheuvcl.
310. Jan Fouries Kraal.
407. Matatiele.
458. Haarlem.
683. (probably). Outspan Reserve.
- IIII. East London.
- Extra places of usage have been allotted to some numbers; doubts about some records have been removed and some corrections to Jurgens' lists have been made.
- #### 4-FIGURE NUMERALS
- Jurgens deals with these separately in Chapter LIV of his book, stating that they were brought into use about 1896 and distributed to new offices, and also later to Bechuanaland Protectorate, Orange River Colony and Transvaal.
- From another source a few additions are here made to the list on p. 113, although strictly speaking they are all Orange River Colony postmarks not Cape marks.
1193. Not previously recorded. Cancelling O.R.C. stamps on piece of newspaper wrapper of "The Friend", Bloemfontein.
1197. Not previously recorded. Similar to 1193.
1213. Similar to 1193. Recorded firstly as "Used in the Cape"; In Jurgens "C" list it says "Used in O.R.C. and also in Cape Colony, but the latter may be Inter-provincial usage".
1278. Not previously recorded. Similar to 1193.
- 130?. The last figure might be a 2, 3 or 7. On an O.R.C. $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp.
1392. Recorded as used in O.R.C. Similar to 1193.
1396. Not previously recorded. On O.F.S. $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp Opt'd. V.R. I.
1398. Not previously recorded. Similar to 1193. (Might possibly be 1396).
- Five others, definitely used in the Cape are:—
1096. Unrecorded. On loose stamp, so can only give as "Used in Cape".

1111. On letter card from East London to Grahamstown in Jan. 1898. Number previously unrecorded.
1112. Recorded in D as Kimberley Station.
1172. Unrecorded. On loose stamp, so can only say "Used in Cape".
1340. Unrecorded. On loose stamp, so can only say "Used in Cape".

Griqualand Type of mark used in Cape.

On page 100 of his book Jurgens describes (Fig. 305 — Type 201) as used in Griqualand West, a vertical oval with 36 bars of various lengths, enclosing a 9mm. high numeral in a diamond shaped frame. The numerals run from 1 to 10, of which the places of usage of only 4 have been identified. No. 5 is one of the unlocated numbers.

I have come across a No. 5 used in Feb. 1895 on a postcard sent from Somerset West to Heidelberg, Transvaal. This date is, of course, long after Griqualand West was annexed to the Cape Colony. The occurrence rather suggests that these numeral defacers were returned to Cape Town. Jurgens actually refers to the No. 1 as having been used in Cape Town, so possibly others were distributed elsewhere for use.

J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

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SHORT NOTICES

Honour for Percy C. Bishop. He is now living in retirement in England, in his 87th year, and has received a fresh honour.

It may be mentioned that he was the first to be put on the British Roll of Distinguished Philatelists for philatelic journalistic work, also that when he was in Durban he was elected to the South African Roll of Honour for his work for philately in this country.

Recently he apparently thought the time had come to resign his membership of the London Press Club. The Club Chairman and Committee promptly made the 'retort courteous' by asking him to accept Honorary Membership. Our congratulations.

The Sanders Service. Messrs. J. Sanders Ltd., of 7 Commercial Road, Southampton, England, have for some time been sending us copies of "Sanders" Philatelic Journal, a very well got up monthly magazine.

They have now sent us a small booklet called "The Sanders Service" which gives details of their staff and the various philatelic services they are prepared to offer to collectors, from beginners to advanced specialists. This appears to be very comprehensive and well worth a trial.

Malta Study Circle. This has definitely been revived and anyone interested should write to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. G. C. Lander, Four Winds, Bookshill, Harrow Weald, Middlesex, England.

German Philatelic Review. No. 18 deals entirely with Proofs and Essays of East Germany; the many illustrations are by a new process — the Scanagraver System.

No. 19 (March '56 Vol. 4 No. 1) has a variety of subjects:— Lake Constance ship-posts, 5 ring numeral cancellations of Baden, and reviews of a number of recent German handbooks.

The Review has appointed a number of Agents abroad; Mr. R. Osborne, Box 6710, Johannesburg is acting for Smith Africa.

Robson Lowe, Ltd. A Review 1954—55. This is as usual an interesting record of a successful year's work. The auction turnover at sales in London and Bournemouth actually increased by fully 30% on the previous year's figures, but this was almost balanced by a similar increase in overhead expenses. Sales of collections by private treaty also increased. Very noteworthy was the hardening of prices realised for foreign material, also for postal history items.

New activities — side lines if you like — stressed are:— the recording of lectures which can be given overseas to philatelic societies; publications, of which two expected soon are volumes of the Encyclopaedia dealing with Australasia and with British North, Central and South America; exhibitions of collections at Number 50 have been fairly frequent.

Stanley Gibbons Centenary. The first centenary in the world of a great stamp dealing firm has passed off with great éclat. The firm held a fine exhibition in the Waldorf Hotel on March 12-17 with material from their own stocks and on loan from various world famous collections; this was opened by Sir John Wilson

in a neat little speech, specially pointing out how the founder of the firm had given collectors their Bible in their catalogue. The exhibition was featured in the TV programme, on the radio and had extensive write-ups in the press. Visitors during the week numbered about 7,000. We are indebted to the firm for a copy of the beautiful brochure printed for the occasion and it may be mentioned that the March and April numbers of their "Stamp Monthly" were special centenary issues dealing largely with the work of the firm, past and present, and with the exhibition.

SOME RECENT AUCTION PRICES.

Robson Lowe.

Great Britain.

Flown covers, London-Windsor, 1911.

£2/10/- to £3/15/- each.

Flown cover, Windsor-London, 1911. £10.

Flown cover, Hamel's circuit of Britain.

1912. £21.

Mulready envelope Proof £7/10/-.

10/- ultramarine 1902. Var. imperf., unused £90.

2d. orange 1934-36 pair imperf. £44.

1891-1900 Govt. Parcels 1/- with O'pt. inverted £75.

Anglo-Boer War. "Kuruman Besieged" 2d. stamp. £7.

Cover with "Natal Field Force 1" cancellation £6/5/-.

Cover with "Natal Field Force 2" cancellation £8/10/-.

Malta. 1914-22 issue 1/- with Wmk. sideways, used £34.

Gibraltar. 1907-11 1d. with Wmk. sideways, used (unrecorded) £24.

H. R. Harmer.

Rhodesia 1910-16 set "Gash on Ear" varieties, unused:— 2/6d., £8/10/-; 3/-, £7; 7/6d., £8/10/-; £1, £10.

Cape — Jack Shepherd collection:—

Pair S.G. 1 used £46.

S.G. 2 with re-entry in PENCE, used £17.

S.G. 4, 4a pair, slightly creased, unused £38.

S.G. 5b, block of four, used £67/10/-.

S.G. 7, unused £38.

S.G. 8, unused £36.

1/- deep dark green, rouletted, £115.

1d. Woodblock, vermilion, used £270.

4d. Woodblock, error of colour, used, £200.

1/- bright emerald green, unused, £24.

Natal. £1/10/- (S.G. 143) unused £4/15/-.

Sierra Leone. Wilberforce set unused, £26.

France. 1853-61, 1 fr. carmine, strip of 4 on entire, £100.

J. H. Wicks.

Union:— 1d. Pretoria Typo, one imperf. all round, in pair with another imperf. on left £20.

6d. Official (S.G. O4) pair with Wmk. inverted £17/10/-.

£1 (S.G. 24) £13/10/-.

£1 (S.G. 24a) £14/10/-.

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SOCIETY NEWS

GRAHAMSTOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The annual general meeting was held on **Thursday, 9th February** and the following officials were elected:—

Dr. C. G. Cory, President.
Mr. R. Q. Tarr, Vice-president.
Mr. R. A. Brown, Hon. Secretary/Treasurer
(P.O. Box 94).

The guest of honour for the evening was Mr. G. Bulbring of Port Elizabeth, the Federation's president. Not only did Mr. Bulbring show us his splendid displays of South-West Africa and Sweden, but he also spoke about the work of the Federation and the annual congress to be held in Port Elizabeth this year. The Society was truly grateful to Mr. Bulbring, who was accompanied by Mr. Brink, for the long journey and display made on its behalf.

At the **March** meeting, which unfortunately clashed with other distractions or attractions in Town, Dr. Callan spoke of his recent visit to Madagascar; and stamps of Madagascar, Reunion, Mauritius and Seychelles — virtually unknown lands, yet really so near us — were displayed. Mr. Scanlan then showed his very attractive collection of recent stamps of British Central African Territories, which must compare most favourably with those of any other region of the world.

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The **March** meeting was well attended. The President extended a hearty welcome to Mr. George Forbes of Port Elizabeth and other visitors.

Five members took part in the monthly competitive display and some very fine stamps were on show.

Two new members were elected and Mr. Leo Hellman won the draw for the Teppex Colour Pulls. The first day cover of the Albert Einstein Commemorative stamp issued by Israel was circulated.

A number of members handed in their names for the Triangular meeting to be held in Grahamstown on either the 28th April or 5th May. Members are keenly anticipating this meeting between the three Societies, Grahamstown, Port Elizabeth and East London and we should almost have a miniature Exhibition.

After the usual auction, Mr. Gathercole read a paper on his collection of Zanzibar. This collection was fully representative, from the first issues onwards, including some interesting covers and post marks. Mr. Joseph thanked Mr. Gathercole for his interesting display.

Mr. Forbes had kindly brought along with him a display of Local Posts, which he has been building up for nearly sixty years. This covered stamps and labels from all over the world and consisted of fascinating and sometimes weird specimens of Stamps and Labels. Mr. Hellman thanked Mr. Forbes for the unexpected treat he had given members.

J.P.S.

PAARLSE

POSSEËLVERSAMELAARS-VERENIGING

Op die Algemene Jaarvergadering gehou op 13 **Maart 1956** was die bywoning beter as die vorige jare.

Die volgende is gekies as die bestuur van die Vereniging vir die volgende jaar:—

President: N. C. Combrink.
Voorsitter: J. D. Rossouw.
Sekretaris: J. G. le Roux.
Penningmeester: T. G. S. Beukes.
Komitee Lede: Mev. C. Joubert en Mev. S. J. Morrell.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

On Tuesday the **21st February** during the evening the Annual General Meeting of our Society took place and followed more or less the general pattern as established on previous occasions.

The retiring President, Mr. D. Berg, welcomed a very representative number of members, the Hon. Secretary then reading his report on the past year's activities. Membership was well maintained, interesting meetings had taken place and attendance had been very good throughout. The Hon Treasurer tabled a very satisfactory balance sheet, showing increased income during the year. The President then gave his review of the year and stressed particularly the importance of the present year, during which we are acting as hosts to the Annual Congress of the Federation and are staging concurrently a National Stamp Exhibition. He appealed for help and support from all members.

As Officers of the incoming Committee were elected: President, Mr. D. Berg; Vice-Presidents, Dr. J. W. Harris and Mr. A. F. W. Pavitt; Past President, Mr. G. Bülbring; Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. Clement; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. G. Monaghan; Auctioneer, Mr. A. C. Leale; Librarian, Mr. G. K. Forbes; Press Correspondent, Mr. G. Bülbring. Our able Exchange Superintendent, Mr. E. Baer, later agreed to continue with his duties, although proceeding on a trip to Europe shortly. Mr. G. Smukler was elected to the position of Hon. Secretary of the Congress and Exhibition Committees, whilst Mr. D. Berg took office as Chairman of these bodies.

Before the meeting closed Mr. G. Bülbring spoke on the activities and aims of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa.

On the **6th March** the first of this year's special evenings for Juniors once again proved popular. The young collectors had been asked to bring along their collections. Whilst two judges, Mr. G. Bülbring and Dr. J. W. Harris, scrutinised these closely, our young visitors viewed some thematic and other collections brought along by various members, until the adjudicators had completed their task.

A distribution of prizes to the winners of the various age groups was followed by constructive talks by both judges drawing attention to shortcomings and suggesting improvements in presentation and collecting. It was felt that the evening's programme was of great benefit to the oncoming collectors.

20th March. There was a very large attendance at our second March Meeting. The evening commenced with a very successful auction, at which there was some keen bidding. A feature of the Auction was the brisk bidding for 26 items, donated by a gentleman who wishes to remain anonymous, to be auctioned in aid of our Congress Funds.

After the tea interval, the members present were privileged to see a really outstanding exhibit, when Mr. C. Clement, our new and energetic Secretary, displayed his collection of South African Animals. The display which was well mounted, and beautifully written up, was a very comprehensive one, and included, in mint condition, numerous varieties etc. in our third definitive issue.

In a very fine talk on his display, Mr. Clement touched on the trials and tribulations of stamp collecting.

Dr. J. W. Harris very ably proposed a vote of thanks to the Exhibitor.

3rd April. The meeting was very well attended, the President welcoming besides members a few visitors. One new member was enrolled.

It was decided not to take part as a Society in this year's Hobby Carnival in view of the work involved in preparing for Congress and Exhibition in October; individual members could however participate if they desired to do so. An invitation by the Grahamstown Society for a triangular meeting by the East London, Grahamstown and Port Elizabeth Philatelic Societies at Grahamstown on the 5th and 6th May next was accepted with pleasure. Our very attractive official labels for the October Exhibition were offered to members and enjoyed a good sale.

The display of the evening consisted of Mr. A. F. W. Pavitt's collection of the stamps of Egypt, mounted very attractively on jet-back sheets and well written up. The stamps ranged from the first 1866 to the current issues with many fine items. They were much admired and created much interest, which was enhanced by a paper prepared and read by Mr. Pavitt, who was warmly thanked for his efforts by Mr. D. Berg.

At tea interval cakes were provided by Mrs. Douglas and sold for Congress Funds. A smaller than usual, but good, auction concluded the evening.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

March 5th. This was the occasion of the "much-looked forward to" Union Specialists evening convened by Dr. T. E. Berry. Dr. Berry's name is fast becoming the magic word where Unions are concerned and, without drawing on his own material, he gathered together a team of helpers to give us excellent entertainment and first class exhibits.

- (1) Mr. J. L. Dodd showed Union Customs stamps and prefaced his exhibit with a most informative talk about these little known stamps.
- (2) Mr. Castignani exhibited Union Essays and Proofs.
- (3) The President, Mr. R. A. Hudson — Kings Heads and Unhyphenated Rotos.
- (4) Mr. E. Walker — Hyphenated Rotos.
- (5) Mr. J. P. Roux — Animal Issues.

The Chairman and the Secretary expressed the gratitude of the members to the convenor and his helpers for what was a most enjoyable meeting.

March 13th. On this occasion the Society paid its annual visit to the Johannesburg Philatelic Society. The six members comprising the team thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Exhibits were put up by:—

- (1) Mr. L. J. Dodd — Union Customs Dues.
- (2) Mr. E. C. Wright — Indian Native States.
- (3) Mr. R. N. Castignani — Airmails of Italy and Italian Colonies.
- (4) Mr. E. Manville-Ford — Southern and Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland.
- (5) Mr. W. Newlands — Orange Free State.

It is hoped that our friends in Johannesburg enjoyed these exhibits as much as we do those they bring us.

March 19th. Unfortunately Mr. McKillop, due to domestic reasons, could not carry out his programme. However, the Secretary at short notice arranged alternative entertainment which resulted in a most admirable evening.

The ever-ready Mr. Newlands exhibited again. This time it was a really fine show of Aden with many copies of Indian stamps bearing Aden post marks.

Mr. Weinstein also showed a fine collection of Aden and, as a result, we were given the opportunity to make interesting comparisons. As was natural the two exhibitors had to comment on each others efforts and this gave rise to a lot of fun.

Mr. Wright (another ever ready exhibitor) showed a selection of Indian Native States. These certainly are interesting and well worth more attention than they receive. Mr. Bottomley ably voiced the opinions of members of this exhibit and expressed the thanks of the meeting.

The Chairman added in a small way to the evening's entertainment by making a few remarks on design and showing a few pages to illustrate his views.

Hawke Award. The Hawke Award for 1955 was made to Mr. W. Newlands. Mr. Newlands is a tower of strength to the Society. His help is always willingly given, his magnificent collections are frequently displayed and all in all there could be no fitter recipient of this award.

Congratulations, Mr. Newlands, and please accept the gratitude of all members for all you have done for the Society.

Obituary. It is with deep regret that we have to report the death of Mr. F. v. A. P. Obermeyer. Mr. Obermeyer was our oldest member having joined the Society in the early years of the century. Until recently he was a very regular attender of meetings and he will be sadly missed by all.

E. M-F.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

At the meeting of the Germiston Philatelic Society held at the Volkskas Bank buildings on Wednesday the 21st March, twelve members and four visitors were present, with Mr. S. J. Hagger in the chair. After the usual business of minutes, correspondence and finance had been dealt with, Mr. W. S. Deverell, the Hon. Auctioneer of our Society, gave a short report on the latest stamp news, followed by an auction of stamps, being the first auction we have had for about twelve months. Members were rather slow in starting the bidding, but gradually they plucked up courage and very soon all of the stamps up for auction were sold.

Mr. B. Eilers provided the exhibit at this meeting, a large collection of post-war German stamps including the different issues in the zones; the stamps were in excellent condition and the collection very well written up. Mr. P. F. Retief thanked Mr. B. Eilers and congratulated him on his fine effort in providing such an interesting and educational display which all members and visitors had thoroughly enjoyed viewing.

Mr. I. S. Burniston, the Secretary/Treasurer of the Society reported that he had had only two replies to the special letter written to members who had not attended meetings for twelve months or more. It would appear that the change of date in the holding of our monthly meetings did not help as far as these members are concerned.

The programme for 1956 was well in hand and, in the meetings to come, members and visitors would be privileged to view some most interesting collections. At the same time, several items of philatelic interest would be on the agenda at most meetings.

I.S.B.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The usual monthly meeting of the Society took place in the Berea Hall on Wednesday, 14th March. The turn-out was the best for some time, there being 27 members and 9 visitors present, and could

in large measure be attributed to the fact that our old friends from the East Rand Philatelic Society were paying us their annual visit.

Before the commencement of the exhibits the meeting stood as a mark of respect to Mr. M. J. Berry, late of our Society, and to Mr. A. V. Jacob, late of the Royal Cape Society.

The first exhibit tabled was Mr. Suklje's selection of Queen Elizabeth II. Dr. Feisach commenting stated that it was a most pleasing display and depicted some of the new marked shades such as the 6d. Fiji and the 50c and 1/- Kenya. Dr. Feisach also commented on the next exhibit of Israel tabled by Mr. Legator and highly praised the collection which, in addition to its philatelic appeal, was of great historical interest as it covered the transitional period following British Mandatory rule.

Dr. Been thanked Mr. Bogner for his collection of covers from Rhodesia and Nyasaland which depicted Nyasaland stamps postally used in Rhodesia. The 4th exhibit by Mr. MacArthur was an extremely colourful thematic collection of ladies and flowers, the former being particularly appreciated by Mr. Castignani. The final exhibit tabled was that of Mr. Feinstein and depicted some local American posts which had our members non-plussed as this was their first experience of seeing this type of collection, but which they all greatly enjoyed viewing as it showed how wide and interesting the scope of philately can be. The meeting was thoroughly enjoyed by all present and we are greatly looking forward to paying a return visit to the E.R.P.S. in November.

P.M.J.M.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

March 8th. On this occasion Mr. C. M. Pillars stepped into the breach owing to a switch over in the programme, and showed his interesting First Day Covers. These covered a wide field and showed what an interesting section of philately this section has become. Needless to say the greatest interest was shown by members and the display much appreciated.

March 22nd. On this evening Mr. J. D. Rossouw, the Chairman of the Paarl Society, showed yet another fine section of his Boer War Covers, these being the Local Issues of this collection, and included many rare items and postmarks, among them being the various siege covers, Ladysmith, Mafeking, and even the well known Stamps used as money. Mr. Rossouw not only has a fine collection but is able to give an interesting and illuminating talk on the issues and places concerned. Mr. G. Bulbring, the President of Federation, attended the Meeting and gave a short talk on the forthcoming Congress Meeting and Exhibition to be held at Port Elizabeth, and was also good enough to bring along a selection of sheets of his magnificent collection of early German States. These stamps were superb specimens of these classics. This was really a wonderful evening for the members.

M.F.S.

THEMATIC STAMP CLUB. (Cape Town).

March 12th. This was the Annual General Meeting and well attended. The following were elected for 1956.

President: Capt. M. F. Stern.
 Vice-President: Mr. G. Petroulis.
 Hon. Secretary: Mr. K. M. Cameron.
 Hon. Treasurer: Mr. A. Simson.
 Hon. Librarian: Mr. R. F. Chapman.
 Hon. Exchange Superintendent: Dr. R. C. v. d. Merwe.

Committee: Messrs. W. G. Combrink, J. P. Enslin, S. Heilbron and Mr. F. Sinnott (ex officio).

At the same time the Composite Collection of the Club was shown. This includes many items presented by members and makes a fine exhibit, including as it does items from the late Mr. Jurgens, and from Mr. G. Petroulis, Mr. L. Simenhoff and other well known philatelists.

M.F.S.

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY

March 5th. The exhibitor on this occasion was Capt. M. F. Stern, who showed his collection of Switzerland from 1900 onwards. This complete and colourful collection proved a draw and besides the local members, others including Mr. G. Petroulis came to the meeting. After the talk, many questions were fired which proved the interest in the modern issues.

M.F.S.

O.F.S. AND BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

There was a large gathering at the Annual General meeting in **January**. The members expressed their confidence in the outgoing committee by re-electing all officers and committee members of the past year with the addition of Mr. Bert Meyburgh who was elected to fill the newly created separate office of Hon. Treasurer.

Here is the new Committee for 1956:

President: Mr. A. H. Scott.

Vice-President: Mr. J. W. Hodgson.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. H. E. Roux.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. A. Meyburgh.

Exchange Superintendent: Mr. J. Price.

Committee Members: Dr. K. Freund, Mr. D. H. MacDonald, Mr. M. Sacks, Mr. H. J. Weil.

Hon. Auditor: Mr. J. W. Rennie.

Publicity Officer: Dr. K. Freund.

The main discussion concerned the Society's philatelic "bombshell," the "O.F.S. Philatelic Magazine." This magazine has become the Society's main attraction, its manifestation of findings and research work by its own members, its "Union Study Circle," a magazine for enlightenment and entertainment which has gained us many new friends and members and which has put the Bloemfontein Society definitely on the map.

The meeting also approved the increase of the annual subscription from 7/6 to 10/- for Town members, and from 5/- to 7/6 for Country members effective from the 1st January 1956.

During the evening, Mr. F. C. Ferguson, a welcome visitor from Pretoria, addressed the meeting on various subjects in his own inimitable and efficient manner.

A display, given by Dr. Freund, rounded off the evening. It consisted of part of his collection "Stamps on stamps," arranged in lighter vein, with various types of stamp collectors appearing on the stamps, and genuine "originals," placed alongside the "stamps depicted on stamps."

February Meeting. — Two interesting displays formed the main items on the programme of this evening. Dr. Freund showed the second part of his collection "Stamps on Stamps." Of special interest were those pages which presented imitations of the set-up of stamps "depicted on stamps" with the original actual prototypes.

Prof. G. H. van Rooyen showed a collection entitled "Pretoria Centenary" which consisted mainly of a large number of First Day Covers with commemorative postmarks. The covers had been specially prepared by Mr. van Rooyen by adorning them with various affixed photographs and cuttings connected with the Centenary.

An auction sale and a Philatelic News talk, followed by a small quiz, were other items which kept the members entertained.

At the **Hobbies Fair** which was organized by "Round Table 25" at the Bloemfontein City Hall during February, one of our members, Dr. Freund, succeeded in carrying off the Silver Cup for the best exhibit in the "Open Class-Collecting Hobbies," with his exhibit "**Espionage Forgeries**," thus proving his point that **Stamp collecting is still the "King of Hobbies."** The main points considered at judging were: (1) Interest and appeal of an exhibit for other hobbyists and the general public; (2) Neatness of the display. In regard to both points, Dr. Freund's exhibit was unanimously considered to be above all other exhibits. It is interesting to note some of the other hobbies displayed: A collection of "Japanese Matchbox labels" (displayed by our member, Mr. J. B. Levy — Certificate of Merit); Aquariums; Models of all kinds, for instance a collection of Pistols; another one of old-vintage motor cars in miniature etc.; there were also collections of miniatures, trinket boxes, coins, Butterflies, army badges, blazer badges (certificate of merit), pressed flowers, stuffed birds, miniature cats (certificate of merit) and many more, including two further individual stamp entries by two of our members (Mr. de Graaff and Prof. van Rooyen).

The composite stamp display of the Society which was arranged on the stage of the City Hall at this occasion, attracted large crowds and was a good advert for our hobby.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

Our first meeting in **March**, on **13th**, was again a great success, witnessed by more than 50 members and visitors. It could not have been otherwise, for our friends from the Pretoria Society came in strength, and what they showed, was again outstanding and varied, from Mr. Newlands's magnificent "O.F.S." collection to Mr. Manville-Ford's

"George V of Nyasaland and the Rhodesias," with Mr. Wright's "Indian Native States," Mr. Castignani's "Airmails of the Italian Colonies," and Mr. Dodd's "Union Customs Dues" as well — five exhibits of such splendour that we are seriously considering introducing a competition for visiting societies, the Pretorians to be expected to run away with the annual trophy of "Miss Johannesburg P.S." — Many, many thanks, you wizards; and now we must get out our stencilling outfits to write up what we may be able to muster for the return visit, and you must not listen to our shattering of teeth and squeaking of bones!

Our second meeting, on **26th March**, was necessarily a bit in the nature of an anticlimax. Not that Mr. Stanley Boss did not show a tremendous array of the stamps of Indo-China, "a study of One into Three (countries)"; but there were far too few members and visitors to see this amazing display, and, with the Jewish holidays interfering, there could not again have come as many as at the previous meeting. Nevertheless, we know Mr. Boss to be too serious a collector to have been dismayed, and when he shows again from his multitudinous French Colonials, the few who enjoyed that show will have told the many who will now come, and give the exhibitor the applause he really deserves.

W.H.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF THE WESTERN RAND

The monthly meeting for **March** was held in the Krugersdorp Town Hall, on **Wednesday 28th of March 1956** at 8 p.m.

The Chairman Mr. Yelland presided with ten members and seven visitors, and all the visitors were heartily welcomed especially Dr. Berry and Mr. Hagger.

The Hobbies Fair held at the Krugersdorp Town Hall during March was a huge success, and has shown the public what can be done in stamp collecting. The exhibit of the evening was tabled by Mr. Hagger, being his Union Collection of the Un-hyphenated Rotogravure, this outstanding display was well arranged, containing coils, booklets, joined paper and errors such as the missing head and frame plates and many other interesting items. On behalf of the club Dr. Berry thanked Mr. Hagger for this Philatelic feast of Union stamps.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Bruwer and the Town Council for the loan of the hall and the facilities put at the disposal of the society for catering.

J.K.

BRITISH BECHUANALAND POST OFFICES & POSTMARKS

The March issue of the "London Philatelist" deals with the P.O.'s and Postmarks of British Bechuanaland during its ten years of being a stamp-issuing country. Bechuanaland Protectorate is not dealt with.

Date-stamps of the following offices are known, and the numbers after several of them are numeral cancellers which they also had allocated to them:—

Bailey Brith, Bloemfontein, Devondale, Dry Harts or Dry Hartz (675), Geluk (181), Hartebeeste Pan (probably 340), Keimoes, Kuruman (534), Mafeking (638), Maribogo (209), Setlagoli (590), Taungs (554), Taungs Station, Vryburg (555), Vryburg Station.

Six other offices are known to have existed, but their date stamps (if they had such) have not yet been discovered. They are:— Banks Drift, Genesa, Groot Chwaing, Mosita, Poedome and Zwart Modder.

The following numeral cancellations are known on B.B. stamps, but the offices of usage have not been identified:— 272, 478, 574, 578, 579, 637, 658, 758 and 836.

There were four main types of date-stamp used. These are illustrated in the article, which should be consulted for full details.

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UNION NOTES

Hon. Sub-Editor: Dr. T. B. BERRY,
Box 31, Bryanston, Transvaal.

Harrison Essays.

Appropos the report appearing in our March issue, concerning the Harrison Essay with the MUSTER overprint, Mr. C. Turner Nearing of Illinois, U.S.A., writes to the effect that he does not consider this item to be a recent discovery, for he secured a copy of it a year ago at a New York auction, and a little later was offered a pair on approval by a Long Island, N.Y., individual who stated that he had had the original sheet of 100. From that time on, states our correspondent, these items have appeared in several auctions, sometimes in a block of four.

Continuing his observations on the reported varieties of the Harrison Essay which have recently made their appearance, Mr. Turner Nearing states that he has had several offers of late of the carmine essay on watermarked paper, the watermark similar to the "hilt of the Sword of Valor or Honor" (reported in our February issue), and of the light blue essay on un gummed and unwatermarked paper. He expresses the opinion that to him, the several new colours on unwatermarked and watermarked paper appear more than discoveries, and he wonders if someone has the original plate and was putting them out in new colours etc. "Why have they been so long reaching the market, when the price has certainly been favourable", he enquires.

We would add that similar comments have been made more than once by collectors resident in South Africa.

Another interesting comment concerning the Harrison Essay overprinted MUSTER has been received from Mr. C. E. Sherwood, of Sale, England, wherein he writes: "About two years ago, a member of the S.A.C.S. (South African Collectors' Society) in America sent me a vertical pair and asked for my opinion. The pair were identical so far as I can tell to those illustrated. I took this up with another member of the Society here who suggested that they were used by Harrison as samples of their work when submitting tenders on the like to some overseas country. If this was the case, then they would really be outside the scope of S.A. Philately".

Thus, it would appear that these "new" Harrison Essays made their debut overseas, before finding their way to South Africa at a later stage of their sojourn, when to the credit of our local stamp collectors, their presence was immediately notified. A few more observations — and the mystery surrounding the Harrison Essay varieties will be solved.

Consular Stamps.

The slogan "Study your Country's Stamps" frequently appears in these pages, but how far it has been heeded may be determined by readers when examining themselves over our listing of one of the Unions lesser known issues — the Consular Stamp.



Through the courtesy of Mr. L. J. Dodd of Pretoria, we were privileged to view the Consular Stamp, reproduced here, which was submitted to him by Mr. R. W. Larsen of U.S.A., who is a member of the "American Revenue Association", the members of which society concern themselves with the study and the collection of the Revenue Stamps of the world, in particular their own and of Canada.

The item consists of a £1, K.G.V., Revenue Stamp overprinted in block capital letters in black ink, "KONSULAIR" on the left, 18 m.m. in length, and "CONSULAR" on the right, 17 m.m. in length, both words reading down, and separated 15.5 m.m. The individual letters are 2 m.m. high.

Upon enquiry as to the purpose of these stamps, we were informed "that South African Revenue Stamps of the denominations 1d., 3d., 6d., 2/6, 5/-, 10/- and £1 have been overprinted "Consular/Konsulair" for the use in the Union's Consular offices abroad. These stamps are affixed to documents as evidence of payment of fees for services such as the attestation of wills, the authentication of documents and similar services".

Our request to purchase a set of these stamps for record purposes was refused, with regret, "as the stamps are used for a very specific purpose by the Union's diplomatic and consular representatives abroad, and are not for sale to the general public."

Krugersdorp Hobbies Fair.

Not to be outdone by their Free State confreres, the Philatelic Society of the Western Rand enjoyed a gala day on the 8th March, at the Krugersdorp Hobbies Fair, sponsored by the South African Women's Federation Jubilee Branch. The entire Lecture Hall of the Krugersdorp Town Hall was set aside for stamps, the display being highly appreciated by all who attended the function.

The following are the successful competitors to whom we extend our hearty congratulations. The Philatelic Cup was won by Mr. J. Burrell for his Union Air Mail Collection, and Diplomas were awarded to Mr. J. Burrell (Kenya), Mr. Vermaak (O.F.S. and Sweden), Mr. Bruwer (Union Air Mails), Mr. Yelland (Bantam War Issues) and juvenile E. Combrink for her general display of stamps.

The last named success, but not the least, is a very pleasing feature in view of the encouragement we would like to see accorded to juvenile recruits to the hobby.

Information Required — Please.

We have received requests for information concerning the items mentioned below, and would be grateful to those readers who are in a position to respond, if they would be good enough to submit their opinions for publication in these columns, when they would inform not only the enquirer, but also those who may possess similar items or who would like to acquire the knowledge.

Mr. R. D. Allan of London, England, refers to the "Aeroplane Flaw", catalogued as 38 D Vr in the Handbook, and states that he has three different types of this listed variety, viz:—

- A "monoplane" midway the towers, with a "biplane" on the right frame, on an Afrikaans inscribed stamp of a booklet pair.
- A "monoplane" nearer the left tower and no "biplane", on an English inscribed sheet stamp.
- A "monoplane" central on the roof under the chimney in the middle, no "biplane", on an Afrikaans inscribed sheet stamp.

Mr. Allan points out that whilst the "monoplanes" are similar, they are in different positions on the stamp. He would be grateful for any assistance in determining or plating these flaws.

We feel that there is a lot to be said for Mr. Allan's observations and request, for the expression "Aeroplane Flaw" appears to have been rather loosely used.

Mr. J. E. Frankland of Johannesburg, would like to know something about the green smudge flaw appearing on the buck's neck of the stamp we reproduce.

The stamp is of Group 6 series, the frame being screened and the centre unscreened, probably plate 16 or 17, and to assist readers

in their diagnosis, there is a small green dot to the right of the upper third of the buck's right horn of the Afrikaans inscribed stamp.



Concerning the article on the Custom Duty Stamps of the Union of South Africa appearing in our April issue, Mr. J. H. Chamberlain of Durban, calls our attention to an item which has not been included therein.

It is an Orange River Colony, 1d. Stamp, S.G. No. 257, with CUSTOMS DUTY, arranged in two lines, handstamped in purple ink diagonally across the stamp reading downwards. The word "Customs" measures 22 m.m., "Duty" 12 m.m., and the letters which have serifs are 3.50 m.m. high.

Mr. Chamberlain possesses very little information about this stamp which was given him by an old friend but feels it is not the only one of its kind.

We would be grateful to receive assistance concerning the determination of this stamp.

Penapex-Penafu.

We reproduce the token which will direct all philatelic routes, whether by sea or land, during October of this year. It is the Port Elizabeth National Philatelic Exhibition Label, depicting the Lighthouse and the Donkin Monument, attractively designed in bi-colour, the "vignette" and "border" in turquoise-green (Gibbons No. 32), "frame" in brown-purple lettering (Gibbons No. 60), printed in sheets of 6 (3 x 2), format



25 x 42.5 m.m., perf. 11½, on gummed and unwatermarked paper!

The Eighteenth Annual Congress of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa will be held at the Technical College, Port Elizabeth, from 1st to 6th October, 1956. The Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society is to be the Host Society, under whose auspices a stamp exhibition, styled P.E.N.A.P.E.X. — P.E.N.A.F.U. (Port Elizabeth National Philatelic Exhibition — Port Elizabethse Nasionale Filatelistiese Uitstalling) will be held to correspond with the period that congress is in session.

The Exhibition will comprise two sections: a non-competitive, invitation senior exhibition, and a competitive exhibition for juniors, and it is confidently expected that a cross-section of the finest collections in Southern Africa will be on display.

A souvenir brochure is in the process of being compiled, and the attractive Exhibition Labels, described above, are already on sale at 6d. a sheet of 6 labels, in aid of exhibition funds.

The Post Office Authorities will open a temporary Post Office at the Technical College for the period of the Exhibition, and mail matter posted there will be cancelled with a special commemorative date stamp. Arrangements will be made for servicing such covers.

A feature of the Exhibition will be a unique display by the G.P.O. of the original photographs, artists' drawings, and other relevant material connected with the printing of one of our current animal stamps.

We are grateful to the Exhibition Committee's Publicity Officer, Mr. C. Clement, for the above information, and hope to pass on further news as events mature. Meanwhile, now is the time to make your arrangements to spend a philatelic and a family holiday at P.E. during October, and should you require any assistance, Mr. G. Smukler, Box 3, Port Elizabeth, who is the Honorary Congress Secretary, will be pleased to assist you.

And while on the topic of Exhibitions, we have advance information that preliminary arrangements are well on the way towards an International Exhibition to be held in Johannesburg in 1960, jointly sponsored by the local English and Afrikaans Societies. Detailed preparations are in hand towards making the Exhibition worthy of the occasion — the Fiftieth Anniversary of Union. No expense will be spared which may mar success, and with this object in view, be prepared to subscribe to the many novel ways the Action Committee is devising to raise the required funds, and also, look to the gaps in your collections.

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!

½d. Typographed Roll Stamp.

Through the courtesy of Mr. J. Malan, of Wellington, Cape, we are able to record an item which is uncatalogued, and which has escaped the attention of philatelists for some thirty years. We refer to the London Typographed, ½d. Roll Stamp, Cat. No. R 5, but with **inverted watermark**.

The items consists of a vertical pair of the ½d. Roll Stamps, the design and shading pertaining to these of the London Typographed Rolls. The watermark is inverted and the top stamp bears a portion of a join common to roll stamps.



Mr. Malan states that he purchased several of these pairs from a stamp vending machine at Durban in 1933 and had some cancelled — the cancellation of the exhibited pair reading "DURBAN 27 DEC. 33".

3d. Animal Stamp.

Mr. C. Clement of Port Elizabeth draws attention to a flaw which the 3d. Animal Stamp acquired during its recent and second printing of which the sheet numbers are in red, the previous cylinders having been used.

The flaw consists of a marginal blue dot below "K" of AFRIKA of stamp Row 6/3, is constant, and serves as a means of determining this printing.

½d. Plate VIII Printing.

Mr. J. B. Levy of Bloemfontein has brought to our notice an item which, although not unknown to Union Collectors, is often not recognised or correctly plated, due, maybe, to the fact that it is not catalogued.



The specimen consists of a top marginal block of ten ½d. stamps, 5 x 2, of the Redrawn Design, Group III Series, comprising printings from Plates V to XIII. Two of the stamps, Row 1/9 and 10, are illustrated, and show black smudges below the buck's right ear and adjoining the buck's muzzle, the smudge on stamp R1/10 being greater and more distinct than that on the other stamp.

These smudges are constant, are of a definite form, and afford a reliable means of determining Plate VIII printing of the halfpenny stamp.

"The Cupboard Is Bare".

The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, under whose auspices the "S.A. Philatelist" is published, allocates space in each issue of the

Journal to material pertaining solely to matters South African, under the style of "Union Notes". Therein recent issues are dealt with, enquiries answered, and matters of interest recorded—all to make for interesting reading, a means of keeping the collectors of Unions up to date, and, last but not least, a valuable form of reference.

It is not possible to supply this information unless we receive it. Our field is limited, and although we are constantly on our toes for something fresh, ably assisted by the faithful few, the material we are able to harvest is smaller than we desire, and at times we are hard pushed for news. We would thus appeal to all readers to be mindful of our requirements in the same sense as they would like to receive news, so would we like to give it. No item is too small or too insignificant, for who knows but that the despised flaw of to-day may become the key to research tomorrow.

At present, our bottom draw is empty, and "the cupboard is bare".

REVIEW

The Cancellations of The Falkland Islands and the Dependencies, by James Andrews. 64 pages, 8 plates. Cloth. Robson Lowe Ltd. Price 20/-.

A recent writer (we will not flatter him by giving his name) has stated that anyone who collects postmarks is practically qualified for admission to the looney-bin.

Well, if you think that way you need not read this book, although actually it covers a wider field than the title suggests. It gives the history of postal communications with the islands since their occupation in 1833 by the Royal Navy, the handstruck stamps preceding the adhesives, and notes (with maps) on the British, Argentine, Chilean and American Post Offices in the Antarctic Dependencies.

Stamps per se are not dealt with, as they are well covered by Mr. B. S. H. Grant's book on them, published in 1952. But it is noted "Let no one despise the date-stamp. Time and again it has been the only means of establishing the printing to which a stamp belongs, and whether the shade is part of the printing or the whole of it."

The author has carefully sifted and checked the sometimes conflicting evidence about some marks. He is to be congratulated on his comprehensive story and the clear, interesting way in which he tells it. The publishers must also be congratulated on the excellent get-up of the volume.

Wants, Offers & Exchange

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

WANTED "Bouvet Island" 1955 Covers. — J. H. HARVEY PIRIE, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

NATAL, St. HELENA, GAMBIA, SEYCHELLES, SIERRA LEONE, O.F.S. I am now breaking up fine Collections including some modern. Douglas Roth, Mona Crescent, Newlands, Cape.

WANTED Local Posts, General, Priced Selections of items.—GEO. K. FORBES, P.O. Box 3, Port Elizabeth.

APPROVALS: British Colonials and World for all collectors.—BENONI STAMP SHOP, Benoni.

STAMPS.—Want lists invited for any country; specialties Union, S.W.A., British Africa.—LACYS, 57 Flein Street, Cape Town.

1840-1890. For the stamps of any country in this period write DOUGLAS ROTH, Mona Crescent, Newlands, C.P. Phone 694282.

SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST—New reduced prices for back numbers. Limited stocks of complete volumes for the years 1934-1942 inclusive are available at 12/- per volume. Odd numbers for these years 1/- per copy.

Copies of Volume 9 (1933) are available at 1/- per copy except for the July issue. Odd numbers of the first 8 volumes (Nos. 1-8) 1923-1932 are available at 6d. per copy. Complete volumes for these years are sold out. 1934-1954 odd numbers are available at 1/- per copy. On orders under 10/- please add postage. Early application is strongly recommended.—Business Manager, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

WANTED: Cape of Good Hope Rectangulars on covers in superb condition especially pairs, blocks, also O.F.S. and C.G.H. combination covers. C. R. Reynolds, Box 105, Beaufort West.

10 TIMES Catalogue Offered! The Offer is for Mint or Used Copies of Mozambique S.G. 330A and 339A. Send copies to: B. GLASSMAN, P.O. Box 10, Johannesburg.

SUPERB used copies of France and Switzerland issues 1849-1890 wanted. B. SEELIG, P.O. Box 5521, Johannesburg.

FREE! FREE! Buyers and Sellers of Stamps, Philatelists and Collectors, Join Today. The foremost Stamp Exchange Club. HELP- MEKAAR STAMP CIRCUIT, Dept. P., Box 82, Klerksdorp. Membership for one year FREE to all new members.

STAMP EXCHANGE WITH HOLLAND — Hollander desires exchange of old and new issues with private collectors in South Africa. MAURITS TROMP, Kanaalweg-Delft, Holland.

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EXCHANGE mint George VI and Elizabeth II for Mozambique and Mozambique Company, mint and used. For details of wants contact B. GLASSMAN, P.O. Box 10, Johannesburg.

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SOME ANGLO-BOER WAR POSTAL ITEMS

By J. D. ROSSOUW

Lately some very interesting "new" items of this period have come to light.

The most important are the two Mafeking and Kimberley "Hoofd Lager" cancellers of the Z.A.R. (Figures 1 and 2). These were exhibited by the Post Office at Teppex in November. The Publicity Officer of the Post Office has been so kind as to favour me with photographic reproductions of these cancellers and also a certificate to the following effect:—

18th January, 1956.

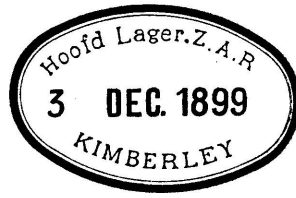
Certificate

"This is to certify that Mr. J. D. Rossouw of the Paarl Philatelic Society has been supplied with photographic prints of the impressions of each of the two rubber date stamps which were used by the Boer Forces at their "Hoofd Lagers" at Kimberley and Mafeking during the Anglo-Boer War and which at present form part of the historical records of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs. The rubber of which the stamps are made has perished to such an extent that a perfect impression is not now possible and to obtain the prints impressions were touched up by the departmental draughtsman before being photographed. The prints may, therefore, be accepted as facsimiles of the impressions the date stamps would have produced at the time they were in regular use."

T. I. Ferreira.

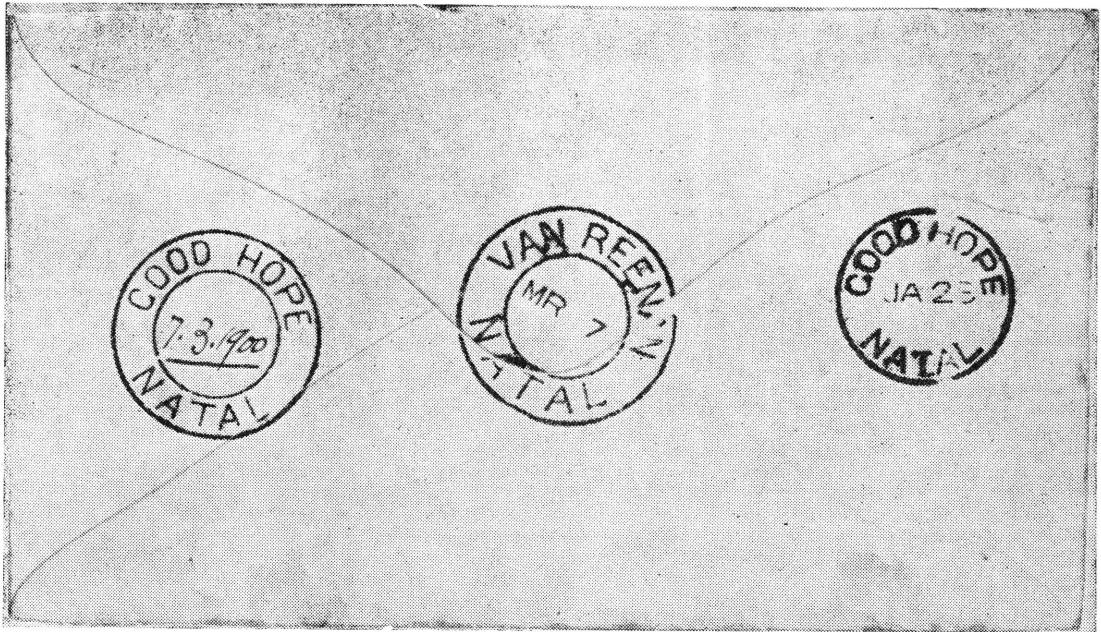
PUBLICITY OFFICER.

The doubt as to the existence of these items has now been cleared up and all one need now discover is whether they were ever brought into use.



The next is the discovery of Pietersburg postage stamps used on cover (Figure 3.) These are the 1d., 2d., 4d., 6d., and 1/- used on cover addressed to General Louis Botha at the Commandant General's Camp, Ermelo. The stamps are cancelled at Ermelo on 2nd May, 1900. This letter, or these stamps, must have been carried by hand to Ermelo, which town was then one of the last towns remaining in Republican hands and was the seat of Z.A.R. Government. This item was in the possession of the family of the late Mr. Justice de Wet until recently. Mr. de Wet was the Secretary to General Botha in those days. This is the only known instance of Pietersburg stamps being used so far afield, and at such a late date, Pietersburg itself having surrendered to the British troops as far back as April the 9th 1900.

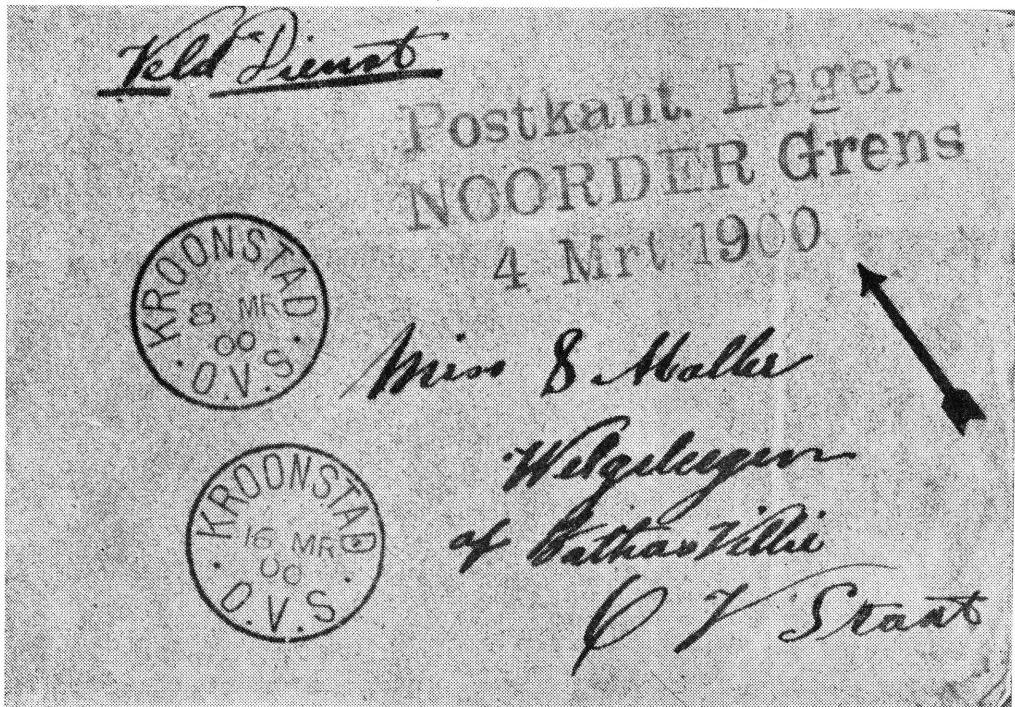




The postal cancellation of Good Hope, Natal must now be added to the list of postal cancellations used by the Republican forces in Natal. This is found on an O.F.S. postcard addressed to Senekal, where it was backstamped on 7th April, 1900. The Good Hope canceller is a double circle metal one of 27 m.m., but contains no date. The same cancellation appears on another cover posted at Van Reenen. The date, 7th March, 1900, being in manuscript. (Figure 4).

This cover has a date stamp of the same office dated January 25th, but the canceller in this instance is a single circle metal one of 22 m.m. (Figure 5).

On a stampless cover backstamped Pretoria 6th March 1900 and Johannesburg 7th March 1900 there appears a post-office date stamp "Postkant. Lager/Noorder Grens/4 Mrt. 1900" (Figure 6). This is apparently from a Post



Office serving the Republican forces stationed along the Rhodesian border. For all one knows these might have been the forces besieging Fort Tuli. As this is the first time this cancellation has been noticed further investigation is necessary before final judgment can be passed.

Curiously enough no one has ever noticed that in the Republican canceller of Wesselsnek, Natal, the name of the office is incorrectly spelt as Wesselsnek.

Whilst writing about Anglo-Boer War items, I would like to remove a mistaken impression as to the reason for the issue of the Vryburg Cape Z.A.R. overprints. It is usually taken for granted that republican forces occupied Vryburg on the 24th November 1899. (See S. G. Rich's Philately of the Anglo-Boer War, page 29). Actually this town was occupied on the 18th October, 1899 and Transvaal Postage stamps were regularly used there until the 24th November when the supply of these stamps ran out and the authorities proceeded to overprint a number of Cape Postage Stamps.

FIPEX

There has been some criticism of the charge of \$10 per frame for entries to Fipex, which is certainly high compared with most exhibitions.

The "Collectors' Club Philatelist" editorially defends the charge, on the ground mainly that it is a matter of crime prevention as philatelists have been terrified at the recent series of thefts at exhibitions. The Fipex authorities are coping with this situation by providing better lighting, better frames and glass coverings, and more guards. It is to pay for this more costly security that the high charge has been made.

We have not heard of such thefts at other exhibitions, but if they have occurred in America the charge may be justified.

By the time this is published the philatelic Goliath will be but a memory; we trust it was not slain by any little David but marched to a successful conclusion. There have been grouses about it, however, in the American Philatelic press.

The editor of "Linn's Weekly", on the eve of opening, points out that in the past American papers have jeered at European exhibitions

issuing special stamps and the like. This criticism has been like a boomerang for, as Mr. Linn points out, **Fipex** has four special stamps, but to obtain first day covers with them collectors have to pay admission on four separate days to obtain them all. Moreover no arrangements were made to service covers for collectors living at a distance. There has in fact been far too much high pressure Salesmanship and some of it leaves a nasty taste behind.

We have received a list of awards in the Junior competitions; these were adjudicated on separately from the main exhibition. We note that the winner in the "Miscellaneous" group was a girl of 14 with a collection entitled "First Stamp of Each Country." Our Commander Enoch will have to look to his laurels with his "Nos. 1" collection.

U.S.A.

On 5 April there appeared a 3c stamp commemorating the centennial of the birth of Booker T. Washington, famed negro educator. It features a log cabin similar to that in which he was born.

On 13 April the 20c of the new ordinary series was issued. It features Monticello, Va., the home of Thomas Jefferson.

May 5 was due for the appearance of the first of three stamps emphasising the importance of Wildlife Conservation; this stamp is a 3c showing a wild turkey in flight.

The other two will feature the pronghorn antelope and the king salmon.

Caspary sale No. 3, Confederate States, brought in over £78,000, the top bid being approx. £4,660 for a used pair of the 5c. Livingston, Alabama.

FRANCE

The spate of new issues continues merrily. Four new commemoratives appeared on 7 April, featuring the following distinguished scientists: J. H. Fabre, naturalist; C. Tellier, physicist; C. Flammarion, astronomer; P. Sabatier, chemist.

On 17 March, the day of the stamp, a semi-postal of 12 fr. plus 3 fr. was issued commemorating the work of Francois de Tassis, Grand Master of Posts in the Low Countries in the early years of the 16th century.

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THE "REAFFIRMATION OF THE VOW" STAMP

TECHNICAL DETAILS OF HOW THE MULTOPOSITIVES WERE MADE

Foreword

To use a **single image** master negative for making a multopositive on which the inscribed designs are set out as bilingual pairs, is an entirely new departure in the production of the Union's stamps and we are indebted to Mr. J. L. Booysen of the Government Printing Works, Pretoria, for his description of the technique developed by the staff in the printing of the Covenant Commemorative Stamp which became

available at all post offices on the 1st December 1955.

As is generally well known to students of the rotogravure issues, the earliest printings by this process were produced from master negatives consisting of blocks-of-four images with their inscriptions arranged alternately in English and Afrikaans and the stamps always appeared on the sheets in the form of bilingual pairs. In later years the bilingual pair arrangement was maintained by using master negatives made up of two images only — one in English and the other in Afrikaans — and this practice was followed for the unilingual issues of stamps up to the time when the production of the Covenant stamp came up for consideration.

The approved design and wording of this Commemorative was such that the English and Afrikaans inscriptions could not be embodied on a single stamp without overcrowding the layout and therefore the policy that had been



Photograph of completed stamps showing the bilingual pair arrangement.



Sketch depicting the original design prepared in the two colours of blue and red.



Sketch depicting the drawing prepared for the red coloured portion of the design.

adopted with the advent of the Animal series towards the end of 1954, of having bilingual inscriptions on each stamp, had in this case to be temporarily set aside and arrangements made to print unilingual stamps in their old form of bilingual pairs.

But in the development of the design only one copy, and that one coloured, had been prepared for the approval of the Minister and the manner in which the Printing Works staff overcame the problem of producing the stamps as bilingual pairs from the one drawing will prove of particular interest to all who have followed the progress of the Union rotogravure issues.

The various stages and details of the methods employed in the production of the master negatives and multopositives for the printing of the Covenant stamp, as furnished by Mr. J. L. Booyens, are set out in the following account.

Preliminary Stages

Contrary to the usual practice of making a black and white essay of the design, the artist's original drawing for the Covenant stamp was prepared in the two specified colours of blue and red so as to fix on the correct colours of the flag and for the Minister's approval. Further, since the stamp was to be unilingual, no lettering was shown on the original drawing, but instead, the English and Afrikaans inscriptions were set out on transparent sheets of paper for the purpose of placing over the drawing and so determining the general appearance of what would be the completed stamp.

When subsequently considering the best method of preparing the master negative for the new issue, the straight forward procedure of having separate drawings in sepia-black for each colour and then superimposing the lettering for each language, could not be applied in this case. For with only the two-colour original to work from it would prove impossible to completely separate the red colour of the flag from the black superimposed type except by painting out the lettering on the negative with photo-paque. Since this would not have given the desired results it became necessary to devise other means and it was finally decided to do all the different steps entirely photographically on the Step and Repeat camera.

Preparation of the Interior Drawing and Negative.

The original coloured drawing was photographed on a panchromatic plate through a red

filter, which eliminated the entire light red colouring in the background of the design and also the greater part of the darker red shade of the flag.

Without recourse to any retouching, a light print, the exact size of the original drawing was made from the panchromatic plate on special "foil" coated bromide paper, a medium which does not stretch during the process of developing, fixing and washing. After drying, this print was blue toned, then the background sprayed with a grey colour and the red section of the flag drawn in.

Finally, the register corner marks were added and all that part of the design not required for the red portion of the stamp was covered with "Aero" white paint. This provided the separate drawing required for the red colour, which was later photographed and a simple master negative prepared for producing the multopositive used in the making of the Interior cylinder. The photograph of the drawing, it should be mentioned, was taken on an ordinary plate without a filter at the same time and to the same size as the negatives and positives for the Exterior cylinder described under the next heading.

Preparation of Exterior Negatives and Positives

The next step was to make a separate line drawing for each language showing only the lettering and the outline of the church and with these and the original essay everything was now ready for making the negatives and positives for the master negative.

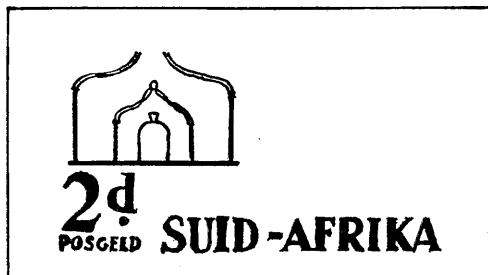
With the copying camera set to size and locked in position, the negative for the blue tones on the stamp was made, as before, by photographing the original drawing on a panchromatic plate through a red filter and the two type negatives by photographing the line drawings on process plates. Then for those parts of the design where the figure of value and letters appear in white, two positive plates were made by temporarily covering the "Re-affirmation of the Vow" lettering on the two type negatives and reproducing the remaining lettering and church outline on two ordinary photographic plates by contact.

The following negatives and positives were then available:—

1. Tone negative for the blue colour.
2. Line negative for the English black type.



Portion of the line drawing used for the English positive, No. 4.



Portion of the line drawing used for the Afrikaans positive, No. 5.

3. Line negative for the Afrikaans black type.
4. Line positive for the English white type and church outline.
5. Line positive for the Afrikaans white type and church outline.

As already mentioned it is the usual practice in the production of unilingual stamps to have a tone negative for each language and so provide a master negative consisting of two images. On account, however, of the considerable difficulty that can be experienced in securing two separate negatives of exactly the same photographic density, it was, in this case, decided to depart from the usual procedure and employ only the one tone negative for both languages. Due consideration indicated that by the use of different overlays, multiple exposures and staggered stepping up on the Step and Repeat camera on to a common multopositive, it would be possible to achieve far better results in obtaining uniformity of the images on the plate and thereby produce a sheet of stamps on which there was no difference in the depth of colour between the English and Afrikaans copies.

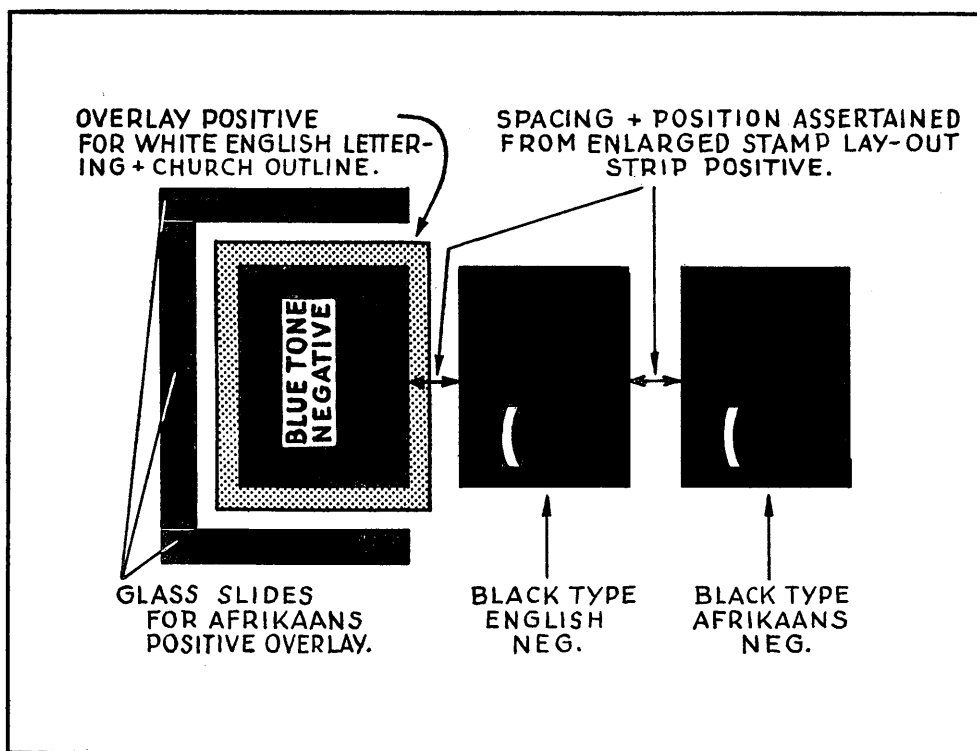
With this plan in mind then, the next step was to determine the exact amount of perforation spacing that would be necessary to allow between the position of the two black letter negatives (Nos. 2 and 3 in the list) when placed

in the master negative carrier of the Step and Repeat camera. The negatives used in the camera, it might be mentioned, are usually twice the size of the final stamp and in order to ascertain the negative perforation space in relation to the stamps the following preliminary work had to be carried out.

The tone negative for the blue colour was fitted in the negative carrier of the Step and Repeat camera and the equipment set to reduce the image to exactly stamp size on a photographic plate inserted in the position where the multopositive is usually placed. A short row of three images was then projected onto the plate with the correct perforation spacing between each and when processed this positive was used to make a contact negative. The latter was then placed in an enlarger and a new positive made to exactly the same size as the master negatives thereby showing the correct spacing required between the two black type negatives when set up in the carrier of the Step and Repeat camera.

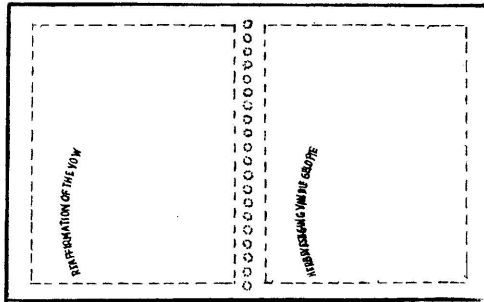
Building up the Master Negative

The stage had now been reached for the building up of the master negative for that portion of the design comprising the blue tones and all the lettering and for these the three negatives Nos. 1, 2 and 3 were cut to size so that they would fit next to each other in the carrier of the Step and Repeat camera in the manner shown in the accompanying sketch supplied by Mr. Booysen.



Sketch by Mr. J. L. Booysen, showing build-up of Master Negative.

Then with the help of the enlarged perforation layout, which was placed above the master negative, the three items were positioned in the carrier so that the distance between the blue tone negative and the two black letter negatives would reduce to the exact distance of the perforation gutter between the stamps. With these three negatives fixed in position the next problem was to arrange for the fitting of one or the other of the two positives (Nos. 4 and 5) over the blue tone negative in order to include the figure of value and white lettering in English or Afrikaans. In dealing with this point it will be appreciated that once the process of projecting onto the glass photographic plate in the multopositive frame of the Step and Repeat camera has been started, the master negative carrier cannot be removed until the operation for a full sheet of stamps is complete: otherwise there could be no guarantee of getting it back into exactly the same position. Yet one of the two positives with the English or Afrikaans inscription had to be removed from its place over the blue tone negative and exchanged for the other at some stage in the projection process.



Arrangement of the negatives for the black (blue) lettering. Dotted lines show the allowance for the perforation gutter.

The problem was overcome by first securing the Afrikaans positive in its position as an overlay on the blue tone negative — already part of the master negative — and then, as shown diagrammatically in Mr. Booyesen's sketch, fitting glass strips at the top and sides of this positive so that it could be removed and replaced in its correct position in the master negative at will. Then, leaving the glass strips in position, the Afrikaans positive was taken out and the English positive fitted in its place and this built up master negative was then firmly secured in the negative carrier of the Step and Repeat camera.

Making the Multopositive

With a large photographic plate, which is to become the blue tone multopositive, now clamped in the holder of the Step and Repeat camera, and also with the black letter negatives in the built up master negative temporarily blanked off, the camera was first operated to project the English inscribed images onto the plate and the movement of the mechanism doubled in

order that every alternate space on the multopositive be left blank for the subsequent photographing of the Afrikaans images.

Having completed the projection of the English stamp, its positive overlay was slipped out of the negative carrier and the Afrikaans positive inserted by simply sliding it into position between the glass strips. The Step and Repeat camera was then returned to the starting position and the Afrikaans images exposed in the blank spaces left over from the first operation.

The next step was to super-expose the black lettering onto the same multopositive and for this purpose the temporary covering was removed from the two black type negatives and the blue tone negative in the carrier blanked



Reproduction of pair of stamps showing the effect of photographing through a red filter.

off. The camera was then brought back to its starting point on the multopositive and since the two black letter negatives were correctly spaced in the carrier it was simply a matter of adjusting the equipment to bring them into their right position for simultaneous exposure onto the respective English and Afrikaans images that had already been projected. The movement of the Step and Repeat camera, of course, necessitated turning the dial counters the number of revolutions required for two stamps and also, after completing the first row

of twenty stamps, the change in the language setting from English to Afrikaans on the first stamp of the second row had to be allowed for. This was done by turning the dial counter one stamp further back so that the English black letters now fell onto the blank selvedge at the left hand side of the multipositive, for removal at a later stage and the Afrikaans black type occupied its correct position on the Afrikaans image.

This alternate arrangement of the black lettering in the two languages was continued throughout the remaining four rows of twenty stamp each and it will be seen that the stepping up operation in the camera actually embodied three separate and distinct exposures onto the same plate before it could be removed for the usual photographic processes of developing, fixing and washing. The resulting multipositive of one hundred and twenty stamp images proved to be correct in every detail and free from any flaws in the emulsion.

Finally, the multipositive for the red colour portion of the stamp was prepared in the usual manner and in comparison with the blue tone plate it was a simple straight forward job free from any complications and no difficulty was experienced in its production.

T. B. B. and W. N. S.

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P.O. Box 1979, Salisbury, S. Rhodesia.

HENRY COURLANDER

It is with much regret that we have to report the death in Cape Town on 5th May of that fine old philatelist, Henry Courlander.

He lived and worked in East London for many years and during that time was a keen collector and a staunch supporter of the local Philatelic Society.

He had a fine collection of practically all British Africa, but was especially strong on the Bechuanalands; on their stamps he was an acknowledged expert and was always ready to give others the benefit of his knowledge. He was only too pleased to help juniors with advice and his integrity over stamps in general was beyond all doubt.

He left East London for Cape Town in 1951, but ill health compelled him to give up active collecting although he never lost his interest in stamps.

Our sympathy goes out to his widow, daughter and son.

EUROPEAN STAMPS

According to the "Philatelic Magazine" a meeting of the Ministers of Posts of Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands held recently came to a decision that a "European Stamp" should be issued simultaneously in September by each participating country. Details are not yet worked out but the design is apparently to include the word "Europe," or perhaps "Europa" and the pictorial element will depict some symbol of the European ideal.

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OLYMPIC GAMES STAMPS

Although the main seat of the 1956 games is at Melbourne, some group competitions are held elsewhere. For example, the winter sports have already been held in Italy and special stamps were issued for them.

Sweden now announces 3 stamps for the Equestrian Competitions to be held in Stockholm, 10-17 June. The stamps are to be issued on 16 April; the denominations are 20, 25 and 40 öre and they feature a Greek equestrian figure from the frieze on the Parthenon.

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CANADA

Two recent stamps in the wild-life series are coming in for a lot of criticism in the local press. The 4c stamp features seven caribou "toeing the mark like the thin red line of British soldiers, and suggestive of a drunkard's nightmare."

The 5c with a mountain goat is even more hardly dealt with; some of the descriptions are "dour enough to drive the goats of the world to drink"; "has the ears of a donkey, the nostrils of a cow, and the eyes of a sleep-walker"; "more like a dyspeptic hippopotamus than a goat".

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AIR MAIL NOTES

Capt. M. F. Stern reports the following as of South African interest, but first of all our congratulations to him on winning the Lindbergh silver medal and hand-painted certificate for his exhibit at the recently held Hague International Air Navigation Exhibition:—

(a) The Italian air line "Alitalia" issued a special cover for their first flight from Rome to Johannesburg on 2 April, with a 5-line purple cachet in Italian and English.

(b) K.L.M. started a new service from Amsterdam to Khartoum on 26 April and air letter sheets bore the 25c raven "Bezondere Vlucht" stamp in addition to an ordinary one, plus a special cachet.

(c) A recent batch of Aerogramme forms of the French-English-Afrikaans type was recently on sale in Cape Town, with a large blob of colour on the face at the bottom of the sheet on the margin about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. from the dotted line "First Fold".

Mr. I. H. C. Godfrey reports the following:—

(1) *New Service Linking the Copper Belt with the Coast.*

On Saturday, March 3rd, 1956 **EAST AFRICAN AIRWAYS** inaugurated a new airmail service from Dar-es-Salaam (Tanganyika) to Ndola (Northern Rhodesia) via Mbeya, the return flight being accomplished the next day. The mileage of this route is approximately 900, Mbeya being about half way.

To commemorate the opening of this service the operating Company printed souvenir envelopes in red and blue, depicting the route and inscribed: "FIRST DAY COVER/First direct airlink between Dar-es-Salaam and Ndola/EAST AFRICAN AIRWAYS". Unfortunately large sized covers were used (9 x 4 in.) and only those addressed to Ndola from Dar-es-Salaam and Mbeya received backstamps. Also in some instances the covers were incorrectly franked.

(2) *South African Airways External Services*

On 21st April, 1956 the first of the "Super Seven" services left Jan Smuts Airport for London, via Livingstone, Nairobi, Khartoum, Rome and Frankfurt and, thereafter **South African Airways** commenced to operate three services a week to the United Kingdom with their new "DC-7B" aircraft: on Tuesdays via Nairobi, Wednesdays via Lusaka, and on Saturdays via Livingstone. It is understood that the two Northern Rhodesian ports of call will be eliminated as from July, when the new International Airport at Salisbury is opened. In addition to those accelerated services, **South African Airways** continue to use a Constellation aircraft on their weekly Tourist service to Europe. The first accelerated Southbound services reached Jan Smuts Airport from Lusaka and Livingstone on the 26th and 27th of April respectively.

Travelling at a cruising speed of 365 mph. the new Douglas "DC-7B" are the fastest aircraft at present in use in Southern Africa and the Jan Smuts-London trip now takes a mere 23 hours. This time, however, will shortly be

further reduced when **British Overseas Airways** commence flying their Bristol "Britannia's" in August this year. For this occasion **B.O.A.C.** are issuing souvenir covers.

The Editor,
South African Philatelist.

Sir:

STAMP VALUES AND EXTRAVAGANCES

Mr. Eliezer Blum's thoughtful article calls for some comment, on the basis of some thirty-five years of collecting Union King's Head Issues and some twenty-two years as a stamp catalogue publisher.

The value of the Union King's Head half-penny double print, about which Mr. Blum seems to cavil, happens to be the most accurately priced item in Gibbons' catalogue. The price of £80 is within 1% of the price which the last of the five copies sold, brought when the present Californian owner acquired it. The Union Handbook/Catalogue's figure of £100 is thus mere guesswork.

The exceptional high price which Mr. Blum mentions for a set of "Specimen" stamps recently sold shows urgently the need for a pricing basis which is founded on reports of actual sales. The price mentioned would, in a case such as this, be one of a series of reports of prices actually obtained. The midpoint of such a series — the "median" as we call it in statistical work — is the obvious correct pricing. This method can be applied, of course, only when sales of the article, whether stamp or set, are sufficiently frequent to provide a factual basis. Two or more sales a year, year after year, with the last two or three years taken for fixing the median, will make this an accurate and useful method. Unlike ordinary averaging, use of the median minimizes effect of one abnormally high or abnormally low report.

One reason why almost unobtainable rarities remain priced "ridiculously low" is that neither sellers nor buyers usually inform the catalogue-makers of the prices. Catalogue editors as a bunch, the world over, do not "automatically" or even normally see priced auction reports, nor do they have a clerk employed in constantly recording information as to prices.

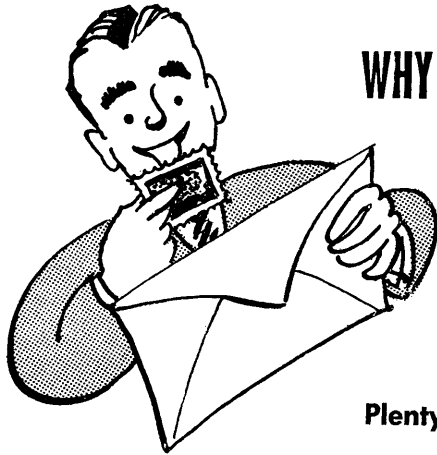
The Union Catalogue/Handbook suffered from this lack of price information, quite obviously. In fact the late Berton Hoover, of Goshen, N.Y., who for many years priced the Bureau Print Precancel Catalogue when I published it, seems to have been the only man anywhere to have made any continued, systematic effort either to gather price information or to price according to such information.

STEPHEN G. RICH.

FLAVOURED GUM

We gather that West Germany is going to give the gum on its stamps a mint flavouring, so that licking them will be a more pleasant process. Cuba some time ago issued an airmail stamp with such a flavouring, but we do not know if this has continued or not.

"Stamp News" suggests that this may make a fine new subject for Thematic collectors — to get all the various flavours which may be added to gums.



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THE PHILATELIC REVOLUTION

[No! This is not just another account of the meteoric development of Thematelty. It deals with the development of Philately in other directions, and is written by the editor of "Green Isle Philately," the organ of Shanaghan's Stamp Auctions in Dublin, whose advertisement has recently been appearing in our magazine.

Being an Irishman he must needs call these developments a revolution, but we are not accepting this trailing of his coat tails to start a fight. We are on the same side. — Ed. S.A. Ph.]

Fear not, valiant collectors, fear not! No heads will fall, no blood will flow, there will be no general strike in the Strand, no guillotines will be erected in the Rue Drouot, the Militia will not be called out in Nassau Street, and Philatelic Peace will continue to reign in Corrig Avenue.

But the Philatelic Revolution is on, nevertheless. It is, like everything Philatelic, quiet, so quiet that I believe that this revolution has come on us quite unnoticed.

It is a revolution of the mind, a revolution in the way collectors look at Stamps.

The old pioneers of the hobby took, what I would call, the **medical** view of stamps. They were interested only in the date and place of production, physical descriptions and explanations of any special marks and variations from the normal.

Most philatelic articles or books I read remind me of Army medical reports. If such a report existed, for instance, about Major N. Bonaparte of Corsica in 1793 before Toulon, it would give us the place and date of his birth, that of his parents, his body measurements, and any special characteristics and explanation of scars.

Such a report, however, would tell us nothing of the First Consul, and Emperor of France, the near-Conqueror of Europe, the lover of Josephine, the unloved husband of Marie Louise, the originator of the **Code Napoleon** and the prisoner of the British.

The conversion to this "Biographical" view of stamps is what I call the Philatelic Revolution.

This view is, of course, still in its infancy. Whereas the pioneers were only interested in the "printing press" stage of the stamps, many collectors nowadays are beginning to ask themselves: "What happened to the stamps I am interested in **after** they were printed?"

One sign of this volte-face is the fabulous growth of interest in Postal History, which might be described, perhaps not quite accurately, as the study of and where the stamps were used.

Another sign is the growing interest in forgeries, not only as reference, but in the same way as an historical study of, say, Joan of Arc would not be complete without a study of those who, after her death, pretended to be Joan of Arc.

Of course, much more could and probably will be done to complete the study of "Biographical Philately."

Take, for instance, the monetary value of any given stamp; how has it varied since it was printed? To the very Victorian Pioneers it would have been sacrilege to talk about money and stamps in the same breath. "It just isn't cricket, my dear fellow!"

But to-day's attitude has changed. I know of at least one collector who has noted down any Catalogue quotations, auction results and dealers' prices of his more valuable stamps, classified with charts according to countries from the beginning to this day. It makes very interesting reading.

Price seems to be the measure of esteem the stamp enjoys, the role it plays in the world.

The growing study of spifs and fiscals is another sign that the interest is shifting from physical characteristics to the "Fate" of stamps. "Pedigrees" are made and kept of the rare stamps. Who discovered it, whom did he sell it to, and into whose hands did it arrive afterwards, and so on?

The instances of this "unnoticed" Philatelic Revolution could be multiplied. But the question one is tempted to ask is, what comes afterwards? Is there another hill beyond the hill in front of me?

The origins of the physical or visual characteristics of stamps are well nigh fully explored, and one day the "biographical" details of all stamps will have no more secrets. What then? Will Philately die, because there are no more new worlds to conquer?

I don't believe it. No science has ever ceased to exist for lack of new fields to explore. New problems arise all the time, and the solution of one only causes another.

Philately, like life itself, goes on!

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SOCIETY NEWS

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The April meeting of the Society was well attended there being 22 members and 2 visitors present. Before the main exhibits for the evening were tabled Dr. Feisch entertained the meeting by setting a quiz for members based on information obtained from the 1955 S.G. British Empire catalogue. Marks were awarded on the basis of one for a correct answer, nil for a question not attempted and minus one for a wrong answer. Dr. Newlands romped home with 30 out of a possible 50 marks, but quite a number of members barely broke even, while one or two ended with negative marks. Anyway the quiz certainly showed us all how much we still have to learn in philately.

Our old friend, Willie Newlands, provided 3 excellent exhibits for the evening. The first exhibit tabled comprised a series of covers bearing special cancellations from the war train that toured the Union and Rhodesia in 1941. Yours truly commented on the exhibit and thanked Mr. Newlands for having provided something out of the ordinary depicting how postmarks alone could tell a most interesting story. The second exhibit was made up of covers bearing cantonment and army manoeuvres' postmarks during the period about 1905. Mr. Slater-Kinghorn thanked the exhibitor for his very interesting presentation of a period of South African history, many of the postmarks being extremely rare and difficult to obtain. The final exhibit of Zululand was one in a class of its own and Mr. Newlands was requested to comment on this exhibit himself, which he most ably did. One point made by Willie will strike a responsive chord in many members when he suggested that collectors should open up side lines such as his collection of postmarks where the value may be little but the fun provided great. P.M.J.M.

O.F.S. AND B. PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Another very large crowd turned up at the March meeting. In this regard, it is most gratifying to note that the average attendance figure at our recent meetings appears to be larger than the average attendance figure of any other Society in the Union, including even the big Johannesburg Society. The reason for this pleasing fact is that the programme of our meetings is well and studiously planned ahead by a very active and conscientious committee, with a good variety of various items designed to please the philatelic beginner as well as the high-brow.

There were two interesting displays at the March meeting. The first was given by Mr. D. H. MacDonald who showed his collection of "Canada", a very nice straight-forward effort. The second exhibit, a large collection of "France", was shown by Mr. A. H. Scott whose principle it is to acquire most of his items from correspondence mail only.

A very interesting philatelic chat was given by Dr. Freund. Particularly enlightening were his explanations in regard to certain chemical forgeries of stamps which had turned up recently. Further items on the programme were an auction sale, a sweep stake and half an hour of informal "swopping".

The "surprise item" of this evening was an enjoyable quiz in radio style: "Money or the Box". Amid great merriment, only two members by answering all questions correctly, succeeded to receive the contents of the box they picked: One, a beginner who attended his first meeting, won a large exchange voucher which entitles him to select stamps from the exchange books; while the other winner was an advanced collector who only found a used 3d. stamp in his box.

Another 7 new members were enrolled. Since the inception of the Society's own journal, "The O.F.S. Philatelic Magazine", the membership has increased from 90 to 135 members, most of the new members stating that the Magazine was their main reason for joining.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

18 April. After discussing the purpose of the monthly stamp auctions recently resumed, Mr. W. S. Deverell appealed to the members to submit material either as a gift or on their own behalf in order to stimulate interest. After reviewing the highlights of the philatelic literature of the month, some stamp lots were put up for auction. In view of the modest attendance, bidding was weak, and the prices realised were low.

The exhibitor for the evening was Dr. Alec Kaplan, who showed a selection from his specialised collection of Southern Rhodesia. Included were the

higher values of the first issue mint, showing shades, imprint blocks and strips, as well as complete sheets of most values, and specimens of doubly printed stamps. The Jubilee issue of 1940 included photographs of the official drawings from which the engraver worked, while the 1941 Matabeleland commemorative issue was supported by proofs and the unique master negatives. The Diamond Jubilee issue of 1950 included a plate proof in the issued colours and photographic enlargements of certain details.

The artist's prize-winning designs, not however used, for the definitive Queen Elizabeth issue were shown together with sketches to actual size and the issued set, and aroused considerable interest. A few first-day air-mail covers were unique in that they were signed by the pilots H. M. Pearce, J. A. C. Florence and Capt. R. F. Caspareuthus, all of whom were school friends of the exhibitor.

Within the limits of space, it is only possible to touch on the highlights of this splendid collection, which will probably be exhibited at the International Philatelic Exhibition at Helsinki later this year.

R. F. G. B.

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Our April meeting was not well attended owing to various members being indisposed and the absence from town of others.

Four exhibits were shown in the monthly Competitive Display, and those were attractive, covering as they did, the popular countries of Australia, U.S.A. and Canada.

The President referred to the untimely passing of Mr. A. V. Jacob, President of the S.A. Federation and paid tribute to his valuable services to Philately.

Several members complained about the slow circulation of magazines and it was decided to enforce the rules of the Society that the names of erring members should be removed from the circulating lists. In response to an appeal from the Chairman, Mr. W. J. Gillespie very kindly offered to take over the distribution of the magazines.

Attractive Diplomas of Fellowship of the Society were presented to Messrs. T. A. Harper, Andrew Watson and J. P. Shingler, and the President undertook to despatch to Mr. Courlander in Cape Town his Diploma and to hand to Mr. Thornton his Diploma, as he was unable to be present owing to indisposition.

Final arrangements were made for the Triangular meeting in Grahamstown on 5th May when Port Elizabeth and East London members will meet and display special stamps.

Mr. T. A. Harper provided a lovely display of the early issues of the Australian States, New Zealand and Cape of Good Hope. Mr. Watson conveyed the thanks of members for the varied and most interesting display.

A number of books and old catalogues were donated to the Society by the widow of the late Mr. H. H. Brown.

J. P. S.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN.

April 12th. This was the popular "All Members" evening. The evening was outstanding for the exhibit of a junior member, M. Wannenburg, who showed British Commonwealth. This exhibit was beautifully written up and showed study. The other exhibits were as follows: A. G. Versino, Unions; A. M. Jones, Zoo stamps of the Union; A. T. Bennett, Various World selected (this being collecting in the good old way); C. M. Pillans, First Day Covers (chiefly recent issues); Capt. M. F. Stern, Collection of the stamps of Indo China, with several recent airmail covers, delivery flight of the DC-7B of S.A. Airways, first flight AITALIA Rome to Johannesburg, and finally the result of the Competition for the Public at the Community Fete, when 36 stamps were displayed and popular choice was (a) A Belgian Congo flower stamp and (b) The Swiss "Hat" Publicity stamp of 1955. Members were astonished at the choice and they made selections which resulted in (a) the Egyptian Queen Neferti stamp and (b) Austrian 10S. women's costume stamp. Thus do the public and philatelists disagree.

April 26th. Mr. R. Putzel showed Germany from the Pre-stamp period. This philatelist always makes a good show. On this occasion he first exhibited pre-stamp covers from the beginning of the 18th century, followed by stamps and covers of Early German States (with emphasis on the various types of cancellations), then the early stamps of Germany and finally the more modern issues of Germany up to 1936. In all a very fine showing; exhibits of this member are always of interest.

M. F. S.

THEMATIC STAMP CLUB (CAPE TOWN)

April 9th. Mr. K. M. Cameron provided the exhibit of the evening, this being "Mountains on Stamps". The Hon. Sec. always come to light with something new. This thematic collection was absorbing in interest and well written up in that one was easily able to follow up the stamps, which were the main feature of the exhibit. Several new members are now preparing thematic collections in other spheres and the older stalwarts will be able to enjoy their exhibits in the near future. The standard of writing up is showing more clarity, and generally exhibits are becoming philatelic rather than a stamp with a mass of detail. It is really interesting to see how various subjects lend themselves to different treatment, each good in its own sphere. The Club can now claim to have easily 12 fine thematic collections, each differing in subject matter and treatment.

April 23rd. This was an "All Members" evening, outstanding was the first showing by Miss R. Polchet, with the start of her thematic collection "Queen Elizabeth II". This was not burdened with description, and in addition to stamps of the youth of the Queen, included stamps related to the theme. In addition it was well presented. The other exhibitors were: W. G. Combrink, with again a fine and new exhibit, Austro-Venezia Prestamp and Stamp covers 1809 and 1854 (he gave a fine talk on the Occupation); G. Petroulis, his collection of the Union Air Mail Stamps, which was outstanding showing proofs of the 1925 and 1929 issues, the imperf. blocks of 1925, all varieties and flown covers, a truly valuable exhibit; C. R. V. Solomon, another of the regular exhibitors on such evenings, who gave another fine batch of First Day Covers of recent emissions, which attracted great attention from the many visitors present as well as members. A number of the visitors joined during the evening.

M. F. S.

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

April 2nd. Mr. Geo Petroulis showed his fine collection of Miniature Sheets. This is a collection which one can see many times without getting tired of the repetition. It is probably unique in South Africa. Unfortunately it is understood that it may be broken up.

M. F. S.

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

April 24th. The meeting was held in the Rhodes Room, Union Building, U.C.T. and members saw an exhibit of Slogan Postmarks by P. Freedman. This proved of interest.

M. F. S.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF THE WESTERN RAND.

The usual monthly meeting, on **25th April** was held at the residence of Mr. Henderson at 8 p.m.

The Chairman, Mr. Yelland presided with eleven members and six visitors present. After the minutes and the business matters were read and discussed, Mr. Henderson tabled his excellent exhibit of Southern and Northern Rhodesia. After the tea interval Mr. Burrell gave us an interesting Lantern Slide Show and commentary of the Union Stamps in the making at Pretoria.

On behalf of the club, Mr. Vermaak thanked Mr. Henderson for his interesting and neatly written up display. Mr. Henderson then thanked Mr. Burrell for his show, which was of special interest to all present. Mr. Burrell mentioned that the Lantern Slide Show will be taken overseas shortly by Mr. Sheffield.

After a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Henderson for their hospitality, the meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.

J. K.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

April 3rd. Owing to the absence of the Convenor the Quiz planned for this evening was cancelled. At short notice three members put on a very interesting show which the meeting thoroughly enjoyed. The exhibitors were (a) Mr. Coetzer who showed a comprehensive collection of Russia — a country rarely collected or displayed in these parts, (b) Mr. Gouwes — a selection from his "Zoo" collection and (c) Mr. Impey — a collection of the M. E. F. overprints on Great Britain.

These three shows were most interesting and the approval of the meeting was most ably voiced by Messrs. Slater-Kinghorn, Slotboom, Dodd and the President.

April 16th. Mrs. Keet entertained a rather small meeting by exhibiting collections of Bermuda, Gambia and Papua. It is rarely that members get an opportunity to see material from these countries and Mrs. Keet's exhibit was very much appreciated. This appreciation was expressed enthusiastically by Mr. Newlands, Mr. Slater-Kinghorn and the President on behalf of all the members present.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG.

On **April 10**, Mr. and Mrs. E. Hunt introduced to the meeting of more than sixty their guest, Mr. R. Gomersall, President of the General Motors' Stamp Club of New York, and we were privileged to obtain a remarkable insight into the workings of philately in the U.S.A., through a long and lively talk by a man who for thirty years has been organising clubs, meetings, and displays, and who proved himself to be an extraordinary collector by the material and presentation of three very different collections. There was a display, entitled, "Franklin D. Roosevelt's contribution to philately", which contained, besides pages and items from the collections of that illustrious philatelist, many a most interesting photograph depicting his busy life.

There was a second thematic collection which honoured the Curie family and their contribution to science, and again, there were not only all the commemorative issues from many lands, but documentary material to make the display individual as well as alive.

And there was, of course, the piece de resistance, "The history of the Pony Express Stamp", with unused specimens as well as with a genuine cover which bore all the "markings" of a perilous journey through a country which, from Mr. Gomersall's account of it, must have been even more unhealthy than a Saturday evening among Damon Ruynan's characters.

On **Monday, 23rd April**, Die Afrikaanse Filateliste-vereniging of Johannesburg paid us their annual visit; and again, with four beautifully varied exhibits, they proved that "youngsters" can do equally as well as the old and established philatelists and societies. Mr. Keet showed pages from his lovely "Aviary", Mr. Mioch his new dark horse, "Germany", Mr. van Broembesen an outstanding collection of the numerous commemoratives of stamp centenaries, and Mr. Vermaak his "Sweden" which, while the 3 öre colour error was missing (he must have mislaid it!) did not miss much else. We shall have to do our best when we return this visit in July!

ROLL OF DISTINGUISHED PHILATELISTS

At this year's Congress in Brighton four persons have been selected to sign this Roll:— two British, Jack C. Cartwright and John Ireland; two foreign, Dr. Mario Diana of Italy, whose father is also on the Roll, and Mrs. Denny Dale of America, daughter of the late A. E. Lichtenstein who was also elected on the Roll.

F.I.D. RETOUCHES

In the "Commonwealth Courier" for April, Mr. A. Morley describes 5 of the current id. stamps with retouches in the shading below the title, No. 1 in Rows 8 to 12.

He comments that in the past we have become accustomed to double - and re-entries from Waterlows, whilst De La Rues are past masters at retouching. But the old order changeth, and now Waterlows have gone into the retouching field.

These retouchings are to be found on the stamps with the Trans-Antarctic overprint and the printing released in January, 1956. The original release shows the weaknesses in the sky shading which these retouches cover up.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST

PROPRIETORS AND PUBLISHERS :

The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

Honorary Editor: Dr. J. H. HARVEY PIRIE }
Business Manager: Mr. J. MICHELSON. } P.O. Box 375. Johannesburg.

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JULY, 1956.

Whole No. 375.

UNION NOTES

Hon. Sub-Editor: Dr. T. B. BERRY,
Box 31, Bryanston, Transvaal.

RECENT PRINTINGS

The Publicity Officer of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs has kindly supplied the following information concerning the period from the 20.1.56 to 24.4.56. For the previous list see our April issue.

Animal Series Postage Stamps

1d. — Job No. 134892. On an order for 1,000,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, an initial delivery of 19,500 sheets was made on the 6.3.56, the total number of sheets supplied to date being 185,500. Same Double Die Cylinder No. 3. — On the same Job No. but from the old single cylinder No. 12, 36,000 sheets were initially supplied on the 20.3.56, the total number of sheets supplied to date being 170,500.

2d. — Job No. 132269 contd. On an order of 1,000,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, 19,000 sheets were originally delivered on the 20.12.55, the total supplied to date being 314,000 sheets. Same Double Die Cylinder No. 20.

1/- . — Job No. 132270. On an order for 120,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, 8,500 sheets were initially delivered on the 31.1.56, the final delivery of 124,463 sheets being made on the 14.2.56. Same cylinder as before, No. 94 Interior and 104 Exterior.

1/3. — Job No. 135737. On an order for 63,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, the initial delivery of 4,000 sheets was made on 14.2.56, and the final delivery of 58,771 sheets on the 21.2.56. Same cylinders as before, No. 106 Interior and 38 Exterior.

Pictorial Post Cards.

1½d. — Job No. 125216 contd. On an order for 2,720,000 cards the initial delivery of 44,160 cards was made on 25.8.55, and the final delivery of 2,571,440 cards on the 8.3.56. Chambon Printing Machine and same cylinders.

Air Letter Cards.

6d. — Job No. 113233 contd. On an order for 6,000,000 cards, an initial delivery of 14,400 was made on the 18.1.55, the final delivery of 6,091,800 cards being on the 23.2.56. New cylinders from 30.9.54; wording on stamp changed.

6d. — Job No. 132274. On an order for 8,000,000 cards, the initial delivery of 72,000 cards was made on the 1.3.56, the total delivery to date being 1,105,000. Chambon Printing Machine and same cylinders.

1½d. — Job No. 132271. On an order for 500,000 cards, the initial delivery of 75,600 was made on 31.1.56, the final delivery of 516,600 being on the 28.2.56. Chambon Printing Machine and same cylinders.

ROLL STAMPS.

1d. — Job No. 129844 contd. On an order for 20,000 rolls of 506 stamps per roll, and also 10,000 rolls of 1012 stamps per roll, 7,100 of the former and 4,080 of the latter have been supplied to date, the initial delivery of the former being 600 rolls on the 10.11.55, no particulars being given for the latter. Same cylinder No. 27 used for both as previously.

CUSTOMS STAMPS.

¾d. — Job No. 137460. 5,000 sheets of 240 stamps supplied by the P.M.G. were overprinted DOUANE on a flat bed machine from same process blocks, the initial delivery of 1,500 sheets being made on 20.3.56, and final delivery on 22.3.56.

The 1/6 Aloe Stamp.

With the advent of winter and its early-morn frost glistening on lawn and valley, the orange-red blooms of certain species of the Aloe family add colour to many a drab garden to the delight of the gardener, and act as a source of attraction to pollen-loving insect and bird. In like manner, its rotophographed counterpart, the 1/6 Aloe Stamp, appears to have blossomed forth at this season into providing certain attractive varieties for the stamp collector and the philatelist.

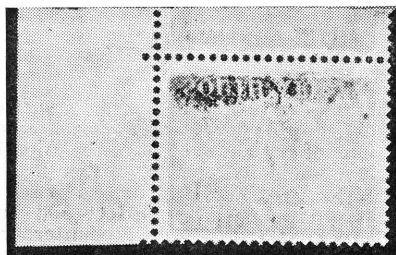
In our May issue, we recorded the missing perf. variety occurring in the vertical perforation between stamps 5 and 6 of horizontal rows 8 and 10.

Mr. L. J. Dodd, of Pretoria, reports a development of this variety, in that, a missing perf. in the horizontal perforation now accompanies the missing perf. in the vertical perforation. Two sheets of the 1/6 Aloe Stamp, Nos. 5559 and 5556, were obtained from a local post office, in which a missing perf. hole occurred in the horizontal perforation between rows 3 and 4, and also rows 14 and 15, stamp 5, as well as in the vertical perforation between stamp 5 and 6, rows 8 and 19 — there being thus four

missing perf. holes on the same sheet, an example of two of which we illustrate.



We had hardly satisfied ourselves that these are genuine missing perf. holes, and not blind perfs., when our attention was drawn to another interesting variety of this stamp, namely a partial offset occurring on stamp Row 8/1 of the sheet.



The offset is illustrated and consists of the imprint of the letters "SOUTH AF" of "South Africa," surrounded by a red background. Eighteen consecutively numbered sheets, comprising the stock of a local post office were examined, and the partial offset was found to be constant and present on all the sheets. It is of the same size, in the same position on the sheet, and varies only slightly in the intensity of the red background.

An interesting aspect of the offset is that the letters comprising "South Africa" on the stamp are printed in red, while those of the offset are not coloured.

Cancellation on the 2½d. Commemorative Stamp.

Some little while back, we received an enquiry from Mr. R. D. Allan, of London, con-

cerning the cancellation on a 2½d. Commemorative stamp (U.H.B. No. 1) which reads "4.11.10 Pretoria 5 p.m." Recently our attention has been drawn to a similar cancellation on a further three items, the postmarks of which are:—

Johannesburg 4 Nov. 10. 12 a.m.

Worcester 7.10 a.m. NO. 4. 10.

Somerset East 5 p.m. NO. 4. 10.

The "time of cancellation" as shown on the date stamp, has been the disturbing element to the respective owners.

H. E. Lobdell, in his admirable monograph, "The De La Rue Georgians of South Africa" writes (page 15) that "the stamp (the 2½d. Commemorative) became available upon November 4 at post offices in the Union, and in London at the offices of the High Commissioner for the convenience of collectors and dealers. Mr. Simenhoff advises me that Union post offices were open only a half hour on that November 4th, from 9 to 9.30 a.m."

How come it then, that, in view of this information, two of the submitted items were actually date-stamped before the stamps were on issue, and thus before they became current? Are they forgeries? On the other hand, two are date-stamped during the period the post offices were not open.

The assistance of the Publicity Officer, Philatelic Section, G.P.O., Pretoria, was enlisted in this matter, and he writes inter alia "that the Post Office Departmental Circulars for 1910 do not make any announcement about a public holiday on the 4th November, but it may have been a late decision, and perhaps postmasters were advised by telegram of the holiday. The offices would probably as on all public holidays, have been open for one hour — the actual time was not specified in such instructions."

Continuing, he states, that in the case of the items date-stamped Pretoria and Somerset East at 5 p.m., the mails may have been made up in the afternoon and letters, posted during the day, date-stamped only at 5 p.m. At Johannesburg, it is possible that either midnight clearances of posting boxes were made, or that the letters "A.M." were through an oversight, not changed to "P.M.," or eliminated at noon.

"The time shown for Worcester — 7.10 a.m. — is difficult to understand unless there, too, someone carelessly forgot to alter "A.M." to "P.M." The time does not reflect the actual time of date-stamping, but refers to the time at which posting boxes are cleared."

The letter concludes by pointing out that these observations are merely conjectures, and in the absence of specific official information, it is not possible to make a definite decision on the matter.

Nevertheless, we feel that collectors who have been probing in the dark for a solution of this problem which has exercised the minds of many, have now some formula to work upon, and are grateful to the Publicity Officer for his assistance.

Information Required, Please.

Mr. J. Malan of Wellington, Cape, writes to the effect that he is of the opinion that readers of the S.A. Philatelist, would appreciate the

pricing of the Darmstadt Trials, as listed in Volume II of the Handbook, and points out that at present the only item which is priced is the rd. unwatermarked variety — in Gibbons Catalogue.

Mr. M. J. Rall of Heidelberg, Cape, comments on the listing of sheet-number pairs under the "Control" heading in the Union Handbook/Catalogue, and submits that, although he has an open mind on the subject, sheet numbers should not be catalogued except in the very few cases where they assist to ascertain the various plates, as otherwise they are of no practical philatelic value.

We would welcome an expression of opinion from readers on these matters, and feel that the Catalogue Committee, the members of which are on indefinite recuperative leave at present, will function again at some future date, and that they will then be glad to know the views of collectors, and to receive information which will assist them in their deliberations. We would thus be glad to record such information in these pages so that it would be readily available when required, and meanwhile, also serve in an informative manner for the benefit of readers of these notes.

And while on the subject of the Catalogue, we record the following corrections to material contained in the Handbook/Catalogue, submitted by interested readers:

Vol. II. Page 86, 4d. Cat. No. 128 Vd., Row 6/17 should read Row 4/16.

Vol. II. Page 87, 4½d. Cat. No. 129, the last Vc" should read "Ve".

Vol. II. Page 88, 6d. Cat. No. 130, the first "Cb" should read "Ca".

Mr. G. N. Gilbert of Westminster, O.F.S., reports that the cylinder numbers of official stamp O93, listed in the Handbook/Catalogue, should read "8/unknown" instead of "8/21", as the stamps overprinted were from Plate VIIb, and further, that there is an omission in the Catalogue, in that stamps from Plate VIIc were also overprinted, and that this item should be included as:

O93A, 47Cd., 2d. Large size. Plate VIIc. Cyls. 8/unknown. Broad 8 segmented arrows. Red sheet numbers. Dull blue-grey and violent-violet. Heavy and shiny o/p. Type IV 19 m.m.

We have checked this suggested inclusion with material in our possession and find that Plate VIIc was overprinted. This is borne out further by a comment recently received from Mr. A. A. Whitworth of London, wherein he remarks that the "2d. comes in two states — with shiny and with dull overprint."

Incidentally, we understand that Mr. Gilbert is investigating printings of the 2d. Series, Plates V, VI, and particularly Plate VII — a series over which many collectors are restless — and we look forward to receiving some helpful information in the near future.

Second Printing of the 1/3 Stamp.

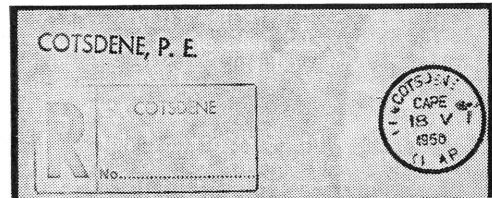
The 1/3 Springbok stamp which many collectors, and the public also, consider the most attractive of the animal series, has enjoyed a second printing whereby the appearance of the stamp has been enhanced in that the green is of a richer shade and there is a suspicion of red in the brown on the centre portion of the stamp.

The printing was carried out as for the previous issue which bore black sheet numbers, the same cylinders, 106 Interior and 38 Exterior, being used, but upon a different machine, in consequence of which the sheet numbers are in red, and the perforation was performed by a multiple row perforator.

In addition to the flaws of the earlier printing being also present, a prominent plate flaw in the form of an inclined green line, 7 m.m. in length, exists in the left margin of the sheet opposite row 8, and is present in both printings but uncatalogued as yet.

New Post Office.

For the information of collectors who are interested in postal cancellations, we are able to report, through the courtesy of Mr. C. Clement, of Port Elizabeth, that a new post office, designated COTSDENE, was opened on the 5th April 1956 in a residential suburb of Port Elizabeth. A temporary canceller in the



form of a very worn one, the loose letters of which wobble in the metal frame, and in spite of wads of paper being wedged in the frame, the letters insist on lying at an angle, is in use, and its impression, the very best after many attempts, is illustrated.

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THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF TRANSVAAL 1885-97

WERE THERE REMAINDERS OR WERE THE STAMPS REPRINTED?

By H. R. HOLMES, F.R.P.S.L.

[The Federation's Expert Committee has experienced great difficulty in expertising these stamps, particularly the £5 denomination. Mr. H. R. Holmes, a leading expert on "The Royal's" Expert Committee, was approached for assistance on this matter.

He has sent us the following article, stating in a covering letter "In it I have dealt only with the question of remainders as against reprints, and have not written anything about how to distinguish the remainders from the stamps that were sent out earlier to the Transvaal."

"Later when I have assembled a little more material I hope to be able to do something about that."

The question of "Remainders or Reprints?" being now apparently definitely settled, we look forward to a further communication on how to distinguish them from the earlier issued stamps. Our grateful thanks to Mr. Holmes. — Ed. "S.A. Ph."]

The question of whether reprints were made of the 1885-97 issues of the Transvaal or whether the large quantities of these stamps which appeared on the market in the years after 1911 were merely remainders is one that has exercised the minds of philatelists for the past 45 years. Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue bluntly states that "Reprints of the general issues 1885-93, 1894-95, 1895-96, and 1896-97 exist in large quantities," but does not say when, by whom, or under what conditions the reprints were made. Curle and Basden (**Transvaal Postage Stamps; 1940**) also state that the stamps were reprinted and add "Someone certainly got at the plates before Enschede's destroyed them, reprinted a stock, between the four issues probably running into several million stamps." Tests are given for distinguishing these so-called reprints from originals, but the variations in shade and toning of paper mentioned are no greater than those occurring in different printings of numerous other stamps of the period. Emil Tamsen (**Philatelic Journal of Great Britain**, Vol. LIII, p. 10) also considered there had been reprinting, but, in the same article, argues that it was impossible for any unauthorised person to have got at the plates (29 in number), obtained the paper, the inks, the use of the perforating machines, etc., to produce such a large number of stamps. He offers no explanation how any reprinting could possibly have been done without the knowledge and connivance of **both** Messrs. Joh. Enschede en Zonen, the printers of the stamps, and the Controller of the Netherlands Government, who superintended the printing for the Transvaal Government. The first suggestion that reprinting might have occurred was made by M. Z. Booleman, of Amsterdam, in the October 1911 issue of his journal **Confidentia**, and he based his remarks on a statement made to Leon de Raay by a representative of Messrs. Enschede in 1903. This statement was incorporated in an article by de Raay (N. Yaar) published in the **London Philatelist**, Vol. XIII, p. 7. ("Notes

Concerning the Stamps of the Second Republic of the Transvaal"), and this is what he says:—

"As, after this [the issue of the stamps of 1896-97], the Transvaal Government had quite a large stock of all values, the printers awaited further orders, but, to the time of war, no new stamp orders were received. The printers, hearing of the new plans of the Transvaal Government to issue their own printed stamps, sent in their bill; but as the war interfered with the settlement, they kept the plates, which are still in their possession."

From this statement, as published by de Raay, it was deduced by Booleman and others that the printers had no stocks (or remainders) of the stamps in hand, although at no time did Messrs. Enschede say they had none. Indeed, in a letter to Mr. A. P. Obermeyer, President of the Pretoria Philatelic Society, in 1918, the firm explained the position clearly. Mr. Obermeyer, in a letter dated November 24th, 1917, had written to Messrs. Enschede asking for information about the Transvaal stamps printed by them. In reply he received the following letter, dated March 5th, 1918:—

Sir,

Your letter dated the 24th of Nov. 1917 was received by us in the best order. We beg to inform you that it is our intention to reply to this letter towards the end of the month. Being very busy, we are not able to reply to your various requests at the moment.

Yours, etc.

J. E. & Z.

Messrs. Enschede followed up the above letter with a further communication, dated March 27th, 1918, implementing their promise in the earlier letter:—

Sir,

In continuation of our letter to you of the 5th of March with reference to the Transvaal stamps in question we can inform you as follows:—

In 1898 we received an important (**belangryke**) order from the Postal Administration of the Transvaal for various postal values. When this order was ready for despatch the war with England had broken out in the meantime and we had no opportunity of forwarding the parcel. After the war, we approached the British Government and later on the Administration of the Union of S.A. but neither the former nor the latter wished to consider itself as successors to the former Transvaal Government.

The Director-General of the Netherlands Postal & Telegraphic Administration who was responsible for the supervision of these foreign postal issues, withdrew from the control and authorised the release of the whole stock, included in which were also emissions of former printings, to ourselves.

In order to dispose of this stock we approached a foreign dealer who expressed himself prepared to take over the stock on condition that all cliches of engravings (**cliches en gravures**) be destroyed.

This was done in our presence and in our works so that the possibility was excluded that an employee of the company could misuse the plates.

Hoping that this letter will offer you adequate information,

We are, etc.,

J. E. & Z.

The foregoing letter states the position so clearly that it is surprising that the question of reprints as against remainders should have persisted.

THE PURCHASER OF THE REMAINDERS

The foreign dealer whom Messrs. Enschede approached with a view to his buying the stock of remainders was Mirza Hadi, a Persian carrying on business at 17, Rue Drouot, Paris, who was well known as a buyer of wholesale lots of stamps and had, indeed, bought the remainders of obsolete issues from the Persian Government. When the sale of the Transvaal remainders was completed, Messrs. Enschede wrote, under date March 24th, 1911, to Mirza Hadi as follows:—

Dear Sir,

We confirm that we have sold you the stock of Transvaal stamps, of the issues from 1885 to 1900. As you know, the printing of these stamps was done by us under the official control of the Ministry of Posts of our country.

Following the annexation of the Transvaal, we applied to the British Government, and later to the Government of the Union of South Africa: neither, however, wished to assume responsibility in this matter as successors to the Transvaal Government. The General Office of Posts and Telegraphs therefore authorised the Control office to return to us the stock of stamps and other postal values in their letter of April 20th, 1903.

Yours faithfully,

JOH. ENSCHEDE EN ZONEN.

In a further letter, a year later, March 6th, 1912, Messrs. Enschede sent Mirza Hadi the following extract from a letter of the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs of the Netherlands, dated April 20th, 1903, No. 5931, to the Controller of the Netherlands Government:—

"So far as the stock of postal values of the Transvaal is concerned, it can be put at the disposal of M. M. Enschede en Zonen.

Director-General

G. J. C. a Poss."

Having got possession of the remainders, Mirza Hadi was not content to just sell the stamps for what they were but he endeavoured to obtain some obliterators so that he could supply used stamps as well. In a letter to a collector he wrote: "As you are in Transvaal, you would oblige me if you could provide me one or several **signets for obliteration** of old issues which I possess the stocks. I do this to annul and keep the prices of my stamps new, and I should be very happy if you could render me this service. I am disposed to give you thinks (**sic**) which would have great value for your collection." He did not get any obliterators from his correspondent, but judging from the frequency of remainders (especially the £5) with forged postmarks somebody must have had obliterators made and applied them to the stamps. In addition, the surcharges of 1887, 1893, and 1895 were forged and printed on the remainders, as well as the "V.R.I." and "E.R.I." overprints. Fortunately, these forged surcharges and overprints are not difficult to detect, but their occurrence on the stamps bought by Mirza Hadi (which **do** differ in shade from those delivered to the Transvaal Government) has been a further cause for suspecting the stamps to which they were applied.

WHERE IS THE EVIDENCE OF REPRINTING?

In deciding whether a stamp has been reprinted, failing an official statement to that effect, several factors must be taken into account. These factors are: availability of the plate (or die); colour of the stamp and the ink used; the quality of the paper; the perforation; the gum. The most important is, of course, the availability of the plate (in this case plates, 29 of them), and we have de Raay's statement that they were in Messrs. Enschede's possession in 1903. In 1918 Messrs. Enschede wrote to Mr. Obermeyer that when disposing of the stock of stamps to Mirza Hadi in 1911 all clichés were destroyed "in our presence and in our works." If any reprinting had occurred it would have had to be done between 1903 and 1911 with the cognisance of Messrs. Enschede, as it would obviously be impossible for an employee to surreptitiously print the many thousands of sheets that comprised the stock sold.

Messrs. Enschede are an honourable firm with a great reputation as postage stamp and security printers, and it is inconceivable that they would allow any reprinting of postage stamps from plates in their possession, even though the stamps were obsolete. Their written statement concerning the remainders and the destruction of the plates, etc., must be accepted. That remainders were in existence in 1903 is proved by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs of the Netherlands authorising the stock of postal values of the Transvaal to be put at the disposal of Messrs. Enschede.

If it is accepted that the plates were not available for reprinting, then the other factors, colour, paper, perforation, and gum, are not important, but as each of these has at various times been said to be a means of distinguishing "reprints" from originals a few comments may not be considered out of place. The colours of the stamps included in the stock of remainders sold to Mirza Hadi do differ somewhat from those sent out to the Transvaal, sometimes very slightly and occasionally markedly, but even among genuine postally used stamps of these issues ranges of shades can be found; furthermore, the differences in shade are no more marked than those to be found in the contemporary stamps of the Netherlands, which were also printed by Messrs. Enschede. In the case of the gum and paper, there does not seem to be any difference between the stamps sent to the Transvaal and the remainders, though it has been said that the paper of the remainders is whiter: this may be so in some cases, but white and toned paper seem to occur with about the same frequency among the issued stamps as among the remainders. The last point concerns the perforation, which measures $12\frac{1}{2}$ and is a typical product of the Enschede machine of that gauge. A comparison of the Transvaal issued stamps and the remainders with the Netherlands issues from 1885 onwards will convince most philatelists that all were perforated by the same machine.

FRANCE

There was issued on 5 May a 12 fr. stamp honouring the "Jumelage" of Reims and Florence. We take the meaning of this to signify that each of these cities has adopted the other as its "twin".

A SIMPLIFIED CLASSIFICATION OF THE OFFICIAL STAMPS OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

By B. L. CAIRNCROSS

I recently prepared the attached classification of A: the Pictorial stamps of the Union to 31. 3. 53; B: the Official stamps of the Union to 31. 3. 53, with list C; and I venture to think this classification will be of assistance to those who at a late date come to grips with our "officials." It is intended to furnish a bird's eye view, and to supplement and illustrate the lay-out in the 1952 Union Handbook, which, by reason of its mass of detail, is not easily grasped by a newcomer.

The basis of my "officials" classification is different from that of the Handbook in that it depends, in the first instance, on the combination of the words "official" and "offisiel" in their upward or

downward aspect, and thereafter on the classification of the Pictorials (as at A); hence I have been able to reduce the number of primary groups to five, without omitting any of the eleven types shown in the Handbook. The symbols I use, e.g., E (u) A (d), mean, of course, English to the left reading upwards, and Afrikaans to the right reading downwards.

I may have misinterpreted the Handbook here and there. Thus, I have taken to be type iii Nos. O.49, O.66, O.69 and O.81; and I am not very clear in my own mind about type v and its allocation, shown under 2 B.

A. Classification of the Pictorial Stamps of the Union: 31.3.53.

Pictorials —		Non-Hyphen — SUIDAFRIKA		Plate —		Roto —		Values		1952 Cat. Nos.		
				London 1926	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	2	3	4	6	1/- 2/6 5/- 10/-	22 - 32
				Pretoria 1927	$\frac{1}{2}$	1				6		33 - 35
				Pretoria 1930	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	2	3	4	6	1/- 2/6	36 - 43
				Pretoria 1933	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$	2	3	4	6 1/- 2/6 5/- 10/-	44 - 53

B. Classification of the Official Stamps of the Union: 31.3.53. (i.e., Pictorials and 2d. K.H. overprinted "Official Offisiel" vertically).

Overprint		Non-Hyphen —		Plate —		Roto —		Values		Cat. Type	
1. E(u) A(u)	A. with STOPS	Non-Hyphen	Plate	London 1926	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	2		6		i
	B. without	Non-Hyphen	Plate	Pretoria 1927	$\frac{1}{2}$	1			6		i
2. A(d) E(d)	A. thick	Non-Hyphen	Plate	London 1928			2				ii
		Hyphenated	Roto	Pretoria 1928					6		ii
	B. thin	Non-Hyphen	Plate	London 1929						1/- 2/6	iv
		Hyphenated	Roto	Pretoria 1929	$\frac{1}{2}$	1			6		iii
		Non-Hyphen	Plate	Pretoria 1930	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	2		6	1/- 2/6	iii iv
		Hyphenated	Roto	Pretoria 1933	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$	2	6	1/- 2/6 5/- 10/-	iii iv viii
C. stereo	Non-Hyphen	Plate	London 1931						2/6	v	
	Hyphenated	Roto	Pretoria 1931	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	2		6	1/-	v	
3. E(d) A(d)	Hyphenated	Roto	Pretoria 1950	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$	2	6	1/- 2/6 5/- 10/-	x xi	
4. A(u) E(u)	Hyphenated	Roto	Pretoria 1933						5/- 10/-	vi	
5. E(u) A(d)	Hyphenated	Roto	Pretoria 1941				2			vii	
	Hyphenated	Roto	Pretoria 1944	$\frac{1}{2}$						ix	

C. Details of the Values shown in B, with 1952 catalogue numbers.

O/P			½	1	1½	2	6	1/-	2/6	5/-	10/-	Cat. type
1. E(u)	A(u)	A.a	0.2	0.3		0.1	0.4					i
		b	5	6			7					i
		B.a.i				8						ii
						10						ii
		ii						9				ii
		b			0.92	96a						ii
2. A(d)	E(d)	A.a.i.x.						0.15	0.16			iv
		y	11.12	13			14					iii
		ii	17	18		20	21	31	32			iii-iv
			33	19		30	37	38	59			iii-iv
			40	34		35	43		68			iii-iv
			29			36	51		84			iii-iv
						42	50		44			iii-iv
						42a			39			iv
						49			95			iv
		b	45	41	48	56	57	58		0.85	0.86	iii-iv
			46	47	55	72	66	67		96		iii-iv
			52	53	64	81	73	74				iii-iv
			62	54	64a	93	82	83				iii-iv
			69	63	71		94					iii-viii
			78	70	80							iii-viii
			87	79	91							iii-viii
			88	90								iii
			89									iii
		B.a.							28			v
		b	22	23		24	25	26				v
								27				v
		C.	97	98	100a	101	102	103	104	105	106	x-xi
				99	100a	101a						x-xi
				99a								x-xi
3. E(d)	A(d)									60	61	vi
										75	76	vi
4. A(u)	E(u)					65						vii
5. E(u)	A(d)		77									ix

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100 Argentine ... 3/-	50 Ceylon ... 5/6	100 Post War	100 Liechtenstein 30/-	100 Saar ... 13/6
200 Argentine ... 9/6	100 Ceylon ... 40/-	Ger. ... 1/6	50 Luxemburg 2/6	50 Siam ... 4/6
100 Australia ... 10/-	90 Ceylon ... 21/-	200 Post War	100 Luxemburg 6/6	100 Siam ... 17/6
200 Belgium ... 4/-	100 Columbia ... 7/6	Ger. ... 6/-	100 Malaya ... 6/-	50 S.W. Africa 12/6
100 Belg. Cols. ... 15/-	200 Columbia ... 32/6	100 Greece ... 2/9	200 Malaya ... 25/-	100 Spain ... 2/6
500 Belgium ... 16/6	25 Costa Rica ... 3/6	200 Greece ... 9/-	50 Malta ... 7/6	200 Spain ... 7/9
25 Bolivia ... 2/3	50 Costa Rica ... 3/6	100 Guatemala ... 15/-	100 Malta ... 30/-	25 Spain Cols. 2/-
50 Bolivia ... 5/-	50 Croatia ... 3/-	25 Hong Kong 4/6	100 Mexico ... 7/6	50 Spain Cols. 5/-
100 Brazil ... 5/6	100 Croatia ... 9/-	50 Hong Kong 10/-	25 New Found-land ... 4/6	100 Sweden ... 2/6
50 Brit. West Ind. ... 4/6	25 Cyprus ... 12/6	300 Hungary ... 6/6	50 New Found-land ... 16/6	100 Swiss ... 3/-
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25 Burma ... 2/-	100 Ecuador ... 9/-	200 India ... 22/6	100 N. Zealand ... 8/3	200 U.S.A. ... 12/6
50 Burma ... 4/6	200 Ecuador ... 32/-	50 Israel ... 11/-	200 Norway ... 19/-	50 Uruguay ... 2/3
100 Burma ... 25/-	100 Egypt ... 7/-	100 Israel ... 70/-	50 Pakistan ... 6/-	100 Uruguay ... 6/-
100 Canada ... 4/6	200 Egypt ... 50/-	100 Iraq ... 7/-	100 Persia, Iran 4/6	50 Vatican ... 6/6
150 Canada ... 22/6	100 Finland ... 2/9	25 Indonesia ... 2/-	50 Phillippines 6/-	100 Vatican ... 19/-
200 Canada ... 45/-	200 Finland ... 17/6	200 Italy ... 5/6	100 Portug. Cls. 6/6	Large Pictorials
	500 France ... 32/6	100 Italy Cols. ... 13/-	200 Portug. Cls. 16/6	100 ... 2/-
		50 Lebanon ... 6/-	200 Russia ... 14/6	200 ... 5/6
		50 Liechtenstein 5/6	100 Russia ... 4/3	500 ... 22/6

All Different Selected Stamps in Each Packet. TERMS: C.W.O. Sea Post Paid on Orders value 20/- or Over Airmail Extra.

Antarctic Notes

Gough Island. H.M.S.A.S. "Transvaal" sailed on 8 May to bring off the British Survey which has been there since November; also taking three South Africans who will carry on the Met. station started by the British party. They will be under the leadership of Mr. J. J. v.d. Merwe, who has been meteorologist with the Survey. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research announces that the party will also make preparations for a larger meteorologist station to be set up next year by the S.A. Weather Bureau in connection with the international geophysical year.

The "Transvaal" arrived back at Cape Town on 20 May, bringing the British Survey Party and also a last batch of mail bearing the "Gough Island/Scientific Survey/1955-1956" cachet and postmark "Gough Island/South Atlantic" with date 12 MY 56. The postmark in some cases cancelled Tristan da Cunha stamps, in others it was on covers marked "No stamps available".

Transantarctic Commonwealth Expedition. No covers with the overprinted F.I.D. stamps have come back from this so far. The ship landing the party at Vahsel Bay in the Weddell Sea area was badly held up by ice, but they were actually landed. Mail may not come back for a year, perhaps not until they have crossed via the South Pole to the Ross Sea.

American Deepfreeze Operation. The 280,000 philatelic covers destined for the bases in the Ross Sea area, were also held up by ice difficulties and in the rush to get parties ashore, the staff who might have done the cancelling had to be used for more urgent duties. Cancelling will now be a spare-time job throughout the winter. Some 7 or 8 ships were taking part in the expedition, and some mail has been received from those which had post-offices aboard. The "Airpost Journal" reports receipt of 20 covers flown from New Zealand to the McMurdo Sound Base, then to the South Pole, back to the Base and then back to New Zealand and the U.S.A.

French Adelle Land. As noted some time ago, Madagascar stamps have been overprinted for use there, and also at Kerguelen and St. Paul-Amsterdam. We have seen a cover with the new Adelle Land postmark which reads "Terre Adelle/1—1 1956/T.A.A.F." The initials correspond with the overprint on the stamp "Terres Australes et Antarctiques Francaises".

France has quickly followed up the overprinted Madagascar stamps for use in the "Terres Australes et Antarctiques Francaises" with a definitive set of eight stamps issued on 25 April. For these four pictorial designs have been employed: 50c, 1 fr, Penguins in the Crozet Archipelago; 5 fr, 8 fr, Scene in the St. Paul-Amsterdam islands; 10 fr, 15 fr, Sealion in Kerguelen; 50 fr, 100 fr, Emperor Penguins on Adelle Land, with inset map of Antarctica.

New Zealand-Ross Dependency. Four stamps, 3d., 4d., 8d., and 1/6 are to be issued later this year — the first stamps for the territory.

COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS

Bulletin No. 16, February 1956, of the Australian Post Office deals with the general history of these islands since their discovery by

Capt. Keeling in 1609 and, in greater detail, their postal history under various administrations since 1901 onwards. They are now, of course, under Australian control and form an important link in the direct South Africa—Australia air service. Illustrations are given of the various postmarks which have been in use from time to time.

AUSTRALIA

Two recent Bulletins issued in the News and Information Bureau of the Department of the Interior deal with:—

(a) Memorial Stamps. From photographs and text describing the Anzac and Australian-American memorials in Brisbane and Canberra.

(b) Description and photographs of 4 Postal Slogans used in the furtherance of Road Safety.

It is announced that in future all stamps, up to and including the 2/6 value, will be printed on unwatermarked paper.

The Philatelic Bureau, Melbourne, will service covers at the Olympic Games and they have issued a list of 52 Post Offices which will have postmarks of special designs and you can order the covers to be postmarked on the first day of use of the particular postmark, on the first day of the Games (22-11-56), on the last day of the Games (8-12-56) or on the last day of use of the postmark. What a collection you could make if you were rich enough to order them all!

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CANADA

The "Twelve Pence" touched new high records at a recent sale by H. R. Harmer Inc. in New York of the Lichtenstein collection. Two brilliant mint specimens fetched respectively \$5,400 and \$5,800, while a used copy of cover went for \$5,250.

The "Aluminium News", published in Montreal, in a recent advertising leaflet entitled "Something New" which figures the postmarks of various towns where they have activities going on, have certainly discovered something new in Darkest Africa."

Describing how experimental work at the Kutsaga Research Station near Salisbury, S. Rhodesia has shown how aluminium can increase the yield and quality of tobacco, they accompany this with a postmark of Pietermaritzburg. But perhaps this is quite close to Salisbury by Canadian standards of distance!

Two forthcoming stamps are intended to publicise the chemical and paper industries. A 20c green will depict a paper making machine, whilst a 25c red will feature a large glass flask containing a miniature of a chemical factory.

SWAZILAND

The new Q.E. pictorial issue was due for issue on 2nd July, but thanks to the Publicity Officer of the Union G.P.O. and the Controller of Posts, Mbabane we were given a pre-view of the stamps so that they could be photographed for illustration in this number.

We show the 6 designs employed, they are duplicated on the other 6 lower values.

Details of these have already been given in

our issue of December, 1955, the only slight difference being that the 3d. is now described as black and orange, not black and yellow.

Full descriptions of the scenes depicted are given in our issue of March, 1956. It may be noted that, following on the tradition of the Georgian ordinary issues, all the figures of value are on a miniature outline map of Swaziland.

The stamps are printed in sheets of 60, on white CA script watermarked paper.



Wants, Offers & Exchange

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

WANTED "Bouvet Island" 1955 Covers. — J. H HARVEY PIRIE, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

NATAL, St. HELENA, GAMBIA, SEYCHELLES, SIERRA LEONE, O.F.S. I am now breaking up fine Collections including some modern. Douglas Roth, Mona Crescent, Newlands, Cape.

WANTED Local Posts, General, Priced Selections of items.—GEO. K. FORBES, P.O. Box 3, Port Elizabeth.

APPROVALS: British Colonials and World for all collectors.—BENONI STAMP SHOP, Benoni.

STAMPS.—Want lists invited for any country; specialities Union, S.W.A., British Africa.—LACY'S, 57 Plein Street, Cape Town.

1840-1890. For the stamps of any country in this period write DOUGLAS ROTH, Mona Crescent, Newlands, C.P. Phone 694282.

SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST—New reduced prices for back numbers. Limited stocks of complete volumes for the years 1934-1942 inclusive are available at 12/- per volume. Odd numbers for these years 1/- per copy. Copies of Volume 9 (1933) are available at

1/- per copy except for the July issue. Odd numbers of the first 8 volumes (Nos. 1-8) 1923-1932 are available at 6d. per copy. Complete volumes for these years are sold out. 1934-1954 odd numbers are available at 1/- per copy. On orders under 10/- please add postage. Early application is strongly recommended.—Business Manager, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

10 TIMES Catalogue Offered! The Offer is for Mint or Used Copies of Mozambique S.G. 330A and 339A. Send copies to: B. GLASSMAN, P.O. Box 10, Johannesburg.

WANTED. Cape of Good Hope: Numeral Bar Date Stamps on Cover. Fine Impressions. Numbers:— 7, 8, 11, 21, 22, 37, 38, 63, 64, 74, 75, 76. **ALSO WANTED.** Griqualand West Stamps used on Cover in the Cape. — C. R. REYNOLDS, Box 105, Beaufort West, Cape.

NEW ISSUES and current Colonials at Penny in 1/- on Face. List Free. — PRIOR, 44, Warminster Road, Bath, England.

EXCHANGE mint George VI and Elizabeth II for Mozambique and Mozambique Company, mint and used. For details of wants contact B. GLASSMAN, P.O. Box 10, Johannesburg.

STAMP ALBUMS with 50 sheets 9½ ins. by 11½ ins. from 18/9. 100 spare sheets from 10/6 **STOCK BOOKS** with 20 sheets (each 7 pockets) 8 ins. by 9 ins. 45/8. 12 spare sheets 19/-. Trade Discount.—PRINT BIND PRODUCTS, Box 2010, Cape Town.

**RULES AND SCALE FOR JUDGING
THEMATIC COLLECTIONS AT
EXHIBITIONS.**

By Capt. M. F. STERN, A.R.I.B.A., F.R.G.S.

Much has been written during the last few years on the above subject, but, in a study made of this in publications of the United States, Europe, Great Britain, and the Union, there seems to be general agreement on the following points:—

- (a) The exhibit must be philatelic.
- (b) Not too many stamps must appear on a page.
- (c) A commentary should be prepared to inform the judges (or viewer) what the exhibit is, in detail, leaving the absolute minimum of information on the actual album sheet.
- (d) The album sheet must show correct and good material to illustrate the theme.
- (e) Whatever material or write-up there is on the sheet, such material and write-up should not "hide" the stamps or detract from them.
- (f) The sheets should not be overburdened with art work, except where such is essential and in keeping with the subject selected. Even then it should not be overdone.

The thematic section of philately places emphasis on the interest of the collection to non-philatelists, the write-up of the theme (without it being pages of writing illustrated by a few stamps) and the manner in which the stamps demonstrate the theme. Thus a connected theme actually deserves more attention than a mere accumulation of similar stamps, just lumped together, which one can term a basic, subject, or foundation collection. Each theme has a different method of handling and even within a single theme, exhibitors have their own approach to the subject, but whatever method of presentation is adopted, the above general rules seem to have been universally adopted and should be borne in mind.

In regard to formulas for scoring used in the past in judging thematic collection, the following main ones are given below.

1954. TOPEX (U.S.A.)

General interest	25
Originality & Presentation	20
Arrangement	20
Completeness of topic	15
Philatelic interest	10
Scarcity of material	10
	100

This is good and approximates very near to that of FIPCO given below. However 25% is high for completeness and scarcity, and nothing is allowed for condition, etc.

1954. DURBAN EXHIBITION.

Thematic interest	50
Presentation and Interest	30
Research on theme	20
	100

20% for research is on the high side as most information has been published in some form or other, also too much stress is paid to interest, without allowance being made for the philatelic side and condition and scarcity of material.

1952/53. U.S.A.

Philatelic knowledge	40
Condition of material	20
Originality and showmanship	15
Completeness and rarity	15
Research	10
	100

This has since been superseded, owing to lack of inclusion of thematic interest in the score card and 35% being far too high for condition, completeness and rarity.

1955. TEPPEX (Pretoria).

Presentation and Condition	30
General Interest	50
Research on theme	20
	100

Subdivision is essential, in order to clarify essential differences and to grade collections.

**1956. REMBRANDT TROPHY (Thematic).
(South Africa).**

Knowledge of theme	40
Presentation	25
Originality	15
Condition of stamps	20
	100

Here 15% for originality is far too high, and stressed, which is dangerous, as it will lead to freak exhibits of a few sheets, based only too often on past notes in such publications as Topical Time, and hailed here as "original", and should be considered under presentation or thematic interest. 65% for knowledge of theme and presentation is far too high, leaving 20% for the philatelic side.

1954. FIPCO International Scale.

In 1954 at Karlsruhe, FIPCO (the international body of thematic collectors in Europe) held its 5th Annual Congress on the 3rd to 6th September, when the Rules for the Exhibition of Thematic Collections were drawn up for International Exhibitions (as also for use at National Exhibitions by member societies affiliated to FIPCO). The scale finally decided on (Clause 7) is as follows:—

General Impression and Interest	6	8	10	12	pts. (20)	
Condition	2	4	6	8	pts. (10)	
Rarity, Completeness	6	8	10	12	pts. (20)	
Philatelic interest and knowledge	4	6	8	10	pts. (15)	
Knowledge of subject, originality and thematic treatment	8	10	12	14	pts. (25)	
Research	0	2	4	6	pts. (10)	
			26	38	50	62

(figures in brackets give percentages not shown in Clause 7 but included here for comparison and evaluation).

Thus awards are made as follows:—

- (a) 20-26 Points Fair. Certificate or Diploma.
- (b) 27-38 Points Good. Bronze Medal.
- (c) 39-50 Points Very Good. Silver Medal.
- (d) 51-60 Points Excellent. Silver Gilt Medal.
- (e) 61-62 Points Outstanding. Gold Medal.

One realises that no scale will possibly satisfy all exhibitors, but an equitable, and stable standard must be reached as a guide. The FIPCO scale is a fair one and gives the jury

divisions already demarcated to enable them to properly evaluate exhibits, without any guesswork. It has been stated by various writers that the jury work against time. This is true but their work is reduced where there are subdivisions which do away with doubts and arguments on various points, and if a score card as above is used, it simplifies judging as then comparison can be more rapidly made and exhibits assessed, in particular where such are close in award. The time has definitely arrived for an international standard of judging (this will also raise the general standard of thematic collections) and the writer, in studying the above scales, is convinced of the fairness of the FIPCO scale. Note that 45% is given to General Impression and Interest, together with knowledge of the subject, originality and thematic treatment: Condition gains 10%, Rarity and completeness 15% — a total of 25%. Thus the stamps are recognised as being a real part of the exhibit. Philatelic interest and knowledge — perhaps something new to thematic collectors in the Union — is an essential in philately (A thematic collection should be philatelic) and gains 15%. Under this heading comes the knowledge of the stamps, cancellations, overprints, etc., and it is a good thing that this is now included to raise Thematics out of mere accumulations of stamps. Finally 10% is given to Research, which is ample as most of the information can be gained from journals, encyclopedias, etc., and this allows for the commentary and anything new found on the stamps. This also obviates lengthy write-ups on the sheets and indicates the study that the exhibitor has made on the theme selected, an indication of the theme and line of handling of the subject, as well as forming valuable assistance to the jury in evaluating the exhibit as a whole. The adoption of this scale (allowing for future modifications by the international body, where such may be found essential from experience at international and national exhibitions coming under its aegis) by the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa may be well worthwhile, for, at least, a trial for a period. The adoption also would make possible evaluation of collections on an international and comparative basis. The scale is similar to that used at TOPEX (the annual exhibition of the American Topical Association which has many thousands of members) but improves in that 25% includes not only completeness and rarity, but condition as well, and allowance is made for philatelic interest and knowledge.

The following Regulations and Rules for Exhibition of Thematic Collections are given below for the sincere consideration by the Member Societies of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, with the possible adoption of this Draft by Federation at Congress this year (1956). It will be referred to in a Motion to be put before Congress, in addition to asking Federation to affiliate with FIPCO. In addition to the Draft Regulations (as in the case of the FIPCO regulations) an addendum (commentary) is attached to the Regulations as a guide to Judges at Exhibitions. It would be appreciated if the Societies would pass on any comments to the writer, P.O. Box 3654, Cape Town, before Congress meets.

DRAFT REGULATIONS FOR EXHIBITIONS OF THEMATIC COLLECTIONS.

1. Under thematic collections are understood stamp collections in which a theme, through selection and arrangement of stamps or other philatelic documents (entires, stationery, postmarks, etc.), is portrayed of world history, geography, cultural and scientific subjects. Essential for such collections is a motive-actuated treatment.
2. Ordinary collections of stamps, **without** thematic treatment are validated only as basic (or foundation) collections, which under Clause 1. can only be considered as thematic collections when built up by arrangement as a theme. These basic collections should **not** be exhibited at national or international exhibitions as thematic collections.
3. The following are not considered as thematic collections:—
 - (a) Chronological collections, arranged in order of year of issue or of country.
 - (b) Collections composed of stamps issued for a special purpose e.g. Swiss Pro Juventute or Pro Patria collections, U.P.U., Anno Santo, Centenary stamps.
 - (c) Collections of Maxima-philately. (In regard to (b) and (c) above only as far as these are not arranged as to a definite theme or forming part of same).
4. Thematics are subdivided according to the principal groups of thematic subjects into the following sub-divisions:—
 - (i) Religion..
 - (ii) Music, Art and Literature (inc. Architecture).
 - (iii) Technical, Industry and Transport.
 - (iv) Medicine and Charity (Welfare or Caritas and Red Cross).
 - (v) Zoology and Botany.
 - (vi) Geography, Ethnology and History.
 - (vii) Youth and Family.
 - (viii) Sports and Recreation.
 - (ix) Famous Men and Women.
 - (x) Other Thematic subjects, thematic cancellations, and study collections.
5. Thematic literature should be entered and judged separately. It is recommended that a synopsis of exhibits for competition at the exhibition, should be sent in at least 3 months before the opening of such exhibition, together with the written research, in order that the Jury can have the opportunity to give serious study of the exhibit and thereby come to a correct judgment and valuation.
6. The Jury should consist of experienced thematic collectors or at least have such attached. The decision of such Jury is final and binding. For the judging of thematic collections at International Exhibitions (or under international standards) the Chairman and members of the Jury should be members of the international body or bodies affiliated to same, and appointed by such, on recommendations made by the Executive of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa.
7. For judging the thematic collections by the Jury the following scale of points is to be used:—
 - (i) General Impression & Interests 6 8 10 12 points
 - (ii) Condition of stamps ... 2 4 6 8 ..

(iii) Rarity and completeness	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	8	10	12	„
(iv) Philatelic interest & Knowledge	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	6	8	10	„
(v) Knowledge of subject & thematic treatment	.....	.....	.....	.....	8	10	12	14	„
(vi) Research, originality & study of subject	.....	.....	.....	.....	0	2	4	6	„
					26	38	50	62	

These points signify:—

- (a) 20-26 points Fair. Diploma or Certificate
 - (b) 27-38 points Good. Bronze Medal.
 - (c) 39-50 points Very Good. Silver Medal.
 - (d) 51-60 points Excellent. Silver-Gilt Medal.
 - (e) 61-62 points Outstanding. Gold Medal.
- Study under (vi) above must be forwarded in writing to the Jury.
8. All subsequent alterations in the published rules for an exhibition is strictly forbidden without the permission of the exhibitors. The Jury has to abide by these regulations or future amendments.
 9. Thematic collections ensure against non-philatelic sidelines. For the composition of the rules, those of the classic school are to be applied. By deviation only, the exception should be motivation.
 10. Members of a Jury can only exhibit in the "hors concours" class (non-competitive).
 11. In the Class of Honour at Thematic exhibitions, only those collections are permitted, which have been awarded at least two gold (or silver-gilt) awards at international or national exhibitions. Collections, which gained three gold (or silver-gilt) awards pass automatically into the Honour Class. Members, who already gained three gold (or gilt) medals with the same thematic collections, have instructions that these can only be entered in the future exhibitions as "hors concours" only.

Commentary on the above regulations to Jury.

1. Philatelic documents can be entire, pieces of a letter, first day covers, propaganda, special postmarks, reprints, proofs, maximum cards, etc. Vignettes of all types, which can add to completion of theme, may be shown.
3. In regard to Clause 3a. collections of Red Cross, Caritas, and sports stamps belong under this, where such are only in chronological order or are set out under year of issue or country. Thus under 3a, b, and c are such collections which do not show thematic handling and written synopsis of a selected theme.
4. Sub-divisions (i) to (ix) give only an overall picture and can be subdivided into further sub-groups.
5. Under literature is to be understood the principal dissertations on thematic philately in general and special collections in particular. Also surveys in the form of a catalogue can be included here. The literature should be composed by the exhibitor.
6. & 7. It is desirable that any decisions or recommendations by the Jury at the end of their work at an exhibition in connection with Clauses 1 to 6 and scale of points under Clause 7 should be made known in all particulars. This will assist in possible modifications which may be discussed by the international body.

7. (iii) Rarity does not necessarily denote catalogue value. This refers to difficulty of obtaining uncommon stamps or items. Completeness does not indicate every stammy obtainable under a single heading or nature of collection, but rather completeness as indicated in the synopsis given regarding the actual nature of the theme selected. It is **not** necessary to give a full set of stamps of identical design where a single stamp or block would suffice.

7. (iv) Philatelic interest and knowledge is the knowledge of the stamps as judged from the normal classic angle. This also includes the study of the stamps, in the search for similar items in the various stamp producing countries.
7. (v) Knowledge of subject and thematic arrangement go hand in hand. A good knowledge (as indicated in the synopsis or summary sent in with the exhibit) of the subject will be shown up in the arrangement.
7. (vi) Research and study will be apparent in the written study or synopsis sent to the Jury, who will look for any fresh item of interest included in such study. The study is not to be a mere slavish copy of literature, articles, etc., already published, but must show that the subject has been fully explored.
9. Non-philatelic sidelines are as follows:—
 - (a) Drawings, photos, postcards and such printed illustrations whose size dwarf the stamps.
 - (b) Newspaper cuttings, etc.
 - (c) Vignettes, Revenue and official stamps, etc., in as far as these do not illustrate the subject in a thematic collection and no explanation as to their inclusion.

It is not always possible to apply the rules of the classic school rigidly in connection with the arrangement of **only** used or **only** mint stamps. In such cases on individual sheets **at least** the required arrangement can be carried out. In cases where this is not followed, the exhibitor can give an explanation to satisfy the Exhibition authorities and the Jury. Postmarks should not obliterate the section of the stamp which illustrates the theme or subject.
10. Members of the international body or of affiliated bodies and societies are to be considered members of the international body.

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CENSOR SEALS (OR LABELS) OF THE BOER WAR

By **COMMANDER E. G. BROWN R.N.**

(Reprinted from the Orange Free State Study Circle Bulletin No. 9, March 1956).

The 'South African Philatelist' for April 1955 included a detailed list of various Censor Seals used during the Boer War together with information of the place and date(s) of use. While this list is the most comprehensive I have yet seen I am sure that we can add considerably to it especially from the O.F.S. angle, for the list includes but six different seals used in Bloemfontein and one at Winburg. I propose to start the ball rolling from some of the covers in my collection which show unrecorded usage of censor seals in the O.F.S., or elsewhere on covers originating in the O.F.S., where they appear to be of interest.

1. The 7th Seal listed in the S.A.P. is described as "Pink; 108 x 50 m.m., boxed 95 x 41 m.m.; showing the British coat of Arms between V. and R. and the words "Opened under Martial Law"; used at Durban 23/1/00 and at Cape Town 11/9/00." A note below states that Mr. J. H. Rathbone reports one specimen with the coat of arms inverted 24/1/00." I have a similar 'inverted arms'. The cover is stamped with S.G. 83 postmarked Ladybrand 28/12/99 and addressed to Bedford, England. From an embossed stamp on the flap the envelope is identified as from the National Bank of the O.F.S. It is directed "Via Delagoa Bay, Per . . ." in sender's handwriting and, in different writing and in red ink, "Deutscher Afrika Liner Herzog" (The directions are partially obscured by the censor Seal). Also on the front of the cover is the cachet of the O.F.S. Postmaster General which Rich describes in its use on another cover as "authenticating it." This mark is faint and blurred but I have no idea what purpose it was meant to serve. The backstamps are 'Bloemfontein, O.V.S.' 30/12/99 clear of the seal, 'Pretoria, Z.A.R.' 2/1/00 under the seal and 'D . . .' (probably Durban) "Natal" 8/1/00 partly under the seal. Finally the seal is tied to the cover by the receiving mark at Bedford 16/2/00.

The Seal was presumably applied at Durban after being backstamped on 8th Jan. '00 or elsewhere afterwards before arriving at Bedford on 16th Feb. In any case it is an earlier use than the earliest recorded in S.A.P.

2. An Unrecorded Seal.

The 17th Seal in the S.A.P. is described as "Pink 120x64 m.m., with large crown between E. and R., and the words 'Opened under Martial Law', used at Durban 16/7/01. One of my copies of this seal has the words 'Boer Camp 1' printed in the top right hand corner. Stamped with S.G. 157 and postmarked Rouxville Dec. 25th '00, the cover has an unrecorded (or incorrectly recorded) censor mark of Rouxville, O.R.C. and is addressed to 'Diyatalawa Kamp'. The backstamps are Durban 31 Dec. '00 and Colombo Feb. 6th 1901 but none of the marks ties the seal. I assume this seal was used at Diyatalawa P.O.W. Camp.

3. The 23rd. Seal in the S.A.P. list is described as "White, 75 x 27 m.m., double boxed,

marked 'Opened under Martial Law' (in gothic print) used at Kimberley 2/8/00, Cradock 23/8/00 and De Aar 2/3/01." I have a copy on a cover stamped with a pair of S.G. 230 postmarked Zastron June 23rd '01 addressed to Diyatalawa. The seal is tied by a Zastron censor mark which establishes its use there, some 3½ months later than the latest (De Aar) recorded use. The cover is backstamped Durban 30 June '01, Colombo July 22nd '01, and a blurred mark, possibly Diyatalawa.

4. The 21st S.A.P. Seal is described as "Yellow, 93 x 32 m.m. and 102 x 30 m.m. (2 types); with the British coat of arms between E and R. and the words 'Opened under Martial Law. Initials of censoring officer:' used at Bloemfontein 10/12/01 and 8/4/02". I have two covers of obvious philatelic origin each stamped with six different V.R.I. overprints, postmarked Winburg June 27th '02 addressed to Winburg and censored there. Both seals have a peculiar flaw in the top of the left hand lion's head in the arms and in the top of the 'E' in E.R.

A further example establishes the use of this seal at Edenburg on Jan. 22nd '02, the seal being tied by the Edenburg postmark and the Edenburg censor mark. Yet another example shows its use at Kroonstad on 7th Dec. '01, the seal being tied by the postmark and by a Kroonstad censor mark.

I would be very interested to hear from members of further uses of censor seals, particularly in the O.F.S.

S.A. MARITIME MAIL MARKS

In our April issue we put in a plea by Mr. R. D. Allen for records of early "Shipping Postmaster" marks. So far we have received no replies to this, but Mr. Robt. S. Gordon of Vermont, U.S.A., records finding a postcard with the postmark "Cape Colony Ocean Post Office" dated March 21, 1894. This is the earliest so far recorded and must be fairly close to being a "1st Day" item, as this Sea Post service only started in 1894.

NORFOLK ISLAND

The latest bulletins received from the Australian News and Information Bureau, deal with Norfolk Island, its history and stamps.

It had its first series (12) of stamps in 1940, all of one design. A second set (6) with a variety of designs, came out in 1953.

Two new stamps, 3d, and 2/- values, are announced for 8th June, 1956. They are to celebrate the centenary of the arrival of the Pitcairn Islanders at Norfolk Island. The common design has a pictorial representation of the landing and the original Norfolk Island Seal (the Governmental one, not an animal!).

KENYA

Mr. W. Tunstall reports that a sheet of the current 20c K.U.T. stamps has been found imperforate between the top row and the margin.

They have also got a new Air Letter form, said to be locally produced. At present stamps have to be affixed, but later they will have the stamp imprinted.

ROLL OF HONOUR

DISTINGUISHED PHILATELISTS

JOHN HUNTLEY HOPE CHAMBERLAIN



Born at Napier, New Zealand, on 12th. March 1883. e.s. of T. F. Chamberlain, formerly of Bristol, England.

Educated at "Ebor" and U.C. London. (It was while at Ebor School that he joined the stamp club — 1897).

Joined the Admiralty and served with Naval Transport during 1901 — 1902 (June), then with Capt. King-Hall R.N. (Naval Transport Officer, Durban), until released to take a Government position in Durban.

As a volunteer serving with the Natal Mounted Rifles, which he joined in 1903, he saw active service with his unit throughout the Zulu Rebellion of 1906.

Having met the Earl of Crawford when he visited the Durban Stamp Club, again saw him when in London in 1908: also met Major Evans, Mr. (Afterwards Sir) Edward Denny Bacon and other leading Philatelists. During this visit the "foreign" section of his collections were sold, the U.S.A. being the outstanding country.

Efforts to "revive" the old Durban Stamp Club were quite hopeless so, after a year or two he collaborated with Norman Welsford and in 1911 launched the Philatelic Society of Natal of which he became the first President and Chairman. Soon after the initial launching Mr. Welsford suggested organising a Stamp Exhibition: this was said to be the first in the Southern Hemisphere. H.M. King George V. honoured it with his Patronage. He was Chairman of this Exhibition, but due to being transferred to Newcastle, resigned from the Presidentship of the Natal Society. Was elected Vice President. Elected Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, 1913.

Elected first Honorary Life Member of the Philatelic Society of Natal, 1921.
Chairman of Judges: International Philatelic

Exhibition, Durban, 1928.

Exhibited specialised collection of Natal at the International Exhibition, Melbourne, 1928. (Bronze award).

Again elected President, P.S. Natal, 1930.

Due to serious eye trouble was advised by Doctor to take complete rest to save sight: in consequence of this he resigned from the Royal Philatelic Society, London of which he had been representative in South Africa for some twelve years.

He was elected to the Committee of Honour (and invited to act as a judge) at New York for the International Philatelic Exhibition of 1936.

Served on the jury at the Satise/Sadipu (Tercentenary International Stamp Exhibition, Cape Town 1952. Served on jury of Teppex — Pretoria Centenary Exhibition 1955. At the Congress meeting in Pretoria, November 1955, he was elected to the Roll of Honour of Distinguished South African Philatelists.

For over 40 years he has made a study of the Postal Cancellations of Natal and Zululand. The resulting collection was presented to the Philatelic Society of Natal in 1944. This has been considerably added to since 1946. (It is the Society's intention to have it placed permanently in the recently established "Durban 'Old House' Museum").

His other main philatelic interests are New Zealand, Zululand, Union of South Africa and issues of the pre-union British Colonies in Southern Africa.

Other hobbies are Numismatics and Museum work.

He is a Commander of the Most Venerable Order of St. John.

BLOEMFONTEIN IN BECHUANALAND

In our May issue we gave a short abstract of a paper on the P.O.'s and Postmarks of British Bechuanaland by H. R. Holmes, which appeared in March number of the "London Philatelist."

The various offices were mentioned in the abstract, including Bloemfontein, which had a life of about four years. The April number of the "O.F.S. Philatelic Magazine" deals with this office at rather greater length, as being of particular interest to Free Staters.

They have not so far, however, been able to add any further information about it to that given by Mr. Holmes, although a sketch of what the postmark probably looked like is given — based on his written description of the type.

CAPE "WOODBLOCK" FORGERIES

The B.P.A.'s March-April "Philately" deals with forgeries of both the 1d. and the 4d. in normal and in reversed colours. They are not new types, being known as far back as 1925, but their Expert Committee have not, until quite recently, seen specimens for many years.

All "used" copies have a small barred triangular cancellation unlike any genuine triangular cancellation used in the Cape. In the lettering of the stamps the word CAPE is distinctive, the "P" being spaced from the "A", is lower than the other letters and leans to the left.

For other features the article should be consulted.

SHORT NOTICES

German Philatelic Review. The main articles in No. 19 (March 1956) are:— (1) Lake Constance ship posts (reprinted from T.P.O.) with numerous illustrations (2) Notes on and locations of the 5-ring numeral cancellations of Baden.

Post Office Progress. The Annual Report of the P.M.G. of the Union of South Africa for 1954-5. Financially the Post Office is flourishing, profits being nearly doubled on the previous year; the increase comes mainly from postal and telephone revenue. There is still difficulty in obtaining sufficient staff for really efficient working.

There is practically nothing about stamps in the report, but it may be recalled that there have been several changes in postal rates during the year. Internal letter-cards rates was reduced from 2d. to 1½d., but postcards went up from 1d. to 1½d.; registration went up from 4d. to 6d. and express delivery fees went up considerably. First-class internal air mail is no longer carried free but has a small surcharge to be prepaid.

(British) Rhodesian Study Circle. This Society has been resuscitated after a lapse of nine months, on account of the former Hon. Sec., Mr. W. G. Nodder, suffering from eye trouble and also pressure of business, having had to resign. His resignation however is mitigated by his becoming President, while the secretarial duties will be carried out by Mr. E. G. Ardouin.

Transvaal Philatelic Bowlers. This annual social bowls fixture was this year held on Union Day, 31st May, at the Delville Bowling Club's greens, through the courtesy of that Club.

The Magpie's Nest. We have received from Mr. Robert G. Woodall, Forest Cottage, Holtwood, Wimborne, Dorset, England, a specimen of his priced list of covers, etc., also books and maps of philatelic interest. The contents are from many parts of the world. An annual subscription is 5/- but it is not stated how many of these catalogues are sent out yearly. You might easily pick up items of interest to you.

S.A. Panorama. We have received a copy from the State Information Office, Pretoria, of the first number of this new magazine which, we presume, is intended to "sell South Africa" to the public, both at home and overseas. It should, at any rate, serve this purpose very well, as it is magnificently got up, with a wealth of illustrations covering many aspects of South Africa — scenery, life, work, sport, personalities and events, etc. Eight numbers will be issued per year, at a cost of 2/- each or prepaid subscription of 15/-. Obtainable in English or in Afrikaans.

Stockholm. Two items of interest from here:—

(1) The Reference Department of the Johannesburg Public Library has received a 5-volume Handbook from the Post Office Museum, Stockholm, which is a descriptive bibliography of books, catalogues, etc. on the stamps of various countries which are to be found in the Philatelic Library of the Museum.

(2) The international exhibition "Stockholmia 55" is reported to have made a net profit of about 250,000 kr. (say £17,000). Preliminary

arrangements were that any profits would go to philatelic activities but we wonder how the division of this fat figure will be made.

Lichtenstein Award to Sir John Wilson. This annual award made by the Collectors Club, New York, has for the first time been made to a philatelist outside the U.S.A. Sir John's own attainments as a philatelist are stated to merit the award without even counting his many services to philately as a judge at numerous international exhibitions, his work on "The Royal's" Expert Committee, etc., etc.

News from India. The Asiatic Hobbies Philatelic News Service reports the forthcoming issue of two stamps honouring the 2,500th anniversary of Buddha. As a decimal coinage system is to be introduced soon, there is a likelihood of the present ordinary stamps being overprinted with new values, prior to the introduction of a new definitive issue.

First Issues of Venezuela. Under the title "Origenes de las dos Primeras Emisiones de las Estampillas de Corres de Venezuela", Dr. Santiago Hernandez Ron has published a 72-page booklet dealing with the preliminaries to the first issues of Venezuela, mainly by photographs of or extracts from official documents. It is all in Spanish.

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE

Mr. U. M. Milunsky of Mafeking forwards the following official notice issued by the Senior Postmaster of the Protectorate:—

"For general information it is hereby intimated that the Bechuanaland Protectorate Head Office in Mafeking is an Administrative Office only and no longer carries stocks of Postage Stamps, or embossed Stationery.

Orders and Remittances for Stamps etc., of this Territory should be sent to Postmasters at any of the following Post Offices in the Bechuanaland Protectorate:—

Francistown, Lobatsi, Mahalapye, Palapye, Serowe."

HUGH STRACHAN A. de TERRASSON

In the passing of our confrère Hugh de Terrasson Philately has lost a stalwart: a gentleman of high integrity, a true lover of the Arts.

His interest in our hobby commenced in his youth and embraced all countries; in this he continued as a "General" collector to the end, but he had a preference for The Netherlands, the West Indian Colonies and South Africa: in all of these he built up very fine collections.

He joined the Philatelic Society of Natal in the early twenties and was elected President in the years 1934, 1936 and 1937.

He was elected an HONORARY LIFE MEMBER in 1945.

Born in Durban in 1884 he joined the well-known Mercantile firm of E. Snell & Co. Ltd. in 1905 and had been a Director of the company for a number of years.

To Mrs. Jessie de Terrasson, also a member of the Society, Philatelists and friends tender their sincere condolences.

Philatelic Society of Natal.

SPLINTERED HORN

FIRST ROTO SPRINGBOK $\frac{1}{2}$ d. UPRIGHT WATERMARK

By B. POWELL

[This article has already appeared in "The Springbok", but the writer had sent us a separate copy for consideration. — Ed. "S.A. Ph."]

From our HB/C, plus the Supplement, to which we Union Collectors now have access, containing as they do such a wealth of detail, it would of course be churlish to seize on one item and say — "The HB/C is incorrect, there is an upright watermark, the HB/C gives only Inverted watermark."

I refer to the excellent new summary in the Supplement dealing with our old favourite, the first Roto Springbok $\frac{1}{2}$ d. In the interim between the issue of the HB/C and the Supplement, there has obviously been much study with consequent new light thrown on the first three 'Plates'. (I put 'Plates' in inverted commas because I question if that is the right name for them, as a note on page vi of the HB/C suggests). But my thoughts for the moment are confined to the 'Splintered Horn' printing — IF printing it is!!!

Since I have cultivated a more than passing interest in Union Roto methods, about which, let me confess at once, I have only a limited and purely theoretical knowledge, I have pondered on the CAUSE of the Splintered horn stamps.

In the October, 1934 issue of Gibbons' Stamp Monthly, there is quite a long article dealing with the then newly noted Splintered horn variety, giving particulars of its appearance, the position and nature of flaws, etc., now well-known to all students of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. The writer, Mr. C. P. Rang, one of the South African Collectors' Members, advances certain pros and cons on the cause, and says 'Although it is evident that no alteration has been made to the master negative (the equivalent of the master die in typographed or engraved stamps) it is nevertheless almost certain that some intermediate operation in the manufacture of the plate must have differed from that of earlier printings to account for the changed appearance'.

That seemed to be that, (I only came across the article just after the war) and the Handbook published in 1946 gave no further information. Whenever possible I sought enlightenment, but without success.

Now we have available to us the very comprehensive articles on the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the Strand Stamp Journal by Dr. Gordon Ward, complete with his characteristic challenges to outdated theories and clichés — (e.g.) 'The term 'Cleaned Plate' is due for superannuation'. Dealing with the Splintered horn, he illustrates two stages of it and explains its cause quite simply as "This is due to the same under-inking (which causes the splintered horn), no modification of the cylinder appears to be involved'.

But a visit to the South African Collectors' Society Exhibition held recently in London (and what an Exhibition it was, thanks to all concerned) started new thoughts. On show was

a very nice mint block of 4 owned by Dr. N. Pattinson. In the Exhibition Catalogue it was shortly described by Mr. A. J. Brown as 'Cleaned Plate and Splintered horn se-tenant', followed by a question mark. A challenge, to say the least of it, as he intended. (I fell for it, hence this article). At my request, Mr. Brown has kindly given me further details, and writes 'There is no doubt that this block contains both the 'splintered horn' and the so-called cleaned plate printing se-tenant. A description of the block would be — both left-hand stamps 'cleaned plate U36C, top right stamp normal splintered horn U36D, bottom right stamp a pale impression of U36D, definitely paler than normal 36D'. He continues 'My first theory was that it might have come from the corner of the sheet, as quite often the corner stamp of a sheet is paler than the rest, probably due to the pressure of the roller being lighter at this point. I had hoped that some minor flaw would have enabled me to 'plate' the block, but that was not to be, so my theory remains unconfirmed. I am sure however, that this variety is due to under-inking or possibly over-dry inking, or to uneven pressure over the sheet, and have never believed that the 'cleaned plate' and 'splintered horns' were due to any special treatment of the cylinders before printing, and I think this tends to bear me out'. The block is UPRIGHT watermark'. Through Mr. Brown, I got in touch with Dr. Pattinson, who kindly sent me the block to see; he modestly claims having no theories to advance, but will welcome any further information regarding it.

So where do we go from here?

We now have then what appears to be 2 stamps of the splintered horn in a vertical pair. This would be quite alright if they were not attached to an issue (or printing) quite different in appearance and catalogued as a different Plate or Printing. Further, it is with Upright watermark, which, so far as I know, has not been recorded in the splintered horn printing.

Mr. Brown's theory of lighter pressure is supported, I suggest, in examples like 'white faced buck' HB/C 44F & G, and 'white faces' Silver Jubilee HB/C 58-61, but again, those examples would only appear to occur in isolated instances in each sheet. It would be interesting to know whether whole sheets of the 'splintered horn' have been seen. I have seen a horizontal block of 10 advertised. Or, has 'cleaned plate' and 'splintered horn' se-tenant, been recorded before?

It would appear that had the right-hand pair of this block of 4 been found separated, it would have been recorded as 'splintered horn' with UPRIGHT watermark. I wonder if other members have splintered horn with Upright watermark, or — perhaps, any other plate than 'cleaned plate' se-tenant with 'splintered horn'.

I cannot quote instances, but I think it is known for 1, 2 or more rows of stamps in a sheet, not necessarily Union or Roto, to be of a much lighter impression than other rows of the same sheet. Did this happen with the 'splintered horn'? If so, 'splintered horn' with Upright watermark could be quite frequent, as 'cleaned plate' is catalogued as upright watermark only.

Will some-one please 'shoot me down' and tell me all the answers!!!

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FIPEX

Well, despite a few criticisms such as were referred to in our last month's issue, **Fipex** has gone off with a great bang. We fancy philatelic commentators will be breathing sighs of relief as their stock of superlatives must have been running very low. Attendances over the nine-day show totalled over a quarter of a million and the sales of stamps, covers, etc. were of astronomically globular figures.

Here is what a foreign member of the Board of Judges says:— "**Fipex** is the most important and impressive exhibition of philately that has ever been organised. All records have been broken. It is the highest point ever reached in international philately". Another member of the Board, also from abroad states "Anyone who received an award should consider himself very fortunate as the caliber of the exhibits was far and away the best ever seen at any international show. A bronze medal at **Fipex** is equivalent to a silver-gilt-medal at any other international exhibition."

A tradition was broken when the Grand Prix did **not** go to an exhibitor of the country holding the show; it was awarded to Roberto Hoffman of Monte Video for his collection of early Uruguay.

Awards to exhibitors whose names are more or less familiar in South Africa include:

The highest award for Research: Dr. W. Byam, Guernsey, for Egypt.

British Empire Section. Best in Section: Capt. G. Emerson Huston, for Cape of Good Hope (Winner of Grand Prix at Cape Town); the late Arthur V. Jacob, a silver-gilt for his Rhodesia (the only actual South African to get an award).

Others whose names are familiar to us as subscribers to the "S.A. Philatelist" are:— Silver-Gilts. W. E. Lea, Manchester, for Canada; Leon W. Davis, New Jersey, for Orange Free State; A. Cecil Fenn, England, also for O.F.S. (This must be rather a record for two O.F.S. collections gaining such high awards); P. A. Wilde, Cardiff, for Hong-Kong; E. F. Aguilar, Kingston, silver for Jamaica; Derek Palmer, Santiago, silver for "War of the Pacific"; Frank A. Godden, London, bronze for "Soldiers' and Sailors' letters"; and Jal Cooper, bronze for "Publications on Indian stamps."

COLOUR CHARTS

There seems to be no end of these. The latest suggestion is by Mr. C. W. Evans, in the "Stamp Collector's Fortnightly". This is based on some 60 actual stamps on the colour circle plan and it is suggested that apart from basic colour names, numbers should be used. For example, orange 7 and orange 8 would be used instead of red-orange or reddish-orange.

We doubt very much if this plan will be more acceptable than any of the other charts in use.

PORT ELIZABETH EXHIBITION OCTOBER 1-6

May we remind Juniors that for them there is a Competitive Section; The Senior Section is by invitation only.

There is still time for the juniors to send in their entries to the Hon. Sec., P.O. Box 3, Port Elizabeth. Don't be shy — it will be a worth while exhibition.

CAPE NUMERAL POSTMARKS

Following up the additions given in the May issue of the "S.A. Philatelist" to Jurgens' listings of the barred Oval killers with boxed numbers I can contribute the following two groups (a) Complete new records with numbers and locations (b) New place names, but with the numbers uncertain.

- (a) 332 Sinksa Bridge
- 431 Doorn River
- 444 Tygersfontein
- 746 Vogelvlei
- 808 Gouritz River Bridge
- 898 Aliwal North. Jurgens gives 38 and 524 as used at Aliwal North, but 898 is not previously recorded.
- 916 Tabase
- (b) Armoed. Number quite undecipherable
- Fontein Vlei. Might be 239, which number is given by Jurgens in his supplementary list as Palmietfontein.
- Hartenbosch. 21-. Might be 215, which number is given by Jurgens as Malmesbury.
- Hoogte Kraal. Possibly 139. The numbers are smaller than in most cases.
- Swellendam Station. Possibly 1033 or 1038.

Blands Drift and Herbertsdale provide rather a puzzle. The former's date-stamp appears on a cover with a killer -04, also on a cover with the date-stamp of both these places (of the same date) and killer No. 283. The Herbertsdale date-stamp also appears on a cover, with no other date-stamp, and the killer's number probably 803, although the last numeral is somewhat doubtful.

C. R. REYNOLDS.

RHODESIA: WAXED MOUSTACHE VARIETY

Sir,

In the April issue of the "S.A. Ph.", the late A. V. Jacob, dealing with the Admiral issues of Rhodesia, still considered that the above variety occurs on stamp No. 37.

As long ago as March 1951, I pointed out in the Bulletin (No. 12) of the Rhodesian Study Circle, (and this was mentioned in the S.A.P. for May 1951), that this variety is on the 4th stamp in the 4th row, i.e. No. 34. This evidence was obtained when I had the opportunity of examining some sheets of the 4d. and 5d., Die 2, perforated 14, in a friend's collection. In December last complete sheets of the 5d. and 8d., Die 2, perforated 14, and of the 10d., Die 2, perforated 15, came into my possession, all showing the Waxed Moustache variety on stamp No. 34.

These sheets were exhibited at a recent meeting in London, of the Rhodesian Study Circle, and confirm beyond any doubt, my original contention.

In the interest of accuracy, I hope that you will see your way clear to publish the above.

Yours sincerely,

ALAN J. A. DEAL.

SOCIETY NEWS

O.F.S. AND BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

May. Two very interesting displays were the feature of this meeting. The first was given by a new member, Mr. A. H. de Villiers, who showed "Union of South Africa" and turned out to be quite an advanced collector. Many "specialist" items in blocks, panes and "miniature sheets" (4 corner blocks) were shown of various printings of the last two decades. It was a neat cross section of all these printings without going to extreme specialisation. — The other exhibit was a wonderful collection of "Denmark" shown by Mr. C. A. Larsen who reports that he inherited it from his uncle. It is indeed a blessing to have such a benevolent uncle. Members marvelled at the splendid items contained in this collection, which appears to be complete from the early beginnings, with many additional specialised sections, as for instance "special postmarks" etc. The most remarkable attraction of this collection is however the beautiful write-up, done in most artistic calligraphy, the like of which we rarely see to-day.

Other items on the programme were the usual features: An auction sale, a sweep stake, half an hour of informal swopping and the tea interval. Dr. Freund, in his "News Talk", reported various tit-bits from the philatelic press and displayed the colourful new issues of Monaco which have just come out in connection with the 1956 Olympic Games, the Monte Carlo Rally and with FIPEX, New York.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Tuesday, 17th April. There was a somewhat smaller than average attendance at our second April Meeting.

The evening commenced with official business, during which two new members were welcomed to the Society. Members were also advised that a joint meeting of the East London, Grahamstown and our Society would be held in Grahamstown on the 5th and 6th of May. Having disposed of the official business, the meeting proceeded with the auction, which resulted in some very lively and spirited bidding.

After the tea interval, a quiz, prepared by Mr. G. K. Forbes was held. Mr. Bulbring was the question master; the members present all participated and succeeded in answering some very difficult questions.

Mr. Bulbring then delighted the audience with a very interesting talk on Postmarks and Cancellations, and illustrated his remarks with some very fine specimens from his own collection.

The evening was voted a great success by all.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

16th May, 1956. After the formal business of the meeting was completed, Mr. W. S. Deverell delivered a brief digest of stamp news culled from the latest philatelic journals. The effect of his remarks at previous meetings had stimulated the interest of members in the literature of the hobby and more periodicals were being borrowed. He followed this with the usual monthly stamp auction and appealed to members to furnish more material with a wider appeal.

Plans for a stamp week in Germiston were discussed; arrangements were sufficiently advanced so that only a definite date had to be decided.

The guest exhibitor, Commander Enoch of Johannesburg, in his introductory remarks on his collection of S.G.I.'s of which a selection from Asiatic countries only was shown, pointed out that the stamps shown were not necessarily No. 1 in the Gibbons catalogue, but the first stamp issued by authority. In the case of India, there were no fewer than five "firsts", namely the Scind dawk issued by the authority of Sir Bartle Frere in 1853, and shortly suppressed. (Mention was made of his famous trilingual pun: "peccavi". Latin: I have sinned). The East India Company issued the second "first", the following year, then came the Crown Colony issue, the Empire issue, and finally the Republican issue in 1947. Besides these the issues of the Indian States constituted another series of "firsts". The latter in many instances are fairly common unused, but fine used copies in many cases, such as Nandgaon, are exceptionally difficult to find.

Covering a century from 1853 these stamps showed a great variety of production methods, ranging from the primitive hand-stamped smears in water-colours of Bhor to the glossy photogravures of Perlis. The half-anna of India was exhibited in considerable detail, showing varieties from the

three lithographic stones as well as a copy of the un-issued stamp in vermilion. Siam, not a popular country with collectors, was represented in a specialised study comprising all three plates, perforation varieties, and major re-entries, together with a copy of the plate proof.

Among the highlights were a brilliant copy of the Ceylon sixpence used with full margins, the two candareens of Shanghai on thin laid paper, and the overprinted stamps for the Egyptian Forces in Palestine with the inverted overprint and stamps in shade varieties. The whole exhibit was characterised by detailed notes on each item, much of the information being derived from actual study rather than from secondary sources, particularly in the case of Siam.

In a vote of thanks, Mr. L. J. Picton, expressed the members' gratitude to Commander Enoch on presenting a unique exhibit. R. S. G. B.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

May 24th. There was no meeting on the 10th May, but on the 24th Capt. M. F. Stern showed to an interested gathering his collection of Switzerland from 1900. This was part of his World collection and had no pretensions to being a specialised collection, but had all issues and major items including miniature sheets, and first day covers as well as special airmail flights. A short talk was given on these issues. M. F. S.

THE THEMATIC STAMP CLUB (Cape Town)

May 14th. Members were entertained this time by two fine collections

(a) Printing Processes by Mr. W. G. Combrink. Besides well written up sheets showing the various processes, Mr. Combrink showed the complete printing of the SATISE stamps — sketches, negatives, proofs, mats, colour proofs, sheets, etc., and gave a full talk on the printing of these stamps.

(b) Early Great Britain Stamps by Mr. F. Sinnott. This exhibit illustrated the history of the 1d. postage, the Dockwra essays and proofs, the Rowland Hill 1d. Black, the early Maltese postmarks, and later postmarks of the early period. In addition Mr. Sinnott showed a full set of the Mulready envelopes and their caricatures, and also Ships' letters and early letters with the Brunswick Star. He gave a very illuminating explanation.

Needless to say it was a really fine showing and members and visitors were more than interested in the two exhibits.

May 28th. The evening was devoted to a Stamp Auction, and Mr. Geo. Petroulis was the auctioneer, assisted by Mr. Savage. Over 150 lots had been presented by members for Club funds, and in addition there was a very full attendance with a number of visitors. The Auction was a great success and the funds certainly benefited. During the last two months, membership of the Club has grown considerably. M. F. S.

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY

May 7th. Mr. E. Blum, the well known philatelist, was the guest of the evening, and gave something different, as he did not exhibit, but answered questions shot at him by a very interested gathering. This is an idea which could well be copied by other smaller societies, and particularly where many members have many problems, which can be answered by the specialist. M. F. S.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

There was a good turn-out of 23 members and 7 visitors for the May meeting of the Society, which took place in the Railway Recreation Club on **Wednesday 9th.** The big attraction of the evening was the Cecil Trophy competition which drew a total of 6 entries from the following members:— Mr. D. Brown — Airmails; Dr. M. Peisach — Australia King George VI; Mr. D. Coetzer — Russia; Mr. P. Roux — Union Airmail Series; Mr. R. N. Castignani — British West Indies and Mr. W. Kriste — Kenya. The standard of the entries was high but it is regretted that none of our country members were able to send an entry in. Perhaps they are holding back to compete for the Been Cup in August!

Our heartiest congratulations go to Dr. Max Peisach for winning the Cecil Trophy with his Australian entry, which was well written up and covered the King George VI era very completely. Our congratulations are also extended to Mr. W. Coetzer for attaining second place with his very pleasing Kenya entry and our thanks go to all the members who entered and provided us with such an enjoyable evening's entertainment. Mr. D. Coetzer's entry of Russia was highly commended as the stamps of this country are not easy to get. P. M. J. M.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

May 15th. Visit to East Rand Philatelic Society

Three cars went over; Mr. Coetzer taking Mrs. Keet, Mr. Coombe Martin and Mr. Castignani. Mr. Hudson took his wife and daughter and Mr. Slater-Kinghorn, and Mr. Slotboom went by himself.

At the start of the meeting there were only nine East Randites and visitors present, and the subsequent arrival of Mr. F. C. Ferguson did nothing to alter the balance of members, as he is a member of both societies.

A very warm greeting was extended to our members by Mr. Suklje, the Vice-President. The routine business of the meeting was soon finished and our exhibits were then tabled. The first was Mr. Coetzer's Russian collection. This received very favourable comment as being out of the ordinary run of exhibits, and the completeness of a country whose stamps are not easy to acquire.

Mrs. Keet was next and her stamps of Malta were greatly admired. Mr. Sheffield was particularly eloquent on this collection when thanking the exhibitor at the conclusion of the meeting.

Mr. Castignani then tabled his thematic collection of nudes. This has been rearranged since it was exhibited at the Pretoria Society's meeting, and was found very amusing.

Part of Mr. Impey's collection of postmarks was then exhibited. Amazement was expressed at the wide coverage. In so far as post offices were concerned, only those beginning with 'P' were exhibited, and one speaker confessed he had had no idea there were so many.

Dr. Hack's thematic collection of Medicine, and allied matters was then shown. This aroused great interest, and as usual those who read the notes attached to the stamps found much they did not know.

Finally Mr. Slater-Kinghorn put some sixty pages on the table. These were all classics of the British Empire, and it is noteworthy that this exhibit aroused as much interest as the first, which considering the number tabled is surprising. Many envious remarks were passed.

Unfortunately time did not permit of Mr. Gouws' Zoo collection being shown.

After thanks had been expressed to the exhibitors by several of our hosts and a warning 'one for the road' we returned safely and in one piece to Pretoria. Our grateful thanks to the East Rand Philatelic Society.

May 21st. Another delightful evening under the baton of Mr. Newlands. This time he showed Union Postage Dues, Group 1-8. Although postage dues are not every man's cup of tea it was pretty obvious that the Union issues are full of interest and give adequate scope for the most ardent specialist. Dr. Berry voiced the appreciation of the members present and this was ably seconded by the President, Mr. Hudson.

E. M. - F.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

On 8th May, Mr. Mann showed some more of his many "Italians", this time the commemoratives of the Colonies, among which there were not only very many colourful super-sizes but also one or the other philatelic rarity. Mr. Lydall showed Major Milligan's outstanding "Newfoundland", where every copy was in the most perfect condition imaginable, and the whole made most attractive by his expert writing-up.

The visit to Springs took place one week later, on 15th, a strong delegation accompanying Mr. Seligmann, who showed his Philatelic Calendar; the other thematic exhibit came with Dr. Keller "Animals on Stamps", which he had not even yet shown in Johannesburg, trying it out in the "provinces". The three other exhibits were, significantly, once more "foreign only", an eye-opener into unknown territories to many of our new friends, Mr. Boss's "Tunis", Mr. Seelig's "Old French", and Comm. Enoch's highly specialised "Siam". It must have been a success, for we have a date already for our visit in 1957!

There was only (only!) one exhibit on May 28, for Dr. v. Varendorff had been prevented, at the last minute, by nasty business reasons, from showing his two small collections. But Mr. Hoenigsberg, undaunted by his lonely situation, made up as best as could be expected with his first-ever display of "Sweden", a clean and pleasant lot on printed sheets, something rare these days; and Mr. Jourdan even showed the famous green 9 kr. of Baden, the same which had just fetched the highest price ever paid for a single European stamp (£7.143), on a beautiful cover and looking every bit as nice as

the Caspari item — yes, with a certificate, to say that it was the finest ever forgery of this particular item! Finally, there was one more Quiz, again conducted by Commander Enoch, and again won by Mr. Seligmann, with Junior Frankel, and Mr. Economides runners-up.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF THE WESTERN RAND

There was a good attendance of members and visitors at our monthly meeting held on the 23rd May at the Krugersdorp Town Hall.

After the usual business, the members were keen to get down to the evening's exhibits. Mr. Bruwer tabled his General Collection of Unions, which was well mounted and written up. It consisted of many rare items, such as the 1925 Air Mail Specimen Souvenir Card, 1923 Block of 1d. Harrison Essays, London and Pretoria Booklets, Darmstadt Trial Proofs, and many other interesting items. Mr. Yelland, on behalf of the Club, thanked the exhibitor for his display, which has been built up during the last year.

Then Mr. Kylander displayed his Locomotives on Stamps, and he was thanked by Mr. Sharpe for this interesting thematic display. It has been brought to our notice that there will be a Hobbies Fair at the Roodepoort Town Hall early in August. The meeting closed with the Chairman passing a vote of thanks to the Town Council and to Mr. Bruwer for the catering.

J. W. K.

SOME RECENT AUCTION PRICES

H. R. Harmer.

Cape. 1855-58. 1/- bright yellow green, block of 4 used £67 10s.

1/- deep dark green, block of 8, mint £130. Woodblock 4d. pale milky blue, pair used £210.

Mafeking. S.G. 22 unused £16.

Marion 1s. Two 1948 covers (with 2 from Tristan) £7 10s.

Lagos. 10/- (S.G. 20) unused £40.

Tobago. £1 (S.G. 6) unused £72 10s.

Japan. Sutherland & Co., local, ¼ Boo, £65.

Barbados. 1878, 1d. on half of 5/-, unsevered pair, used £52 10s.

Canada. 7½d. (S.G. 22a) unused £160.

Gt. Britain. A 1951 complete 2/6d. "Exploded" Booklet £550.

Robson Lowe.

Madagascar. British Inland Mail 4d. black on cover with additional 2½d. Natal £32.

Covers to G.B. with Consular Mail Seal and French colonial stamps, £5 and £9 each.

Gt. Britain. 4d. 1865-72 used in Fernando Po, £11.

Cyprus. G.B. 1d. Plate 13 tied on cover £34.

1d. Plate 184 Optd. "Cyprus" used £38.

1d. Plate 208 Optd. "Cyprus", one with Opt. double £57 10s.

1d. Plate 208 Optd. "Cyprus", block of 4, two with Opt. missing £75.

1924-28 £5, corner pair mint £63.

Caspary Sale 4 (Old German states). Total realised \$198,123. The star item was the 9kr. Baden error of colour, on blue-green instead of rose coloured paper. This fetched \$20,000, a record in the U.S.A. for a single stamp, and believed to have been exceeded only by the unique 1c British Guiana, which realised some \$26,500 in the Ferrari sale.

R. T. LILLEY

We regret to hear that Mr. R. T. Lilley, Johannesburg Stamp Dealer, who is at present on holiday in England, has received a rather severe back injury, but we trust that recovery will not be unduly delayed.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST

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Whole No. 376.

UNION NOTES

Hon. Sub-Editor: Dr. T. B. BERRY,
Box 31, Bryanston, Transvaal.

Postage Due Stamps.

Why are Postage Due Stamps not favoured? Why are they not sought after by the average collector, and why have they little or no resale value in Exchange Packets or at Public Auction?

These sentiments were expressed, and an answer sought, at a recent meeting of the Pretoria Philatelic Society when Mr. W. Newlands entertained members with an exhibit of these stamps.

There is no doubt that Postage Due Stamps are the Cinderella of the Union Issues, in spite of the fact that their origin, their scope, and their research properties compare favourably with those of any definitive issue. When viewed other than mere Tax Receipt Labels, and when collected on cover, they present in an interesting manner, the requirements of the Post Office, and bring to mind many aspects of a postal system which, although made use of daily, the average stamp collector and Mr. Layman are totally ignorant of.

In elaboration of the foregoing, we illustrate hereunder two items — one of daily occurrence, and the other perhaps not so well known.

XMAS CONCESSION LABEL No. 2

The other illustration is of a Xmas 1937 Tax Concession Label for the use of which eight Governments (including that of the Union) entered into an agreement to waive Postage Due Surcharges during the 1937 Xmas period when these Concession Labels instead of Tax Stamps were affixed to underpaid correspondence. The inscription on the labels reads "The postage on this article was insufficiently prepaid. As an exceptional arrangement during the Christmas Season, a surcharge will not be raised. Kindly advise the sender that the letter rate of postage to the Union of South Africa and South West Africa is 1½d. per ½ oz."

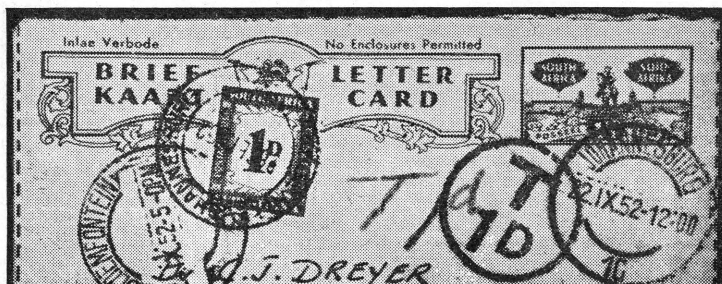
Are Postage Due Stamps really uninteresting?

3d. Plate VIII Printing.

Referring to Mr. J. B. Levy's item, as reported in our June issue, Mr. S. J. Hagger of Alberton, states that some months ago, Mr. M. J. Rall drew his attention to yet a third of these smudges occurring on the stamps of this plate. This smudge is positioned on stamp Row 2 No. 1, is almost as prominent as that on stamp Row 1 No. 10, and also serves as an infallible means of identifying the top left-hand corner block of this printing.

Information Required — Please.

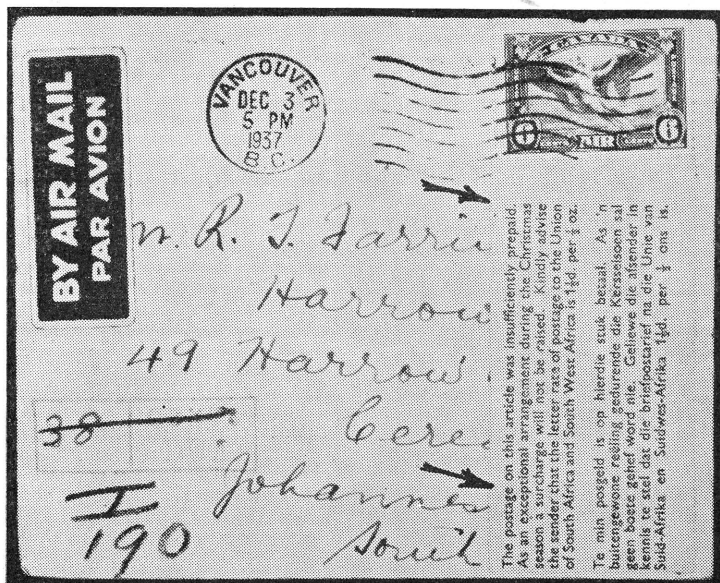
Mr. Douglas Whiston, of Coventry, England, is concerned over the date of issue of the 2d. Royal Visit Stamp, Cylinder No. 6912.



1½d. AIRLETTER CARD No. 1

The illustration is of an insufficiently prepaid item bearing the "TO PAY" imprint, and a 1d. Postage Due Stamp in fulfilment of the Post Office requirements that "insufficiently prepaid articles are taxed double the deficiency and are forwarded to their destination."

He writes to the effect that he has a First Day Cover of the Royal Visit postmarked 'DURBAN, 17-2-1947,' bearing a pair of 2d. Royal Visit stamps which are definitely of Cylinder 6912 printing, and points out that in the third paragraph on page 228 of the Union Handbook, it is stated that the 2d. Stamp,



Cylinder 6912 "did not appear in the Union Post Offices until two or three weeks after the Tour had commenced" — on the 17th February 1947.

Mr. Whiston feels that his item appears to disprove the catalogue statement quoted above, and he would be grateful to any reader who would kindly comment on the apparent discrepancy.

Mr. Alex van Rensburg of Zastron, O.F.S., would like to know if the large brown spot above numeral '3' on stamp R 1/13, and also that above 'UTH' of South on stamp R 1/15, of the 3d. stamp of the Animal Series, are constant for both the 1st and 2nd printings, or do these flaws pertain only to the 2nd printing?

Would our Expert Committee and/or our Legal Friends kindly assist in replying to the following letter:

"Dear Sir,

Could you assist me in the following:—

The — Department want to take legal action against me for an unstamped Receipt. The original was stamped but the stamp has come off. I have refused to admit an Admission of Guilt, as in examining the receipt under a strong reflected light, one can see the glazed area where the stamp was stuck on.

Can — Chemistry Dept. give me a simple test to apply to prove that the glazed area was adhesive from a stamp (e.g. iodine turns starch blue)? Is there any simple method of proving chemically or otherwise, that stamp adhesive was present on the receipt?

Being a good Scot (Not Irish) I am pig-headed enough not to allow the — Dept. to impose on me to the tune of 5/- plus one penny stamp.

Yours sincerely, _____"

Mr. J. H. Bruwer of Krugersdorp, would be grateful for any assistance in determining a most interesting item which he has submitted and which is reproduced hereunder:



3d. Strip of 3 Stamps No. 3

The item consists of a horizontal strip of three 3d. stamps of Group 3 classification, probably Plate V printing. The first stamp and the frames of the second and third stamps are of normal appearance, but the vignettes of the second and third stamps are of a "blurred" appearance, resembling to the naked eye and under a magnifier, the appearance of an indistinct double print. The surface of the paper has not been disturbed and the stamps are of normal texture.

If the stamps were of the King's Head Series, one would have acclaimed a newly found doubly printed item in the Catalogue range of £80 to £100, but as the stamps were printed by rotogravure, the condition is not so remunerative but extremely interesting, to say the least.

P.E.N.A.P.E.X. — P.E.N.A.F.U.

We are informed that the Postmaster-General has honoured the organisers of PENAPEX—PENAFU by accepting their invitation to open the Exhibition on Monday, 1st October, at 10 a.m. The Mayor of Port Eliza-

beth, as is traditional on such occasions, will open Congress on Tuesday, 2nd October, at 10 a.m.

The official Souvenir Covers, for use in conjunction with the commemorative Exhibition Date-stamp, are being printed, and in connection therewith, the attention of readers is drawn to an advertisement appearing elsewhere in this issue. There will be no so-called "First-Day Covers" — the date-stamp reads "1—6. x. 1956," and will be in use only for that period.

The "Aeroplane Flaw".

Readers will be interested in the substance of three interesting replies we have received in response to Mr. R. D. Allan's enquiry in our June Notes concerning the so called "Aeroplane Flaw" on the twopenny stamp.

Mr. G. N. Gilbert of Westminster, O.F.S., states that he has two of the specified flaws which fit Mr. Allan's (b) and (c) flaws, but he feels that the description of the latter is not quite correct.

The "Monoplane" is central in the sky, more or less over the central chimney on the buildings, on an Afrikaans stamp, and is from a booklet pane, positioned on what would be stamp R 16/1 of the sheet. The other is the "monoplane" nearer the left tower on an English stamp, and is from the "economy" sheets which were issued for a short time, and from which sheets the booklet panes were made up. The position is R 5/3.

These two "monoplanes" are not entirely similar, as the fuselage of the plane points in two different angles. In the booklet item on the Afrikaans stamp, it slants from S.E. to N.W., while on the other item, from S.W. to N.E.

Mr. Gilbert concludes by stating that he does not appear to have item (a) with the biplane in the right margin, nor does he remember having seen it.

Another commentator is Mr. S. J. Hagger of Alberton, whose letter is reproduced hereunder and reads:

"Fortunately I can help Mr. R. D. Allan with the plating of two of the "Monoplane" flaws which occur in the 2d. Union Unhyphenate Roto. stamp.

(a) Is as he correctly states found on some of the booklet stamps. An illustration of a portion of a sheet of these booklet stamps reconstructed from panes and parts of the "economy strip" appears on page 113 of Volume II of the Handbook/Catalogue of Union stamps. The flaw in question would appear on the first stamp of the 16th horizontal row (R 16/1) of such a reconstructed sheet. In its early stages both the "monoplane" and "biplane" are quite clear and distinct, but in later printings the latter hardly shows at all.

(b) Does not occur on a sheet stamp as stated, but in the "economy strip" of the booklet sheet mentioned above. Its position is R 5/3 and the "monoplane" is much clearer in the earlier than the later stages.

Both these "monoplane" flaws, I feel sure, found their way onto the Booklet frame cylinder as a result of "pinching" of the carbon tissue while it was being positioned and wrapped round the cylinder. Being cylinder flaws they appeared on each of the 2d. Booklet sheets

printed, i.e. once each in every 120 stamps and are consequently fairly well known. It is reasonable to assume that had the third "monoplane" mentioned been a flaw on one of the sheet cylinders, each of which printed far more stamps, this flaw would have been more plentiful and even better known. As it is not, I suggest that it is much more likely to be a non-recurring flaw and to have been caused by a doctor blade "lift." In fact some of these "lift" flaws are very similar in appearance to the "monoplane" flaws of the 2d. Booklet stamp and the "economy strip."

I could not conclude without expressing my full agreement with the sentiments of your (Union Notes) concluding paragraph. It has been obvious for some time that the custom of giving names to these flaws is not satisfactory. While some, such as the "Bushtick", are adequate, others, "Calabash" and "Albatross" to recall two of them, do not convey the same thing to everyone. In fact, in any new edition of a Union Handbook/Catalogue, the first essential will be to find some means of illustrating, at least, the better known varieties."

"Sans Souci" writes:— Under Union Notes of June issue Mr. R. D. Allan enquires about 'planes on the 2d. Roto series. I have written to Mr. Allan direct giving details of that which I have. This is a 'plane comprising two smudges as wings and a darker mark looking like a fuselage. It is on English stamp with left wing just touching left Tower. It appears on stamp 5/3 of Pl. 1 and is undoubtedly from the economy strip. The perfs have not been severed by machine but bear the ragged hand divided edges.

Any other 'plane which I have seen could, owing to cloud shading be described as either a monoplane, biplane or triplane. Each has had a smudged appearance more than a definite inkmark such as the 9/4 Balloon flaw. I have never seen a 'plane on 9/4 and any examined have been 1st plate No. 38. As a white streak separates the body from a wing the descriptions to Vr and Vs would equally apply. The 'planes on Afrikaans stamps are flying west while those on the English fly East. These varieties should be under 38 rather than 38D.

2d. Plate III.

Mr. G. N. Gilbert of Westminster, O.F.S., calls attention to what he feels is a flaw in Volume II of the Handbook/Catalogue.

He asserts that the variety "Line across buck's nose, Row 18/12, Multipositive Flaw," Catalogued on page 30 as "36E.Vj," does not recur in the Plate III printing, although it does occur throughout Plates I and II up to plate IIc. Consequently, either this flaw is not a multipositive flaw or a new multipositive was used for this printing, but as the "Snail on buck's neck" flaw does recur in Plate III printing, the latter supposition is not likely.

Mr. Gilbert possesses strips of the different printings to bear out his statement, and would be glad of an explanation of this rather puzzling fact.

Consular Stamps.

Mr. J. H. Selve of Pretoria, informs that two values, namely the 1/- and 2/- denominations,

should be added to the list given in our June Notes and that these are also in current use in the Union's Overseas Missions.

He points out that the Consular Stamp is actually no more than a receipt for consular services rendered, and the use of stamps for this purpose is probably the result of a decision to save money, as much as anything else; it is clearly cheaper to overprint ready-made stamps than to produce a separate series of gummed labels of different denominations to serve this purpose (though in fact, some countries do so).

Winter Olympic Games 1956.

"The O.F.S. Philatelic Magazine" publishes in its June issue, a comprehensive résumé and list (to be continued) of the stamps already issued and to be issued by different countries in connection with the forthcoming 16th Olympiad to be held at Melbourne towards the end of the year.

The publication affords a well of information and only pressure on our space prevents a more extensive reference, but a postcard, addressed to Box 702, Bloemfontein, will elicit a complimentary copy of the Journal, and the payment of an annual subscription, upon election as a member of the O.F.S. and Basutoland Philatelic Society, will result in the regular receipt of a monthly copy.

New Varieties.

Mr. Alex van Rensburg, of Zastron, reports two new varieties of the Animal Series, which, on checking, are found to be of a greater degree than the fly-spot category.

- 2/6 Value, Pane B, Brown dot behind the first "A" in AFRICA, Row 4/10, and
- A blue smudge on the left vertical margin opposite stamp, Row 3/1, of the 10/- value, Pane B.

Both these flaws are constant, and may be employed to identify the respective panes of the second printing of these stamps.

Mr. van Rensburg would be glad to know if they existed in the first printing also?

3d. "Green Smudge" Flaw.

Three replies have been received to Mr. Frankland's query concerning the green smudge appearing on the buck's neck, as intimated in our June Notes. The flaw occurs on stamp Row 6 No. 1 of Plate XVII printing of the 3d. series.

Thank you, and now you know, Mr. Frankland!

S.W.A. STAMP EXHIBITION

S.W.A. has had its first stamp exhibition, held at Windhoek on 20 June to 1 July, with another special day for children on 23 July. The idea arose through Mr. M. F. Swanepoel offering the local branch of the S.A. Arts Association a display of stamps from the official collection (from the U.P.U.); then various local collectors joined in with a combined collection of S.W.A. stamps. It was all arranged so hurriedly that there was no time to advertise it outside S.W.A.



There was time, however, for an attractive first-day cover and special exhibition cachet to be prepared and we have to thank Mr. Swanepoel for a specimen.

In opening the exhibition he further gave an address on "The Story of the Postage Stamp", a very interesting account of how stamps contribute to Art, Education, Publicity, History, Geography, etc., meant probably more for the public in general than for the philatelist, and too long for reproduction in our pages, much as we would have liked to.

HAROLD GODWIN 33 GREENFORD AVENUE, SELECTED COUNTRY COLLECTIONS HANWELL, LONDON, W.7.

100 Argentine ... 3/-	50 Ceylon ... 5/6	100 Post War	100 Liechtenstein 30/-	100 Saar ... 13/6
200 Argentine ... 9/6	100 Ceylon ... 40/-	Ger. ... 1/6	50 Luxemburg 2/6	50 Siam ... 4/6
100 Australia ... 10/-	90 Ceylon ... 21/-	200 Post War	100 Luxemburg 6/6	100 Siam ... 17/6
200 Belgium ... 4/-	100 Columbia ... 7/6	Ger. ... 6/-	100 Malaya ... 6/-	50 S.W. Africa 12/6
100 Belg. Cols. ... 15/-	200 Columbia ... 32/6	100 Greece ... 2/9	200 Malaya ... 25/-	100 Spain ... 2/6
500 Belgium ... 16/6	25 Costa Rica ... 3/6	200 Greece ... 9/-	50 Malta ... 7/6	200 Spain ... 7/9
25 Bolivia ... 2/3	50 Costa Rica ... 8/6	100 Guatemala ... 15/-	100 Malta ... 30/-	25 Spain Cols. 2/-
50 Bolivia ... 5/-	50 Croatia ... 3/-	25 Hong Kong 4/6	100 Mexico ... 7/6	50 Spain Cols. 5/-
100 Brazil ... 5/6	100 Croatia ... 9/-	50 Hong Kong 10/-	25 New Found-land ... 4/6	100 Sweden ... 2/6
50 Brit. West Ind. ... 4/6	25 Cyprus ... 4/6	300 Hungary ... 6/6	50 New Found-land ... 16/6	100 Swiss ... 3/-
100 Brit. West Ind. ... 14/6	300 Czech ... 12/6	25 Iceland ... 3/6	100 N. Zealand ... 2/3	200 Turkey ... 4/-
200 Brit. West Ind. ... 14/6	300 Denmark ... 37/6	100 Iceland ... 24/-	100 N. Zealand ... 8/3	200 Turkey ... 9/6
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100 Burma ... 4/6	200 Ecuador ... 32/-	50 Israel ... 11/-	50 Uruguay ... 6/-	50 Vatican ... 6/6
100 Burma ... 25/6	100 Egypt ... 7/-	100 Israel ... 70/-	100 U.S.A. ... 19/-	50 Vatican ... 19/-
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		50 Lebanon ... 6/-	200 Russia ... 14/6	
		50 Liechtenstein 5/6	100 Russia ... 4/3	

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RULES AND SCALE FOR JUDGING THEMATIC COLLECTIONS AT EXHIBITIONS

By Capt. M. F. STERN

(Continued from page 128 of July issue)

Additions to Regulations for the Exhibitions of Thematic Collections.

12. Exhibitors have to **declare on their word of honour** in the entry forms for exhibitions that:
 - (a) the collection is their rightful property.
 - (b) the thematic arrangement as well as the text of the collection is either 1) their own work or 2) done with the assistance of others.
13. A detailed amplifying and explanatory commentary is adjoined to these regulations, and is considered also as binding.

Additions to the Commentary.

INTRODUCTION (to be placed before clauses of the Commentary).

For the building-up and shaping of thematic collections, the following directives should apply:—

- 1.) The stamps must be to the front of every thematic collection, as well as being the central feature, and under no circumstances be pushed into the background by write-up (pictures, text, etc.)
- 2.) It is not possible to set down exactly the method of writing-up of a thematic collection; it should make clear the subject matter, suit the character of the collection and **must** be as brief as possible. For motif-study collections special rulings will apply. The addition of a special written study, elaborating the theme, is to be recommended.
- 3.) The condition of the stamps must be such as to raise no objections. Where used stamps are included, these should not have cancellations which obliterate the subject matter. Watermarks, as well as varieties, e.g. perforations, can be ignored.
- 4.) In general the utmost freedom to the individuality of the collector is permitted and this applies to choice and field of theme selected, as well as in the arrangement and artistic setting-out of the collection.
- 5.) For the exhibition in competitive classes for thematic collections, the "Regulations for the Exhibitions of Thematic Collections" will apply.

Additional clause to the Commentary to Jury.

- II. Under Clause I. FIPCO give the following definitions:—

Motif stamps. Under these are meant such as from their pictorial presentation are bound up with the thematic treatment, to build up a thematic collection.

Theme. The selection of a theme for a thematic collection is as many sided as the number of suitable stamps. Many phases of Knowledge, Art, Technology and events, etc. in daily life find their equivalent on the numerous postage stamps of the world. Out of this multiplicity it is not difficult for the thematic collector to select what belongs to his chosen theme in the light of his knowledge and preference.

Thematic Treatment. Mere collections of pictorial motifs **without** an explanatory text,

as also **without** connection in building up the collection, can only be classified as a basis collection. A collection, showing pictorial motifs, can only be considered a thematic collection, when the stamps are arranged as a theme — a main idea — and when such a theme is made clear by a thematic arrangement. This thematic arrangement can be made in various ways e.g. by a chronological arrangement depicted by the illustrations on the stamps, or by placing together the stamps showing similar illustrations, following on the line of the subject, whether cultural, folk lore, industrial, biological, etc. In the thematic arrangement of a collection, this can be written up either in hand script (this including artistic or decorative styles) or typewritten, but it **must** nevertheless fit into the character of the collection. Thus for technical, historical or biological subjects a typewritten description will fit in, whereas for cultural, religious or similar themes, a hand or decorative script is recommended. Where it is not possible to give a brief description as text by the thematic collector, then there should be a monograph (written report) to supplement the essential information on the pages of the collection, and here there is no limit to such material in the monograph. Such a monograph is especially asked for as an item when exhibiting.

JUDGING AT FINLANDIA 1956

To hand is the Scale of judging employed at Finlandia 1956 (the International Exhibition for 1956 at Helsinki) and it is of interest as this exhibition had the blessing of FIPCO and thus the scale is an interesting variation of the FIPCO Scale, and is as follows:—

a) Philatelic qualifications:		40 pts.
1) the quality of stamps	15 pts.	
2) philatelic material	15 pts.	
3) degree of rarity of the stamps	10 pts.	
b) Layout:		40 pts.
1) general impression	20 pts.	
2) texts	20 pts.	
c) Subject:		20 pts.
1) degree of development ..	10 pts.	
2) knowledge of which the collection gives evidence	10 pts.	
		100 pts 100 pts.

Prizes are awarded according to the following point system:

Gold medal	at least 90%
Gilt silver medal	at least 75%
Silver medal	at least 65%
Bronze medal	at least 55%

Condition (quality of the stamps) remains as before on the Karlsruhe Scale, but material and rarity is increased 5%, while general impression remains at 20% and development, texts and knowledge is reduced by 5%, this reduction being in the subject c) above. Thus research and originality are included in this later section and not singled out specifically, bearing out my remarks in the previous article, in that with all the mass of articles now available, there is little in the way of an original motif and most of the research can be covered by study of various references available. Emphasis is being placed more on the philatelic side making this now equal with general impression and interest and treatment (thematic) of the text.

The Two (?) Dies of The Union Id. Ship Type

By B. POWELL

It may not be generally realised by some of the newer collectors of Union stamps, or perhaps some of the older, that there are distinct differences in appearance in the vignette portion of the first Typo' printed Id. Ship type printed in London and Pretoria, and on sale from 1st January, 1926 onwards. (This date is important).

The characteristics of each are briefly, that in Type A the lines of shading are shorter, broken and lighter towards the edges, giving the vignette an almost convex look, while in Type B the lines are much thicker, unbroken, and generally extend the full distance of the vignette and touch the red frame, having a 'flat' appearance. (Photographs of the two types unfortunately do not show up the differences well. Ed.).

One of the snags in this research is the fact that there are many specimens which may be difficult to assign to either A or B — they are the 'Intermediates'; for sake of brevity I will refer to them as Die C. At this point, I can say that as far as can be ascertained, there are NOT separate Dies A and B (and C) as such, but again, for brevity, the terms DIE A, B (and C) will be used, and in any case, the research started as a hypothesis that there were two Dies.

Again, I should like to make it clear that I am not the researcher, but am only collating writing which has appeared already, hoping that it may be of some general interest and possibly stimulate someone to dig a little deeper. There may have been other articles written on the same subject of which I am not aware; if so, I should like to hear of them.

As far as I know the question was first raised by Mr. Hilton Sydow of Capetown in the "South African Philatelist" of November, 1935, in which he suggested that owing to the quite different appearance of several specimens of the Typo printings, it was possible that a second Die had been used. Nothing more was heard until a short note appeared in "Gibbons Stamp Monthly" of November, 1943, in which Mr. L. D. Moore said "Two Dies of the ship vignette in the first issue of South Africa have not yet acquired separate catalogue status by Gibbons as separate entities". Mr. Sydow returned to the stage in the "South African Philatelist" of May 1944, in which he enlarges on his previous article. He advanced the theory, that, as no major differences are noted in the actual ship portion of the vignette, that an entirely new Die was NOT engraved, that Die B was a subsidiary Die taken from Die A. From a study of several used copies, he found that Die A stamps were postmarked January to July, 1926, and Die B postmarked from August to December, 1926. He was able to confirm his theory that an entirely new Die was NOT engraved, by correspondence with Mr. Clifford, of Messrs. Waterlow. Mr. Clifford did mention that the printers experienced difficulty with the black ink and occasions arose when a single stamp

was found to be faulty after electrotyping and was cut out of the block and replaced. It would appear then, that an unknown number of units were cut out of the Plate(s) (?) and were replaced by a similar number of clichés. Mr. Sydow says "I have examined blocks and a complete sheet of Die A, but have not located any which may be classified as vignettes printed from substituted clichés". I make this point here, as it may dispel any thoughts that Die B could be set tenant with Die A, and should like to refer anyone interested in 'substituted clichés' 'cracked stereotypes' and the 'twisted head-plate' variety 'HB/C 34', 'Vb, c, d,' to an article on that subject by Mr. Sydow in a publication issued (I think) at the time of the Van Riebeeck Tercentenary Celebrations.

The next article I found on the subject is in the "South African Philatelist" of March, 1945, written by Mr. S. C. W. Wareham. He gives details of the characteristics of Die A and Die B, and also gives an Intermediate stage (my Die C), which perhaps only adds to our difficulties, and shows that there are some stamps which could be Die A or Die B, or neither. He also gives a check list based on a study of several copies and some corner blocks definitely of Plates 1, 2 or 3. A brief comparison of Mr. Sydow's allocations with that of Mr. Wareham's is as follows:—

	Die A.		Wareham.
	Sydow.		
London Plate 1 a.		London Plate 1.	
		London Plate 1.	
		(inverted wmk.)	
London Booklet Plate.		London Booklet Plate	
London proofs in black without frames.			
London Plate proofs in red centre, black frame.		Proof, red centre, black frame.	
		Proof, green centre, red frame.	
		Pretoria Plate 2.	
		Pretoria Plate 2, inverted wmk.	
Pretoria Plate 3.		Pretoria Plate 3.	
Pretoria booklet Plate.		Pretoria Plate 3, inverted wmk.	
		Die B.	
London Ptg, Plate 1 b.		London (?) Proof,	
Pretoria Ptg, Plate 1.		green centre, orange frame.	
Pretoria Ptg, Plate 2.			
		Die C (Intermediate)	
		Pretoria Plate 1.	
		Pretoria Plate 3.	

This again tends to more complication — as they (Mr. Sydow and Mr. Wareham) differ in their allocations as regards the Pretoria Plates. A point I would like to make here is that they are agreed on (a) Die A occurs only on the original London Plate and (b) Mr. Wareham shows Die B as (possibly) more common on the first Pretoria printings from the London Plates, though Die B does merge into Die C.

My interest in this matter was first aroused after the war when I chanced upon the "South African Philatelist" article (of May 1944) reproduced in "Gibbons Stamp Monthly" of

November, 1944. As the Handbook issued in 1946 made no reference to it, and I not then knowing anything of the foregoing, I wrote to Mr. Sydow and asked him if he had arrived at any further conclusions. He then informed me that he had a complete sheet which he called Die A, but not a sheet of Die B. He suggested that further information might be obtained from the Royal Mint, London, where the Plates were made.

I wrote to The Royal Mint, and received a most helpful and comprehensive reply. I give it in full, as abbreviation can be dangerous, and in any case some of the information contained therein may be of interest in other directions. The letter reads —

'With reference to your enquiry about the Van Riebeeck's ship vignette insert die for these stamps, I give below information from our records, which I hope will be useful to you.

1. In July, 1925, this Department was asked to make surface printing Electrotpe stamp printing Plates of the above-mentioned type, from steel dies to be supplied by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons, Ltd.

Steel working dies were received on the following dates:—

Ship Vignette Insert Die on 12.9.25.

Frame die with Dutch inscription on 14.9.25.

Frame die with English inscription on 16.9.25.

The first Frame Printing Plate, with Dutch and English inscriptions, together with Vignette Ship Printing Plate were delivered to Messrs. Waterlow on the 23rd October, 1925, and the steel dies were returned to Messrs. Waterlow on the 15th December, 1925.

2. In November, 1926, a duplicate set of printing plates (1d. denomination) was ordered by the Government of the Union of South Africa, for the Government Printer, Pretoria. The Frame and Vignette steel dies were received from the High Commissioner on the 25th November, 1926, and were returned to him on the 19th January, 1927. The duplicate printing plates were ready for despatch to South Africa on the 28th January, 1927.

3. In February, 1927, we received an order for 1d. (Book) stamp plates and the steel dies were again lent by the High Commissioner. They were received on the 6th February, and returned on the 26th April, 1927.

4. In March, 1928, a further order was received for 1d. Stamp printing plates and the dies were lent by the High Commissioner again; they were received on the 1st March, and returned on the 11th June, 1928.

In the Mint records we have black and white proofs of the Van Riebeeck's ship insert die taken:—

- (a) on its receipt from Messrs. Waterlow on the 12.9.25.
- (b) on its receipt from the High Commissioner on 25.11.26.
On its receipt from the High Commissioner on 8.2.27.
On its receipt from the High Commissioner on 1.3.28.
- (c) on its return to the High Commissioner on 19.1.27.
On its return to the High Commissioner on 26.4.27.
On its return to the High Commissioner on 11.6.28.

Each of these seven proofs resembles illustration A (our Die A) given in "Gibbons Stamp Monthly" of November, 1944, page 23; none is like illustration B (our Die B). Further, it is certain that no die having the differences or variations shown in illustration B, was ever used at The Royal Mint for making stamp printing plates. Unfortunately, this does not provide a complete solution of your problem, because I do not know whether stamp printing plates for this particular stamp were only made by the Royal Mint, although this is highly improbable. If you are able to confirm that only Royal Mint Plates were used for printing these stamps, some explanation must be sought for the existence of stamps as shown in illustration B (our Die B).

I have consulted our engraver and he is of the opinion that illustration B represents a stamp printed from a worn printing plate. He thinks the white lines between the horizontal surface printing, tint lines, would probably have been formed by engraving the steel die deeply in these places, and that this operation would have been carried out by the engraver at an early stage of the work. The white lines, used to convey the idea of the rays of the sun, might have been formed at a later stage of the work by engraving the die less deeply. Below this depth, the original horizontal tint lines would remain intact. If this were so, when wear occurred, on the printing plate, the horizontal surface printing lines would gradually print as continuous lines, and the rays of the sun would disappear. Wear of the plate would certainly account for the thickening of the horizontal lines, which is so marked a feature of illustration B.

This explanation must not be regarded as an official Mint view, but merely as a possible explanation.

I hope the information I have given may help you to solve your problem. In accordance with your letter, I am returning Gibbons Stamp Monthly (1944) and the copy of Mr. Sydow's letter.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) _____
Deputy Superintendent.

This information I passed to Mr. Sydow.

In 1949 a fellow member of the South African Collectors Society raised the query again and I sent him all the available information I then had. He replied with a most exhaustive analysis of the subject matter. While conceding that there is only one Die, he maintained that there were two **types**, (A & B). Important features too are the dates mentioned by The Royal Mint. My correspondent suggests that if Messrs. Waterlow only received the electrotypes on 23rd October, 1925, there was very little time left to print, perforate, examine, pack, etc., and ship these stamps to South Africa and distribute them for sale there on **1st January, 1926**. He also draws attention to the 'appearance' of the two Dies A & B, having regard to stamps produced from a steel plate compared with an electrotpe, the latter producing a rather coarser impression. He summarises by advancing the theory that:—

(1) Die A stamps could have been produced from a **steel** plate (of which we have no knowledge or record) which was produced be-

fore 23rd October, 1925, and thus could easily have been used to produce stamps for sale in South Africa on 1st January, 1926.

(2) Die B stamps were from the London electro plates made shortly after 23rd October, 1925, and on sale in South Africa from August, 1926 onwards.

(3) Further Die B stamps from electrotypes printed in Pretoria.

That appears a fair assumption, but does it quite stand up if Mr. Wareham is correct in allocating some stamps of Die A to the Pretoria Plates 2 and 3, and Mr. Sydow Die A to Pretoria Plate 3.

Does the reference to difficulties with the ink mean anything? As far as I know, Mr. Clifford and Messrs. Waterlow were only concerned with the first printing in London, so that ink should not be a material factor in the Pretoria printings.

Is The Royal Mint theory of worn plate correct? I have no printing knowledge, nor any data on numbers of stamps, etc., issued, but would the plates have worn so quickly as to become evident in so short a time.

I would add that I have been unable to obtain any further information from Messrs. Waterlow.

Has anyone Die B stamps postmarked previous to August, 1926?

I am grateful for data culled from the articles quoted, and should also like to express thanks to Mr. A. J. Brown of London and Mr. L. J. Pictou of Germiston for valuable assistance.

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MAXIMUM CARDS . . . WHAT NEXT?

By A. SORGRAGER.

Philatelists had barely recovered from thematics when the next shock came . . . maximum cards.

Philatelists generally seem to agree that thematics are "pretty", something to occupy the kids and to improve their general knowledge . . . but not philately.

Now what are the maximum cards to be classified under? First of all, let us see what they are. One buys, for instance, a picture post card with a good old South African manhaar portrayed on it. Then one buys our current 6d. stamp, one stamps it on the picture side of the post card and asks the little lady behind the counter to stamp it there, on the picture side. And then one has a maximum card.

Some overseas countries are coining tidy little sums on maximum cards. In 1951 the Netherlands issued a Castle Series and neat little maximum card sets resulted. The issue of the Striking Buildings in 1955 also led to maximum card sets. One shudders to think of the post cards of Rainier and Grace Kelly graced with their wedding stamps!

One wonders where philately is going to end because whether we like it or not, maximum cards are going to be classified under "stamp collecting". They look very pretty and will again occupy the kids and improve their general knowledge, but can they be classified under "philately"?

Thematics has the advantage that it keeps odd and cheap stamps in circulation but maximum cards tend to go in "sets" and will become a costly collection for those of us whose wives and children "fall" for them. It would be possible to maximum card the whole Silver Jubilee issue (1935) but at what a cost! And our South African maximum cards will, of course, have to be bilingual.

The only virtue of this strange new craze seems to lie in the fact that it will save us from becoming snobs. Whatever maximum cards are going to develop into, they will never be called highbrow. And if we have to tolerate them at our stamp exhibitions, we can take the wife and kids with a good old picnic basket and have a real family outing.

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FRANCE

Three stamps were issued on different dates in May:—

(1) A 12 fr. honouring the activity of the Sovereign Order of Malta in the struggle against Leprosy.

(2) A 15 fr. in memory of St. Yves (1253-1303) the patron saint of men of law.

(3) A 30 fr. commemorating the centenary of the birth of Maréchal Franchet d'Esperey; distinguished soldier in World War I.

In June there was a flood of six stamps, each with the portrait of a distinguished Frenchman and each with a small surtax for the benefit of the French Red Cross. The subjects were:—

(1) 12 fr. Guillaume Bode, humanist, 1467-1540.

(2) 12 fr. Champlain, N. American explorer, 1567-1635.

(3) 15 fr. Maurice Barrès, poet, 1862-1923.

(4) 12 fr. Jean Goujon, sculptor and architect, 1510-1567.

(5) 15 fr. Chardin, poet, 1699-1779.

(6) 15 fr. M. Ravel, musician, 1875-1937.

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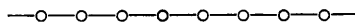
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The Magnifying Glass

(A paper prepared for the Philatelic Congress, Pretoria, 1955.)

By P. SELIGMANN

As stamp collectors we have doubtless all admired the intricacy and delicacy of the engraving on a fine postage stamp such as the *Id. black* and have automatically reached for our ever ready magnifying glasses to examine its detail more closely. But how often do we pause to think about the lens we keep so casually to hand?

Just as we find the glass an indispensable tool in the scientific study of postage stamps, so the die engraver who had to cut the design we admire into a block of intractable steel could not practise his craft without its help. It is to the die engraver and his forerunners that we must look for the early use of the lens. The earliest magnifier known was discovered by Layard in the ruins of Nimrod and dates from about 600 B.C. It is fashioned from rock crystal and shows signs of having been given its shape on a lapidary's wheel rather than by grinding on a curved tool as would be done today. This is not surprising when we consider that one of the most important aspects of the lapidary's craft was the cutting of personal and official seals in stone. That the lens was invented by these gem cutters may be inferred though not proved. The method of cutting gems with facets was not practised by the ancients; stones were usually set "en cabuchon", that is to cut to a convex shape on one surface and flat on the other and mounted with a frame round the edge. Such a gem made out of transparent material would have a magnifying property and it is reasonable to suppose that, as the men who made these jewels were those most in need of optical aid in their work, they should have observed and made use of the phenomenon.

In 423 B.C. the Greek playwright Aristophanes first produced his play "The Clouds" which was apparently not quite the success he had hoped, but from our point of view one scene is of particular interest. Strepsiades, a bit of a reprobate, is unable to pay his debts and suggests that he should acquire from a druggist a burning glass such as was used for lighting the fire. He could then stand behind the clerk and by focusing the sun's rays on to them melt the wax tablets on which the debts were recorded. Unfortunately he does not try the experiment, for it would have been interesting to know if the idea worked. A burning glass is of course, the same as a magnifying glass, but one which was able to concentrate the sun's rays over a man's shoulder at a distance of two or three feet would have had little magnifying power and unless of large diameter be an inefficient burning glass. One wonders whether Aristophanes had actually seen such a lens. It would have been of use to correct long-sightedness, and although no mention of this is made in any of the classical authors we are left puzzling why the Greeks of the time apparently did not know of this useful application, or whether it was merely regarded as too commonplace to be written down.

In Roman times, engravers made dies for striking coins as well as seals. We know from

writers such as Seneca that the magnifying property of glass spheres filled with water was known and we may conclude that the die engravers made use of these. The glass of the time was probably too imperfect for a satisfactory solid lens to have been made from it, and if such lenses were employed they must still have been cut from crystals. It is possible that Nero had an eyeglass of beryl.

Ptolemy in about 150 A.D. investigated the angles of refraction of a ray of light passing through a semi-cylinder of pure glass but does not have much to say about lenses. At this time the decline of the Roman power had begun and for the next ten centuries or so — the Dark Ages — all we know about lenses is that they were probably used in the monasteries by monks engaged in illuminating manuscripts. In about 1100 A.D. the Arab philosopher Alhazen wrote a treatise on optics, while in 1270 Vitello published a book based on the work of Alhazen.

It was left to that great scientist Roger Bacon to give the first really accurate and exhaustive description of the properties of lenses, which he did in about 1265. He was also the first man to publish the belief that small objects could be made larger and distant ones brought nearer by the use of lenses. Bacon appears to have handled the lenses he describes, and it seems likely that at that time considerable empirical knowledge existed in unrecorded form. It is not surprising the work was not published, when one reflects that anyone claiming to be able to see objects at a distance with the aid of a few bits of glass was likely to be burnt at the stake as may be judged from a quotation from Recorde's **Pathway to Knowledge** of 1551:

'Great talke there is of a glass he (Frier Balcon) made at Oxford, in which men might see things that weare don, and that was judged to be don by power of evill spirits. But I know the reason of it to be good and naturall . . . as to see your face in a common glass'.

The feeling of the age may be gauged by the fact that Recorde still found it necessary to be apologetic three centuries after Bacon had published his work.

The greater availability of lenses at this time was a direct consequence of the invention of spectacles in Italy in the 13th Century. The demand for these was naturally much greater than for simple magnifying glasses and with the increases in technology of the Renaissance and particularly the 17th Century the lens as we know it today was perfected. So much for history.

Before we consider how the magnifier works, we must examine the process of seeing. The apparent size of an object depends on the size of the image formed on the retina of the eye, with an unconscious allowance by the brain for the distance of the object. This adjustment depends partly on the binocular effect which does not concern us here, and also on the surroundings of the object. These adjustments do not affect the actual dimensions of the retinal image. Thus the 1921 Charity issue of Russia (1.3 x 2.1 in) and the miniature 3d. of Victoria (.45 x .75 in) will appear the same size if the Russian stamp is viewed from three times the

distance of the Victorian. The size of the retinal image is determined by the angle subtended by the object. Obviously, the nearer the object is to the eye, the greater will be the subtended angle and the larger it will appear. From this it would seem that we do not need magnifying glasses at all, but unfortunately the normal eye is not able to focus on objects nearer than about ten inches away, so that bringing them nearer than this distance, while increasing the size of the image, makes it so blurred as to be useless. This is where the lens comes to our rescue. A magnifying glass is known to opticians as a converging lens, that is it causes rays of light passing through it to be drawn inwards. In particular, if we interpose such a lens between our eye and the object, the rays of light will be bent inwards, the subtended angle will be greater and the object will appear larger. The greater the converging power of the lens, the more it will magnify.

The converging power of a lens is measured in the following way: if parallel rays of light fall on the lens, they are all converged to the same point (assuming a perfect lens). This point is called the focal point of the lens, and its distance from the centre of the lens is known as the focal length. The focal length is thus a measure of the converging power, the shorter the focal length the greater being the converging power. Spectacle makers do not like this inverse relationship and their unit of lens power is the dioptré, defined as the reciprocal of the focal length in metres. We now know the converging power of the lens but what about its magnifying power? This will naturally depend on the distance at which the object is seen both with and without the lens and the position of the lens with respect to the eye. This is not the place for the calculations involved but it can be shown that the greatest magnification is obtained with the lens as close to the eye as possible and that in this case the magnification is approximately equal to

$$m = \frac{10}{f} + 1$$

where f is the focal length of the lens in inches. In general we only magnify an object after looking at it as closely as possible with the naked eye and the 10 is the minimum accommodation distance of the eye, normally 10 in. Thus if we have a lens of 1 in. focal strength, its magnifying power will be 11, usually denoted by 11x.

Again it seems as though we could make lenses of shorter and shorter focal length, and get any magnification we like, but here we come up against a snag. To make the focal length less, we have to curve the glass surface more sharply, making it thicker in the centre, the limiting case being the spherical marble. The only trouble with this is that making the glass thickness in the centre much greater causes a form of distortion which makes the lens almost useless. We can get over it to some extent by making the lens smaller in diameter but it soon becomes too small to be of use as a magnifying glass for philatelic purposes. The difficulty is overcome by using a second lens. If we look at our diagram again, we see that the rays from the object are converged by the lens as though they came from a nearer object. If we now pretend that the object is actually nearer, we can put in another lens to converge

the rays still further and the result will be the same as if we had used a lens of much shorter focal length, but without the distortion. This is the principle on which all the illuminated magnifiers work.

We must now consider the use of the magnifier by a philatelist. In very young children, the shortest accommodation distance is such that they are able to bring things almost as close to their eyes as they please, and this effect can also be made use of by shortsighted people who, by removing their spectacles, can focus on an object as near as 3 inches from the eye, giving a magnification of about 3. A natural aging process in the muscles of the eye causes the minimum accommodation distance to become greater with age in an almost mathematical relationship. It must be emphasised that there is no deterioration of vision, and by the use of simple convex lenses the eye is enabled once more to focus on close objects. The same effect can be obtained in the absence of a lens by viewing the object in a very strong light which causes the pupil to contract, or by looking at it through a small hole in a piece of card. The effect of this is to reduce the aperture of the eye a process identical to "stopping down" a camera lens to increase the depth of field. A cheap pair of strong spectacles is very satisfactory for general examination of quantities of stamps. For more detailed study, stronger lenses are required and the choice of these can be made from a large number of different fancy types, many of which have little to commend them.

All simple lenses cause "pincushion" or "barrel" distortion in greater or less degree and one should be chosen in which this is not too great. In the higher powers such lenses usually consist of more than one component, the different sections being arranged to reduce the distortion as far as possible. In this case, chromatic aberration (which is manifested as a coloured fringe round the edges of the object), is also reduced. All these magnifiers must be held as close as possible to the eye if the distortion and aberration are to be reduced to the minimum and the greatest magnification is desired. The importance of this cannot be overstressed for it is all too common a sight to see a stamp collector holding his lens at arms length and thereby losing most of its advantages.

Whatever the choice of magnifier of this type, it should always be kept in a case to protect the surfaces of the lenses, and this applies particularly to the aspherical plastic lenses which are now available and which are very good from the point of view of distortion. For the same reason the mounting of the lens should be such that the glass does not touch the table when the lense is put down.

For desk use magnifiers with stands are desirable as they leave the hands free. These come in various types, the least convenient of which is the linen counter which has a collapsible stand with a square hole in the base which obstructs the field of view, while the rather large metal base must be kept in contact with the stamp and obstructs the light. The three-legged type is better from this point of view but cannot easily be carried in the pocket. For the same reason the glass block magnifiers are not entirely satisfactory and although the smooth glass base is not likely to damage the

stamp on which it is placed, it soon becomes scratched from contact with the table.

For the examination of large numbers of stamps some form of lens which remains in place in front of the eye is desirable. The simplest of these is the pair of strong spectacles already mentioned, but various other forms are useful. An effective and simple lens for the spectacle wearer clips on to the frame of his glasses and may be hinged out of the way when not needed. Binocular magnifiers fitted to a head band are very comfortable as they enable both eyes to be used and may be worn over spectacles. They are naturally rather expensive. For the higher powers of these, prisms are necessary to prevent squinting.

In the luxury class we have the range of illuminated magnifiers. These remain in contact with the stamp and the difficulty of light obstruction is met by having a small torch built into the handle. They can very conveniently be used with a scale or graticule for the measurement of perforations and surcharges.

(When this article was read at Congress it was accompanied by various lantern slides, demonstrating the features being described.)

KAAPSCHE HOOP GOUD VELDEN

Two interesting Z.A.R. covers have recently been obtained by Mr. E. Hunt through one of Robson Lowe's sales, with the hitherto unrecorded postmark of "The Hope of the Cape Goldfields."

Enquiry made through the present-day Kaapsehoop P.O. led to it being passed on to Mr. H. S. Webb of Barberton. He is an authority on the history of these parts and has kindly supplied the details which are here summarised:—

Tradition has it that President Burgers visited marked "This resembles the Cape and the view the area in the early eighties, possibly in connection with finding a possible railway route to Delagoa Bay. Looking over the basin where

Kaapsehoop and Barberton are to-day he recover the flats from Table Mountain". From that came the name of "The Cape" for the area. We have to-day still the Noordkaap and Suidkaap rivers and Kaapmuiden.

Gold had already been worked further north in the Pilgrims Rest district and in 1882 miners struck alluvial gold in "The Cape" area. It was proclaimed as open to prospectors in that year under the name of "The Hope of the Cape Goldfields", no doubt in the expectation that it would prove to be a sound venture. There was no actual town for some years, merely tents and ox wagons over a fairly wide area; the post-office which was opened therefore got the name of the whole district.

The postmarks are single-circle ones of 25 mm. diameter with "K. HOOP GOUD VELDEN" at the top and "Z.A.R." at the bottom, letters 2.5 mm. high and stars between the top and bottom wording. In the centre are the dates in two lines, 25 AUG/84 and 18 NOV/84; in each case with the figure 8 above the date. The earlier one is in violet, the later in black. They are not sufficiently clear to photograph well for illustration.

The actual stamps on the covers are cancelled by double-circle (20 and 15 mm.) marks with Z.A.R. in letters 3.5 mm. high, across the centre. Marks of this type, but rather larger, are known of slightly later date from Barberton, which was named only in 1884.

MR. DOUGLAS ROTH

will be in JOHANNESBURG

at the Langham Hotel from the 27th August to the 2nd September on a Buying Trip, and will be very pleased to meet any Collectors who may wish to contact him.

Wants, Offers & Exchange

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

WANTED "Bouvet Island" 1955 Covers. — J. H. HARVEY PIRIE, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

NATAL, St. HELENA, GAMBIA, SEYCHELLES, SIERRA LEONE, O.F.S. I am now breaking up fine Collections including some modern. Douglas Roth, Mona Crescent, Newlands, Cape.

WANTED Local Posts, General, Priced Selections of items.—GEO. K. FORBES, P.O. Box 3, Port Elizabeth.

APPROVALS: British Colonials and World for all collectors.—BENONI STAMP SHOP, Benoni.

SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST—New reduced prices for back numbers. Limited stocks of complete volumes for the years 1934-1942 inclusive are available at 12/- per volume. Odd numbers for these years 1/- per copy. Copies of Volume 9 (1933) are available at

WANTED: Stamps in bulk and singles from the Whole World. Supplied: kilos, packet material & new issues. Australia 8/-, Switzerland 8/6. per lb. — GEO. F. ROWE, 11, Barmouth Road, London, S.W. 18.

1/- per copy except for the July issue. Odd numbers of the first 8 volumes (Nos. 1-8) 1923-1932 are available at 6d. per copy. Complete volumes for these years are sold out. 1934-1954 odd numbers are available at 1/- per copy. On orders under 10/- please add postage. Early application is strongly recommended.—Business Manager, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

WANTED. Cape of Good Hope: Numeral Bar Date Stamps on Cover. Fine Impressions. Numbers:— 7, 8, 11, 21, 22, 37, 38, 63, 64, 74, 75, 76. ALSO WANTED. Griqualand West Stamps used on Cover in the Cape. — C. R. REYNOLDS, Box 105, Beaufort West, Cape.

NEW ISSUES and current Colonials at Penny in 1/- on Face. List Free. — PRIOR, 44, Warminster Road, Bath, England.

STAMP ALBUMS with 50 sheets 9½ ins. by 11½ ins. from 18/9, 100 spare sheets from 10/6 STOCK BOOKS with 20 sheets (each 7 pockets) 8 ins. by 9 ins. 43/8. 12 spare sheets 19/-. Trade Discount.—PRINT BIND PRODUCTS, Box 2010, Cape Town.

STAMPS.—Want lists invited for any country; specialities Union, S.W.A., British Africa.—LACYS, 57 Plein Street, Cape Town.

1840-1890. For the stamps of any country in this period write DOUGLAS ROTH, Mona Crescent, Newlands, C.P. Phone 694282.

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THE WEST GERMAN BUILDING SERIES

(A paper read at the Philatelic Congress, Pretoria, 1955)

By Dr. W. P. v.d. MERWE

As a collector with an inclination to specialisation, my curiosity was aroused when I discovered a rather interesting item among the stamps of the West German Buildings Series in my German collection. After some enquiries I was suddenly struck by the vast and glorious possibilities for specialisation in this issue. No other issue of German stamps has ever given the same scope for specialisation.

The reason is easily understood:— While the allies were negotiating the currency reform in the different Zones of Occupied Germany, these stamps were hastily being prepared in very large numbers and in the greatest secrecy by two inexperienced printers. There was a lack of labour, insufficient printing machines and an acute shortage of printing materials.

No wonder then, that there are so many types, perforation and watermark varieties to steal the heart of the German specialist, the more so as these types and varieties were real offspring of an emergency and not issued with any philatelic or speculative by-purpose.

This issue first appeared on sale on September the 1st 1948, and was discontinued nearly 4½ years later.

Design:

The designs on these stamps are of historical buildings in Germany, according to drawings by the German artist Max Bitroff.

The "Römer" (City Hall) in Frankfurt-on-Main appears on the 2, 8, 16 and 20 pf. values; The "Dom" (Cathedral) in Cologne on the 5, 10, 25, 40, 60 and 90 pf. values;

The "Frauenkirche" (Our Lady's Church) in Munich on the 4, 6, 15, 30 and 84 pf. values;

The "Brandenburg Gate" in Berlin on the 24, 50 and 80 pf. values;

And the "Holsten Gate" in Lubeck on the 1, 2, 3 and 5 Mark Values.

Printers:

The stamps were printed by two big West German firms: Messrs. Georg Westermann of Brunswick and Messrs. Adolf Bagel of München-Gladbach.

Westermann knew something of the printing of stamps as they had had some previous experience in the printing of the German issue of the A.M. Post. They were responsible for the printing of the 5 and 10 pf. values of the Cologne Cathedral motif, Type II of the Mark values and all the stamps in the other three designs.

Bagel printed all the values of the Cologne Cathedral motif and Type I of the mark values. They knew nothing about the art of stamp printing and among other things, used different types of perforating machines. The result was that the stamps printed by them show a large number of types and perforation varieties.

Furthermore, after a while, a change was made from perforation 11 to the finer perforation 14.

During printing not enough care was taken to ensure that the watermarked paper was fed into the machine with the watermark upright.

with the result that watermark varieties are also apparent when the paper was put in upside down.

Printing:

The stamps are printed by Offset Process.

Watermark:

The watermark in the paper is "DP" (Deutsche Post) with short diagonal lines (in parenthesis, when we describe the watermark, we look at the stamp from the front!).

The "normal" watermark for the pfennig values is with "DP" upright or inverted and the diagonal lines from lower left to upper right of stamp.

The "mirrored" watermark appears when the paper has been fed into the machine upside down. The letters "DP" are reversed and the diagonal lines run from lower right to upper left of stamp.

The "normal" watermark for the mark values, where the paper was fed into the machine across the design of the stamps, is with the letters "DP" flat and the diagonal lines from upper left to the bottom right of stamp.

The "mirrored" watermark of these values with the diagonal lines from upper right to lower left of stamp is a rarity and has only occasionally been found in the 1 and 2 mark values.

Perforation:

There are three main types of perforation, viz:—

- (a) Line perforation 11.
- (b) Comb perforation 11½ x 11.
- (c) Comb perforation 14½.

Also occurring, but much less frequently and therefore very much scarcer are the following types:—

- (d) Line perforation 11½, 11½ x 11 and 11 x 11½.
- (e) Line perforation 14 — on 40 and 60 pf. only.
- (f) Mixed Line-perforation 14 x 11 and 11 x 14 — on 40 pf. only. (scarce) and 1 DMK (very scarce!).

Line perforation 14 was a trial by Bagel which was discontinued after a few sheets.

Line perforation 14 x 11 and 11 x 14 occurred where sheets were perforated in one direction only by the 11 perforating machine and after the change-over to the smaller perforation type the half finished sheets were perforated in the other direction by the 14 perforating machine.

Bagel, printers of the stamps of the Cologne Cathedral motif and type I of the Mark values first used a line perforating machine with perforations 11, 11½, 11 x 11½ and 11½ x 11. Of these types perforation 11 is plentiful, 11 x 11½ fairly well represented, 11½ x 11 scarce and 11½ exceedingly rare.

As from 1950 all stamps printed by this firm were comb perforated 14½. Comb perforation 11 was not used by them.

Westermann, printers of the stamps with the "Römer", Our Lady's Church, Brandenburg Gate motifs and type II of the Mark values used in the first instance line perforation 11 only. Later on they changed over to comb perforation 11½ x 11 at approximately the same time that they took over the printing of the 5 and 10 pf. values of the Cologne Cathedral motif. It therefore happens that these two stamps only of the Cathedral motif are comb perforated 11½ x 11.

As from 1950 this firm also used a finer perforating machine all the stamps being comb perforated 14½.

But the 1 Mark value Type II, printed by Westermann has line perforation 14 only!

Faked perforations are also found. A large number of half-perforated sheets and printer's waste was stolen from Bagel. These sheets were privately and variously perforated from 8½ to 14 and put on the market. Such falsely perforated items were even postally used! Faked perforations within the range of the normal perforations 11 to 14 are not easily recognisable and collectors should beware of such items. Stamps perforated from 8½ to 10½ are easily recognisable.

Imperforate items are also known, some were even sold over different Post Office counters, but most of these were printer's waste, stolen from Bagel.

Double perforations are found on the line perforated stamps. These extra perforations are either vertical or horizontal. Sometimes the extra perforation line runs close to the "natural" perforation line between the two stamps, sometimes the extra line passes across the face of the stamp, almost halving the stamp.

A curiosity is often found in the comb perforation type: when the alignment of the comb is not very true a "staggered" perforation is seen on the corners of some stamps. On vertical pairs this "staggered" perforation gives the impression of a fixed bayonet. Hence the name "bayonet perforation".

Types of Cathedral Motif:

The stamps of the Cologne Cathedral motif are found in the following 3 types:—

	TYPE I
Format	18.5 x 22.6 mm.
Roof of Side nave	14 lines
Side entrance	No threshold line
Roof of Head nave	3 indistinct window towers
Main entrance	5 steps

Subtypes of the 40 pf. values, relating to the figures themselves, are:

- (a) Closed 40 (all the lines of the figures merging into each other).
- (b) Open 40 (the O open at top and bottom, small space between vertical line and diagonal and horizontal lines of 4).
- (c) Half-open 40 (horizontal line of 4 not merging with vertical line, O closed).

Subtypes of the 60 pf. values are:—

- (a) Closed 6,
- (b) Open 6,
- (c) Thick 60.

Types of Mark Values:

The Mark values are classified into 2 main types:

Type I is the Bagel printing with the "shallow" steps (4 steps) and the bands across the righthand tower horizontally lined.

Type II is the Westermann printing with the "high" steps (7 steps) and the bands across the righthand tower vertically and horizontally lined.

Type I can be divided into the following subtypes:

- (a) 3 steps in the gate.
- (b) 5 steps in the gate.
- (c) 7 steps in the gate.

Some of these subtypes are very scarce.

Margins:

Usually the top and bottom margins of German Recess printed stamps are printed with parallel vertical lines in the same colour as the stamps. Normally these lines do not appear in the margins of Offset printed stamps. But on some sheets of this series such lines are apparent: on the 2 pf. stamps these lines are very faint; on the 30 pf. red two lines only appear in the margin above the third stamp of the top

	TYPE II	TYPE III
	18.2 x 22.1 mm.	18.2 x 22.1 mm.
	10 lines	10 lines
	No threshold line	with threshold line
	3 indistinct window towers	4 distinct window towers
	4 steps	3 steps

AUSTRALIA.

There will be four stamps (earlier notices said three) commemorating the 16th Olympiad in Nov.-Dec., 1956. A 3½d. featuring the Arms of Melbourne; a 7½d. with the Olympic Torch, the five rings and the Southern Cross; a 1s. in several colours, showing Collins Street, Melbourne, and a 2s., a view of Melbourne from across the Yarra river.

There are to be a number of replacements of the ordinary stamp series during 1956-57.

A second Antarctic post office is to be set up in the Australian sector at Vestfold Hills sometime during the 1956-57 season.

The Victorian Philatelic Association is to hold a non-competitive exhibition — "olympex" — partly coinciding in time with the Olympic Games. The main feature will be sheets of stamps of all countries represented at the games.

Olympic 1st Day covers. The Wesley Cover Service, of 564 Military Road, Largs Road, South Australia have sent us 3 very nice covers with embossed designs, for the Olympiad. They can be ordered at 8d. each (including envelope, stiffener, addressing and servicing) plus cost of whatever stamps it is desired to have affixed.

row; all the printings of the 84 pf. have these lines in the margins; sometimes these lines are found on the 6 pf. brown and 24 pf. but more often the margins are blank.

Master Plate and Printing Flaws:

As all the values of one type of the Cologne Cathedral motif were printed from the same Master Plate, primary flaws are found on all the values of the same type.

During the process of altering the value numerals of the Master Plate, other flaws, resulting from damage, appeared. These flaws are common to one value only.

Inconstant printing flaws form a third but not unimportant group.

THAT PRINTER'S DEVIL

A bad gremlin got loose in our printer's office last month. It made him forget to change the date and number of the July issue, so that it appears as another June number. Fortunately this duplication appears only on the cover; inside the date and page numbering are correct. We haven't known this to happen before in 20 years and hope it will not occur again.

The Ideal Society Meeting

(Paper delivered at the Philatelic Congress in Pretoria, 1955).

By Dr. W. G. HESSE.

I know — I know; don't tell me that there is not such a thing as an ideal society meeting; don't grin and say that there cannot be such a thing — that in our imperforate world there are not even ideals left any longer, and that the terms "ideal" and "meeting" are mutually exclusive. It is no use telling me that: I should only try all the harder to convince you that there are, at least, idealists left. And that such people must have something to dream about, and that ideal society meetings are better and possibly less hopeless dreams than those pronounced at political meetings, even you cynics might admit. There have to be Congress papers, besides . . .

Ever since the first society held its first meeting, idealists have criticised what went on, and stipulated what should have gone on. They have made plans and worked out curricula and drawn up lists of suggestions. When they could find one or two more idealists, that is such as could be persuaded that the suggestions were feasible, practicable and, possibly, even ideal, they have even tried to put them into practice. But, since the world consists of only one idealist for every hundred philatelists, and since philatelists are known, not only to their wives, as the most ruthlessly egotistic individualists, these attempts have always been doomed to failure. However many new reformers came along and tried again, nothing much has changed. In thousands of societies nearly all of us remain cynically convinced that meetings are and must by nature be boring, and that they are held only because a society must meet, a committee must produce jobs for busy-bodies, and that the wise come to suffer an hour and a half for the five minutes of that function that happens to interest them.

Naturally, even a reformer knows that people are different and come to meetings for different purposes. Possibly, not two collectors of the thousands who think of Elizabeth the Second only as a section in a catalogue, use that section in exactly the same way. If the idealist is no fool, therefore, he will see the ideal meeting as one of all members of the society, and many guests, of whom everyone expects a different fare. If the purpose of such a gathering is to join all those who will still speak to one another, for as often as they can stand each other's company, he will not ask for all of them to be interested in the proceedings all the time: the ideal will be to reduce the empty time for all to a bearable minimum, so that the gain outweighs the loss. He must therefore establish of everyone for what reason he joined the society, what he expects of a meeting and, if he has no idea of what he expects, what features or functions he enjoys after experiencing them a number of times.

It is fairly easy to group together the many different reasons collectors have to come out of their solitude and submit to the quartz lamp of critical gatherings of their fraternity. The first and, in all probability, greatest group consists of those who want to obtain stamps from their

fellow collectors. We must not be such idealists and so engrossed in the dignity of our official business, that we do not realise that this is the greatest incentive for the greatest number of people: to be able to meet congenial company where stamps can be bought or exchanged, or where one might even get half-catalogue for one's own, after they have been with their want list to every dealer, and have answered every relevant advertisement in the stamp paper. Here can be expected to be the real bargains of which those advertisements have only made promises; and it is so easy and comfortable and pleasant to transact that business in the cosy warmth of a meeting, where you are allowed to sit instead of having, as always, to stand behind a barrier in the dealer's office, while he sits in the best light behind his broad desk.

Of course, you expect not to be disturbed in your business, and you do not want to be embarrassed or even to feel guilty, when, around you, others carry on lectures or displays or discussions. Collectors have collections, and want to enlarge them: a meeting is as good a means to that as any; collectors have duplicates, and want to get rid of them: a meeting is as good a means to that as any. There will be very few who are content with receiving sales packets as the only service the society renders them; and very few who will feel the evening to have been worthwhile only if they take a stamp or two home with them. An ideal society meeting must cater for these.

Then, there are those who want to see or be seen. Not all of us collect merely for the secret lust of the miser, and while we all have our bluebeard's room where we kill any entrant on sight, we do take some of our treasures into the light, and we are curious to see what emerges from the den of others. Not all of us collect in printed albums which may never be seen by the hostile world, and some of us have mastered the craft of writing-up to an extent that warrants our pride in showing our achievement. As are all forms of collecting, philately is also extrovert and wants the acclaim, faces criticism in the hope to have given it no grounds. To show off one's rarities is one thing; to be able to tell that one procured them at a fiftieth of catalogue, another; after the drudgery of one's daily breadwinning to enter the select company of those that do research and are skilled display artists at the same time — that surely is worth an evening. And to make one's viewers also into an audience, reading a paper to them, what greater pleasure can be imagined?

It is a pleasure for the audience, too. We all like to see what the others have got to show us, and how it compares with our own, and what we can learn from them, and how much more we know and understand than the poor darlings who imagine themselves in our class. Those who like to be humble and learners, will get their fill, and those who always know better can say so in their vote of thanks. Displays and papers are essential for a meeting, the practice and preparation for wider and outside competitions, and the encouragement of prizes and awards are indispensable. An ideal society meeting must cater for these.

Still others come for a philatelic chat; for the exchange of information which may result in

enlarging the collection indirectly; and which brings them in touch with all the others who yearn for the restoration of their self-respect which non-philatelic wives, jeering friends, their whole utterly ignorant and philistine surroundings shatter all the time outside the walls of this masonic temple. Always being told that they are fools and wasters, and that their so-called investment will be thrown after them into their graves and never be one for their widows; they find here, in the society meeting, new fortitude for the struggle for the household money; new belief in their high intelligence quotient, and new cameraderie in the masses.

(To be continued).

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The 9c of the new ordinary series was due for first release on 14 June at San Antonio, Texas. It features The Alamo, a building which shows the Spanish influence in its design, also the effects of time and erosion.

The 10c, the last of the regular issue, featuring Independence Hall, Philadelphia, came out on 4 July.

A 3c commemorative appeared on 27 June, the 50th anniversary of the passing of the Pure Food and Drug Laws. It bears a portrait of Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, who sponsored the laws.

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A Correction

In the article on certain newly found items by Mr. J. D. Rossouw, published in our June issue, p. 102, a mistake was made in two dates mentioned in connection with the cover bearing Pietersburg stamps, addressed to General Louis Botha.

The cancellation date at Ermelo was 2nd May, 1901, not 1900 as given, and the occupation of Pietersburg by British troops was April 9th 1901, not 1900 as given.

NEW ZEALAND.

The four stamps, briefly mentioned last month as to be issued for the Ross Dependency in the Antarctic, will be a 3d. illustrating the discovery of the territory by Sir James Clark Ross in 1841; a 4d. with a map of the area and portraits of Scott and Shackleton; an 8d. featuring a map of the territory in its geographical relationship to New Zealand, and a 1s. 6d. portraying H.M. the Queen in a design similar to the N.Z. "official" issue. They will be valid for use only in the Dependency; the date of issue depends on the date of arrival of the N.Z. Expedition there.

The International Philatelic Exhibition held in July, 1955, reports a final profit of £1,661. This will be divided equally between the Auckland Philatelic Societies and the Federation of N.Z. Philatelic Societies. This means that £831 will be held in trust by the Federation for the future of Philately in New Zealand.

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SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELY.

At a meeting held in Johannesburg on 28 June of some 23 collectors interested in the stamps of Israel it was decided to establish a society with the name given above.

The following committee was elected:—

Chairman, Dr. L. Buchen; Vice-Chairman, Dr. M. Wulfsohn; Hon. Sec./Treas., Mr. D. Wacks; Publicity Officer, Dr. A. Kaplan; Committee, Messrs. S. Samuels, S. Legator, S. Hirschman, A. I. Miller and T. Alge.

Meetings will be held at the Coronation Hall, cor. Claim and Plein Streets, Johannesburg at 8 p.m., on the last Thursday of each month. Visitors welcome.

SOCIETY NEWS

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Despite boisterous weather there was a representative attendance of members at our June meeting when a few members displayed some special items of Union stamps.

Strange to relate the display was not at all representative of our mint union issues, probably because two of our keenest Union Collectors were out of town.

The competitive displays were very interesting and attractive.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Hobbies Unlimited Industrial Exhibition thanking the Society for its donation and regretting that the Society would not be displaying any stamps as in former years.

A letter of thanks was also read from the Port Elizabeth Exhibition Committee for our donation.
J.P.S.

O.F.S. & BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

In spite of inclement weather, with cold and sleet keeping all normal Bloemfonteiners tucked away at their home fires, a surprisingly large number of O.F.S. philatelists cared little about the biting storms and turned up, bravely and keen, at the May meeting. They were rewarded with a very interesting evening.

There were in all three attractive displays, contrasting each other in method and style. The first one was shown by Mr. A. Denne, presenting a collection of **Australia**. His method is to collect in a nonchalant manner, taking philatelic matters in an easy stride without being flustered about "empty spaces" here and there, but biding his time until one or the other space filler does come along.

The second exhibit was by Mr. A. L. Meyburgh who showed his "**Modern Pictorials**". This member collects "for the pure fun of it", adding pictorial sets to his collection for the mere visual attraction and enjoyment they present, without caring about constructional buildup or philatelic finesse. The collection was an eye-opener showing how philately can present yet another uncomplicated way of giving recreational satisfaction.

The third exhibit formed this evening's "Surprise item" (it may be mentioned that every meeting of the Society has a "Surprise item" as a standing feature). This item turned out to be a highly specialised collection of "**South West African 4d. Triangulars**", exhibited by Mr. G. H. van Rooyen. This member has, in a surprisingly short time, advanced into the ranks of true and studious "philatelists", building up his various collections in an original and skilful manner. His show of S.W.A. Triangulars was apparently complete down to every possible minor variety. The various printings were clearly shown up, there were the "blue" colours, the "A with long leg" varieties, and a number of "Perforation errors" in the perforated specimens, as for instance "Imperf. between pairs" and "Double Perforations". Truly a great show for the serious collector.

Interesting "**Philatelic News**" was, as usual reported by Dr. Freund, while among the "**New Issues**" displayed were 3 different types of "Wedding covers" of the "Grace Kelly Wedding" from Monaco, provided by Mr. A. Lichtenstein.

An **Auction Sale** which found keen buyers, with Mr. J. Hodgson as auctioneer, an **Exchange Half Hour**, a **Sweepstake** and, last but not least, **Refreshments** rounded off a very successful evening.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

20th June, 1956.

In view of the visit to Germiston by members of the Johannesburg Philatelic Society, the formal business of the evening was summarily dealt with, and as there were five exhibitors for the evening, Mr. W. S. Deverell made a brief report on current stamp news before proceeding with a lively auction.

Mr. K. E. W. Lydall led off with a printed "travel-quiz", in which all present were asked to mark the names of post-offices in South Africa appearing in the text. After an exciting fifteen minutes, there were few that spotted more than eighty of the one hundred and six names occurring in the narrative. This was followed up by a collection of postmarks with text as proof. Altogether it was an unusual and entertaining introduction to the evening.

The second and fourth displays, having features in common, are best dealt with together. Mr. S. Boss showed part of his collection of French colonies, namely, Indo-China, complete in mint

state except for a few errors, as well as some early covers. Lithuania, complete from birth to the death of the State was shown in mint form by Mr. J. Michelson. A feature of this exhibit was the extensive collection of the first type-set issue including large blocks showing the error 5 in a pane of 15 **Skatiku**. Completion was the hallmark of both displays.

In fulfilment of a promise made the previous month, Commander Enoch tabled a further selection of his Siam collection. Twenty-eight listed stamps in the Gibbons catalogue were represented by over sixty sheets fully written up. Intended as a basis for a handbook on the stamps of this country to replace one published 45 years ago; only a specialist could appreciate the difficulties of finding enough material for this neglected and unpopular country. Major rarities, which in the case of a European country would command a price of £500, are priced in as many pence (if they could be found) but this does not mitigate the problems involved when dealing with a language printed in one of the world's lesser known alphabets.

The Gilbert & Ellice Islands, displayed by Mr. B. Glassman was complete in mint state with a very wide range of shades in all values up to one pound. More remarkable was the inclusion of the elusive "Specimen" overprints, of which but two were lacking, and which old-established dealers admit that they have not seen in ten years.

The thanks of the members were suitably expressed by Messrs. P. F. Retief, W. S. Deverell, R. F. G. Bompas and Dr. A. Kaplan; it was certainly a huge and exciting philatelic feast.

Before concluding the meeting, the chairman, Mr. S. J. Hagger bade farewell to Mr. P. F. Retief who has been transferred on promotion to Lydenburg. The Society has lost a foundation member but congratulated him on his well merited fortune.
R.S.G.E.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

1st May, 1956.

After leaving the meeting at 10.30 p.m. your correspondent (and I should imagine others as well) could not rid himself of the impressions, which a display and talk by Dr. J. W. Harris on his "Specialised Collection of the Chaotic Period of Israel's Stamps" had left on his mind. The ear heard of, and the eyes saw, many exceedingly interesting historical happenings of Israel's War of Independence documented by stamps, letters, covers, photographs etc.

Dr. Harris is to be warmly complimented on his ability to collect and present in such an able manner 'live' philatelic material. In fact we by now expect from him such entertaining evenings.
15th May, 1956.

We were fortunate to see outstanding examples of two types of collecting — general and specialised. The first was an unexpected display by Mr. K. Alexander, an old friend from Cape Town. In a short talk Mr. Alexander referred to the joys of collecting only what one liked, without being bound by the desire for specialised completeness. Foreigns, commemoratives and charity issues predominated in this beautifully neat display, in which the unusual was the keynote. Our thanks to Mr. Alexander.

The scheduled display of the evening was Mr. Bülbring's selection of German States, which covered practically everything issued in Germany between the years 1849 — 1871. Although Mr. Bülbring spoke deprecatingly of his exhibit, it was essentially the same display that won a Silver Medal at Teppex.

It was not the rarity of most of the items displayed that afforded viewers so much delight, but the immaculate condition of every stamp, every postmark and every cover. In his informal yet informative talk Mr. Bülbring mentioned the three categories into which stamps of this era fall, according to their condition: the *prachtstück*, the *luxusstück* and the *kabinetstück*, the latter term reserved for superb items with no defect. It was unnecessary for the speaker to define this term for his audience — there were examples aplenty on the table. Truly a President's display, affording pleasure and inspiration to all.

During the course of the evening the Chairman made mention of the most enjoyable triangular meeting of the East London, Grahamstown and Port Elizabeth societies at Grahamstown, where some excellent exhibits had been seen and many old acquaintances renewed.
5th June, 1956.

Once again Mr. Geo. Forbes delighted members with some unusual "Bits and Pieces", which he seems to have a knack of acquiring. Twice the

tables were filled with such items as early Great Britain covers, including Letters written (postage free) by the Members of Parliament, Ships Letters, Local Postage Stamps of many countries, such as the U.S.A., Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Germany etc. We saw Stamp Exhibition Postmarks and Labels from all parts of the world, as also Crash and Special Flight Covers, a very fine lot of Natal P. O. A. Cancellations and N. G. R. Perforations.

In fact the whole display was extremely interesting and absorbing and Mr. Clement ably expressed the gathering's appreciation of the treat provided.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

4th June, 1956.

This was the Vice-President's evening. Mr. Ford began his evening with a general talk on collecting. He reviewed the various methods of collecting and made a special plea to collectors, no matter whether junior or advanced, to take an interest in philatelic material outside their own fields. He pointed out that it was virtually impossible to collect everything but whether one collected in a restricted field or specialized one one could still take a general interest and could have a general knowledge.

After his talk a very fine paper on "The Postal History of Palestine and the Interim Issues of Israel" was read by the Secretary, Mr. Weinstein. Mr. Weinstein then tabled covers from the Interim period, Haganah covers and a selection of the earlier adhesive stamps of the State of Israel. This was a most interesting exhibit and some of the members were more than envious of the fare provided.

Following this exhibit a collection of modern booklets was tabled by Dr. Peisach. These were most attractively mounted and written up and were much admired by members.

The thanks of the meeting were voiced by Dr. Hack, Mr. Ferguson and the Chairman to the exhibitors and to the Vice-Chairman for having organized the evenings entertainment.

The evening wound up with an auction of the cake not consumed by members.

13th June, 1956.

Members paid a visit to the Pretoria Railway Philatelic Society on this date and exhibits were tabled as follows:—

Mrs. Versfeld: — The Transvaal Museums' Collection of 'Roumania'.

Mrs. Betzler: — Germany.

Mr. Gouws: — Zoological Alphabet.

It is hoped that members of the Railway Society enjoyed our visit as much as we always enjoy theirs.

18th June, 1956.

The Certificate of Merit Competition for Thematic Collections was held on this evening and the following entries were received.

1. The Vatican City — Mr. F. C. Ferguson.
2. The Story of Pretoria — Mr. D. Slater-Kinghorn.
3. Stamps of Medical Interest — Dr. P. Hack.
4. Espionage Forgeries — Dr. K. Freund.

Dr. Broughton (Chairman), Dr. Reisener, and Messrs. Watson and Newlands were appointed judges and Dr. Hack is to be congratulated on being declared the winner.

Attendance was good this evening and this fact was commented on by the Chairman and Mr. Impey. For the first time in many years a country member (Dr. Freund) exhibited and it is to be hoped that many others will follow his example.

The evening was a great success and the Certificate of Merit Competition has earned an honoured place in our calendar.

E.M.-F.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Despite the cold weather which usually reduces the attendance figures during the winter months a total of 23 members and 7 visitors attended the June meeting of the Society in the Railway Recreation Club on Wednesday, 13th June. The big attraction was the annual visit of our old friends from the Pretoria Philatelic Society whose appearance at our meetings always means that an excellent evening's entertainment is assured.

On this occasion we were treated to three fine exhibits. The first was a most comprehensive selection of Roumania from 1932 onwards taken from the Transvaal Museum collection which had been very comprehensively written up by Miss Versveld, who also read a short descriptive paper prior to showing the exhibit. Mr. Slater-Kinghorn thanked her on behalf of the Society for the pleasure provided by her display.

The second was Mr. Gouws' thematic zoological alphabet collection, each letter of the alphabet be-

ing represented by an animal stamp complete with an appropriate rhyme. Yours truly thanked Mr. Gouws for his unusual and interesting exhibit.

The ladies were well to the fore as the third exhibit was Mrs. Betzler's display of the post-war stamps of Germany. Mr. Willie Newlands commenting stated that the designs of some of the latter stamps from both the Western and Eastern Zone were most expressive and the collection as a whole contained some remarkably fine stamps. He thanked Mrs. Betzler for the informative paper that she had read and for her very fine exhibit.

P.M.J.M.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG.

The first meeting in June, on 12th, was, once more, a most successful "Members' Night", with Bourse and Auction thrown in for good measure. For there were no less than ten exhibitors with their ten sheets each from their collections, and they provided all that could be asked for, serious philately and "filatelic fun" (with permission by Bloemfontein), Foreign as well as not so foreign, and, of course, quite a bit of thematically. Mr. Economides won first prize in the popular vote for his outstanding "U.S.A. Plate Proofs", second was Dr. Pirie with his strange Consular and Army Mails from Madagascar, third Mr. Hoenigsberg with some lovely "Baden and Saxony", and this by a newcomer and on printed album pages (!); and, close upon their heels, there were Master Crocker with some astounding Early Great Britains (where has he got them from, his father? And could any father be so self-effacing?), Commander Enoch with some more of his 'Number Ones', this time from the B. W. Indies. Mr. Isaacs with Pigeon and Rocket Posts, Mr. Kupfermann with "Picture Sheets from the Netherlands" and Mr. Vlegert with some "straightforward" Netherlands, Dr. von Varendorff (who collects ALL THE WORLD) with "Bulgaria", and, last but not least, Mr. Oppenheim with a delightful parody on a recent famed visitor to the Society, showing the way they used to collect in the last century — 200 stamps per page, and no page left to see — and the new way, the mode of collecting in some gruesome Orwellian future — no stamp whatsoever, but a "full" description of it, reading like a royal genealogy table, with the catalogue number taken straight from the Union Handbook and looking like a mathematical progression.

Between this and the second meeting, members visited the charmingly hospitable Germiston Society on June 20, the President, Mr. Glassman, showing some of his "Gilbert & Ellice Islands", to fight for the survival of Empire stamps, while Mr. Boss (Indo-China) Commander Enoch (Siam), and Mr. Michelson (Lithuania) displayed Foreigns, and Mr. Lydall gave his enticing quiz story built up on the strange place names to be found on the postmarks of the Union.

There were four lovely exhibits at the meeting of 25th June, provided by the visiting Western Rand Society who came in strength. Mr. Burrill showed his beautifully written-up Union Airmails, with all their rarities, Mr. Basson "Egypt", Mr. Kylander a thematic exhibit of Locomotives of all sorts and sizes, and from everywhere; and Mr. Bruwer showed us what one can do in 14 months of collecting, provided one does not waste one's nights on sleep — with a most beautiful Union collection.

W.H.

THEMATIC STAMP CLUB (Cape Town).

June 11th. A record crowd turned out to see again Mr. George Petroulis's collection "Artists and their Works on Stamps". Many had come a third time and this was a collection which one can see many times and never tire of studying the information. Mr. Petroulis adds to it from time to time and his writing up and presentation is typical of a man who collects for the real joy of philately. This showing was at the request of a number of members, which spoke well of the continued interest there is in this collection.

June 25th. This evening proved something new in the way of entertaining members. Mr. J. Enslin in addition to showing his Bechuanaland, had arranged for a Cine show. This naturally dealt with Southern Africa, when Mr. C. Wicch assisted by Mr. Koppiet, showed two extremely fine films (a) The Victoria Falls and (b) Hluhluwe and the Kruger National Parks. These were superb films and in the Parks film, one saw animals seldom or ever seen in such films, e.g. leopards, wild dogs, hyenas. Mr. Wicch is not a member of the Club and was most sincerely thanked. Then to revert to Mr.

Enslins exhibit. This consisted of Stellaland, British Bechuanaland, Bechuanaland Protectorate and the Tati Concession stamps. This included many errors and varieties, and one noticed such items as fine used blocks, the 1d. George V with no cross to crown, the rare 1/- 1885 green "RITISH" variety and postal fiscals actually used on cover for genuine postal use. This an evening where one had a real "double tot" and those members who attended were richly rewarded.

M.F.S.

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

June 4th. On this occasion it was an old stalwart of the Cape Town Societies, Mr. H. R. Savage, who entertained the members to a showing of his George VI collection. Naturally it is never possible for him to show all of his collection which included his used Malaya and Egypt, but he as usual showed a fine selection and gave his usual quiet and unassuming talk. Mr. Savage takes great care in his mounting and has a number of fine varieties. This young Society again succeeded in putting over a fine show by inviting Mr. Savage to exhibit.

M.F.S.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN.

June 14th. Recently the experiment of two members sharing the honours was again successfully demonstrated when Mr. S. H. Moyle showed his "Canada, George V to date" and Mr. B. Green his "British Commonwealth Commemoratives". Both these gentlemen were "dark horses" and the showing one which was excellent. Of Mr. Moyle's items, worthy of mention was a cover Winnipeg bearing a cachet 1955 that it was the first post office in Western Canada at Ross House, the 1 cent green Princess Elizabeth (Silver Jubilee) "Tear Drop" variety and a very fine lot of George V 1910-1935 as well as the booklets of Canada. Mr. Green showed Britain (item £1 1929 U.P.U. mint and used), Australia (item 5/- Sydney Bridge mint and used), Bahamas (£1 1942 Columbus overprint), Barbados, Bermuda, Br. Guiana, Br. Honduras, Bahawalpur, Burma, Brunei, Ceylon, Cook Islands, Cyprus (complete 1928 set with £1), Channel Islands and Dominica. Members hope to see a continuation at a later date. To back up his fine exhibit Mr. Moyle gave an illuminating talk, but Mr. Green stated that his collection spoke for itself, this being true as like the other collection it was very well mounted and very easy to follow. Members showed a great interest in the collections and spent much time looking at them and holding discussions over the stamps shown.

June 28th. Following a fine attendance on the 14th, there was as anticipated a very good attendance of members to hear Mr. E. Blum give his talk on "Stamps as an Investment". Those who know Mr. Blum came in anticipation of an interesting evening and no one was disappointed. Mr. Blum has the capacity in a few well-chosen words (with a good sense of humour) in putting over any subject on Philately. On this occasion he gave many pertinent facts, with examples of stamps to prove his points, and in summing up stressed the main points namely that the collector must buy wisely, purchase only good stamps in good condition, and beyond all, have a real knowledge of the country or countries that he is collecting and be prepared to put in research, in order that the "plums" could be found among the pile. He invoked many questions and it turned into a fine debate, in which members were able to glean many points of view and also methods of disposing collections. Messrs. Roth and Mummery, in proposing and seconding the vote of thanks were able, in addition, to add much to the topic under discussion. Provided that a speaker of the calibre of Mr. Blum can be found, other societies are recommended to try out such an evening. It was a novel experience and a most successful one, and carried out without the usual exhibit of stamps, except a few items passed around among the members. Rising out the discussion it was pointed out that as a hobby, the actual "cash value" of a collection can never really be measured against the pleasure that it gives and the relaxation gained.

M.F.S.

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

June 7th. After the general business of the evening and arranging for future meetings, members were entertained by two of the student members. Mr. F. Greef showed his general collection, which

was chiefly Europe, but in addition had some very good Chinese stamps of the early period. This exhibit was followed by an exhibit by Mr. J. Simmonds of "Maps on Stamps". This showed the beginning of what will in time prove to be an excellent and interesting thematic collection. There is always variety when the members exhibit and as mentioned before, it is always a surprise to know how students find time to collect and mount their stamps, what with studying and taking part in all the other University activities.

M.F.S.

SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS SOCIETY.

6, Barnes Cray Road,
Crayford,
Kent,
England.

The Editor,
South African Philatelist.

The above Society is holding its Annual General Meeting and Exhibition on Saturday 29th September, next at the Cora Hotel St. Pancras, London.

The main theme of the Exhibition this year, which is on a considerably greater scale than hitherto is a complete study of the 1d. definitive (Van Riebeeck's Ship) consisting of some 150 sheets. The remainder of the show will be devoted to many other aspects of South African Philately.

I would be grateful if you could publicise this exhibition and extend a welcome to any reader who may at that time happen to be visiting London.

Anyone who is aware of his visit may like to get in touch with me and I would be pleased to give full details and arrange hospitality for the day.

Yours faithfully,

W. A. PAGE,

(Hon. Sec. London Group).

AFRIKAANSE FILATELISTEVERENIGING.

6 Julie, 1956.

Die ses besoekende verteenwoordigers van die ander Johannesburgse vereniging het ons byna ooreweldig met ses versamelings van besondere hoë gehalte.

Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie het die weg vir sy kollegas gebaan met 'n versameling wat nie 'n gelyke het nie. Nie vir enige buitengewone hoedanighede nie, maar bloot omdat dit 'n versameling — van seëls — is wat versamelaars nie eintlik ken en inderdaad nie bewus van is nie, t.w. spoorweg-pakette- en koerantseëls. Die dokter is dan al lank met hierdie soort seëls doenig en hy is dan ook besig om hulle te katalogiseer en sodoende 'n nuwe veld vir versamelaars oop te gooi.

Mnr. B. Glassman was volgende aan die beurt met pragversamelings van Newfoundland en Nu-Seeland, gevolg deur mnr. W. Lambert met die lugposseëls van Kolombië. Dit is verbasend om te sien hoeveel lugposseëls party lande het. Mnr. Lambert se versameling van Kolombië beslaan 'n vet album, en dit sonder enige duplisering.

Mnr. L. Buchen het almal aan die praat gehad met 'n volledige posfris versameling van Israel in silinderblokke, stukke wat drukfoute en ander gebreke toon en eerstedagkoeverte. Mooi seëls, dog tog so onnodig. 'n Mens kan skaars glo dat een en dieselfde drukmetode vir hierdie seëls en ons s'n gebruik word.

Professor en mevr. Watt het vir die klassieke gesorg deur ons 'n kykie in die posgeskiedenis van die Nederlandse gebiede in die Verre Ooste te gee. Die versameling gaan terug na die jaar 1825 n bevat 'n hele aantal seëlvoorgangerkoeverte. Een van hulle verraai die destydse skeepsdienste — die stuk het 5 maande geneem om Holland te bereik.

Kommandeur Enoch het 'n versameling van die huishoudelike seëls van Siam vertoon. Eintlik moet 'n mens sê dat hy mooi daarin slaag om sy bevindings van uitgebreide studie van die seëls van Siam vir die tydperk 1883/85, met die nodige seëls te illustreer.

Weens die omvang van die uitstallings was daar tyd vir niks anders nie, en het almal 'n volle en genoegsame seëlaand gehad.

J. v. H. P.

INDIA

"Asiatic Hobbies" of Ghatkopar inform us that a 2 as. stamp will be issued on 23 July honouring, and with a portrait of Tilak, the occasion being the centenary of his birth.

The Philatelic Society of India celebrates its Diamond Jubilee early next year and will be holding a competitive stamp exhibition.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST

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UNION NOTES

Hon. Sub-Editor: Dr. T. B. BERRY,
Box 31, Bryanston, Transvaal.

5/- Oxwagon Outspanned

Mr. J. H. Bruwer of Krugersdorp, calls attention to an artist's error in the design of the 5/- oxwagon stamp illustrated below:



The shaft of the wagon is depicted tied incorrectly to the yoke at the third yoke-pin from the top, whereas in practice there is no attachment at this point on the yoke for the shaft of the wagon to be fastened to. The attachment for securing the shaft is an iron staple fixed into the yoke at its midpoint, while the yoke carries two sets of yoke-pins, placed equidistantly on each side of the iron staple by means of which yoke-pins the draft animals are harnessed.

A further inconsistency consists of the yoke standing unaided in the vertical position. This is not possible unless the yoke were supported, which is not the case, as the heavier upper two thirds of the yoke above the point at which the shaft is attached, would cause the yoke to topple over.

Mr. Bruwer is to be complimented on his

powers of observation; it would be interesting to know how few of the many who have handled this stamp, have spotted these inaccuracies.

Incidentally, a further interesting aspect of the 5/- and 10/- stamps may be observed when com-



paring the stamps with their official photoproofs.

The photoproof shows the wagon on the 5/- stamp facing right, while it is depicted facing left on the stamp.

Similarly in the 10/- value, there is a rotation of the centre portion of the stamp.

Information Required Please

Mr. J. H. Selfe, of Pretoria, draws attention to a most interesting phenomenon pertaining to the 2d. stamp, catalogued as 47E in the Handbook/Catalogue.

The first issue of this stamp in April 1950, contained the "Smoking Chimney" Flaw on stamp 20, Row 2. In subsequent issues, this flaw became less distinct and ultimately disappeared.

The first issue of this stamp overprinted OFFICIAL/OFFISIËEL, on 4th July 1950, and catalogued as O98 in the Handbook, did **not** contain the "Smoking Chimney" flaw, but in subsequent issues of the official stamp, O105 and O114, this flaw was present. In other words, in the first issue of the definitive stamp, the "Smoking Chimney" flaw was present and disappeared in the later issues, while in the first

issue of the official stamp, the flaw was absent and appeared in later issues.

Mr. Selve would be grateful to any reader who would explain the two conditions pertaining to the same stamp, but apparently opposed to one another.

Mr. W. A. Frankish, of Pietermaritzburg, reports that he possesses an O.F.S., ½d. on 3d., surcharge-inverted, stamp in good used condition. The item is catalogued as No. 81 in Gibbons British Empire Part 1 Catalogue, and priced for the "mint" item but not for the "used" one.

He would like to know if any particular reason may exist for not pricing the used item, and also if any reader of these notes could inform him of its approximate price.

Consular Stamps

Referring to the article on Consular Stamps which appeared in our June issue, Mr. T. A. Harper, of East London, writes to say that he possesses a 1/- purple, and a 5/- Second Type, Revenue Stamps overprinted Consular/Konsulair, and that the cancellation of the latter is 1936.

This information affords a further step forward in the correlation of these stamps.

Natal Stamp Centenary

The Philatelic Society of Natal in conjunction with the Maritzburg Philatelic Society approached the Postal Authorities, through the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, in regard to making a commemorative issue in 1957 to celebrate the Centenary of the first Natal Postage Stamp. Two proposed designs were submitted to the Postmaster General, one design taking the form of the original 3d. embossed stamp of Natal in outline superimposed on the outline of the Province of Natal.

The Federation has been informed that the request cannot be granted, the reason being, it is understood, that the issue would be of a provincial nature and not a national one.

P.E.N.A.P.E.X./P.E.N.A.F.U.

News from "The Bay" indicates that arrangements are well in hand for staging a successful National Exhibition at Port Elizabeth during the 1st to the 6th October. "All is going well" is reported. The quota of space allocated to Invitation Exhibitors is completely filled, thus ensuring an exhibit of Philatelic Items of outstanding merit and interest. The response of collectors to the hard-working organising committee's requests has been most gratifying.

A little disappointing has been the response of Junior Collectors over their entries in the Junior Competitive Section of the Exhibition.

It will be recalled that the Exhibition comprises two sections — a non-competitive invitation senior section and a competitive exhibition for juniors. The conditions pertaining to the latter may be obtained from the Honorary Congress Secretary, Box 3, Port Elizabeth, and it is hoped that Societies and Seniors will assist in encouraging and recruiting the stamp collector of "tomorrow."

The Eighteenth Annual Congress of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa also meets during this period at Port Elizabeth, arrangements for which are also well in hand.

The Executive Committee held its last meeting, preceding Congress, on the 20th July, when the Agenda for Congress was decided upon. Matters of interest and of importance to our hobby will be deliberated upon by the delegates of the affiliated Societies.

The Rand Hobbies Fair

The Rand Hobbies Fair organised by The Star, Rotary and Round Table No. 3 was held in the Johannesburg City Hall, the Selborne Hall, and the Duncan Hall from the 4th to the 11th July. The three halls were transformed into Aladdin Caves and it seemed there could be no hobby under the sun which was not represented. Over 600 entries were received, and the attendance of the public was a bumper one.

The Stamp Exhibit, organised by the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg proved an even bigger success than that of the previous year. Along the full length of the main wall of the Selbourne Hall, six large stands, containing twelve frames, displayed exhibits from the collections of 26 members invited to illustrate stamps and the many ways of collecting — telling the story of philately in seventeen different ways.

Firstly, nine different ways of mounting and presenting a collection were shown — a page from a printed album, manuscript write up on white pages, professionally written up pages, a white and black page written up by means of a special typewriter, hand-drawn black frames for the stamps displayed, stamps mounted on black squares, crystal mounts and "Hawid" strips for mounting.

Secondly, pages displaying a general collection contrasted in the third section with examples of specialised collecting — the story of the production of a stamp from proof to finish stage and the origination and first issues of the London Pictorial Stamps of the Union.

Local stamps were illustrated next: Lundy Island, Shanghai, Poland, Russian Zemstvos, and German Locals, followed by scarce items and rarities such as the Hawaiian Postmasters. Air Mail stamps were illustrated by Air Mails, First Flights, loose stamps and historical data pertaining to first and last flights.

Then followed the largest section, Thematics: the Philatelic Calendar, S.A. Postmarks, Scotch names on S.A. postmarks, Animals, Scouting, the Wild-life of S. Africa, a Zoology exhibit, "Two Reigns," Railway and Railway Newspaper Stamps, Postal Stationery, Foreign Stamps and Stamps of the Union.

Postal History was exemplified by pre-stamp covers, while Curiosities were illustrated by the Belgian Non-Delivery-on-Sunday covers. Centenarians among stamps, and "Number One" issues concluded the privately owned exhibits which were followed by the Cape Triangular Section of the Federation's Forgery Collection, and the Philatelic Glossary of the Johannesburg Philatelic Society.

There was much to see and admire, and something for everyone, not only the initiated but more so for the many who were still completely unaware of the many-sided and entrancing interests to be found in philately.

The exhibit was well presented. A duty officer was in attendance each day during the period the Fair was open, not only to answer the many enquiries of both young and old, but to ensue

that the exhibitors received their stamps back in the same good condition as in which they were submitted. The Johannesburg Philatelic Society is to heartily congratulate on a very fine effort, and sincere appreciation extended to those members who so nobly assisted.

Propos the foregoing, it may not be out of place to refer to an interesting article entitled, "HOBBIES GIVE YOU AWAY" which appeared in the magazine "Everybody's" of the 2nd June 1956. The author, John E. Gibson, states that whatever one does in one's spare time may reveal one's personality, and he proceeds to enumerate the six major hobby interests and what they reveal in terms of personality. They are:

"Photography

People who pursue amateur photography as a hobby have been found to rank relatively high as far as mental and emotional stability is concerned, etc.

Gardening

The man who has an affinity for the soil, who loves to see things grow under his hand, is seldom shallow or superficial or materialistic, etc.

Collecting

Stamps, first editions, paintings, objects d'art, etc. You are apt to have a higher Intelligence Quotient, and an unquenchable thirst for either general or specialised knowledge. The odds are better than even that your enquiring mind seldom permits you to be bored, etc.

Music

You are apt to be sensitive, highly-strung and easily carried away by your emotions, etc.

Mechanical and Scientific

This includes wood-working, model-building, electrical and shop mechanics, "do-it-yourself" projects, astronomy, etc.; you tend to be better adjusted than average and to have fewer personality conflicts than most people."

These excerpts pertain to an article well-worth-while reading wherein the personality factor of a hobby is discussed from the scientific, the psychological and the sociological aspect. The author's opinion of our hobby is more fully recorded, as:

"Stamp Collectors

Studies have shown that stamp collectors not only score appreciably higher on world knowledge tests (history and geography) than non-collectors, but they possess mental ability which is considerably greater than that of the general population.

Some time ago a university analysed the personality traits of devotees of four leading hobbies, (1) stamp collecting, (2) music, (3) photography, and (4) model engineering.

The stamp collectors were found to be the happiest and best adjusted. And the biggest percentage of maladjusted persons were found among the amateur musicians. Those who had chosen photography as a hobby ranked second to the stamp collectors as far as well-balanced personalities were concerned.

The miniature engineering hobbyists ranked behind the amateur photographers on personality tests, but were found to be better adjusted than the music group."

EUROPEAN STAMP.

On 15 September six countries (France, W. Germany, Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg and Netherlands) will issue a similar stamp symbolizing the building up of a new Europe. Illustrations of it are at first sight rather confusing, but the design is described as being a tower under construction, with the stones of the facade forming large block letters which spell "EUROPA" vertically. Behind the tower floats a large flag in the design of a letter "E". The design will be used for one or more values by each country — each using its own language for the country's name inscription.

GOUGH ISLAND.

We understand that Mr. v.d. Merwe, who was the meteorologist with the recent British Survey Party, and who has remained on with the South African party, which is continuing the Met. Station there, is to continue the post office which was set up there.

This means, we presume, that the canceller in use then (see illustration in our March issue), will remain in use, and of course Tristan da Cunha stamps, of which the island is a dependency, will be used.

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100 Belg. Cols. ... 15/-	200 Columbia ... 32/6	100 Greece ... 2/9	200 Malaya ... 25/-	100 Spain ... 2/6
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200 Brit. West Ind. ... 47/6	300 Czech ... 14/6	100 Iceland ... 24/-	100 N. Zealand ... 8/3	200 Turkey ... 9/6
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	200 Finland ... 17/6	200 Italy ... 5/6		
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		50 Liechtenstein ... 5/6		

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ORANGE FREE STATE — A REMARKABLE COVER.

By DOUGLAS ROTH

I have recently had the great pleasure of examining a most remarkable early cover of the Orange Free State. When I first saw it I could not bring myself to think that it could be anything else but a fake. On further examination however, coupled with some research, I came to the conclusion that it was perfectly genuine, and furthermore that it is possible that other similar covers may still be in existence.

As will be seen from the photograph the cover bears a bisected copy of O.F.S. S.G.9, the 1/- orange-yellow in the top left corner and a copy of the Cape of Good Hope 4d. S.G.24 in the top right corner. The cover is backstamped COLESBERG 29 May 1868 and bears on the front the receiving mark of SOMERSET EAST dated the 3rd June 1868. The cover is addressed to Somerset East but the name of the addressee has unfortunately been torn out. The Free State stamp is cancelled with a barred oval which does not appear to be one of the Free State types but is akin to one of the Cape

were supplied to the Free State Govt. and were doubtless on sale at the various post offices.'

Mr. Gregory's suggestion led me to write to the Archivist in Bloemfontein and to enquire if any postal official of that period was known to have the initials A.P.J.v.d.P. and if so where was he stationed. To my great pleasure I received a reply that they were those of one A. P. J. van der Poel and that he was Landdrost Klerk and Postmaster of PHILLIPOLIS for the period 15 Jan. 1868 to 1 June 1869. This information put a very different complexion on the cover and I believe what happened was as follows:— The writer was probably a farmer living near Phillipolis who sent the letter to the Postmaster by messenger. To the letter he had pinned, but not stuck, a 1/- stamp. On receiving it the Postmaster bisected it, replaced half the stamp and the pin, and added a 4d. Cape stamp. He possibly also pocketed the 2d. change for his trouble and it is reasonable to suppose that he sold the other half of the bisect to someone else. On arrival at Colesberg in all probability the Cape stamp was then cancelled and the letter sent forward on its way to Somerset East.



ones. The Cape stamp is cancelled with a different barred oval, and is a different ink, in which the number is insufficiently clear to allow identification. At some period a pin has been passed through the Free State stamp pinning it to the envelope and its rust marks can clearly be seen. Below it, and in a different ink and handwriting to that of the address, are the words 'pinned to envelope'. To the right of the stamp are the words '½ shilling

A.P.J.v.d.P.' in a handwriting different to the two others.

I am indebted to Mr. W. J. H. Gregory of Cape Town for putting me on to what I believe the correct answer to this mysterious item. At the period in question a letter from the Free State to the Cape was required to be franked with a 6d. Free State stamp and a 4d. Cape stamp. 'According to Allis these Cape stamps

If the pin marks in the cover are examined carefully it is clear that a whole stamp was once there. The holes going through the remaining half are ineffective in pinning that half to the cover and the half stamp remaining is in fact stuck down for the most part. If my theory is correct then it is likely that other covers received the same treatment and I should be interested to hear of any which readers may possess. The barred oval tying the bisect is only clear on the envelope and this is probably due to the presence of the pin which seems to have been in the way. The fact that the pin marks are very rusty proves that it was there for some time. In conclusion it should be noted that the endorsement 'pinned to envelope' is in a different ink and writing to both that of the address and the postmasters endorsement and is probably that of some early philatelist.

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3d.	"	dull orange-red Co-exten.	£18 3 0	£25
4d.	"	sage-green Co-exten.	£22 3 0	£30
6d.	"	grey-black Co-exten.	£22 3 0	£40
1/-	"	orange Co-exten.	£22 15 0	£35
2/6	"	reddish-purple Co-exten.	£73 0 0	£75
5/-	bottom left	(N.B. this pane has split perfs. down row 6 for top 6 stamps). Pl. 1 second ptg. with re-touch nose and start of ear-ring flaw. Light blue, NOT Co-ext.	£247 0 0	£150
10/-	top right	deep blue Co-exten. (cracked perfs. in two stamps at bottom and one at right gutter)	£310 0 0	£225

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Revenue Stamps of The Union of South Africa

By L. J. DODD

The eminent authority, Fred J. Melville, and author of "All about Stamps", introduces the subject of his book by enquiring "What is Philately"? His reply reads "Philately is stamp collecting with understanding. It is the study of stamps and their associations; it concerns itself with each of the several parts of a stamp, and the inflection of these several parts in relation to each other. More broadly defined "Philately is the collection of, and knowledge pertaining to postage, telegraph and revenue stamps issued by Government authority" etc.

Collectors of revenue stamps comprise a small percentage of the world's collectors of stamps. Overseas the percentage is greater than in the Union, where, perhaps due to custom, the collection of revenue stamps is a very neglected sideline of the Union's issues, notwithstanding the fact that Revenue Stamps are produced by the same means, from the same materials, and in like manner as are postage stamps. They are sold side by side over the post office counter with postage stamps, the ½d. and 1d. values of which are inscribed accordingly, may be used for postage or revenue purposes, and find a place of honour in every collection comprising the postage stamps of the Union.

The Government Notice No. 349 of 15th August 1910, gave the information that the postage and revenue stamps of the four colonies were to be recognised as available for use throughout the Union until such time as definitive stamps were issued. This notice brings into the picture, **Interprovincials**, the cancellation showing the date is necessary for their identification. It is not the intention to go into the use of these forerunners of the Union revenues, which were replaced by the first definitive issue on September 1st 1913.

For ease of reference the stamps have been divided into seven Series, corresponding to the different types of issued stamps.

SERIES 1

SERIES 1: Issued 1st September 1913, Perforation 14, Format 22.5mm. wide x 30.5mm. high, printed by Messrs. De la Rue & Co. in two colours, Watermark Single Springbok's Head.

The vignette consists of the familiar McKen-nal head of K.G.V. so well known to Union collectors. The background of horizontal lines is graded from heavy at the top to light at the bottom, this is surrounded by a solid coloured oval band on which is printed in white capitals, Union of South Africa above, and Unie van Zuid Afrika below, with a small white dot in the centre at each side. The frame plate is made up by a beribboned and semi-furled banner with a crown in the centre at the top, and has rather the effect of a shield. On each side of the crown there is a small panel containing the words Revenue — Inkomst in small white capitals. At the bottom centre a panel contains the value in numerals.

List of values seen

3d. Green & green	10/- Purple & yellow-green
6d. Purple & scarlet	£1 Blue & slate
1/- Purple & bluish slate	£2 Orange & slate
2/- Maroon & green	£5 Green & lilac
2/6 Green & orange	£10 Carmine & lilac
3/- Blue & grey-green	£25 Orange & sage-green
5/- Greenish-black & chestnut	

At a date unknown, the colours of three values were changed:—

1/- Purple & purple. £1 Green & carmine. £2 Purple and orange.

VARIETIES

1/- Purple & purple. Perforation missing at top of left side.

2/- Faulty figure of value.

3/- Inverted watermark.

£1 Faulty value figure.

£1 Green & carmine, smaller "£" and "1" of value.

Some stamps of this issue were overprinted Penalty or Boete in black block capitals, they were for use on documents unstamped within the legal period, and which later it became necessary to re-validate.

The following have been seen:—

PENALTY 3d., 6d., 1/-, 2/-, 2/6, 5/-, 10/-.

BOETE 2/6.

SERIES 2

SERIES 2: For the years 1931 to 1937, Perforation 14, Format 21.5mm. wide x 27.25mm. high, printed by Government Printing Works, in two colours, Watermark Multiple Spring-bok's Head, Sideways.

As before the new type is bi-lingual, but now Afrikaans replaces Nederlands. The design is a smaller edition of the De la Rue stamp and still printed in two colours. The colour used for the headplate varies from intense black to greyish-black for all values with the exception of the 2d. denomination for which carmine is used. The 2d. value was not printed after 1933. With this Series the innovation of printing the year on each stamp was introduced, a practice continued up to the present day. There were no stamps issued in 1932. By 1936 the headplate had become so worn, it was necessary to strengthen the lines of the background. In 1937 a new headplate was used, the new Die varies in that the background now consists of 43 horizontal lines instead of the 60 formerly used.

List of colours used for the frameplate

2d. Yellow green	3/- Bluish purple
3d. Sage green	5/- Red purple
6d. Red	10/- Olive brown
1/- Deep purple	£1 Orange
1/6 Red brown	£2 Rose
2/- Slate blue	£5 Pale olive green
2/6 Olive green	£10 Pale green

NOTE: The colours vary considerably from year to year. A 15/- denomination was issued in 1937 in pale blue.

List of values seen

The letters R or L after the year indicate whether the watermark which is sideways, faces right or left.



- 1931 R 2d., 3d., 6d., 1/-, 1/6, 2/-, 2/6, 3/-, 5/-, 10/-, £1, £2, £10.
 1933 R 2d., 3d., 6d., 1/-, 2/-, 2/6, 3/-, 5/-, 10/-, £1, £2, £5, £10.
 1934 R 1/6, 2/-, 3/-, 5/-, 10/-, £1, £2.
 1935 L 3d., 6d., 1/-, 1/6, 2/-, 2/6, 3/-, 5/-, 10/-, £1, £2.
 1936 L 3d., 6d., 1/-, 1/6, 2/-, 2/6, 3/-, 5/-, 10/-, £1, £2, £5, £10.
 1937 R 3d., 6d., 1/-, 1/6, 2/-, 2/6, 3/-, 5/-, 10/-, £1, £2.
 1937 L 3d., 6d., 1/-, 2/6, 3/-, 5/-, 10/-, £1.

NOTE: A £25 stamp has been seen, but the cancellation obliterates the date. As noted above a 15/- stamp was issued in 1937.

PENALTY STAMPS: Certain values are overprinted "Penalty/Boete" in red sans serif capitals, in two lines, with a stop after each word.

Values seen:— 2/6 of 1931; 3d. and 2/6 of 1933; 2/6 of 1935 and 6d., 1/-, 2/6, 5/-, 10/-, of 1937.

SERIES 3

SERIES 3: For the years 1938 to 1942, Perforation 14, Format 27mm. wide x 21.5mm. high, printed by Government Printing Works in one colour, Watermark Multiple Springbok's Head.

The type now brought into use was in the shape of an oblong, still a bilingual stamp, but now printed in one colour over a range of three colours used alternatively, the solid coloured background throws up the head of K.G. VI very clearly, as also the lettering, both being in white. The panels containing the value in figures have a background of white lines which are interrupted so as not to interfere with the numerals which are also in white. Two panels are used on the stamps up to 9/-, and one panel on the higher values, these latter also have the value in letters printed in the small panels around the outer edges.

Colours and values distributed as below

- Green 3d., 1/6, 9/-, 10/-, £2.
 Red 6d., 2/6, 5/-, £1, £10.
 Orange 1/-, 2/-, 3/-, 15/-, £5.

List of values seen

- 1938 3d., 6d., 1/-, 1/6, 2/-, 2/6, 3/-, 5/-, 9/-, 10/-, £1, £2, £5, £10.
 1939 3d., 6d., 1/-, 2/6.
 1940 3d., 6d., 1/-, 2/-, 2/6, £1, £2, £5.
 1941 15/-, £10.
 1942 3d., 6d., 1/-, 2/-, 2/6, 5/-, 10/-, £1, £2.

The issue of the 9/- value is reported as being for use in the office of the Surveyor General to cover the fee for the certification of a diagram on title deeds. On the 6d. and 2/6 denominations of 1938 there is a variety consisting of an accent on the "O" of "OF". A 6d. value of 1938 with manuscript overprint "Penalty" is a variety noted, but the fact that it is on document and cancelled at the Revenue Office is the only authority for noting it here.

SERIES 3a

Provisional Stamps

During the period 1938 to 1942, a 2/6 unilingual stamp used for Native Tax, was overprinted 'Inkomste' or 'Revenue', and used for general purposes. Perforation 14, Format 27.5 mm. wide x 20.75mm. high, watermark Multiple Springbok's Head, printed in two colours. The red brown centre depicts native huts, and a figure sitting in the open by a fire; the frame in green shows a shield and native spears on each side. The earliest cancellation seen is January 1942.

SERIES 4

SERIES 4: For years 1943 to 1945. Perforation 14 all round, divided horizontally by roulette 6½, size of single stamp is 21mm. wide by 12.5mm. high, colours and watermark as previous issue.

With the need for conserving the stocks of stamp paper it was resolved to follow the system being used for postage stamps, and print miniatures, known as **Bantams**. The style of the stamps closely follows the issue of 1938/42, but certain adaptations were made because of the limited space, the most noticeable being the circle round the King's head.

List of values seen

1943 6d., 1/-, 1/6, 2/-, 3/-, 5/-, 10/-, £1, £2, £5.
1944 3d., 6d., 9/-, 10/-, 15/-, £1.
1945 3d., 6d., 1/-, 2/-, 2/6, 5/-, 10/-, £1, £2, £10.

NOTE: The extreme minuteness of the figures indicating the year of issue makes it very difficult to allot specimens to the correct year, this is especially so in certain values of '45', which look more like '46'. The 10/- value of 1945 was printed in two Dies, the most prominent variation is in the numerals of the value; the "O" of 10/- being rounder, and the background of the tablet is shaded with finer lines.

SERIES 5

SERIES 5: For the years 1946 to 1952. Perforation 14, Format 27.5 wide x 21.5mm. high, printed in two colours by Government Printing Works, Watermark Multiple Springbok's Head.

With the easing of paper supplies a different type of stamp was considered. The stamps were printed in two colours up to and including the 5/- denomination, but from the 10/- upwards the stamps are in one colour, however in these latter the value was repeated in letters below the King's head. The stamps are now unilingual, alternate stamps in the sheet being Afrikaans or English. A new feature of this series is that the head plate carries the inscription "Union of South Africa" or "Unie van Suid-Afrika"; whereas the frameplate has the words "Inkomste" or "Revenue", as also the value in figures.

List of values with colours used

3d. Mauve & green	5/- Carmine & pale blue
6d. Orange & blue	10/- Mauve
1/- Grey-black and carmine	15/- Emerald green
1/6 Orange & pale green	£1 Carmine
2/- Blue & orange	£2 Grey
2/6 Carmine & blue green	£5 Blue
3/- Blue & carmine	£10 Orange
	£25 Yellow brown.

List of values seen.

1946 3d., 6d., 1/-, 2/-, 5/-, 10/-, £2, £5.
1947 6d., 1/6, 2/-, 5/-, 10/-, £25.
1948 3d., 6d., 1/-, 2/-, 2/6, 3/-, 5/-, 10/-, 15/-, £1, £2, £10.
1949 3d., 6d., 1/-, 1/6, 2/6, 3/-.
1950 3d., 6d., 2/-, 3/-.
1951 3d., 6d., 1/-, 2/-, 2/6, 3/-, 5/-, 10/-, £5, £25.
1952 3d., 6d., 1/-, 2/-, 2/6, 3/-, 5/-, £2.

NOTE: The following values bear the "Error", head plate reversed, thus making a bilingual stamp in each language. The 1/6 of 1947; the 3/- of 1949; the 6d. and 3/- of 1950; the 2/- of 1951; and the 6d. of 1952. There was a second printing of the 6d. of 1952 on which the error was corrected.

The stamps of 1952 were printed from a re-drawn Die, slightly smaller, now measuring 26.75mm. wide x 21mm. high, and a finer type of screening was employed.

SERIES 6

SERIES 6: Issued in the year 1954. Perforation 14, Format 27.5mm. by 21.5mm. high, printed by Govt. Printing Works in two colours, Watermark Multiple Springbok's Head.

For 1954 an entirely different type was introduced, and again reverts to a bilingual stamp. The background of the circular vignette in the centre of the right half of the stamp, and the value in numerals in the upright panel in the left half are in the first colour quoted for each value. The head of Queen Elizabeth and the frame are in the second colour. Above the vignette and below the value panel are additional small panels bearing the value in letters. To balance these small panels, 'South Africa' and 'Suid-Afrika' is printed in white capitals at top left and bottom right.

Distribution of colours so far seen

2d. Buff & mauve	3/-
3d. Mauve & green	5/- Rose & blue
6d. Gold & blue green	10/-
1/- Buff & carmine	15/-
rose	£1 Blue and pale red
1/6	£2
2/- Pale blue & orange	£5
	£10
2/6	£25

NOTE:— No stamps have been seen with date 1953. The re-introduction of the 2d. denomination, after 21 years should be noted.

SERIES 7

SERIES 7: Issued in the year 1954. Perforation 14, Format 21.5mm. wide x 27.25mm. high, printed in two colours by Government Printing Works, Watermark Multiple Springbok's Head, Sideways, facing left.

This series introduces an entirely different type of stamp, and is somewhat similar to the type used for Postage Due stamps. It is bilingual. The centre plate contains the coat of arms of the Union printed in the first colour quoted below for each denomination, and all the lettering is also in this colour. The frame plate colour shades gradually from the white centre to panels at the top and bottom and the two sides, which are in the second colours noted below. These panels contain, above and below 'South Africa' or Suid-Afrika, and at the sides the value in letters. The value in figures and the words 'Inkomste — Revenue' appears immediately below the Coat of Arms. The lettering in the first colour being over-printed on the frame colour creates the illusion of a stamp printed in three colours.

Distribution of colours so far known

2d. Blue & yellow	1/6 Greenish-black & buff
3d. Brown & green	2/- Carmine & olive brown
6d. Carmine & greenish blue	2/6 Carmine & bright green
1/- Indigo & pink	

3/- Black purple & slate blue	£1	Greenish-black & deep pink
5/- Greenish black & pale pink-brown	£2	Dark brown & blue
9/- Brown and pale brown-lake	£5	Slate purple & pale buff
10/- Slate purple & yellow green	£10	
15/- Carmine and red-dish-mauve	£25	
	£50	
	£100	

CONCLUSION: This article is based upon material housed in the collection of the author and from information supplied by correspondents. By its publication, it is hoped that anyone who is interested in these stamps will benefit, and that those who can point out errors or supply additional information, will do so, and thus add to what is at present a tentative listing of the Revenue Stamps of the Union of S. Africa.

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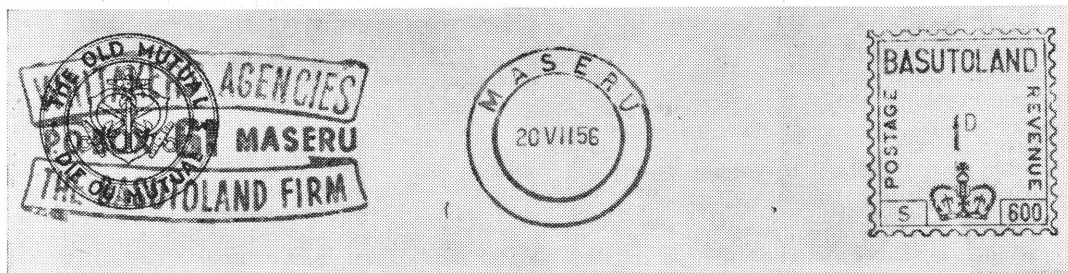
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BASUTOLAND

Mrs. Jacot Guillarmod forwards a specimen, which is herewith illustrated, of what she believes to be the first meter stamp of the ter-

ritory, used by the firm "Whitaker's Agencies, P.O. Box 61, Maseru. The Basutoland Firm."

The stamp, it will be noted, has a St. Edward's crown; its number is S600 (? why).



THE STAMP'S THE THING: OR IS IT?

In our August issue we published a letter from a reader on Maximum Cards. In the "Year Book" of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain is an article with the title given above by E. F. Hugen, F.R.P.S.L., presented at the recent meeting in Brighton. As he states, it is meant to be highly controversial. He accepts the definition of Philately given in the Congress' Glossary, "the study of postage stamps", then goes on to consider some of the invaders who crash into our hobby — anti-philatelic trends — and call their study "Philately". In the space at our disposal we can only give his main remarks about these various trends.

1. Postal History — Pre-adhesive Period. Fascinating no doubt, but as stamps do not come into the picture, it cannot be called philately.

2. Postal History — Adhesive Period. The collector of postmarks, special cancellations, T.P.O.'s, Paquebots, etc., is primarily interested in the mark, and only secondarily, if at all, in the stamp underneath. Only if such markings are collected to illustrate the use to which the stamp has been put, can it be called philately.

3. Pre-cancels. The stamps here are quite incidental to the marking and their collecting is not philately.

4. First flight covers. Are they collected for the stamp on them, or for the special envelope, the cachet, or just as an excuse for drawing a map of the route? The stamp is usually the last thing to be studied.

5. First day of issue covers. Usually the interest here is in the cancellation, not in the stamp particularly. Should be termed Postmark collecting.

6. Souvenir and Miniature Sheets. A form of collecting, at its peak about 1939, but now less popular as too many countries overstepped the mark in their cashing in on collectors.

7. Maximum cards and Favour Sheets. Attractive and extensively collected and it looks as if "Maximaphily" has come to stay. But of course it is not philately.

8. Themately — Subject Collecting. A form of collecting which has great possibilities, but whether it is here to stay remains to be seen. The point arises:— Does this trend influence Governments when considering new issues? Are

they producing pictures to meet the demands of collectors, or is it the reverse, are we being told what to collect?

9. Speculators, Investors and Amateur Dealers. These are proper descriptions for some individuals who masquerade as "Philatelists". When material gain becomes the chief incentive it ceases to be a hobby and becomes a business. Legitimate trade in stamps is one thing but juggling with their monetary value quite another.

10. Government trading. Does this unduly cut across the business of the legitimate dealer? What about the many stamps that can be purchased in Britain that have never seen the shores of their own country of issue?

Mr. Hugen ends up by saying "I seem to have condemned every form of collecting, except the one ideal: The Stamp," and asks the question "Whither Philately — to Paradise or Perdition?"

We imagine that stamp collecting in one form or another, probably in many forms, will go on, whether it is called Philately or by any other name.

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FRANCE

Four stamps, featuring various sports, were issued on 7 July:—
30f Basket Ball.
40f Basque Pelote.
50f Rugby.
75f Alpinism (Rock climbing).

THE BLUE LOCAL MAFEKING STAMPS ...

A reader recently wrote asking for details of the photographic process used in the making of the blue 1d. and 3d. stamps prepared in Mafeking during the 1900 siege. His letter was referred to Dr. K. Freund, the well-known Mafeking expert and his description, as given below, is thought sufficiently interesting to give it this wider publicity:—

The blue Mafeking stamps were manufactured by Mr. D. Taylor, a professional photographer, on blue "sensitized" paper. Such paper, not unlike engineer's or architect's paper, used to be prepared by photographers themselves at that time. The main chemical employed to sensitize the paper was "**ferrocyanide of potassium.**"

The siege authorities first printed a £1 Paper Note (siege money) on such paper (the design was drawn by Col. Baden-Powell), and when this turned out to be successful, it was decided to print contemplated "local" stamps in a similar manner.

Unfortunately there were no stocks left of ferrocyanide in the besieged town, and attempts were made to smuggle this chemical through from outside. A message to this effect was given to native runners who managed to get through the Boer lines by night. The first attempt was a failure, as the runners returned with some wrong chemical, "ferri" instead of "ferro," which was useless for the purpose. The mistake was apparently caused because the message was badly written and the purpose of the chemical not stated.

The next message stated the purpose and was clearly printed, and this time the right stuff seems to have been sent along with the runners. But unfortunately these runners were caught by Boer posts and shot, and all dispatches and material they carried were confiscated.

A third attempt to get the ferrocyanide of potassium, was successful, and Mr. Taylor was at last able to prepare the paper for making blue money and afterwards blue stamps.

The **photographic** printing process thereafter was briefly the following:— The original photograph (main design) was pasted on a sheet of paper and the rest of the design drawn around it. This was copied in a much reduced ("stamp") size. Twelve copies were made of such reduced size and pasted on a sheet of cardboard representing a sheet of 12 stamps. This set-up in turn was photographed, the **negative glass plate** thus obtained forming the actual **printing plate** from which the stamps were printed on the sensitized paper (sheets of 12 stamps, 3 x 4).

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JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF NETHERLANDS & PORTUGUESE TIMOR

A correspondent in America is endeavouring to compile a treatise on the postal services and political structure of the Netherlands East Indies in general, but particularly of Dutch and Portuguese Timor during World War II, regarding which information is still very meagre.

He has submitted a lengthy questionnaire and anyone with information in the form of newspaper files, diaries and covers or letters from persons there, is requested to provide it, however small it may be.

We can supply anyone interested with the questionnaire and address of the enquirer.

EIRE

In September two stamps, 3d. and 1s. 3d., will be issued in honour of the presentation by the U.S.A. of a statue of Commodore John Barry, "Father of the American Navy," who was born in Ireland in 1745. The statue is being unveiled at Wexford Tarbour on 16th September.

PHILIPPINES

At the first conference of the World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession to be held outside of Europe, on 1—8 August, current 5c stamps were overprinted "WCOTP Conference, Manila."

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First to make its appearance was the **Gibbons Europe**, a massive work of 1,300 pages. Prices are getting more into line with the general European trade. Price \$4.00 post free. Two other famous Europe catalogues, **Michel** and **Zumstein** are due out next month, Michel at \$5.00 and Zumstein at \$4.80, post, packing extra in both cases.

The collectors of Germany, and all affiliated subjects will as usual have a wonderful choice of catalogues. Two thin pocket type catalogues will be the **Wrona** and the **Borek**. Both catalogues are supposed to be net price publications. The **Michel Germany** has been a popular work for many a year; the **Mueller 1957** is going to be the big surprise, it is the nearest thing to the specialised catalogue for Germany collectors, that they could expect at present. Prices for these are: Mueller \$2.00, Michel \$1.50, Wrona \$0.85, Borek \$0.85, all postage, packing extra.

German Philatelic Review,
152 Finchley Road,
Hampstead,
London N.W.3.

T.P.O.'s IN THE ORANGE FREE STATE & ORANGE RIVER COLONY

By

J. H. HARVEY PIRIE and W. NEWLANDS

For the preparation of this article we have pooled our collections and our knowledge without specification of ownership or contribution.

Our knowledge of the history of these services has been obtained partly through the kind services of the Publicity Department of the Union G.P.O., and partly by perusal of the Annual Reports of the P.M.G.'s of the territories dealt with.

We have entitled our article "T.P.O.'s in" rather than "T.P.O.'s of" the O.V.S. and O.R.C. because, even when bearing the name of the territory, the services were essentially inter-state or inter-provincial in character. They may have delivered or picked up local mail — some of them certainly did so — but their primary function might not inaptly be described as simply that of hastening the sorting of mail between Cape Town and Johannesburg.

Even after the pooling of our material — the postmarks of the T.P.O.'s — it is still woefully small for the elucidation of some phases of our story. We feel, however, that it is sufficient to make the main outlines clear; such portions as still need filling-up will be mentioned, and it is to be hoped that future findings may fill the blanks.

O.V.S. PERIOD — 1894-1900

Our story may actually be started in 1892 when there were certain railway developments which had a bearing on the future T.P.O. services in the O.V.S.

At that period there were heavy shipments of raw gold sent by post from the Transvaal and it was found necessary to run a large T.P.O. van through to Johannesburg weekly in time to return with the express carrying mails for Europe. This van had a strong safe and an armed officer of the Post Office and two armed constables accompanied it. This weekly express was known (at any rate in the Cape section of its run, Norvals Pont to Cape Town) as "6 UP" and we have heard rumours of a T.P.O. postmark with this designation, though, never having actually seen a specimen, we cannot vouch for its existence.

In 1892 also the railway line from Springfontein to Stormberg Junction was opened, thus facilitating communication between the Eastern Cape and the northern Republics. The Cape authorities suggested to the O.V.S. and the Z.A.R. that it would be advisable to establish an inter-state T.P.O. to travel between Naauwpoort and Stormberg Junction via Springfontein, but neither of the two Republics could then see their way to contributing any portion of the expenses.

In 1893, however, at a conference held in Bloemfontein it was decided to start an inter-state T.P.O. service between Cape Town and Johannesburg, and this service was actually inaugurated in May, 1894, two temporary and two new vans being provided for it.

The initial working arrangements were:—

(a) That the section from Norvals Pont to Bloemfontein would be worked by Cape postal officials, the cost for them being refunded by the O.V.S.

(b) That the section between Bloemfontein and Johannesburg would be operated by Z.A.R. postal officials, and at the cost of the Z.A.R. as the bulk of the mail matter dealt with was mainly in their interest.

At the beginning of 1895 a re-arrangement was made and the Z.A.R. took over the working of the whole section between Norvals Pont and Johannesburg.

Early in 1899 the Z.A.R. gave notice of their intention to withdraw from the 1895 agreement and by 1st March their ordinary service was curtailed to run only between Kroonstad and Johannesburg. At the end of June the T.P.O. service in the O.V.S. ceased operating altogether as a **distributing agency**, although two T.P.O. vans are stated to have been hired from the Cape for use over that area. The stoppage of the employment of travelling sorters north of Norvals Pont is reported to have caused considerable delay in the delivery of correspondence in the O.V.S.

So far as the weekly express carrying the European mail was concerned, Z.A.R. postal officials are stated still to have travelled from Johannesburg to Norvals Pont with this and, indeed, to have gone as far as Beaufort West to meet the up-coming fast mail train and to have been provided with two vans in which to carry out sorting duties.

These statements do not give us a very clear picture of the T.P.O. arrangements in 1899, but we get the impression that there would have been little, if any, cancellation or back-stamping of mail after, at any rate, the middle of the year. This may account for our lack of any postmark over that period.

With the outbreak of war exchange of mails between the Cape and the Republics ceased on 13th October, 1899. Four T.P.O. vans were detained north of the Orange River when communications were cut off.

T.P.O. Postmarks 1894-1900

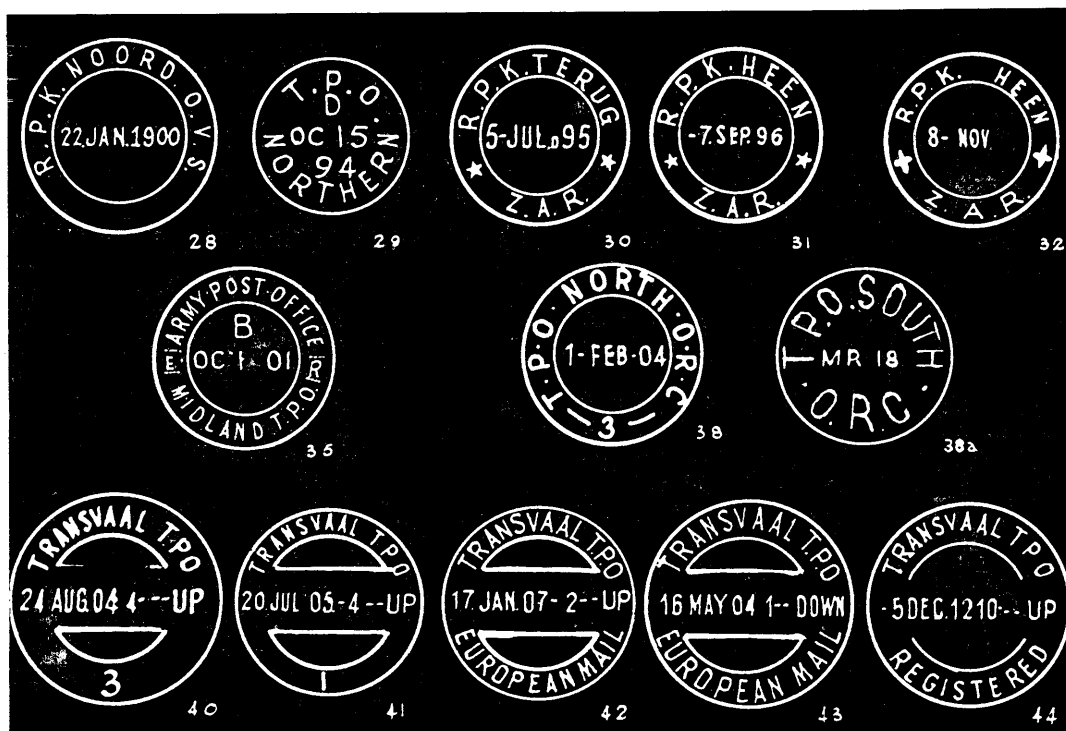
1. T.P.O./NORTHERN.

(Fig. 29)

This we consider to be probably the mark of the T.P.O. operating between Norvals Pont and Bloemfontein during the eight months of 1894 when it was staffed by Cape postal officials.

We know of only two specimens of this mark. One is a transit mark on a postcard from Heidelberg, Transvaal to Bethulie, O.V.S. with date OC 15 94 and index letter D. The other is a transit mark with date 27 NOV 94, also on a postcard, from Rouxville, O.V.S. to Reddersburg, O.V.S., no index letter.

It will be noticed that these two specimens are on mail travelling in opposite directions, the first southwards, the second northwards. This, although only a slender bit of evidence, suggests to us that there was no companion "T.P.O. Southern" mark, and that "Northern" meant only that the route traversed was a northern extension of the Cape service, and was no indication of the direction of travel. But, of course, this is only surmise and may be upset by further findings.



Types of T.P.O. marks used in the O.F.S. and O.R.C.

(Note. The numbers given to the marks are as given in another connection; they were retained here to save re-photographing.)

The question may well be asked "Over what section of railway did this T.P.O./NORTHERN travel"? There would seem to be two possibilities.

(a) Both postcards showing the mark must almost certainly have travelled over part of the line between Springfontein and Stormberg Junction, opened in 1892. Against their having been marked there, is the fact that we have no official record of any T.P.O. operating on that section of line.

(b) On the other hand we do know that a T.P.O. service was in operation between Norvals Pont and Bloemfontein. If this were the T.P.O./NORTHERN, both the known items with this mark could have received it on the section of line north of Springfontein, although admittedly in the case of the Rouxville-Reddersburg card the time available for such marking would have been short.

On the evidence available it is not possible to be absolutely certain, but we favour the latter possibility as the more likely one. Alternatively one would be forced to postulate some so far unknown mark for the T.P.O. running between Norvals Pont and Bloemfontein.

2. R.P.K. TERUG/Z.A.R. and R.P.K. HEEN/Z.A.R.

(Figs. 30-32)

These are the marks used by the Z.A.R. postal officials when they operated the service

between Bloemfontein and Johannesburg in 1894 and between Norvals Pont and Johannesburg from 1895 to mid-1899.

The wordings are the Dutch equivalents of T.P.O. UP and T.P.O. DOWN. "R.P.K." stands for "Reisende Post Kantoor"; "Terug" is literally "Back" and with Johannesburg as their Railway Headquarters, is equivalent to the English "Up" in railway usage; "Heen," literally "Away", is similarly equivalent to "Down."

These marks, if not just exactly common, are not so very scarce and they are to be found both as transit marks on covers and cancelling stamps — the stamps may be either Z.A.R. or O.V.S. ones. We have specimens with dates ranging from March, 1895 to March, 1899.

Judging by the comparative frequency of the marks on O.V.S. and on Z.A.R. stamps there would seem to have been a fair amount of picking up of mail en route, not merely the sorting of through mail on these T.P.O.'s. Two distinct types of marks occur:—

(a) Double-circle mark of 23-24 mm. diam.; lettering 2.5 mm. in height; asterisks between the upper and lower lettering; date in one line across the centre. There are two varieties of dating — in one the date is like "4 DEC 95", in the other there is a small capital letter (A, B, D, G, etc.) between the month and year portions of the date. Both varieties occur in both "Terug" and "Heen" marks.

(b) This type differs from the other in that the lettering is only 2 mm. high and in place of asterisks there are 'fancy' marks between the upper and lower letterings. This type has only been seen on "Heen" marks.

From our dated specimens the two types, and the two varieties of type "a", would appear to have been in more or less simultaneous use, not in any form of sequence.

3. R.P.K. NOORD O.V.S. and
R.P.K. ZUID O.V.S.

(Fig. 28)

These two "North" and "South" marks present a puzzle when regarded from the postal history angle. Their wording clearly indicates that they were the marks of Orange Free State T.P.O.'s, but we have no official information to the effect that the O.V.S. did actually operate any T.P.O. service.

We have only four specimens, three NOORDS and one ZUID. Two of the NOORDS are of 26 mm. diameter, are both dated 22 Jan. 00 as backstamps on a cover and a postcard respectively, sent from Burghersdorp, Cape to one and the same individual in Bloemfontein. Burghersdorp at that time was in Republican occupation and both missives are franked with O.V.S. stamps, cancelled with the normal Cape civil postmark of Burghersdorp.

The other NOORD mark is on a loose O.V.S. stamp, with date 7 Feb., 00, and it is only 24 mm. in diameter.

The single ZUID mark is similar to the NOORD in character and is of 24 mm. diameter. It is a transit mark on a postcard from Kroonstad to Oudtshoorn, Cape, and is dated 1 OC 99, barely a fortnight before the outbreak of war.

From this scanty material and, in particular, the late dates of all the specimens, we put forward the suggestion — and it can only be a suggestion — that these marks came into use when the Z.A.R. terminated their agreement in June, 1899 to operate the T.P.O. service through the Free State. As mentioned earlier they had at that time two T.P.O. vans on hire from the Cape authorities and it may be that these were then operated by the O.V.S. postal department.

ANGLO-BOER WAR PERIOD 1901-1902

4. ARMY POST OFFICE/MIDLAND T.P.O.

(Fig. 35)

During the Anglo-Boer War from about September, 1901 onwards the British Army operated various T.P.O.'s in the Transvaal and one of them, the 'Midland', ran from Germiston (or possibly Pretoria) to Naauwpoort, where it linked up with the civil Cape T.P.O.'s. This Midland T.P.O. may therefore be considered as one functioning in the O.R.C. though its postmarks are practically only known as Transit marks.

O.R.C. PERIOD 1902-1910

5. T.P.O. NORTH O.R.C. and
T.P.O. SOUTH O.R.C.

(Figs. 38 and 38a)

Transvaal and Orange River Colony T.P.O.'s recommenced running after the war, on 20th Sept., 1902.

A fast mail train, with a T.P.O., was introduced in July, 1903, leaving Cape Town on the afternoon of the day of arrival of the weekly

European mail steamer. Sorters from the O.R.C. joined this at De Aar, others from the Transvaal at Naauwpoort; this greatly expedited the delivery of correspondence. Two types of marks are known:—

(a) A double-circle mark of 25 mm. diam. with T.P.O. NORTH (or SOUTH) at the top and a number at the bottom. 'North' marks are not very uncommon on loose stamps but we have seen none on cover. (Why are all kinds of O.R.C. covers so hard to come by?) The numbers we have are 1, 2 and 3, ranging in date from July, 1903 to March, 1907. July and April have the contractions JUY and APL, unusual forms in South African practice.

The companion double-circle 'South' mark is a real rarity; in fact we only know of one specimen, dated 8 Jan., 10, which is in the collection of Mr. A. M. Jones of Cape Town.

(b) A single-circle mark of 24 mm. diameter, wording as in (a), but split into top "T.P.O. South" and bottom "O.R.C." No number. The letters are 4 mm. in height and very fine; small dots between the upper and lower letterings.

We have one specimen of this 'South' mark — several marks actually — on a block of 1d. Edwardian stamps. The date shown is MR 18 but there is no year given, so it is impossible to say whether it was used contemporaneously with, or earlier, or later than the double-circle variety.

We have seen one 'North' of this type in a Free State collection but have not got its particulars.

From the Ann. Rep. of the P.M.G. of the O.R.C. for 1905-06 we learn that alterations in railway time-tables led to the Naauwpoort-Johannesburg service being curtailed to Naauwpoort-Kroonstad, the mail for further north then going in the guard's van. but the special weekly European Mail service from De Aar to Bloemfontein was still kept on. It might possibly be that this change in arrangements, or some other similar change, may have led to the use of the two types (double-circle and single-circle) of T.P.O. North O.R.C. marks. This suggestion, however, is purely suppositious.

6. PRETORIA/T.P.O.

We have seen one specimen of this mark, but unfortunately have lost track of its ownership or whereabouts so cannot illustrate or describe it fully. A rough sketch, made when it was seen, indicates that it was a fairly large double-circle mark with the top and bottom wording as given, the date in one line across the centre being 9 OCT 08.

A senior Postal Official, who knew of its existence, has given us the following story about it, so far as he can recollect it:—

"This was a one-way service started in 1908, a T.P.O. operating between Kroonstad and Pretoria on the weekly fast train carrying the European mail. The staff travelled from Pretoria to Kroonstad as ordinary train passengers and there took over the sorting of the mail for Pretoria and other Northern Transvaal destinations." He did not know, or did not remember, for how long the service continued.

In the Ann. Rep. of the Transvaal P.M.G. of 30-6-09 there is a statement "In June 1909 a weekly service was instituted for sorting of mail from overseas for delivery in Pretoria."

This would appear to refer to the Pretoria T.P.O. service. Although there is a discrepancy of a year in the dates given in the two statements above, and with the date on the one postmark which has been seen, we think it is fairly safe to assume that a Pretoria T.P.O. did function between Kroonstad and Pretoria, at some time about 1908 or 1909.

It seems to have been analagous to the "Natal T.P.O." which operated for a number of years in like fashion between Germiston and Newcastle. For part of its journey the Pretoria T.P.O. was in the O.R.C. and it may have picked up local mail there, as the Natal T.P.O. did on its journey through the Transvaal, but as to this we have no actual knowledge.

7. TRANSVAAL T.P.O. and TRANSVAAL T.P.O./EUROPEAN MAIL.

(Figs. 40—44)

Mention of the ordinary Transvaal T.P.O.'s starting in 1902 and of the weekly 'European Mail' T.P.O. starting in 1903 has already been made at the beginning of this section of our article.

Some different sizes and numberings of the postmarks of these offices are illustrated. The numbers we have of the 'ordinary train' T.P.O.'s are 1, 2, 3 and 4 and their dates run from Sept. 1902 to March, 1909.

Transit marks are much commoner than marks cancelling stamps, and UP's are much commoner than DOWN's. The 'Downs' we have are one of the smaller sized 'European Mail' mark and two of the larger size, all of them cancelling Transvaal K.E. stamps.

These T.P.O.'s definitely did local duty in the O.R.C. As proof of this we can cite:—

(a) An O.R.C. postcard posted in Bloemfontein for Johannesburg; it has the ordinary Bloemfontein cancellation and also a transit mark of the Transvaal T.P.O. UP No. 3.

(b) An O.R.C. postcard from Ladybrand to Johannesburg. This has a transit mark of the 'Transvaal T.P.O./European Mail UP'. So even this very superior train picked up local mail!

UNION PERIOD 1910-1919

Although the Orange River Colony merged in the Union of South Africa in 1910 it seems advisable to continue our story for a few years after Union.

The Transvaal and O.R.C. T.P.O.'s started in 1902 are officially stated to have continued functioning without alteration until 1913, when Ocean Post Offices were established on the mail steamers. The sorting of mails was then done on the mail packets and in Sept., 1913 the Transvaal and Orange Free State T.P.O.'s running in connection with the overseas mails were abolished.

Note that officially the "Orange Free State T.P.O." is now spoken of, not the O.R.C. T.P.O. Unfortunately we have no material of this period to check up on whether or not the postmarks reflected such a change in nomenclature.

On the outbreak of World War I the Ocean P.O.'s were done away with and the sorting of mails aboard ship has never been revived. The Transvaal and Orange Free State T.P.O.'s were re-introduced.

The Orange Free State T.P.O. is officially stated to have continued functioning between

De Aar and Bloemfontein up till November, 1919. It was then closed down and replaced by the Transvaal T.P.O. operating the whole way from De Aar to Johannesburg. Again, unfortunately, we have no postmarks of this 1913-19 period.

This arrangement coming into force in Nov., 1919 remained essentially unchanged until the final stoppage of all T.P.O.'s in the Union in 1950.

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BLOEMFONTEIN

EGYPT


As we go to press we have received a cover from Egypt with a slogan postmark of topical interest. This reads "Suez Canal is an/Integral Part of Egypt". It is in two lines, all in block capitals 7mm. high.



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The Ideal Society Meeting

By Dr. W. G. HESSE

(Concluded from p. 153 of August issue)

Many a good tip has been picked up at an informal clustering in the corner, and News of the Month also helps to make an ideal society meeting.

Fewer are probably those who come to a meeting because it is in their Year Book and diary. Admittedly, these few would come in any case, and they need not be catered for especially; but what they would obviously insist upon, and what would make a meeting ideal for them is that it is a regular function in time and in place. If others come for a special feature, these here need not be reminded; and that the meeting can be relied upon to happen whether it rains or snows, or whether the bank rate has been raised or lowered, will also make for a better attendance by the others.

The only group that does not count in the least is the little band of people who are so often asked to make the meetings more ideal — that committee which holds meetings only because of its love of "official business". Secretaries would attend meetings even if they dealt with herrings, and would write their minutes lengthily and joyfully of them, and with hardly any difference in the text; secretaries are no philatelists and do not play with stamps; they would join anyhow, provided they would be allowed to play with agendas.

There are others; but those mentioned make up the bulk of a membership. And the ideal meeting must cater for them, in even measure and every time. Nobody will be interested all the time of his two hours among the cranks, but he should be assured of being interested, at least, for a quarter of that time. The first requirement, therefore, must be variety, but an ordered and planned and stabilised variety of features.

Before all, meetings must be regular in every way. Their dates must be fixed, once and for all, and the meeting place must be the same always, central and easily accessible, and served by traffic also at the time of dispersal. One's hobby must be as punctual as one's feeding scheme, and the meeting must start on the dot. Country members and visitors must be made to feel at home right from the beginning, and it is therefore essential to have a permanent "publicity officer" who hovers around the door to pounce upon and introduce to the Chairman immediately everyone who is a newcomer. When the Chairman opens the meeting, he can then address such strangers with a more personal welcome — and that, by the way, as little as the Secretary might like it, should be the only business of the meeting, except for the item which usually is reached only after hours of byways full of announcements of which those who are interested, are aware anyhow, and the others do not care even at repeated attempts to make them care.

Everything that should be known to all members, will have to be put into the society's news letter, in order to reach all members, and some will be interested enough to read more than the actual theme of the particular evening; and that is enough to please the Secretary. Such news letter, and the news letters of the other

societies, and the P.O. Bulletins and Federation information sheets and news paper cuttings and other items of philatelic interest should be laid on the table.

The same should be done with the new emissions which members care to bring along — a photo-frame will hold them neatly, and the member who wishes everyone to know that he has already got the pre-first day cover of next month's issue will need no coaxing to be prepared to write down, next to the stamps and covers, what he would otherwise have to talk about for much too long a time. It is very pleasant to hear of new issues, and auction realisations; but what is very important would have to be written up in any case, to assist people's memories; and time is more essential at a meeting than repetition which squanders time.

Nor should the stamp exchange take the time of all those who meet. If all official business is cut out, and the minutes of the previous meeting are read in committee, it would not be fair to make wait those who have come to see an interesting display until those who have come for swapping, have settled their accounts.

In order to get on properly without interference of either group with the other, the bourse should either take place a half hour before the actual meeting, or, if that asks too much of the housewife's feeding scheme, and no juniors require it for an early return to their homes, it should be conducted in an adjoining but separate room or a corner far enough not to have background sound effects. A well-lit anteroom, where another duty officer attends to library and quartz lamp, and where there are laid out on the table all the catalogues and lists required, would be a haven for those foot-weary hunters after the gap-fillers, and, perhaps, the Exchange Superintendent could also be there for some time, handing out packets and taking in payments, noting address changes and offering, for an efficient self-service and spot cash, those old and never-returned sales books which the society should arrange to buy at a ridiculous lump sum from the owners, so saving them the trouble of remounting and re-writing.

And while that would go on for, say, half-an-hour, noiselessly and happily in the knowledge that it was not an illegal and frowned-upon undertaking, the meeting should settle to members' queries and news under "general", and should enjoy its own gainful pre-occupation, the auction, both for the funds of the society, and the funds of members, while the duty officer helps the exhibitor to put up his display. Since there should always be two such exhibits, neither should have more than about fifty pages, and these should be laid out neatly on exhibition stands. Nobody wants to see more than fifty assorted sweets of the same kind; and it only wastes an opportunity to show again, if one tries to show all at once.

Immediately the auction is over, the bourse should also be closed, even if only temporarily, and the meeting becomes plenary, to listen to an accompanying paper by the exhibitor. Needless to say that the paper should also not be longer than the story his fifty sheets can tell, and that it can do very well without recapitulation of the dates of particular issues. Everyone can see them inscribed on the sheets, and

in the catalogue, and the paper should rather talk about the reasons for the exhibitor's choice than about the reasons for the government's decision to issue the stamps. We happen to know those reasons in any case . . .

If welcoming the members and visitors, discussing general requests and auction have taken half-an-hour in all, it should now be a quarter to nine, and members ready for their tea, not to speak of the visitors who have been handed free tickets and who itch to make friends and speak to people. Viewing of the exhibit and tea must not take longer than another quarter of an hour; and we should be ready and seated after the interval for the second part of the show, at nine, with a full hour in front of us.

The next exhibit now goes up on the stand, a thematic one if the first was a philatelic display, or, at least, a foreign country, if the first had shown George VI or Elizabeth II. And while it is being prepared, a quiz is conducted, or the brains trust answers questions, or any other old or new novelty takes the next quarter hour. The exhibitor's talk follows, and the viewing — and at 20 minutes to ten at the latest, those who want to, can catch their last buses home or to the club, and the die-hards return to their exchange room, while a few will stay another twenty minutes for a philatelic chat among themselves. Nobody will be able to grouse, for not only has everyone had something of the evening, but also nobody has been led to expect anything different or more than was made available: the news letter had carried a complete time table of all the single features.

Naturally, nobody would praise the evening either; for while it will have been an ideal evening, at least, my idea of an ideal meeting, people are not ideal, and they never praise; it is all we can ask of them that they do not grumble. Of course, much could be added to the programme, as a variety or an alternative; but it must be that minimum sketched-out, in order to have served all tastes and all for a sufficient time. The secret, if that is a secret at all, is, naturally, the quick and efficient change of scene, the oiled performance on the part of the stage crafts; that will make the meeting adhere to its time table, prevent the vain from taking the floor unnecessarily, the a-social from wrecking the hard work of exhibitors, the ignorant from leaving before their fare is dished up. It will also prevent stamps on display from curling.

I know, I know; you needn't tell me. I know this is all far from satisfactory, and miles away from the ideal. There will be a lot of shouting and criticism, if I dared to go ahead with it all. But I submit that just that meeting will be the ideal one which still leaves a little room for improvement. For, quite apart from the need of further Congresses for further papers, and the need of further world-improvers for the flaws which I left purposely for them in my scheme of things — would we really want a succession of ideal meetings, and nothing to get heated about? Is bliss not a commodity which we can take here in very small doses only, and better leave for that sojourn when we will have the time and strength to take it eternally, just as only that collection is our ideal which has still some gaps to be filled?

It would then have to be a meeting not of "pure reason" but of practical reason. And it

would be the ideal one in that much as it draws consistently, at least, a third of the membership, and new members join the society regularly, while old ones drop out only for natural causes. That would prove its quality; and a further and final proof of its success would be that there is one meeting in the year when nobody comes but the committee — the Annual General Meeting. For only when all members are so satisfied with the general proceedings that they would be at a loss for criticism, only when all members are mortally afraid they might be elected to the committee and then be forced to try to improve upon the old one, only when the only dissatisfied member remains the secretary who will neither get an audience for his report nor a recommendation for his relief — will we be sure that there is such a thing, that it can be done: the ideal society meeting.

DATE OF ZULULAND 6d. ON NATAL.

To the Editor,
"South African Philatelist."

A cover which I have long owned, but whose peculiarity was hitherto unnoticed raises the question of date of issue of Zululand's 6d. on Natal, Gibbons No. 16.

This cover, postmarked at Ulundi, November 29, 1893, is a registered one, but clearly "philatelic" in the bad sense. It bears the then current ½d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 2½d. and 1s. on Britain and the then current 1d. Revenue of Natal that was imprinted with Zululand and authorized as a postage stamp — plus the 6d. on Natal. It is sent to Geo. Beaufort, P.O. Box 1994, Johannesburg, Z.A.R., and has backstamps of Melmoth Nov. 30, Eshowe Dec. 3, Durban Dec. 6, Johannesburg (the long rectangular "Geregistreerd") Dec. 8 1893.

The accepted date for the 6d. Zululand on Natal, in Royal Society's "Africa," in Poole's 1909 book, in Gibbons' catalogue, is Jan. 1894. Poole indeed says the stamps were sent out in December 1893, but not in use till 1894. Other catalogues simply date them 1894, except R. Lowe's "Cyclopedia," which puts this with the ½d. on Natal and the 1891 Natal 1d. revenue overprinted, as an "1889-90" issue.

Information on other evidence of early use would be welcome and preferably via publications of it in this magazine, so that permanent record may arise. Should readers care for photos of the cover and the Editor wish to publish such pictures, I shall be glad to send them.

STEPHEN G. RICH.
Verona, New Jersey.

CLEANED, FISCALLY USED BRITISH COLONIALS

Mr. P. Kramer, in a short note on this subject, in "Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News", gives two hints which may be useful in spotting such items. If it is a green stamp showing no cancel, but there is little bit of yellowish on the face of the stamp, it is a washed fiscal.

A red stamp with no obvious cancel, but the white paper round the border of the stamp has turned rosy, then it is probably a washed fiscal!

BRITISH "PICTORIALS"

In the House of Lords, on 17 May, Viscount Elibank proposed that Great Britain should issue small sized "pictorials" bearing the sovereign's head in order to portray to the world some of the scenic beauties and historical monuments of the British Isles to assist . . . in attracting tourists to the U.K.

To support his argument Lord Elibank sought Stanley Gibbons' opinion and their Mr. C. P. Rang produced seven trial designs, photographs of which they have kindly submitted to us.

These show that it is a practicable proposition to print stamps of the same small size as those in ordinary use with satisfactory detail and on the same high-speed photogravure presses as at present used. Moreover they can be perfectly well designed so as, without sacrificing the pictorial portion, to retain Her Majesty's portrait, to show the figure of value clearly, and also the necessary Postage and Revenue inscription.

Our best wishes for the success of the proposal.

Since then there have been further developments and it may now almost be said that

Britain Goes Berserk

over stamps. There have been brief notes in the lay press about the amazing new issues (We have to thank Mr. C. A. Frost for cuttings), but full information has been kindly sent us by the Robertson Stamp Co., Johannesburg. This is given below:—

Next year the British Post Office will issue pictorial stamps in the most used denominations. The 2½d., 4d. and 1/3 stamps that will be sold at post offices in England will bear English views; those sold in Scotland, Scottish views; those on sale in Wales, Welsh views; and those sold in Northern Ireland, views of scenes in N. Ireland. The 2½d. stamps on sale in the Isle of Man will have a Manx picture; the 2½d. sold in Jersey a scene on that island; and the 2½d. sold in Guernsey a view on that island. All the other values will remain as they are at present.

As these pictorial stamps will be British stamps they will be interchangeable throughout the British Isles, although sold only in the countries of which they bear views. The above adds up to fifteen different pictorial stamps.

We can foresee an extensive new form of collecting, on the lines of our "Interprovincials"!

Next year Britain will also issue a commemorative set for the fiftieth anniversary of the Boy Scout movement. The values will be 2½d., 4d. and 1/3. We hope that they will not be overprinted for all the British postal agencies. In 1958 a commemorative set will be issued for the Empire Games to be held in Wales.

As is generally known the watermark on the current British stamps has been changed from the Tudor Crown to the St. Edward's Crown and all values, except the 3d., are now on sale with the new watermark. Stamps with the new watermark are being overprinted for all the British postal agencies, but it will be some time yet before all values are available with all the overprints. In October this year the 2d. British stamp will be issued in a lighter shade of brown.

SOME RECENT AUCTION PRICES.

Robson Lowe.

- Cyprus, Austrian Post. 16 stamps of Austrian Italy, £25.
 Cyprus, Austrian Post. Strip of 5 of 2c Austrian Levant, £40.
 British stamps. 4d. (Plate 16), Canc. 942 (Larnaca), £10/10/-.
 2½d., (Plate 13) on cover, Canc. 975 (Lima-sol), £34.
 2½d. (Plate 14) on cover, Canc. 981 (Papho), £17.
 Great Britain. 1886 Hundred Piastres on £1, mint, £30.
 Two 1d. black (Plate 1a) on a Postmaster's Circular April 1940, £115.
 4d. grey-green 1924-36, printed on gummed side £30.
 2½d. Prussian Blue, 1935, £65.

H. R. Harmer.

- Falkland Islands 2½d. Provisional (S.G. 68) mint £17, another £20.
 Provisional (S.G. 68) 1/- War Stamp, Opt. double, £26.
 Basutoland, complete panes of 1d. and 2d. Dues, with St. Edwards Crown error, £4/15/-.
 Swaziland, complete pane of 1d. Due with Crown error, £2/17/6.
 Gold Coast, 4d. magenta, quartered, (S.G. 7a) on cover £50.
 Vryburg, 2d. on 6d. (S.G. 3B), £17.
 S.W.A. 2d. official (S.G. O21) block of four, £35.
 Union. £1 (S.G. 24a) mint, £10.

J. H. Wicks.

- Transvaal 1d. (S.G. 58), £9.
 Transvaal 3d. (S.G. 149a), £5.
 Nevis 1876 6d. (S.G. 19) mint, £3.
 Lydenburg 2d. (S.G. 4) mint, £2/5/-.
 S.W.A. 1d. with transposed Opt. (S.G. 2), Block of four, £10/10/-.
 Union 1930 3d. Plate 1, control strip of three, £6.

(Concluded from page 176)

Mr. Ferguson followed the reading by tabling a portion of his "Royal Family" collection which, as we all know, is beautifully arranged and written up.

The thanks of the meeting were suitably expressed by Messrs. Coombe-Martin, Ford and the President.

16th July. The evening's entertainment consisted of five exhibits:—

1. Mr. T. Eelfe — The latest Union Officials. This exhibit was prefaced by an interesting talk.
2. Mr. J. Slagt — First issue of Holland.

Mr. Slagt gave a most informative talk on the plating of this issue and the exhibit itself was most beautifully arranged.

3. Mr. D. Slater-Kinghorn — Korean War Covers. This exhibit comprised a most interesting selection.

4. Dr. A. J. Broughton — "Odds and Ends".

This exhibit covered a quantity of the more unusual South African material. Particularly to be admired was a copy of the 6d. Transvaal King Edward VII, overprinted "Bechuanaland Protectorate" on cover.

5. Mr. J. Weinstein — Palestine "Forerunners". A very beautiful lot of Turkish cancellations, Austrian and German Post Offices.

E.M.F.

SOCIETY NEWS

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

26th Juns, 1956

Messrs. D. Berg and C. Clement (with Mr. G. K. Forbes as alternate) were appointed official P.E.P.S. delegates to Congress in October.

The Chairman appealed to members to resume the practice of bringing to meetings any novel or interesting items. Suiting the deed to the request, Mr. Bülbring thereupon tabled several German F.D.C.'s.

Mr. H. J. Hannibal exhibited a most intriguing collection of sheets of the British Empire, including Natal, Cape and Transvaal, and ranging from the Victorian issues to the present day. A feature of the exhibit was the fine condition of the early issues.

The Congress Fund was swelled considerably by the auction of some excellent items donated by four members.

3rd July, 1956

Attendances was good at the first meeting of July. Mr. C. Wicks, a Country Member from Uitenhage, tabled a small display of Bechuanaland. Fairly representative, the exhibit revealed some good used material, with light but clear postmarks. Mr. Smits thanked the exhibitor. At the small auction that followed after tea bidding was brisk, and the items, including those kindly donated towards Congress Funds, were quickly disposed of.

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

July 2nd. Mr. K. Alexander made a showing which was of interest to the members. This consisted of various items from his collection of European Commemoratives and Charity stamps.

July 12th. The Society visited the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town. (See full report under the RPS of CT.)

M.F.S.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN.

July 12th. On this occasion a visit was paid by the Fish Hoek Philatelic Society which put up a very varied and interesting show. This proved quite an eye-opener to the Royal and it showed the enormous progress made by this new Society during the last twelve months. In his speech Mr. Warrener, the President of Fish Hoek, thanked members of the Royal for the assistance given to their Society in establishing same and for various members coming down to exhibit at Fish Hoek. The following items were exhibited: Modern Europe — Commemoratives and Charity Stamps by Mr. K. Alexander; British Empire, George VI and Elizabeth II, by Mrs. M. C. Montgomery, (including varieties of the first George VI pictorial issues); Ethiopia 1894—1947, by Mr. W. Williams, this being a fine and representative range of the issues of this fascinating country; a very varied exhibit by Mr. G. J. J. Ferreira which included Union FDC's, the Colonial Exhibit Naples 1934, Italian East Africa, Libya, various modern Commonwealth and European stamps including the Vatican City; various world stamps by Mr. W. D. du Toit, including covers from the Royal Palace, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The middle issues of New Guinea by Mr. W. H. L. Warrener, setting out the three printings of the overprinted issue; First Day Covers of the U.S.A. and U.N.O. by Mrs. M. Williams, which was a very colourful exhibit; and finally the real surprise of the evening, Iraq by Mr. T. A. Drower. This very fine exhibit included covers from British Offices in Basrah from 1870 onwards, Turkish occupation in 1898, German mail 1914—18, 1914 issues, F.P.O.s and censorship marks; the issues 1918 to 1949 including the mails of the Overland Desert Route in 1923 and the June 1923 Revolutionary issue, World War II F.P.O.s and the "major cloud" flaw of 1941. This was well written up with maps, etc. and followed by a very good talk by Mr. Drower, who had been in Iraq. This exhibit should if possible be shown elsewhere. It was unfortunate that Mr. Drower could not show, due to lack of space, his fine collection of Iraqi airmails, which included the Leete flight etc. The evening was a really exciting event and well attended. The Royal will look forward to a similar showing next year. Not only were the full number of frames occupied but there was an overflow which had to be set out on boards.

July 26th. This was the Thematic Night and also the competition for the Kaganson Cup. Three collections were entered, namely "Masters and their

Masterpieces" by Mr. F. L. Archer; "Queen Wilhelmina" by Mr. H. Roselaar, and "Assorted Commemoratives" by Mr. C. R. V. Solomon. The Cup went to Mr. Archer, whose exhibit was well mounted, formed a theme and showed just the necessary amount of information. Mr. Roselaar's exhibit was a balance between the new and the classic school and showed Queen Wilhelmina as portrayed on stamps. Mr. Solomon's FDC's were most beautifully written up and are always a joy to behold. Members cannot but envy his fine copper plate writing and general setting out. In order to fill the boards, the President asked Capt. M. F. Stern to show some sheets from his thematic collection "History and Development of Architecture". Mr. Archer is to be congratulated on his exhibit and one hopes to see the continuation at a later date of this Art collection, which actually started off as a religious theme. Capt. Stern's collection was shown non-competitively at his request.

M.F.S.

THEMATIC STAMP CLUB (Cape Town)

July 23rd. No meeting was held on the 9th as this was a holiday but at the meeting of the 23rd Mr. W. G. Combrink entertained the members to a fine showing entitled "The Last of Nyasaland". This consisted in main of the issue 1937 to 1953 (George VI and Queen Elizabeth II) and abounded in specimens of all stamps up to 1946. One interesting cover bearing the U.P.U. issue was cancelled postally used in Nyasaland some 21 days before the actual issue of these stamps in the Colony and was one of three covers posted. This was caused by some stamps arriving from England from the Crown Agents and temporary hold-up of the stamps sent to the Colony, the cases containing these having been sent to Salisbury instead of Blantyre. Mr. Combrink showed the development of the key types, the contact prints of the artists' designs of the 1945 pictorial set, an original drawing by the artist for the 1d. 1945 stamp, and finally stationery and also "Interprovincials", being covers posted in the other Rhodesias (south and north) in the interim period before the issue of the Federation issues. This was well received and as usual Mr. Combrink had every item well written up and mounted. After members had been able to look around, Mr. Combrink gave a very fine discourse on the issues and various items, including history, showing his thorough knowledge of the subject and his research. The meeting was well attended and those who did not see this exhibit missed something worthwhile.

M.F.S.

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

1st Half of 1956

In January the 36th Annual General Meeting was held in Benoni. The President's Annual Report was delivered by Mr. Sam Legator for the year he was in office, 1955, including the Balance Sheet. Officers for 1956 were then elected. This was published in the April issue of this year.

February. Exhibitors were Mr. MacArthur who tabled a collection of Queen Elizabeth II and Mr. Bogner Jnr. a mixed lot King George VI, as these were the first two exhibits of the year for the Sam Legator's Trophy, all members of the Society enjoyed the evening.

March. The Afrikaans Society, Johannesburg, paid us a visit on 20th and some fine exhibits were tabled. Those collections that were shown were, Mr. Vermaak on behalf of Dr. van der Merwe a German collection. Mr. Vermaak tabled Air Letter sheets of the Union of South Africa. Mr. Keet's collection was scouting on stamps of the world.

April. The Johannesburg Philatelic Society visited our Society on the 15th. Here again some very fine exhibits were seen tabled. Mr. Boss' exhibit was French Morocco. Mr. Buchen tabled German Colonies. Commander Enoch showed Asiatic "Number Ones". Dr. Kellar's collection of Polish "Groszy Overprints" were on the table.

May. This time the Pretoria Philatelic Society came over to Benoni. Mr. Coetzer tabled Russia. Mr. Castignani showed two thematic collections: Nudes on stamps and Apartheid. Mrs. Keet a very fine Malta exhibit. Mr. Hudson on behalf of Mr. Impey tabled Union pastmarks, and Dr. Hack Medicine, Nursing and Science. Mr. Slater-Kinghorn showed a collection of the British Empire.

June. This was our free month once more and at this meeting held on 19th Mr. Sam Legator came forward with a beautiful collection of Israel stamps.

17 July. In opening the meeting, our President, Mr. Feinstein, thanked Dr. A. Kaplan for turning out to our meeting that evening, and it was a pleasure for the members to see Dr. Kaplan present again. Thanks was also extended to Mr. Rigg, who has been ill for some time. We wish him health and prosperity in the future, also to Mr. Baan who has had an operation. Dr. Kaplan's exhibit for the Sam Legator Trophy was Austria. Our congratulations to Dr. Kaplan for the reward received at Finlandia. Our visit to Germiston Philatelic Society on the 18th July was a very pleasant one. Thank you Germiston once more for a well spent evening. Some fine exhibits were brought along by our members to Germiston, which everyone enjoyed viewing.

J. B.

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The July meeting was quite well attended despite apologies from old friends who were indisposed or out of town.

The highlight of the evening was the Brains Trust which proved tremendously enjoyable. Messrs. Durkin, Gillespie, Hellman and Watson acted as the "Brains". These keen philatelists not only provided interesting questions but answered queries from the audience.

One new member was elected and there was one resignation.

Some very interesting new issues were passed around among members. The competitive display proved as interesting as usual.

Dr. F. Drusinsky provided the main display of the evening, being special issues of the Boer War, very unusual and interesting covers were shown. Dr. Drusinsky was thanked for his very special display and the President complimented the Doctor on his very fine and comprehensive collection of postal stationery of the Boer War.

A very happy evening ended at 10.20 p.m. when we were hustled off the premises by the caretaker.

J.P.S.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG.

This has truly been a busy July, and an excellent advertisement for philately. There is no need to enlarge here on the tremendous success of the Society's exhibit at the Hobbies' Fair, since newspapers and our reports at meetings have already made detailed mention of its features and the throngs of interested visitors who asked many questions of the attendants. But it may at least be mentioned that we have proof for the success and popularity of the show, and the good which it has done philately locally, for no less than thirteen visitors turned up at our first Ordinary Meeting of July.

Fortunately, this Meeting on 10th July, was a more than usually interesting and varied function, with two outstanding exhibits, so that oldtimers and newcomers had fun and education. Mr. E. Seelig showed his "Liechtenstein", and many might have felt that we see far too little of the lovely stamps of this and other diminutive states of Europe. Mr. D. Slater-Kinghorn's modestly named "British Empire Items" lived up to their reputation from Tepeux, being, in fact, exciting selected pieces of very considerable worth both in catalogue price and philatelic merit.

The second meeting, on 23rd July, was again provided with two very different displays. Mr. D. W. Sutcliffe showed the considerable quantity of Queen Elizabeth Commemoratives which have already come together and which make a most colourful show. The "Classics" were catered for most satisfactorily by Dr. J. von Varendorff's "Baden" and "Thurn and Taxis" which proved, as was to be expected from this collector, not just two parts of his world collection but specialised, very specialised, individual collections, abounding with varieties and combinations and postmarks and the rest, and all of them in the most perfect condition; even the "Thurn and Taxis" stamps which, being so closely set in the plates, can so rarely be found in anything but "average" condition.

Four exhibits of some standing in one month! And that was not the whole story. For there were no less than six displays shown at our visit to Die Afrikaanse on July 6, and three of these our own Society had not even seen itself displayed.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

On the occasion of the visit of the East Rand Philatelic Society to Germiston, there was a good attendance of members and visitors. After the formal business of the meeting was disposed of, Mr. W. S. Deverell gave a resumé of stamp news, following up with an auction of stamps.

The first in order of displays was a selection of the Union from Mr. J. Bogner's collection, together with some covers bearing stamps of Nyasaland. Those of the Union were confined to recent commemoratives and the animal series shown in mint blocks with cylinder numbers, marginal arrows, a fine example of a "cracked" plate and numerous other plate flaws. The covers were exceptional in that they were posted in Rhodesia, mostly at the smaller post offices. Some of the registration labels had the name of the post office in manuscript, and it would appear that there was little use for registered mail at such places.

From his seemingly limitless reservoir of collections, Dr. Alec Kaplan, as a member of the visiting society, tabled a representative collection of Belgium from 1849 to the present. Though by no means a specialised collection, the first issues were strongly represented. These severe classics contrasted strongly with the somewhat crude but most interesting middle period issues. The modern charity issues, including miniature sheets, were shown in all their prolific splendour.

Flowers, fashions, children (and pin-up girls), shown by Mr. A. MacDonald was a striking trio of thematics. Each sheet arranged informally included a coloured illustration appropriate to the accompanying stamps. One was particularly attracted by the 1952 "Voor het kind" issue showing children at play, together with a charming sketch of a little girl lying exhausted on a mat. We would like to see more of the lighter side of philately.

The last exhibit was the "Sam Legator" trophy winning collection of King George VI, complete mint, of which only a part could be displayed by Mr. C. Waner. Mounted on printed "New Age" leaves, it included all the stamps listed in the Gibbons catalogue. As any collector of these stamps knows, there are a number of varieties which are most elusive, such as the 2d, grey Gibraltar with the watermark sideways, but they were all present.

R.F.G.B.

GRAHAMSTOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The highlight of the last few months was the triangular meeting of the Port Elizabeth, East London and Grahamstown societies at Grahamstown on Saturday, 5th May. As members from all three societies displayed, it was a very full and satisfying evening, and members of the Grahamstown Philatelic Society are very grateful to those visitors who made the journey. We can only give bare details of the displays:— Mr. Hellman (early U.S.A.), Mr. Gillespie (Union ad.), Mr. Durkin (British Central Africa), Mr. Shingler (Charity, including complete New Zealand), Mr. Bülbring (Finland), Mr. Forbes (Locals), Dr. Cory (Scrapbook), Mr. Pote (British African), Dr. Callan (West Indies) and Mr. Brown (France). This list must and does speak for itself.

At the June meeting Mr. Pote exhibited a complete set of British African Queen Elizabeth II, which excited members envy and appreciation; a quiz however based on the display proved too much for most of those present. For the July meeting the Society paid a visit to the home of their oldest member, Mr. Motyer, where they were most hospitably received. After Mr. Motyer had shown his Union stamps, the Society reciprocated and each member showed about ten sheets, and Mr. Motyer had an opportunity of seeing an excellent variety to conclude a most successful evening, which it is duly hoped to repeat.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

2nd July. Mr. Ferguson had journeyed from Johannesburg to entertain his fellow-members for the evening. He commenced with an extremely interesting reading from a paper prepared some years ago by Mr. Howe of the G.P.O. Technical Staff and entitled "General Review of Stamp Issues of South Africa" together with a brief description of the method of production and a section dealing with Stamp Collecting. (Concluded on page 174)

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST

PROPRIETORS AND PUBLISHERS :

The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

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Whole No. 378.

UNION NOTES

Hon. Sub-Editor: Dr. T. B. BERRY,
Box 31, Bryanston, Transvaal.

The Unscreened Roto Stamps of the Union.

Statements have frequently been made, verbally and in writing, that those stamps of the Union printed by the rotogravure process and which are stated to be **unscreened**, are in fact **screened**.

With a view to obtaining an authentic statement from one who does really know, and thereby settling once and for all time the controversy which exists over the rotogravure-printed screened and unscreened stamps of the Union, we addressed a letter to the Publicity Officer, Philatelic Section, Post Office, Pretoria, seeking the assistance of his department in the matter. His reply, dated 10th August 1956, is quoted hereunder in full:

"With reference to your letter of the 2nd July, 1956, I have to inform you that the Government Printer has been consulted about the "screening process" used for postage stamps and states that the process of screenless gravure was one introduced as a measure of security and because it was the only process whereby a black and toned line could be printed at the same time without using a screen. The screenless type of gravure was used for all Union stamps until 1936, when the new 1½d. stamp was introduced and, for the first time, a screen was used. From 1939 onward, the screen was gradually introduced on all the stamps as better results were obtained."

We trust that this information will be of assistance in elucidating another of the many problems connected with the stamps of the Union."

Cataloguing of Sheet Numbers.

Referring to the observations of Mr. M. J. Rall, of Heidelberg, Cape, concerning the cataloguing of sheet numbers in the Union Handbook/Catalogue, as expressed on page 119 of our July issue, Mr. John Shingler, of East London, and Mr. B. L. Cairncross of George, have written associating themselves with Mr. Rall's remarks in that the cataloguing of sheet numbers is of no practical philatelic value in almost all issues.

Attention will undoubtedly be paid to these

remarks, and any others, by the authors of the Catalogue when the appropriate occasion arises, and meanwhile we are pleased to receive them and to record them in these columns.

Cancellation of the 2½d. Commemorative Stamp.

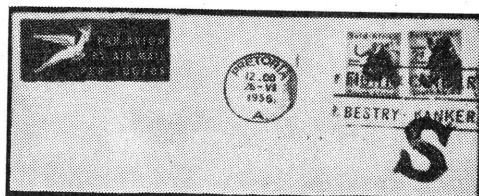
Concerning the cancellation of the 2½d. Commemorative Stamp, as commented upon in Union Notes of our July issue, Mr. B. L. Cairncross, of George, writes that he possess a specimen dated WOLMARANSSTAD, TRANSVAAL, 4—NOV.—10.

Continuing, Mr. Carincross suggests that the reported item "4.11.10 PRETORIA 5PM" is not genuine, as up to within recent times the month in South African postmarks was invariably in letters and not in figures; also, that there is no such time as "12 AM" as recorded in the postmark "JOHANNESBURG 4 NOV. 10. 12 - - AM".

We have no wish to cross swords with such an eminent authority on postmarks as Mr. Cairncross, but we have re-examined the specimen and find the cancellation to be as reported. The specimen consists of a top left corner block of four stamps and each stamp bears a clear imprint of the cancellation as stated.

Information Required — Please.

Dr. C. W. Abbott, of Pietermaritzburg, Natal, submits two air mail covers, one of which is reproduced hereunder, despatched from Pretoria to Pietermaritzburg and bearing a rubber stamp imprint "S" in purple ink.



The covers bear the correct postage and are marked for despatch by air, but were evidently diverted to the overland route as being the quicker means of delivery since Pietermaritzburg is not on a direct air route. It is assumed that the imprinted "S" indicates the diversion.

Dr. Abbott will be glad to receive information concerning this innovation and to know if mail matter from other centres has been similarly treated. Also, if the imprint is a "cachet" indicating the source of a letter, or an instruction

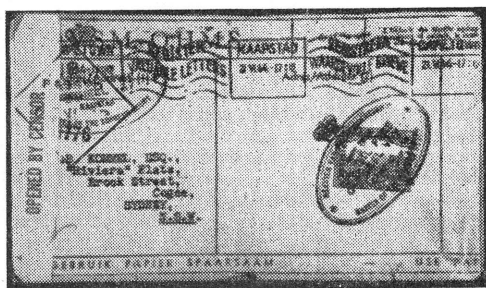
as to how the letter is to be handled, similar to the blue marks on a registered letter.

Mr. A. L. Pettit, of Kingwilliamstown, would be glad of information and of the sheet position of a 4d. Orange River Colony Stamp, S.G. 252, bearing a broken spandrel in the lower right corner and illustrated hereunder:



He possesses some three items indicating that the variety is constant, states that it occurs in the eleventh vertical row of the sheet, and suggests that along with the catalogued flaw "IOSTAGE", it is the result of a damaged or worn printing plate.

Mr. D. I. Macphail of New South Wales, Australia, seeks information of two items, reproduced hereunder:



The first is an O.H.M.S. cover bearing a 2d. official stamp, catalogued as O56 in the Union Handbook, which stamp is cancelled by the "OFFICIAL FREE" rubber stamp of the Master of the Supreme Court, along with other imprints which are legible.

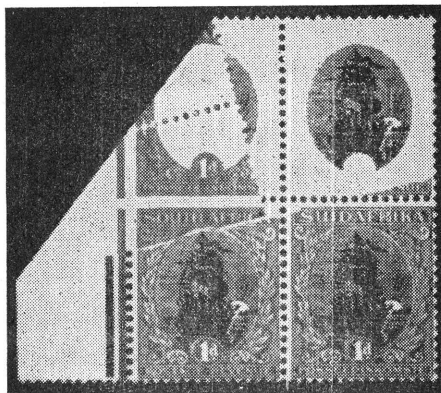
In particular, Mr. Macphail is puzzled over the purpose for which the stamp has been used on an envelope which should enjoy free postage, and the manner in which the stamp is cancelled.

The second item is most interesting and consists of a block of four 1d. Pretoria Typographed stamps, one of which is devoid of its

frame except for a thin red line outlining the outer margin of the frame. The centre of the stamp is normal, the gum is intact, and the paper shows no signs of having been tampered with.



We find it difficult to explain the printing circumstances resulting in this condition. One of the most likely causes may be an interrupted printing of the frame due to a fold over of the paper, but when compared with an item which does represent the result of a misprint due to a fold-over of a portion of the sheet and which is included here for comparison, it will be realised that some other cause must be sought to account for the complete absence of the frame except for its margins.



We would be pleased to receive suggestions concerning these two items, particularly since Mr. Macphail states in his covering letter that there are very few serious Union Collectors in Australia, and consequently he has to rely on the S.A. Philatelist and "the two extremely fine handbooks" for information.

Multipositive Flaws of the 1d. Plate XV.

Mr. G. N. Gilbert, of Westminster, O.F.S., submits the following multipositive headplate and frameplate flaws of the 1d. Plate XV which occur in the definitive issue, Union Cat. No. 45A, and also in the Booklet sheet, illustrated on page 49 of Volume II, from which printing the 1d. panes of Booklets B 17 and B 18 are formed, proving beyond all doubt that the same multipositives were used for these two printings.

Headplate Flaws

- Row 1—12. Tiny dot over top of Lion's Head.
 3—12. Tiny dot between the two middle sunrays.
 4— 3. Heavier shading in sky — listed as 45A V3 in the Handbook.
 4—11. Dot under tip of pennant.
 5— 6. Dot in sky, between left lower and middle yardarms.
 6—10. Dot in top of fourth sunray.
 7— 8. Dot midway between lower and middle yardarms.
 7—12. Dot just left and below upper yardarm.
 9—10. Tiny dot between the left hand and middle stern lanterns.
 17— 4. Tiny dot near edge of left oval, opposite middle yardarm.
 18— 4. Dot in sky under pennant and top of central sunrays.
 20—12. Dot in left sunray — close to sail.

Frameplate Flaws

- Row 10—12. Red dot in lower curve of right "question mark", and also red dot 3 m.m. below this curve.
 11— 3. Break in I of AFRIKA.
 14— 4. Break in right vertical frame-line, opposite E of INKOMSTE.
 17— 4. Red smudge at 3 o'clock in the right vertical frame — it may be a retouch for in the definitive issue, the white dot carries an extension.
 17— 7. Marginal red pimple on left vertical frame-line.

King's Head 5/- "Purple Nose" Variety.

Additional information has been received from Mr. R. C. Walsh, of Durban, concerning the King's Head 5/- "Purple Nose" Variety, reported by Mr. G. N. Gilbert, of Westminster, in our August 1955 issue. Mr. Walsh gives its sheet position as Row 14—3, and states that it occurs as well in the Broken Jubilee-Line printing, whereas previously its sheet position was unknown and it was considered to exist only in the first, the Unbroken Jubilee-Line printing.

Wrongly Assembled Cancellor.

Mr. Erich R. Fusslein, of Zululand, submits for our inspection a most interesting cancellation, probable date the 6th April 1921, on a 2d. King's Head Union Stamp, wherein the "L" of UMZIMKULU is reversed — evidently due to an oversight on the part of the Postal official in making up the canceller.

New Post Offices.

Mr. C. Clement, of Port Elizabeth, reports the establishment of a new post office, designated PERRIDGEVALE, on the 6th August, and the closing down of the NORTH END post office on the 4th August prior to its reopening as the ROBERT STREET post office on the 6th August, in the Port Elizabeth area.

Mr. Clement submitted specimen postal cancellations on first and last day covers of these post offices but pressure on our space prevents their reproduction.

Philatelic Publications in the Lay Press.

It is with pleasure that we record that arrangements have been concluded whereby an article of not more than 300 words accompanied by two or three illustrations will appear under the pen of Dr. W. G. Hesse, of Johannesburg, every Saturday evening in the Magazine Section of "The Star" — a Johannesburg daily

newspaper. The caption employed will be STAMPS, PAST AND PRESENT.

The type of philatelic material to be commented upon will be carefully selected. In general, each article will contain news of the Johannesburg and Reef Philatelic Societies; one new stamp issue will be reported upon and possibly illustrated, while comments will be made upon stamps and philatelic items of general interest — all with a view to increasing interest in philately and to furthering our hobby.

Article number one appeared in "The Star" of the 18th August.

The Philatelic Society of Johannesburg and those who initiated the project are to be warmly congratulated. May their effort bear fruit for many a year to come.

Union Postal Stationery.

Mr. S. J. Vermaak, of Florida, is desirous of compiling a complete list of the printings, the errors, and the varieties of the Post Cards of the Union, particularly from P.C. 41 of the Handbook, and appeals to collectors of these items for assistance in furnishing him with information of any uncatalogued item or of items of an unusual nature which they may be possessed of. He assures collectors that any material submitted to him will be carefully handled and securely guarded while in his possession, and has even offered to refund the postage on such items or on correspondence addressed to him at 82 Kruger Avenue, Selwyn, Florida, Tvl.

There is much to be said for Mr. Vermaak's appeal, for observation of almost any collection will reveal many unrecorded and interesting items which if not investigated and noted now, may be lost for all time. Will somebody not inaugurate the formation of a Union Postal Stationery Study Group?

THE PHILATELIC AGENCY

Philatelists who have made a call at the Philatelic Agency in Pretoria while in that city must in future NOT go to Maritime House, where the Agency has been housed for several years. On 26 September the Agency moved to Room 11, East Wing, Somerset House, Pretoria. By the time this note is published the Publicity Officer expects to be in full working order in his new home, and again prepared to give philatelists that service for which his Agency is justly famous.

Union Revenue Stamps

Mr. J. Robertson of Johannesburg, a propos of Mr. L. J. Dodd's article on page 162 of our September 1956 issue, writes to mention that in the "bantam" series a £25 denomination was also made. He recollects that during the War he was approached by the finders of a pair of these lying in the street. The denomination was not in very keen demand at the Revenue Office and inquiry there enabled him to trace the purchaser and restore them, no doubt to the great relief of the owner.

Union Machine Cancellers

Mr. J. Robertson reports having noted the appearance of machine cancellers in several centres previously using only hand-stamps, namely Piet Retief, Virginia, Van Der Bijl Park, and Welkom. He has also noted several instances where the older types of machine canceller are being superseded by the latest machines.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Obituary — Late Mr. Andrew Watson

Many friends all over the Union mourn the passing of Andrew Douglas Watson, who was laid to rest on the 14th August. The Rev. McRobert conducted the funeral service and paid tribute to Andrew Watson's unflinching cheerfulness and his spirit of helpfulness. He was a gentleman of the old school, whose word was his bond, and his dignity and courtesy will ever be remembered by his friends.



Born in Perthshire, Scotland, seventy-seven years ago, he came to South Africa to join the Cape Government Railways after first serving in the Scottish Railways. He served in many centres of the Union on the S.A. Railways and rose to be Train Inspector. On one occasion he took charge of the Governor General's train and so met the late Earl of Clarendon, who himself was a philatelist. He also served several Cabinet Ministers and if they happened to be Stamp Collectors bonds of friendship were formed and maintained over a period of years.

It was at Queenstown that he met and married his first wife — Miss Emma Beck. There were two sons of the marriage, Ronald who motored down from the Free State to attend the funeral, and Allan now a resident of Salisbury. This happy marriage of forty-two years was ended by the sudden death of Mrs. Watson in Pretoria, and then seven years ago Mr. Watson married Miss Bertha Smith, who has been a most devoted wife during his years of declining health.

At Queenstown during the Boer War when in charge of a train he came into conflict with an Imperial Officer, who insisted his regiment must use the train. Mr. Watson said a troop train was following his train and his orders were not to permit any use of the train by military personnel. He was warned he could be shot if he persisted in his attitude but he stuck to his guns. Finally the officer capitulated and called his men out of the train saying "Andrew

Watson says 'ye canna go'". For years afterwards he was known as "Andrew Watson says ye canna go".

Mr. Watson maintained his interest in the Caledonian Society throughout his life. In East London he was Chieftain for 2 years and became Chief for the following 12 years. He maintained a wonderful record of regular and punctual attendance at all meetings and was an excellent Chief in every respect. He was also an enthusiastic bowler, but his love of stamps began when he was a boy of 8 and continued right throughout his life. He won many awards at Stamp Exhibitions all over the Union. In July 1928 he received a Silver Cup at the International Exhibition in Durban. In 1931 in Pretoria he won 2 plaques and again the following year in Johannesburg. At Jipex in Johannesburg in 1936 he received a special award for his Boer War postmarks. At the National Exhibition in East London in 1948 he won two First Awards.

Andrew Watson loved the stamps of Great Britain and built up a wonderful collection which he had carefully mounted in no less than 28 albums. Mr. Watson was president of the Pretoria Philatelic Society for 2 years before the war and of the East London Philatelic Society for 2 years after the war.

In recognition of his services to Philately, his name was inscribed on the Union Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1952 in Cape Town, and this year he was awarded the Diploma Fellowship of the East London Philatelic Society, of which he was a life member. His cheery presence will be greatly missed at our meetings.

J.P.S.

PHILATELIC PUBLICATIONS

- (1) 1952 Handbook/Catalogue Vol. I
Union of South Africa Stamps.
326 Pages. 22/6d. Plus 1/- Reg. Post.

AND

- (2) 1955 Handbook/Catalogue
Vol. II Supplement
200 Pages. 22/6d. Plus 1/- Reg. Post.

This Supplement covers all changes in the 1952 Edition and price revisions to date.

- (3) Swaziland and New Republic
Their Stamps and Postal History by Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie. 10/- and 6d. Postage
- (4) Basutoland
Some historical notes with special reference to Postal Matters by G. N. Gilbert.
2/6 & 3d. Postage

Available from Dealers or direct from:

**PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF
SOUTHERN AFRICA**

P.O. Box 375, JOHANNESBURG.

Trade Enquiries Invited.

SHORT NOTICES.

London Auction Seasons. One closed in July, but the 1956-57 one is already on us. Although the full accounts of the past season from the big auctioneers have not yet reached us, we have had short notes from them. These sound so good, and the stock exchange here is so deadly dull that we almost feel like advising all our friends to plunge madly into stamps.

Robson Lowe reports the H. C. V. Adams collection of Great Britain is to remain intact, having been bought at over £80,000 for the whole collection, by an anonymous buyer.

They have the Goss collection of Russia for sale, probably the finest in the world, and it is offered for a mere £23,500.

Harmers report another season totalling well over £300,000 for the second time. More collections have been coming to London from abroad than ever before; exports of stamps sold have also been on the increase for the past two or three years.

Messrs. Lewis Berger & Sons, Berkeley Square, London, Paint Manufacturers etc., have sent us a copy of the Annual Financial Statement of their group of companies.

This booklet features a couple of pages of stamps in colour, so presumably they supply paint to stamp makers and this justifies their sending the brochure to a philatelic magazine.

U. N. O.

The third commemorative series of 1956, to be issued on 24 October, consists of two values, 3c and 8c. Both depict a session of the U.N. General Assembly at Headquarters in New York.

NETHERLANDS

The Olympiad series, issued in July, consists of 5 stamps, four featuring individual sports — sailing, woman track star, hockey and water-polo; the fifth is an amphora on which athletes are depicted.

"Europa-stamps" of two denominations 10c and 25c will be issued on 15 Sept. and remain on sale for two months. The design is one being used in common by six countries, as noted in our last issue.

Thanks to the Netherlands Consulate for information.

PHILIPPINES — RED CROSS

The Bureau of Posts informs us that on 30 August there were to be issued two stamps, 5c and 20c, honouring the 50 years of work of the Red Cross Society since establishment in the Islands.

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NATAL. St. HELENA. GAMBIA. SEYCHELLES. SIERRA LEONE. O.F.S. I am now breaking up fine Collections including some modern. Douglas Roth, Mona Crescent, Newlands, Cape.

BREAKING LARGE COLLECTION. Bargain selections sent on approval. Write W. WILLIAMS, Box 34, Fish Hoek, C.P.

APPROVALS: British Colonials and World for all collectors.—BENONI STAMP SHOP. Benoni.

WANTED: Stamps in bulk and singles from the Whole World. Supplied: kilos, packet material & new issues. Australia 8/-, Switzerland 8/6. per lb. — GEO. F. ROWE, 11, Barmouth Road, London, S.W. 18.

WANTED. Cape of Good Hope: Numeral Bar Date Stamps on Cover. Fine Impressions. Numbers:— 7, 8, 11, 21, 22, 37, 38, 63, 64, 74, 75, 76. ALSO WANTED. Griqualand West Stamps used on Cover in the Cape. — C. R. REYNOLDS, Box 105, Beaufort West, Cape.

NEW ISSUES and current Colonials at Penny in 1/- on Face. List Free. — PRIOR, 44, Warminster Road, Bath, England.

STAMP ALBUMS with 50 sheets 9½ ins. by 11½ ins. from 18/9. 100 spare sheets from 10/6. STOCK BOOKS with 20 sheets (each 7 pockets) 8 ins. by 9 ins. 43/8. 12 spare sheets 19/-. Trade Discount.—PRINT BIND PRODUCTS, Box 2010, Cape Town.

1840-1890. For the stamps of any country in this period write DOUGLAS ROTH, Mona Crescent, Newlands, C.P. Phone 694282.

WISH STAMPS British Empire. Give Spain, Colonies. — APARICIO, Cuadro 4, Santander, Spain.

FOR SALE. A fine specialised collection of Swaziland including Provincial, and almost complete lot of Union stamps used in Swaziland, officials, dues etc. Definitive and Commemorative sets mint and used, and specimens of various Swaziland postmarks. £50. Apply: G. GILBERT, Westminster, O.F.S.

I WANT quantities of fine used Q.E. Basutoland, Bechuanaland, Swaziland, S.W.A. mixed values to 1/- for cash or in exchange for similar British West Indies, etc. — P. THOMPSON, Almond Tree Cottage, Victoria Road, Weybridge, Surrey, England.

BY ANY OTHER NAME

(prompted by an article, "Splintered Horn", by M. Powell, which was reprinted in the "S.A. Philatelist" of July, 1956).

By S. J. HAGGER

The specialists who studied the first Union stamps to be printed by the then new rotary process, referred to the printing cylinders as "Plates", a name which should only be used in connection with the flat method of printing by which the stamps had previously been produced. This was bad enough, but the term has gradually come to be used to describe the stamp printing resulting from the combination of two cylinders, which is very bad terminology indeed. Be that as it may, however, the term has been misused so long as to have become permanent, and we must suffer it as long as the Union Rotogravure stamps are studied. After all, the readers of Mr. Powell's article knew exactly which stamps he was referring to; similarly, when I go on to speak of the 1d. stamps of Plate XI, and so on, anyone sufficiently interested will be able to identify them straight-away if they are in his collection, and that, after all, is the primary function of a name.

We are all good friends, so I feel sure the Editors will not take exception when I say that from the beginning I did not like the way the first Roto. Springbok ½d. stamps were dealt with in the 1952 "Handbook/Catalogue". The "Supplement" improved matters, but I do know that this section still causes confusion among quite advanced collectors; one still sees the stamps wrongly described in specialised collections; and now it has brought Mr. Powell's "Cry from the Heart". No one can give him all the answers, as the information is just not available; but, although it will take up some space, I'll try to tell the story of the two printings which cause the trouble, filling in with supposition where necessary.

From the information which has been vouchsafed from time to time regarding the printing of the Darmstadt Trials, we know that the properties of the ink used are one of the determining factors in the appearance of the stamps produced by the Roto. process; or to express it more simply, although the same cylinders and the same paper be used, different inks will print stamps of different appearance. I stress this because it has a great bearing on what follows.

In the early thirties, and at some time after the retouched centre cylinder had been used to produce ½d. stamps with the usual black and grey-black centres, an order must have been placed with the Government Printer for a further large quantity of ½d. stamps. These were done in three separate and distinct batches. The first two were large ones and the third probably smaller.

For the centres of the first printing, all stamps of which had upright watermark, a pale grey ink was used. Now this ink gave a characteristic appearance to the centres of stamps printed with it, and as it was used a number of times in the production of ½d. and 1d. stamps, both unhyphenate and hyphenate, my reader will have no difficulty in finding examples in his collection. The best places to look will be among the halfpennies of the Gutter Margin issue and Plate XII, and the pennies of Plates IX and

X. A study of these with and without a magnifier will impress this appearance in his mind better than any words I could use in describing them. It should be noted that even at this stage the centre cylinder was beginning to show slight signs of wear, and on some stamps the outlines of the lower part of the springbok's horns do not appear, i.e. the horns were beginning to "splinter".

In the case of the second printing in which all stamps had inverted watermark, a very different ink was used for the centres. This was grey in colour, but with a slight olive tinge, and some property in it, probably its viscosity, or oxidation, or waxiness, gave those centres a different look from that of any ½d. Springbok that appeared before or has since. The chief difference lay in the outlines of the Springbok's horns which had, through the combination of this property of the ink and wear of the cylinder, almost entirely disappeared. Once more my reader must turn to his stamps for comparison, and he can make quite sure that he has the correct one if he looks at the "Official" overprints; it being the only unhyphenate ½d. overprint with inverted watermark. While he has his album out, he should compare the 1d. stamps of Plate XI with the ordinary centres and those with fuzzy centres. This latter is the only other stamp that I know of to have been produced with this type of ink, and the comparison will bring out the profound effect it has. In fact, if it could not be proved otherwise, one would say that different cylinders had printed them.

Of the third printing little need be said beyond the fact that new cylinders were used (Plate III), and the centres were the normal grey-black.

Probably because of an intervening increase in the postal rates, these ½d. stamps remained in stock for a long time, and as might be expected, they were withdrawn gradually and in the reverse of the order in which they were printed. That this is so is proved by the order in which the "Official" overprints appeared; first on Plate III, next with inverted watermark, and last with upright watermark and pale grey centres, the last two, of course, on Plate II.

Now let us consider the effect of the issue of the two Plate II printings on the collectors of that period. Of the first, in addition to the fact that the stamps had inverted watermark, they noted the entirely different appearance of the centres, and cogitated on the cause thereof. As the chief difference lay in the springbok's horns, the stamps became known as the "Splintered Horns" printing. With this name, one can find no fault, but it must be remembered, and this is the crux of the whole matter — the answer to Mr. Powell's chief question; although it is the name of the important characteristic, it is applied to all the stamps of that printing. Remember that they might just as easily have called it the "fuzzy centre" printing, and you will follow my reasoning much better if you will think of it as just that. If, therefore, stamps of another quite different printing with entirely different characteristics should happen to show a trace of "splintering" of the horns of the springbok, this need cause no confusion, as basically nothing has altered. The reader who has studied the stamps, as recommended earlier in this article, will never have any difficulty in allocating these stamps to the correct printing.

Let me present an analogy to stress this important point. If half of the surface of a piece of cheese were lightly dusted with chalk, all of it is basically still cheese, and when divided, the dusted half would not be chalk, which in effect is what Mr. Powell says it would be.

When the next, and last, lot of halfpenny stamps began to appear, the obvious differences, in addition to the now upright watermark, were immediately noticed by collectors. So different were they, in fact, that they could only conclude that before printing them, the cylinder had been treated in some way. They did not, of course, realise that these stamps had been **printed** before those that had **appeared** immediately before them, and, as to them the cylinder was a plate, they christened it the "Cleaned Plate" printing. Now let us give it the correct title:—"That printing of the Unhyphenate Rotogravure ½d. Springbok Stamps, from the combination of centre cylinder I (Retouched) and frame cylinder II, which preceded the "Splintered Horns" printing; but which, because it appeared after and differed so in appearance, was erroneously called the "Cleaned Plate" printing. Too long you say? Then let's shorten it to "Cleaned Plate" printing; after all, we do love that name.

SWAZILAND POSTMARKS

A few additions to these have recently come to our knowledge.

(1) A Forbes Reef mark of stage 5 (1902—1910) was not previously recorded. We have now seen one dated in 1906 and it is of a type not hitherto known, viz., a double circle mark of 24 m.m., with "Forbes Reef" at the top and "Swaziland" at the bottom. Other known marks have no "Swaziland".

(2) Darkton has been recorded as open from 1889 to 1899 and again during 1909—1910. We have now seen a mark dated 1 OCT 08, so the duration of the second opening must be put a little earlier than 1909.

AUSTRALIA

The P.M.G. announces a 3½d. to be issued some time in September commemorating the centenary of responsible government in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania. It will feature the badges of these three states and the heads of Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth.

Sydney has started planning for an International Exhibition in 1958.

W. N. SHEFFIELD

We learn from "The Springbok" that Bill is expected to attend the Annual General Meeting of the S.A. Collectors' Society, and their Exhibition, in London on Saturday, 29th September.

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POSTAL HISTORY AND STAMPS OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

By A. M. JONES

(Concluded from page 71 of April issue)

Particular care has to be taken to see that the loss of small details is avoided, which would disappear under the action of the acid if they were not watched and protected with fatty ink. For example the eyes of the leopards of which there are 180 on the plate, had to be frequently examined with a strong magnifier to ensure their retention. Lastly the plate had to be cleaned, trimmed and mounted to type height for the printer. Besides the design, making of the plate, other problems such as paper, gum, inks, perforation etc. presented problems which had to be successfully dealt with.

The first issue of the 1d. was printed on white gummed paper manufactured and previously supplied by Samuel Jones of London and printed on a flat bed cylinder machine of the Wharfedale type, which was electrically operated but each sheet being fed into the machine by hand. The first order consisted of 120,000, i.e. 2,000 sheets of 60 stamps each. These were just completed when another 120,000 were ordered. No more gummed paper being available a method of gumming had to be found. Various experiments were made. The most successful being a mixture of gum, dextrine and other adhesive substances, which had to be applied by hand. The machine used for perforating was hand fed but electrically operated. The perforation was of the slot pattern or roulette type. The second printing was done on a Heidelberg Automatic feed and delivery machine, capable of printing 3,000 sheets an hour. The paper used was 30 lb. Royal Cream Wove Esparto. The ½d. green was printed on Calendered paper, the surface being smoother than Esparto thus giving a finer finish to the stamps. Taking all the circumstances into consideration it must be conceded that the work of Messrs. Vaudin and Toms deserves the highest praise. Three denominations viz. the ½d., 1d. and 2½d. only, were issued to meet the immediate requirements of the inhabitants of Guernsey. The design was the same for each denomination. The 1d. value was the first to be placed on sale. The colour of the various printings was more or less consistent and may be classified as Carmine (thin and thick), Orange and Magenta Red. There were 15 printings in all and up to the 11th printing may be distinguished by imprint blocks. For instance stamps of the first printing read "Guernsey Press Co. 120m/2/41" and so on. From the 12th printing onwards the quantity and date was omitted from the imprint. The 14th printing took place somewhere during August, 1941, the 15th printing may be distinguished from similar printings as it has a very short bottom margin measuring only 12 m.m.

There were 13 printings of the ½d. stamp. The first imprint showing the date 3/41. The 13th or last printing took place in November 1944. Bottom margin 15 m.m. There were 6 shades of the ½d. stamp as under:—

1. Emerald Green.
2. Blue Green.
3. Yellow Green.
4. Sage Green.
5. Olive Green.
6. Dark Yellow Green.

There were only 4 printings of the 2½d. blue. The first printing being on the 12th April, 1944. These can only be distinguished from each other when in sheet form or in blocks showing the imprint. An interesting item occurred when, in March, 1942, the German authorities decided to issue the ½d. and 1d. on French watermarked paper ordered by the Island Authorities. The watermark consisted of linked loops. The first process was that of gumming in the usual primitive way of hand-gumming with a 2 inch printers brush previously used on ordinary issues. At the end of the first day's application the paper which had previously been perfectly white, had changed to various shades of blue. Furthermore the adhering substance had been completely absorbed by the paper and not a vestige of gum remained. It must be explained that the gum Arabic in soluble form, was the principal gumming medium but the supply had come to hand from France and had been exported in oil cans which deposited a thin oily scum on the surface. A second attempt was made after boiling the gum Arabic to thicken the mixture but with no better results. After the lapse of several days a third and fourth coating was laid on and although the paper appeared rather sticky it still retained its bluish hue. Eventually after exhaustive trials it was found that light played a big part. The treatment the paper had received had not improved it and it was decided to issue the stamps on the discoloured paper. The ½d. was placed on sale on the 11th March 1942 but was quickly sold out i.e. by the 31st March. The 1d. red was before the public on April 7th 1942 and completely exhausted by April 25th.

Plate flaws, which are of interest to collectors occurred on the ½d. and 1d. issues of Guernsey and consist mostly of breaks in the outer frame as follows:—

½d. Bottom left-hand corner. Bent or fractured left-hand corner. Sheets of stamps were printed in one process from a plate of 60 impressions made by joining 2 plates of 30 each. Therefore the broken frame line variety appears only on one plate namely the bottom one.

1d. From the 8th printing onwards a broken frame line appears on each sheet. Unlike the ½d. variety these were printed from one plate in two processes — the first impression on the top half and the latter on that below. These flaws may be due to breaks in the metal caused probably by some hard substance coming in contact with the plate which either dented it or broke a piece. The machine used for perforating the stamps was hand-fed but electrically operated. Three perforating wheels were used consequently each sheet of 60 stamps went through the machine seven times. Due to bluntness of the cutters, which had to be sharpened at various times, perforation ranges from open slots to mere cuts similar to pin perforation.

Changes of colour are probably due to the usual causes including over- or under-inking of the plates. Under the various difficult circumstances the gentlemen responsible for the production of the Guernsey stamps are to be congratulated on their versatility and resourcefulness.

Jersey

The stamps produced in Jersey are very similar to those of Guernsey in design and colour etc. Owing to the method used in the

production of these stamps and also because the firm was unaccustomed to this kind of work, varieties are to be found on nearly every stamp, a great deal being due to the action of the acid during the making of the plates. The major flaws or varieties occurring in the 1d. value are as under:—

1. A full stop under the serif in the right-hand value tablet.
2. Lions with only part of the mouth or no mouth at all.
3. Broken outer frame line.
4. Lions with only one eye.
5. Large white circle alongside of the right value tablet.
6. Blind or missing perforations.

On the ½d. Value:

1. Left hand Value tablet incomplete.
2. Lions with only one eye.
3. Full stop under bar of ½ in right-hand tablet.
4. Middle bar in "E" in Jersey broken.
5. Broken frame line bottom left-hand corner.
6. Lion with long claw which enters outer part of design to break "S" of postage.
7. Broken letter "P" in postage.
8. Large white circle alongside of right value tablet.
9. White stop over "GE" of postage.
10. Blind perforations.

There is a small percentage of partly imperforate or faulty sheets. Once in a while a sheet may be found with two or three rows of stamps imperforate between. Imperforate between stamps and margin are also occasionally met with due to corner of sheet being bent over. Completely imperforate sheets have been seen. A number of stamps imperforate all round have been offered for sale, but the number is negligible. These are probably spoils or printer's waste. The total number perforated on one machine reached more than 4,000,000.

One of the principal difficulties of production which was not encountered in Guernsey, was the shortage of suitable paper. The Jersey printers had to be satisfied with white paper of varying thickness and quality, a chalky-surfaced and for some issues a plain grey news-print. The chalky paper is the scarcest and most distinctive of all the paper variations but is not often in perfect condition as unfortunately, the China surface is very prone to cracking and many stamps were damaged upon bending. The total number of sheets printed, on this paper, is not known as very few are found when purchasing used Jersey stamps in bulk. Mint sheets are also difficult to obtain as nobody noticed that they were different from earlier printings. Despite all efforts it was not possible to keep up production and a total failure of paper meant that during the period May to August, 1944 a meter frank had to be employed.

Pictorials

Early in 1943 the Authorities approached Mr. Edmund Blampied, a local artist, with a view to designing a series of pictorial views suitable for the purpose. Eventually six were chosen but it was decided that production would be undertaken on the Mainland of Europe where supplies of paper could be relied upon.

The following denominations were printed as under:—

- | | | |
|---|---|----------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ½d. Green. Old Jersey Farm 1d. Carmine. Portelet Bay. 1½d. Dark Brown Corbiere Lighthouse. 2d. Orange Yellow Elizabeth Castle. 2½d. Blue. Mount Orgueil Castle. 3d. Violet. Gathering Vraic. | } | No wmk-
Perf. 13½ |
|---|---|----------------------|

The 1d. value and ½d. value appeared on newspaper as well and the 2½d. in a dark blue colour. Production of the full set was done by the French Government Printing Works and the plates were the work of Mons. Henri Oorbet. The initial printing order was for 360,000 stamps of each value. Of the ½d. a further 120,000 were printed in 1943. The 1d. was reprinted twice when 240,000 were printed in 1943 and a similar quantity in 1944. The reprints are on greyish paper with gum that has little shine. An interesting point in connection with the sheets of these stamps is the inclusion of "plate identification marks" on the Jubilee lines at the top and bottom of each sheet.

The finale of stamps were what is known as the Liberation Commemoratives. The liberation took place in May, 1945 and the third Anniversary Commemoratives were issued in May, 1948. Both stamps were withdrawn on the 30th of September, 1948. They consisted of the 1d. Scarlet and the 2½d. Blue. They were printed by Messrs. Harrison & Sons Ltd.; the watermark being the multiple Royal Cypher and the perf. 15 by 14.

I am indebted to Ernest J. Baker's catalogue and Handbook on the stamps of the Channel Islands for most of the information contained in this article.

THE MAILS WENT THROUGH

Under this title Mr. R. M. Startup is publishing early in 1957 a book of about 160 pages which, largely compiled from official sources, will be virtually a complete history of New Zealand's armed forces postal services in World War II.

Pre-publication price 20/- (closing 31-12-56). Order, with payment, to "Publisher — The Mails Went Through — P.O. Box 275, Masterton, New Zealand". After the end of 1956, the book may be available in New Zealand at 25/-, but will not be generally available overseas.

New Spanish Commemoratives

The Spanish Postal Authorities announce the emission of a special set of four stamps in the denominations 15, 50 and 80 centimos and 3 pesetas to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the 1936 uprising under General Franco.

Meanwhile new denominations in the definitive series of 1p40, 1p50, 1p80 and 8 pesetas have appeared and the 2 pesetas has undergone a colour change from red-orange to magenta.

Correspondent wanted

Mr. Dean Smith, of Box 1159, Beverly Hills, California, U.S.A., desires to correspond with a stamp collector in South Africa.

REVIEWS

The Springbok Half-Penny. By Dr. Gordon Ward, M.D., F.R.P.S.L. Published by Messrs. H. E. Wingfield & Co., 392 Strand, London, W.C.2. Price 5/-, postage 6d.

This book appeared originally in serial form in "The Strand Stamp Journal", published by H. E. Wingfield & Co., of the Strand, London, the first article being included in its June 1955 issue. Since then, the work has been brought up-to-date with further information and additional illustrations, and is now presented as an attractive booklet, well printed on art paper and clearly illustrated, to form an oasis of information for the average collector and to act as a stimulant to the enquiring student of this ever popular emblem of the Union of South Africa stamps. The booklet consists of some forty-six pages, of which fourteen are devoted to illustrations of the highest merit.

An introductory chapter, along with a glossary followed by a check list giving references to Plate Numbers and to pages of the Handbook/Catalogue 1952, introduces the subject matter of the booklet. The complete issue of the Springbok Halfpenny Stamp is considered under seven main groups, with sub-grouping in some of these, and the inclusion of the Coil and Booklet issues where these pertain — the presentation being in the words of the author "a list which has proved a convenient basis of study, and not as a complete, logical or unassailable work of philatelic art."

Multipositive and plate flaws of the respective groups are dealt with in detail and suitably demonstrated on illustrations; the existence of some of the more prominent and better known flaws, such as the "Bush Tick" are dwelt upon; plating charts of booklets are recorded, while a list of the booklet issue concludes a complete record of the various printings comprising the issue, as a whole, of the Springbok Half-penny Stamp. The author is to be congratulated upon his efficient handling of the subject.

Deutschland Spezial Katalog. R. Wrona, Winterfeldstrasse 26, Berlin W.30. Price, DM 2.

This is a pocket size booklet of 230 pages and 1,000 illustrations. It can be highly recommended to anyone who has already some knowledge of German stamps, particularly because it gives pricings of all items, real market values. Including as it does; Alt Deutschland, German States, modern Germanies, War Occupation stamps and Colonies, it would be rather difficult for an absolute beginner to find his way about in the catalogue.

Gibbons Part II (Europe and Colonies). Stanley Gibbons Ltd., 391 Strand, London WC2. Price 25/-, Postage extra 1/7d.

It is two years since the last edition, and this part has now grown to almost 1,300 pages; unfortunately the price has also had to be increased. There are numerous price alterations, mostly upwards as European countries are very 'live' ones at present, especially for the classic issues. There are quite a few re-listings, e.g. Armenia, German Buildings Series of 1948—51, Russian Civil War issues and Ukraine. The issues of independent Indonesia are being transferred to Part III.

We note that there is an editorial change of

mind, which has resulted in their listing Philatelic Exhibition stamps which could only be purchased after paying admission price to the exhibition, because their omission "spoil the full listing and continuity of the catalogue". To us this savours of appeasement and can only result in encouraging future exhibitions to finance themselves in the same way.

PENAPEX — 1956

The publication of this issue of the South African Philatelist coincides with the Annual Congress of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa which is taking place this year at Port Elizabeth.

The Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society are acting as hosts to the Delegates from all parts of our territory, and have arranged a National Philatelic Exhibition during Congress Week, opening on 1 October.

Congress and Exhibition are being held at the Technical College, and a special temporary Post Office will be in operation during the week with its own commemorative canceller.

The Junior Section of the Exhibition will be competitive, and the Senior Section will consist of invited Exhibits from a number of notable and valuable collections.

A Report on the proceedings will appear in our next issue.

SOCIETY NEWS

(Continued from page 192)

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Report on the monthly General Meeting held on the **12th September, 1956.**

After the formal business of the meeting had been disposed of, Mr. W. S. Deverell dealt with the latest in stamp news by tabling the Philatelic magazines which he had received recently. The usual auction then followed. Final arrangements were then made for our coming visits to the East Rand Philatelic Society and to the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg.

In place of the usual stamp exhibit, Mr. L. J. Picton had something of great interest to all present, he had made arrangements for all members and visitors to travel out to Messrs. E. S. & A. Robinson, at Wadeville, on a visit to a Printing Works. Mr. L. J. Picton conducted all from the start to the finish, explaining in great detail the complete set-up. Our thanks are due to Mr. L. J. Picton for providing such a most interesting evening.

Forgeries — a warning

The British Philatelic Association announces the discovery of several new forgeries of the overprints S.G. types 2 and 3 of the Japanese Occupation of Malaya. They are believed to have been perpetrated in London.

The latest discoveries bring the total of established forgeries of these types to no less than **forty** of type 2. The moral for collectors of these issues is obvious, particularly as type 2 covers many of the more expensive of these provisionals. Type 3 is the large overprint covering a block of four stamps.

20th Century Siam Notes Accompanying A Display

By

Commander C. E. D. ENOCH, F.R.P.S.L.

To-night I am showing 61 selected sheets from the 20th Century portion of my specialised collection of SIAM, and before tabling this selection, I would like to make a few remarks concerning the sheets on view as I know that nobody else has much knowledge of these fascinating stamps hoping in the course of these remarks and the accompanying display, I can obtain a convert to the collection of a country, which I, admittedly, started as a joke and ended by finding quite the most philatetically interesting country I have ever collected.

Now for a brief description of the sheets on view this evening.

To start with I am showing 2 sheets of the 1899 "Korat" Issue, as although not strictly speaking 20th Century they are essentially part of that group. Here you should note that all the used copies except one each of the 1 att and 2 atts are obviously postmarked to order at Korat — both the exceptions are undoubtedly postally used at Puket — so much so that I am of opinion that these stamps were never in fact postally used at Korat but possibly only at Puket as I have never seen any postally used copies used anywhere else!

The 1900 final type of definitive issue is represented by the mint set and this is followed by "Official Reproductions" of the Battambang typewritten provisionals which may, indeed, be considerably scarcer than the genuine originals!

A very small selection of the 1905 surcharges is followed by the mint set of December 1905 and a sheet of the 4 atts value used — note the very rare "PERLIS" postmark!

The 1907 provisional is shown including a copy of the dropped stop fine used from either the 1st or 2nd setting — a read modern rarity as it only occurs once in each sheet of 120 stamps in the earliest printings. These surcharges are accompanied by 4 stampless covers used during the period including the first and last days of use and the manuscript and rubber stamp inscriptions. These are not very common, and all emanate from Bangkok No. 2 Post Office — I have not yet found a cover from the G.P.O.

I am showing a selection of the 1908 provisionals which include 2 copies of another great modern rarity — the aspirated A in atts reading HATTS on the 9 atts on 10 atts. This error was spotted after a maximum of 90 sheets had been printed and I show a single copy (No. 66 on the sheet) and another copy se tenant in pair with normal (Nos. 66 and 67 on the sheet).

The 1908 Jubilee Issue is represented by the mint set, the basic surcharge variety on the 4 atts and 5 atts se-tenant with normal from the bottom right-hand corner of the sheet (Nos. 99 and 100) and a page of the 18 atts value showing examples of the 2 varieties of the English surcharge — the short "i" and the short "u" in the word "JUBILEE." This issue also contains the error of date in the Siamese surcharge on the 1 att the date reading 138 instead of 128. Only 60 of these errors were made before being corrected and I have never

seen a copy. This is the rarest of all Siamese stamps and one of only 3 errors occurring in the Siamese inscriptions of the surcharges of all issues!

The 1908 high values "HORSEMAN" issue is represented to-night by the mint set and is followed by the 1909—10 surcharge necessitated by the conversion of the currency with the decimal system (100 satangs or cents to 1 tical or baht instead of 64 atts to 1 tical). A page of one of the commoner values including a mint corner block of 6, a variety of postmarks, and a used copy with control underprint is also displayed. Note the mint corner block of 4 of the latest printing of the 6 satang in 6 atts of 1904 with the English word Satang spaced (No. 81 on the sheet) also showing two control underprints (an error as only one should occur on the sheet).

The April 1910 decimal coinage issue is represented by the mint set and a page of the lowest value showing an extremely rare postmark that was only used at the G.P.O. Bangkok for one day — July 1, 1910 — to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the entry of Siam into the U.P.U.

The portrait type of King Vijiravudh is represented by the mint set of the 1st or Vienna printing and is followed by the 1914—15 wartime provisionals including an unrecorded control underprint and a hitherto unknown variety in the 15 satang on 28 satang with spaced English numerals.

The Red Cross issue of 1918 is represented by the mint set to 5 baht and is followed by the Victory set complete mint.

A selection of the 1919—25 issues, mainly mint and nearly complete, are followed by the famous "CORONATION STONE" issue of high values of 1926. The mint set is followed by a page of each value including mint corner copies, a copy with part marginal inscription and a selection of used examples.

The April 15, 1928 issue is shown complete mint as is the 1932 Commemorative Issue of which I am also showing an interesting cover showing the back of the "AIRGRAM" entirely printed in Airmail Etiquettes. This particular cover was prepared by the French Air Line but actually went via Imperial Airways!

The April 17 1941 set is shown complete mint together with an Airmail Cover with an interesting handstamp "THAILAND — IMPLORES FOR — WORLD PEACE" in three lines in a boxed rectangle and struck in violet. The date of this cover is 28.10.41 — just 6 weeks before the country was invaded by Japan! This set is also represented by mint pairs of the 3 and 5 bahts and a mint block of 4 of the top value (10 bahts).

Finally I am showing the 3 Boy Scouts (or I should say "WILD TIGERS") issues, complete mint except for 2 values in the first issue which I have not yet been able to find.

In conclusion I should add that the selection shown comprises just about $\frac{1}{4}$ of my collection of these very interesting issues.

Kenya Postal Stationery

Mr. W. Tunstall reports from Kenya that the issue of new Air Letter forms with the stamp imprinted on the form can be expected to be released on 1 October 1956.

South African Postal Slogans

By B. L. CAIRNCROSS

An article dealing with this subject, and prepared by Mr. A. Hilton Sydow and myself, appeared in the South African Philatelist for December 1936 and January 1937. In that article twenty slogans were dealt with in detail. Since then another twenty-six slogans have appeared, all of them having been recorded, as they appeared, in various issues of the South African Philatelist. The intention of this article, therefore, is merely to bring all the items together for easy reference.

The method adopted in setting them out below has been adapted partly from the method used in the article mentioned above, and partly from Mr. Sydow's 1946 monograph, to which I draw attention in my concluding remarks, and which, in turn, owed much to Mr. Hockey's method. The names of towns have been abbreviated to save space, but as the abbreviations are either wellknown or obvious, there should not be any difficulty in recognizing them. Where a figure, other than the year of issue, appears after the name of a town, this indicates that there were so many variations in the black date stamp, e.g., different forms of cross; or different letters; or different spacings, or sizes, of letters in the town's name. The letter T indicates that the name of the town appeared in abbreviated form in a triangle, and without date.

The slogans dealt with are as follows:—

1. BUY UNION LOAN CERTIFICATES — KOOP UNIE LENINGSERTIFIKATE 1919.
2. ADDRESS YOUR MAIL TO etc. — ADRES U MAIL NAAR ens. 1923.
3. SUPPORT S.A. INDUSTRIES — ONDERSTEUN S.A. INDUSTRIE 1923.
4. POST EARLY IN THE DAY — POS VROEG IN DIE DAG 1923.
5. BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION — BRITSE RYKTENTOONSTELLING 1924 1923.
6. BUY SOUTH AFRICAN MADE GOODS — KOOP SUID-AFRIKAANSE GOED 1925.
7. AIR MAIL SAVES TIME — LUGPOS BESPAAR TYD 1925.
8. MAKE CAREERS FOR OUR JUVENILES — VERSKAF BEROEPE AAN ONS JEUG 1925.
9. CENSUS DAY 4th MAY — SENSUS DAG 4de MEI 1926.
10. FRUIT FOR HEALTH — VRUGTE VIR GESONDHEID 1926.
11. USE C.O.D. PARCEL POST — MAAK GEBRUIK VAN POS K.B.A. STELSEL 1927.
12. TOUR SOUTH AFRICA — REIS IN SUID-AFRIKA 1927.
13. STOP DONGAS — KEER DIE SLOTE 1929.
14. DO NOT OVERSTOCK FARMS — MOENIE PLASE OORSTOK NIE 1929.
15. BEWARE OF EROSION — PASOP VIR VERSPOELING 1929.
16. PROTECT YOUR VELD — BEWAAR JOU VELD 1929.

17. HELP THE JUBILEE TUBERCULOSIS FUND — STEUN DIE JUB. TUBER. FONDS 1935.
 18. TELEPHONE YOUR ORDERS — TELEFONEER U BESTELLINGS 1936.
 19. USE THE TELEPHONE — GEBRUIK DIE TELEFOON 1936.
 20. THE GOLDEN CITY JUBILEE — DIE GOUDSTAD JUBILEUM 1886—1936 1936.
 21. REGISTER VALUABLE LETTERS — REGISTREER W A A R D E V O L L E BRIEWE 1937.
 22. SEND "GOOD NEWS" TELEGRAMS — STUUR „GOEIE NUUS" TELEGRAMME 1937.
 23. POST EARLY FOR QUICK DELIVERY — POS VROEG VIR VROEË AFLEWERING 1938.
 24. CENTENARY PRETORIA 1838—1938 — EEUFEES PRETORIA 1838—1938 1938.
 25. SEND GREETINGS TELEGRAMS — STUUR GROETETELEGAMME 1939.
 26. V. . . . — (V for Victory) 1942.
 27. DON'T TALK ABOUT SHIPS — MOENIE KLETS OOR SKEPE NIE 1942.
 28. THOUGHTLESS WORDS SINK SHIPS — 'N ONBESONNE MOND BOOR 'N SKIP 1942.
 29. SEALED LIPS SAVE SHIPS — GEEN WOORDEREP IS 'N SKIP GERED 1942.
 30. SPEND LESS SAVE MORE — SPANDEER MINDER SPAAR MEER 1942.
 31. SUPPORT THE RED CROSS — STEUN DIE ROOIKRUIS 1942.
 32. SAVE MEAL AND BREAD — SPAAR MEEL EN BROOD 1946.
 33. HELP UNAC SAVE THE WORLD'S CHILDREN — GEE EEN DAG SE LOON ens. 1948.
 34. GIVE ONE DAY'S PAY AND SAVE A CHILD — STEUN DIE V.V. KINDERFDS. ens. 1948.
 35. PETROL IS PRECIOUS — SAVE IT — BESPAAR PETROL — DIS KOSBAAR 1950.
 36. DO YOUR DUTY — SAVE PETROL — DOEN U PLIG — BESPAAR PETROL 1950.
 37. DON'T WASTE PETROL — MOENIE PETROL MORS NIE 1950.
 38. ROAD SAFETY DEPENDS ON YOU — PADVEILIGHEID HANG VAN U AF 1951.
 39. BE ALERT—AVOID ROAD ACCIDENTS — WEES WAKKER—VERMY PADONGELUKKE 1951.
 40. SAFE DRIVING SAVES LIVES — VEILIGE BESTUUR RED LEWENS 1951.
 41. PRACTISE ROAD SAFETY DAILY — BEOEFEN PADVEILIGHEID DAELIKS 1951.
 42. COURTESY PROMOTES ROAD SAFETY — HOFLIKHEID BEVORDER PADVEILIGHEID 1953.
 43. EAT ENRICHED BREAD — EET VERRYKTE BROOD 1953.
 44. CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS — EEUFEESVIERING 15.V.54—15.VIII.54 1954.
 45. FIGHT CANCER — BESTRY KANKER 1954.
 46. BUY SOUTH AFRICAN — KOOP SUIDAFRIKAANS 1955.
2. UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA — UNIE VAN ZUID AFRIKA 1910.
 3. POSTAGE FREE PASSED BY CENSOR 1914.
 4. PAQUETBOT 1915.
 5. CUSTOMS DUTY PAID — INVOERREGTE BETAAL 1938.
1. BUY UNION LOAN CERTIFICATES — KOOP UNIELEENINGSCERTIFIKATE
 - a. In 3 lines LENINGS CERTIFIKATEN
 1. CT 1 1920
 2. JH 2 24-5 T also in red.
 - b. In 3 lines LENING CERTIFIKATE
 1. CT 1 1923 T and Red, 2.
 2. DBN 3 23-4-6-7 T
 3. PTA 2 23
 4. PE 1 23-4-6-7 and Red
 - c. In 3 lines in taller letters LENING CERTIFIKATE
 1. EL 1 1923-5-7
 2. PMB 1 24-6-7
 3. GTN 1 32
 4. QTN 1 32-4
 - d. In 3 lines —BUY— LENING CERTIFIKATE
 1. CT 1 1924 and Red
 - e. In 2 lines LENINGS CERTIFIKATEN
 1. JH 1 1919-20
 2. PTA 1 19-20
 3. DBN 1 20
 - f. In 2 lines LENING CERTIFIKATE
 1. JH 1 1923
 - g. In 2 lines; at top of space; letters smaller; LENINGS CERTIFIKATEN
 1. JH 2 1925-6-7 T
 - h. In 2 lines =BUY &c. LENING CERTIFIKATEN
 1. PTA 2 1926-30 and Red
 2. JH 1 30-1
 - i. In 2 lines in smaller letters LENING CERTIFIKATE
 1. JH 2 1927 T
 - j. In 2 lines in larger letters LENINGS CERTIFIKATE
 1. JH 3 1929-30 and in Red
 - k. In 1 line each; no spacing; English in 1st LENINGSCERTIFIKATE
 1. JH 1 1927-8 T and in Red
 1. In 1 line each; no spacing; Afrikaans in 1st LENINGSCERTIFIKATE
 1. JH 2 1928-9-30
 2. ADDRESS YOUR MAIL TO PRIVATE BOX OR STREET AND NUMBER — ADRES U MAIL NAAR PRIVATE BUS OF STRAAT EN NOMMER
 1. CT 1 1922-3 T Dec-Jan only
 3. SUPPORT S.A. INDUSTRIES — ONDERSTEUN S.A. INDUSTRIË
 - a. In 1 line each, Eng. and Afr. — Eng. in 1st.
 1. CT 1 1923 no ", i.e. no diaeresis
 2. DBN 2 24 with "; also in Red without "
 3. PTA 2 1923-4-5 with & without "
 4. JH 2 23-4 with "
 5. PE 2 23-4-5 with "
 6. EL 1 23-6-7 no "
 - b. In 1 line each, E & A, E in 1st; taller letters
 1. JH 5 1925-6-7-8-9 T2 & in Red 2 & ONDERSTE
 2. DBN 3 26-7 T & in Red; no "
 3. CT 3 24-5-6 T
 - c. In 1 line each, E & A, E in 1st — but NYWERHEDE
 1. PTA 3 1925-6-30 & in Red

Other lettered inscriptions are:—

1. TRANSVAAL 1910.

2. PMB 2 25-7-8
 3. GTN 1 32-3 (Grahamstown)
- d. In 1 line each A & E, A in 1st.
 1. JH 1 1928
- e. In 1 line each, E & A, E in 1st; but SA for S.A. in Afr.
 1. JH 2 1930
- f. In 1 line each, E & A, E in 1st, without spacing
 1. JH 2 1930-1
- g. In 2 lines = SUPPORT
 1. JH 2 1925-6 also INDUSTRIES
- h. In 2 lines, large letters
 1. PE 1 1927 Feb. & Mar.; also in Red
- i. In 3 lines — SUPPORT — (Nywerhede)
 1. CT 3 1926-7-9-30 T & in Red
 2. PTA 1 2? (last digit not known)
- j. In 3 lines in rectangular box
 1. CT 2 1928-9-30-1 T & in Red
- k. In 3 lines .SUPPORT.
 1. PE 1 1928
- l. In 3 lines SUPPORT without dots
 1. PE 1 1929-30-1-2
4. POST EARLY IN THE DAY — POS VROEG IN DIE DAG
 a. In 1 line each, E & A, E in 1st; letters 3mm. high
 1. CT 1 1923
 2. DBN 2 23-4-7 T & in Red
 3. JH 5 23-4-5-7 T & in Red
 4. PE 1 23-4 T
 5. PTA 3 23-4-6-9-30-5 & in Red
 6. EL 1 23-4
 7. PMB 1 23-4-6-7-8-9
 8. QTN 2 28-35
 9. GTN 1 30-3-5
- b. In 1 line each, E & A, E in 1st; letters 4½mm high
 1. JH 2 1923
- c. In 1 line each, E & A, E in 1st; letters 3½mm. high
 1. JH 3 1928-9 T & in Red
 2. DBN 2 26-7
- d. In 2 lines, with dots
 1. BFN 2 1928-9
- e. In 2 lines, without dots
 1. EL 5 1929-32-3-4-5-6-8 & in Red
5. BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION 1924 — BRITSE RYKTENTOONSTELLING 1924
 a. E above; A below; 4 wavy lines; & a lion.
 1. CT 2 1923-4 & in Red
 2. JH 2 23-4 T
6. BUY SOUTH AFRICAN MADE GOODS — KOOP SUIDAFRIKAANSE GOEDERE
 a. In 1 line each, E & A, E in 1st.
 1. CT 3 1925 T & in Red
 2. JH 1 25 & in Red
 3. DBN 3 25-6-7 T
- b. In 2 lines
 1. DBN 3 1927-8-30-1-2-4 T & in Red
- c. In 3 lines in box
 1. CT 2 1926-7-8-9-30-1 T & in red (2)
7. AIR MAIL SAVES TIME — LUGPOS BESPAAR TYD
 a. In 1 line, with aeroplane below
 1. CT 4 1925-9 & Red
 2. DBN 1 25 & Red
 3. JH 1 29
- b. In 2 lines, with wavy lines — AIR POST SAVES TIME
 1. PTA 1 1935
8. MAKE CAREERS FOR OUR JUVENILES — VERSKAF BEROEPE AAN ONS JEUG
 a. In 3 lines; JEUG in 3rd.
 1. CT 3 1925-6-7-30-2 T & in Red
 2. PTA 1 26
 3. JH 2 26-7-9 T
 4. DBN 1 26-31
 5. PMB 1 26-8
 6. PE 1 26-32-3-5-8 T & Red (2)
- b. In 3 lines; JEUG in 3rd; smaller letters
 1. PE — 1946 — in Red
- c. In 3 lines; ONS JEUG in 3rd.
 1. DBN 1 1927-32 T
 2. JH 1 30
 3. PTA 1 26-7
 4. EL 1 27
 5. PMB 1 27-8-9
 6. PE 1 27-30-1-2 T & in Red
9. CENSUS DAY 4th MAY — SENSUS DAG 4de MEI
 a. In 2 lines
 1. CT 2 1926
 2. JH 1 26
 3. DBN 1 26
10. FRUIT FOR HEALTH — VRUGTE VIR GESONDHEID
 a. In 3 lines
 1. CT 3 1926-7-8-30 T & in Red, 2.
 2. JH 4 26-7-8-30 T & in Red
 3. PTA 2 26-7-8-9 & in Red, 2.
11. USE C.O.D. PARCEL POST — MAAK GEBRUIK VAN POS K.B.A. STELSEL
 a. In 3 lines; E & A; E in 1st, A in 2nd & 3rd.
 1. PTA 1 1926
 2. BFN 1 26-7 & in Red
 3. KIM 1 28-9-30-1-2-3-4
 4. BOK 1 38-9 & in Red
- b. In 2 lines
 1. DBN 3 1927-8-9-30-1-2 & in Red
12. TOUR SOUTH AFRICA — REIS IN SUID-AFRIKA
 a. In 2 lines
 1. CT 3 1927-31-2-3 T & in Red
 2. JH 3 27-8-30 T & in Red
 3. DBN 1 27 T
 4. PTA 1 27
 5. PE 1 27-8 & in Red
 6. OUD 1 38-9-40
13. STOP DONGAS — KEER DIE SLOTE
 a. In 1 line each, E & A, E in 1st.
 1. CT 2 1929 & in Red
 2. DBN 1 29
 3. PTA 1 30 & in Red, 2.
 4. JH 1 29
 5. PE 1 30
14. DO NOT OVERSTOCK FARMS — MOENIE PLASE OORSTOK NIE
 a. In 3 lines
 1. BFN 1 1929
 2. CT 1 30
 3. PE 1 29-30
 4. JH 1 30
 5. PMB 1 29-30
15. BEWARE OF EROSION — PASOP VIR VERSPOELING
 a. In 2 lines
 1. EL 1 1929-30
 2. JH 1 29
16. PROTECT YOUR VELD — BEWAAR JOU VELD
 a. In 2 lines
 1. BFN 1 1930
 2. PE 1 30
 3. JH 1 29
 4. PMB 1 29

17. HELP THE JUBILEE TUBERCULOSIS FUND — STEUN DIE JUBILEUM TUBERKULOSE FONDS
- a. In 4 lines
- | | | | |
|--------|---|------|----------|
| 1. EL | 1 | 1935 | |
| 2. JH | 1 | 35 | & in Red |
| 3. PMB | 1 | 35 | |
| 4. PE | 2 | 35 | |
| 5. BFN | 1 | 35 | |
| 6. PTA | 2 | 35 | |
- b. In 4 lines, with smaller letters
- | | | | |
|--------|---|------|----------|
| 1. CT | 1 | 1935 | & in Red |
| 2. PTA | 1 | 35 | |
- c. In 3 lines
- | | | | |
|--------|---|------|--|
| 1. DBN | 1 | 1935 | |
|--------|---|------|--|
18. TELEPHONE YOUR ORDERS — TELEFONEER U BESTELLINGS
- a. In 2 lines with wavy lines
- | | | | |
|-------|---|------|--|
| 1. JH | 2 | 1936 | |
|-------|---|------|--|
19. USE THE TELEPHONE — GEBRUIK DIE TELEFOON
- a. In 2 lines with wavy lines
- | | | | |
|-------|---|------|----------|
| 1. JH | 2 | 1936 | & in Red |
|-------|---|------|----------|
20. THE GOLDEN CITY 1886 JUBILEE 1936 — DIE GOUDSTAD 1886 JUBILEUM 1936
- a. In 2 lines
- | | | | |
|-------|---|------|----------|
| 1. JH | 1 | 1936 | & in Red |
|-------|---|------|----------|
21. REGISTER VALUABLE LETTERS — REGISTRER WAARDEVOLLE BRIEWE
- a. In 2 lines with wavy lines
- | | | | |
|-------|---|-----------|----------|
| 1. CT | 6 | 1937-8-42 | & in Red |
| 2. JH | 5 | 37-8 | |
- b. In 2 lines with wavy lines; taller letters
- | | | | |
|-------|---|---------------|--|
| 1. JH | 9 | 1938-9-40-1-2 | |
|-------|---|---------------|--|
- c. In 3 lines with wavy lines
- | | | | |
|-------|---|------|--|
| 1. JH | 2 | 1942 | |
|-------|---|------|--|
22. SEND "GOOD NEWS" TELEGRAMS — STUUR "GOEIE NUUS" TELEGRAMME
- a. In 2 lines with wavy lines also „GOEIE NUUS"
- | | | | |
|--------|---|--------|--------------|
| 1. CT | 4 | 1937-8 | & in Red, 2. |
| 2. JH | 5 | 37-8 | |
| 3. PTA | 2 | 37-8 | |
- b. In 2 lines with wavy lines & taller letters also "GOEIE NUUS"
- | | | | |
|-------|---|-----------|--|
| 1. JH | 2 | 1939-40-1 | |
|-------|---|-----------|--|
23. POST EARLY FOR QUICK DELIVERY — POS VROEG VIR VROEË AFLEWERING
- a. In 2 lines with wavy lines
- | | | | |
|----------|----|---------------|-------------|
| 1. JH | 15 | 1938-9-42 | & in Red, 2 |
| 2. CT | 9 | 38-9-42 | & in Red |
| 3. PTA | 3 | 38-9 | |
| 4. EL | 3 | 38-9-41 | |
| 5. PE | 3 | 38-9 | |
| 6. DBN | 2 | 38 | |
| 7. KIM | 2 | 38-9-40-1 | |
| 8. SPR | 2 | 39-42 | |
| 9. PMB | 2 | 38-9 | & in Red |
| 10. NIG | 2 | 52 | |
| 11. BFN | 2 | 38-9-40-1-2-7 | & in Red |
| 12. GT | 1 | 38-9-42 | & in Red |
| 13. PTBG | 1 | 38 | & in Red |
- also, 1 each,
- | | | | |
|----------|-------|-----------|------|
| 14. BETH | 1938 | 22. GR | 38 |
| 15. BRAK | 1938 | 23. KING | 1938 |
| 16. BUTT | 1952 | 24. KLERK | 38 |
| 17. CRAD | 1938 | 25. KOKS | 38 |
| 18. DUND | 38/52 | 26. KROON | 1938 |
| 19. ERME | 38/52 | 27. LADY | 38 |
| 20. ESTC | 38 | 28. MIDBG | 38 |
| 21. GEOR | 48 | 29. NELS | 38 |
30. PAARL 38/52
31. PRUST 50
32. POTCH 38
33. RUST 38/52
34. UITEN 1938
35. UMTAT 38
36. VEREE 38
37. VRYB 1938
38. VRYH 38/52
39. WITBA 38
40. BEN 39/40/1
41. QTN 39
24. CENTENARY PRETORIA 1838-1938 — EEUFES PRETORIA 1838-1938
- a. In 3 lines
- | | | | |
|--------|---|------|---|
| 1. PTA | 1 | 1938 | (date stamp shows Voortrekker Monument) |
|--------|---|------|---|
25. SEND GREETINGS TELEGRAMS — STUUR GROETETELEGGRAMME
- a. In 2 lines with wavy lines
- | | | | |
|--------|----|-------------|---------------------|
| 1. JH | 16 | 1939-40-1-2 | & in Red |
| 2. CT | 10 | 39-40-1-2 | & in Red, 3 |
| 3. PE | 4 | 39-40-1-2 | |
| 4. DBN | 3 | 39-40 | |
| 5. EL | 3 | 39-40 | |
| 6. GST | 3 | 39-41 | (Germiston Station) |
| 7. PMB | 3 | 39-40-1 | & in Red |
| 8. KIM | 2 | 39-40-1 | |
| 9. PTA | 2 | 39-40 | |
- also, 1 each,
- | | | | |
|----------|--|----------|--|
| 10. BETH | | 23. PIET | |
| 11. BFTN | | 24. POTC | |
| 12. BRAK | | 25. PTSH | |
| 13. ERME | | 26. OTWN | |
| 14. GEOR | | 27. RAND | |
| 15. GERM | | 28. RUST | |
| 16. GTWN | | 29. ROOD | |
| 17. KLER | | 30. SPRI | |
| 18. KROO | | 31. STEL | |
| 19. LADY | | 32. UMTA | |
| 20. MIDD | | 33. WITB | |
| 21. MBAY | | 34. WORC | |
| 22. PAAR | | | |
26. V . . . — (V for VICTORY)
- a. In 1 line with 4 wavy lines
- | | | | |
|--------|---|------|----------|
| 1. CT | 5 | 1942 | |
| 2. JH | 2 | 42 | & in Red |
| 3. PMB | 1 | 42 | |
| 4. DBN | | 42 | in Red |
| 5. PE | | 42 | in Red |
| 6. PTA | | 42 | in Red |

(To be continued)

SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELY.

Two very successful meetings have been held of this newly established Philatelic Society. At the July meeting the Chairman, Mr. Leo Buchen, showed a selection of the coin issues, excluding the "Doar Ivri". This portion of Mr. Buchen's outstanding collection showed considerable research and aroused great enthusiasm. Mr. Buchen also read a paper on these interesting issues, explaining their historical and philatelic interest.

At the August meeting, Mr. I. A. Miller showed a very fine collection of the Festival stamps. These were well presented and written up. He followed his exhibition with a remarkably fine paper on these issues. For a newcomer to the ranks of organised philately, Mr. Miller is to be congratulated on a fine display and paper.

The next meeting of the Society will be held at the Coronation Hall, Johannesburg, on Thursday, 4th October, 1956, when Mr. V. Hirsch will show his general collection of Israel. All members are asked to bring a few album sheets each of the Independence Day Stamps for a general display.

SOCIETY NEWS

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL.

Aug. 1st. Owing to the absence of our President, who was indisposed, Mr. Milner-Palmer took the chair. After the usual business procedure, Mr. Palmer was asked if he could give any reasons as to why certain values of the current Zoo issue, were unobtainable at the G.P.O. in Durban, mainly the 4½d., 1/3 and 1/6. Mr. Palmer said he could give no reason, but he did know that the smaller Post Offices had these values in stock.

Mr. Palmer then announced that an application from the Society, for a special stamp to celebrate Natal's first Postage stamp Centenary, had been refused. We Philatelists are so determined, and will therefore make further applications through other sources.

The main attraction of the evening then took place, this being a "Ladies Night" the ladies had it all their own way for a while, there were six exhibits of 20 sheets each. This proved to be very interesting indeed, the judging was by popular vote. Mrs. Obyrne was judged the winner with her collection of George the sixth, with Mrs. Lionel Bevis a close second with her Rhodesias. Mr. Palmer then presented Mrs. Obyrne with a silver cup and Mrs. Bevis received a book token.

The usual monthly exhibit was then staged by Mrs. Ivan Bevis, who displayed her thematic collection of U.S.A. titled "The History of United States Postage Stamps."

B. B.

Note.—From 18th September onwards meetings will be held in Winton's Chambers, on first floor, above Ward & Salmons in West Street.

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

At the July meeting the younger generation were present in full force for the Ruby Alabaster Memorial Competition.

The variety and mounting of stamps showed an improvement over last year's entries in the opinion of the judges. The following were the winners:—

Section A, 11 years and under — Master Edwin Main.

Section AA, 12 — 14 years, — Master Saul Hellman.

Section B, 15 — 17 years — Master Chris. Rutland.

Unfortunately there were no entries in the 18—20 years group.

Mrs. J. Paviour very kindly presented the prizes, which consisted of stamps, a magnifying glass and an album and all the contestants received some stamps donated by members.

A Stamp Quiz for the juniors was held during the judging. Altogether it was a memorable meeting but looking back we are very sad to think it was the last one to be attended by our dear old friend Mr. Andrew Watson, who passed peacefully away two days later.

J.P.S.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

6th August.

Pot Pourri.

1. Mr. Combe-Martin. A number of disconnected sheets. The high lights were penny blacks, twopenny blues, some grand triangulars,

some beautifully used high value Great Britain and some fine Polar Flight covers of Germany.

2. Mr. Slater-Kinghorn. British Empire items covering fine New Zealand, Ceylon Queens and a host of other desirable items.

3. Dr. T. B. Berry. A few magnificent pages from his Union Collection. Most interesting were the proofs and build-up on the Huguenot and Silver Wedding issues.

4. Mr. Ford. A few mint Edwardians.

20th August, 1956

This was Ladies' Night and under the guidance of Mrs. Keet the Ladies put up a very good show. There were five exhibits as detailed below.

1. Mrs. Betzler. Flowers on stamps.

2. Mrs. Reisener. New issues.

3. Mr. Schlieben. (a) Trees and Flowers and Plants on Stamps.

(b) German East Africa.

4. Miss Versfeld Part of the Transvaal Museum's collection of Venezuela. (Preceded by a very interesting paper.)

5. Mrs. Keet. Modern New Zealand.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

15th August.

Mr. W. S. Deverell dealt briefly with stamp news, pointing out the growing attention to thematic collecting, and the reluctance of dealers to break sets of stamps for the sake of single items desired by collectors.

A Quiz conducted by Mr. L. J. Picton and Mr. W. S. Deverell proved vastly entertaining. Twenty sheets were tabled, demanding a knowledge of printing and perforation methods, the recognition of varieties, flaws, postmarks and forgeries, and the identification of stamps not bearing the name of the country in the Roman alphabet.

A lively discussion followed covering a whole range of unusual points of philatelic interest.

For the interest of the "Do it yourself" fans, a stamp album made at a cost of 4/8d. was tabled by Mr. Bompas.

R.F.G.B.

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

August 23rd. Mr. M. Hotz showed his collection of "Israel" and Mr. P. Freedman "Sports on Stamps". Members showed much interest in these two interesting collections. Thematic collecting is taking on at the University and enables members to depict either their Faculty or interests.

M.F.S.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG.

On **14th August**, we had two outstanding displays (1) the wonderfully illustrated show of the "Air Mail History of the Central African Federation" of Mr. I. H. C. Godfrey — of course, only a part of it, since this his pet collection would fill many evenings; (2) Dr. P. Keller's new display of "Animals on Stamps", also giving only a glimpse of the vast amount of material this collector has already amassed.

27th August. Our friends from Benoni and the East Rand Society provided us with the treat of four collections, Mr. Feinstein's Queen Elizabeth Commemoratives, which have already grown into a large array; Mr. Suklje's beautiful

Canadian George VI postage and official stamps, with some very scarce plate blocks and booklet panes; and Mr. and Mrs. Bogner's Southern Rhodesian covers, and a specialised show of recent Union commemoratives.

Press Publicity.

For a number of years now, both the English and Afrikaans newspapers in Cape Town have devoted some space regularly, in their week-end editions, to news about stamps and the meetings of the local societies; but, except for an occasional notice, nothing like that had been done for the Reef. Now, at last, "The Star", Johannesburg, has accepted the suggestion of a regular column for the Saturday editions, called STAMPS PAST AND PRESENT, and beginning with 18th August, such articles, illustrated with new issues, have appeared.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

8th August.

This meeting marked the first competition for the Been Cup, which is the premier award of our Society. The number of entries submitted was somewhat disappointing as only 4 members entered, but the dearth of entries was greatly compensated for by the high quality of the collections submitted. A panel of 3 judges consisting of Mr. W. Newlands, Mr. E. Walker and Dr. M. Peisach judged the competition, while Dr. C. Been acted as an "apprentice" judge.

The first entry tabled was Dr. Sherel's "Pitcairn and Cayman Islands", which had unfortunately to be ruled out as it consisted of less than the stipulated minimum of 50 pages. The second entry was Mr. Kriste's thematic collection of postage stamp centenaries.

Mr. Castignani's collection of Italian airmails was the next entry tabled and was highly praised, the only criticism being the fact that the competitor, although having more material available did not exhibit it and thus a few gaps were noticeable. The final entry was that of Dr. Reisener and consisted of a very fine collection of Venezuela.

By a unanimous decision Mr. Castignani's collection of Italian airmails was declared the winner. He was duly awarded the Been Cup by our chairman, "Pop" Brown.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN.

August 9th.

First was the Gold Coast exhibit of Mr. J. F. Hurter. He showed rare items, including the following:— specimens from 1884 to 1948, hand struck letters of 1859 and 1861, showing rare cancellations on covers, $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ splits 1884 on cover, a block of four of the 20/- Cr. CA Peri 14. The second exhibit was by H. J. de Wet, who is well known as an artist and producer of many interesting first day covers in the Union. Those shown included the Voortrekker Centenary 1938, Hugnot 1939, War issues, 1947 Royal Visit, 1948 Silver Wedding, U.P.U. Rhodesia, Basutoland, S.W.A., Union Voortrekker issues 1949, Elizabeth coronation, O.F.S. Centenary, Pretoria Centenary, and of great interest the Unveiling of statue to General C. P. de Wet and also the Century of Parliament.

August 23rd.

Mr. N. H. Griffen showed his Rhodesia; it

is possible to mention only a few items:— block of four 8d. 1896/7, imperf, also a corner block of same issue 3/- value, inverted T in Three 1896 overprint 3d. on 5/-, Company missing in lower strip of pane 4d., blue overprint on Cape issue (possibly the rarest item and absolutely unique), 1/- imperf 1898/1908 arms type in error of colour, imperforate between vertical and also horizontal strips Falls 1/- 1905, £1 arms 1909 pair, one overprinted and one not printed, etc.

M.F.S.

THEMATIC STAMP CLUB.

August 13th. A real thematic evening as Dr. P. W. F. Purcell showed his very fine collection "Medicine on Stamps". The whole field of Medicine was illustrated in all its facets, an interesting section being "Medical Truants", those who had forsaken the profession for other fields. It was noted with interest that the former Queen of the Belgians had qualified as a doctor.

August 27th. Capt. M. F. Stern showed his collection of the Netherlands from No. 1 to the present issues. This was followed by a talk to illustrate what a fine country it was from a thematic point of view, especially in depicting the House of Orange, art, architecture, etc.

M.F.S.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF RHODESIA

This Society now meets at 8.15 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, at St George's Hall, corner of Main Street and Tenth Avenue, Bulawayo.

Members of other affiliated societies who may find themselves in Bulawayo are cordially invited to attend.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

17th July, 1956.

The piece de resistance of the evening was a monster display in which all members present put down their "Three Favourite Sheets". The catholic nature of the display added to its appeal: pages of Cape Triangulars lay cheek by jowl with sheets of San Marino hounds, and the early classic issues stared frostily at brightly-coloured modern pictorials.

7th August, 1956.

Attendance passed the fifty mark at a most successful Junior Evening. Some senior members put on small displays, and junior visitors showed their collections. After a comprehensive talk on Philatelic Accessories by Mr. Clement, the juniors were all presented with bundles of stamps.

21st August, 1956.

Mr. Clement showed "Odds and Ends", chiefly Forgeries and Propaganda Issues of World War II. Also tabled were two old sets of cigarette cards depicting postage stamps.

4th September, 1956.

Ladies' Evening. Although only a few ladies displayed their stamps, they showed that the men would have to look to their laurels. At the usual auction, three fine Cape Triangulars, kindly donated by Mr. Thornton, swelled our Congress Fund considerably.

(Continued on page 186)

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST

PROPRIETORS AND PUBLISHERS :

The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

Honorary Editor: Dr. J. H. HARVEY PIRIE }
Business Manager: Mr. J. MICHELSON. } P.O. Box 375. Johannesburg.

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NOVEMBER, 1956.

Whole No. 379.

UNION NOTES

Hon. Sub-Editor: Dr. T. B. BERRY,
Box 31, Bryanston, Transvaal.

RECENT PRINTINGS

The Publicity Officer, of the Department of Posts and Telegrams, has kindly supplied the following information concerning the period 24.4.56 to 24.7.56. For the previous list see our July issue.

Animal Series Postage Stamps.

1d.—Job No. 134892 Contd. On an order for 1,000,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, 19,500 sheets were made on the 6.3.56, the total number of sheets supplied to date being 448,532. Same Double Die Cylinder No. 3.

On the same Job No., but from the old cylinder No. 12, 36,000 sheets were initially supplied on the 20.3.56, the total number of sheets supplied to date being 170,500.

2d.—Job No. 132269 Contd. on an order for 1,000,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, 19,000 sheets were delivered on 20.12.55, the total supplied to date being 416,790 sheets. Same Double Die Cylinder No. 20.

On the same Job No. but from the old cylinder No. 56, 25,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet were initially supplied on 19.6.56, the total number of sheets supplied to date being 195,647.

4d.—Job No. 692. On an order for 110,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, an initial delivery of 6,000 sheets were made on 29.5.56, the total delivery to date being 48,380 sheets. Same cylinders as before, No. 53 Interior, and 93 Exterior.

Pictorial Post Cards

1½d.—Job No. 132268. On an order for 2,720,000 cards, an initial delivery of 40,320 cards was made on 22.5.56, the total delivery to date being 1,783,680 cards. Chambon Printing Machine but a new cylinder for the stamps.

Air Letter Cards.

6d.—Job No. 132274. On an order for 8,000,000 cards, an initial delivery of 72,000 was made on 1.3.56, the total number delivered to date being 2,407,800 cards. Chambon Printing Machine, same cylinders as before.

Roll Stamps.

1d.—Job No. 129844 Contd. On an order for

20,000 rolls of 506 stamps per roll, 600 rolls were delivered on 10.11.55, the total delivered to date being 7,100 rolls.

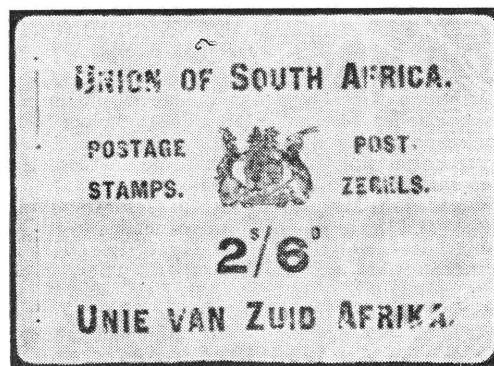
On the same Job No., an order for 10,000 rolls of 1,012 stamps per roll, 4,080 rolls have been delivered to date. The same cylinder No. 27 used for both, as previously.

South West Africa.

4d.—Job No. 2118. On an order for 8,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, 8,200 sheets were delivered on 29.5.56, the date of final delivery. Same Cylinder No. 41 as previously.

The 1919 Booklet.

Through the courtesy of Mr. M. J. Rall, of Heidelberg, Cape, we have had the pleasure of viewing the cover of the 1919 Booklet, catalogued as BI on page 167 of the Handbook, Vol. I.



The face of the front cover is illustrated, and along with the back cover bears the relative inscriptions in black on a red background, Nederlands being the language used throughout. The cover bears signs of having been stapled at the left margin, and unfortunately contained no interleaves.

Mr. Rall is to be heartily congratulated on his very fine acquisition, and in view of this disclosure, the caption below the booklet illustrated on page 167 of the Handbook, Vol. I, should be amended to read "1920 or 1921 Booklet".

½d. Plate III.

Referring to Mr. G. N. Gilbert's comments on flaws of this stamp, Mr. S. J. Hagger, of Alberton, writes in support of Mr. Gilbert's

contention that the variety, "Line across buck's nose, Row 18/12", is not a multipositive flaw and consequently does not occur on Plate III printing of the ½d. stamp. He also upholds Mr. Gilbert's statement that the flaw, "Snail on buck's neck, Row 1/12," is present in Plate III printing, and is therefore a multipositive flaw.

It may thus be accepted that the condition of these two important flaws exists as they are stated to be by these two eminent observers.

½d. Plate VIII.

Dr. Gordon Ward, of Sevenoaks, Kent, commenting on the ½d. Plate VIII variety as enumerated in our June Notes, states that he has a single copy which he hoped might portray the variety described, but it differs in that the smudge crosses the forehead, from the buck's left eyebrow before extending into the margin of the stamp. Further, his copy is in the steel-blue shade which is associated with Plate X.

Dr. Ward would be glad if someone possessed of this flaw would comment upon the matter, and especially whether the steel-blue shade could occur so early as in Plate VIII printing.

Cancellation of the 2½d. Commemorative Stamp.

Two further communications which we reproduce for record purposes of interested parties, have been received concerning the cancellation of the 2½d. Commemorative Stamp, referred to in our July Notes.

Mr. Horace C. Adams, Life Member of the American Philatelic Society, and of Lewiston, New York, writes that he has a block of four cancelled as follows:—

A double circle cancel, 30 m.m., O.D.x20 m.m., I.D.; in the upper half of the annulus between the two circles is the word "REGISTERED," and in the lower half, "JOHANNESBURG". In a single line on the horizontal diameter is "4 NOV 10 11.30 AM".

Although there is a nicely placed imprint of the Cancellor on each stamp in the block, the block apparently did postal duty as there is a light horizontal blue pencil line across the centre of the two lower stamps.

In addition, Mr. Adams also possesses a single stamp and a block of four cancelled with a similar double-circle at "COMMISSIE DRIFT, TRANSVAAL" on "4 - NOV - 10". There is no hour indicated.

Mr. B. L. Cairncross, of George, writes that Mr. C. Sayers has a block of four postmarked "CAPE TOWN, 6.30 P.M., No. 4 10".

We acknowledge with thanks the response we have received to our original enquiry. There is no doubt that the 2½d. Commemorative Stamp possesses great interest and is fast becoming, as Mr. Stephen F. Rich aptly terms it in his appropriate article in the November 1954 issue of the S.A. Philatelist, "A Modern Classic".

Further attention has been focussed on this stamp by an Editor's Note appearing in the July/August 1956 issue of "The Springbok", suggesting that a list of first day covers from the four provinces be compiled, accompanied by a request for collectors please to co-operate. Will you?

5/- Oxwagon Outspanned.

A communication has been received from Mr. S. J. Vermaak, of Florida, wherein he assures

us that there is nothing wrong with the design of the 5/- oxwagon outspanned stamp, as described in our September Notes.

He is in agreement that the attachment for securing the shaft is an iron staple fixed into the yoke, but states, to this description must be added, that "a ring passes through this staple and is linked with a similar ring at the end of the shaft." The rings are about 3 inches in diameter and "two such rings linked together give roughly six inches which is about the distance the shaft (on the stamps) is away from the centre of the yoke".

Continuing, Mr. Vermaak writes "that there is nothing 'inconsistent' about the position of the yoke (standing unaided). Since the shaft cannot move to the left or to the right without turning the wheels, the shaft in fact holds the yoke upright, and not as contended".

"Douane" Overprint on 1d. Black Wildebeest Stamp.

Referring to our January 1956 Notes, wherein the ½d. warthog stamp overprinted "DOUANE" is described as the first of a new series of Custom Duty Stamps, correspondence arriving from Great Britain by the incoming mail this week, now bears 1d. Black Wildebeest Stamps overprinted "DOUANE", the overprint being the same type as that previously used on the ½d. stamp.

Small 2d. — "Official" — Overprint Variety.

Further to our Notes of December 1951 and June 1952, wherein the advent of the above stamp was reported, and an appeal for assistance in determining it was made, our attention has been drawn to an overseas offer for sale of a mint pair at £22 (twenty two pounds). This stamp is catalogued by Gibbons as O35 but unpriced, and by the Union Handbook as O96a, and priced at 5/- a used pair.

When the appearance of this stamp was reported from overseas, and upon enquiring into its origin, we were informed that several sheets of the "small" 2d. stamps had been overprinted for official use from the old forme instead of from the stereotype process blocks which had been prepared for the "Officials"; that they had subsequently been used up by one of the Government Departments in Pretoria in the normal course of official business, and there is no record of any mint copies being in existence.

To our knowledge, no copies, except those which were received on loan from overseas, have been viewed by collectors in South Africa, nor are any housed in collections in this country.

It would be very interesting to receive further information concerning the origin of this stamp.

Variety 4½d. Animal Stamp.

Mr. C. E. Kachelhoffer, of Bloemfontein, reports an interesting variety of the 4½d. Animal Stamp, in that the right vertical leg of "U" of SUID-AFRIKA of stamp Row 2/9, is shorter than the left one, and states that the variety is constant over some twenty odd sheets which he has examined.

Collectors of these stamps will be glad of this information as the variety is easily detected, and may be used as a determining factor when plating this stamp.

THE PORT ELIZABETH EXHIBITION

We reproduce below the text of the opening address of the Union Postmaster General, Mr. L. C. Burke, delivered at the PENAPEX Exhibition at the beginning of October.

Mr. Burke revealed that it is intended to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Union in 1960 with a commemorative issue.

His interesting references to a very early Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society were news even to the local stalwarts, and indicate the remarkable extent of the Post Office archives, from which they were extracted.

"I want to express my thanks to the Exhibition Committee for inviting me to open this Exhibition, and giving me the opportunity of being with you here today.

"I have remarked on previous occasions, in forewords to the Handbooks of the Philatelic Federation, how the hobby of philately has grown in South Africa. I see that the exhibits of varieties of themes or of one denomination of a postage stamp increase at each Philatelic Exhibition. It is my privilege to be in charge of one of the World's Postal Administrations, organizations which make philately possible, and if the Union Post Office has contributed towards your hobby and your pleasure, it has added to the many services which it renders to the public.

"When one looks at the exhibits of South African stamps one cannot escape the fact that for 28 years the same designs on our stamps were unflinching in their popularity; and the new series, the animal stamps, continue to be well received not only in our own country, but also overseas, particularly in the United States of America. The use of one series of designs over a reasonable period usually encourages a greater study of stamps than would be the case with more frequent issues.

"Another reason for South Africa's popularity in philatelic circles is that, although the Post Office receives many requests for the issue of commemorative stamps in connexion with events which are important to certain towns or areas of the Union, it has always been conservative in this regard, and consequently enjoys a good reputation in the world of international philately. It is, I think, good policy to reserve the issue of commemorative stamps for events of great historical importance to the nation, especially as such stamps go beyond our own boundaries to the whole world, and should rather convey a message pertaining to South Africa as a whole.

"As an example of this I would like to mention one or two stamp issues. The Voortrekker Monument stamps of seven years ago still carry their message overseas. People who visit South Africa often mention that they saw the Monument on postage stamps and inquire from our Post Offices where they can see the Monument and how to get there. Only last month a letter came from England asking for detailed information about the Monument. Stamps like those of the Van Riebeeck Festival, the Pretoria Centenary and the Covenant also resulted in inquiries of historical importance from over-

seas. We have letters from schools in America and other countries calling for information about our geography and the flora and fauna of the Union. These letters usually arise out of something the writer noticed on our stamps. In England there is a specialist Society dealing exclusively with South African stamps.

"Although the animal series does not consist of commemorative stamps they too have contributed to a better knowledge abroad about South Africa as a place to visit; a recent tourist from the United States who called at the Philatelic Agency said that his visit had been motivated by the animals on the Union's stamps which he had seen in America.

"In South Africa itself interest in philately has also grown amongst our youth, and we must remember that, for these the exhibitors of the future, their pocket money does not always match their keenness.

When a hobby becomes expensive, the interest of many people may be lost; and it would not be right to issue a new definitive series, or commemorative stamps for events of restricted interest, so frequently that philatelists might feel that they are being exploited.

The provision of temporary Post Offices at Exhibitions and Shows is something which the Department is usually prepared to consider favourably. At large Shows and Exhibitions where the facilities provided are regarded as an extension of the local Post Office, special date-stamps are not provided. At Post Offices opened in connexion with events of a national character special date-stamps are provided in some cases. Each case, however, must be considered on its merits.

Philately in Port Elizabeth is not something of recent development. In the minutes of a meeting of the South African Philatelic Society held at the Algoa House Hotel, Port Elizabeth, on the 20th July, 1892, the names of those present included the Postmaster of Port Elizabeth, Mr. W. T. Hoal, who, in 1910, became the first Postmaster-General of the Union. The President was Mr. G. A. Meyer and the Secretary, Mr. D. Montague Jacobs. Others present were A. H. Sytner, H. M. Howard, J. L. Drege, H. Hormann, S. Rous and F. W. R. Hirsch. Relatives or friends of these members may be living in Port Elizabeth and some may even visit this Exhibition. Prizes were offered for essays about stamps, the Society decided to compile "a world collection of stamps", philatelic papers were tabled and arrangements for a forthcoming Philatelic Exhibition at Kimberley were discussed. The Secretary reported that "the financial position of the Society was good, the cash balance in hand being £3.2.6d."

The continued vitality of your local Society, and the prestige of the Philatelic Federation, are much in evidence by virtue of the keen interest which must have accompanied the preparation of the exhibits to be seen here. I would like to mention the Post Office exhibit. On previous occasions stamps extracted from the departmental records have been exhibited, but it was thought that it would be of more interest to give some idea of the process by which Union postage stamps are produced. This should appeal particularly to the juniors.

Visitors to the Exhibition will, I am sure, find much to interest them and I trust that the event will be a great success.

PORT ELIZABETH NATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

Competitive Junior Section — Prizewinners

Cup for the best collection on show: Charles Deacon.

Cups in the "over 15" section:

General: G. Kriste.

Thematic: Merle Hellman.

Cups in the "under 15" section:

General: no award.

Thematic: Jonathan Hellman.

A VISIT TO PENAPEX

I was recently privileged, and privileged is the right word, to spend a whole day at the Port Elizabeth National Philatelic Exhibition, and these few remarks are intended for those unlucky people who were unable to see the philatelic fare offered by the Organizers of the Exhibition.

The Exhibition was divided into two sections — a Senior section by invitation and a competitive Junior section.

As the Junior section was competitive and shewed the "Shape of Things to Come," I am proposing to deal with this part of the Exhibition first and in some detail.

The competition was sub-divided into two age groups, "under 15" and "over 15", and both these were remarkable for the very high standard of the entries.

In the "under 15" section, there was only one entry in the General class, compared with four entries of Thematic collections, whereas there were four entries under "General" and only two Thematic collections in the "over 15" section; which may suggest that the theme is more important in our early stamp-collecting days, and blossoms into more orthodox philatelic channels with maturity.

Unfortunately, considerations of space prevent me from dealing with each entry individually, much as I should like to, and I must, therefore, confine myself to general observations.

The only "under 15" General entry was by a boy of 11; and his use of loose leaves, and his method of writing-up and arrangement, were quite exceptional for a boy of his age: while the four thematic collections in this section also shewed a love for, and knowledge of, their stamps far above the average for the age of the competitors. My only criticisms of these thematic collections are common, alas, to many collections belonging to Seniors and the Juniors cannot really be blamed for following their bad example! Briefly, there is a tendency towards over-crowding the album pages and not giving the stamps enough air to be properly visible and appreciated: the other fault is very minor, and its correction could easily be overdone; it is not to give sufficient description of the theme as illustrated by the stamps shewn.

With two exceptions (both 16½) all the competitors in the older section were 15 years of age, and the same extremely high standard was in evidence.

In this section there were two outstanding

entries — one of Newfoundland and one of New Zealand — while the others were not far behind. I was very pleased indeed to see among these entries a true World Collection by a boy of 16 — it is, in my opinion, much better to collect all the world at the beginning of one's philatelic career and only to specialize later — this prevents a collector from being too narrow in his interests, and enables him more easily to understand and appreciate the collections of others even if they are of countries he does not later collect himself.

One young man of 15 had solved a problem in his collection very well indeed. Most of the Colonies used the same design to celebrate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, and he succeeded in overcoming the monotony of pages and pages of similar-looking stamps by what I might describe as a "staggered" arrangement, which caught the eye and achieved a very pleasing aesthetic result; while a thematic "animal" collection by the only girl competitor was beautifully illustrated with life-like drawings of the various animals shewn on her stamps.

Before I leave the Juniors, I want to congratulate them all on their collections: to those who won awards, well done! and to the others, better luck next time! The task of the Judges must have been very difficult!

Many Seniors have been complaining that there are no "up and coming" Juniors to continue the hobby when they are gone — let me assure you that a visit to Port Elizabeth would have dispelled that illusion! Not only are there many Juniors to follow the Seniors, but they are going to be numbered amongst the great Philatelists of the Future, and, as a collector of over forty years' experience here and overseas, I think I may claim to know something about it!

Turning to the Senior section of the Exhibition, I must apologize to the fifty-odd collectors who were invited to shew selections from their collections for having to compress my appreciation of the offering owing to lack of space.

It is manifestly impossible to do justice here to an exhibition like this one in a few lines — remember all the "entries" were by invitation and comprised the pick of many collections from all over the Union and Rhodesia. I am, therefore, contenting myself with mentioning those high-lights which caught my eye and humbly apologize for the many omissions!

First, there was a remarkable collection of Union Essays and King's Heads, followed by a collection of Barbados, with die proofs, blocks and covers of the Britannia type, also SG 86a and 106. Mauritius included a copy of the 2d. PENOE error and a fine "Lapirot". South West Africa included the first flight KARIBIB-WINDHUK of 1914, and a lovely copy of the 5 marks with wrong centre plate and many "wanderstempels". A whole page of the 2 RBS of Denmark was on view, while Finland was represented by very fine used copies of the Posthorns and a 32 penni perf. 14 x 13½ very fine used (SG 63). There were some wonderful pages of Russian stamps, including studies of the postmarks, and covers of SG 1 — 4, 1863 colour trials, 1905 specimens in sheets etc.; rarities included SG 19d., 43b, 78a & 80b, followed by a beautiful pair of Poland Pt on piece. This was followed by a fine selection of

Basutoland, including all the Officials used on pieces, and the "Missing Crown" and "St. Edward's Crown" on the Postage Dues. Some beautifully arranged pages of modern colonials included all the printings of the Leeward Islands £1 value, and a strip of Great Britain 2½d. pale blue only partially printed, besides many other scarce and desirable items. A collection of Empire Booklet stamps included some very scarce and out of the way selections, while the Swaziland errors, including copies of "Swazielan" and "Swazielan" inverted rubbed shoulders with classic U.S.A. stamps of 1847 and 1873 plate proofs!

These were followed by some truly magnificent pages of Argentine, Colombia and Colombian States, mostly mint and complete, without varieties, including the Rivadavias, Colombia SG 24-30, Antioquia SG 1-4, Bolivar SG 1 etc.

Before the eye had recovered from this feast, it was promptly assailed by a display of embossed Natal, including two 1d. blues on newspapers, a 3d. and no less than three 6d. on covers; besides the only known 6d. bisected on piece! A fine display of Chalon portrait types concluded this course and paved the way for some magnificent pages of Transvaal, amongst which I spotted SG 15a, 99b, and a 1/- (1878-80) bisect on cover; besides a whole page of SG 274a, including, I believe, the only known pair.

Gambia followed with some memorable pieces, especially the recently discovered and unique proof of the "Cameo" Queen's Head, and the unique used copy of SG 25a, besides many sheets of fifteen of the Cameos! Israel was represented by many scarce specimens from the Interim Period and the rarities of the 1948 issue in plate blocks and strips with tabs, etc.

Then came a fine study of the map and rouble note stamps of Latvia and a remarkable collection of the uncatalogued, and often rare, local handstamps of Pakistan, and a fine collection of the Japanese Occupation issues of Malaya, including many of the rare items.

Among many pages of Cape Triangulars, I particularly noticed a beautiful mint pair of the 4d. steel-blue (SG 19c), a cover with no less than twenty two 4d. stamps and a block of four of the 1/- emerald. Nor had postal stationery been overlooked; a collection of the Empire included many scarce and elusive items seldom seen or, indeed, collected today.

Included in a marvellous selection of Seychelles were many pages of Mauritius with B64 postmark, including many rarities, and a glorious pair of the 4d. rose on cover and most of the rare surcharge errors.

There were no less than five copies of Norway SG 1 on separate covers and a superb copy of the double foot variety, very fine used with truly enormous margins, besides a number of early bisects on pieces and a small selection of the Spitzbergen locals.

On display was a remarkable selection of the stamps of the Orange Free State, including most of the major rarities. Here I particularly noticed forgeries of the "BLOEMFONTEIN BETAALD" postmark on genuine covers, with genuine examples alongside for comparison and a magnificent pre-stamp cover from Beersheba dated 1835!

British North American items on view included, inter alia, a magnificent Canada 10d. fine used from the bottom row of the sheet, a 12d.

black with prominent re-entry overprinted SPECIMEN, New Brunswick 5c Connell Specimen, many picked mint and used Newfoundland "pence" stamps and a lovely copy of the 6d. green SG 4 of Prince Edward Island.

Among many breathtaking pages of German Colonies & Post Offices I spotted Levant SG T16 used in Jerusalem, East Africa March 1916 unissued 2½ heller and both types of the 7½ heller in a se tenant pair, Germany used in Cameroons without overprint, Boxer Rebellion postmarks, Caroline Islands with 45 degree and 56 degree overprints and the Ponape bisect; and many other equally desirable items.

Scattered throughout the foregoing, which were arranged in alphabetical order of owners' names, were many thematic collections, which were of a most exceptional standard and shewed how far this side of our hobby has travelled in a few short years. Space prohibits more than a passing reference to many displays which gave me a great deal of pleasure. Particularly fine examples of the thematic art were a notable collection of Music on stamps, a collection of Religion on stamps and an Architectural display.

In conclusion, I must firstly apologize to those whose stamps have not been mentioned, in particular many thematic collectors, but blame the Editor for lack of space; and secondly congratulate the Port Elizabeth Society on the best National Exhibition held in South Africa for many years.

THE PORT ELIZABETH CONGRESS

The Eighteenth Congress of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa was held on 2, 3 and 4 October in the Technical College, Port Elizabeth. The Congress was formally opened by the Mayor of Port Elizabeth, Mr. Struan Robertson, in a breezy address of welcome, and over 30 members of the Executive Committee and Society delegates were present at some time during the proceedings, in addition to which several visiting philatelists put in an appearance and the Publicity Officer of the G.P.O., Mr. van der Watt, attended all sessions.

Congress was presided over by Mr. G. E. Bülbring of Port Elizabeth, the Federation President, who opened the detailed proceedings with an address from the Chair. He commenced by referring to the loss by death during the year of three eminent South African philatelists, William Redford, Arthur V. Jacob and Andrew Watson, and asked the members to stand in token of respect. This year saw the introduction of the new system whereby Congress Awards for papers are extended to articles which have been published in the South African Philatelist, subject to selective review by a special sub-committee which consists of Dr. Pirie, Commander Enoch, Dr. Berry and Dr. Hesse. We have also had the publication in book form of the detailed description of the stamps and postal history of Swaziland and the New Republic by Dr. Pirie, which previously appeared in serial form in the South African Philatelist. He was glad to report that the friendly relations between the Federation and the Post Office continued, and was greatly appreciative of the fact that the Postmaster General, Mr. L. C. Burke, had kindly come in person to open the Port Elizabeth National Philatelic Exhibition the day before, while the

Publicity Officer, who was the official liaison between the Federation and the Postal Authorities, was attending Congress and would be able to take part personally in the relevant discussions. The Post Office had given full co-operation to the Exhibition by providing a special Exhibition Post Office with its own distinctive canceller.

There was a lengthy discussion on the many aspects of the work of the Publications Committee, which has now taken over the work formerly done separately by the South African Philatelist Committee and the Handbook Committee. Congress was very appreciative of the special financial contributions submitted by several societies, and although finance will continue to be a difficult subject it was generally felt that with such generosity and goodwill as had been displayed in many quarters we can rely on being able to proceed with our projected publications. Various subjects are under consideration for future publications, in particular South West Africa, Rhodesia, Natal and Belgian Congo.

Following the fiasco of a Special General Meeting which had to be abandoned for want of a quorum during the year, Congress had no hesitation in passing an amendment to the Constitution providing for simple machinery should this ever occur again.

A motion was then put forward from the Paarlse Posseelversamelaarsvereniging asking the Postal Authorities to make future stamp designs the subject of a public competition, with prizes, and delegates indulged in some hard hitting at their pet aversions amongst the recent issues of the Union. The Rhodesian delegates extended this criticism to the Federal issue, which they regard as a marked step backwards from the beautiful last issue of Southern Rhodesia, and in fact brought in an amendment, which was duly adopted, making it clear that the motion was by no means confined to the Union. The Publicity Officer was reminded that there used to be an advisory committee on postage stamp designs, on which the Federation was represented, and some delegates obviously saw some correlation between the discontinuance of this committee and the recent designs which had come under censure. He promised to take up the possibility of reviving this committee, but said that he doubted whether public competition would be productive of anything usable, as the results of previous invitations for submission of designs had been very poor indeed.

The Thematic Stamp Club next tabled a motion recommending the system of judging thematic collections which was printed in the July and August issues of the South African Philatelist in extenso. After some heated opposition this was carried but on a poll including proxy votes the tally was 36-25, which shews that there is by no means unanimity regarding the treatment of this controversial subject.

The new elections to the Roll of Honour of Distinguished Philatelists were Dr. T. B. Davie (deceased) of Cape Town, and Mr. W. Newlands of Pretoria. Dr. Davie had not only been an eminent Union specialist, but also afforded great encouragement from his position as Principal of the University of Cape Town to the University Philatelic Society and indirectly to

other local Societies. Mr. Newlands was well known for his researches into South African issues, particularly those of the Orange Free State, on which he is a leading authority, and had done extremely valuable work for philately in many ways.

The Skinner Cup was awarded to Dr. K. Freund of Bloemfontein, for his work on the O.F.S. & Basutoland Society Magazine and his many contributions to Union research.

The recommendations for Congress Awards were then announced, namely, to

A. Cecil Fenn for "The Official Stamps of the O.V.S." and "O.V.S. Commando Briefs."

K. Freund for "Kruger Essays".

I. H. C. Godfrey for "Aerogrammes and their Precursors of Southern Africa" and "Airgraphs of Southern Africa".

J. H. Harvey Pirie for "Stamps and Postal History of Swaziland and New Republic".

J. D. Rossouw for "Anglo-Boer War Censor Marks and Labels" and "Some Anglo-Boer War Postal Items".

Donald Smythe for "Georgian Double Strikes".

W. E. Flood for "Early Cancellations of East Africa & Uganda".

L. J. Dodd for "The Revenue Stamps of the Union of South Africa".

It was interesting and pleasing to see more than one award going to overseas contributors, and we hope that more will follow.

The President for the coming year will be Mr. J. D. Rossouw, of Paarl, whose nomination was not opposed, and this was an obviously popular appointment.

The new Vice-Presidents will be: Cape Province — Mr. I. E. Hall, Natal — Mr. C. Selwyn-Smith, Orange Free State — Mr. G. N. Gilbert, Transvaal — Mr. S. Legator, Rhodesia — Mr. J. Crewel.

Mr. J. Michelson continues as Secretary/Treasurer and the Business Manager of the South African Philatelist.

Next year's Congress is to be held in Paarl, starting on 21 October 1957. The 1958 Congress is still without a firm sponsor, though rumour has it that some of the Reef Societies may combine to act as hosts on this occasion. 1959 is reserved for East London, and 1960 for Johannesburg.

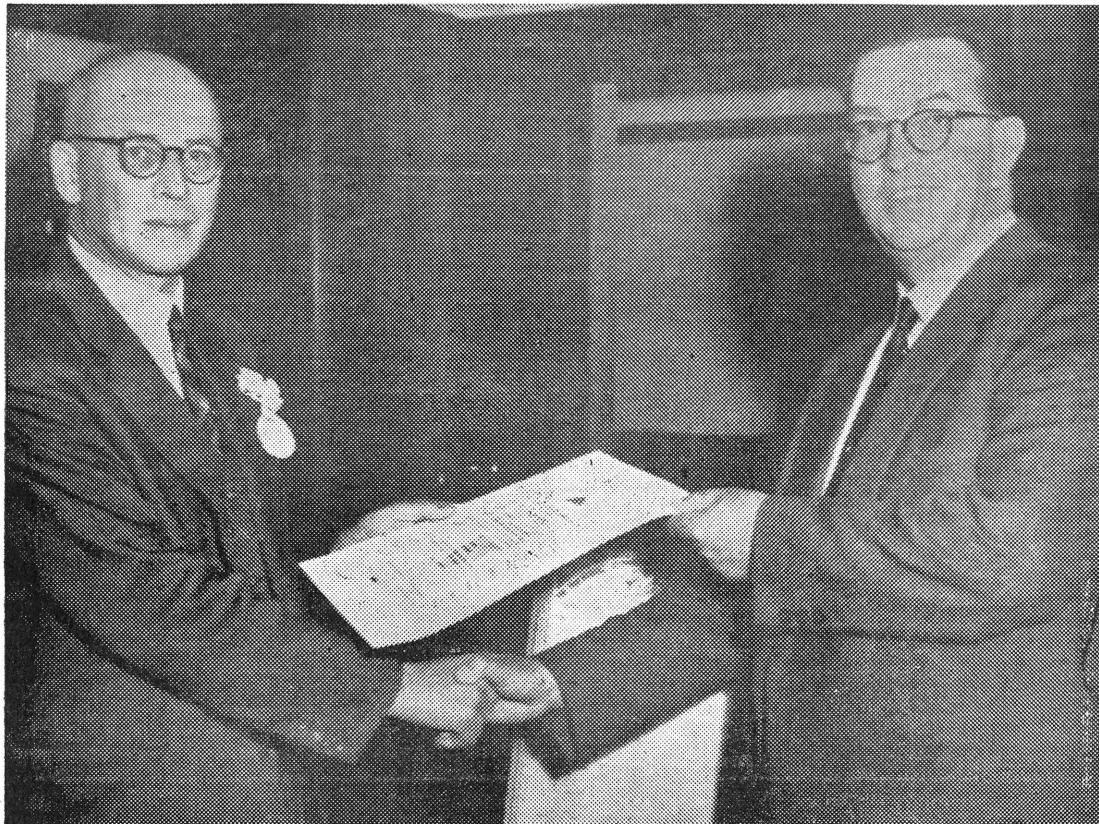
During one of the evening recesses, the delegates were enabled to see and hear a recorded lecture by Mr. Robson Lowe on the Chalon Heads, with many illustrations on slides of the various issues in which this deservedly famous portrait was used (even, sometimes, wrong way round!) and it was pleasing to hear that other similar lectures are to follow.

The closing stages were well enlivened by an amusing and perhaps provocative paper from Dr. Hesse on "Philately for the Youngsters" which evoked some interesting comment — and reminiscences — from several speakers.

Once again the Publicity Officer had to listen to tales of woe from collectors whose intended "philatelic covers" had been ruined by over-enthusiastic cancelling at Post Offices, although in general it does appear that Counter Clerks will be careful if politely asked. He said that he would gladly investigate any cases brought to his notice where there seemed to be wilful over-obliteration or obvious misuse of ink reservoirs on machine cancellers.

Before the Meetings came to a close with the usual, but very well earned, votes of thanks, Mr. Winsley made a most generous personal gesture by offering a £10 donation towards Publications on the understanding that fifteen others do the same. This is a most useful offer and we must see that it is taken up, Mr. Winsley!

Congress expressed its thanks in a most hearty way to the host Society of Port Elizabeth, and particularly to Mr. Bülbring and the ladies, who had done so much behind the scenes to make all the arrangements run smoothly. He even produced the Addo elephants in daylight, against all the forecasts of the experts! Thank you, indeed, for a most enjoyable visit!



The President of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, Mr. G. E. Bülbring, presents the Certificate of incorporation on the Roll of Honour to Mr. W. Newlands.

(Photograph by courtesy of the Evening Post, Port Elizabeth)

PHILATELY FOR THE YOUNGSTER

By Dr. W. G. HESSE

This Congress has again good reason to complain about the lack of interest of youngsters in exhibiting their collections for competition. In spite of strenuous and well-advertised efforts on the part of their elders, the youngsters have not come forward in great numbers, to earn praises and prizes. Since this is clearly not an isolated case, and the complaint must employ the word "again", it seems to be time to examine whether, in fact, the complaint has "good

reasons", or whether the elders have expected to happen this time what would not happen at any time.

Youngsters, we know, like to compete, like to show themselves off one against the other, no less than grownups; and they **do** like to win prizes. Why, then, do so few of them consider this particular effort worth their while?

Before we can attempt to answer this question, it is necessary to pose another one. Why do **we** want them to compete?

There are a number of ready answers to that question, unselfish ones, and one with a slightly ulterior motive. We believe that it is in their interest to take up a hobby which is doubtless character-building. Not only does it enlarge their knowledge and increase their appreciation

of the wide world, in time and space; but, surely even more important, it induces concentration, method, tidiness, and a sense of achievement which, more than the mere pride in possession, creates self-confidence and self-respect. Stamp collecting is good for them.

The less respectable motive is, of course, that we believe that their collecting is also good for us: good for us in respect of organized philately. We believe that, unless we catch them young, we might lose them altogether to the society; that our societies need a constant influx of young members, and that we must prime them early.

Against that, there may be answered immediately that organized philately shows no signs of senility, and that a tradition which is now nearly a hundred years old, has become more vigorous with every year of that long time. Our societies are growing, both themselves in number, and in the number of members; if the early times of the hobby catered for only a few, the tremendous amount of new issues, their variety, the youth magazines, the stamp packets, and the interest displayed by governments in the education of the young to philately — all of this would clearly fetch even greater numbers of schoolboys to the hobby, especially as their parents, far from being indifferent or even antagonistic, as they were before, are now actively assisting, being collectors themselves. Yet the schoolboys do not come to the society any more or any less than they did in those olden days.

But they come, when they have become quite a lot older; and since they do, we need not condition them for that purpose. If we encourage them to collect, we should do that only for their own good. And that means that we must do without competitions, if they won't have them; we must make them collect in their own way, and for their own reasons and inducements. We must ask ourselves, why they collect, and, without imposing our better judgement, assist them in their way.

Why do youngsters collect? There is no question that they do, millions of them, every year, but another million in every other year. They collect, but they do **not** keep on collecting. Every fairly normal schoolboy has the instinct of accumulation; we all have. He sees John collect, and his scrap book with the collection; he wants to "go in for that", too. He scrounges stamps from Father's office and friends, he buys packets, he sticks them in any old book, he might even solicit one of those dreadful volumes with lurid covers, on which our big dealers make more money than on the first issue of Moldavia, and which have headings over otherwise completely blank pages, one idiotically illustrated heading for every country, and, at best, four blank pages for the 2,000 stamps which Russia has issued until now.

He will stick all his stamps on the appropriate pages, if he finds them, one after the other, all in a row, irrespective, of course, of issues and sets. And he will not have a catalogue, and no idea of such sets to exist. He will not care, either: for, he only collects numbers. Nothing else but numbers; he accumulates stamps, and a duplicate is not a variety, as with our specialists, but "one more stamp." When he has beaten John, having 6,534 to John's mere

5,224, he will lay the album aside, or lose it, or sell it, and go in for silkworms, again in numbers!

Numbers do not compete in competitions. What the philatelist wants, is not competition in quantity but in quality. And competition in kind presupposes a set of characteristics which the average youngster has not got.

The youngster does not have the apparatus. If he knows of tweezers at all, he will have no magnifying glass, otherwise than for trying to burn holes into the stamps; he has no catalogue, and will not spend good money on hinges, when postage stamp margins serve equally well. He has no knowledge, for he scorns the painstaking study which precedes discrimination. And, most important of all, he has no interest in being entirely by himself for hours on end. In the evenings, after school work, he has to go to bed; he is not going to waste the golden sun of the afternoon indoors, when swimming pool or rugby field lure him.

Model engineers can gather and build their models in company. But stamp collecting is essentially the most unsociable of hobbies; our wives can sing a song of that. Company is needed for the showing of results; the work must be done in concentration and utter solitude. And no child wants solitude; what it wants is corporate sport, a hobby in company.

Neither does a child live with a sense for the future. It lives for every magnificent minute of the moment. Possession palls with him, when he has shown his possession to everyone. He will not build but for the moment, and time spent on preparing something for all the days to come is time wasted. Young people have no time, for they do not know of time past, or that to come. The enthusiasm with which they pounce upon the new hobby burns too fiercely to last, and too much to the exclusion of every other interest. It wanes proportionally quickly, and what was the stamp collection today, will, in the true sense of the statement, be the jet-propelled aeroplane of to-morrow. Ask a schoolboy to prepare for a competition half-a-year hence, and he will start preparing that very minute; in half-a-year's time, he will not even remember ever having collected stamps.

School boys are a bad investment for the zealous educator of organized stamp collecting. And adolescents are worse. When you fall in love, you do not spend your money or your time on anything else but the beloved. We know very many old and hardy philatelists; but even if they started young and when in school, they did lay aside what the beloved would have frowned upon for some of their early twenties.

It is only when that young man has settled down, in his job, his earning capacity, his family life, that he returns or comes as a beginner, to our hobby, and to the Society. One has to be settled in one's career, to a degree, one has to be interested in one's job, to a great amount of time and energy, in order to feel the need for some balancing relaxation. When you have made a job of your job, and when your wife and friends have got accustomed to your achievement, you look around for something else which will keep you yourself interested, and, at the same time, enhance your standing. You do not want to be bored by your profession, nor to bore others by having only one interest.

And it is one of the beauties of stamp collecting that you can come to it then, without ever having been in it. Nearly all other hobbies need previous and labour-consuming knowledge, and in most of them one would make a fool of oneself, if one had not that grounding which only a schoolboy has the pluck to practise for. Stamp collecting does not give the beginner away, except to the specialist to whom all are beginners. And even if you have never collected before (and ALL of us have collected before), you learn as fast as you learn unobtrusively, and will soon be the advanced expert in your own field. You could not do that in gardening, or golf, or model engineering; you can do it in philately. All of which goes to show that we need not cater for the school boy (and most certainly not for the adolescent), if it were only for ensuring another generation of committee members; and that we do not need competitions for juniors, in our, or even their, interest.

It is another question, however, whether we should not be ready, and have an apparatus for the teaching of schoolboys in a completely unorganized and unregimented way. That question should be answered in the affirmative. There are always those sons of collectors, those lone hands among the cricket-loving school community who would like to be shown what their elders do with the same hobby which they are so fond of at present. If they were invited to form small school circles, under the guidance of an interested school master, but a guidance that is only given when asked for; if they were told that, bed-time or not, they were always welcome at our meetings, and, more often, at our friendly chats in our stamp dens at home, there would be no harm, and could be a lot of preparation for their future, even if they will leave our meetings and dens one day, quite suddenly, and not come back. But we should not make an organization of this assistance. We should not take ourselves more seriously than our little customers demand it of themselves. It would not only be a waste of our time, and theirs, but also look slightly ludicrous; as if we were looking for support, and were making our excuse by means of "education" for something which was not natural enough to be asked for anyhow.

We should **encourage**, certainly. But if we do, it must not be towards "philately". We have shown that no youngster can be made into a philatelist straightaway, that his natural inclination is against it. But since his natural inclination is for the collecting of numbers, and, possibly, designs, the natural way, obviously, is to encourage "themately". Here his limitation as to knowledge of philatelic characteristics is no hindrance, and his indifference as to completion can be a decided help. Moreover, his other interests, which would lead him off our direction otherwise, can help to keep him on it: if he is interested in sport, that can be the theme, re-inforced by a knowledge which he has already amassed; instead of drawing geographical maps into his diary, he can now draw them into his geographical stamp collection; his knowledge of bridges, or locomotives, or motor cars, can be put to his own use. Only themately allows him an outlet for his youthful curiosity, his drawing talent, his originality of choice.

What we old ones need is not only a hobby; it is to have at least more than one, and that means not only more than one specialized country. Don't we know what bores we become otherwise, able to talk stamps only when we have finished talking shop? Well, we cannot, as we have seen, expect the schoolboy to have two or more evenly balanced interests, in a mind which is blind to any other track; but we can divide the enthusiasm into two tracks, and thereby make it last longer. Stamps might make him interested even in school, and the authorities would be with us all the way. He might go so far in his own effort with those stamps we gave him, or which he selected with our cash, so much further than merely sticking them into the book, all in a row, that he will not sell the album when he says it aside for time off with Sally, all the less since it has become far more valuable than the price of the stamps in it.

We may do well to encourage the youngster in this way. What we must do, however, and must do all the time, is to encourage the young man who has "settled". That is another matter, but we might well mention it here, too, just because the living of a society depends on him, and him only. Not only should he be coaxed to become a member, but he should be made to stay. And the surest way of discouraging him is the type of display which he is exposed to so often at meetings, and the type of paper and talk which he must listen to equally frequently — the "specialist's" display and talk. Of course, the specialized method of collecting is the inevitable end, perhaps the goal of membership in a society. But you do not take a first-year student into the seminar on registration, and the beginner remains a beginner for a long time, even if only to himself. He will most certainly never begin at all, unless you have a first course for him, and the study circle and discussion on bids for postal history items at London auctions are not the only functions of his first meetings. Unless we stop sneering learnedly at clumsy write-ups and gaps among the rarities, expect the young man to spend his earnings of a whole month on a cabinet piece, instead of the close-cut specimen which he was lucky to obtain for £3, and proud to possess and show; and unless we allow collectors again to show, with some impunity and confidence, pages from a PRINTED album containing all the NORMAL stamps, and refrain from showing them our horror — we shall not make our willing guests enthusiastic members.

If we had competitions for ardent but modest collectors, people who know their limits and act within them to the best of their pleasure; if we had a "collector's" section in addition to the "Specialist's" section which is, to-day, decided only by the purse and not the mind — we would have neither a need for throwing our effort to the winds of schoolboy indifference, nor would our stalwarts have to be so worried about the rise of themately. Half of the number of those whom we have kept in our societies in spite of our efforts at discouraging them, would gladly return to the complete one-country collection in a printed-page album, with no made-to-order and back-door and printer's waste "varieties" asked for; or own up to the fact that they had such collections long ago but did not dare show them, and themately was their way out of the quandary, and into the limelight.

Most of us have remained schoolboys; ask our wives! Why then, do we not cater for our school boy's craving for numbers, in the printed book? If only we had that chance which our sons do not respond to: we would show our books, and gladly leave the philatelic section to those who, in addition to a cheque book, own the time and the hand-writing to make a collection of miscarriages of stamp-printing nearly as clean-looking as a printed album can do. And if we had the time and hand-writing, we would remain in the thematic section as well!

Encouragement of youngsters? Yes, by all means, if you would only extend the franchise a bit further towards middle-age!

REVIEWS

Orange Free State, Postal and other Markings, 1868-1910. By A Cecil Fenn, F.R.P.S.L. Published by H. Garratt-Adams & Co., Kinnersley, Hereford, England. Price 15s.

Ten years ago the O.F.S. was philatelically dead; very few were interested in its stamps, the flood of V.R.I. overprints having probably been largely responsible for the killing.

There has recently been, however, a wonderful resurrection of interest (? because of the discovery of the O.F.S. goldfields) in O.F.S. philately — so much so that in England there has been formed a Study Circle, of which Mr. Fenn is a Past President.

This booklet of 55 pages may be described as text descriptive of almost 450 drawings of cancellations and other markings. These are divided up into 41 groups of different types and with additional varieties described but not illustrated: some 600 odd items altogether are dealt with.

The volume will naturally be of most use as a reference book for collectors with fairly advanced collections but even those with small collections might very well find that they possess items not described. The author would welcome descriptions of any such, with a view to a possible Supplement sometime. The booklet closes with a list of all known post offices, with dates of opening (and closing down) where known. Here an explanation of all the initials indicating the grading of the office would have been an advantage.

One criticism we feel must be made. The author has deliberately included certain markings "which may be found on O.F.S. stamps and Covers applied in transit whatever the origin."

This we think is a mistake. Admittedly no one is going to think that a Johannesburg Machine Cancellation or a Cape Colony Ocean Port Office mark is really an O.F.S. cancel, although it happens to be on an O.F.S. stamp. But why show them at all? They merely mean that the stamps missed being cancelled in an O.F.S. office.

But some marks shown are more serious:—SSr (P.D.A. 107) and T.P.O.'s MM5, 6 and 10 (Midland, Eastern and Western) are not described as being respectively Natal and Cape markings, although on O.F.S. stamps, and by the unwary might very well be supposed really O.F.S. cancels. Such marks should be explained, or, better still, cut out altogether.

These are minor defects, however. The book as a whole is simply a mine of information for all interested in O.F.S. postmarks and other markings.

Stanley Gibbons' Postage Stamp Catalogue: Part I — British Empire

We had looked forward to this year's edition of the Part I catalogue with exceptional interest as this is the first which represents the sole work of the new editor. Unfortunately, as the editor himself ruefully mentions in his foreword, the dispute in the British printing trade, just at the time when the major work on revision is usually in hand, prevented him from doing much more than price changes on this occasion, and we shall have to await next year's edition for the more significant manifestations of editorial policy.

Nevertheless, opportunity has been found to make a few adjustments, and we are pleased to note that after many years the illustration of Jind Type 1 is at last printed right way up (due, we suspect, to the representations of a well known Johannesburg collector); though this is balanced by a rather alarming metamorphosis in the illustration of Fiji Type 25. In the India list the Gandhi Service stamps are now listed, but Gibbons do not state what evidence, if any, they have for the existence of this issue mint, other than as the result of irregularities: if, as is generally supposed, there are none of these with entirely respectable pedigrees, would it not have been better to leave the unused unpriced, with a footnote commenting on their status?

There has been some effort put into the pricing of varieties hitherto accorded only an enigmatic dash, but in all too many instances the prices inserted bear no resemblance to recent market realizations, and are therefore of no real assistance to collectors. Certain varieties, moreover, are of differential value according to their sheet position, and unless their quotations are indicated by a price range they are apt to be misleading. Great Britain SG 218B and Bahrain SG 63a are typical examples.

The general tendency of prices is for the most part fairly indicated in the movements recorded, with the more speculative recent issues losing in favour of the older periods, though a few of the changes against the trend seem to have been made in defiance of the true rarity of the issue. A striking example of this is Lagos SG 53, of which only 720 were issued. This was undervalued even before at £22, and is now reduced to £20.

The catalogue continues to illustrate every new design, and it appears a miracle of condensation that the year's new issues have been held within the compass of only ten additional pages.

We may save some readers from unduly raised blood pressure, at finding the South West Africa Victory 1d. listed with inverted overprint, by mentioning that this entry was very promptly cancelled in the list of corrigenda published in "Gibbons Stamp Monthly" of September 1956. Most local collectors are well informed regarding the sordid history of this clandestine printing, but it may not be out of place to record once again that it has no valid status.

We hope that in the next edition Gibbons will similarly remove the listed "varieties" of

the New Zealand Dependencies which have been categorically condemned by the New Zealand authorities. Illegal leakage of printers' waste is now established to have been the only source of Aitutaki SG 36a, 40a & 41a; Cook Islands SG 100a & 101a; Niue SG 49a, 52a & 52b and Penrhyn Island SG 32a, 32b, 33a & 37a. To the uninformed these "album weeds" appear to have a quite undeserved respectability so long as they are listed in a catalogue of the standing of "Gibbons".

To sum up, this has been an interesting addition to the long series of Empire catalogues, and we look forward to the next with even keener anticipation. F.



The 1/- and 2/- Australian Olympic Games stamps.
(blocks by courtesy of the Rand Daily Mail, Johannesburg).

AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC GAMES

The Australian postal authorities announce the issue of four special stamps, 4d., 7½d., 1/- & 2/-, at the end of October to commemorate the Olympic Games. In addition a special 10d. air letter form will be issued in November. These stamps will afford an interesting comparison of printing, for the two lowest denominations will be made by the Note Printing Branch of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, the 1/- by Harrisons and the 2/- by Courvoisier. These two will both be done in four colour photogravure, and we must restrict preliminary comment to the observation that Harrisons seem to have been allocated the worse of the two designs. The two firms have already experienced mutual competition in the stamps of Ceylon and this further joint effort will be of particular interest to students of philatelic printing.

FINLANDIA 56

The official list of awards has just come to hand, and we have the pleasant duty of congratulating several South African collectors on their achievements.

Silver medallions were won by Messrs Reynolds, Kleiner (Seychelles), Mullen and Stern. Bronze medallions go to Messrs Glassman, Kleiner (Poland), Buchen Creewel and Kaplan. Diplomas were awarded to Messrs Michelson and van der Merwe.

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INTER-COUNTRY DESIGNS

Hard on the heels of the "Europa" issue of Western Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxemburg and the Netherlands issued on 15 September, is announced a similar issue by Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. This will shew five "swans of the north" in flight and represents the kinship of the Scandinavian peoples.

Applications for special covers should be addressed to Birger Olsson, Föreningen Norden, Vasagatan 52, Stockholm, Sweden, accompanied by an international money order for 7/-.

AIR MAIL ETIQUETTES

"The Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly" of 1 September 1956 contains a brief article on the Air Mail Etiquettes of Southern Africa, by John A. Bissett Cormack.

OBITUARY

We regret to announce the sudden death, after an operation, on 29 September, of Mr. T. J. Edwards of the London house of H. R. Harmer Ltd. The late Mr. Edwards had been associated with Harmers since 1939 and was well known as their usual London auctioneer.

FORTHCOMING SALES

Several interesting properties are coming under the hammer shortly, and friends of the late Major van Wyk, of the S.A. Police may like to be reminded that his collection of South West Africa will be sold at Harmers on 13 November.

On the following day, 14 November, Robson Lowe are holding a Great Britain sale which includes the fabulous Edwardian collection of Sir John Dodd, previously offered by private treaty, but evidently more capable of absorption in lots by auction.

Another Caspary Sale takes place in New York the following week, the group on this occasion being 1861-1888 United States. There are many certainly, and more probably, unique items in this section, several of which are confidently expected to fetch over \$2,000.

Recent Sales.

H. R. Harmer, 10 & 11 September.

Australia Lord Howe Island provisional £8/10/-
Collection of mint Postage Dues, catalogued at £8/13/- £7.

Cayman Islands 1908 2½d. provisional used £65.
Montserrat First 1d. bisected on cover £15.

Seychelles Mint pair SG 24a £26.

Mint single SG 30a £57/10/-.

Mint pair SG 44a £38.

South Africa SG 021a & 022a in mint blocks £13.

Australian Upheaval.

The appalling consequences of rampant inflation are again visible in Australia, whose postal rates have again been changed from 1 October 1956. The inland letter rate is now 4d., or 7d. by air, foreign surface rate 7½d., registration fee raised from 9d. to 1/3. There already are 4d. and 7½d. stamps, both survivors from the last reign, and no doubt stocks will soon vanish, with new issues in new designs: there will also be some colour changes as Australia still adheres, unnecessarily, to the now obsolete "Universal Postal Union" colour scheme. Themate-lists will mourn the passing of the much-loved "Teddy Bear" on the 4d., unless he reappears on one of the new issues. There seems to be a vacancy on the new 7d. stamp for him!

"Magazin International".

We have received a copy of this journal, which operates as a source of international contacts with particular reference to various hobbies, amongst which, needless to say, stamp collecting figures prominently. The wrapper carried an etiquette designed to plead for "philatelic cancellations" on the stamps, comprising the words "International Philately" and "Thanks" in English, French, Dutch, Italian, and Latin, which we have never seen before. It seems to work for the stamps used were "beautifully" postmarked.

The magazine is polyglot to a degree, many of the features being presented in four languages, and the small ads come in English, French, German, Polish, Dutch, Italian, Flemish, Russian and American(!). A year's subscription costs 30 international reply coupons and the publisher is D. Lispet, P.O. Box 114, Hilversum, Netherlands.

LYDENBURG

Mr. Stephen G. Rich writes from the United States that his attention was recently drawn to certain items purporting to be postal stationery

of Lydenburg. Having never seen or heard of such before, he examined the items and as a result came to the conclusion that the V.R.I. overprints in each case were faked. Mr. Rich attributes the items to the same source as some faked Zululand postal stationery which he had encountered previously.

With the increasing popularity of postal stationery, buyers will be well advised to obtain expert opinions on any unrecorded items.

After "Life" — "Esquire"

By courtesy of H. R. Harmer Inc. of New York we have been sent an advance copy of "Esquire" for October 1956, which makes a special feature of notable philatelic rarities.

The front cover carries natural colour illustrations of some twenty of the rarest stamps of the world, though the pop-eyed colonel who invariably graces Esquire's front page is not to be denied his inalienable rights, and looks up at the display from something vaguely reminiscent of the Hunter Penrose essay.

The issue will no doubt appeal to many readers whose scrapbook already includes the issue of "Life" of 28 June 1954, to which it will be an attractive companion.

Dutch Children's Stamps.

It is safe to say that the annual series of Children's stamps issued by the Netherlands is rivalled in popularity only by the Health stamps of New Zealand in comparable issues. This season's designs have now been released and there are to be five stamps depicting 16th Century paintings of children, a very charming addition to this series which goes right back to 1924.

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The Twopenny Unhyphenated Rotogravure Stamp

by Dr. T. B. BERRY

The "Pioneer Investigators" of the Union's Unhyphenated Roto Stamps have handed down to posterity a fitting memorial to their labours. The stamps comprising the series were scrutinised as the respective issues made their appearance. Their characteristics, the multipositive and plate flaws, and the "flyspots" were noted — all to the benefit of the collector of today who by force of circumstances has to content himself with a block of four instead of being able to ponder over a complete sheet of stamps.

The Series.

The 2d. Unhyphenated Roto stamp comprises five printings from three plates, Nos. I, II and III, Plates I and II furnishing two printings each, a Booklet and a Roll Stamp issue.

The same multipositive was used for all the printings; the characteristic multipositive flaws along with the respective plate flaws are on

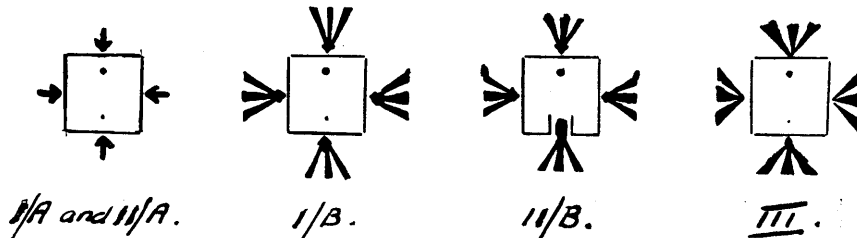
record.

There is however one multipositive characteristic which was not recorded and is worthy of note. It takes the form of fine marginal arrows, the presence of which may be observed in one form or another in all the printings of the series.

These fine arrows made their advent in Plate I; they exist, superimposed by a large arrow in Plate II, and are present in a restricted form in the Booklet printing, their "tails" having been lost in the guillotining process whereby the margins of the Booklet sheets were removed. The fact that these fine arrows persist throughout the printings of the series, indicates that, contrary to present day practice, they were present on the frame-plate multipositive, and were thus reproduced as a multipositive characteristic on all the printings for which the multipositive was used.

The Arrows.

Four sets of arrows exist to indicate the five printings of the definitive issue, denoted as Plates I/A, II/A, I/B, II/B, and III in the Catalogue.



The arrows are illustrated and are reproduced in size and outline to represent the actual arrows on the sheet of stamps as accurately as possible.

Plates I/A and II/A carry the same arrows, namely four "fine" arrows of the same colour as the frame of the stamps. These arrows are incorporated in the glass multipositive, previously mentioned, and are also found in the Booklet issue, but with their "tails" guillotined off. Due to their small size they are frequently mutilated by the perforator.

Plates I/B and II/B have four large arrows superimposed over the fine arrows of Plates I/A and II/A, the remains of the small arrows being frequently observed at the apices of the large arrows. The outline of the large arrows is irregular and "smudges" are also present.

Plate III possesses large arrows also, but their prongs are broader and more splayed than those of Plate II — a means of distinguishing Plate II arrows from those of Plate III. The outline of the "suppressed" fine arrows is not so distinct in this plate as in Plate II, due probably to the fact that they may be obscured by the larger arrow, or that they may have become partially eliminated or removed from the multipositive during the period it was used to print the emissions from Plates I and II and the Booklet and Roll stamps.

A Booklet Printing does not normally carry arrows, but the "prongs" of an arrow may be observed as a small "blob" in the positions usually occupied by arrows on a reconstructed booklet sheet of this printing, or on booklet

panes pertaining to the arrow positions. Their presence is due to the fact that these fine arrows are on the multipositive.

The same condition should pertain for the Roll Stamp printing, but due to the scarcity of material, the author has not had the privilege of checking this.

Determining Plate Characteristics.

It is customary to determine a plate by its arrows and most collectors have little difficulty in doing so, but the similarity which exists between the arrows of Plates I/A and II/A, and also between Plates I/B and II/B, makes differentiation difficult. To overcome this, the aid of plate flaws which are present in Plate I in the neighbourhood of the four arrows but are absent in Plate II, is resorted to, with the result that when the arrows are read in conjunction with these plate characteristics the determination of the arrows and consequently the plates is facilitated.

The "tell-tale" Plate I characteristics are:—

Top Arrow: Row 1/4. Break in left vertical inner frame.

Right Arrow: Row 10/6. Dot above "H" of SOUTH.

Left Arrow: Row 11/1. Dot between "P" and "O" of POSTAGE.

Bottom Arrow: Row 20/3. Marginal smudge, 17 m.m. below lower frame of stamp.

Row 20/4. Dot in vignette below "O" of SOUTH.

Thus, an arrow pair, possessing any one of the above Plate I characteristics, indicates that it belongs to either Plate I/A or Plate I/B

printing, depending upon whether the arrow is "fine" or "large" respectively. Conversely, an arrow pair, **without** these plate characteristics, indicates Plate II/A or Plate II/B printings, depending again on the size of the arrow.

Plate III arrow pairs do not possess these plate characteristics, but the arrows are distinctive due to their larger size and outline.

The acquisition of an arrow pair, and more so the possession of four arrow pairs, is by no means an easy matter to come by in these days. Notwithstanding this difficulty, the owner of a

lower right corner pair of stamps, and corner pairs are in more plentiful supply than arrows, may still be able to differentiate between the three plates, for stamp 6 Row 20 possess certain characteristics which are peculiar to the three respective plates.

These are:

- The condition of the circle surrounding the numeral "2", and
- The type of plate flaw in the neighbourhood of the left hand dome on Union Buildings.



a. Condition of circle surrounding Numeral 2.

The enlarged sketch illustrates the condition of the circle surrounding the numeral "2" of stamp Row 20/6 of the printings from Plates I, II and III.

In Plate I, the circle is broken at one o'clock

on its circumference; in Plate II, the circle is complete, while in Plate III, there is a small mauve projection from the circle at the above named point on its circumference. These characteristics appear on stamp Row 20/6 only, and are a ready means of determining the plates.



b. Type of flaw at the left dome.

The accompanying diagram illustrates the plate flaws occurring on Stamp Row 20/6 of the late printings from Plates I, II and III. They are not in the early printings from these plates.

In Plate I, a thin sepia line extends from the spire of the left dome on the Union Buildings to the toe of "T" of SOUTH. It is present in Plate I/B printing, but due to lack of material, it has not been possible to determine its existence in the late emissions from Plate I/A. This variety is catalogued as 38 D Vg in the Union Handbook as "Flagstaff with broken circle, Row 20/6". It is suggested that a better description would be "Extended Spire" instead of "Flagstaff" as the expression "Flagstaff" is commonly used in connection with a Plate III

flaw.

In Plate II, an elongated purple "blob" occurs to the right of the base of the left dome and is characteristic of the late printings of this plate. It is known to exist in Plate II/B printings, but as yet undetermined for the late printings from Plate II/A.

In Plate III, a horizontal slate-grey broken line protrudes from the right aspect of the left dome, near its base. It is known to exist in the late printings from this plate, and is commonly referred to as the "flagstaff" variety.

Conclusion.

No attempt has been made to enumerate the many multipositive and plate flaws pertaining to this issue, nor to supplant the valuable records already in existence. It is thus, with a view to assist those who seek knowledge, that

these notes, which embody information derived from discussions with the author's confrères and from his own investigations, are presented.

Acknowledgement.

Grateful acknowledgement is made to Messrs. G. N. Gilbert and S. J. Hagger for material kindly lent for inspection and/or for record purposes.

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Fakes & Forgeries.

The question is again being raised in London whether Expert Committees should mark items which they condemn in some way to prevent their being offered to unwary collectors as genuine, and also to make it unnecessary for the Committees to waste time repeatedly examining the same items and finding them wanting. Some foreign Expert Committees have in fact as part of their conditions that they possess the right to mark indelibly as false any item which they find to be so.

The danger in this procedure is that if the opinion is incorrect a good item may be permanently ruined by such marking.

The Expert Committee of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, in common with those of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, and the British Philatelic Association, does not mark items sent to it in any way. It usually asks the owners of fakes or forgeries to donate them to its reference collection, thus not only removing the items permanently from the market, but also putting them to good use in the detection of others. Many items have been added to the reference collection in this way by public-spirited collectors and dealers who appreciate that it is in their interests that such material should not be allowed to circulate any further, and it is hoped that any reader coming into possession of any "wrong" items will dispose of them in this way, even if at the time it involves financial loss, rather than release them for resale to the uninformed.


Any items for the Expert Committee should be sent to the Honorary Secretary, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

AIR MAIL NOTES

By I. H. C. GODFREY


The Federation of Rhodesia & Nyasaland:

The first of **Central African Airways'** new Turbo-Prop Airliners — the Vickers' "**Viscount**" R.M.P. "Malvern" (VP-YNA), piloted by the Airline's Chief Pilot, Capt. R. Orbell, reached Salisbury from the United Kingdom on May 8th, 1956, and was shortly followed by others.



Whether you live in the Arctic or on the Equator, you can still take part in our **AUCTIONS** from your own armchair — our own special postal bidding system helps you to make successful bids. **Send NOW for illustrated cat. (9d. by airmail).** Our auctions are held every three weeks and the yearly subscription by airmail is only 8/-.

WARREN SMITH,
1 Arundel St., Strand,
London W.C.2 England.



All types of material included in our sales — early and modern — Br. Col. and Foreign.

These new planes were put into commission on regular services before the end of the month.

Salisbury — KARIBA — Lusaka Airmail Service:

Hunting-Clan African Airways (Pvt.) Ltd. have obtained a contract from the Federal Government to carry mail to and from **KARIBA**, on the South bank of the Zambesi River where the gigantic Kariba Gorge Dam is under construction. A one-man Post Office was established there on 1st September, 1956 and the air service was inaugurated from Salisbury and from Lusaka on the 3rd of the month, the few covers carried being backstamped the same day. Covers posted from Kariba to Northern and Southern Rhodesia were post-marked on the day the Post Office was opened and were backstamped at Lusaka and Salisbury on the 3rd September, when the planes arrived.

In addition to the small mail carried within the Federation, six covers, posted in Johannesburg on September 1st, connected with the first Northbound **H.C.A.** flight and received the Kariba backstamp of the 3rd.

This is the first instance where an airmail contract has been awarded to a private Air Line operating in the Federation and it is understood that **Central African Airways** have now applied for permission to carry mails over the same route.

* * *

AEROGRAMMES

SWAZILAND: The first definitive "Aerogramme/Air Letter" for the Protectorate was placed on sale on 2nd July, 1956. It is a most attractive colourful sheet: Light blue overlay on white paper with black inscriptions, the 6d. Kudu Head stamp being in red and black. A three-lined enclosure warning appears on the back.

KENYA, UGANDA & TANGANYIKA: The first definitive issue for these Territories was issued on 1st October, 1956, a sheet which compares very poorly with the above. The imprinted stamp — 50c — is a poor replica in red of the 6d. Giraffe stamp and all inscriptions are of the same colour on blue paper. 3-line enclosure warning on back.

ZANZIBAR: New 20 and 50 cent sheets, with red and purple imprinted stamps, and with a 3-line enclosure warning on the back were placed on sale about the middle of the year. They are somewhat similar to the 1953 issue but the word "Aerogramme" is in small letters beneath the airmail label.

PHILATELIC PUBLICATIONS

- (1) **1952 Handbook/Catalogue Vol. I**
 Union of South Africa Stamps.
 326 Pages. 22/6d. Plus 1/- Reg. Post.
- AND
- (2) **1955 Handbook/Catalogue
 Vol. II Supplement**
 200 Pages. 22/6d. Plus 1/- Reg. Post.
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 Some historical notes with special reference to
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**PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF
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Trade Enquiries Invited.

Wants, Offers & Exchange

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

NATAL, St. HELENA, GAMBIA, SEY-
 CHELLES, SIERRA LEONE, O.F.S. I am
 now breaking up fine Collections including
 some modern, Douglas Roth, Mona Cres-
 cent, Newlands, Cape.

APPROVALS: British Colonials and World
 for all collectors.—BENONI STAMP SHOP,
 Benoni.

WANTED: Any Cape of Good Hope.
 Rectangular stamps with inverted wmk:
 One Penny (Gibbons No. 23). Used singly
 on cover, also in superb blocks or strips
 of four. — C. R. REYNOLDS, Box 105,
 Beaufort West.

NEW ISSUES and current Colonials at Penny
 in 1/- on Face. List Free. — PRIOR, 44,
 Warminster Road, Bath, England.

1840-1890. For the stamps of any country in
 this period write DOUGLAS ROTH, Mona
 Crescent, Newlands, C.P. Phone 694282.

SOCIETY NEWS

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

4 September 1956. Certificate of Merit Competition. There were two entries: 1. Mr. R. N. Castignani, Italian Air Services; 2. Dr. T. B. Berry, Early Union Issues. Messrs Newlands, Coombe-Martin and Wright were appointed judges, and they awarded the Certificate of Merit to Mr. R. N. Castignani.

17 September 1956. This was the much-looked-forward-to visit from the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg, and the chair was handed over to Mr. Glassman at an early hour. There were five exhibits tabled as follows:

1. Philatelic Travelogue — Mr. Lydall. With an interesting Union Post Offices Competition before the exhibit.
2. Warsaw Locals — Mr. Kleiner. A highly specialized exhibit of these little known stamps.
3. Three in One — Mr. Bosse. A fine collection of Togo comprising German Colonial, Anglo-French & French issues.
4. Siam Locals — Commander Enoch. A specialized exhibit of Siam's first issues.
5. Monaco — Mr. Oppenheim. A selection from the earliest to the latest issues.

For your information the Philatelic Agency of the G.P.O. will in future be open during lunch hours on TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS.

E. MANVILLE-FORD.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL

The first meeting was held on **5th September**. The first exhibit of the evening was by Mr. J. Creewel and was a portion of a specialized collection of DENMARK, from commencement to 1900.

The second meeting on **19th September** in the new room at 4 Winton's Chambers, West Street, only attracted a handful of members, no doubt due to the weather. All present agreed that this was a pleasanter room.

K. I. B.

THEMATIC STAMP CLUB

Sept. 10th. This was an All Members' Evening. Shewn were (a) First Day Covers of Denmark, special flight covers and the Charity stamps of Denmark, by Mrs. R. Scott. (b) Great Britain Fiscals officially used for postage, Southern Rhodesia used in Northern Rhodesia, and early postmarks overseas Great Britain by Mr. F. Sinnott. (c) The History and Development of African Airmails during 1955 by Capt. M. F. Stern.

Sept. 24th. Dr. L. Chait showed 200 sheets of thematic collection "Animals on Stamps".

M. F. S.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST

PROPRIETORS AND PUBLISHERS :

The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

Honorary Editor: Dr. J. H. HARVEY PIRIE }
Business Manager: Mr. J. MICHELSON. } P.O. Box 375. Johannesburg.

Vol. 32. No. 12.

DECEMBER, 1956.

Whole No. 380.

UNION NOTES

Hon. Sub-Editor: Dr. T. B. BERRY,
Box 31, Bryanston, Transvaal.

CHRISTMAS STAMPS.

The 1956 issue of the Union Christmas stamps appeared on the 5th November and will remain on sale until the 24th December.



They are made up in both sheet and booklet form, and the proceeds of their sale at one penny each go to support the Sunshine Homes in which children are cared for who have been in contact with tuberculosis. It should be noted that they are printed for use as seals on mail matter and have no value for the prepayment of postage.

The design, in red and green, depicts a Christmas-tree supported in a receptacle of the nature of a large flower pot against a background consisting of an arrangement of stars. The Cross of Lorraine appears in the top right corner to balance the design. The inscriptions are unilingual, and in accordance with the policy of previous years, the figure of value has been omitted. The Welfare Organisation Number, "W.O. 728", under which authority the fund functions, appears in small green numerals to the left of the "flower pot."

The sheets are printed in the usual format of 120 stamps (6 rows x 20) on unwatermarked paper. A four-figure red serial number appears twice on each sheet, the margins being otherwise clear.

The booklets are made up of panes of six stamps, and are sold at 6d., 1/-, 2/6, 5/- and 10/-.

The O.H.M.S. Cover and the Missing Frame.

Replying to Mr. I. D. Macphail's two enquiries contained in our October Notes, Mr. S. J. Hagger, of Alberton, writes in effect as follows:—

(a) Concerning the O.H.M.S. Cover.

When official correspondence is addressed to destinations within the Southern African Postal Union, an O.H.M.S. Cover is used, which should bear the impression of the "Official Free" franking rubber-stamp of the Government Department concerned, in the vicinity of the top right corner of the cover. No postage stamp is required.

In the case under review, the cover was addressed to a destination outside the Southern African Postal Union, and consequently it was necessary to prepay the postage by the appropriate postage stamp. The impression of the Department's franking stamp was inadvertently placed over the postage stamp which, had it been placed higher on the envelope, would have been cancelled in the normal manner.

(b) Concerning the Missing Frame.

Mr. Hagger suggests that the "Missing Frame" of the Pretoria Typographed 1d. stamp may be due to the cliché having initially cracked round its edges and then the demarcated central portion of the frame dropped out at a later period leaving the margin of the frame in position.

He bases his assumption which he admits may be far-fetched, on the fact that the inside edge of the enclosing frame line appears slightly irregular in the illustration, and also on an examination of two examples of a cracked frame cliché in his collection which reveals the tendency for the cliché to "go" round the outer frame.

Information Required — Please.

An oversea correspondent writes that he would be grateful for an explanation of certain flaws which occur twice on the same sheet and on stamps of different language inscription, examples of which are:

"St. Elmo's Light", Row 6/3, English stamp, and Row 17/3, Afrikaans stamp, U.H.B. 37L Vb and Vc.

"Red spot in Sea", Row 2/3, English stamp, and Row 13/3, Afrikaans stamp, U.H.B. 37L Ve and Vf.

"The Bleeding Heart", Row 9/7 and Row 20/7, U.H.B.90.

These flaws appear to be constant on the sheet but not to the stamp. They are always in the same vertical row and separated eleven rows — half a cylinder revolution — apart.

This phenomenon has also puzzled many a Union collector resident in South Africa.

Mr. A. Lichtenstein, of Bloemfontein, presented the illustrated item to a group of interested delegates over a cup of tea at an interval during the Congress at Port Elizabeth.



It consists of the 2½d. Commemorative stamp overprinted, possibly by a rubber stamp, "UNION" and "UNION" in two lines 20 m.m. apart, the letters being 4 m.m. in height. He would be obliged if any reader could express an opinion on the overprint.

Mr. I. E. Hall, of Cape Town, presents the trophy, illustrated, of a worthwhile visit to a local post office. Some folk are lucky!



The item consists of two corner blocks of the 1d. Animal Series, one of which is a perfect example of interrupted printing due to the intrusion of a foreign body, probably a piece of paper, and the other, a partial interrupted printing accompanied by a doctor blade smudge. He states that these were taken from consecutive sheets in the post office's stock, but unfortunately, he did not take the sheet numbers so as to ascertain if they have been printed consecutively.

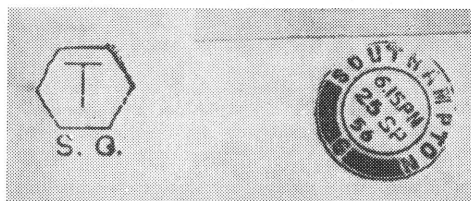
These two items present many interesting possibilities which we all would be pleased to read about.

Mr. I. Dekenah, of Klerksdorp, requests that the errors of the current 1d. stamp, of one bar and two bars printing respectively, be recorded in this Journal.

We will be very happy to accede to his request and we trust that some interested subscriber or subscribers will assist us by supply-

ing the necessary information. The fulfilment of this mission could be a very happy pastime during the forthcoming Xmas — New Year period — but please, only constant flaws and "fly spots" of a determining nature.

Information is sought concerning the postmarks, illustrated, on a cover which was posted on board one of the Holland-Afrika ships sailing from Cape Town to Southampton recently.



The cover bears no postage stamp, is not surcharged, and has imprinted on it a Southampton postal cancellation dated "6.15 PM, 25 SP 56", and a hexangle containing the letter "T" and below its border "S.O." in green ink.

Apropos the subject of maritime postmarks, we repeat a request for assistance received from Mr. R. D. Allen, 82c Hackford Road, London, S.W.9, and published previously in our April 1956 issue.

Mr. Allen is very anxious to make as complete a record as possible of the "Shipping Postmaster" and "Assistant Shipping Postmaster" marks of Cape Town and Durban. He has already published in "The Springbok" of July—August 1955 an extensive list covering the period from 1909 onwards, but feels however, that his records are probably still quite a way from being complete, and would be grateful if anyone possessing specimens would communicate direct with him at his London address. The early period is especially wanted.

His earlier request met with no response. May we appeal to collectors of postmarks not to "hide their light under a bushel" in this and other requests.

War Effort — Bantams.

Mr. J. H. Selve, of Pretoria, writes:—

In the 1½d. value, the Handbook takes note of absence of shading in the background of the top row of stamps in the first three printings, and the same retouched in the last two printings. In the same way, the absence of shading in the left corner of the 4d. in the bottom row is listed as a variety.

I have recently acquired a block of eight 1½d. Bantam Stamps from the top left corner of a sheet and notice that in all from the top row stamps, the background shading is missing in the top righthand corner. I have no material to compare this with, but would be interested to know if this is a constant feature and/or if it was retouched as the ½d. was. The piece in question comes from the first printing, single roulette.

Mr. T. A. Harper, of East London, reports a variety of the 6d. Bantam Stamp, an extra hole in the mask, occurring on Stamp 3 Row 6. The variety is stated to be constant and of such magnitude as to be worthy of catalogue status.

The "S" Cachet.

An encouraging response has been received to Dr. C. W. Abbott's interesting enquiry, made in our October Notes, concerning the imprinted "S" Cachet on mail matter intended for conveyance by Air.

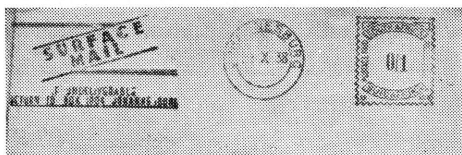
Mr. Piet Reinecke, of Klerksdorp, states that the "S" Cachet implies conveyance by "Surface" route as being either the only route or the quicker, and submits a cover, for inspection, bearing an imprinted "S" which differs in form from the one previously illustrated in that it is "sans serif", measures 14 m.m. high by 6.5 m.m. wide, and is enclosed in a circle 27.5 m.m. in diameter.

Mr. J. B. Levy, of Bloemfontein, forwards a cover bearing a similar "S" Cachet imprint to that of Mr. Reinecke. It was posted in Johannesburg on the 15th July 1955 which date pertains to an early adoption of this innovation.

Dr. K. Freund, of Bloemfontein, draws attention to an editorial comment on the "S" CACHET FOR SURFACE MAIL, appearing in "The O.F.S. Philatelic Magazine" of October 1955, wherein the "S" Cachet, similar to the item submitted by Mr. Reinecke, is illustrated, and a statement is made to the effect that "This postal mark is applied on mail when the wish of the sender to have the letter sent by **Air Mail** is **not** acceded to. Reasons for this can be: Insufficient franking by the sender; a speedier delivery by surface mail in particular instances".

Mr. I. H. C. Godfrey, of Johannesburg, writes: "The "S" stands for "Surface", and has been in use for some eighteen months at the Air Mail Section of the Johannesburg G.P.O. It is an interdepartmental instruction to prevent the same article being returned to the Air Mail Section in error after the final sorting. Despite the higher postage rate (3d. as against 2d.) and the addition of an airmail label, only mail which would benefit by being sent by Air is forwarded to the Air Port, and, in making this assessment, the distance of the destination from the nearest aerodrome, the frequency of air services and other factors are taken into consideration.

This "SURFACE" imprint conjures up memories of the good old days just prior to the outbreak of war, when ALL first class mail matter to any destination in the British Commonwealth and Empire (excepting, of course, purely local mail) was conveyed by Air for 1½d. per oz. under the EMPIRE AIR MAIL SCHEME (1937-1939), unless envelopes were specifically marked "By Surface Mail". The most interesting souvenirs of that era were covers sent by



Barclays Bank, Johannesburg, the meter-marks on which included the "SURFACE MAIL" instruction, and beneath it "If undelivered/Return to Box 1004, Johannesburg". The postal can-

cellation is JOHANNESBURG, 21 x 38".

The cover is illustrated in the accompanying photograph.

Flaw on 5/- Animal Stamp.

Mr. Eric Walker, of Pretoria, reports a flaw on the 5/- Giraffe stamp, and consisting of an extra dot over "T" in AFRIKA on stamp No. 7, Row 4, of Pane B.

The flaw is apparent to the naked eye and is stated to be constant.

THE TWOPENNY UNHYPHENATED ROTOGRAVURE STAMP.

An addendum.

In the relative article appearing in the previous issue of The S.A. Philatelist, an assumption was made that relics of the four small arrows contained on the multipositive existed on the Roll Stamp Printing. Their presence had not been viewed, however.

Through the co-operation of Mr. G. N. Gilbert, a proving Roll strip of 22 stamps from vertical row No. 6 was made available. This strip contained the apex of the small arrow of the multipositive (and incidently of Plates IA and IIA), and as the apex of this arrow is now known to exist on the right margin of the roll stamp sheet, it may be correctly concluded that apices of the other three arrows will also exist in their respective sheet positions, thus proving that the relics of the four small arrows do exist on the Roll Stamp Printing.

A further unrecorded factor, namely the mauve projection from the circle surrounding the numeral "2", and reported as existing in Plate III printing, was found to exist on this Roll strip. The presence of this flaw at this stage in the printing of the series, indicates that the "projection" is an acquired multipositive flaw and that it originated in the printing preceding the Plate III printing, namely in the Roll stamp printing.

Continuing the investigation into the order in which the various printings were made, and employing various plate characteristics as guides, it has been found, in collaboration with Mr. S. J. Hagger, that the order of the printing of the 2d. Unhyphenated Roto. Series was: 1. Emissions from Plate I; 2. Booklet stamps; 3. Emissions from Plate II; 4. Roll stamps, and lastly, Emissions from Plate III — all made from the same multipositive but with various adaptations. T.B.B.

WANTED

Collectors, interested in Union Philately, to join South African Collectors' Society. Must be prepared to meet their commitments and pay debts. Subscription 15/- (\$2.25) a year includes magazine "The Springbok".

C. E. SHERWOOD,

"The Union Specialist,"

105, Marford Crescent, Sale, Cheshire, U.K.

Judging The Thematics

By M. F. STERN

Recently following on the adoption of the Code for the Judging of Thematic Collections at Exhibitions, there has been discussion in regard to Special Study Collections, which have a resemblance to Thematic Collections which are classified as Group A by the international bodies and are covered by the Code adopted. Discussions overseas resulted in New Zealand adopting a Group B to cover the Special Study Collections at the International Exhibition held in 1955, and this has just been confirmed at the International Congress of FIPCO held at Rotterdam during October 1956, in that an additional Code has been adopted for Group B. I give as follows the detail of such additional Code to the previous Code published.

- (1) As Special Study Collections can be included such stamp collections, which in their build-up are covered by stamps and other postal documents, which are so arranged that the main feature is the **design of the stamp or motif**.
- (2) A thematic arrangement is **not** a definite requisite for such collections, although from the title and the description of the collection the character of such collection should be able to be deduced.
- (3) In the category of Special Study Collections belong such collections, which do **not** come under the heading of the Code for the Judging of Thematic Collections at Exhibitions, as for example:—
 - (a) Country collections set out after design or motif, which cover several or more thematic groups, and are written up in accordance with country or chronological order, etc.
 - (b) Collections of such issues, linked to some purpose, such as U.P.U., Rotary, Day of the Stamp, Anno Santo, etc.
 - (c) Collections of documents etc. which utilise philatelic documents (see Commentary to the Code of Thematic Collections) and are set out either by country, chronologically or from any other special point of view.
- (4) Special Study Collections shall be included at Exhibitions under its own Group B, and separately from Group A.
- (5) The literature for Group B shall be handled in conformity with the Code for Thematics.
- (6) For the judging of Group B, at International Exhibitions sponsored by FIPCO, the majority of the Jury, as also the Chairman, must be members of the international body. At all other exhibitions, the same jury, which is selected for thematic collections, shall serve for Group B.
- (7) For the judging of Group B, collections the accepted Scale set out under the Code for **Thematics** shall be employed. However in place of "Thematic Arrangement", "Completeness according to Catalogue" can eventually be substituted.
- (8) All other clauses of the Code for Thematics shall apply to Group B. collections.
- (9) These supplementary notes are an integral part of the Code for Thematic Collections of October, 1956 and are laid down for judging of Group B. collections at exhibitions.

The above now gives the answer to those philatelists, whose collections did not find a definite niche in the pure thematic section as such and thus forms a second group under thematics which will give an even freer choice in the form of collecting and at the same time enable countries to be collected "thematically" and to include all issues etc. of such country. This will also enable special studies to be made of such items as printing processes, etc. illustrated by stamps, documents, etc. or the history of one country or section of same.

The writer will appreciate the comments of readers in regard to the forming of this second group, so that the opinion of serious thematic collectors in Federation can be gauged and assessed.

(Editorial Note: We publish the above with pleasure as this move goes some way to resolve the controversy which came to a head at the Port Elizabeth Congress. We notice that in their October Courier FIPCO have felt it desirable to redefine thematically authoritatively. They state that the conception is

(1) a uniform designation for all the terms usually employed in the various languages of the world such as type, motif, thematic, topical, subject, illustration-thematelately, &c.

(2) a manifestation of the individual work on research for the foundation of a thematic collection

(3) a thing unto itself and **in no way implying adverse criticism of classic collections, which in fact may be thematic collections**. This emphatic statement of policy by FIPCO now suggests that our Federation Exhibition By-laws, as revised in 1955, so far from being unsound in respect of thematic collections, were in fact in front of world opinion and their sub-division of thematic collections for judging has now been followed in the official FIPCO scale.

No doubt this matter will be considered by the next Meeting of the Federation Executive in January).

Yugoslavia.

By courtesy of the Consulate General in the Union, we have been sent a copy of a well-prepared booklet of notes on the Adriatic fauna set. Copies are obtainable free from "Jugofilatelija", Palmoticeva ul. 2, Belgrade.

— WANTED —

from ALCOCK to ZEPPELIN

We want to buy flown covers (from pioneer flights), documents, labels, semi-officials, post-cards, etc. up to any reasonable amount.

FRANCIS J. FIELD, LTD.,
SUTTON COLDFIELD, ENGLAND.
Publishers of "The Aero Field."

Correspondence

The Editor,

S.A.P., Johannesburg, S.A.

Dear Sir,

I have just received the October issue of your magazine and read, with deep regret, of the death of Mr. Watson. In the past I received quite a number of letters from him which, as you record, showed a spirit of helpfulness and courtesy.

Just prior to receiving your magazine I received news of the death of Mr. C. F. Jacobs of Johannesburg. With Mr. Jacobs I had even more correspondence always most helpful, friendly and kind.

Even though we should most probably have never met, I did count them as friends and I shall miss our exchange of correspondence very much.

And now, if I may, turn to the living. In your magazine you record that "Bill" Sheffield would probably be visiting the S.A. Collectors' Exhibition and the A.G.M. I am most happy to say that Bill did come along and did us quite royally in declaring the Exhibition open and relating one or two of his anecdotes. We were all very pleased indeed to see him and I think few of the members present neglected the opportunity to corner him for a few words about this and that — perhaps some not unconnected with the Catalogue!

By the time you read this letter Bill and Mrs. Sheffield will probably be on their way back to you, although I must emphasize we would like to have kept them here but short of kidnapping them there was little we could do as Bill had declared publicly his liking for the Union and we should hardly have liked him to pine away here, besides which such an act might even have led to war between the Union and this country!

From all of which you will gather his visit has been most welcome and I feel has done not a little towards maintaining our interest in the philately of the Union.

As a personal note our first meeting was rather along the lines of "Dr. Livingstone I presume" when Stanley found him, as no doubt Bill will take pleasure in relating to you. We did have a very pleasant albeit a very short time together and I admire the patience shown by Mrs. Sheffield whilst the talk was on "shop" and yet more "shop".

I know they are taking back many happy memories and needless to say we are hoping that they will pay us another visit in the not too distant future.

Might I add that if any other of your readers intend paying a visit to the Old Country we should like to know so that we may do our bit towards making their visit really necessary!

C. E. SHERWOOD.

Caspary Sales.

H. R. Harmer Inc. announce that the next Caspary Sale will be held in New York on 28, 29 and 30 January 1957. As usual there are some most exceptional items, such as the Tuscan 2s and 60c in unused strips of three, Trinacria ½ used pair, Savoy Cross ½ mint pair and a block of eight on entire.

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(1) 1952 Handbook/Catalogue Vol. I

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AND

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(4) Basutoland

Some historical notes with special reference to Postal Matters by G. N. Gilbert.

2/6 & 3d. Postage

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

NATAL, St. HELENA, GAMBIA, SEYCHELLES, SIERRA LEONE, O.F.S. I am now breaking up fine Collections including some modern, Douglas Roth, Mona Crescent, Newlands, Cape.

APPROVALS: British Colonials and World for all collectors.—BENONI STAMP SHOP, Benoni.

WANTED: Any Cape of Good Hope. Rectangular stamps with inverted wmk: One Penny (Gibbons No. 23). Used singly on cover, also in superb blocks or strips of four. — C. R. REYNOLDS, Box 105, Beaufort West.

NEW ISSUES and current Colonials at Penny in 1/- on Face, List Free. — PRIOR, 44, Warminster Road, Bath, England.

1840-1890. For the stamps of any country in this period write DOUGLAS ROTH, Mona Crescent, Newlands, C.P. Phone 694282.

WANTED: Interprovincials of the Union. — E. BAER, P.O. Box 4004, Port Elizabeth.

EXCHANGE PICTORIAL STAMPS, anywhere any quantities. — ED. PETERSEN, 1265 N. Harvard, Los Angeles 29, Calif., U.S.A.

REVIEWS

British Solomon Islands Protectorate: Its Postage Stamps and Postal History. By Harold G. D. Gisburn, F.R.P.S.L. (Published by J. Sanders (Philatelist) Ltd., 7 Commercial Road, Southampton, England, at 20/6 including postage.)

This new work of 100 pages of text is well illustrated, and covers not merely the relatively short life of the territory as a stamp-issuing unit, but also the previous interesting postal history.

The treatment of the stamps themselves is comprehensive: the transfer features of the first issue are specified in detail, followed by notes on the position of other unrepeatable varieties of a fullness which would bring gladness to the heart of any Union fly-spotter (**every position** on the 3d. sheet is directly plated by reference to the list). Very full information is given regarding known proofs, essays, specimens, numbers issued (and destroyed), air mails, postal stationery, postage due stamps, postal markings, and Service Post Offices, and the coverage of these items is achieved with most commendable thoroughness.

The Commonwealth Catalogue of Queen Elizabeth Stamps — 1957 edition.

This is the third edition of the Commonwealth Catalogue Elizabethan section as a separate volume, and now requires no less than 67 pages of double column listing. The Catalogue numbers follow on from the ones used in the King George VI Catalogue of the same name. The scope of the Catalogue comprises the issues of Queen Elizabeth **since her accession** with her portrait, and other Empire issues not bearing the late King's portrait which have been on issue during her reign. This has led to some inconsistencies in treatment: for example in the Union list only two items of the main Second Definitive Issue are recorded, though all denominations were current; in the South West Africa list the last Official series of November 1951 is listed, but without the transposed overprints being so much as mentioned; the listing of the New Zealand Arms type is restricted to actual new issues during the reign, yet the Malayan issues which similarly overlap the accession are recorded in full.

The Catalogue treats its subject in fuller detail than the Gibbons Catalogue, and lists all inverted watermarks and most distinctive varieties. The Booklet enthusiast is also catered for and the Plate or Cylinder Number Blocks of Canada, New Zealand and the Union are detailed.

The Catalogue concludes with a collection of words of wisdom disguised as a Glossary of Philatelic Terms, which contains much useful and helpful advice and information but is blemished by far too many solecisms of accident and syntax. Some of the comments are in other respects eyebrow-raising: we were startled by the definition of "classics" and the author should appreciate that a compound perforation consists of the use of different gauges horizontally and vertically, so that it may be

found on comb or harrow perforations as well as line. We also deprecate the inconsistency in describing compound perforations in sets where the stamps are of different shapes: the convention of (horizontal) X (vertical) should not be discarded. The prices in this volume are naturally to a large extent on a "face plus" basis and in respect of the rarer and obsolete items seem to be quite realistic. A special effort has been made to quote prices for the "missing crown" and "St Edward's crown" watermarks. Numbers issued are recorded for nearly all completed emissions.

The Catalogue obviously supplies a felt want for the modern specialist whose needs are not so well met in other reference works, and with the passage of time should develop into a more and more indispensable guide to the issues covered.

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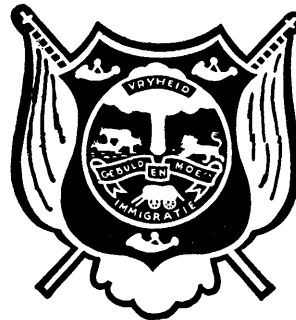
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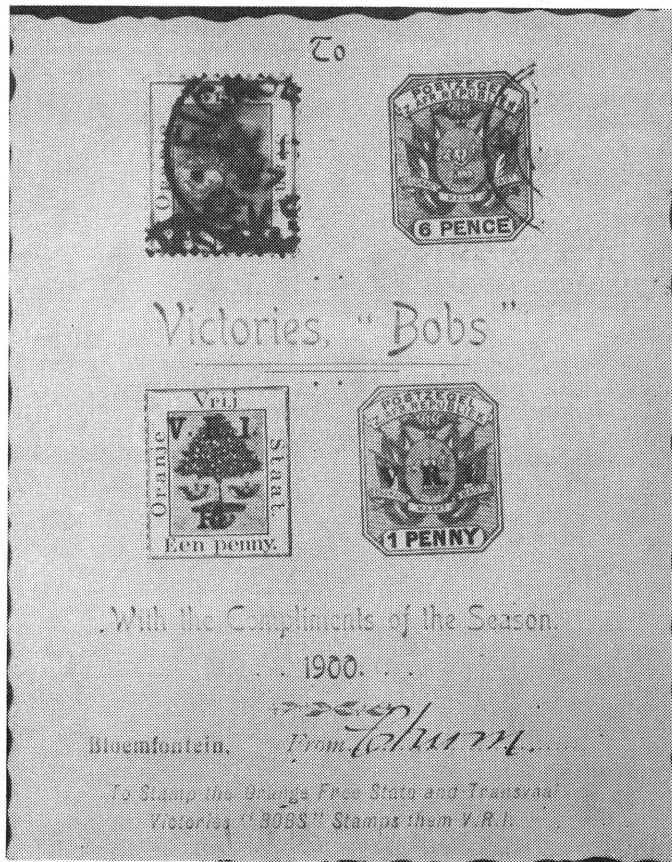
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BOB'S THE BOY

By the kindness of Mr. J. Robertson of Johannesburg we illustrate for the delectation of Anglo-Boer War specialists and the in-

terest of a wider circle a "philatelic" Christmas card of 1900. The sustained punning references to Field Marshal Roberts admirably express the tastes of the time in a most novel "period piece".

A RARE SETTING

By S. G. LAURENCE

(Reprinted, by permission, from the O.F.S. Study Circle Bulletin, March 1956).

Shortly after the Boer War, a friend of one of our members returned from Bloemfontein where he had been working, and knowing that the Member was interested in stamps, asked whether he would care to take over at face a few of the "V.R.I." issues, which, like most people in Bloemfontein, he had bought during the boom. Our Member took advantage of the offer and found that they consisted of a pane of ½d. value, and several of each of the other values up to the 1/-, and with the following exception, all stamps had raised stops. Quite an ordinary lot but they included a block of 15 of the "2½" on 3d. with level stops. On examining the block, he was surprised to find that there were two thick "V"s.

Since our Member had been given to understand that all the stamps had been purchased in the ordinary way, and further, realising that no thick "V"s were known in the level stops setting, he submitted the stamps to Mr. Emil Tamsen some years ago who reported that they appeared all right but a friend of his in Holland thought they must be frauds.

Ever since then, the Member has retained a block of nine containing one thick "V", and a pair showing thick and thin "V"s, having given away a few of the normal stamps. Last year I purchased the block from him and submitted it to the Expert Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, in the following manner:-

Horsforth, Yorks.

12th September, 1955.

"Dear Sirs,

Amongst the many enclosures with this letter is a block of 9 of the "2½" on 3d. ultramarine additionally overprinted "V.R.I" with level

stops and one of the stamps has a **Thick "V"**. In the belief that they will establish the genuineness of the block, I enclose several supporting documents as follows:—

1. My charts of panes showing the sequence of the printing of the Thick "V" settings.
2. Enlarged photo of the block and also the pair.
3. A used block of 25 of the 1d. value from the Thick V Setting C (early state).
4. A pane of the 1d. value from Setting C (slightly later state).
5. Three letters from the Member.

Doubtless you will think exactly what I had to say when these stamps were first brought to my notice — 'that they are not known to genuinely exist, therefore they are probably forgeries.'

I have seen a few of these supposed Thick "V" and level stops varieties as single stamps and have been able to prove them, fortunately, as forged, i.e. the whole overprint "V.R.I." has been forged, or faked, i.e. the right arm of the normal thin "V" has been thickened to make a Thick "V". A used copy that I examined two years ago and which fell into the latter category was a very good fake indeed.

However, on coming to examine this block of nine, it is not difficult to see that the stamps themselves are genuine enough, and so is the "2½" surcharge, but having examined the "V.R.I." overprint I am struck by three things:

- (a) The stops are not those of the "level stops" setting, being slightly larger and irregular in size.
- (b) The appearance of the overprint is quite good, having the usual outline to the letters found quite often in surface printing, the correct type of ink, etc., and
- (c) As I have been making an intensive study of the Third or Thick "V" Setting these past ten years, I noticed at once that the slight damage or wear to various letters of the overprinting, i.e. damage to the Thick "V", shaved top to "R" on another stamp, to name but two, and also their position in the block in relation to one another, fitted **exactly** with Nos. 10/12, 16/18 22/24 of the earliest state (known to me) of the Thick "V" Setting C.

N.B. about half-way through the printing of this Sub-Setting (and constant thereafter) the top serif of the "R" on No. 18 became clipped.

Now, when was this setting having level stops and Thick "V"s made? I do know from my studies that in all probability it was during the later printings of Setting B (raised stops) that small blocks of the 2½d. and 6d. carmine values were overprinted, and I believe these to have been handed in from outlying post offices (as and when they fell to the British) for overprinting at Bloemfontein.

Later on it is apparent that it was necessary to overprint more stamps of the 1d., 2d. and 3d. denominations, and Sub-Setting "C" was set up, using the same type as had been used previously for Sub-Setting B, but re-arranged. It is my opinion that before this was done, a temporary set up of the same type, re-arranged as for Sub-Setting C but with level stops, was made, and it was then that this block of the 2½d. was overprinted.

Incidentally, the pair retained by our Member are, I believe, Nos. 29/30.

I hope you will have found the above details interesting, and naturally I am very hopeful that the Committee will be able to arrive at a decision too.

Yours etc.,

S. G. LAURENCE."

A few weeks after this submission, I happened to be looking through some back numbers of "Stamp Collecting," and came upon the following in Volume XXI No. 25 of March 22nd 1924.

"Nylstroom.

October 3rd, 1923.

Dear Mr. De Raay,

Another Orange Free State puzzle. Some months ago a friend in the Cape sent me a V.R.I. 2½ on 3d. with Thick "V" and **level stops**. I could find nothing wrong with it. Now another friend sends me the enclosed block of nine of these stamps; the third stamp in top row has **Thick "V"**. He writes me that this block consisted of fifteen stamps, and that in same was another **Thick "V"**, thus two in the block, that makes three known copies here. He says that a friend of his (non-collector) bought this block of fifteen, together with blocks of all other values, in Bloemfontein, and sold them to him at face value, nobody noticing the "V". Now what is your opinion of these stamps? Do you know about them? Please return the block registered etc.

Yours truly,

E. TAMSEN."

The result of De Raay's investigation is the following letter in answer to the above:—

"Watergraafsmeer.

January 25th, 1924.

Emil Tamsen Esq.

Dear Sir and Friend,

In reply to your letter of October 3rd 1923, I hope you will excuse the very long delay in answering same, and returning the block of stamps sent for my examination. As you write you cannot find anything wrong, I have had to make a very serious examination of same, as **at the first instance I doubted the genuineness** of the surcharges. My first impression proves to be the right one. After a very severe examination I had the stamps in question photographed, together with a block of the genuine first printing with level stops. The delay was due to photographic purposes, as I cannot do it myself, and had to call in the help of a friend, also a philatelist. The result is as I expected. The surcharge is **forged**, and is entirely different from the original as you will perceive on inspecting the two photos, which I send you per same post.

As I think this surcharge is of an extremely dangerous character, I am going to have it exposed in "Stamp Collecting" in London, in order to put collectors and dealers on their guard. Kindly compare, if possible, the other two Thick "V" you wrote about, as I am very doubtful if these are genuine.

I hope to hear of you at your earliest opportunity, and remain,

Yours etc.,

LEON DE RAAY."

It was with some satisfaction then that I received shortly afterwards a certificate from the "Royal" Expert Committee.

Although it is not difficult to see the natural

mistake that De Raay fell into, in making comparison with the level stops setting, I am surprised that so great an authority on O.F.S. should not have spotted the similarity of the type to that of the Thick "V" settings.

However, a conclusion satisfactory to everyone has still to be reached, for the Committee have qualified their opinion that the block "is a clandestine or unofficial subsequent printing made from the original type".

I do not entirely agree with this finding, for it is clear from the supporting evidence mentioned in my letter that the printing could not have been a subsequent one, for had this been so, then surely we should have found a clipped top serif to the letter "R" on the end stamp of the second row of the block of nine, directly under the Thick "V" variety. Then, again, certain letters in the later states of the printing of Sub-Setting C show more wear or damage than is apparent in the block.

Then, again, I am at a loss to understand, on the evidence supplied, how anyone could prove that the printing was clandestine or unofficial; or for that matter disprove it! One could offer several possibilities for the existence of this setting. For example, I am aware that the type had to be spread out and the letters "AT" substituted for the value when overprinting the higher values of the Army Telegraph stamps, and that, moreover, the "V.R.I." overprints match the final state of printing of Sub-Setting B. To overprint more postage stamps, it would be necessary to re-set the type and, evidently, re-arrange as well. Could it be that in this re-setting and re-arranging of the type, "level stops" were inadvertently inserted, the mistake noticed very quickly, and immediately "raised stops" substituted? Perhaps it was the printer's assistant who reset the type with level stops, and I can hear the printer say, "You clot, we have been using raised stops for months now — scrap that lot and start again!" Maybe the printer's assistant retained a few. If this conjecture was right then the printing would fall into the category of printers' errors.

Restraint is an admirable quality, especially when used by an Expert Committee, but I do think in this instance, this has been overdone.

It would be most interesting to hear whether anyone else is able to produce any further examples of Thick "V"s and level stops, or alternatively can produce any evidence that the printing was an unofficial one.



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Basutoland by G. N. Gilbert.

It appears that some purchasers of this publication have not received the errata slip which was enclosed to all at the time of sale. We therefore reproduce below a note of the items affected:—

Page 12. List of Post Offices. Add MORIJA in capital letters.

Page 13. First paragraph of column 2. 1882 should read 1822.

Page 14. First column. Camp started at Butha Buthe should come under 1884, and not 1874.

RECENT SALES

H. R. Harmer.

17 September 1956.

Bahrain: Block of four, $\frac{1}{2}$ omitted, SG 80a mint. £120.

Great Britain: 1956 2d. postage due bisected on cover. £10.

Grenada: 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. perf. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ SG 157a. £105.

Straits Settlements: \$25 SG 159 mint. £26.

24 September 1956 et seq.

Argentina: 1864 10c green imperf. used. £170.

British Guiana: 12c cotton-reel. £260.

4c SG 24. £290.

Canada: 6d. SG 17 used. £135.

France: 1F vermilion vif used. £170.

Italian Somaliland: 20L green perf. 14 (cat £35). £110.

Mauritius: 2d. SG 30 used. £125.

Nyasaland: 2d. & 4d. SG 69/70 unused. £480.

Spain: 1851 2r red used. £140.

1853 Madrid 3c bronze mint. £240.

Swaziland: Officials, set of four. £250.

Switzerland: Zürich 1843 4 rp black (cat £225). £280.

Swedish Railway Centenary.

A set of three stamps, 10, 25 and 40 öre, is now on issue. One of these, which is beautifully engraved, shows a period train very reminiscent of the "Emmet" drawings.

CANADA

A 5c "Fire Prevention" stamp was issued on 9 October.

FRANCE

Three issues appeared on 6 October honouring technical engineering achievements. (1) a 12f stamp featuring a new barrage at Donzere-Mondragon on the Rhone (2) an 18f showing the power-line opened from Chamonix to the summit of the Aiguille du Midi (3) a 30f commemorating the expansions of the Port of Strasbourg on the Rhine, which make it now the 4th largest port in France.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Under this heading S.G. list some half-a-dozen organisations which are either international or have world-wide activities. They have offices in Geneva and have 'Official' stamps which appear to be supplied to them gratis by the Swiss government.

These stamps up till now appear to have been all various Swiss issues overprinted for the particular organisation concerned. In October, however, a new policy seems to have come into effect for two organisations have each had a series of special stamps printed for them. The stamps have the word 'Helvetia' as well as the name of the organisation. One of the bodies — The International Labour Office — has been having overprinted Swiss stamps since 1923; the other — The World Meteorological Organisation — appears to be a newcomer to the coterie.

Plating The Jipex Sheets

By J. E. FRANKLAND

The special sheets of six stamps overprinted JIPEX were made from surplus booklet sheets comprising 21 (3 horizontal by 7 vertical) blocks of six surrounded by advertising margins. The sheets were guillotined into separate panes for issue, and these can be allocated to their original sheet positions.

All the ½d. advertisements consist of Post Office slogans in eight different wordings, English and Afrikaans being always alternated, and (except on pane 19) each slogan being balanced by the corresponding wording in the other language above or below.

The slogans used are as follows:—

- A Register valuable letters
- B Telefoneer u telegramme
- C Shop by telephone — it saves time
- D Registreer waardevolle briewe
- E Telephone your telegrams
- F Maak u inkopies per telefoon — dit bespaar tyd
- G Safety first — use the Post Office Savings Bank
- H Veiligheid eerste — maak gebruik van die Posspaarbank

These slogans are arranged without any discernible plan on the panes in the following manner (top row left to right, followed by bottom row left to right):—

- Panes 1, 9, 13 & 21 ABC/DEF
- Panes 2 & 14 GDE/HAB
- Panes 3, 7 & 15 CHA/FGD
- Panes 4, 12 & 16 HAB/GDE
- Panes 5 & 17 FGD/CHA
- Panes 6, 10 & 18 BCH/EFG
- Pane 8 EFG/BCH
- Pane 11 DEF/ABC
- Pane 19 ABG/DCH
- Pane 20 AFG/DCH

Panes, 8, 11, 19 & 20 with their distinctive settings can be identified immediately from this feature. Panes 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18 & 21 have the right margin not perforated through. Panes 5, 7 & 8 have the wider overprint setting of 32½ mm overall.

The separation of panes still left in doubt by the above tests can be done as follows:—

Panes 1 & 13 (right margin perforated through) Examine the upper right stamp: on pane 1 there is a dash on the edge of the oval under CA; on pane 13 this is absent but there is a spot in the outside top margin (over the square).

Panes 9 & 21 (right margin not perforated through) Examine the upper right stamp: on pane 9 there is a little spot between the horns; on pane 21 this is absent but there is a green stroke over F in AFRICA. When checking these panes always watch for a sheet number in the right margin, like the example illustrated in Volume I of the Handbook (pane 21).

Panes 4 & 16 (right margin perforated through) On pane 4 the upper left stamp has a spot upper left: on pane 16 the right bottom stamp has a white flaw over RE in REVENUE. Pane 12 in the same setting has the right margin not perforated through.

Panes 3 & 15 (right margin not perforated through) On pane 3 the upper left stamp has a dark spot in the top bar; on pane 15 the upper

right stamp has a small spot north-east of CA in AFRICA and the lower middle stamp has several tiny spots in the vignette left of the springbok. Pane 7 in the same setting has the wider spacing and right margin perforated through.

Panes 2 & 14. On pane 2 the upper middle stamp has a spot upper left at the point of the square; on pane 14 the lower middle stamp has a spot over OU in SOUTH.

Panes 6 & 18 (right margin not perforated through) On pane 6 the upper left stamp has a spot at the top of the right bar; on pane 18 the lower middle stamp has a dark spot in the bar over F in AFRIKA. Pane 10 in the same setting has the right margin perforated through.

Panes 5 & 17 can be distinguished by the wider setting on pane 5, which also has a marked stroke under R in AFRIKA on the upper left stamp.

On the 1d. sheets commercial advertisements also make their appearance over the upper left stamp of the pane, and, on pane 1 **only**, above the upper right stamp also. Each of the 21 1d. panes has its own setting and no other guide to plating is necessary. The following notes will indicate the pane positions:—

- I State Express — the better cigarette
 - J Robertson Stamp Co.
 - Pane 1 has setting IFJ/GEH. Pane 14 has IHA/FGD.
 - K Toogood pipe
 - Pane 2 has setting KDE/FAB. Pane 15 has KBC/DEF.
 - L Williams Select Mixture
 - Pane 3 has setting LBC/HEF. Pane 10 has LCB/AFE.
 - M Williams John Bull Mixture
 - Pane 4 has setting MCD/HFA. Pane 17 has MEF/GBC.
 - N Puria Tipped
 - Pane 5 has setting NCH/EFG. Pane 18 has NGD/CHA.
 - O Medico Filter Pipe
 - Pane 6 has setting OGD/EHA. Pane 13 has OHC/EGF.
 - P Melachrino
 - Pane 7 has setting PBG/DEH. Pane 20 has PHA/FGD.
 - Q Hoy de Monterrey Cigars
 - Pane 8 has setting QDE/FAB.
 - R Corncob Mixture
 - Pane 9 has setting RBC/GEF. Pane 16 has RAB/GDE.
 - S State Express (box)
 - Pane 11 has setting SCH/EFG. Pane 21 has SFE/GCB.
 - T Punch Cigars
 - Pane 12 has setting TAH/EDG. Pane 19 has THC/BGF.
- All the specialist now has to do in order to make up his UHB 62a and 63a is to find the material: good hunting to you!

U.S.A.

The third, and last, stamp in the Wildlife Conservation series was issued on 9 November. It is a 3c featuring "King Salmon" migrating upstream to its spawning grounds.

An additional Commemorative has been announced for the 1956 programme in the way of a 3c stamp intended to promote friendship among the children of the world as the key to world peace. Date of issue still uncertain.

GEORGE VI STAMPS

The second series of British Empire Classics?
A paper presented to the Pretoria Railway
Philatelic Society by Dr. Max Peisach

I was standing in front of a frame admiring a philatelic entry at a recent exhibition when a friend of mine spoke at my elbow.

"You'll never win a major award with a collection of George VI stamps, that kind of thing is reserved for the classics."

Normally I am quick to take up arms in defence of my selected field, but this time I paused to think about the reason that prompted his statement. Was it in fact true that major awards invariably went to classics? That this was **not** the case was easily verified by a glimpse through the list of awards at an international exhibition, but it struck me rather forcibly that single-country entries stood a much better chance than single-reign collections. It also struck me that while most collectors know, to a greater or lesser extent, what **they** mean by "classics", the term itself is very difficult to define.

All collectors feel that the British Empire classics are early Queen Victoria issues even though there may be a difference of opinion as to whether the early Bermudas or early St. Vincent's are classics or not. It is equally true that most collectors will accept that the Cape triangles, in particular the Woodblocks, are classics and few will reject the Mauritius Post Office and later Post Paid issues from the same classification. How then is it that such magnificent engravings as the Penny Black, the Ceylon pence and Humphry's engraving of the St. Vincent 1861 issue find themselves called classics together with the hideous Woodblocks and early Mauritius? Clearly, design and craftsmanship cannot be the common denominator.

In a paper read at the London Philatelic Congress as far back as 1933, an attempt was made to understand the lure of the classics, and in particular, to define what a classic was. Various criteria were listed, including age, method of printing, perforation and rarity, but each was rejected in turn. The matter was then left as it was, everyone retaining his own undefined notion of the classics. Further reflexion, however, forces one to the conclusion that it is the attitude of the **collector** rather than the nature of the **stamp** which controls whether a stamp is classified as a classic or non-classic. It should thus be more instructive to examine the collector in the early days of stamp collecting in order to arrive at the circumstances which resulted in the "classics" and to test whether the same conditions existed in the case of the stamps of George VI.

The early collector of a century or so ago was severely limited in his sphere of collecting. There was the opportunity of separating British Empire from Foreign stamps, but once he had decided to collect the former group, and the majority did not even do that, he was limited to the stamps of Queen Victoria for the simple reason that **there were no other stamps to collect**. As this collector of a hundred years ago, built up his collection he found it more and more difficult to obtain the earlier issues of the various colonies, so that these stamps when obtained were pointed out as his "good"

stamps. As many collections formed during that period had to be very similar it was the absence or presence of these "good" stamps that distinguished one collection from another. Small wonder then that certain stamps and groups of stamps began to take on prestige which grew with the years. It follows logically that subsequent generations of collectors were educated to consider those stamps with awe and from that point of view to the eminent title of "classic" is but a small step.

The passing of years gradually brought about a change in stamp design leading to the typographed issues and the key plate design, but these changes merely increased the number of stamps available to our early collector without affording an opportunity of making a fresh start to his collection. All his colonies still started from the first issues. The change of reigns merely resulted in the substitution of a new head on the old key plates, first that of Edward VII and then George V. The first real change in stamp design was the introduction of pictorials, which began to flourish in the early 1930's and the second important step was the introduction of photogravure as the printing medium for the British definitives of 1934. Here then were new designs and a new method of printing with all its fascinations for the collector. The abrupt double change of reign gave the stamp designers the chance they wanted. A flood of new pictorial designs, mostly recess-printed but some also typographed and many printed by the now-popular photogravure process came on the scene. Before the startled collector had had a chance to catch up on these new issues a bigger problem faced the world in the form of World War II.

During the war philately prospered, but **without** the guiding influence of the older, more experienced, collector who had more serious matters than stamps to cope with. These collectors had to limit themselves to **the only stamps readily available to them**, and these happened to be the current colonial issues of King George VI. The position was thus exactly analogous to that which faced the collectors in the early days, and the class of George VI collectors rapidly grew to become the largest single group of collectors of British colonial stamps. Once the collectors' attention was focussed on these issues, serious study followed until to-day, there is more research being published on these issues than on any other group. But it is not enough to have attention focussed on certain stamps if the stamps themselves do not warrant deeper study. Let us now examine what has maintained this enormous interest and led to so much research.

Firstly, there is the large number of stamps that fall under this group. The Stanley Gibbons catalogue lists over 7,000 without differentiating minor shades and varieties. Here then is material for the vast field of philatelic work.

Secondly there are complexities of perforation, paper and colour resulting mainly from the unsettled conditions prevailing during and immediately after the war. Complexities are always welcomed by students and the chance to organize and arrange these apparently confused emissions gives the George VI collector his first taste of serious philately and leads directly to the third interest in this field — an attempt to systematize and differentiate be-

tween the various printings that were prepared. One would have thought that in this modern age of records it would be an easy matter to obtain sufficient information to draw up tables of differences and similarities to assist the student, but this is, alas, not the case. Even the detailed compilations of Potter and Shelton do not cover all the possibilities. There are, for example, the 1d. dull carmine of Basutoland, the dull carmine of Bechuanaland and the perf 12 2c of British Honduras, the precise date of release of which is still very much in doubt.

Do I hear someone wanting to know the reason for such detailed research? The answer to that is the same as the answer to any similar question about other stamps. It is the continual searching for the details of production which resulted in the slightest discrepancies between, what should have been, identical stamps! In this search every scientific tool that can be used in philately is applied. To many the ultra-violet light is as important as the perforation gauge or magnifying glass, and the use of "the lamp" has revealed startling differences, as for example, in the stamps of Aden. The 1a blue can be found in a particular printing to show a pale yellow green colour under ultra-violet, whereas other printings turn slate, almost blackish. This printing can be differentiated from the others and linked with the 1½d. Basutoland first printing which shows the same effect. Another stamp of the same colony is the 2 rupee issue which appeared later surcharged "2 shillings". The stamps for the first printing of the surcharged stamp were specially prepared for overprinting, but apparently one sheet was issued in error without overprint. This stamp is very keenly sought after and is best identified by its bright fluorescence under "the lamp" entirely different in colour from the pale fluorescence of all other issue. Yet another case is the 8d. Barbados. How many know that this stamp exists in a fluorescent and a non-fluorescent printing?

It should, of course, be borne in mind that the study of shade varieties and details of printing did not start in the reign of George VI, but was inherited from the very first philatelists who began differentiating the early printings of Queen Victoria stamps.

Not only does the ultra-violet light play its part, but even the humble perforation gauge has been made available in a new form. The necessity of distinguishing between two stamps having perforations differing by a quarter of a perf or less in order to identify from what printings they originated, in no small way led to the appearance of the S.G. Instanta perforation gauge measuring to within a tenth of a perf. This is an indication of the refinements needed by the modern philatelist in this age of mechanical stamp production in contrast with the more crude measurements that satisfy students of the Queen Victoria stamps.

The improvements in stamp production as a result of the use of modern machinery has resulted in a more detailed study of the fourth topic of interest viz. retouches and re-entries. Ever since stamp collecting began, there has been the search for spots and blemishes which could identify a stamp, printing, plate or indicate wear of the plate, and a doubled line has usually been called a re-entry or retouch since it always indicated some alteration to the

original entry on the plate. In recent years, however, the reason for a doubling of part of a stamp design has received a great deal of study in order to determine at what stage in its production the stamp developed its doubled portion. This study has led to a more precise definition of "re-entry" and "retouch".

Re-entries, retouches and partial doubling of design abound in the stamps of George VI. Among some of the better-known varieties of this type are the ½d. and 1/- Ascension stamps, extensively doubled on one side, the 6d. Dominica with its doubled lower right corner and the retouched lower values of Brunei. As for minor retouches, what could be more interesting than a complete study of all the states of all the plates of the Kenya stamps of this reign! The multitude of minor retouches made to an apparently perfectly good plate e.g. 30c. brown, shows to what extent the stamp producers will go to ensure perfect reproduction.

Other varieties in the form of specific plate flaws are also to be found in profusion. The keyplate designs of Leeward Islands and Mauritius are of particular interest because on these stamps many instances of flaws removed by hand painting can be found; often the "corrections" are worse than the original flaws. Almost every colony has its crop of flaws to be found and studied, and it is in this field that the close analogy between the Queen Victoria classics and the George VI classics are most evident. It is unfortunately beyond the scope of this paper to discuss this fascinating subject more fully.

The above four points of interest should be sufficient to satisfy most stamp collectors, but

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that is not all! There are still coils, booklets, special cancellations, special flight covers, postally used fiscals, enemy occupation stamps and other subjects to hold one's attention, and in addition there are two fields of study which can claim the attention of the philatelist in their own right. The first of these is the study of the postal history of World War II and the second, Air Letters or Aerogrammes.

The lure of military posts had attracted many philatelists to its study, but few upheavals covered such a large portion of the globe as World War II. Consequently the postal services of most of the major countries in the British Commonwealth were affected, and cancellations and other postal markings of the war issues can be found on covers from most of these places not only on military letters but also on civil mail with civil censorship marks, blank postmarks, security slogans etc. Anyone who has collected them knows of the complications and discrepancies that can and do arise.

The aerogramme was first used before 1937 but its expansion into a world-wide means of communication dates back to the first years of the war. Essentially started for military personnel, the service rapidly developed for general use and to-day, offers one of the cheapest means of air mail correspondence. Not much attention was paid to air letters in the early years, and this includes the war-time airgraph service, with the result that early used air letters are reasonably difficult to find and the mint ones mainly scarce or rare.

Recapitulating, we find that the stamps of the reign of George VI conform to all the essentials of classics. There are sufficient different issues,

normal varieties, rarities, printings, re-entries and flaws to satisfy the student of the stamps, covers and war cancellations for the postal historian, coils, booklets and air letters for the lover of novelties and pictorial designs for the "simplified" collector. Above all, at the time of their currency, conditions were right for attention to be concentrated on these issues.

We thus see that except for the differences between manual and mechanical production which existed for early Queen Victoria and King George VI stamps respectively, and the higher financial value of the former group, there is very little to distinguish the groups from each other. If the early stamps are accepted as "classics", surely George VI stamps should be "modern classics"!

Indian International Exhibition.

An Exhibition to be known as "DIJUPEX 1957" will be held in March 1957 under the auspices of the Philatelic Society of India in celebration of the Society's Diamond Jubilee. Particulars may be obtained from the Exhibition Secretary, 24/26 Dalal Street, Fort, Bombay, 1, India.

New Philippines Commemoratives.

Two stamps were issued in November to commemorate the University of Santo Tomas, a 17th Century foundation in Manila. They are the work of Courvoisier, and are the first stamps to be produced by this firm for the Philippines.

Finnish Anti-TB Stamps.

Three stamps with a charity premium in aid of the Finnish Anti-TB Society were issued in September. They will be popular with the ornithological thematologists as the designs are a swan, an owl, and a waxwing, or chattering bombycilla.

New Spanish Commemorative.

An interesting addition to the many Ships on Stamps is the Spanish Exhibition Ship "Ciudad de Toledo", which is to carry a floating Industrial Exhibition on a cruise to Portugal, Tangier, Madeira, Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Cuba and the U.S.A. The "maximum" collector will presumably require to have packet cancellations from each port of call, a formidable undertaking!

The Caspary British North America.

This section of the Caspary Sales in October established more records, the outstanding items being a mint Canada 12d. of 1851 which fetched \$10,000, and a strip of three Newfoundland 2d. scarlet vermilion used on cover, which fetched \$12,500.

Great Britain Sectional Issues.

The biggest philatelic storm since the Sperati affair is now brewing in the United Kingdom over the projected Sectional issues for Scotland, Wales &c. Coming so soon after the rejection of the popular demand for British pictorials, it is being emphatically condemned in many quarters, and Stanley Gibbons Ltd., the well known London dealers and publishers, who have already come out strongly in favour of the pictorials, are now campaigning actively against the "sectionals".

LATEST NEW ISSUES

4 Australia Olympic Games cpl. mint	4/6
4 Australia Olympic on First Day Cover	5/6
3 France, latest pictorials (Strasburg etc.) mint	2/9
2 Germany Schumann, revised music, mint	2/6
4 Germany Child Welfare 1956, mint	3/9
8 Hungary, Olympic Games, mint	10/6
9 Jugoslavia, Sea Creatures, cpl. mint	15/6
9 Jugoslavia, Sea Creatures, cpl. used	5/9
5 Netherlands, Paintings of Children, mint	2/6
14 Russia, 1956 Sports, cpl. used	8/9
3 Saar Winterberg Monument, cpl. mint	2/-
3 Saar Charity, Paintings, cpl. mint	2/-
3 San Marino, Stamp Dealers' Congress, cpl. mint	4/6
3 Sudan 1956 Independence, cpl. mint	3/9
6 Switzerland, Meteorological, cpl. mint	8/9
6 Switzerland, Intern. Labour Office, cpl. mint	8/9
10 Austria 1948 Flowers cpl. again in stock	6/9

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South African Postal Slogans

By B. L. CAIRNCROSS

(Continued from the October 1956 issue)

27. DONT TALK ABOUT SHIPS — MOENIE
KLETS OOR SKEPE NIE
- a. In 2 lines with wavy lines
1. DBN 1 1942
 2. PE 1 42
28. THOUGHTLESS WORDS SINK SHIPS
— 'N ONBESONNE MOND BOOR 'N
SKIP IN DIE GROND
- a. In 2 lines, with wavy lines between 1st & 2nd.
1. JH 2 1942
- b. In 2 lines, with wavy lines before & after 1st.
1. JH 2 1942
29. SEALED LIPS SAVE SHIPS — GEEN
WOORDEREP IS 'N SKIP GERED
- a. In 2 lines with wavy lines
1. CT 4 1942
30. SPEND LESS SAVE MORE — SPAN-
DEER MINDER SPAAR MEER
- a. In 2 lines with wavy lines
1. BFN 1 1942
 2. CT 2 1942 & in Red, 2
 3. DBN 1 1942
 4. EL 2 1942
 5. JH 2 1942
 6. KIM 2 1942
 7. SPR 1 1942
 8. GER 1 1942
 9. PE 1 1942
 10. PMB 1 1942
 11. PTA 2 1942
 12. BEN 1 1942
31. SUPPORT THE—RED CROSS — STEUN
DIE—ROOIKRUIS
- a. In 3 lines
1. CT 2 1942
 2. DBN 1 1942
 3. BFN 1 1942
 4. JH 4 1942
 5. PE 1 1942
 6. PTA 2 1942
 7. PMB 1 1942
32. SAVE MEAL AND BREAD — SPAAR
MEEL EN BROOD
- a. In 2 lines
1. JH 4 1946 & in Red (box date stamp)
 2. PTA 1 1946
 3. CT 1 1946 & in Red (box date stamp)
 4. DBN 1 1946
 5. PMB 1 1946
 6. EL 1 1946
 7. PE 1 1946
8. BEN 1 1946
 9. STAN 1 1946
 10. KLER 1 1946
 11. BETH 1 1946
 12. STEL 1 1946
 13. KIM 1946 in Red (box date stamp)
33. HELP UNAC SAVE THE WORLD'S
CHILDREN — GEE EEN DAG SE LOON
EN RED 'N KIND
- a. In 2 lines
1. JH 1 1948
 2. PMB 1 1948
 3. GEO 1948 in Red (box date stamp)
- b. In 1 line each, E & A; A in 1st.
1. PTA 1 1948
 2. CT 1 1948
 3. JH 1 1948
34. GIVE ONE DAY'S PAY AND SAVE A
CHILD — STEUN DIE V.V. KINDER-
FONDS VANDAG
- a. In 2 lines
1. JH 1 1948
 2. OHN 1 1948
- b. In 1 line each, E & A; E in 1st.
1. PTA 1 1948
 2. CT 1 1948
35. PETROL IS PRECIOUS — SAVE IT —
BESPAAR PETROL — DIS KOSBAAR
- a. In 2 lines
1. JH 1 1950 & in Red (in box date stamp)
- b. In 1 line each, E & A; E in 1st
1. JH 1 1950
 2. CT 2 1950
36. DO YOUR DUTY — SAVE PETROL —
DOEN U PLIG — BESPAAR PETROL
- a. In 2 lines
1. JH 2 1950
 2. DBN 1 1950
- b. In 1 line each, E & A; E in 1st.
1. PTA 1 1950
 2. CT 2 1950
37. DON'T WASTE PETROL — MOENIE
PETROL MORS NIE
- a. In 2 lines
1. JH 2 1950
- b. In 1 line each, E & A; E in 1st.
1. CT 2 1950
 2. BEN 1 1950
 3. BOK 1 1950
 4. GEO 1 1950 & in Red (box date stamp)
 5. KING 1 1950
38. ROAD SAFETY DEPENDS ON YOU —
PADVEILIGHEID HANG VAN U AF
- a. In 1 line each, E & A; E in 1st.
1. PTA 1 1951
 2. EL 1 1953
39. BE ALERT — AVOID ROAD ACCI-
DENTS — WEES WAKKER — VERMY
PADONGELUKKE
- a. In 2 lines
1. JH 1 1951
40. a. SAFE DRIVING SAVES LIVES —
VEILIGE BESTUUR RED LEWENS
- b. CAREFUL DRIVING SAVES LIVES
— VERSIGTIGE BESTUUR SPAAR
LEWENS
- a. In 1 line each, E & A; E in 1st.
1. CT 3 1951
- b. In 1 line each, E & A; E in 1st
1. PE 1 1951

41. PRACTISE ROAD SAFETY DAILY — BEOEFEN PADVEILIGHEID DAELIKS
a. In 2 lines
1. DBN 2 1951
42. COURTESY PROMOTES ROAD SAFETY — HOFLIKHEID BEVORDER PADVEILIGHEID
a. In 2 lines
1. KIM 1 1953
43. EAT ENRICHED BREAD — EET VERRYKTE BROOD
a. In 1 line each, E & A; A in 1st.
1. PTA 4 1953
2. JH 2 1953
3. CT 2 1953
4. PMB 1 1953
5. EL 1 1953
6. PE 1 1953
44. CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS 15.V.54
15.VIII.54 — EEUFFEESVIERING 15.V.54
15.VLLL.54
a. In 2 lines
1. DBN 2 1954
45. FIGHT CANCER — BESTRY KANKER
a. In 1 line each, E & A; i-E in 1st; ii-A in 1st.
1. JH 11 1954 i & ii
2. PE 1 1954 ii
3. PTA 3 1954 i
4. CT 5 1954 i & ii
5. EL 1 1954 i
46. BUY SOUTH AFRICAN — KOOP SUIDAFRIKAANS
a. In 2 lines
1. JH 1 1955 & in Red
2. KIM 1955 in Red
b. In 1 line each, E & A; i-E in 1st. ii-A in 1st.
1. JH 9 1955 i & ii
2. CT 4 1955 i & ii
3. PTA 2 1955 ii
4. DBN 1955 i in Red, 2
also, 1 each,
5. BEN i 11. PMBG ii
6. BFN i 12. PE ii
7. EL i 13. STAN ii
8. GER i 14. UITE ii
9. GTN i 15. VER i
10. KRNS ii 16. WORC ii

There are several other machine cancellations with lettered inscriptions between the date stamps. They are:—

1. TRANSVAAL
a. 8 straight lines on either side of TRANSVAAL set vertically
1. JH 1 1910-11-12-13
2. UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA — UNIE VAN ZUID AFRIKA
a. 2 straight lines above, & 4 below, the inscription
1. JH 2 1910-11-12-13
b. 1 straight line above, & 2 below, the inscription
1. CT 1 1912
2. PE 1 1913
3. DBN 1 1912-13-17
3. POSTAGE FREE PASSED BY CENSOR
a. In 3 lines
1. CT 1 1914
4. PAQUETBOT
a. 1 straight line above, & 1 below, PAQUETBOT
1. CT 7 1915-22-3-7-9-32-3-4
5-6-40 used in 1940 without date stamp

5. CUSTOMS DUTY PAID — INVOERREGTE BETAAL

- a. In 1 line each, E & A; E in 1st.
1. CT 3 1938. Used in 1941 without date stamp

The following errors have been noticed in slogans and date-stamps:—

- No. 3 a. "Industres" for "Industries"
b. "Onderste. Industrie" for "Ondersteun S.A. Industrie"
c. Date-stamp DBN: Feb 12 12.45 PM 1927 — Feb 12 1.45 PM 1927
- 4 a. "Fast London" for "East London" 10.Jan.31
- 10 a. "Vip" for "Vir"
b. Date-stamp CT 1929, OCT inverted
11 Date-stamp KIM inverted 21 SEP 1928
12 Date-stamp DBN 1927, NOV inverted
17 Date-stamp CT Red: 4 Jun 35 — 4 JUN 34
22 Date-stamp CT: 39 AU 37 — 30 SEP 37
23 a. Date-stamp JH (B)-2.IX.38-17.45 — 11.V.47—..15
b. Date-stamp PTA — 1SEP38 12.30PM — 1SEP38 12.45NM
c. Date-stamp CT 4OCT38 — 4OC39
29 Date-stamp CT 25.IX.43 — 25.IX.42
30 Date-stamp UMTATA 1942, one stamp without date
31 "Redicross" for "Redcross" PTA.Dec. 1942
35 Date-stamp CT inverted — B-28.iii.50
45 Date-stamp PTA 21.IX.55 upright, but slogan inverted
— Date-stamps with lines, but without slogans:—
a. Wellington 26.VI.55-12.00 — 26.IV.55-12.00
b. Randfontein 21.XII.54 date stamp inverted
c. Pretoria -7.IV.42-3.30 — -6.IV.42-3.30
d. Bloemfontein 27.X.41-17.00 — 27.X.41-18.00
e. George 17.II.40-16.30 — 17.II.40-16.45
f. George 27.I.47 in one circle, the other without date
g. Durban 26.IX.49-17.15 — 28.IX.49-17.15

A masterly monograph, entitled "The Machine Postmarks of the Union of South Africa, 1910-1942", by A Hilton Sydow, appeared in various numbers of Volume 22(1946) of the South African Philatelist, and should be consulted by slogan collectors, for it contains a great deal of valuable information about the machines used in the printing of slogans, as well as information about the slogans themselves. Tribute should also be paid to Mr. G. W. Hockey, one of the early, if indeed not the earliest, pioneer in slogans and machine marks. His book "The Machine Postmarks of the Union of South Africa, 1921-32", privately circulated, is a remarkably able work, remarkable not only for the evidence of painstaking research, but also as an example of superb handiwork, for it was printed by hand by Mr. Hockey, no mean artist, on tracing paper, from which blue prints were produced, of the kind used by architects and engineers who require copies of plans of buildings, railway construction works, etc. Mr. Hockey is wellknown as the author of a monograph entitled "South African Meters", which appeared in the S.A. Philatelist.

SOCIETY NEWS

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

On **11th October** we had one of our popular "Dual" evenings when we did not only have Mr. A. J. Nathan presenting his "Seychelles" but also Dr. P. L. Vautier's "Belgian Congo".

On **25th October** we once more had the pleasure of meeting our good friends from the Paarl Philatelic Society (by the way, these friends have to travel 38 miles to visit us). Their turn-out was indeed very satisfactory.

Mr. J. S. Burger — South West Africa.

Mr. S. J. Morrell — Campaign Covers.

Mr. A. Minnaar — Blocks of S.A. Commemorative.

Mr. A. Lewis — Transvaal Queens.

Mr. N. C. Combrink — Union — George V. Second Boer War Philately.

Mr. J. G. le Roux — O.V.S. Pre-Stamp Covers.

Mr. T. Beukes — New Zealand.

It is with much regret that we have to record the demise of Mr. H. Lang of Green Point.

J.H.

THEMATIC STAMP CLUB

October 8th. Mr. Hylton Sydow exhibited another section of his thematic collection of Music, a combination of Musicians and stamps, as well as quotations from Shakespeare.

October 22nd. Mr. C. Mummery showed a small section out of his 12 volume collection of "Egypt", which included prestamp covers, the first issues and later pictorials. Included also were forgeries of the Suez Canal stamps.

M.F.S.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

1 October 1956. Mr. E. C. Wright gave a fine exhibit of selected items from his general collection of British Commonwealth stamps.

15 October 1956. Unfortunately our friends from the East Rand Philatelic Society were forced at the last moment to cancel their visit. This was a great disappointment to members. However, the Secretary did a bit of rapid staff work and Mr. Wright with a fine exhibit of Postal Stationery, the Secretary himself with a most interesting display of Sudan and Mr. Ford with some modern Rhodesians came to the rescue.

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Sir John Wilson.

Sir John Wilson C.V.O. who is the Keeper of the Royal Collection and Chairman of the Expert Committee of the "Royal", has had the unusual distinction for a philatelist of having his portrait by Harold Knight R.A. hung in the 188th Exhibition of the Royal Academy. An excellent reproduction appears on the cover of "The Philatelist" of October 1956.

Air Mail Notes

By I. H. C. GODFREY

SALISBURY — NDOLA . . . The first mail carrying flight was made on Monday, 28th May between Southern and Northern Rhodesia, the direct flight of 378 miles being completed between 8.15 a.m. and 9.50 a.m. at a speed of about 400 m.p.h.

Five covers were posted in Salisbury by the Airways Letter Service with the special 6d. labels affixed. Unfortunately they were not posted until some time after arrival at Ndola and consequently bear the Ndola postmark of 29 May — 5 p.m.

On 16th June "Viscounts" were introduced on **Central African Airways'** services within the Union of South Africa but are precluded from carrying mails.

JOHANNESBURG — SALISBURY — LONDON . . . The new "Zambesi" service was inaugurated on 20th July, 1956 and, to commemorate the occasion, **Central African Airways** printed large-sized souvenir envelopes inscribed in royal-blue: "**First Flight between London Central and South Africa by Rhodesian Viscount**" — superimposed on a map of Southern Africa and a drawing of the aircraft. The "Viscount", piloted by Capt. R. A. Mackie left Johannesburg at 2.30 p.m. on Friday, and reached London Airport at 7.25 p.m. (local time) the next day, with calls at Salisbury, Ndola, Entebbe, Khartoum, Wadi Halfa, Benghazi and Rome. Mails were only accepted to and from London and Johannesburg and Northern and Southern Rhodesia. Very few of the souvenir covers received backstamps on arrival in Great Britain and, apparently, none of those "serviced" by the Air Line.

B.P.A. Certificates.

The British Philatelic Association's Expert Committee is anxious to have another look at the material relevant to their Certificates 17553, 17554, 17556, 17557, 17558 (all Sudan items) and 18635, 18636, 18637 and 18638 (Seychelles items). Will the holders of these please co-operate?

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

Sept. 13th. This was Ladies' Night and the competition for the Simenhoff Cup. Competitors were (a) Mrs. H. Jeidel, a general collection of Switzerland (b) Miss D. Herrick, Early U.S.A., France and other items including early German States covers. The Cup went to Mrs. Jeidel.

Sept. 27th. Mr. I. E. Hall exhibited his collection of Stamp Booklets. He had to do so at the last moment due to a rearrangement of the syllabus.

M. F. S.