INDEX

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST

VOLUME 31 — 1955

SUBJECT INDEX

Air Mails:
New African services, by M. F. Stern 10 36
African Air Mails, by M. F. Stern 16, 37 66
Early Rhodesian 72
Central African Airways 86
Airgraphs of Southern Africa, 1941-45, by I. H. C. Godfrey 120, 157
Airmail Notes, by I. H. C. Godfrey 142, 187
Anglo-Boer War:
Censor Marks and Labels, by J. D. Rossouw and J. H. Harvey Pirie 6, 22, 42, 62
Machadodorp Postcards of 1900, by J. D. Rossouw 180
Unrecorded British Army Postmark 185
Angola, New Aerogrammes 223
Antarctica, Notes 35
Auction Sale Prices 30, 52, 69, 111, 115, 116, 188
Australia:
New Issues 18, 34, 69, 111, 142, 163, 198 223
Stamp criticisms 84
Spate of Commemoratices to slow down 223
Austria:
1954 Health stamps 84
Other new issues 119, 136
Basutoland:
10/- Q.E. variety 25
Undescribed type of postmark, by F. W. Collins 26
Bechuanaland, Q.E. new issue 64
Bouvet Island:
South African post from, ... 35, 154
Meteorological station "off" 191
Canada, new issues 64, 112, 119, 168
Cape of Good Hope, Robbery of stamps 55
Carbon Tetrachloride a dangerous poison 112
Central African Federation (Rhodesia-Nyasaland):
Stamps demonetised 10, 18 121
Philatelic trip to the Victoria Falls, by K. Freund 116
Flaw on 3d. Livingstone stamp 156, 198
1d. in coil form 198
New Aerogrammes 223
Change in basic postal rate 224
Colonials (British), Pictorial stamps, by Michael Moore 20
Congress (See Philatelic Federation).
C.S.A.R., S.A.R. and N.G.R. 102
Egypt, new issues 3
Eire, new issues 26
Exchanges Wanted 38, 112, 121, 173, 208, 225
Exchange Packet, Our, by W. Impey 36, 59
Exhibitions:
Paarl 2, 18, 72
Teppex 30, 58, 94, 113, 145, 171, 214
Postmark of Durban 1913 exhibition 32
Fipex (New York, 1956) 56, 136, 185, 199, 211
Norwex and Stockholmia's 55 76, 139, 166, 181
Prague 1955 119
Beira, 1954 108
Finlandia '56 (Helsinki) 211
Auckland N.Z. 191
France:
New issues 18, 52, 64, 112, 125, 142, 164
French Cathedral stamps, by O. L. Harvey 165
Germany, East German Locals 199
Gold Coast, Its rarest stamp 18
Gough Island 108, 151
Great Britain:
Philatelic Congress Meeting 72
Roll of Distinguished Philatelists 112
Q.E. High Values 199
Holland (See Netherlands).
India, new issues 4, 18
Israel, New issues 119, 223
Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, new issues 121
Marion Island:
Mail arrived Nov., 1954 10
Mail left for, Oct., 1955 163
Mozambique:
Variety on 3.50 Esc. stamp 76, 142
New Aerogrammes 223
Natal:
Edwardian stamps with curious postmarks 40
T.P.O. by J. H. Harvey Pirie 88
Netherlands:
New issues 18, 112, 148, 225
Philatelic study circle 224
New Republic, Stamps and Postal History, by J. H. Harvey Pirie 98, 123, 161
N.G.R. (with C.S.A.R. and S.A.R.) 102
New Zealand, New issues 112
Norway:
New issues 47
Centenary and Exhibition stamps 76
Obituaries:
Theodore Champion 10
C. R. van Blommestein 20
Jack Shepherd 57
J. W. Schubart 57
R. J. F. Axer 136
L. B. Goldschmidt 163
Johanna E. Rich 164
Orange Free State:
Postmarks 64
S.G. No. 52 101
The Official Stamps of, by A. Cecil Fenn 138
Commando Brief, by A. Cecil Fenn 182
A rare cover 221
Printers of the Commando Brief stamps 224
Paper. By A. I. Mackenzie 55

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Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa:
List of Constituent Societies 146
Pretoria Congress 1955 ..... 163, 171, 212
Philately (See also 'Stamps'):
Judging Thematic Showing, by S. G. Rich 25
Philately by any other Name, by W. Hesse 78
The Average Collector 84, 109
The Humerous side of, by the late A. J. Cohen 110
Good Weather for Stamps, by Marjorie Walker 112
Reviews and Notices:
Gibbons' Simplified Cat. 3
Gibbons-Vanguard Album 3
Indian Stamp Centenary—Souvenir Album 3
Handbook of K.G. VI issues of K.U.T., by R. D. Barrington 119
Postal History and Postmarks of B.C.A. and Nyasaland (Nodder & Twynam) 148
Union Handbook/Catalogue, Vol. II 164, 222
Gibbons Standard Cat., part III 188
Sudwestafrika Handbuch 204
Postal History and Stamps of Grenada (Charlton) 205
Wrona Deutschland Cat. 205
Gibbons Standard Cat., part I 205
Seychelles, Stamps and Postal History (Farmer) 205
American Air Mail Cat. 205
Gibbons Two Reigns Cat. 216
Stamp Collectors' Annual 216
Spain and Colonies 216
Rhodesia, early airmails 72
Rhodesia-Nyasaland Federation (see Central African Federation)
Roll of Honour—J. H. H. Chamberlain elected 213
S.A.R. (With C.S.A.R. and N.G.R.) 102
Short Notices 2, 17, 38, 67, 92, 109, 126, 207
Society News
9, 32, 50, 70, 90, 106, 127, 147, 167, 186, 206, 226
South Africa (see Union of South Africa).
Southern Africa:
Censor Markings, World War I, by J. Hunter (See also page 205) 140, 155
Southern Rhodesia:
Error of design in Rhodes Centenary Stamp, by J. W. Harris 105
Extempore Date Stamp 112
South West Africa:
Van Riebeeck 4½d. "Unshaven Chin" variety 15
Luderitz Paquabot mark 20
"Officials" to be discontinued 33
Stamps (See also 'Philately').
Four Stamps and their Stories, by F. G. Froelich 3
Our Exchange Packet, by W. Impey 36, 59
Errors in Design, by A. Brasch 39
An erroneous correction corrected 76
Revenue stamps used postally 82
First 1st-Day Covers 119
Mammoth ramp in 'religious' stamps 116, 198
Stamps easily mistaken 208
James Chalmers & Rowland Hill 225
Swaziland:
Postal History and Stamps, by J. H. Harvey Pirie 11, 28, 45, 68
New printing 18
St. Edward's Crown variety on 1d. Postage Due 18
K.G. V Jubilee issue 199
Q.E. Issue 221
Sweden, Centenary, Exhibition and other new issues 76, 109, 139
Switzerland, new issues 125
Tanganyika, Epic story of T.P.S. "Liemba" 188
Themately:
Judging Thematic showings, by S. G. Rich 25
French Cathedral stamps, by O. L. Harvey 165
Mammoth Ramp in 'Religious' Stamps 166
Transvaal:
A seal defacer 4
Earliest Pre-stamp covers, by C. R. Reynolds 172
Kruger Essays, by K. Freund 174, 194, 220
Machadodorp 1900 Postcard, by J. D. Rossouw 180
Travelling Post Office, Natal, by J. H. Harvey Pirie 88
Union of South Africa:
Additional varieties in Fauna series 1
1d. Roll stamp in animal series 1
Slogan "Fight Cancer" 1, 53
No more "Officials' 2, 15
Marion Is. mail 10
Quantities of Stamps, etc., printed 13, 73, 93, 149, 170, 209
Changed Stamp on Pictorial Postcard 14
1954 Medical Congress Postmark 14
Unusual type of "Paid" postmark 15, 33
The 2d. King's Head, by T. B. Berry 25
Red serial numbers on 3d. Rhino stamp 33
Are Postage Due Stamps necessary? 33
New shade of 1½d. Leopard 34
1½d. Air Letter cards changed colour 34
Staggered and Mis-aligned Perfs. 34
Bouvet Island post 35
½d. Springbok, charcoal centre and red serial numbers 53
New Machine cancellations 53
Unrecorded 5/- King's Head variety 53, 114
Blind Perfs. 54
Roto 1d. Plate XIV variety 54
Handbook/Catalogue, Vol. II 54, 164, 222
Numbering the Rows, by Gordon Ward 56
K.E. VIII Coronation Essay 73
O.F.S. Philatelic Magazine 74
Pictorial Postcard varieties 74
Current 1/- with Red sheet numbers 74
Cylinders of Union stamps 75
Toned paper variety in 1951 3/6d booklets 75
First Day King's Head stamps 82, 136
'Doeane Betaal' cencellation 93
1d. Ship stamp, unrecorded varieties 93
Pretoria Centenary Stamps 94, 113
Georgian Double Strikes, by D. D. Smythe 96
Popular South Affrica 101
'Posseel' changed to 'Posgeld' on Air Letter Stamps 114, 149
King's Head 4d. with numerous flaws 114
Revenue stamps used postally 115
Roman IIII in Date Stamps 115
½d. Bantams 119
Pretoria Centenary Commemoratives 129, 169, 209
Printings of 1d. and 2d. in sheets of 480 129
King's Head variety 132
Current 4d. with Red sheet numbers 132
Semi-Perforation — Coronation 2d. 1953, by T. B. Davie 134, 152
2/6 Values 142
Marginal Smudges of the 480-format stamps, by T. B. Berry 144

(See also page 211).

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Three printings of 3d. animal stamps 148
New Insured Parcel rates 149
Pictorial Postcard varieties 149
Gum splashes on Rotagravures 150
Additional varieties of new 2d. stamps 150
Hyphenated 1d. on Unwatermarked paper 150, 190
Narrow stamps in single comb production 151
London pictorial 1/-, Extra Horn variety 169
New printing of 1d. animal series 170
Current ½d., creased paper variety 170
Kruger Essays, by K. Freund 174, 194, 220
Covenant Commemorative stamp 189
New Registered envelope 190
Current 1d. with Trimmed margins 190
Staggered perf. variety on 1/3 190
The Springbok ½d. 191
Varieties and Printings of current Postcards 192
Bantam ½d. Retouched top row, by "Caeculus" 200, 218
Christmas stamps, 1955 210
Multo- or Multi-positive? 223
Study of the 10/- Roto stamps 225
U.N.O., New issues 159
U.S.A., New issues 20, 64, 125, 136, 207, 208, 225

AUTHOR INDEX.

Berry, T. B.:
The Union 2d. King's Head stamp 25
Marginal Smudges of the 480-format Union stamps 144
Brashch, A. Errors in Design 39
"Caeculus". Bantam ½d. Retouched top row 200, 218
Chamberlain, J. H. H. Edwardian Natal stamps with curious postmarks 40
Cohen, the late A. J. Humorous side of Philately 110
Collins, F. W. Undescribed type of Basutoland postmark 26
Davie, T. B. Semi-Perforation: Coronation 2d. 134, 152
Fenn, A. Cecil:
Official stamps of the O.F.S. 138, 185
Commando Brief 182
Freund, K.:
Philatelic trip to the Victoria Falls 116
Kruger Essays 174, 194, 220
Froelich, F. G. Four stamps and their stories 3
Godfrey, I. H. C.:
Airgraphs of Southern Africa, 1941-5 120, 157
Airmail Notes 142, 187
Harris, J. W. Error of Design in S. Rhodesian stamp 105
Harvey, O. L. French Cathedral stamps 165
Hesse, W. Philately by any other name 78
Hunter, J. Censor markings of Southern Africa, World War I (See also page 205) 140, 155
Impey, W. Our Exchange Packet 36, 59
Mackenzie, A. I. Paper 55
Moore, Michael. British Colonial Pictorials 20
Pirie, J. H. Harvey:
Swaziland, Postal History and stamps 11, 28, 45, 68
(with J. D. Rossouw) Anglo-Boer War Censor Marks and Labels 6, 22, 42, 62
T.P.O. Natal 88
New Republic, Stamps and Postal History 98, 123, 161
Epic Story of the T.R.S. "Liemba" 188
Rich, S. G. Judging Thematic showings 25
Reynolds, C. R. Earliest Transvaal Pre-stamp covers 172
Rossouw, J. D. (with J. H. Harvey Pirie) Anglo-Boer War Censor Marks and Labels 6, 22, 42, 62
Machadodorp 1900 Postcard 180
Smythe, D. D. Union Georgian Double strikes 96
Stern, M. F.:
New African Air Mail services 10, 36
African Airmails 16, 37, 66
Ward, Gordon:
Numbering the Rows (Union Roto issues) 56
Multo- or Multi-positive 223
Wallace, Marjorie. Good Weather for stamps 112

AFRICA'S SMALLEST POST OFFICE

We were recently shown a short article in the January issue of the "Wide World Magazine" by Mr. E. R. Harrison of Mtubatuba, Zululand, illustrating and describing what he claims to be the smallest P.O. in Africa; viz. that at Hluti, Swaziland. He had not kept a photograph of it, but through the kindness of the "Wide World Magazine" we were able to obtain one for publication. Are there any claimants to anything smaller?

While Australia and New Zealand dispute in friendly fashion as to which of them owns the smallest post-office—Australia has just put forward a claim for a building measuring six feet by four!—our South African readers have evidently been taking a look round to discover what **they** have to offer in the way of a diminutive P.O.s. Mr. E. R. Harrison writes:—

"I believe this building to be the smallest post-office in Africa. Despite its size, it is complete with all the usual facilities — a telephone exchange and operator; a counter where a clerk attends to the public; a 'phone for general use; and a Morse machine for transmitting telegrams. This office is situated in the south-eastern area of Swaziland, at a tiny place called Hluti. You will notice that a thatched



roof has been erected over the building to protect it from the fiercê tropical rain, the roar of which on the corrugated iron would otherwise make work impossible. As will be realised from an inspection of the picture, there is very little room inside the office for the staff of two and their equipment."

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PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
CONSTITUENT SOCIETIES

Cape Town, Royal P.S. of, P.O. Box 1973, Cape Town	2nd & 4th Thursdays, St. Johns Church Hall, cor. Long & Waterkant Streets, Cape Town.
Copperbelt, P.S. of, P.O. Box 211, Kitwe, N.R.	3rd Thursday, Synagogue Hall, Kitwe.
East London P.S. P.O. Box 925, East London	2nd Friday, Museum Lecture Hall, East London.
East Rand P.S. 157 Woburn Avenue, Benoni	3rd Tuesday at 8 p.m. Regent Hotel, Benoni.
Germiston P.S. 57, Driehoek Road, Germiston	2nd Wednesday, Volkskas Bank Building, Germiston.
Grahamstown P.S. 20, Market Street, Grahamstown	2nd Thursday, 1, Thompson St., Grahamstown.
Jewish Guild P. Section, c/o P.O. Box 10, Jhb.	Last Thursday at Jewish Guild Memorial Hall, Jhb.
Johannesburgse Afrikaanse Fil. Vereniging, 82, Kruger Avenue, Selwyn, Florida	1st Friday, 8 p.m., 2nd Saturday, 2.30 p.m., Room 91, Public Library, Johannesburg.
Johannesburg Phil. Society of, Box 4967, Joh'burg	2nd Tuesday, 4th Monday, Room 97, Public Library Johannesburg.
Ladysmith, Colenso & District P.S. c/o P.O. Box 109, Ladysmith	
Maritzburg P.S. P.O. Box 256, Pietermaritzburg	Women's I. Club, 350 Burgers St., Maritzburg.
Mashonaland P.S. P.O. Box 74, Causeway, S.R.	2nd Wednesday, Room 4, Salisbury Polytechnic, Salisbury.
Natal, P.S. of, P.O. Box 588, Durban	1st & 3rd Wednesday, 7.30 p.m., 118 Essex House, Smith Street, (Opp. Greenacre's Passage) Durban.
O.F.S. & Basutoland P.S. Box 702, Bloemfontein	4th Friday at Free State Technical College, Bloemfontein.
Paarlse Posseëlversamelaarsver., P.O. Box 60, Main Street, Paarl.	2nd Wednesday, Paarl African Trust Building, Main Street, Paarl.
Port Elizabeth P.S. P.O. Box 3 Port Elizabeth	1st & 3rd Tuesday, Room 506, Natal Building Soc. Bldg., Main Street, Port Elizabeth.
Pretoria, Afrikaanse Phil. Ver. van, Box 706, Pretoria	4th Wednesday, Council Chamber, Technical College, Pretoria.
Pretoria Philatelic Society, Box 514, Pretoria	1st & 3rd Monday, Council Chamber, Technical College, Pretoria.
Pretoria Railway P.S. Railway Recr. Club, Berea Park Pretoria	2nd Wednesday, Railway Recreation Club, Berea Park, Pretoria.
Rhodesia P.S. of, P.O. Box 803, Bulawayo, S.R.	4th Thursday.
Springs & District P.S. P.O. Box 104, Springs.	2nd Monday, Werner's Studio, Windsor House, Third Street, Springs.
Thematic Stamp Club, P.O. Box 418, Cape Town	2nd & 4th Monday, St. John's Church Parish Hall, cor. Longmarket & Waterkant Sts., Cape Town.
University of C.T. P.S. University of C.T., Rondebosch Cape	Arranged during Academic Year, Senior Common Room, Students' Union.
Western Rand P.S. of, c/o. B. G. Simpkins, Box 1001, Johannesburg.	4th Wednesday, Parish Hall, Amelia St., Roodepoort.
Western Transvaal P.S. P.O. Box 254, Klerksdorp	

The South African Philatelist

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UNION NOTES

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

Additional Varieties in the Fauna Series

Further to the information on the new definitive issue published in our November 1954 number, we give below a list of varieties recently compiled by the Pretoria Union Study Group for inclusion in Volume II of the Union Handbook/Catalogue. This book is in course of preparation and pending its appearance about April/May 1955, the committee has granted permission for the reproduction of the following notes on the new series, in the "South African Philatelist".

½d. Warthog—Cylinder 84.
Row 12/1—Dot next to ear.
Row 17/1—Dot at base of tusk in face.
1d. Wildebeest—Cylinder 12.
Row 1/3—Extra stop to the right of "d" of 1d.
1½d. Leopard—Cylinder 36.
Row 12/25—"Dotted eye-lash" variety.
3d. Rhinoceros—Cylinders 16 (Int.) and 107 (Ext.).
Row 1/8—Dot to side of left ear.
4d. Elephant — Cylinders 53 (Int.) and 93 (Ext.).
Row 1/6—Broken "a" of Afrika.
Row 1/12, 13 and 14—Screen flaw in top of stamp above Suid-Afrika.
4½d. Hippopotamus—Cylinders 76 (Int.) and 47 (Ext.).
Row 3/20—Broken "t" of Postage.
Row 4/20—"Tagged ear" flaw.
6d. Lion — Cylinders 1 (Int.) and 121 (Ext.).
Row 2/3—Dot above "6d.".
1/- Kudu—Cylinders 94 (Int.) and 104 (Ext.).
Row 1/13—Dot on shoulder.
Row 5/7—Dot above back legs.
1/3 Springbok—Cylinders 106 (Int.) and 38 (Ext.).
Row 6/4—Dot on buck.
Row 18/2—Dot on top of shrub.
Row ?—Break in frame below "o" of South.
1/6 Gemsbuck—Cylinders 21 (Int.) and 78 (Ext).
Row 1/3—Dot on "u" of Suid.
Row 2/12—Dot over "So" of South.
Row 3/12—Line in frame between South and Africa.
2/6 Inyala—Cylinders 66 (Int.) and 23 (Ext.).
Pane B: Row 1/4—Green dot between buck's legs.
Pane B: Row 6/1—Black dot on edge of frame to **right** of "d" in Suid. (Not on left, as stated on page 199 of the November 1954 number).
5/-. Giraffe—Cylinders 118 (Int.) and 4 (Ext.)
Pane A: Row 4/9—Brown dot under "r" of Africa next to the horn of the Giraffe, and an orange dot under the chin.
Pane A: Row 5/4—Brown dot above neck of the Giraffe and an orange dot in the neck in line with the shoulder.
Pane B: Row 5/4—Accent over "e" of Posgeld.
Pane B: Row 6/1—Dot over hyphen of Suid-Afrika.
Note. The two flaws listed on page 199 of the November issue under the Pane A, 5/- value, though found present over several hundred sheets, are apparently not constant throughout the printing.
The cylinder number "4" on Pane "A" is comparatively lighter in shade than the "4" on Pane "B".
10/- Sable Antelope—Cylinders 44 (Int) and 6 (Ext.).
Pane A: Row 4/4—Short black line in margin opposite the tail and a blue dot below "Su" of Suid.
4/8—Broken left leg of first "A" of Afrika and blue dot below "r" of Afrika.
6/2—Dot below horns of buck.
Pane B: Row 2/3—Blue dots around "ri" of Afrika.
6/1—Dot (dots) to left (at top) of "1" of "10/-".
6/5—Blue dot above neck of buck.

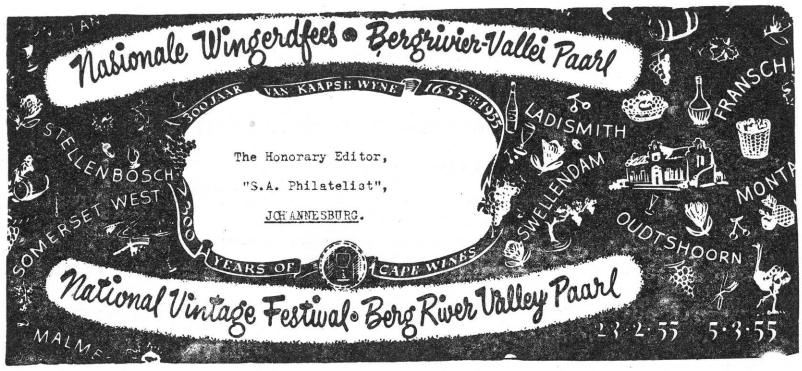
Issue of 1d. Roll Stamps in Animal Series

As we go to press we learn from Mr. S. J. Hagger of Alberton, Transvaal, that the new 1d. roll stamps bearing the head of the Black Wildebeest are now on sale in Johannesburg. Further notes on the issue will appear in due course.

New Postal Slogan—"Fight Cancer".

Messrs. B. L. Cairncross of George and C. Calitz of Mossel Bay, Cape record the appearance of a new postal slogan FIGHT CANCER/BESTRY KANKER in two lines. Specimens seen with cancellations from Pretoria, Johannesburg and Cape Town show respective dates of the 28th, 29th and 30th of October 1954. The language order alternatees between the top and bottom lines.

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Commemorative Cover, in wine-red, to be issued for the Paarl Vintage Festival Philatelic Exhibition. It is not certain yet whether there will be a special P.O. and cancellation, or not.

SHORT NOTICES.

Philatelic Bookplates. What might almost be regarded as a new form of thematic collecting is to be found in Vol. 4, No. 4 of the "Philatelic Literature Review." This is an article by George T. Turner on Ex Libris or Bookplates belonging to philatelists, or philatelic societies, libraries, etc. About 30 are here described and illustrated, together with short accounts of their owners.

A considerable proportion of them are definitely "philatelic" in design, others have no philatelic connotation but their owners are more or less well known as philatelists.

The writer says his collection represents all currently known examples, but would appreciate data about any others that have not come his way.

Tristan da Cunha Essay. Mr. G. van den Berg, writing in "Stamps," says the Essay prepared some years back by Alan Crawford, depicting a melancholy penguin and with a face value of "Four Potatoes," although it was not adopted is now in demand and copies are fetching around £3 each.

New Jersey Precancels. The Precancel Clearing House, 94-96, Branford Place, Newark 2, N.J. has sent us a list prepared under their auspices of all known precancel marks used in New Jersey. It is simply amazingly lengthy.

German Philatelic Review. (Published at 152 Finchley Road, London N.W.3). The final two issues for 1954 will contain articles on Field Posts in France and Belgium, post-war sea-mail cancellations and post-war stationery, S. Atlantic Flights and American forgeries of World War II.

For 1955 the subscription will be raised to 17/6. Articles will appear dealing with German provisionals for Greece; stamps of Ukraine occupation, and German forgeries of World War II.

The Holy Land Philatelist. We have received Nos. 1 and 2 of this magazine, which will appear monthly, dealing with the stamps of Israel, the Holy Land's postal history and related subjects. Its set-up is excellent and the articles are well illustrated; edited by F. W. Pollack, F.R.P.S.L. and published at P.O. Box 2032, Tel Aviv, the subscription being £1 yearly. It is also obtainable from the S. African Zionist Federation, 50 Commissioner Street, Johannesburg.

We note that at the beginning of 1955 there will be issued a set of 6 children's stamps.

Philatelic Societies Year Book 1954-55. This little booklet, published by the B.P.A. at 1/6 contains a list (with particulars) of Societies in the British Isles, Specialist Societies and Study Circles, and Affiliated Societies overseas. There are also useful hints on Competition Judging and how to run meetings attractively.

H. R. Harmer, Ltd. This firm had their 2500th sale on November 29-30. The outstanding item was Lot 489, consisting of 94 sheets of the 1893 Columbian Exposition issue. Mr. Harmer himself returned to the rostrum for its sale. Bidding started at £5000 and after rising by units of £1,000 was ultimately sold for £13,250. A recording of the sale was broadcast to America.

ROCK PICTURES

S.W.A. is not the only country to feature Rock Pictures. Sweden has recently issued a set showing Viking Rock Pictures ,although they are perhaps better described as carvings rather than paintings; they are believed to date back about 3,000 years.

NO MORE UNION 'OFFICIALS'.

We have been officially informed by the P.M.G. that when the existing stocks of Union stamps overprinted 'Official/Offisieel' are used up, no more will be made.

These stamps were originally made for the use of Government Departments on letters going ontside the Union. It was at the request of philatelists that they were made available also for the public, although they had to be purchased through Pretoria only.

Philatelists have gradually come to the conclusion that they amounted practically to a duplication of Union stamps and that they could well be abolished altogether. A request to this effect was forwarded to the P.M.G. from the Durban Congress last year.

The Government also would appear to have decided that their Departmental use was unnecessary, hence the decision "away with them." Few, if any, will mourn their decease.

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FOUR STAMPS AND THEIR STORIES

By F. G. FROEHLICH.

(Continued from page 228 of December issue.)

3. A portrait of Washington can be seen on the third stamp. This picture was originally a full-length showing the Commander-in-Chief standing next to his horse. It was painted at Valley Forge, where the American army was resting during the winter, by CHARLES WILLSON PEALE (1741-1827) who practised art together with several other trades. Painting was a sideline but when Peale fled from imprisonment for debts he was separated from the tools of all his crafts except those of a painter. He was forced to become a professional artist and during his long life painted Washington from life fourteen times. In order to narrow the gap between everything told so far and anything remotely connected with philately we have to look at Peale's parents. The pretty widow MARGARETE TRIGGS MATTHEWS became his mother slightly in advance of being married to his father, CHARLES PEALE: a dazzling fine gentleman who once spent a gay term in Cambridge where he was supposed to train for the ministry. Turning his back on the church he secured a job in the Post Office. Graft was the established rule. However, as ill-luck would have it, an honest man got into the Government. Peale was convicted of embezzling nineteen hundred pounds, a fantastically huge sum at that time. It is supposed that during the investigations he must have shielded some of his superiors who most probably took the greater part of that sum and for services rendered his death sentence was commuted to transportation. Charles Peale was exiled to Maryland. No doubt all this will prove that even in the days before the postage stamp it paid to take an interest in the post office.





4. The fourth and last stamp shows again a portrait of Washington, this time by Gilbert Stuart (1755-1828). It has been reported with authority that Stuart gave up a brilliant future in Europe because of a patriotic desire to preserve the features of America's first president. The truth is that Stuart was driven from the British Isles by debt. However the desire to paint Washington was partly responsible for Stuart's return to America where, in his time, no one could paint with his certainty. He expected to make a fortune by Washington alone. Stuart arrived in New York late in 1792 or early in 1793 where he got so many commissions that he decided to put off painting Washington for a leaner year. When he finally did so he had trouble with Washington from the beginning, who had been painted by others often before and always grumbled about the drudgery. Stuart was dissatisfied with his first picture but made 15 copies of it. They are known as the VAUGHAN type (see 10 cents of Washington Bicentennial issue of 1932). Neither this nor the following portrait but the third of Stuart's Washingtons can be seen on the stamp here displayed. Mrs. Washington wanted a painting of the President for herself, she persuaded her unwilling husband to sit to Stuart a third time, who was delighted with the resulting picture and was determined to keep the canvas; he felt he could make a fortune from copying it. Stuart completed the face but did not touch the background and whenever Mrs. Washington sent for the picture he explained that it was not finished and finally sold more than seventy copies.

The "unfinished" original is the most famous picture in American history. The moral lesson for philatelists is that something incomplete can still be of some importance.

REVIEWS

Gibbons' Simplified Stamp Catalogue. Published at 391 Strand, London W.C.2. Price 18/6 nett, postage abroad 1/7d.

This 20th edition is becoming a very hefty volume, with 1600 pages listing 88,000 stamps and with 12,200 illustrations. As most readers are probably aware it is 'simplified,' but covers the whole world because it excludes varieties of paper, perforation, shade and watermark. Prices given are those of the cheapest variety of the stamps listed; there have been a great many alterations in this edition.

It is an excellent production and will meet the needs of many collectors, although specialists in any country will require something more for their particular needs.

Gibbons' "Vanguard" Album... Price 1/-.

A 64-page album with quite a few illustrations. An excellent present for any youngster just starting collecting. It includes a page of stamp hints and an index to help locate out-of-the-way places.

India Stamp Centenary — Souvenir Album

This is a beautifully produced album issued by the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department on the occasion of the India Postage Stamp Centenary, 1 Oct., 1954. It has 24 plates carrying 206 illustrations in natural colours of every postage stamp issued in India since 1854; there are also 8 pages of text with brief descriptions of the various stamps.

A fitting adjunct to any philatelic library or accompanying any collection of Indian stamps. Copies obtainable from the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, New Delhi, 1, India.

EGYPT

The treaty with Britain over the Suez Canal was commemorated by the issue of two stamps on 4th November of 10m. and 35m. They both feature maps of the canal, but are not of the same design.

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A TRANSVAAL SEAL DEFACER

The article in the November, 1954 issue, in which Mr. Shepherd described the Port Elizabeth seal defacer used on Cape Triangulars, clears up this interesting cancellation. Such use of a mail-bag seal, or some similar seal, was also made in Johannesburg, as is illustrated by a ½d. Transvaal stamp, SG.205 on small piece, which the writer has and which is cancelled by a similar seal. The lettering shows up in white and reads Johannesburg round the top and Z.A.R. at the bottom, with a small star either side of Z.A.R. In the centre, surrounded by a white ring, is a posthorn. There is another smaller ring or perhaps a faint double ring round the outside. The over-all diameter is 25 mm.

Not being on cover, nor having a date, one cannot say for certain that this was a postal use of the stamp, but if there was a seal of this purpose at the Johannesburg post-office, it seems likely that on this occasion it was used as a postal canceller. The design is exceptionally clear and there is no doubt about the wording, the central posthorn, and the over-all size.

F. W. COLLINS.

INDIA

A 2a. stamp was issued on 11th November in honour of the 4th World Forestry Congress. It features the Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun. We are indebted to "Asiatic Hobbiests, Ghatkopur for a first day cover.

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Wants, Offers and Exchange

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

APPROVAL SELECTIONS INVITED. Top-grade copies only. Barbados, The Nigerias, St. Helena, Somaliland Protectorate. — WILLIAM REDFORD, Box 1182, Johannesburg.

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.

SIAM, Wanted Siamese surcharges of all issues, especially in pairs, strips and blocks —mint, used and on cover. ENOCH, c/o. Box 375, Johannesburg.
S.G.1. Wanted mint and used copies of S.G. 1, all countries and varieties. ENOCH, c/o. Box 375, Johannesburg.

I collect cigarette cards. Can you offer me anything rare or unusual?—R. T. LILLEY, 29 Joubert Street, Johannesburg.
I collect stickers, exhibition labels, etc. Can you offer me anything rare or unusual?—R. T. LILLEY.
Fine Empire stamps: Ask for quotations for those elusive oddments you need. — R. T. LILLEY.

Common and better African stamps off paper, wanted in large quantities. Give good Presidentials, Airs, Foreigns. — JOSEPH WIEDMAN, 1616 Redfield Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin, U.S.A.

WANTED. Common Southern African stamps, current or obsolete, on or off paper. Any quantity. Please state quantities available and price required. A. LICHTENSTEIN, Box 1117, Bloemfontein.

FOR SALE: Collections of France, Germany, Netherlands and Sweden. Contact ADVERTISER, P.O. Box 10348, Johannesburg.

WANTED — Literature on Forgeries, also examples of forged stamps. — W. N. SHEFFIELD, c/o. Box 99, Cleveland, Transvaal, South Africa.

WANTED Cape Triangular 4d. Block of 4 or larger piece in fine condition. Good price given.—F. W. COLLINS, Stoborough Croft, St. Cross, Winchester, England.

STAMP COLLECTOR would like Stamp Exchange in South Africa and neighbouring territories.—J. BABB, 428 Dundas Street, Galt. Ontario, Canada.

SWAZILAND. Wanted ½d. with o'ptd. error "Swazielan" (S.G. 4b), mint or used.—Dr. HARVEY PIRIE, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

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.
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Arrangements can be made to bind back-numbers at an additional charge of 2/6 per volume. On orders under 10/- please add postage. Early application is strongly recommended.—Business Manager, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

BASUTOLAND. The "error of watermark" in the Postage Dues. I have a few nice mint blocks of both the 1d. and 2d. showing the St. Edwards Crown, and one of the 2d. "missing crown" (only four known found here). I would like to exchange for similar values of the same error in any of the other Colonies or sell for cash. Will interested parties please write to: G. N. GILBERT, Grosvenor, Westminster, O.F.S.

WANTED.—Common and better class African stamps in quantities, give Mint, First Day Covers, used, common or better Australian and Pacific in exchange.—R. HASLEM, 119a Chapel St., St. Kilda, Vic., Australia.

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WANTED. Transvaal, mint or used, S.G., 12-23aa, 37, 42a, 62, 63, 82, 83, 85, 86a, 97a, 88a, 88b, 90, 91, 93, 93a, 94a, 99a. 101b, 107b, 111a, 112a, 117a, 117b, 125c, 129a, 135a, 142a, 148a, 150a, 152a. Submit offers first.—E. HUNT, 98 Houghton Drive, Johannesburg.

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

COMPLETE English-Afrikaanse Phlatelic Glossary. 3/6 post free.—Afrikaanse Filatelistiese Vereniging, c/o. P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

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ANGLO-BOER WAR CENSOR MARKS & LABELS

By J. D. ROSSOUW and J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

(Continued from page 227 of December issue)

BRITISH CENSOR MARKS WITHOUT PLACE NAMES.

Place	Shape	Size m.m.	Colour	Wording, Etc.	Dates of Use.
MOSSELBAY	Double triangle	57 x 27	Black, Violet	Passed Press Censor. Initialled.	21/2/1901. 20/3/1902.
MODDER RIVER	Double triangle	53 x 30	Black	Passed Press Censor.	February, 1902.
MODDER RIVER	Double circle, double border	35	Red. Violet	Passed Press Censor between circles. W.J.R. in centre.	February, 1902. December, 1901.
MURRAYSBURG	Double triangle	60 x 26	Red	Passed Press Censor.	6/6/1901.
NAAUWPOORT	Double triangle	48 x 26	Red	Passed Press Censor.	April, 1902.
NORVALSPONT	Double triangle	53 x 30	Blue	Passed Press Censor.	22/1/1902.
PAARL	P in circle	17	Violet Red Green		9/9/1901. 16/1/1902. 11/6/1902.
PAARL	Cross in circle	10	Red		24/7/1901.
PAARL	Two lines	35 & 27 x 5	Red Green	Passed by Censor.	28/2/1901. 3/1/1902.
PAARL	Two lines	40 & 25 x 5	Red	Delayed by Censor.	11/2/1901.
PEARSTON	Double triangle	40 x 34	Violet	Passed Press Censor	11/2/1902.
PHILLIPSTOWN	Double triangle	50 x 25	Blue-black	Passed Press Censor	31/1/1901.
PIETERMARITZBURG	Double triangle	36 x 21	Blue	Passed Press Censor	19/6/1901.
PRIESKA	Double triangle	50 x 27	Violet	Passed Press Censor	2/5/1901.
PRETORIA	Double border rectangle	53 x 18	Red. Blue		28/12/1900, 11/5/1901.
PORT ALFRED	Double triangle	53 x 30	Violet	Passed Press Censor	25/4/1902.
PORT ELIZABETH	Double triangle	50 x 29	Violet	Passed Press Censor	12/10/1901.
PRINCE ALBERT	Double triangle	50 x 32	Violet	Passed Press Censor	28/1/1902.
		50 x 27	Violet	Passed Press Censor	
PRINCE ALBERT RD.	Double triangle	50 x 27	Blue	Passed Press Censor	10/9/1901.
RAWSONVILLE	Double triangle	50 x 27	Violet	Passed Press Censor	5/3/1901.
RICHMOND	Double triangle	48 x 29	Violet	Passed Press Censor Initialled.	12/2/1901.
RIVER ZONDER END	Double triangle	57 x 27	Green	Passed Press Censor	19/4/1902.
ROBERTSON	Double triangle	49 x 29	Black	Passed Press Censor	26/11/1901.
ROSEBANK	Double triangle	57 x 27	Black	Passed Press Censor Initialled and dated in M/S.	27/9/1901.
RUSTENBURG	Two lines	28 x 8	Violet	Passed Censor	27/6/1900.
SILVERVALE	Double triangle (inverted)	50 x 25	Violet	Passed Press Censor.	19/1/1902.
SOMERSET WEST	Double triangle	57 x 26	Violet	Passed Press Censor	16/11/1901.
SPRINGFONTEIN	Two lines	50 x 25	Grey-black	Passed Press Censor. Initials in blue pencil in centre.	25/2/1901.

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Place.	Shape	Size m.m.	Colour	Wording, etc.	Date of Use.
STANDERTON	Single line	55 x 4	Violet	Passed Press Censor	
STANDERTON	Double circle, outer double lined	34	Blue	Passed Press Censor. Centre empty.	2/6/1902.
STELLENBOSCH	Rectangle, lines extended beyond corners	48 x 27 (box)	Red	Passed Press Censor. Dated.	10/11/1901.
			Violet		9/12/1901.
STERKSTROOM	Double triangle	55 x 30	Violet	Passed Press Censor	10/8/1901.
STEYNSBURG	Double triangle	52 x 30	Red	Passed Press Censor	21/12/1901.
		50 x 32	Violet	Passed Press Censor	7/8/1901.
SUTHERLAND	Double triangle	48 x 27	Violet	Passed Press Censor. One with initials in red ink in centre.	18/7/1901. 30/5/1901.
SWELLENDAM	Double triangle	50 x 30	Violet, Red	Passed Press Censor.	6/6/1901, 1/2/1902.
TOUWS RIVER	Double triangle	50 x 27 & 50 x 25 50 x 30	Violet Black	Passed Press Censor.	22/4/1901 and 31/5/1901, 26/11/1901
TULBAGH	Double triangle	48 x 27	Violet	Passed Press Censor.	14/10/1901.
UITENHAGE	Double triangle	47 x 30 & 50 x 27	Violet	Passed Press Censor.	31/12 1901 & 1/5/1901
UNIONDALE	Double triangle	48 x 27	Violet	Passed Press Censor.	7/8/1901.
UPPER TUGELA	Double triangle	50 x 30	Violet	Passed Press Censor.	4/1/1902.
VAN RHYNSDORP	Double triangle	50 x 30	Violet	Press Censor passed.	13/4/1901.
VEREENIGING	Double triangle	50 x 30	Red	Passed Press Censor.	
VICTORIA WEST	Double triangle	48 x 27	Red	Passed Press Censor.	7/12/1901.
VILLIERSDORP	Double triangle	52 x 29	Violet	Passed Press Censor.	1/3/1901.
VOLKSRUST	Double triangle	41 x 20	Violet	Passed Press Censor.	19/5/1902
WELLINGTON	Double triangle	50 x 25	Violet	Passed Press Censor. A.W.L. in M/S.	November, 1901.
WELLINGTON	Double triangle	50 x 30	Violet	Passed Press Censor.	3/12/1901. 27/2/1901.
WELLINGTON	Double triangle	54 x 30	Violet	Passed Press Censor F. P. de Kock	28/5/1901.
WILLISTON	Double triangle	48 x 29	Violet	Passed Press Censor	25/5/1901.
WINBURG	Double triangle	50 x 30	Red	Passed Press Censor	11/10/1901.
		49 x 27	Blue	Initialled and dated. Signature E. J. Cullen	5/4/1902.
WORCESTER	Double triangle	60 x 25 53 x 30	Violet	Passed Press Censor	1/6/1901 & 24/8/1901.
ZASTRON	Double triangle	50 x 25	Violet	Passed Press Censor. Monogram in centre.	28/5/1901.
ZASTRON	Double triangle	48 x 26	Violet	Passed Press Censor. Monogram in centre. Similar with shield and J.C.C. in centre.	25/9/1901. 23/12/1901.
ZWAGERSHOEK	Double triangle	47 x 29	Violet	Passed Press Censor.	23/8/1901.
?DURBAN or PIETERMARITZBURG	Rectangle	62 x 15	Violet	Stopped by Censor/ Return to Sender	Jan.—March 1900

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GAMBIA	2	14	0
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KENYA	2	6	6
NAURU	0	10	6
NORTHERN RHODESIA	3	5	0
NYASALAND	3	5	0
RHODESIA-NYASA (Federation)	2	10	0
ST. HELENA	1	4	6
SEYCHELLES	1	18	6
SOUTHERN RHODESIA	3	7	6
TONGA	1	18	6
TRISTAN DA CUNHA	1	5	0

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SOCIETY NEWS.

CAPE TOWN.

Royal Philatelic Society.

11th November: Presidents Night: As usual it could be expected that Mr. G. Petroulis would give the society something really out of the ordinary and on this occasion it really was a surprise in that he showed his collection of miniature sheets. These were extraordinarily well written up and a most welcome and complete change from the usual. In addition he also showed some most interesting semi-official Canadian airmail stamps. It really was an evening enjoyed by everybody.

25th November: "Switzerland". (Dr. R. Föllen). The Society has been indeed fortunate recently in the way that members have put themselves out, and on this occasion Dr. Föllen exhibited a fine general collection of Switzerland. This covered the whole range of stamps of that interesting country and was well and clearly written up. This meeting as anticipated was very well attended, and not a person who came was disappointed.

Thematic Stamp Club.

18th November: "Roumania". (Mr. W. G. Combrink). Mr. Combrink as everyone knows is one of the great stalwarts of the Club, and philately in general. His collection of early Roumania, is probably one of the best known and written collection of its kind. Even those who had seen this collection before were again able to enjoy the exhibit. Mr. Combrink always comes to light with something new, and on this particular occasion in addition to stamps, he brought along a large number of most interesting pictures of recent origin of Roumania showing the progress of that country in architecture, industry, arts, agriculture, etc. This is quite an idea and could easily be followed by other exhibitors who are actually showing some single country.

22nd. November: Surprise Evening: Mr. G. Petroulis supplied the exhibit for that evening and repeated the exhibit of the miniature sheets and Canadian semi-official airmail stamps which he had shown to the Royal Society. Needless to say those who had not seen this collection had a real treat, and those who had seen it previously were able to have an opportunity of again seeing this extraordinarily fine collection. Mr. Petroulis is to be congratulated ond the loving care and trouble given to the mounting of his philatelic material. In January 1955, we are to have another surprise from him.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

November, 1st. One of our oldest and most stalwart members, Mr. E. C. Wright, provided the entertainment for the evening. As an indication of the wide range of his collection he brought along material from Barbados, Gambia, British Post Offices in Levant, Montserrat, St. Helena and Sarawak, complete in almost every respect to date. As well, we were shown the first issue of another seven British Colonies. The display was one that afforded an interest to everyone present, and the quality of the material tabled was a tribute to the endeavour put into acquiring the choicest items of their kind by Mr. Wright.

November, 15th. The annual visit of the Afrikaanse Philatelistiese Vereniging took place this evening. A thoroughly enjoyable and entertaining programme was provided by our visitors, which helped to make this meeting one of the most successful of the year. Mrs. Pienaar's thematic display entitled "Oom Fila-te-Lis se Droom" was as amusing as it was unique, and the quiz that she conducted following it certainly had almost everyone of our members completely guessing. Mr. de Swardt and Mr. and Mrs. Erasmus were the other exhibitors, of whom Mr. Erasmus' Canadian "officials" was as complete as it would seem possible, including the major listed varieties. It was certainly something of which our members had not seen the likes before tonight.

AFRIKAANSE FILATELISTIESE VERENIGING.

Saterdag, 13 November: Met hierdie byeenkoms het sake weer mooi verloop en twee-derdes van die materiaal wat deur lede vir die veiling beskikbaar gestel was, het kopers gevind.

Daar is steeds 'n groot aanvraag vir Unie-seëls van meer of min spesialis-gehalte. Dié soort seëls moet of baie skaars wees, of deur die belegger-versamelaar vasgehou word. Dit wil voorkom of die nalatiges nou lelik bontstaan om gate toe te stop, want navrae bereik ons uit alle oorde. Ongelukkig kan ons in meeste gevalle nie help nie, want die gesogte goedjies bly maar wegkruip.

Vrydag, 3 Desember: Ten einde mnr. F. C. Ferguson, die Federasie-president, gou aan die beurt te kry, het die voorsitter korte mette met die gewone sake gemaak.

Drie aansoeke om lidmaatskap is goedgekeur t.w. mnre. J. Bogner, J. de Graaf en F. C. Eloff. Vir die eerste keer het ons nie 'n nuwe aansoek kon aankondig nie, natuurlik omdat dit so naby die end van die boekjaar is.

In sy verwelkoming van mnr. Ferguson het die voorsitter gewys op die mooi voorbeeld deur hom gestel om as hoof van die bond van versamelaars die moeite te doen om alle verenigings te besoek en op dié manier kennis te maak met alle versamelaars.

Mnr. Feguson het kortliks die doelstellings van die Federasie geskets, en daarby 'n aanduiding gegee van die maniere waarop versamelaars kan help om daardie doelstellings te verwesenlik, nl.— koop die handboek en help om geldelike verlies te voorkom; teken in op die South African Philatelist; maak gebruik van die klein-advertensie-kolom (3d. per woord met minimum 3/-); bestel die boekies wat eersdaags verskyn oor die seëls van Swasieland, Basoetoeland en die Rhodesies; en vir dié wat kennis dra, om die pen op te neem en hul bydraes aan die ereredakteur van die S.A. Philatelist te stuur.

Dit gedaan, het hy 'n oorsig van die geskiedenis van die Vatikaanstad gegee en daarna sy tematiese versameling van die Vatikaan uitgestal, gevolg deur 'n vertoning van posseëlkundige stukkies en brokkies.

Alles baie interessant en leersaam . . . net jammer dat daar nie tyd was vir mnr. Ferguson om sy voorlesing oor sy tweede uitstalling te gee nie.

S.J.V.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The meeting held in the Berea Hall on the **10th November** was greatly enjoyed by the 28 members and 4 visitors who attended. Before the exhibit was tabled Mr. Slater Kinghorn drew the attention of the meeting to the expenses that would be involved in the running of the Pretoria Centenary Philatelic Exhibition next year. Brochures, envelopes, souvenir covers, transport, printing and postage are among the expenses that would have to be catered for and the whole-hearted support of the three Pretoria Philatelic Societies would be essential to ensure that the exhibition was both a financial as well as a philatelic success.

Dr. Reisener tabled the exhibit for the evening on behalf of Mr. Petroulis of Cape Town who had very kindly sent his excellent thematic collection of art and artists from Cape Town. Commenting on the display Mr. Slater Kinghorn stated that our thanks and congratulations are due to Mr. Petroulis for the outstanding merit of his exhibit and that after viewing such an attractive disulay we are not surprised that it won the "Rembrandt" cup. The exhibit was well written up and a concise history of the artists and examples of their work on stamps or in pictures was most attractively displayed. No part of the collection could be selected for special comment — it was all of such a high standard. Mr. Petroulis did not lose sight of the philatelic side of the collection and had both mint and used stamps on display in tip top condition. He is obviously interested in both art and philately and we have been given a treat in seeing this collection for which we express our grateful thanks. P.M.J.M.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

16th November.

A good auction particularly of Union stamps was the opening gambit of the evening, followed by more strenuous work when the official business had to be discussed including our newly founded Exchange Packet Service and Syllabus for 1955. Thus tea interval was welcomed as a pleasant break, followed by a nice and varied display by Mr. Kennedy of the stamps of Great Britain, Ireland, and many Crown Colonies, which was much enjoyed by those present.

7th December.

The last get-together of the year was very well attended by both members and visitors, evidently all keen to learn something from Mr. G. K. Forbes (assisted by Mr. T. Winsley) through his talk on the printing of stamps. They were not disappointed and were able to gather some very useful knowledge about the Recess, Typo, Litho, Photo and Rotogravure methods of printing, well and clearly explained by the lecturer aided by good examples

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of such processes on stams displayed. A good and lively discussion followed the talk, which showed the keen interest members have in this important part of Philately. Mr. G. Bülbring expressed the warm thanks of the gathering to Mr. Forbes for his fine effort. Our very popular Auction was another feature of the evening which was brought to a conclusion by the President wishing all a happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The **November** meeting was well attended and members enjoyed two fine displays, one of Great Britain by one of our younger members, Mr. G. Immelman, and on Denmark by Mr. J. V. Jensen. who showed some very special Entires of his favourite country and homeland.

The report and recommendations of the Executive Committee on the Mrs. Ruby Alabaster Memorial were adopted.

Prizes of Albums, Catalogues, etc. will be awarded for competitions to be held in August of each year to three age groups of young collectors up to 20 years of age.

A discussion on the merits of the new definitive issue of Union stamps illustrating animals took place, and while some expressed favourable views, others were critical of the issue. The main criticisms were that this new definitive issue, which has come into being after so long a time, does not include portraits of the Queen of South Africa and the Royal children, as has been done by other Commonwealth countries. Secondly, that the names of the animals were not printed on the stamps. Thirdly. the low values were poor reproductions and out of proportion.

Immediately preceding the meeting, a special General Meeting was held and two amendments to the Constitution were carried.

In future the Annual General Meeting will be held in January instead of April. The meeting wil' be held on the third Friday night of January and thus enable the Treasurer's statement to be ready for adoption.

Since the Society was started in April 1909, the Annual General Meeting has always been held in April, but it was felt that the time had come to synchronise the financial year ending in December with the calendar year.

It was then decided to increase the number of Exchange Club Superintendents from one to two or more, instead of one, in terms of the old constitution.

It was decided that from the New Year the regular monthly meetings would be held in the East London Museum Lecture Hall, as the site was more central and also the lighting and display facilities would be very much better.

The attendance at the **December** meeting was below the average but members enjoyed themselves and refreshments were provided by certain lady members.

Mr. L. Hellman displayed some special Union items and Mr. C. H. Thornton gave a display of "Odds and Ends". Mr. Thornton continues to produce more and more interesting items which always engage the atttention and interest of members.

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Denne from Bloemfontein on one of his regular visits and also a former member on holiday from Rhodesia, Mr. A. W. Stander.

It was decided that the 1955 programme of Displays would be drawn up at the January meeting when Mr. James Paviour kindly promised to give a display of Canada.

It was mentioned that some of the New Queen Elizabeth Revenue stamps had become obsolete, and that the new 6d. value showing the Union Coat of Arms was already on sale.

It was also stated that it was considered that the 2/6, 5/- and 10/- Union Pictorial Stamps had had a final reprinting and that study would reveal the special features of these three values. J.P.S.

OBITUARY

THEODORE CHAMPION.

M. Théodore Champion died recently at the age of eighty-one, in the town of his birth, Geneva. After a modest beginning in that town he moved to Paris, where he was for many years one of the world's greatest stamp dealers. In partnership with the printing firm of Yvert he was for long responsible for the famed Yvert-Tellier-Champion catalogue.

RHODESIA — NYASALAND

We are indebted to the Robertson Stamp Co., Johannesburg, for the following information:—

At the end of 1954 all postage stamps of N. Rhodesia, S. Rhodesia and Nyasaland which have not already been demonetised will be demonitised, with the exception of the Q.E. issue of each territory, which will continue to remain valid along with the Federation issue. At the present time all the undemonitised issues of the three territories are interchangeable and the Q.E. issues will continue to be interchangeable after January 1st. The result of this state of affairs is that very interesting combination covers are obtainable.

It should be mentioned that the Q.E. sets that will continue to be valid after the end of this year will be the general issues only. All commemoratives will cease to be valid at the end of December, in fact, the S. Rhodesia Q.E. Coronation stamp has already been demonitised, although those of N. Rhodesia and Nyasaland will be valid until the end of the year. The same peculiar position obtains in regard to the K.G. VI issues.

MARION ISLAND

A mail arrived from the island on 24th November. The port of arrival of H.M.S.A.S. "Transvaal" this time was East London, so the letters received their first postmark there, as there is still no actual post office on the island.

A new cachet indicative of the source of the mail appears, however. In place of the former oval cachet of the Department of Transport, covers bear a rectangular mark in a rather faint greyish black, size 41 x 30 mm. The wording inside is, in five lines: "Marion Island/ South Indian Ocean / 19 Nov. 1955 / Suid-Indiese Oseaan / Marion-Eiland."

Note the error in the date — 1955 instead of 1954.

AIR MAIL NOTES.

(a) A weekly same-day service between Johannesburg and Nairobi with stops at Lusaka and Ndola was introduced by Central African Airways in November. Covers flown by C.A.A. bear cancellations, Johannesburg 13.30 6-XI-1954 and Lusaka 5.No.54. This service was scheduled for Sunday, November 7. Previously there was a night stop at Salisbury. Covers posted C.A.A. Johannesburg 6-XI-54 — 13.30 were also on mails carried Johannesburg to Nairobi.

(b) On the 7th November through connections were made Durban to Ndola and Lusaka by way of Salisbury. Special C.A.A. commemorative covers were flown, date stamped Durban 7th November 54 and back stamped Lusaka and Ndola 7.No.54. and 7-XI-54 respectively. Covers are in blue and white and bear wording "1st. Direct Air Mail Durban to Ndola and Lusaka 7th. November 1954." with badge of C.A.A. and words "Central African Airways" and C.A.A. etiquette printed.

(c) On 3rd November C.A.A. reintroduced the service Ndola to Elizabethville, which service was suspended several years ago. C.A.A. covers date stamped Ndola 3.No.54. were backstamped Elizabethville 3-11-54 — 9.

M. F. STERN.

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SWAZILAND—POSTAL HISTORY and STAMPS

By
J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

(Continued from page 236 of December issue.)

KING GEORGE V STAMPS—Continued.



Cover showing all types of stamps valid 2 Jan. to 2 Feb. 1933.

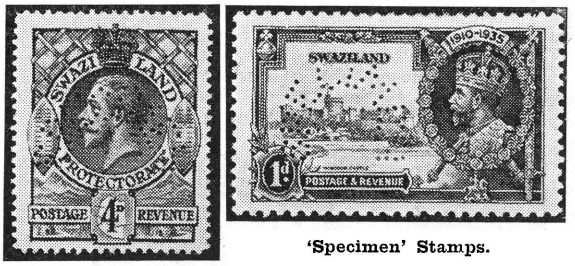
POSTAGE DUE STAMPS

These were issued at the same time as the ordinary K.G.V. stamps, 1d. carmine and 2d. pale violet. Typo. by De La Rue & Co. on paper with Mult. Script C.A. watermark, perf. 14.

I have a Die Proof of the frame used for these stamps, which is in black on thin white card marked "After Striking" and with the date in manuscript, 21/11/32. Separate dies were evidently used for the "1d." and "2d.". This is one of the very few Die Proofs I know of for any Swaziland stamps.

"Specimens" of the Postage Dues have the word perforated in the same manner as the ordinary postage stamps.

Fairly well marked shades of both values appeared about 1938, and as the same stamps persisted into the next reigns it may be mentioned here that about the end of 1951 the 1d. appeared on chalky paper which gives it quite a different shade from the previous printings.



'Specimen' Stamps.

SILVER JUBILEE ISSUE

Isseued on 4 May, 1935. Stamps of the Windsor Castle design common to all the British Colonies. Recess printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. on Mult. Script CA watermarked paper, perf. 11 x 12. Values — 1d., deep blue and scarlet; 2d., ultramarine and grey-black; 3d., brown and deep blue; 6d., slate and purple.

The "Specimen" stamps of this issue also have the word perforated but the arrangement of the letters is not in a semi-circle as before, but in a horseshoe shape, the curve of the horseshoe being uppermost.

As with all the B.W. & Co. printings of the Silver Jubilee stamps the main philatelic interest in them lies in the "Flagstaff" varieties. The varieties known are:

Stamp No. 7 (No. 1, Row 2) printed from Plate 2. The "Little Flagstaff" — a short staff immediately to the left of the staff on the main tower. On all four denominations.

Stamp No. 11 (No. 5, Row 2) printed from Plate 3. The "Short Flagstaff" — a short staff close to the right pinnacle of Saint George's Chapel. On all four denominations.

Stamp No. 37 (No. 1, Row 7) printed from Plate 5. The "Turret Flagstaff." Only recorded on the 1d. value.

Stamp No. 49 (No. 1, Row 9) printed from Plate 1. This is the most evident and is the one commonly meant when just "a double flagstaff" is referred to. It is slightly to the right of the main tower. Curiously enough the 1d. value of these flagstaff varieties seems to be

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the most elusive. Personally I only have the 1d. on Stamp No. 49, the others have still to be found though I have all the other denominations showing such varieties.

Two other printing flaws which I have are (a) A 2d. stamp, No. 36 of the sheet with a hair-line running vertically over the ultramarine centre just to the left of the left side of the medallion with the King's head, and (b) A 3d. stamp, also No. 36 of the sheet with a blue blob on the inner side of the frame and on the brown centre just above the "SW" of Swaziland.

Both the K.G.V. general issue and the Jubilee issue stamps were invalidated for postal use as from 31st August, 1953.

'OFFICIAL' STAMPS — PREPARED FOR USE BUT NOT ISSUED

In 1934 the Administrations of Swaziland and Basutoland apparently thought it would be a good thing to have 'Official' stamps for use on Government correspondence and had stamps of their respective territories overprinted with the word 'Official' by the Government Printer, Pretoria.

But the Secretary of State for the Colonies thought otherwise, presumably from experience with 'Official' stamps in other places, and when he heard of the matter gave instructions that the stamps were to be withdrawn. In the case of Basutoland the instructions arrived a little too late and a total of 137 stamps of the four overprinted denominations had been used before they were withdrawn. They had never been on sale to the public but had been on issue in the Government Secretariat from 24th May to 25th June, 1934.

In Swaziland, although the stamps had apparently been on issue to the Secretariat staff, the instructions for withdrawal arrived in time to stop authorised use of the stamps. I say authorised use because of the statement made in a letter published in the "South African Philatelist," Vol. XIII, p. 19, 1937. The relevant part of the letter is as follows:

"I was a resident in Swaziland at the time when this issue was placed in the Treasury and at Mbabane when they were issued to the staff. Instructions had been received, however, that the actual issuing of same was to be deferred, but by some unaccountable accident one of the staff posted two, or possibly three, letters to the Colonial Office in London and used 'Official' stamps for the postage. I heard that this had been done and went right away to try to purchase a set. I was not only refused, but by my enquiry I regret to say I stirred up a hornet's nest, for the Government Secretary immediately made investigations and censored the individual concerned for her carelessness. Efforts were made, I understand, to secure the return of the stamps by writing at once to the Colonial Office, so that the full sheets could be accounted for to the Auditor. But no trace of them could be found. If they were destroyed they are lost for ever, but if by any chance some one has them in hiding, then they have a treasure indeed. The above I can vouch for, as I was personally responsible by my enquiry for getting one at least of the staff into serious trouble. I had the pleasure later at least of seeing sheets of these at the Treasury and I was also in Mbabane when they were withdrawn from the Treasury of the Swaziland Government."



Number of Stamps Overprinted. In Basutoland the numbers overprinted 'official' have been officially given as 100 sheets of 60 stamps of each of the 4 denominations, ½d., 1d., 2d. and 6d. A total of 137 of the four values was used and 4 mint stamps of each denomination were presented to H.M. the King for his collection. The unused stock was returned to the Union Postal Department's Stores and presumably destroyed, but it is believed a few sets, somehow and somewhere, escaped destruction.

A request was made to the Government Secretary, Mbabane, for information (a) as to the total quantities overprinted 'Official'; (b) the fate and quantity of those mint stamps (if any) which escaped destruction, and (c) whether the story quoted above as to a few having been inadvertently used on official correspondence to London was correct or not. The answer was that he was unable to supply the desired information. It was added "These stamps, however, were never for sale to the public and were used only in connection with official correspondence to countries outside the High Commission Territories and the Union of South Africa." This sounds rather as if the story of a few having been inadvertently used may have been correct.

It was rumoured at the time of the making of these stamps (and the rumour still persists) that 4 sets of mint stamps had escaped destruction, but I cannot vouch for the truth of this. All I can say is that one mint set is in my possession, and the stamps have B.P.A. certificates stating that they are genuine. Although forgeries of the Basutoland 'officials' are known. I have not heard of any forgeries of the Swaziland set.

(To be continued.)

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THE

SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST

PROPRIETORS AND PUBLISHERS :

The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

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UNION NOTES

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

RECENT PRINTINGS.

The Publicity Officer of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs has kindly supplied the following information covering the period from 22.7.1954 to 21.10.1954. For the previous list see our October 1954 issue.

New Animal Series.

½d.—Job No 103289. On an order for 25,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, a total of 25,500 was delivered between 19.8.54 and 14.9.54. Printed from new cylinder No. 84.

1d.—Job No. 103290. On an order for 1,000,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, 5,000 were delivered on 26.8.54 and a total of 234,500 to date. Printed from new cylinder No. 12.

1½d.—Job No. 103292. On an order for 30,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, a total of 31,250 was delivered between 19.8.54 and 21.9.54. Printed from new cylinder No. 36.

2d.—Job No. 103293|. On an order for 1,000,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, 26,000 were delivered on 24.8.54 and a total of 180,000 to date. Printed from new cylinder No. 56.

3d.—Job No. 103294. On an order for 100,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, 24,000 were delivered on 24.8.54 and a total of 38,000 to date. Printed from new cylinders Nos. 16 Interior and 107 Exterior.

4d.—Job No. 103295. On an order for 60,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, 14,500 were delivered on 24.8.54 and a total of 58,000 to date. Printed from new cylinders Nos. 53 Interior and 93 Exterior.

4½d.—Job No. 103296. On an order for 25,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, 9,000 were delivered on 24.8.54 and a total of 22,500 to date. Printed from new cylinders Nos. 76 Interior and 47 Exterior.

6d.—Job No. 103297. On an order for 150,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, 4,000 were delivered on 26.8.54 and a total of 38,000 to date. Printed from new cylinders Nos. 1 Interior and 121 Exterior.

1/- — Job No. 103298. On an order for 120,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, 2,500 were delivered on 31.8.54 and a total of 30,000 to date. Printed from new cylinders Nos. 94 Interior and 104 Exterior.

1/3 — Job No. 103299. On an order for 25,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, 4,500 were delivered on 2.9.54 and a total of 23,000 to date. Printed from new cylinders Nos. 106 Interior and 38 Exterior.

1/6 — Job No. 103300. On an order for 36,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a total of 39,155 was delivered between 31.8.54 and 28.9.54. Printed from new cylinders Nos. 21 Interior and 78 Exterior.

2/6 — Job No. 103303. On an order for 12,500 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a total of 13,250 was delivered between 2.9.54 and 7.9.54. Printed from new cylinders Nos. 66 Interior and 23 Exterior.

5/- — Job No. 103302. On an order for 5,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a total of 6,000 was delivered on 31.8.54. Printed from new cylinders Nos. 118 Interior and 4 Exterior.

10/- — Job No. 103301. On an order for 25,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, 2,750 were delivered on 2.9.54 Printed from new cylinders Nos. 44 Intrior and 6 Exterior.

Pictorial Postage Stamps.

½d. — Job No. 106069. On an order for 10,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, 14,200 were delivered on 27.7.54. Same cylinders as before, Nos. 31 Interior and 70 Exterior.

1d. — Job No. 17426/3 contd. On an order for 650,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet the total deliveries to date amount to 55,000 sheets. Same cylinders as before, Nos. 54 Interior and 48 Exterior.

2d. — Job No. 5906 contd. On an order for 1,000,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet the total deliveries to date amount to 814,674 sheets. Same cylinders as before, Nos. 27 Interior and 18 Exterior.

Air Letter Cards.

6d. — Job No. 8659 contd. On an order for 6,000,000 cards, 4,680,000 have been delivered to date. Same printing as before.

1½d. — Job No. 105650. On an order for 300,000 cards, a total of 394.200 was delivered between 29.7.54 and 26.8.54. Same printing as before.

Pictorial Post Cards.

1d. — Job No. 8570 contd. On an order for 2,720,000 cards, delivery of the total of 2,154,880 was completed on 20.7.54.

1½d. — Job No. 107820. On an order for 2,730,000 cards, 11,760 were delivered on 2.9.54 and a total of 564,480 to date. Printed on Chambon Machine. (Evidently the postcard now on sale bearing the imprinted stamp of the new animal series and illustrated in this issue.—Sub-Ed.)

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South West Africa—New Series.

1d. — Job No. 63245. On an order for 75,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a total of 77,200 was delivered between 23.9.54 and 5.10.54. Printed from cylinder No. 46.

2d. — Job No. 63246. On an order for 125,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a total of 126,740 was delivered between 23.9.54 and 30.9.54. Printed from cylinder No. 30.

3d. — Job No. 63247. On an order for 7,500 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a total of 9,718 was delivered on 21.9.54. Printed from cylinder No. 68.

4d. — Job No. 63248. On an order for 4,500 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, this quantity was delivered on 21.9.54. Printed from cylinder No. 41.

4½d. — Job No. 63249. On an order for 3,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheets, a total of 4,500 was delivered on 21.9.54. Printed from cylinder No. 120.

6d. — Job No. 63250. On an order for 9,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a total of 9,960 was delivered on 21.9.54. Printed from cylinder No. 19.

1/- — Job No. 63251. On an order for 9,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a total of 10,660 was delivered on 21.9.54. Printed from cylinder No. 98.

1/3 — Job No. 63252. On an order for 3,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a total of 5,000 was delivered on 21.9.54. Printed from cylinder No. 122.

1/6 — Job No. 63253. On an order for 4,500 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a total of 5,000 was delivered on 21.9.54. Printed from cylinder No. 50.

2/6 — Job No. 63254. On an order for 1,500 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a total of 2,000 was delivered on 23.9.54. Printed from cylinder No. 43.

5/- — Job No. 63255. On an order for 750 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a total of 900 was delivered on 23.9.54. Printed from cylinder No. 119.

10/- — Job No. 63256. On an order for 1,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a total of 1,738 was delivered on 23.9.54. Printed from cylinder No. 105.

S.W.A. Air Letters.

6d. — Job No. 62941. On an order for 150,000 air letter cards, a total of 164,400 was delivered between 10.6.54 and 15.6.54. Printed on Chambon Machine.

S.W.A. Pictorial Post Cards.

1½d. — Job No. 63177. On an order for 100,000 cards, a total of 102,720 was delivered on 3.8.54. Printed on Chambon Machine.

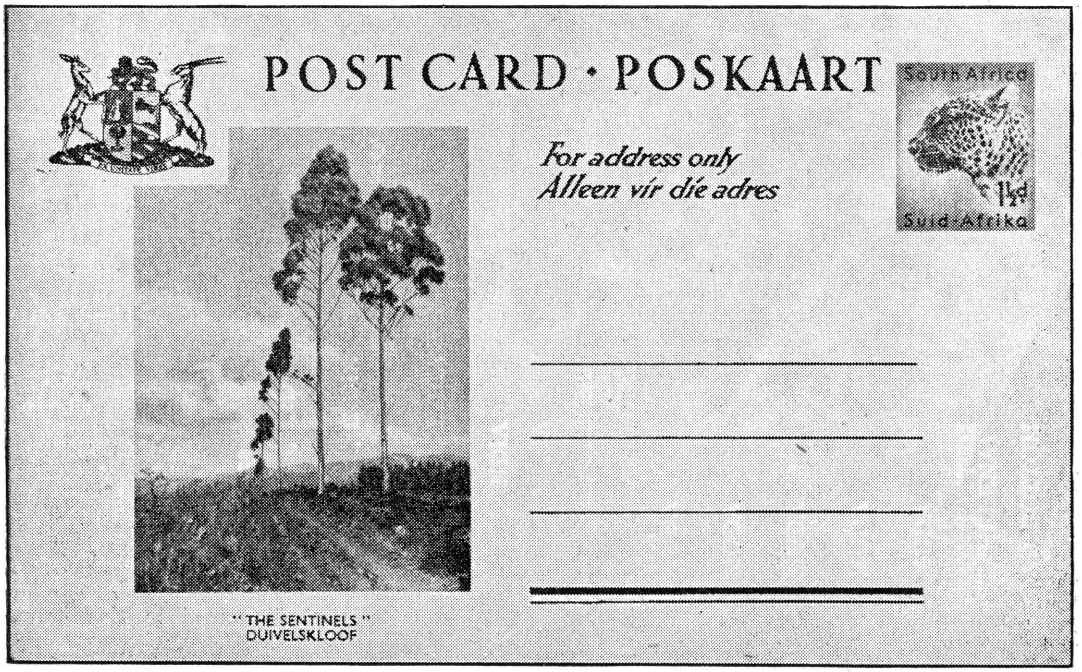
Change of Stamp on Pictorial Postcards.

Following the introduction of higher postal rates in July last year and the increase from 1d. to 1½d. for postcards, there has been a new printing of the pictorial cards and they are now on sale bearing an imprint of the 1½d. animal series design of a leopard's head.

Like its prototype in sheet form, the colour of the imprinted stamp is in sepia-brown, but apart from this change in denomination the views, colour (green) and inscriptions on the postcards are the same as before. The change in the colour of the views from sepia to green was recorded in our June 1954 issue.

Medical Congress Cancellation.

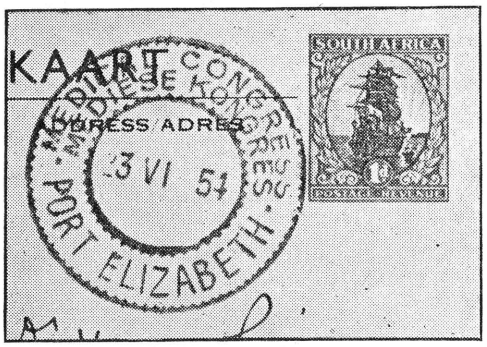
We have been reminded by Dr. J. W. Harris, Port Elizabeth, of our tardiness in reproducing the special cancellation used at the Medical Congress held in Port Elizabeth last June. He estimates that about 900 items of mail matter



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must have been dispatched through the post bearing this particular cancellation and is very doubtful if many copies have been preserved by collectors.

We illustrate the special datestamp below.



Van Riebeeck 4½d. S.W.A. "Unshaved chin" Variety.

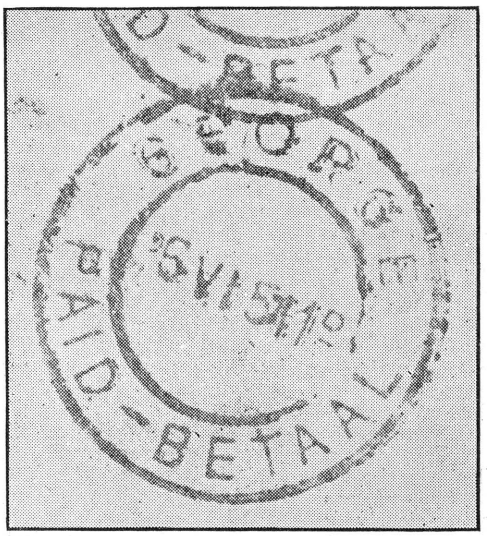
Writing in connection with the above variety, which derived its name from a number of small specks on Van Riebeeck's chin and was recorded in our December 1952 issue, (Row 2/Stamp 14), a reader notes that though the flaw quite probably appears on the majority of sheets he has one on which the "Unshaven" marks are absent and therefore the variety cannot be considered as constant throughout the printing.

Change in Union Revenue Stamps.

For those who collect the Union's Revenue Stamps it is of interest to note that a new series is now becoming available bearing a design of the Union Coat of Arms. The design of the previous issue included a head and shoulder reproduction of the Queen.

Unusual Postmark.

Mr. C. Calitz of Mossel Bay, Cape, has recently shown us a cover bearing a red cancellation postmark which we reproduce below. He points out that the date and numeral "1d." are practically all combined in the one line.



Discontinuance of Union "Official" Stamps.

As announced in our last issue it has been decided that following the exhaustion of existing stocks, Government Departments will cease using postage stamps overprinted OFFICIAL/OFFISIEEL and we give below the official bulletin received from the Publicity Officer, Post Office Publicity Branch, G.P.O., Pretoria.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.
DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

POSTAGE STAMPS OVERPRINTED "OFFICIAL—OFFISIEEL."

It has been decided that postage stamps for use by government departments on official correspondence and issued by the Postal Administration of the Union of South Africa will no longer be overprinted with the words "Official—Officieel". Existing stocks of the overprinted stamps will continue to be sold until they have been exhausted.

The words "Official—Offisieel" have not been overprinted on any of the denominations of the third definitive (animal) series.

A list of stamps and stamped stationery obtainable at the Philatelic Agency, c/o. Publicity Branch, G.P.O., Pretoria, accompanies this bulletin.

The following stamps and stamped stationery are on sale at the Philatelic Agency, Publicity Branch, G.P.O., Pretoria. Stamps of neighbouring territories or countries are not stocked.

STAMPS.

Postage Stamps (Animal Series): ½d., 1d., 1½d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 4½d., 6d., 1/-, 1/3, 1/6, 2/6, 5/- and 10/-. English and Afrikaans wording appears on each stamp.

The same denominations, in the old (pictorial) series, are also available, as long as stocks last.

Booklets of Postage Stamps (Pictorial Series): (a) Booklets containing twelve ½d., twelve 1d. and twelve 2d. stamps at 3/6 each. (b) Booklets containing four ½d., and four 1d. stamps at 6d. each.

Postage Due Stamps. ½d., 1d., 2d., 3d. and 6d. (The wording on each stamp is in English and Afrikaans and the cost of a complete set of single stamps is 1/0½d.

STAMPED STATIONERY.

Pictorial Postcards. (A series depicting 32 different South African views): Postcards, impressed with a 1½d. postage stamp. (Price per set of 32 cards 5s. 4d. (2d. each).

Inland Letter Cards. Letter cards impressed with a 1½d. stamp. (Price 2d. each).

Aerograms. Aerogram forms, impressed with 6d. postage stamp. (Price 6d. each).

Registered Envelopes. Linen-lined registered envelopes, measuring 6in. x 3¾in. and impressed on the flap with a 4d. stamp. (Price 7d. each).

ORDERS AND REMITTANCES.

Orders for stamps and stamped stationery should be addressed to the Philatelic Agency, c/o. Publicity Officer, G.P.O., Pretoria. Remittances, which must include an amount for return postage and registration fee, must be sent by means of post office money orders, bank drafts or British or Union postal orders. Cheques , foreign bank notes, foreign coin and foreign postal orders are **not** accepted.

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AFRICAN AIRMAILS

By MILTON F. STERN.

The earliest recorded airmail in Africa is that of the pigeon post system employed by the Mamelukes in Egypt from 1250 to 1517 to forward messages from Cairo to Damascus. There have been several pigeon mails in South Africa and Balloons were used in North and South Africa for military purposes only. In 1843 "Punch" pictured the earliest forecast of an Airmail Service in Africa.

On the 28th December 1909, the first aeroplane flight occurred in the Union and on the 1st February 1910 the first Aviation Meeting was held at Heliopolis near Cairo. Demonstrations of flying were now given in North Africa by the French Military authorities and in South Africa by such pioneers as Weston. On the 13th September 1911, mail was also carried by Bregi from Casablanca to Fez during a demonstration but it was the Union on the 27th December 1911, which staged the first official mail service between Kenilworth and Muizenberg. Two flights were made and cards flown, with E. F. Driver as the pilot of a Bleriot machine.

Little now occurred until the 9th January, 1914, when Marc Pourpe flew with mails from Cairo to Khartoum and return. And on the 18th May of the same year, Bruno Buckner in his Pfalz biplane flew official mails from Swakopmund to Windhoek. From 1914 to 1918 a tremendous improvement took place in the range and performance of aircraft but although mail was flown to troops serving in Mesopotamia, no regular service was organised. On the 8th November 1917, Major A. M. Miller, D.S.O., arrived in the Union and commenced his work in the development of civilian aviation in the Union.

On the 14th March 1918, the first postal service in Algeria to the Sahara was started by military planes and in October and November of that year, the "Our Day" Red Cross Aerial Post was conveyed at Cape Town and on the Rand. This was again only special cards. Long distance flights were now being attempted and one of the earliest was that of Capt. Ross Smith from Cairo to India on the 30th November 1918, with mails, followed by the first flight U.K. to India by Stuart McLaren on the 13th December. Emergency flights were made in 1919 in Egypt during strikes and mail carried by the R.A.F., as well as between Baghdad and Egypt.

Meanwhile reconnaissance flights were being made by the French between France and North Africa, these carrying mails, the first being on the 12th March, and establishing the first regular service 3rd September between Rabat and Toulouse and 5th December between Casablanca and Toulouse. During 1919 saw the formation of K.L.M. and in 1920 Sabena. Meanwhile Major Miller had returned to the Union, and formed the South African Aerial Transports. No support was given and the project failed.

It was in 1919 that the British Air Ministry surveyed the Cairo-Cape route and laid out a chain of 24 aerodromes on this route. Petrol supplies were available and, owing to support from General J. C. Smuts, the Van Ryneveld and Brand flight from London to Cape Town was made possible (4th February to 20th March, 1920). In 1920, on the 15th February, a further attempt was made by the Handley Page S.A. Transport Ltd., to set up a regular mail from Cape Town to the Rand. This failed after the crash of the first flight at Beaufort West (15th February).

Meanwhile the Compania Espanola de Trafico Aereo inaugurated a shortlived service from Seville to Larache (Spanish Morocco) on the 4th April 1920. The 15th February 1920 is another important date as S.N.E.T.A. (later Sabena) commenced trial flights in the Belgian Congo and on 1st July opened the first regular service in the African Continent; this is still in operation today, from Kinshasa (Leopoldville) to Gombe. This line was gradually developed along the Congo until Stanleyville was served.

Meanwhile from 1921, the R.A.F. had a regular service between Cairo and Baghdad and mails were accepted. An irregular service between Larache and Madrid was commenced by the Spanish on the 1st September 1922, and in that same year on the 6th October, the French regular service Oran-Fez-Casablanca was inaugurated and a commencement was made as far as Mogador on the 6th April of the future line, Casablanca-Dakar.

On the 1st April 1924, Imperial Airways came into being as a result of incorporation of a number of early British Companies, this company first developing flights on the continent. As a result of careful preparation the first French mails were conveyed in February and March to Dakar, with return via Timbuctu and Casablanca by Le Maitre and Arrachart and mail service opened with Tunis. A memorable flight was that made by Capt. Thieffry, who made the first mail connection between Brussels and Leopoldville on the 12th March 1925, in order to deliver a plane for the Congo services. Up to now the planes were sent by sea. No proper ground services were available over this route and it was perhaps one of the most remarkable achievements carried out.

The Union Government decided to inaugurate an Experimental Air Mail Service on the 2nd March 1925. Four airmail stamps were issued and service continued until the 15th June, the route being coastal, Cape Town to Durban (and return) via Oudtshoorn, Port Elizabeth and East London. The reliability and development of air transport was now fully proven.

1926 saw the Medacts flight from Brussels to Congo via Egypt and the Sudan (9 March) and the R.A.F. flight from Cairo-Kano (Nigeria) under Conningham, but an important event had and was taking place (16th Nov. 1925 to 7th February 1926) in the Imperial Airways Survey flight by Sir Alan Cobham from London—Cape.

On the 1st March 1926 the first R.A.F. Survey flight was made from Cairo—Cape. That year saw the birth of the Deutsche Lufthansa, incorporating two older companies and during September 1926 the Portuguese Company commenced operations to Cape Verde from Lisbon via Tangiers, and Lieut. de Vaisseau Bernard flew via the Congo to Madagascar. The future pattern of each Company's route was now being clearly demarcated.

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By the end of the year Mittelholzer (the Swiss airman and founder of Swissair) made his first flight Zurich—Cape Town (7th December). In 1926 Imperial Airways took over the Cairo—Baghdad line and extended this service to Basra 7th January 1927. This was the beginning of the Empire route to India and later to Singapore, Australia and the Far East. Meanwhile Capt. T. A. Gladstone was carrying out pioneer mail carrying between Kisumu —Jinga—Khartoum on the 12th Feb. 1927 and on the 10th March, mail was officially accepted over this route. The British transcontinental service was now opening. Unfortunately these flights ceased and had to await Imperial Airways service in 1931.

By the 20th May 1927, the Belgian Congo line now operated regularly from Kinshasha (Leopoldville) to Elizabethville. Numerous record flights were made from London to the Cape, the first solo flight being that of Lieut. R. R. Bentley 1st September 1927. Pan American Airways now appear on the stage in that on the 19th October 1927 the beginning was made of the future link with Africa namely the service to Havana, Cuba, this being the pioneer of U.S. International airmail and was the first U.S. external air service. Costes and Le Brix made the first non-stop flight from St. Louis to S. America 10th October 1927.

Cobham made another survey 1927/1928, this time with a flying boat around Africa. The Spanish Company now commenced a regular service 1st November 1928 to Tobruk and the Italian Company Societa Anonema Navigazione Aerea, from Rome to Tripoli. March 1928 saw the first combined air and sea service operated by the French between Buenos Aires and Paris via Dakar. Special flights in 1928 were those by Lady Bailey (the first woman to fly London—Cape), Lieut. P. Murdoch, and Lord Carbery (to Nairobi)).

In 1929 was the first occasion of conveyance of official mails in Rhodesia, Bulawayo to Salisbury by Capt. Mail during railway strikes in February and March and during March of that same year, mail was conveyed from Angola to Leopoldville by the Belgian Air Service. By the 15th April the Spanish Company was operating a regular service to Alexandria via Tobruk.

A special flight was made on the 16th August between Lourenco Marques and Inhambane with airmails. Meanwhile in Abyssinia interesting flights were made in Government planes connecting up Addis Abeba with Djibouti and on the 17th August 1929 air commemorative stamps were issued.

The 26th August 1929 saw the start of the first regular airmail service in the Union. Union Airways was formed by Major Miller and the route was Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, East London, Durban and Port Elizabeth, Bloemfontein, Germiston. Two air stamps were issued. In 1934 the Government took over the Company, under the name of South African Airways.

The German development of their South Atlantic service commenced with the first airmail from Seville to the Canaries on the 5th December, 1929. Meanwhile the French were developing by survey flights their future services to Madagascar and South America, chief of which were by Goulette and Mermoz. By the end of 1929 flights connected Addis Abeba with Dire Daua, Harrar and Djibouti. On the 5th October 1930 Capt. R. F. Caspareuthus, who was one of the South African pioneer airmail pilots, carried out his record flight from England to the Cape, capturing this from the Duchess of Bedford.

On the 27th November 1930, airmail activities commenced in Tanganyika and Francombe flew official mails between Dar-es-Salaam and Korogwe. On the 7th December 1930 Capts. Fabry and van der Linden flew from Brussels to Leopoldville. Meanwhile the French were carrying out sterling survey work in developing aviation in North Africa, French West Africa and French Equatorial Africa. From 1929 the Graf Zeppelin flights commenced to Africa, the first being to Egypt on the 24th March 1929, followed by the first South transatlantic flight on the 18th May 1930. Wilson Airways was founded in 1929 in East Africa and this sompany like Union Airways were civilian pioneers.

(To be continued.)

SHORT NOTICES.

Coliseum Philatelic Auctions. Mr. W. L. Freshwater, who is known to our readers as a contributor to and an advertiser in the "South African Philatelist", has started business as an auctioneer at 24 William IV Street, Strand, London W.C. 2, under the title "Coliseum Philatelic Auctions, Ltd." Auctions are to be fortnightly, catalogues sent for 10/- per annum or 30/- by airmail.

Xmas and New Year Greetings. Cards have been received , too late for acknowledgement last month, from Ramsay Stewart, Philately House, 41 Frederick St., Edinburgh; Central News Agency, Johannesburg; Australian Stamp Monthly; Stockholmia 55; H. R. Harmer, Inc., New York.

H. R. Harmer's 29th Annual Résumé. Covering the 1953-54 season this deals with the organisation's activities in London, New York and Sydney — auctions, private sales, etc. There is a listing of outstanding items sold, with numerous illustrations. For the season the turnover, including the Cairo Palace auction, reached the world record figure of £760,000. So who dare say philately is not flourishing?

B.P.A. and Sperati Reproductions. Now that the study of the "stamps" made by Sperati is complete, the B.P.A. will deface the cliches used by him. They obtained control of all the material to prevent existing stocks being used to defraud philatelists and to prevent any further copies from being produced. It has been established that Sperati did not use one of the processes normally associated with stamp production, but they consider it unwise to describe in detail the method he used.

"Locals". Leading dealers in both Britain and America are now coming down heavily on members of the trade who are encouraging the production and sale, and in some cases even financing the issues, of various "locals" such as Lundy and Herm islands, the South Moluccas, and some Eastern European "Governments in Exile". Discriminating collectors will be glad if their efforts are successful in eliminating these very speculative issues from the market.

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DOUANE (PTY.) LTD.

The latest howler from a "brains trust" member who deals with a questions and answers column in a prominent American philatelic paper is as follows:—

Q.: What does DOUANE mean on Union of South Africa stamps?

A: The name of a large commercial house — just as you'd find "Harrods Limited" on Great Britain —a huge department store in London.

INDIA.

On 20th January there were issued a set of 18 stamps to be called the Five Year Plan series. They range from 3 pies to 10 rupees in value, and feature many of the activities taking, or about to take place throughout the country.

Stamps and postal stationery issued prior to 15 August, 1947 have now been demonetised. Thanks to the Asiatic Hobbies News Service for this information.

NETHERLANDS AND COLONIES.

On the 15th December on the occasion of the solemn ratification by H.M. the Queen of the "Statute for the Kingdom" a special stamp was issued with the heading "Statuut Voor Het Koninkrijk." Round the oval with the Queen's Head is the legend "Nederland . Nederlandse . Antillen . Suriname .," these names being arranged so that the name of the country of issue is always at the top.

For the Netherlands the stamp is a 10c. one in red, for the Antilles a 7½c. olive green, and for Suriname a 7½c. purple.

FRANCE.

Two stamps were put on issue on 18 December, with the surcharges for the benefit of the French Red Cross Society. They were a 12 fr. plus 3 fr. with reproduction of a picture by E. Carrière and a 15 fr. plus 5 fr. with one by J. B. Greuze.

One of the great rarities of France, a quadrisect of the 80c. rose of 1870 used on cover for a 20c. postage, was recently sold by H. R. Harmer Inc., New York.

AUSTRALIA.

The P.M.G. announces the issue on 23 February of a 3½d. stamp commemorating the founding of Rotary International on that date 50 years ago in Chicago. The design will incorporate the Rotary badge superimposed on a globe of the world.

The official Philatelic Bulletin of Oct., 1954 has, inter alia, an interesting article on the Development and Use of Franking Machines in Australia.

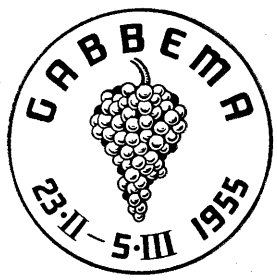
CENTRAL AFRICAN FEDERATION.

With reference to the note in our last issue about demonetisation of the stamps of the Rhodesias and Nyasaland as from 31-12-54, the Robertson Stamp Co. inform us of a new Notice by the Postal Authorities extending the period of validity to 30-6-55. Incidentally, the administration does **not** exchange stamps about to be made invalid for valid stamps, a practice probably unique in the British Commonwealth.

PAARL EXHIBITION.

As already announced a Philatelic Exhibition is being staged at Paarl in connection with the Vintage Festival being held on 23 February—5 March.

There will be a special post office and cancellation but it will not be Berg River Valley as originally planned. The postmark will be "Gabbema" as shown in the accompanying illustration. **Abram Gabbema** may be called the godfather of Paarl; he was the leader of an expedition exploring the hinterland of Cape Town by order of J. van Riebeeck. When the party reached the neighbourhood of what is now Paarl, he was struck by the similarity of the shiny particles in the rock (? mica) to pearls, hence the name given to the locality.



GOLD COAST

Did you know there is a Gold Coast stamp as rare as the British Guiana 1c. magenta? The "Philatelic Magazine" of 19th November has a short article on it. It is the stamp listed by S.G. as No. 8a, a provisional 1d. surcharged on 4d. magenta, 1883. One used copy is known in the Tapling collection; there was another in the Ferrari collection, but its whereabouts today are not known. The stamp was first illustrated in the recent famous "Life" magazine.

HERM

The recent appearance of a set of 12 triangular stamps from this island raises the question of their status. It may be that "locals" are legitimate to cover cost of transmission to Guernsey (none being provided by the British post office), but it is becoming clear from the numbers of them and frequency of new issues that their production has developed into an extensive racket. According to 'Stamp Collecting" an American firm of stamp dealers is behind this. Well, if American collectors like bogus and unnecessary issues, they are welcome to them. To others we would say "just know what you are collecting."

SWAZILAND

The Crown Agents report that a printing of most values was released in October. Few of the values have shades much different from others that have appeared before, with the exception of the 10/- which is of a deeper sepia.

Despite the information we have already chronicled that the St. Edward's Crown Wmk. error had not been found in stamps locally, it is reported in Gibbons' Stamp Monthly that it has been found in the 1d. Postage Due in England.

PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF G.B.

Congress Meeting this year will be held in Norwich, 17-20 May.

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BRITISH COLONIAL PICTORIALS

By MICHAEL MOORE.

The stamps of the British colonies are now mostly pictorials depicting the activities of the various colonies, their fauna and flora. The majority of the modern stamps are pictorials, and pictorial stamps are certainly the fashion throughout the world. South Africa has also entered into this scramble to issue pictorials with a set featuring some of her wild animals, with, perhaps, birds and flowers to follow. Even Great Britain, which has maintained an extremely conservative policy in the philatelic world, issuel her first defiitice pictorials quite recently, depicting the "Victory" and the White Cliffs of Dover.

The head of the reigning sovereign was, for the British colonial stamps, the usual and most common design until the reign of King George V; although pictorials had been issued as early as the 1850's. A beaver was the subject of the 3d. red issued by Canada in 1851; the famous "Sydney Views" were issued by New South Wales in 1853. These were, however, the exception rather than the rule.

In 1897 the first pictorial stamp, similar in design to the present colonial pictorials, a portrait of the sovereign in one of the corners with some other subject as the main design was issued; it was the 1d. green and brown charity stamp issued by New South Wales. In the top right hand corner was a small portrait of Queen Victoria, and the main design was an angel kneeling beside a consumptive woman. In 1903 two definite sets of this type of design were issued. One by the Orange Free State, featuring a Springbok and a Gnu beneath the head of King Edward VII(and, in the same year a set was issued by St. Helena, featuring the king's head, the Wharf on some values and Government House on others.

During the Victorian and Edwardian era some straightforward pictorials were issued, such as the Dominican definitives of 1903 depicting a view of Dominica from the sea; and the ½d. value issued by Malta in 1901 depicting Valletta Harbour. Two years previously Malta had issued two definite pictorials, one featuring a Goza fishing boat and the other an ancient Maltese galley.

It was during the reign of George V that the modern type of pictorial was first issued by most of the colonies. The Sierra Leone definitives issued in 1932 depicted beneath a portrait of the king a rice field; Palms and a Kola tree were featured on the higher values. The definitives issued by the Falkland Islands in 1929 depicted a whale, penguins and a portrait of the king. The portrait of the king was still at this time the predominant feature.

The Nigerian set issued in 1936, which featured various scenes connected with Nigeria, the timber industry, a Habe Minaret and various other designs, made the pictorial element dominant. This feature was used throughout the reign of king George VI, with some exceptions, such as in the case of Northern Rhodesia, which was the same design as the George V set. But almost all the other colonies, Nyasaland, Trinidad and Tobago, Gilbert and Ellice Islands and others gave less than a quarter of the space. During the reign of George VI the frame around the king's head became simpler. During the George VI reign almost all the pictorials incuded the Royal portrait. During the reign of George V some colonies such as the Falkland Islands and Cyprus issued straightforward sets. Some of the straightforward stamps of the George VI reign were the twelve definitives by Aden in 1937. and the 2d. definitive issued by Bermuda in 1936.

By this time almost every colony was using pictorials; and some which issued the key-plate design type, such as Mauritius, changed during the reign to pictorials. Leeward Islands, however, issued the key-plate design throughout the reign and the new Queen Elizabeth stamps for the colony are also key-plate designs.

In most cases the Elizabethan are almost exactly the same as the George VI pictorials; with only the Royal portrait, colours and values altered, such as the new sets for Mauritius and Montserrat. The designs for the new Queen Elizabeth set for Nigeria are, however, quite revolutionary. Apart from the unusual type of design, the Royal portrait is in some cases omitted, as was done very much earlier; the Royal portrait being included in almost every George VI pictorial.

Pictorial stamps will probably be issued as long as stamps are issued. This is as long as genuine stamps are issued; not "pretty pictures" that are sold at an agency in London, but real stamps that "see," sometime in their lives, the inside of a post office.

ST. EDWARD'S CROWN.

This type of crown, famous philatelically because of being present on certain stamps by mistake, is to become the standard type on British and British Colonial stamps. Keep your eyes open for new Q.E. issues with this change of watermark.

U.S.A.

Four commemoratives are scheduled for 1955, the quartet being for (a) 150th Anniversary of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts; (b) First Land Grant Colleges; (c) 50th Anniversary of Rotary International, and (d) Soo Locks Centenary.

LUDERITZ PAQUEBOT.

We have recently seen a paquebot mark from Luderitz, S.W.A. which is new so far as recording it goes. It is a double circle mark (33 and 20 mm. circles) with LUDERITZ/PAQUEBOT between the circles in 3 mm. high letters. Date in one line across the centre. This mark actually came into use about a year ago.

OBITUARY.

(From the Pretoria Society's January News Letter). It is with the deepest regret that we have to record the demise of Major C. R. van Blommenstein which took place last month. Although not a member of our Society at the time, he was actively associated with it for many years and served on its Executive until 1950, the last two years in the capacity of Vice-President. Members' sympathies are sincerely expressed to his widow and doughter.

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VOLUME II (Supplement)
PUBLICATION DATE APRIL/MAY, 1955

Handbook / Catalogue of Union of South Africa Stamps

SPECIAL PRE-PUBLICATION OFFER !

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This Special Offer expires 28th February 1955 for Union of S.A.
20th March 1955 for Overseas.

Volume II (Supplement) is the companion volume to the 1952 Handbook/Catalogue. The 1952 Pricing has been revised and there are numerous price changes. All information has been brought right up to date.

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REMITTANCES must accompany all Orders.

Order from THE SECRETARY,
Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa,
P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

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ANGLO-BOER WAR CENSOR MARKS & LABELS

By J. D. ROSSOUW and J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

(Continued from page 7 of January issue.)

PRISONER OF WAR CAMP CENSOR MARKS.

Place	Shape	Size	Colour	Wording, etc.	Dates of Use.
AHMEDNAGAR, INDIA	Double circle	30	Violet	Prisoner of War Camp Ahmednagar. W. Harris in centre.	17/5/1902 & 6/6/1902
AHMEDNAGAR, INDIA	Donble oval Inner oval wavy	48 x 30	Violet	Prisoners of War Camp Ahmednagar. C. E. Nixon B.A. or B. P. O'Dowd in centre.	14/8/1901. 15/2/1902.
AHMEDNAGAR, INDIA	Fancy design	35 x 40	Violet	Prisoner of War Camp Amendnagar. B.P.O.D. inside.	24/4/1902.
BELLARY, INDIA	Double border oval	52 x 31	Violet	Censor's office/Signature/ Bellary. Dated.	18/11/1901 & 3/3/1902.
BELLARY, INDIA	Rectangle. Corners rounded	45 x 32	Violet	Three lines. Last line "Boer Camp". Signed.	9/5/1901.
BELLE VUE, SIMONS-TOWN	Circle double border	24	Violet	Prisoner of War Camp. Name in centre.	Dec. 1900 to May, 1902.
BELLE VUE, SIMONS, TOWN	Circle double border	31	Violet	Prisoner of War Camp. Name in centre.	24/6/1902.
BERMUDA	Double circle	24	Blue, Violet,	Prisoner of War Camp. Bermuda, Passed Censor in centre.	7/6/1902.
BERMUDA	Circle double border	28	Blue Violet Black	Prisoner of War Camp. Bermuda. Passed censor 2 in centre.	2/6/1902.
BERMUDA	Inverted triangle	44 x 27	Violet	Prisoner of War Camp. Bermuda. Passed censor 3 in centre.	19/4/1902.
BERMUDA	Rectangle Concave corners	44 x 20	Violet	Prisoner of War Camp. Bermuda. Passed censor 4 in centre.	8/4/1902.
BERMUDA	Rectangle Concave corners	44 x 20	Violet	No camp number.	22/4/1902. 11/7/1902.
BROAD BOTTOM (ST. HELENA)	Circle	30	Violet	Prisoner of War/Broadbottom Camp/Censor. Place for Signature in centre.	11/10/1901.
BROAD BOTTOM	Circle double border	24	Blue, red, violet	Censor Prisoner of War. Initialled or signed in centre. No place name.	6/7/1900. 26/4/1902.

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Place	Shape	Size	Colour	Wording, etc.	Dates of Use.
CAPE TOWN (Prisoners en route)	Rectangle	55 x 29	Violet	Censor, Prisoners of War, L. Heyman Lt.-Col. (fac. signature).	30/4/1900.
CAPE TOWN (Prisoners en route)	Rectangle	75 x 18	Black	L. Heyman, Lt.-Col. (signature).	
DAGSHAI & SOLON (INDIA)	Folded riband	60 x 25	Violet	Passed Censor. R. W. van der Hoven Dagshai and Solon.	28/5/1902.
DEAD WOOD (ST. HELENA)	Double triangle	50 x 30	Violet	Passed by Censor. Deadwood.	24/11/1901.
DIYATALAWA, CEYLON	Double oval	34 x 22	Violet	Passed Censor. P.O.W. Initials in centre. O.H. or E.J.B. or F.R.N.F.	12/9/1901, 23/10/1901 22/3/1902.
DIYATALAWA, CEYLON	Double oval	35 x 22	Violet	Passed by Censor P.O.W. K.A.R.N.	4/7/1902.
DIYATALAWA, CEYLON	Double oval	35 x 20	Violet	Passed Censor. P.O.W. A.C.	7/6/1902.
DIYATALAWA, CEYLON	Oval double border	62 x 35	Violet	Diyatalawa Camp. Passed Censor. Space for signature in centre.	Feb., Mar., 1901.
FORT GOVINDGARH, INDIA	Double oval	50 x 30	Violet	Passed Censor Boer P.O.W. Enclosure Fort Govindgarh. Dated.	2/6/1902.
GREEN POINT	Double border circle	24	Violet, Red, Blue	Censor Prisoner of War. No Name of place.	May, 1900. Oct., 1901.
GREEN POINT	Double border circle	24	Violet, Red.	Censor. Prisoner of War, Green Point.	Jan., 1901 Jan., 1902.
HAMBANTOTA, CEYLON	Double oval	37 x 24	Violet	P.O.W. Hambantota. Passed Censor.	3/4/1902.
KAITY, INDIA	Rectangle, concave corners	55 x 27	Violet	Examined A. Grant (Facsimile signature) Boer Camp Kaity	
LADYSMITH	Double circle	25	Violet	Prisoners of War Ladysmith between circles. Passed censor in centre.	24/12/1901.
LADYSMITH	Double border rectangle	52 x 32	Red	Staff Officer for Prisoners of War. Signed Censor. Dated.	6/3/1901.
LADYSMITH	Single triangle	32 x 21	Violet	Passed Censor P. of W.	27/3/1901.
LADYSMITH	Oval double border	44 x 30	Violet	Staff Officer. Prisoners of War Ladysmith dated.	7/3/1901.
LADYSMITH	Double triangle	25 x 31	Violet	Passed Censor. Prisoners of War. No name of place.	July & Aug., 1901.
LADYSMITH	Square	32 x 30	Violet	P. of W. Passed S.O.P. Natal Censor.	September 1900. April, 1901.
NILGIRI, INDIA	Double circle, double border	24	Violet	Boer Camp in centre.	10/4/1902.
PRETORIA	Rectangle	50 x 25		Censor Prisoner of War. L. Heyman. Lt. Col.	
RAGAMA, CEYLON	Double border oval	62 x 34	Violet	Ragama Camp Passed Censor	June, Sept., 1901.
ST. HELENA	Double triangle	50 x 30	Violet	Passed by Censor. Head Office. St. Helena in centre.	5/7/1902.
SATARA, INDIA	Fancy squared circle	35	Violet	W.D.A. Censored Satara.	22/4/1902.

(To be continued.)

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WANTED. Postmarks, especially Rubber stamp cachets, on cover, card or piece, of occupation period German-South-West Africa 1914-1923, including early Walvis Bay postmarks. Also, of the Holy Land prior to 1916. L. SIMENHOFF, P.O. Box 2195, Cape Town.

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WANTED URGENTLY, Common Southern African stamps, current, obsolete, on or off paper. Any quantity. State quantities available and price wanted. — SPRINGBOK STAMPS, Box 82, Klerksdorp.

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SWAZILAND WANTED: S.G. 28, 29a, 30b, 31, 32, 32b, 33, 34, 34a, 35, 36a, 36b, 37a, 37b, 38a.—D. LAMONT SMITH, P.O. Box 1152, Johannesburg.

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THE 2d. KING'S HEAD

By T. B. BERRY.

In 1926 certain stamps of the Union of South Africa were overprinted OFFICIAL/OFFISIEEL for use by Government Departments on their official correspondence. These stamps, commonly known as "Official Stamps", came into use on the 1st December, 1926, in accordance with Treasury Letter No. 14/410, dated 7th October 1926, which reads as follows:

"It has been decided to issue in future, stamps for official postage, overprinted OFFICIAL/OFFISIEEL. The stamps will be brought into use on the 1st December next, and requisitions for supplies should be transmitted to the Controller of Stores, G.P.O., Pretoria, not later than the 15th proximo. The overprinted denominations are ½d., 1d., 2d. and 6d."

The overprint was applied at the Government Printing Works, Pretoria, and notwithstanding the fact that stamps of four values were overprinted to comprise the issue, the overprinted stamps are not set out in their correct order in catalogues listing the official stamps of the Union. The 2d. stamp is listed first and is followed by the ½d., 1d. and 6d. values. This arrangement is misleading, for catalogued in this manner, the reader may gain the impression that the 2d. King's Head stamp was a distinct issue and the first of the Union's Official Stamps.

Further, the overprint applied to the 2d. King's Head stamp is generally catalogued as being in two types of ink — "dull" and "shiny". The "shiny" overprinted stamp is shown as a variety of, and is priced above, the item overprinted in "dull" ink.'

When discussing the overprint of this stamp with Mr. S. J. Hagger of Alberton, he expressed the opinion that due to the similarity of the overprint and the nature of the ink, he suspected that the 2d. stamp bearing the "shiny" ink overprint was overprinted at the same time as the ½d., 1d. and 6d. values of the London Pictorial Stamps, and consequently belongs to this group, while the 2d. value bearing the "dull" overprint pertains in a similar manner to the Pretoria Pictorial Series. On closer investigation of the material in my collection, and that of other collections kindly made available I am happy to state that this is the case.

The nature of the overprint, the flaws of the overprint, and their sheet positions bear out the indisputable fact that the 2d. King's Head Official Stamp bearing the "dull' overprint was overprinted with the same overprint setting and at the same time as the ½d., 1d. and 6d. values of the Pretoria Pictorials. This stamp should therefore be grouped with this series, and be inserted in Group II of the Official Stamps of the Union of South Africa as catalogued in the Union Handbook.

The discrimination between the two types of overprint of the 2d. King's Head Official Stamp thus determines two distinct issues of this value. This has not been recognised previously and is uncatalogued as such.

PHILIPPINES.

The Bureau of Posts reports the issue on Dec. 30, 1954 of a 5c. stamp commemorating the Marian Year. It features Murillo's painting of the Immaculate Conception.

CORRESPONDENCE

JUDGING THEMATIC SHOWINGS

Editor,
South African Philatelist.

Sir, — Margaret Beth Cuthbertson's discussion of this subject in the South African Philatelist of October 1954 gives occasion to correct some misapprehensions. As an article by me in "Topical Time" is taken as the text, perhaps I am in order in making further comments.

First of all, at least in these parts, we do not have what Mrs. Cuthbertson calls the type of collecting in which a "theme is illustrated by stamps and the stamps are purely pictorial." Any comment on the report I made on what judging or scoring basis is in use, and its possible bearing on this type of collecting must thus be ruled out, since such collecting does not come within the purview of any scoring basis mentioned by me.

Mrs. Cuthbertson talks in terms of "penalizing" the collector. In so stating, I consider that she has mistaken the bearing and purport of the various categories. I do not know how the score stamp shows in your country. But here we score exhibits on the basis of what is present. These extra catgories, such as "research" give opportunity to raise the score of a really topnotch, first rate exhibit. Nine out of ten exhibits fail to get any points from them, as might be expected. This fact makes these categories the more useful in discovering and in marking off by a notably larger point-score the really good ones.

I was at the Topical Convention in Dayton, Ohio, which Mrs. Cuthbertson refers to in her article, during June 1954. I was not a judge; nor yet a top prize-winner. But I did talk to almost everyone about the awards. I can assure Mrs. Cuthbertson that I have never seen at any stamp exhibition at which there was more general agreement among all who competed that the judging had been scrupulously fair to their showings. I cannot recall even one person, even those known to be chronic complainers, who found the slightest fault with any award. And, because favourable chance later enabled me to discuss the show with those who had judged it, I know that the judges stuck with the most meticulous care to the announced judging basis.

Finally, we in these parts speak of "Completeness and Rarity" as a category only to emphasize that we consider "Rarity" as strictly incidental to completeness of coverage of the topical field chosen.

We here do agree fully, wholeheartedly with Mrs. Cuthbertson that a showing must be judged on what is shown, not on "what ought to be shown, or "what might be shown." That is taken as axiomatic.

STEPHEN G. RICH.

BASUTOLAND.

The "Stamp Collector's Fortnightly" records a prominent variety in the new Q.E. 10/-. It is a "V" lying sideways attached to the back of the man shearing a sheep. It is constant, though the writer does not know the position on the sheet; he regards it as likely to be the subject of retouching soon.

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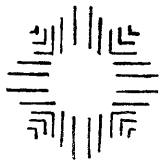
BASUTOLAND: AN EARLY COVER.

By Commander F. W. Collins, R.N. (Retired).

A cover bearing a Cape of Good Hope 4d. (S.G. 30) and despatched from MASERU on December 10th, 1878, has recently been sold at a provincial auction in England.

On page 32 of the February, 1954, issue of the South African Philatelist, Mr. G. N. Gilbert's comprehensive paper on Basutoland Post History tells us that stamps had to be affixed to internal letters from July 1st, 1877. Mr. Gilbert also states (S.A.P. April '54) that the single ring Maseru date-stamp (his Type 1) was issued from 1880 and possibly before. The Maseru oval barred killer, No. 281, was evidently issued in the early '80's.

The cover now being described has the Type 1 Maseru c.d.s. of DE 10, (18)78. The stamp is cancelled, and well tied, with an unrecorded killer of thin bars shaped like a star, thus: The size is 19½ mm. x 19½ mm. and the centre is apparently void. The outlines are clear but the strike is not a strong one.



The letter is addressed to Mr. Isaac Sharp, Moriga (note spelling) and has been re-directed to Thabana Morina. On receipt at Moriga, where it was re-addressed, it could not apparently be returned along the post route whence it had come, presumably there was no post office at Moriga, but it continued on its way to Aliwal North, where it received the circular date stamp (Jurgens Type 28) of December 14th, 1878. At Aliwal North it could be put into the north-bound mail and sent back on the way it had come, as is shown by the c.d.s. of Mafeteng (Gilbert Type 1) (DE) 19, (18)78.

A further point of interest is the 4d. postal charge. The envelope does not look as if it had a very thick enclosure, but if over ½ oz. a charge of 2d. per ½ oz., as Mr. Gilbert records for 1884, would have been in force in 1878.

(This killer appears to be a hitherto unrecorded type, not only for Basutoland, but for the whole of South Africa. It is reminiscent of, but not identical, with the type brought into use in Griqualand West in 1872 and figured by Jurgens in his "Handstruck Letter Stamps and Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope", p. 100, Fig. 304. Incidentally Cdr. Collins in a letter accompanying his note says that the lines of the killer should be thicker than his drawing shows, some of them twice as thick, or in some cases at least half as thick again.—Ed.)

EIRE

Mr. A. J. Southway of Beaconsfield C.P. reports having received the following information from Eire: "A new Philatelic Department has been opened at our G.P.O. It sells at face value specimens of every stamp ever issued by our government; all or any of these stamps may be used for prepayment of postage. This will hit the stamp dealers."

Two new denominations of Air Mail Stamps were due for issue on 13 December. Values 8d. and 1s. 3d. Designs same as present 1d. and 3d.

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R20 S.G. 58a	5	0	0
Mauritius 1891 2c. S.G. 121b	3	0	0
1913/23 R.5 S.G. 203a	2	10	0
R10 S.G. 204b	2	10	0
1921/34 R.1 S.G. 220a Plate block of 4 (scarce)	5	0	0
Natal 1902/03 £10 and £20 S.G. 145 and 145a overprinted specimen	15	0	0
Niger Coast 1893 Half Penny on 2½d. S.G. 11	4	0	0
Rhodesia 1909 £1 S.G. 113b, fine used	4	0	0
1913/22 £1 S.G. 343	4	15	0
1922/25 1d. S.G. 286	2	10	0
Seychelles 1901 3c. on 16c. S.G. 44f ("3 cents" omitted) in pair with normal	24	0	0
1901 30c. on 75c. and 30c. on R.1. S.G. 50 and 51 in pair with S.G. 46 and 47 respectively	3	15	0
Sierra Leone 1897 2½d. on 1/- S.G. 66 with variety "Broken foot 2"	2	17	6
1907/10 £1 S.G. 111 fine used	5	10	0
S. Nigeria 1904/08 £1 S.G. 30	6	15	0
S. Rhodesia 1931/37 1/- S.G. 23b	7	10	0
S.W. Africa The Hunter Penrose S. Africa Essay overprinted "S.W.A."	5	0	0
1923 1d. S.G. 2a	5	10	0
1/3 S.G. 8a	6	0	0

All mint except as stated.

B. J. HUNTER

79 Marine Parade, Brighton 7, Sussex.

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1952, Van Riebeek, First Day Cover	2/6
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1953, Cape Triangular, Com. F.D.C.	1/6
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Great Britain, 1953, Coronation First Day Cover 6/–

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G. J. de Swardt

P.O. Box 281,
PRETORIA.

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SWAZILAND—POSTAL HISTORY and STAMPS

By
J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

(Continued from page 12 of January issue.)

CHAPTER 8.

STAGE 9 OF THE POSTAL HISTORY— 1937-1953

KING GEORGE VI STAMPS.

CORONATION ISSUE.

This appeared on 12 May, 1937 and was of the type generally used throughout the British colonial issues, i.e. shewing the heads of both their Majesties, King George and Queen Elizabeth. The stamps were three in number, 1d. carmine, 2d. yellow-brown and 3d. blue; they were recess printed by Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. on paper watermarked Mult. Script C A and perf. 11 x 12.

"Specimen' stamps have the word perforated in the same horseshoe shape as the Jubilee issue of 1933.

There are no noticeable shades or varieties to be recorded. They were invalidated for postal use as from 31st August, 1953.

REGULAR ISSUE.

This appeared on 1 April, 1938. It was recess printed in sheets of 60 (10 x 6) by Messrs. De Le Rue & Co. on Mult. Script C A watermarked paper and perf. 13½ x 13.

'Specimen' stamps have the word perforated in semi-circular shape.

The Design.

In general this is the same as that of the K.G. V stamps, but with the customary reversal of the direction faced by the King's Heads. There is, however, one noteworthy difference; the stamps of K.G. V were inscribed "Swaziland /Protectorate", those of K.G. VI only "Swaziland." The dropping of the word 'Protectorate', it need hardly be said, does not imply that there was an actual change in the status of the territory. (See p. 235 of the Dec., 1954 issue).

I have one Die Proof of this issue, viz., of the 2/6 value on thin white card, in (approximately) the colour in which it was issued. Die Proofs of British Colonials of the K.G. VI period are very scarce.





A curious little feature in design which appears to have escaped general notice is the character of the letter "W" in 'Swaziland', a feature present in both the K.G. V and the K.G. VI stamps, although more obvious in the latter as the lettering is larger. Usually a "W" has the downstrokes heavy and the up-strokes light (unless in a fount of type where they are of equal thickness—e.g. the Swaziland Postage Dues) but on the Swaziland ordinary stamps the "W's" have light downstrokes and heavy upstrokes.

Denominations. These are the same as in the case of the K.G. V stamps, with an additional 1½d. value which was required for the basic postal letter rate of the period.

Colour and shades.

The basic colours (at any rate so far as the first printing is concerned) are generally listed as being the same as those of the K.G. V issue, except that the 3d. is ultramarine instead of blue. The additional 1½d. is a light blue.

In contradistinction to the K.G. V stamps where shades are conspicuously few, the K.G. VI stamps shew a considerable range of them.

I have not attempted to correlate shades with different printings or dates of issue. Practically all my material was obtained directly from Swaziland and I am pretty certain that some printings (judging by the shades of them which have been described) never reached Swaziland itself but were completely sold out in London on release by the Crown Agents. In any case the dates of release in London and those of the particular printing going on sale in Swaziland are two different things; the latter might be months or even years later than the former.

I can give one or two examples of this — they actually apply to perforation differences, which are more easily checked up on, but of course the same thing can apply to shades: Sending for a set in April, 1949, I found them all of the later 13½ x 14 perf. except the 3d. which was of the original 13½ x 13 perf. In 1951 both the 1d. and the 1½d. were on sale in the original 13½ x 13 perf., although admittedly those with the later 13½ x 14 perf. had been obtainable earlier.

A good chart of all the printings, 1938-1951, with the respective colours or shades is given by W. J. W. Potter in **Stamp Collecting** of 3-3-51, p. 759.

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The ½d., 1d., 1½d. and 2d. all show a fair range of shades or depth of colour, although none perhaps worthy of separate listing, except possibly the ½d. of the Feb., 1950 printing, described as being of a bright olive-green colour (I never saw this actually on sale from Swaziland), and the 2d. which has been described as brown, yellow-brown and fawn.

The 3d. falls into at least two distinct groups, each with some range of shades or depths of colouring, viz., ultramarine and deep blue. Possibly a third group, violet blue, might also be recognised.

The 4d. has slight variations in depth of colouring.

The 6d. is the most variable of the series and shades listed in various catalogues include bright purple, purple, mauve, magenta, mauve-red and mauve-purple.

The 1/- I think might well be divided into olive and brown-olive shades.

The 2/6 varies somewhat in the brightness of its violet.

The 5/- occurs definitely in shades of grey and in slate. The latter is a scarce item, from the first printing with 13½ x 14 perf. in Jan., 1943.

The 10/- originally had an olive tone in its sepia, later it is more a true sepia.

Perforations.

Stanley Gibbons note about the perforations that they vary slightly from stamp to stamp but the average measurements are 13.3 x 13.2 comb (listed as 13½ x 13); 14.2 line (listed as 14); and 13.3 x 13.8 comb (listed as 13½ x 14).

The original issue in 1938 was all 13½ x 13. The general change over to 13½ x 14 occurred in 1943, although in the case of the 3d. and 5/- not till 1944.

Only the 1½d. occurs in the 14 line perforation, a printing in 1942. The paper of the original 13½ x 13 of this value is slightly tinted and opaque, that of the 13½ x 14 printings is more transparent, while the 14 line perforated stamps apear to be on a paper intermediate in character.

The sheets of this line perforated printing (or at any rate, some of them) show a missing perforation hole in the top, bottom and right-hand margins, but not on the left-hand margin.

"Inverted Perforations."

As stated above, the original perforation listed by Gibbons as 13½ x 13 is described by them as "varying slightly from stamp to stamp". Actually, so far as I can make out from careful examination of a large number of specimens, it is practically constant from stamp to stamp, but there is definitely a variation in measurement in the perforations of each individual stamp, especially in the vertical perforations. This is just perceptible to the naked eye but it is rendered quite clear by the occurrence of what may be called "inverted perforations".

These I have noted only in the 1d. and 2d. values and they presumably come from sheets which have gone through the perforating machine upside down relative to the majority of sheets.

Take a number of 1d. and 2d. stamps and fit them together vertically; although they all have the same number of holes and teeth, you will probably find some which fit accurately at both ends but do not fit in the centre. Turn one of the "misfits" upside down, however, and you will find there is a perfect fit along the whole length.

Plate Numbers.

As in the case of the K.G. V stamps the Plate numbers are printed in the colours of the stamps on the bottom sheet margin under the penultimate stamp, except in the case of the 2d. and the 10/- where it is under the 2nd stamp. Only plate 1 occurs. There is marked variation in the size of the figures '1' on the different values; the 1d. is noteworthy in that the figure is reversed throughout all printings and the '1' on the 6d. sheet has no serif either at top or bottom. The printer's inscription "Thomas De La Rue & Company, Limited, London" is also on the bottom margin of the sheets.

VICTORY ISSUE

3-XII-45. Basic stamps printed by rotogravure by the Union Government Printer, Pretoria on paper with multiple Springbok head watermark and perf. 14.

For this issue the Union Victory set (in Afrikaans and English pairs) was overprinted "Swaziland". Three denominations: 1d., brown and carmine, symbolic of Victory; 2d., slate-blue and violet, symbolic of Peace; and 3d., deep blue, symbolic of Hope.

There are some minor printing flaws in the basic stamps, but a noteworthy variety is to be found in the 1d., viz, the so-called "aniline" with the carmine colour showing through at the back. No overprint varieties have been reported.

The numbers supplied so overprinted have been given by the Union Postal Authorities as: 1d., 11,599; 2d., 11,699 and 3d., 10,999.

These stamps were demonetised as from 31st August, 1953.

ROYAL VISIT ISSUE.

17 February, 1947. Recess printing by Waterlow & Sons on paper with Mult. Script C A watermark and perf. 12½.

Four denominations: 1d. scarlet, upright format with bust of H.M. The King in naval uniform; the others in horizontal format, 2d. green with portraits of the King and Queen; 3d. ultramarine with portraits of the two Royal Princesses; and 1/- mauve with the whole Royal Family. Similar issues were made in Basutoland and Bechuanaland.

'Specimen' stamps have the word perforated in a straight line.

Sheets show the printers' inscription in the centre of the bottom margin and the plate numbers (all 1) under the penultimate stamp. There are guide marks in the centre of the sheet and between the two centre stamps on each of the four sides. All marks, etc. in the same colours as the stamps.

Official commemorative envelopes of foolscap size were printed with a Crown, the words 'Royal Visit 1947' and small portraits of the four members of the Royal Family in the top left corner in blue. These were also on issue in Basutoland and Bechuanaland. Left over stocks later on had 'On His Majesty's Service' printed on them for official Government use.

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A special postmark (See p. 214 of issue of Nov., 1954) was applied at Mbabane on the date of the actual Royal Visit into Swaziland territory, 23-III-47.

The set was invalidated for postal use as from 31st August, 1953.

ROYAL SILVER WEDDING ISSUE.

1st Dec., 1948. Two stamps of upright format with portraits of Their Majesties, the design being that common to all British Colonies. Denominations 1½d. ultramarine and 10/- purple-brown.

Recess printed by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. on paper with Mult. Script C A watermark, the 1½d. perf. 14 x 15, the 10/- perf. 11½ x 11.

Special envelopes were issued with Crown, small portraits of Their Majesties, and "Their Majesties'/Silver Wedding/April 26th 1948" on the top left, and "High Commission Territory" on the bottom left.

U.P.U. 75th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE.

10th Oct., 1949. 4 stamps of the designs common to all Brit. Colonies. 1½d., light blue, featuring Hermes, globe and forms of transport; 3d. indigo, featuring hemispheres, aeroplanes and steamer; 6d., claret, with Hermes and globe; and 1/- olive with U.P.U. monument.

All stamps on paper watermarked Mult. Script C A. The 1½d. and 1/- recess printed by Waterlow & Sons and perf. 13½ x 14; the 3d. and 6d. printed by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co., the design recess, the name typo.

Plate Numbers. I have the 1½, 3d. and 1/- with No. 1 and the 6d. with No. 2, but have not been able to ascertain if there are other plate numbers.

(To be continued.)

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SOME RECENT AUCTION PRICES.

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New Guinea, £5 1935, mint block of 4, £75.
Sweden, 20ö 1872-77 Error "Tretio Ore", £125.
Tristan da Cunha, complete mint sheet of "4 Potatoes" Essay, £30.
Cameroons, 2½d. on 25p., double surcharge, £42.
German New Guinea, 3s on 3m., £28.
Marshall Is., 3s. on 3m., £32.
Togo, Anglo-French occupation, 2m., £75.
Hong Kong 5c. Jubilee with double flagstaff, £3.
S.W.A. 4d. air op't. inverted (pair), £3 10s.
S. Africa 9d. Air imperf. between stamp and margin (pair), £9 10s.

H. R. Harmer:

Malta, 1928 1/6 imperf. between (3), £44.
Do., 1885 1/- imperf., £38.
Bahamas 1942 Landfall 4d. with 'COIUMBUS' error, £5 15s.
U.P.U., British Commonwealth set, almost complete, £9 9s.
Cayman Is., 1½d. on 2½d. (S.G. 55), £9 9s.
Grenada, 10/- (S.G. 163c), £16.
S. Africa, £1 (S.G. 24), £10.
Cape, Pair Plate Proofs 1d. Rose 1853 wmk. sideways, £19.
Do. Pair 1d. brick-red slightly blued paper, £55.
Do. Pair 6d. slate-lilac on bled paper, £95.
Do. Jurgens Exhibition collection of Postmarks, £190.
Do. Fournier Forgeries (7), £8 10s.
Falkland Is., S. Georgia 2½d. provisional, £22.

Richard Currie:

Nigeria 1936 set complete without perforation varieties, mint, 95-.
Sierra Leone Wilberforce set to 5/-, mint, £6.
South Africa ½d. King's Head coil stamp with inverted wmk. used, 45/-.
South Africa 6d. King's Head in a mint block of 42 with Plate No. and Missing Jubilee Line, 90/-.
South Africa 1d. ship type Pretoria booklet pane of 6, perf. 14, mint 150/-.
South Africa 2/6 London printing mint hor. pair showing oval perfs., 40/-.
South Africa 1d. Ship type with Trefoil wmk. A mint hor. pair, 70/-.
South Africa Cross-hatch ½d. in a mint vertical strip of 6, 57/6.
Swaziland 1933 set fine used, etc., 77/6.

John H Wicks:

G. Britain 6d. (S.G. 70a), £3 10s.
Do. 4d. 1855-57 (S.G. 68b), £11 10s.
Natal 1d. (S.G. 27), £4.
O.F.S. ½d. (S.G. 136) V.R.I. omitted, £3 10s.
S. Africa 5/- (U.H.B. 31a), pair £11.
Rhodesia £1 (S.G. 166) Ear Gash variety, £10.

TEPPEX.

The dates of this Exhibition in Pretoria have now been definitely fixed as from 31st October to 5th November, 1955.

The organisers announce that the American Philatelic Society is presenting a hand illuminated certificate as a token of friendship and goodwill. This will be awarded to the most distinctive exhibit.

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SOCIETY NEWS.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG.

At the meeting held on December 14th Dr. J. von Varendorff showed stamps of Uruguay. The exhibit consisted of a fine range of stamps from the early issues to modern times. Several of the items were fine used. The Pegasus air stamps were shewn in mint and in used condition. There were a few flown covers. The exhibit included official stamps, essays and proofs.

Mr. W. Oppenheim spoke on the exhibit.

At the meeting held on January 11th 1955, Mr. F. C. Ferguson showed a Thematic Collection entitled "Our Royal Family". The exhibit consisted of several stamps with portraits of Queen Victoria, King Edward VII, King George V, King Edward VIII, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II. from numerous British Colonies and Dominions. There were also stamps showing outstanding events in the life of the Sovereigns, including Coronation, Silver Jubilee, Royal Wedding and Royal Visit stamps. The whole exhibit was beautifully illustrated and written up. Several stamps were on covers.

Mr. Ferguson who is the President of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, gave an address on the objects and activities of the Federation prior to his exhibit. Mr. W. Redford spoke on the Exhibit.

At the meeting held on January 24th Mr. J. G. Kupferman showed a general collection of Postal Stationery of the world. It was a large exhibit including several different countries and rare items and included Post Cards, Letter Cards, Envelopes and Wrappers, also "cut-outs".

Mr. Kupferman read a paper on his exhibit.

Mr. I. Isaacs spoke on the exhibit.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF THE WESTERN RAND.

At our **November** meeting we were honoured by a visit from The President of Federation, Mr. F. C. Ferguson, who was accompanied by his wife and daughter. The Chairman, Mr. Keet, rapidly disposed of any business that was necessary and handed over the meeting to our distinguished visitor.

Mr. Ferguson gave us a talk on the aims and policies of the Federation and answered our questions and queries.

He read a paper on Philatelic Odds and Ends which was of great interest to members as he mentioned the P.O. on the floor of the ocean. rocket flights, and explained how the blue registration cross came into being.

After refreshments, Mr. Ferguson displayed his Odds and Ends which was followed by an exhibit of the Vatican City. Both exhibits were new to most of us and were greatly appreciated. It was noticed that the Vatican City exhibit had been appreciated by others as it had been the winner of the Allan Cup and also won an award at Congress in Durban this year. In thanking Mr. Ferguson on behalf of the members of our Society Mr. Vermaak congratulated the President on his laudable aim of trying to visit each federated society in turn, a gesture which should be recorded with grateful thanks by the society visited.

Philatelic Odds and Ends was a branch away from the normal way of collecting and an object lesson in how to divert from the stereotype adopted by so many.

The Vatican City exhibit aroused interest in its method of illustrating and handling which might be successfully adopted by others. It is a small place but issues many stamps, probably to gain revenue from the pockets of philatelists.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Ferguson for the courtesy of his visit and the meeting closed at 10.10 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the ladies who supplied the refreshments.

No meeting in December 1954. H.F.H.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

8th December, 1954.

Owing to the nearness of Christmas and the fact that many members were apparently too busy with preparations etc., the attendance at this meeting was very poor, only nine members and four visitors being present. However, Mr. R. Webster, one of the visitors, had brought along his extensive collection of blocks of his Australian stamps. Most of his display consisted of mint blocks and they proved of great interest to everyone present. Mr. S. J. Hagger thanked the exhibitor and stated that he would ask him to pay our Society a visit again and perhaps at a later date join up even though he was resident in Johannesburg.

Also at this meeting it was the Secretary's turn to provide an exhibit, which consisted of a used collection of the stamps issued up to date in the British Empire for the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. Although every set only consisted of the lower denominations from the ½d. to either the 1/- or the 2/6, the total cost of this collection had been reimbursed through the sale of used common stamps of South Africa, the 1d. and 2d. denominations only. This showed that it was possible to build up a fairly good collection at no cost except hard work in finding these used common stamps and washing them off paper etc. Mr. Mompas conveyed the thanks of the members at this meeting to the Secretary and mentioned that this method of obtaining stamps for a collection had given him an idea regarding a collection of his own and no doubt it had been of interest to all present.

12th January, 1955.

For this meeting all members had been asked to bring along about ten sheets of their favourite stamps, and it was very gratifying to find that nearly all members present had brought something. Even though there had not been any pre-arrangement between members, the displays tabled were of both Foreign and British Empire, and there was no duplication. The following members displayed: Dr. Kaplan, New Zealand Health issues; Mr. Eilers, German issues in occupied Poland; Mr. Retief, Spain; Mr. Picton, G.B. used abroad; Mr. Hattingh, Australia and Canada used; Mr. Bompas, miniature sheets; Master Deverell, Rhodesia and the High Commission Territories; Master Griezel, Hungary; Mr. Burniston, 1st Day covers of Australia, Canada and South Africa; Mr. Webster, one of the visitors present again showed his mint blocks of four from Australia. This meeting proved to be one of the best we have had for some time and the various collections tabled were of great interest to everyone present. All three visitors present decided to become members of our Society. Dr. Kaplan spoke on Mr. Picton's display of G.B. used abroad; and Mr. Picton conveyed the thanks of the meeting to the other members who had displayed. I.S.B.

CAPE TOWN.

Royal Philatelic Society.

9th December. On this occasion there was a joint showing by two members, namely Turkey 1865-1876 by Mr. W. G. Combrink and various recent issues of the Commonwealth and booklets by Mr. I. E. Hall. The Turkey exhibit was one of specialised Duloz issues and in both cases the write-up was very fine. Amongst the visitors was Dr. Peisach, the Secretary of Teppex. He gave preliminary particulars of the Exhibition, which members had awaited.

The Thematic Stamp Club (Cape Town).

13th December. The last meeting of the year was an All Members evening.. These are popular as it is not always possible to get a single exhibitor and gives everyone a chance to show during the year. On this occasion the following was shown: Child Welfare Stamps of the Netherlands (Mrs. H. M. Scott), this being a complete series with covers; Selection of African George VI stamps (Mr. A. Simson), being as usual well written up; Miscellaneous Covers (Mr. L. Simenhoff), which included Tristans, special offices, Royal Tour, and special early flights; Portuguese Nyassaland (Mr. K. Cameron), which was a welcome change and a fine exhibit. A large number of visitors attended as a result of publicity in the Argus.

The Fish Hoek Philatelic Society.

This new Society has been recently formed under the chairmanship of Mr. W. H. L. Warrener of Fish Hoek. It is the intention of the Society to hold monthly functions. A meeting was held on the 14th December in the Recreation Hall, Fish Hoek, when that old philatelic stalwart, Mr. K. L. M. Alexander, displayed a portion of his interesting collection of Egyptian and New Zealand stamps. The Hon. Sec. is Mr. E. R. Bouwer, and address No. 9, 12th Avenue, Fish Hoek, Cape. M.F.S.

DURBAN 1913 EXHIBITION.

Referring to the note in our November issue on the postmark of the Durban International of 1913, Lt. Cdr. Sinfield writes from England that he has an O.R.C. 1d. newspaper wrapper with a 1st day (30-Jun-13) postmark; it also has a reversed "N" in Exhibition.

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THE
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Business Manager: Mr. J. MICHELSON.
P.O. Box 375. Johannesburg.
Vol. 31. No. 3. MARCH, 1955 Whole No. 360.

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

South West Africa "Officials" to be Discontinued.

We have received the following communication from the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Windhoek, advising us of the proposal to discontinue the overprinting of postage stamps for official use.

26th January, 1955.

POSTAGE STAMPS OVERPRINTED "OFFICIAL—OFFISIEEL"

"For information of your readers it is advised that postage stamps for use by Government departments on official correspondence and issued by the Postal Administration of South West Africa, will no longer be overprinted 'Official—Offisieel'. Existing stocks will continue to be sold until they are exhausted."

"It may be added that none of the denominations of the new series of postage stamps introduced on the 15th November, 1954, has been overprinted."

"Paid—Betaal" Postmarks.

Further to the note and illustration in our February issue of a new form of postmark which includes the amount of postage paid, we reproduce below another of the same type bearing the LEEUDORINGSTAD cancellation.



Mr. J. E. Frankland of Johannesburg, who submitted the present example also draws attention to the change in spelling of this town in the Transvaal which he notes has, up to now, been generally known as LEEUWDOORNSSTAD.

Change to Red Serial Numbers on Sheets of the 3d. Rhinoceros Stamps.

A change in the sheet serial numbers of the 3d. denomination in the new definitive series was noted by Mr. Sam Legator of Brakpan, during January, and this value is now appearing with four-figure red numerals printed twice on the bottom margin instead of the five-figure black numbers which occurred on the first lot of sheets issued in October 1954.

The change indicates an additional printing of these stamps from the same cylinders (Nos. 16 and 17), but instead of the production being carried out on the single comb machine with its five-figure black serial numbers, the work has been done on the faster moving eleven-comb machine. Evidence of this fact shows up in the form of a slightly staggered perforation variety on those stamps between the 10th and 11th rows of the sheet — the junction line of the multiple comb perforating apparatus.

The sky-blue colour of the background on the stamps now on sale is slightly darker in shade than in the case of the original issue.

Are Postage Due Stamps Necessary

Following on the official announcement published in our January and February numbers this year to the effect that no more postage stamps would be overprinted OFFICIAL—OFFISIEEL for use in Government Departments, we have heard remarks on several occasions lately from collectors who are firmly of the opinion that the next on the list for abolishing should be the postage dues. A letter received from a correspondent in Cape Town "I. T. Rhenius" sums up the general comments and reads as follows:

"Now that 'Officials' have been abolished, could not the P.M.G. go a step further and do away with Postage Dues as well. Postage and postage due stamps are sold by the same firm and the proceeds go into the same coffer, and since surcharges can be denoted by ordinary stamps why incrrease printing and accounting costs?"

We don't know the answer either.

Revenue Stamps Postally Used

Apropos of our notes last month on the change in the design of the Union revenue stamps, it might be just as well to put it on record for posterity now that any of the 3d. revenue stamps that have recently come through from Cape Town on air mail letters to Johannesburg (3d. for the first ounce) are certainly not because of any lack of supplies of the ordinary postage stamps.

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Two examples shown to us by Dr. G. I. Faerber of Germiston, and one of which we illustrate above, were posted during December and evidently slipped through in the usual Christmas rush.

Leopard's Head 1½d. Stamp—Change in Shade

The Robertson Stamp Company of Johannesburg has drawn our attention to a distinct change to a darker shade in the latest issue of the 1½d. stamps. The colour of the new printing has much more of a sepia tone about it and the degree of change is similar in its effect to that which occurred between the first and the second printings of the Union 1/3 War Effort stamps.

1½d. Air Letter Cards—Change in Colour.

The "Recent Printing" information published on page 13 of our February number included a reference to an order for the 1½d. Air Letter Cards. These were delivered as long ago as August last year, but until the Robertson Stamp Company recently showed us a copy we were unaware that the new issue had been printed on a light grey-blue tinted paper instead of the faint greenish production of its predecessor.

The colour of the stamp and that of the inscription on the new card is purple, as before, and apart from the different shade of paper used, there is no change in the format or design. The original item is listed in the Union Handbook on page 294 as PL6 and PL7.

"Staggered Perf" Variety.

The accompanying photograph of a block of the 1/- pictorial stamps illustrates an excellent example of the "Staggered perf" variety which occasionally appears on sheets of the Union's issues. It was recently shown to us by Mr. T. F. Allpass of Yeoville, Johannesburg, who states that the item was purchased over the counter at Durban about 1946.

The piece is from the Plate III printing (Union Handbook page 145) which first made its apearance early in 1939 and judging from several specimens we have seen, both the perf. variety and the distinct vertical hair line on the bottom left hand stamp were constant for at least a certain period of the issue.



The blue coloured "hair line" flaw is evidently the result of a scratch on the exterior cylinder and the misalignment of the perforations occurs when the multicple-comb perforating equipment in use on the printing machine is operating sufficiently out of line to show up at the junctions made by the successive beats of the eleven-comb perforating plate.

Misaligned Perforations on the 1/3 Pictorial Stamp

The fact that there were two different printings of the 1/3 Springbok pictorial stamp, one without and the other with misaligned perforations, has just recently been discovered by Mr. S. J. Hagger of Alberton, Transvaal.

This stamp, together with the 4½d. (Ram) and 1/6 (Aloes), was first issued in October 1953 and to the best of our knowledge all early examples showed no indications of the misaligned perforations found on other denominations of the series and illustrated in our 1954 March and May issues of the magazine. Examining a portion of sheet which happened to be still on sale during February this year however, Mr. Hagger noted the presence of the perforation variety in the same position as that illustrated on the 3d. value (page 78, Volume 30) and it is indeed interesting to learn that this unusual variety, which we now know to have appeared as far back as the Coronation issue of 1937, still keeps cropping up.

Union Handbook Supplement

As we go to Press the first proofs of Volume II of the Union Handbook Catalogue on the Union of South Africa Stamps have arrived for reading. The book is now well on its way towards publication and to those who have not yet ordered a copy we strongly advise them to do so without further delay.

The production of this second part of the Handbook is being maintained at the same high standard as that of the first volume and with over 200 pages of informative text and high class illustrations on art paper, it will form a fitting companion to the world renowned Van Riebeeck edition of 1952.

It should be noted however that Volume II will be published in a rather more limited edition than was the case with its predecessor so please take our advice and **ORDER NOW.**

JACK SHEPHERD

As we go to press we have just received the tragic news of the sudden death while at work in his office of Jack Shepherd of Brakpan, the President of the East Rand Philatelic Society. Our sincerest sympathy goes out to his widow. A longer Notice will appear next month.

AUSTRALIA.

The numbers of all the special stamps issued during 1954 have been published, most of them running to many millions though the 7½d. Royal Visit had just under two million.

A stamp honouring the centenary of the first issue of South Australian stamps will be issued, probably at the opening of the National Exhibition in Adelaide on 17 October.

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ANTARCTIC POSTS.

Present and Future.

Australia. Mails should soon be returning from three bases on Macquarrie and Heard Islands and the continent at Mawson. These will be featuring the new Antarctic stamp illustrated in our December number of last year. It may be that this will be the last mail from Heard Island as this station is to be given up; apparently there is now a sufficiency of weather data coming in from Marion, Kerguelen, St. Paul-Amsterdam and Mawson without Heard Island.

South Africa. Last month we reported a mail from **Marion Island,** with a new type of official cachet. On 25th January H.M.S.A.S. "Transvaal" left Cape Town for **Bouvet Island** to investigate the possibility of setting up a Met. Station there If decided on, this would be South Africa's contribution to the International Geophysical Year 1957-1958. The island is a Norwegian possession and it will be remembered that Admiral Evans on his trip there in 1934 got a supply of Norwegian stamps and had them overprinted "Bouvet Oya". The Norwegian Government however do not recognise the stamps as officially authorised and look upon them as a private issue.

An account of the "Transvaal's" visit is given below, with special reference to the philatelic aspect of it.

U.S.A., British Commonwealth, Argentina. During the next two or three years a systematic attack is to be made on the Antarctic continent, to finish off, if possible, at any rate a more or less complete preliminary mapping of it. Australia is already pushing inwards from her Mawson base and the U.S.A. will soon be working in the Little America and S. Pacific area, one ship having already sailed. The British Commonwealth purposes a crossing of the continent from the Weddell Sea area to the Ross Sea, parties starting from both ends. Argentina has set up a station on the eastern side of Graham Land well to the south of any of her previous stations in the Falkland Islands Dependencies area; whether she proposes to do serious exploration or whether this is merely another move in her cold war of claiming the Falkland Islands and Dependencies is anybody's guess.

Anyway there seem to be good prospects of many interesting posts, perhaps even from the South Pole itself, a more permanent place than the North Pole floating ice island.

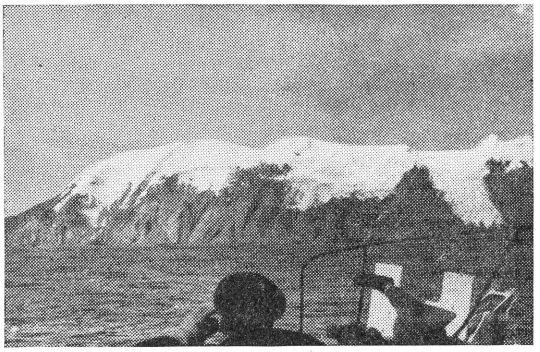
BOUVET ISLAND.

The S.A. Frigate "Transvaal", expedition was arranged mainly at the instigation of the S.A. Weather Bureau and on it there were representatives of the Bureau, the Navy and the Department of Transport, particularly its Engineering section. There were press representatives, who kept folks at home au fait with events; A. B. Crawfrd, with former experience of Tristan da Cunha and Marion Island, was also there. He was officially appointed Postmaster and we are indebted to him for the particulars about this aspect of the trip. Before leaving he saw the Norwegian Consul and the Cape Town Postmaster to ensure that the plans he had thought of for handling mail were approved — they were. There was no suggestion of using Norwegian stamps on this occasion.

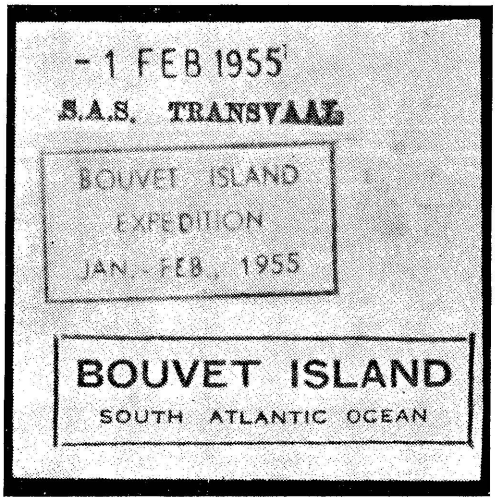
Bouvet Island, discovered on 1st Jan., 1739 by the French Naval Officer, Jean Bouvet, is about 1,340 miles from Cape Point, lying in 54 deg. 26 S. lat and 3 deg. 24 E. long. It is about 5 miles long by 4 miles wide, rises to a height of almost 3,000 feet and is covered with ice and snow some 150-200 feet thick, the year round.

On this expedition the island was sighted on Sunday, 30th January but landings were only made on 1st and 2nd February, and on the latter date the ship left again for Cape Town. From press accounts it would appear that the only possible site for erection of a station would be near the N.W. corner of the island where there is a little area of low ground not covered by ice and there are such amenities as a hot spring. Whether or not it will be decided to attempt the erection is not yet known. Past experience is not very encouraging; Christensen in his book "Such is the Antarctic" gives an account of several visits to the island and attempts to build a hut ashore, but no hut ever survived a winter season.

Realising that there would be mail to be 'posted' at the island (including both covers sent him to be taken there, and letters written on board) the postmaster armed himself before leaving with a cachet "Bouvet Island/South Atlantic Ocean" identical in type with others he



Bouvet Is. Near N.W. corner.



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had previously used from Tristan da Cunha and from Marion Island; also a rubber date stamu. Mr. S. Soloman, engineer of the technical party, had independently prepared a "Bouvet Island/Expedition" cachet, and a mark "S.A.S. Transvaal" was obtained from the captain of the vessel.

All of these marks were applied to the mail (see illustration), indicating that it was a ship's mail, and from Bouvet Island. There were in all 347 covers, including 11 for registration. All were dated 1 FEB 1955, the first day of landing, and on 2 Feb., the mail bag was sealed, taken ashore and "touched down" on the rocks at the landing place so that the mail might truly be said to have come from Bouvet Island. A few letters handed in after leaving the island were not given the "Bouvet Island/South Atlantic Ocean" cachet.

On arrival back in Cape Town the mail was taken to the G.P.O. there, where the stamps on the letters were cancelled with the Paquebot mark, dated 7-II-55.

AIRMAIL NEWS.

Capt. M. F. Stern writes:

Central African Airways have informed me that from the 1st February 1955, letters can be accepted at aerodromes in the Rhodesian Federation (as in the Union of South Africa) and that a special fee of 6d. extra will be levied. This is defrayed by a special stamp which will be issued for that purpose. First day covers (special envelopes) will be serviced by C.A.A. at 2/- each. I have as yet no particulars regarding the covers or the stamp. Orders for covers are to be sent to C.A.A., Salisbury.

Mr. I. H. C. Godfrey later reports, however, that:—

The Service has not yet started owing to certain difficulties having arisen. It is understood that the minimum rate of 6d. will apply to letters of quarter ounce weight and scales are at the moment unobtainable.

OUR EXCHANGE PACKETS

(A Talk by Mr. W. IMPEY, Hon. Exchange Superintendent Pretoria Philatelic Society).

I have been asked to give you a talk on our exchange packets. It gives me great pleasure to do so as it will afford me an opportunity of telling you something about a very important part of the Society's activities. I hope that what I am going to say will give members a better understanding of the Exchange Department and that they will learn something of how the Exchange works and how much work it involves. I also hope that after they have listened to my talk they will take a keener interest in this branch of the Society's activities. I hope too that it will stimulate members to send in more booklets for if we do not get in sufficient booklets the exchange department cannot function. On the other hand I hope that those who need stamps will buy them through the exchange department, for if there are no sales, members will become discouraged and not take the trouble to send in booklets of stamps for sale. In addressing you to-night, I shall also have the opportunity of pointing out to members (luckily not **all** members) the errors of their ways..

I propose dealing with the subject from three aspects — firstly from the seller's side; secondly from the buyer's side and lastly from the Exchange Superintendent's side.

To commence with the seller. That is those members who have stamps that they do not require and who wish to dispose of them. Every stamp collector, during the course of his collecting acquires a number of stamps which do not go into his collection. These may be acquired in a variety of ways. If a member is lucky enough to be in an office with a large volume of correspondence he will be able to obtain his stamps free of charge merely by removing them from the envelopes received. The vast majority of stamps so received are not suitable for collecting. They may be too heavily postmarked or they may be so plentiful and consequently of so little value that they are not worth keeping. Some of the stamps so obtained will, however, be worth keeping, either for his own collection or for exchange. Other members correspond with collectors in other countries and will receive stamps in exchange for those which they send to their correspondents overseas. There are bound to be many that they themselves do not require. Collectors may purchase lots or collections or subscribe to new issue services. In this way they too will inevitably acquire stamps for which they may have little use. Then there are those (like most of us) who started collecting the stamps of a large number of countries, and thereafter wish to get rid of the stamps in which they no longer have any interest. Let every member go through his or her collection and they will find that they have numbers of stamps which they would only be too glad to get rid of. These stamps are useless to those members but they may be needed by others. Besides if these unneeded stamps can be converted into cash the members will be able to use the money so obtained to acquire other stamps and extend and improve their own collections. Everyone who has stamps which they do not require should try and dispose of those stamps for the benefit of others who may want them. What better way of doing so than through the exhcange booklets?

I must, however, issue a word of warning. 'Cheap' stamps are not required. Low values of common stamps are usually plentiful. There is very little demand for them, although they should not be entirely discarded. Anything unusual is worth putting into booklets. The higher values are not half so plentiful, and if reasonably priced are sure to sell. Stamps of short life soon become desirable items. Another point to remember is to put only stamps which are in good condition into booklets. Defective or damaged stamps should never be offered for sale. Nobody ever buys them. The stamps should be well mounted and attractively arranged. Buyers will look at a good booklet, whereas they will pass by one that does not attract their attention. To crowd the pages with stamps touching or even overlapping is merely to invite members to pass them by. The stamps should be mounted in horizontal and vertical rows with a quarter to an half an inch between them. This not only makes the booklets appear more attractive, but facilitates examination of the stamps and when members buy them, there is space for signing their names without marking adjacent stamps.

(To be continued.)

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AFRICAN AIRMAILS

By
MILTON F. STERN.

(Continued from page 17 of February issue)

During 1930 the Italians developed their connections with Tripoli and Somaliland, Lombardi flying to Mogadishu on the 12th February. The first regular service was on the 10th December 1929, by the Societa Italiana Mediterrana Rome-Cagliari-Tunis. Imperial Airways now turned to Africa and on the 28th February 1931, the first service Croydon to Mwanza was put into operation. During 1931, Kidston, Store and Miss Salamon lowered the records of the London-Cape flight.

During May of 1931 fresh regular services, were opened by the Italians with North Africa and at the same time development took place in East Africa by the link up by Wilson Airways and the Government with the Imperial Airways new service, extending facilities via Kisumu to Nairobi and on to Dar-es-Salaam via Mombasa. In August of 1931 South West Airways was formed and commenced provisional internal services Windhoek-Grootfontein, Windhoek-Mariental and Windhoek-Walvis Bay.

By October Gibraltar Airways Ltd. were operating and investigations were in progress to link West Africa with Europe, the first official mail service being inaugurated on 5th November between Lagos and Victoria. Meanwhile the French survey was now complete as far as Gao in the Sudan. On the 9th December 1931 the Special Christmas mail left London for Cape Town. The careful preparation had led to reality and on the 20th January 1932, Imperial Airways established the first regular service London-Cape Town, the first return flight being on the 27th January. South West Airways linked up with this service Windhoek-Kimberley.

Cyprus was now also linked up with the North by Cyprus Airways. On the 18th August Nairobi was regularly connected by Wilson Airways with Dar-es-Salaam, and on 26th August a Feeder Service operated by the Aero Club der Katanga linked up Elizabethville with Broken Hill on the Imperial Airways route. Memorable flights were made 3rd November 1932 from Hong Kong to Johannesburg by Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer Films, November; by Mrs. Mollison and Victor Smith. Mrs. Mollison now brought the time London-Cape to 4 days 6 hours and 54 minutes.

During 1933 Mermox continued his experimental flights for the Compagnie Generale Aeropostale from St. Louis to Natal (Brazil) and the R.A.F. made a record non-stop in Feb. from Cranwell to Walvis Bay. By March mails were carried to the Niger territory by the French and in that month Victor Smith made his record flight from England to South Africa. Military French authorities opened up regular services between Algiers and Zinder in March, and by April, due to use of Atlantas, London-Cape service was accelerated by one day, the trip being in 10 days against 11 days previously.

Mails were being carried regularly from Africa by the Graf Zeppelin to South America. The first internal mail in Nyasaland operated on the 30th May 1933 but was not a regular one. But on the 2nd June 1933 the German Luft Hansa got ahead of the French by inaugurating a regular all air service across the South Atlantic by using a liner "Westfalen" anchored in mid-ocean and using hydroplanes. The French had developed this service since 1919. Bathurst (Gambia) was the terminal of the Luft Hansa.

In July 1933 MISR Airlines started operations in Egypt, the first service being Cairo-Alexandria-Mersa Matruh. Air France was formed out of the fusion of companies, who had done so much to develop services, on the 30th August, 1933. Meanwhile Imperial Airways had extended to Singapore by the end of 1933. In 1934 L'Aeromaritime commenced surveys in order to operate along the West Coast and into the interior and in that year South African Airways took over Union Airways on the 1st February.

1934 also saw Rhodesian and Nyasaland Airways operating internal services from Salisbury to Blantyre in February, this acting as Feeder to Imperial Airways London-Cape service. On the 24th March Hansez made an official flight with mail from Antwerp to Leopoldville. By July, as a result of French surveys, Broken Hill was linked up with Antanarivo by a French regular service, due to M. Assolant and Lefevre. This linked up Portuguese East Africa, as the route included Mozambique, Quelimane and Tete. Meanwhile trial flights were made to Brazzaville by the French and a regular service Algiers to Brazzaville inaugurated on the 2nd March 1935.

Compagnie Aereo Portuguesa was founded on the 22nd June 1934 and commenced services from Tangiers to Lisbon. By December 1934 Imperial Airways had extended services to Australia and in that month took place the record flight by Walter and Franchomme from Belgium to the Congo and return. Meanwhile Sabena was rapidly developing their internal lines in the Congo.

1935 saw Elders Colonial Airways formed to operate in, into and from Nigeria and, also on the 1st February the taking over of South West Africa Airways by South African Airways. On the 23rd February, Sabena conducted its first regular service from Belgium to Congo. In 1935 Ala Littoria commenced a service from Brindisi to Asmara and on the 1st August the Salisbury-Blantyre RANA service was extended to Beira and also to Lusaka.

The French regular line from Algiers to Tananarive on the famous Dagnaux proving flights and on the 15th of that month Ala Littoria had extended their service to Asmara, on to Mogadishu via Djibouti. 1936 saw further developments in that Air France on the 5th January inaugurated its regular Paris to Buenos Aires Service via Dakar. The "Feeder" service from Khartoum was operated to Kano by Imperial Airways on the 15th Februarv. The link with West Africa was at least forged and shortly after the Eastern route was opened to Hong Kong.

From the 1st April Imperial Airways handed over the Cape Town to Germiston sector to

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South African Airways. Lieut. Rose had in 1935 set up a new record London-Cape, but in April 1936 the record was recaptured by Mrs. Amy Mollison and in September the Schlesinger Air Race London to Johannesburg was staged, being won by C. W. A. Scott.

By October, Lagos aerodrome was completed and the service to Kano from Khartoum was extended to Lagos (Nigeria) on the 22nd October. Sabena accelerated the Brussels-Elizabethville service on 24th October 1936 cutting down the time to 5½ days for the flight. About the same time on the 1st November the French service Algiers-Congo-Madagascar was cut to 5½ days flight. On the 7th December, the great French aviator Jean Mermoz was lost at sea between Dakar and Natal (Brazil).

Aero Portuguesa inaugurated their regular Casablanca-Tangiers-Lisbon regular service on the 20th Jan. 1937 and Aeromaritime commenced its Dakar-Monorovia-Cotonou Service on the 2nd March thus linking up with Air France service from France to Dakar. This year saw the introduction of flying boats of the "C" Class by Imperial Airways. On the 1st April S.A.A. opened up the service from Johannesburg to Lourenco Marques and L'Aeromaritime extended its West Coast service to Point Noire on the 16th May.

After a gradual development the London to Rand Imperial Airways route was now altered to an East Coast Route, "C" Class flying boats now taking the mails from Southampton to Durban via Mombasa and Portuguese East African ports. On the 2nd June South African and R.A.N.A. took on the services of the original land route to Kisumu where the new Imperial Airways service was joined. On the 15th June K.L.M. commenced a service between Tunis and Amsterdam, and during June the Empire Air Mail Scheme was introduced into Africa.

Elders Colonial Airways began, on the 13th October, a feeder service from Lagos to Accra after a service to Takoradi. In November (14th-20th) Clouston and Mrs. Kirby Green put up a record flight London-Cape-London, a total of 5 days 17 hours 28 minutes. In December Sabena opened up its services to Ussumbura (Eastern Congo).

1938 saw the development of the French lines to Bamako and Kayes via Timbuctoo and in February of internal Rhodesian Intertown services by R.A.N.A., Gwelo and Que Que now being served as well as Lusaka. The Portuguese lines were also developed via Bathurst to Bahia and in April D.E.T.A. opened up the Lourenco Marques-Quelimane coastal service. Iberia started operations to Las Palmas via Ifni and Juby on the 12th April. In May Umtali, Lilongwe and Fort Jameson were served by R.A.N.A. On the 24th June, Elders Airways had extended their services to Villa de Jaos Belo, Lumbo, Port Amelia, and on the 1st November, South African Airways opened the Kalahari service Rand-Palapye-Maun-Windhoek - Keetmanshoop - Uptington - Kimberley-Rand. Aeromaritime now extended their service on the 3rd December from Pointe Noire on to Lobito and Mossamedes. K.L.M. sent up the "Reiger" on the 6th December to the Union on a special flight.

(To be continued.)

SHORT NOTICES.

Index Philatelique de France 1849-1955. Pierre A. Cubels, 2 Rue des Graviers, Soissons (Aisne), France. Price 4 International Reply Coupons. This priced catalogue lists practically everything about French stamps, of every kind, including shade and colour varieties, imperforates, precancels, first day covers, etc. The cost will be refunded if an order is made. A separate listing by types makes identification easy. An edition in English is being prepared, but even if one is not fluent in French, the illustrations make this edition readily followable.

New "Paquebot" markings.

The March issue of "Seaposter", the monthly journal of the Maritime Postmark Society, carries an illustrated article on recently discovered "paquebot" marks used in North and South America on ship mail. Most of the markings shown in the article were put into use in the last two or three years.

All recent issues of "Seaposter" have been accompanied by one or two supplemental sheets which, taken together, will comprise a sort of preliminary catalogue of sea post cancellations —those postmarks officially applied, on shipboard, by authorized postal officials. With this March issue, the supplement covers the French sea post marks of the 1908-1939 period, in the alphabetical range from "Bordeaux a Colon" to "Le Havre a New York."

A sample copy of this issue of "Seaposter". together with the supplement, and with one cover (or card) actually mailed on shipboard and bearing the special postmark used on ship mail, ca nbe obtained by sending three reply coupons to the publisher, Robert S. Gordon Box 145, Northfield, Vermont, U.S.A.

British Health Congress—Cover and Post. mark. At the Royal Sanitary Institute's Congress to be held in Bournemouth, England on 26-29 April, a special envelope and postmark (with the Institute's armorial bearings) will be available. Details available from the Institute. 90 Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1.

EXCHANGE OR PURCHASE.

Mr. F. Tresselt of 33 Sanford Avenue, Plainfield, N.J., U.S.A., is a retired engineer who has taken up stamp collecting, getting his stamps mainly on his bank's correspondence. He has little or nothing from Africa and would like stamps from there, either to purchase or in exchange for North and South American stamps or others.

EXPERTISING.

The Expert Committee of the Philatelic Federation has to report that its services are gradually being made more use of.

It would like, however, to ask those who are sending stamps to it for an opinion to send them **only** to the Secretary of the Expert Committee, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg. Clients have sometimes been sending stamps to individual members of the Committee; this is undesirable because it does away with the anonymity of the ownership of the stamps submitted. All members of the Committee prefer that none of them should know before they have come to their decision who is the owner of the stamps.

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ERRORS IN DESIGN

By

ALFRED BRASCH.

(Notes accompanying a display before the Johannesburg Philatelic Society).

An anecdote tells us that when in 1836 the great English Post Reformer Sir Rowland Hill was travelling through England, he stayed at a certain inn and one day a postman brought a letter for a servant employed there. He asked for the postage and after the servant had scrutinised the letter very carefully from all angles, she refused to take it, because the postage was too expensive. The servant then later explained to the astonished Sir Rowland that she had a secret communication in form of signs with her friend. By looking at the letter she had received all the messages she required. This was the true reason, why she had refused to accept it. This was one of the points which prompted Rowland Hill to agitate for the "ONE PENNY POSTAGE" paid in advance instead of the cumbrous alternative method of requiring the postage to be either prepaid or paid by the recipient.

After the Royal Assent was given in August 1839 to the Penny Postage Bill, in September, 1839 the Times published an invitation from the Lords of the Treasury asking "Artists, men of science and the public in General" to submit suggestions as to the manner in which stamps could be brought into use. Prizes were offered and over 2,600 communications were received. 266 suggested a design for adhesive stamps. Rewards were made to 4 competitors, but none of their designs were adopted. When in May 1840 finally the postage stamps were issued, it was a design which was the result of the collective work by Rowland Hill and four others. This classical Penny black and its sister 2d. blue with the Queen's Head are still to-day accepted as among the world's most outstanding stamps.

For many years it was fashionable to have as a stamp-design portraits of rulers or coats-of-arms of the respective states. It has been suggested, that the original designs were based on the association of stamps with coins. Whilst Great Britain has remained conservative with its regents' portraits most other countries, including the British Colonies and Dominions have for various reasons departed partly or completely from this.

The little anecdote told about the letter without a stamp carrying a message bears a parallel to-day. Now not only the sweetheart, but also the country in which the letter is posted wishes in many cases to convey a message.

"Errare Humanum Est" "To err is human". This old Roman proverb remains true even in modern times.

Designers and artists are no exception, and Michael Angelo's famous statue of the "Horned Moses" is the most famous example of an error by great artists. The scripture reporting the return of Moses from Mount Sinai (Exodus 34, 29) has the Hebrew word K-R-N. As the original Bible is written without vowels, Michael Angelo placed the vowels of the common word KEREN — Horn instead of KORAN— Rays of light, which is more suited to the text, and this led to this famous error. It therefore is understandable that errors may also appear in the designs of stamps. There are quite a number of mistakes known, which artists and designer have made wittingly or unwittingly. They comprise omissions, commissions and wrong interpretations.

It would take too much space to give a full list of all "Errors in Design" known to me and I may here just mention a few examples.

Wittingly: After the occupation by Hitler of Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia in 1939 the original stamps were overprinted, thus using up the Czechoslovakia stamps. On near exhaustion Mr. B. Heinz was commissioned to engrave a new series of stamps. This he did with subtlety that completely deceived the Germans and gave his countrymen immense secret amusement at the expense of the oppressors. He chose Karluv Tyn Castle, a stamp which had been issued before, but arranged the cloud formation, pine tree tops and rocks in such a manner as to represent the map of the independent Province of Bohemia before Sudetenland had been taken away, thus showing the protest of his people. The Nazis eventually discovered the trick and Herr Heinz was seized and flung into a concentration camp.

Unwittingly: In 1932 the Philippine Islands issued an 18c. stamp which was meant to show Pagsanjan Falls, but actually depicts Vernal Falls in the Yosemite National Park in California.

Omissions: In the 1938 issue of Fiji omissions crept into two of the values. In both cases the omissions were remedied in the new issues of 1940. In the 1½d. the Canoe is depicted without crew. The second omission appeared in the 2d. value where the right-hand meridian is undesignated.

Commissions: Egypt issued in 1951 a series of stamps inscribed "King of Egypt and the Sudan". This inscription is actually a false statement and was done to lend weight to an unjustified claim to the Sudan.

Wrong Interpretations: Australia's stamp commemorating 100 years responsible Government was issued 4 years too early. The Year 1951, in which the stamp was given out, was the centenary of the separation of Victoria from New South Wales. The centenary of the responsible Government in Victoria falls in 1955. The issue of this stamp led to a controversy in which the Premier Mr. McDonald dismissed the matter by describing "responsible Government" as "Merely a play on words". The Post Master General's Department claimed it had been misled by State authorities.

Some errors passed without any fuss. When Australia issued in 1947 a series of stamps commemorating the Sesquicentenary of the City of Newcastle, the authorities gave the artist the portrait of the father instead of the son, Lieut. John Shortland. An exactly similar error had been perpetrated 50 years before, on the occasion of the centenary of Newcastle, but this case was without philatelic consequences.

Others have caused amusement. St. Kitts-Nevis issued in 1903 stamps showing Christopher Columbus looking through a telescope. The telescope or spy glass through which Columbus looks so happily is in fact an invention which was only made approximately 100 years after his death (Kepler 1609).

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Even peaceful relations between countries have been endangered through stamps. There are quite a few stamps, which show maps incorrectly drawn. There is an Argentinian stamp which has been the cause of many diplomatic representations, because of not showing the Argentinian Possessions correctly. The stamp of the Dominican Republic issued in 1900 was indeed a stamp which nearly precipitated a war between Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

A stamp can even hurt the feelings of people and in my example it is actually the design of a watermark which upset many Sudanese. In 1898 a series of stamps was issued depicting an Arab Postman and having as watermark a Rosette in shape of a cross. The Sudanese, the majority of whom are Mohammedans took exception to the Rosette as watermark. They said that every time they affixed a stamp to a letter they were obliged to kiss or lick the Rosette or Cross, which was the emblem of Christianity. In 1902 the watermark was changed to a Halfmoon and Star.

Yes, there is a great deal of romance attached to a stamp.

EDWARDIAN NATAL STAMPS WITH CURIOUS DATES

Recently I have had submitted to me from Dr. T. B. Berry, of Johnnaesburg, through the Editor, S.A. Philatelist, several of the Edwardian stamps of Natal bearing curious dates.

Instead of the customary '04', '05', etc., for 1904, 1905, etc., they bore the symbols '60', 'F.4', etc.

There are many similar types of dating errors occurring over a period of several years, generally appearing on the King's head stamps of Natal and mostly found on the lower denominations owing to their greater usage.

In the main the digit "0" (used in conjunction with either "3", "4", or "5" to denote the year in use viz: 1903, 1904 or 1905) is replaced with one of the letters "A", "B", "C", "D", "E" or "F", any of which replaces the unit "0" symbolising "03", "04" or "05".

I have made up a table of these which I have now included in the Postal Cancellation Collection of the Philatelic Society of Natal": it will be noted that there are instances of "the symbol letter" being missing, of inverted second digit ("4") which is more commonly found placed "sideways", and the two units inverted — "80" in place of "08", "60" for "09" (as submitted by Dr. Berry), and "01" for "10".

Many years ago I showed a few of the "Letter and Figure' type to Mr. J. W. Coleman, who had then retired from the Postmastership of Durban, he remarked that he was sorry to see these evidences of laxity in the Durban P.O. which if his attention had been directed to them would certainly have called for some action.

The "Dater" used in all these instances was one which provided for two figures to indicate the year: Another one in use during the years 1901, 1902, 1903 and 1904 had a longer slot which gave a "whole-year" impression. I have never yet found a stamp used at Durban G.P.O. bearing the "1905" whole-year symbol.

Following up Dr. Berry's query, I interviewed Mr. Rouse, who was actually operating on the T.P.O. between the Transvaal and Durban in those early post Boer War days. He very kindly introduced me to the late Mr. J. W. Coleman's son, who is in the Union Postal Service to-day. and it was suggested by these gentlemen that I interview one of the retired postal officials who served for many years in the sorting department at Durban. Upon explaining my difficulty this person stated that the use of the "letter" in place of the "figure" was definitely not due to any "shortage of type" as suggested by me: he said he considered it "just an idea"! but how or why it was not stopped —as it certainly would have been had it been "reported" — he could not say.

Some of these symbols are commoner than others, for instance the "F4" occurs most frequently, probably outstripping the rest in a ratio of 20 to 1.

REFERENCE LIST: DURBAN POSTMARKS

During the years 1903: 1904: and 1905 the stamps of NATAL (mainly the ½d. and 1d. (S.G. Nos. 127/8 and 146/7) were found with curious symbols embodied in their cancellations at Durban Post Office.

YEAR (Prefixed with "O")	'3'	'4'	'5'
Have first unit "A"	3	4	5
substituted with a "B"	3	4	*
letter in place of "C"	3	4	5
the digit "O" "D"	3	4	5
followed by "E"	3	4	5
the second figure "F"	3	†4	5

*Not known.

†"4" also known inverted and sideways.

The year in full is NOT known for "1905."

The "4" (with NO LETTER) is also known without "O".

The following are also known "curiosities" found in the Postal Cancellation used at Durban:—

"01" for "10".

"60" for "09"

"02" Inverted thus: "20"

"80" for "08"

J. H. H. CHAMBERLAIN.

"HONGKONG CALLING"

The following can be supplied:—

China, Macao, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam Mint. Bermuda '53, Br. Solomon Islands '39-'51, Canada, Fiji '37-'53, Hongkong, Jamaica '38-'52, Malaya, Singapore, Northern Borneo, Papua and New Guinea Nauru, France 100 to 1,000fr. Air, '54, etc.

Can still supply many others, write for a Price List today.

YAM CHI-CHUEN

P.O. Box 2807. HONGKONG.

U.S.A.

On 23 February an 8c stamp was due for issue in honour of the 50th anniversary of Rotary—Service above Self. This date will have been observed in most countries outside the Iron Curtain, and in a number of them by the issue of a special stamp.

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A SELECTION OF BETTER GRADE ITEMS FROM OUR COMPREHENSIVE STOCK OF FINE BRITISH COLONIAL STAMPS.

Antigua 1884/86 1/- S.G. 30 used	£2	10	0
Ascension 1922 3/- S.G. 8 used	2	10	0
1924/33 4d. S.G. 15, pair one stamp with "Torn Flag" variety	3	0	0
Australia 1915/28 10/- S.G. 43	6	0	0
Bahamas 1912/19 £1 S.G. 91	4	0	0
Barbados 1882/86 5/- S.G. 103	5	0	0
Bechuanaland 1888 1d. on 1d. S.G. 46a	4	10	0
Bermuda 1922/35 10/- S.G. 92 used	2	12	6
Br. Guiana 1888/89 $2 S.G. 186	4	0	0
Canada 1859 5c. S.G. 32, £2; 17c. S.G. 43 U.	5	0	0
Cayman Is. 1907 1d. on 5/- S.G. 19	5	10	0
Ceylon 1921/27 R.20 S.G. 352	6	0	0
Cape of Good Hope 1855/58 4d. S.G. 6a, superb used copy fully up to Exhibition standard	3	10	0
Cyprus 1882 30 par. S.G. 23	4	10	0
Dominica 1907/08 5/- S.G. 46, a pair	5	10	0
1923/27 £1 S.G. 87	5	0	0
Falksland Is. 1912/20 £1 S.G. 51	5	10	0
1929/36 £1 S.G. 78	5	0	0
Gold Coast 1902 £1 S.G. 48	3	0	0
Grenada 1883 Half of 1d., unsevered pair S.G. 29a Used	8	0	0
1904/06 10/- S.G. 76 Used	8	0	0
Hong Kong 1891 50c. .SG. 46a (Chinese inscrip. double	6	15	0
50c. S.G. 46d (Chinese inscription either side)	5	0	0
1903 $10 S.G. 76	4	0	0
Kenya 1904/97 R.10 S.G. 30	4	0	0
1912/22 R.20 S.G. 58a	5	10	0
R.20 S.G. 58a	5	0	0
Malta 1921/22 10/- S.G. 104 in blk of 4	32	10	0
Mauritius 1891 2c. S.G. 121b (Surcharge double)	3	0	0
Montserrat 1908/13 5/- S.G. 47 used	2	7	6
Nevis 1882 4d. S.G. 27	2	17	6
New Zealand 1858/59 2d. S.G. 9 used	3	0	0
1878 5/- S.G. 186	4	0	0
Niue 1902 1d. S. G.1	4	0	0
Nigeria 1914/26 £1 S.G. 14	2	10	0
Nyasaland 1903/04 £1 S.G. 66	5	0	0
1908 £1 S.G. 81 (a little rubbed)	4	10	0
St. Helena 1864/83 1/- S.G. 29	2	0	0
1908 10/- S.G. 71 £7: Used	8	0	0

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2 Italy, Marian Year, cpl. mint	2/-
2 Do. Amerigo Vespucci, cpl. mint	2/-
2 Do. 100 x 200 Lire Roma, cpl. mint	6/6
4 East Germany, new values & cols., cpl. mint	1/-
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2 Ital. Somaliland, Flag, cpl. mint	1/6
1 Monaco, 25th Motor Rally, cpl. mint	3/6
4 Do. Albert Schweitzer Comm., cpl. mint	6/6
5 Do. Crusader Bantams, cpl. mint.	2/6
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ANGLO-BOER WAR CENSOR MARKS & LABELS

By J. D. ROSSOUW and J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

(Continued from page 23 of Feb. issue)

PRISONER OF WAR CAMP CENSOR MARKS.

Place	Shape	Size	Colour	Wording, etc.	Dates of Use.
SHAJAHANPUR, INDIA	Double border oval	55 x 28	Violet	Passed Censor P.O.W./I.G.F. Shajahanpur.	
SHAJAHANPUR, INDIA	Double circle	25	Violet	Prisoners of War.	6/9/1902.
SHAJAHANPUR, INDIA	Double border, double circle	25	Violet	Prisoners of War and name of camp between circles. Passed Censor in centre.	6/9/1902.
SIALKOT, INDIA	Double triangle	48 x 28	Black,	Passed Censor Sialkot.	Feb., 1902.
TRICHINOPOLY, INDIA	Double circle	25	Violet	Censor's office, Trichonopoly. Boer Camp in centre.	
TRICHINOPOLY, INDIA	Rectangle concave corners	50 x 24 60 x 31	Violet Violet	Examined L. T. Thorne. Censor Boer Camp. Examined Censor Boer Camp. Signed	27/9/1901 2/3/1901 & 31/12/1901.
TRICHINOPOLY, INDIA	Double border, double circle	22	Violet	Censor's Office Trichinopoly. Boer Camp in centre.	17/3/1902.
URUGASMANUANDIYA, CEYLON	Double oval	43 x 25	Violet	Passed Censor Urugasmanuandiya.	24/10/1901.
UMBALLA, INDIA	Double border, double triangle (inverted)	76 x 37	Blue	Passed Censor Umballa. C. v.d. Spuy in centre.	10/3/1902. 21/5/1902.

BURGHER AND REFUGEE CAMP CENSOR MARKS.

COLENSO	Double triangle	46 x 30	Violet	Burgher Camp in centre.	8/3/1902.
HOWICK	Triangle	47 x 20		B.R.C. Censored. Howick.	30/8/1900.
IRENE	Double oval	40 x 28	Violet	Burgher Camp Irene. Censored.	16/11/1901.
KRUGERSDORP	Double oval outer with "teeth"	50 x 30	Violet	Burgher Camp Krugersdorp. Dated.	22/1/1902.
KRUGERSDORP	Double border oval	53 x 27	Violet	Burgher Camp Krugersdorp, P.B.C., P. H. Tomlinson.	5/3/1902.
LADYSMITH	Double triangle	47 x 30	Violet	Burgher Camp in centre.	March, 1902.
MEREBANK	Double triangle	47 x 30	Violet	Passed Censor Merebank. Burgher Camp in centre.	
MEREBANK	Diamond Double border	40 x 35	Violet	Burgher or Refugee Camp. Passed Censor Maritzburg.	

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Place	Shape	Size	Colour	Wording, etc.	Dates of Use.
PIETERMARITZBURG	Double triangle	47 x 30		Burgher Camp in centre.	
PINETOWN	Double triangle	47 x 30	Violet	Passed Censor Pine Town. Burgher Camp.	17/5/1902.
SPRINGFONTEIN	Two lines	50 & 64 x 4	Violet	Passed Censor. Refugee Camp Springfontein. O.R.C.	13/11/1901.
STANDERTON	Four lines	48 x 27	Red	Passed Press/Censor/Burgher Camp/Standerton.	22/10/1901.
VEREENIGING	Rectangle	45 x 32		Passed Supertintendent Burgher Camp Vereeniging.	
WENTWORTH	Double triangle	47 x 32		Passed Censor Wentworth. Burgher Camp in centre.	12/6/1902.

REPUBLICAN CENSOR MARKS.

Place	Shape	Size	Colour	Wording, Etc.	Dates of Use.
ELANDSLAAGTE	One line	25	Grey-black	Gezien	4/1/1900
PRETORIA	Double circle, double border	35	Blue	Gezien Censor between circles. Dated in centre.	8/4/1900 28/4/1900
PRETORIA	Rectangle with fancy corners	35 x 25	Violet	Gezien Postcensor Pretoria Z.A.R.	4/4/1900
WATERVAL	Rectangle. Fancy corners.	50 x 20	Red-Violet	Brieven Censuur. Waterval krygsgevangenis.	April, 1900
WATERVAL	Double oval	52 x 31	Blue	Kampbewaking. Krygsgevangen Officieren. Dated in centre.	7/4/1900

CENSORS' INITIALS ENDORSED ON COVERS BY MEANS OF A RUBBER STAMP.

Initials	Colour	Length	Place of Use	Dates of Use	Probable Meaning
A.F.L.	Violet	10	BLOEMFONTEIN	20/4/1901	
E.P.H.	Violet	10	BLOEMFONTEIN	15/1/1901	
I.A.O.	Violet	13	BLOEMFONTEIN	11/3/1901	
F.P.R.	Violet	11	BLOEMFONTEIN	21/12/1900	
J.C.C.	Violet	7	ZASTRON	22/2/1902	
G.M.G.	Violet	13	BRANDFORT	6/3/1901	
H.P.Y.	Violet	27, 26, 24, 18, 11	BLOEMFONTEIN	12/3/1901. 30/11/1900	H. P. Young
N.P.R.	Blue	23	BLOEMFONTEIN	Apr., Oct., 1901.	N. P. Richards
P.B.C.	Violet, Blue, Black, Red	30, 32, 33, 34	BLOEMFONTEIN	25/5/1902	Passed by Censor or Passed Base Censor
R.W.T.	Violet	15	BLOEMFONTEIN	25/3/1901	
Z.X.G.	Violet		KROONSTAD	March, 1902	

(Tto be continued)

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SWAZILAND—POSTAL HISTORY and STAMPS

By
J. H. HARVEY PIRIE

(Continued from page 30 of February issue.)

CHAPTER 9

MISCELLANEOUS.

1. POSTAL STATIONERY.

Stage 1. 1887-1889. No record of any usage.

Stage 2. 1889-1895, the period when Z.A.R. stamps overprinted "Swaziland" were in use. There is no record of any Z.A.R. postal stationery having been similarly overprinted, but a bogus postcard of Transvaal was known overprinted in violet. (See Chap. 3).

Stage 3. 1895-1899, the period when unoverprinted Z.A.R. stamps were used. On the face of it, it would seem quite likely that some Z.A.R. postal stationery was in use during this time, but I have not seen or heard of any actual specimens so used.

Stage 4. 1899-1902. No postal service.

Stage 5. 1902-1910, the period when Edwardian stamps of the Transvaal Colony were in use. Here again it would seem likely that some Transvaal postal stationery was used but the only specimen I have (or have heard of) is a cut-out of an embossed red 1d. stamp from an envelope, with the postmark "Embabaan 8 Aug. 03."

Stage 6. 1910-1913, the Union 'Interprovincial' period when stamps of any of the four colonies joining to form the Union of South Africa could be used. No record of any similar postal stationery usage, although it seems probable that there was such a usage. Basden, in fact, has reported that he had specimens of such usage, but without giving details.

Stage 7. 1913-1933, the period when Union stamps were on issue (and pre-Union undemonetized stamps were still valid). Any Union postal stationery issued during this period must be regarded as having been valid for use in Swaziland, and possibly having been used there. I actually have the following (Union 1952 Handbook-Catalogue Nos.):—

Postcard, 14a; Letter Cards, PL 2, PL 3, and PL 4; Stamped Envelope PE 2; Registered Envelope PR 5 and Newspaper Wrapper PN 5.

As already mentioned in Chap. 7, I have also two Victorian Cape of Good Hope postcards (Robson Lowe's Encyclopaedia Nos. CP 2 and CP 10) used (philatelically!) on the last day of validity.

Stage 8. 1933 onwards.

Postcards.

K.G. V ½d. green and 1d. red.

K.G. VI ½d. green and 1d. red.

The design of the stamps on these postcards is the same as that on the corresponding adhesive stamps.

I have a 'Specimen' of the 1d. red K.G. VI postcard. The word is printed in violet, slightly obliquely on the front of the card, in block capitals 4 mm. high, the overall length of the word being 42 mm.

Registered Envelopes.

K.G. V. With embossed 4d. stamps in red. Two sizes, viz., 3¾in. x 6in. and 4in. x 9in

K.G. VI. With embossed 4d. stamps in red. Size 3¾in. x 6in. At least three varieties, the differences being mainly in the lettering at the head of the envelope. In the early type the "R" in "REGISTERED" has a large bowl and the "G" is narrow; the lengths of the three printed lines are respectively 62, 85 and 67.5 mm., whilst the imprint under the flap reads "Thos. De La Rue & Co. Ltd. Patent". In the later types the "R" has a small bowl and the "G" is wide, whilst the imprint reads "Thomas De La Rue & Company Limited". There are at least two varieties, however, as regards the lengths of the three printed lines; in one they are 59, 82.5 and 66 mm., in the other 58, 88 and 74. In the first of these two varieties the letters of "Registered Letter" are 4.5 mm. high; in the second, only 4 mm.

Aero-Postal Stationery.

The Swaziland Air Forms are all basically Union items and the PAL numbers here given are those of the 1952 Union Handbook/Catalogue. Rather fuller information than is given here moy be found in articles by I. H. C. Godfrey in the "South African Philatelist, 1954, pp. 169 and 190. Most specimens have two numbers; these indicate different positions of the Afrikaans and English wording on the stamps.

(a) Active Service Letter Cards.

1-4. 3d. PAL 1-4.

These were first issued in the Union on 28 July, 1941 for use by members of the Forces on Active Service. The use of these cards, **without overprint,** was authorised in Swaziland on 12 Nov., 1941 but they were actually in use before that date. Their usage is, of course, only recognisable by the postmark and it appears to have ceased fairly early in 1942 for unoverprinted Union items PAL 5-8 issued in 1942-43 are not known with Protectorate postmarks.

(b) Air Mail Letter Cards.

5-6. 1943-44, 3d., PAL 9-10 overprinted "Swaziland" 16.5 mm. long in red. These at first were for use only **to** members of the Forces on Active Service; later, usage was extended to civilians, with additional franking added to them.

(c) Air Letters, 6d., for general use.

7. 1944. PAL 17 (with two 3d. stamps, one in English and one in Afrikaans). Overprint in black, "Swaziland" on the former stamp and

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"Swasieland" on the latter. There were 10,800 so overprinted.

All subsequent issues overprinted "Swaziland" in red.

8-9. 1948, PAL 23-24, Overprint 22 mm. long.

10-11. 1949, PAL 29-30, overprint 27.5 mm. (Specimen of No. 11 illustrated shows a misplaced overprint).

12-13. 1949-50, PAL 31-32, overprint 23 mm.

14-15. 1951, PAL 39-40, overprint 23.5 mm.

16-17. 1952, overprint 23 mm. long, thinner type than in 1951.

(d) Aerogrammes.

18. 1953, blue on greenish-white paper, on French/Afrikaans/English sheets only, overprint 27.5 mm. long.

19. 1954, blue on blue paper, on French/English/Afrikaans sheets only, overprint 27.5 mm. long.

Official Stationery—Unstamped.

Internal correspondence from administrative officials goes out in covers marked "O.H.M.S." either in letters or in full words.

There is also another form of official postal stationery, viz., that used by the staff of the Paramount Chief, King Sobhusa. Such covers have in the top left corner a 2-inch high outline map of Swaziland with a black maned lion inside and under it, in small type, "On Service of The Swazi Nation." Below the outline map, in still smaller type is P.B. Bremersdorp Phone 20 Y/Esigodlwene.

2. STAMPS "USED ABROAD".

There is not much to chronicle about the use of Swaziland stamps outside its own territorial boundaries.

World War I. In Oct., 1914 a Swaziland contingent of 1 Officer and 31 N.C.O.'s and men was attached to the Imperial Light Horse (a Johannesburg regiment) for service in South West Africa; some 67 Swazis served with the 5th Batt. of the S.A. Native Labour contingent in France.

There is no record of correspondence from either of these forces having been preserved but even if it had been stamped it would, of course, not have been with Swaziland stamps, as Union stamps were in use at this period. Probably, therefore, it would not be recognisable as definitely from Swaziland forces.

World War II. A not inconsiderable number of Swazilanders (both European and African) served with the Union Defence Force and, in addition, 3,836 Swazis are recorded as having served in the African Pioneer Corps in the M.E.F. and C.M.F. in N. Africa, Syria, Palestine and Italy. Their losses were 122, death in most cases being due to natural causes, not enemy action. Europeans in this Corps gained 1 O.B.E. and 1 M.B.E., and 1 African was awarded the B.E.M.

There were never any Swaziland stamps actually on sale abroad but apparently a few Swaziland stamps were taken "up North" by individuals and they were accepted in prepayment of postage when prepayment was necessary (e.g. on air mail or on parcels), at any rate in South African A.P.O.'s I have seen Swaziland stamps so used and cancelled, both alone and in combination with Union stamps.

These Swazi Works Companies serving with the British Forces in the later phases of the Middle East and Italian Campaigns (along with similar contingents from Basutoland and Bechuanaland) were given the concession of free postage by air to their homes and I have several examples of British Air Letter forms endorsed, in manuscript or typescript, "Concessional Postage/Personnel from Swaziland".

One such Concessional Air Letter (with postmarks dated in December, 1945) has printed on the back of it, from a rubber stamp "Tyres checked and batteries topped/Japs wrecked and Python dropped". What this whole jingle signifies, I do not know, but I understand that "Python" refers to a sort of telescopic Home Leave system that was introduced in the British Army towards the end of the war.

Apparent "Use Abroad" in the Union. Swaziland stamps are not uncommonly to be found

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cancelled with certain postmarks of Post Offices in the Union, but I think this should be termed only "Apparent Use Abroad".

What happens is this: Certain Postal Agencies have no regular cancellers (They may have "Office Stamps" but they are not supposed to cancel stamps with these, although they sometimes do so!) and the first Post Office with a canceller that mail from such Agencies goes to may be outside Swaziland, in the Union, and the stamps are cancelled there. Also Private Bags may be made up by some individuals in Swaziland, but the Post Office they are sent to is a Union one. I am told that some of the Union P.O.'s quite close to the Swaziland border they even accept letters franked with Swaziland stamps handed in by individuals.

Union P.O.'s whose postmarks are not uncommon on Swaziland stamps in these ways are: Ingwavuma, Mkusi and Gollel Rail in Natal (Zululand), Piet Retief and Oshoek in Transvaal.

3. MAVELA—A Private "Postmark".

There actually is a Postal Agency named 'Mavela' in the Transvaal but close to the Swaziland border on the road running into Swaziland from Amsterdam. The name is that of a Swazi Chief who owns some land there. The ownership of this land was at one time in dispute and when the Chief gained undisputed title to it he promptly regarded his land as being in Swaziland. This claim, however, was not allowed. But, undismayed, I am informed on good authority that he had a private stamper made for use on his correspondence, the mark indicating that the letter came from Swaziland.

Of course this mark, of which I have not actually seen a specimen, can only be regarded as a private cachet and in no sense as a true postmark.

4. RAILWAY PARCELS AND NEWSPAPER SERVICE.

This service, although not operated by the Postal Administration, is so closely allied to it in character, that I think it deserves mention. This service is one which is, and has been, run for many years by the South African Railways; it has its own stamps and what are comparable to postmarks. Although there are no railways in Swaziland there are Motor Bus services operated by the South African Railways and since these were introdaced the parcels and newspapers service has applied just as it does on the railways.

This is no place to go into any detail about the Parcels and Newspapers stamps. Suffice it to say that the former are not put on the parcels, but on their waybills; they therefore do not reach the recipients of the parcels and, indeed, are not supposed to get out to the public at all. But, like 'Specimen' stamps some do! These stamps have initials printed on them for all the more important 'stations' and I have ascertained that the 'Station Code' letters for Mbabane are "M B N" and "BEP" for Bremersdorp.

The Newspaper stamps, all of ½d. denomination, on the other hand, are stuck on the newspaper directly and so do reach the recipient of the paper. I have a specimen shewing an oval cancellation reading "S A R & H| S A S en H/BREMERSDORP".



"Last Minute" letters are accepted directly by the South African Railways Motor Bus Service, just as they are in the Union as "Train Letters". Such letters have to bear an additional franking in ordinary postage stamps and the cancellations they receive are not 'post-office' ones but 'railway' ones of the types shown in the accompanying illustrations.

A CORRECTION.

In the February issue, page 29, under the heading "VICTORY ISSUE" it is stated "The numbers supplied so overprinted have been given . . ." This should read "The number of sheets (120 stamps each) so overprinted have been given . . ."

(To be continued)

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NORWAY.

Three stamps were issued on 3 January for the centenary of their centenary of postage stamps. All three come into the category of "Stamps on stamps", as they all feature designs which were in use for many years. A 20 ore incorporates the first Norwegian stamp, on a 30 ore is the posthorn design and on a 55 ore the lion rampant.

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Union of S.A. Issue:

1933, Voortrekker, Mint or Used, set	8/–
1938, Voortrekker Comm. Mint or Used, set	2/6
1938, Voortrekker Centenary Fine Used on date of issue	10/–
1938, Voortrekker, Both sets on Official First Day Cover	12/6
1938, Voortrekker, Both sets on Airmail Cover flown to Amsterdam	20/–
1952, Van Riebeek, First Day Cover	2/6
1952, Satise,Sadipu, First Day Cover	1/–
1953, Cape Triangular, Com. F.D.C.	1/6
Do. Do. F.D.C. C.T. Exhib.	1/6
Do. Do. F.D.C. Jhb. Exhib.	1/6
1954 O.F.S. Centenary, Off. F.D.C.	1/9

Great Britain, 1953, Coronation First Day Cover 6/–

Catalogues:

Gibbons Simplified	19/6
Gibbons Europe and Colonies	22/6
Gibbons Two Reigns	5/6
Gibbons Empire	18/6

Albums:

Gibbons Ace	18/6
Gibbons Senator Medium	22/6
Gibbons Senator Standard	32/6
Gibbons Utile Standard, with interleaving	40/–
Gibbons Plymouth	70/–

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Argentine—Argentinië	0	9	1	6	3	6
Andorra	4	3				
Australia—Australië	0	9	2	0	8	0
Austria—Oostenryk	0	6	1	0	1	6
Armenia	3	6				
Azerbaijan	4	6				
Aegean Islands	7	6	15	0		
Bavaria—Beiere	1	0	2	0	6	0
Canieroons—Kanieroene	1	9	5	0		
Curacao	9	0	17	6		
Denmark—Denemarke	0	6	1	0	2	0
Danzig	2	0	6	0	12	6
Dutch Indies — Ned. Indies	1	6	3	0	9	0
Dominican Rep.	2	6	8	6		
Egypt—Egipte	0	9	2	6	7	6
Eire	0	9	4	6		
Equador	1	3	4	9	8	6
Eritrea	3	6				
Latvia—Letland	2	6	15	0	29	6
Liberia	5	6				
Libya	4	6				
Malaya—Maleie	1	9	3	3	9	0
Malta	2	6	9	0	37	0
Manchuria	1	0	2	6	9	6
Mexico	1	0	2	6	7	6
Mozambique	1	9	7	0	15	0
Madagaskar	3	0	5	6		
Sweden-Swede	0	6	1	0	2	9
Switzerland	0	6	1	3	3	0
Syria—Sirië	1	9	5	0	16	6
Surinam	6	9	16	0		
Salvador	4	3	11	0	20	0
Serbia	3	0	14	0	26	6
South Africa — Suid-Afrika	0	9	2	9	10	6
S.W.A.	3	3	10	6		
Travancore	1	0				
Tunis—Tunisië	1	0	2	6	6	6

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Wants, Offers and Exchange

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APPROVAL SELECTIONS INVITED. Top-grade copies only. Barbados, The Nigerias, St. Helena, Somaliland Protectorate. — WILLIAM REDFORD, Box 1182, Johannesburg.

SIAM, Wanted Siamese surcharges of all issues, especially in pairs, strips and blocks —mint, used and on cover. ENOCH, c/o. Box 375, Johannesburg.

S.G.1. Wanted mint and used copies of S.G. 1, all countries and varieties. ENOCH, c/o. Box 375, Johannesburg.

I collect cigarette cards. Can you offer me anything rare or unusual?—R. T. LILLEY, 29 Joubert Street, Johannesburg.

I collect stickers, exhibition labels, etc. Can you offer me anything rare or unusual?—R. T. LILLEY.

Fine Empire stamps: Ask for quotations for those elusive oddments you need. — R. T. LILLEY.

Common and better African stamps off paper, wanted in large quantities. Give good Presidentials, Airs, Foreigns. — JOSEPH WIEDMAN, 1616 Redfield Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin, U.S.A.

WANTED. Common Southern African stamps, current or obsolete, on or off paper. Any quantity. Please state quantities available and price required. A. LICHTENSTEIN, Box 1117, Bloemfontein.

WANTED Cape Triangular 4d. Block of 4 or larger piece in fine condition. Good price given.—F. W. COLLINS, Stoborough Croft, St. Cross, Winchester, England.

SWAZILAND. Wanted ½d. with o'ptd. error "Swazielan" (S.G. 4b), mint or used.—Dr. HARVEY PIRIE, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

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.

Arrangements can be made to bind back-numbers at an additional charge of 2/6 per volume. On orders under 10/- please add postage. Early application is strongly recommended.—Business Manager, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

ORANGE FREE STATE. Am breaking up a magnificent collection containing most of the principal rarities.—DOUGLAS ROTH, Mona Crescent, Newlands, C.P.

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

COMPLETE English-Afrikaanse Phlatelic Glossary. 3/6 post free.—Afrikaanse Filatelistiese Vereniging, c/o. P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

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

WANTED On Cover Pietersburg; Vryburg (Cape initialed C.S.Q.); also Boer War Locals. Forward particulars.—J. D. ROSSOUW, P.O. Box 4, Paarl.

WANTED. Postmarks, especially Rubber stamp cachets, on cover, card or piece, of occupation period German-South-West Africa 1914-1923, including early Walvis Bay postmarks. Also, of the Holy Land prior to 1916. L. SIMENHOFF, P.O. Box 2195, Cape Town.

WANTED URGENTLY, Common Southern African stamps, current, obsolete, on or off paper. Any quantity. State quantities available and price wanted. — SPRINGBOK STAMPS, Dept. S.A.P., Box 82, Klerksdorp.

SUPERB used copies of classic of Switzerland and France please offer to: B. SEELIG, P.O. Box 5521, Johannesburg.

"SUIDERTYDING", the hobby quarterly circulating in 120 countries, caters for all hobbies and accepts articles and adverts in eight different languages. Special Discount for philatelic Societies and Boy Scout/Girl Guide troops. For sample copy of magazine and other particulars send 2d. stamp or 2 International Reply Coupons to: SUIDHOEK STOKPERDJIES (Dept. SAP.), P.O. Box 8, Observatory, Cape.

1951 UNION BOOKLETS—Wanted Nos. A1, A5, B1, B5, C4 and C9. Purchase or exchange for others in same series.—W. N. SHEFFIELD, c/o. Box 99, Cleveland, Tvl.

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.

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SOCIETY NEWS.

SPRINGS AND DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The Annual General Meeting of the above Society was held on Tuesday, 18th January, 1955 in Wehmer's Studio, Springs.

Ten members being present, Mr. T. Earnshaw was elected President, Dr. Harrison, Hon. Sec./Treasurer for 1955.

During 1954 the monthly meetings were well attended, some very interesting exhibitions were given by a number of leading Transvaal Philatelists, to whom our very sincere thanks are due.

Mr. Ferguson, President of the S.A. Federation attended our December meeting and gave a very interesting talk.

Monthly meetings will be held every second Monday in Wehmer's Studio, 3rd Street, Springs, at 8 p.m. Members and intending members are requested to attend and make the Society a success.

ROYAL CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

13th January, 1955. An "All Members" evening was held. Actually Mr. G. Petroulis was supposed to have been showing but this was not possible owing to recent severe illness. Members rallied to the call of the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Hall, and one of the most varied and interesting evenings was held. The following were the exhibits:

Dr. F. L. Rifkil: Bahamas, Bermuda, and other Empire stamps including the Falkland Islands and Seychelles. These were well written up and included the most recent items.

L. Simenhoff: Bouvet Island covers, and other miscellaneous items, which included S.W.A. occupationals and Edward VIII stamps.

P. A. M. v.d. Spuy: Queen Elizabeth stamps, Canal Zone, recent U.S.A. and the controversial Sudan "1953" Self Government stamp. It was quite a change to see something new like the Canal Zone.

I. Dekenah:, A portion of his Van Riebeeck and SATISE stamps together with interesting covers and items connected therewith. All this was excellently written up and illustrated.

K. L. M. Alexander: This was an Africana collection of various cards, programmes, etc., in connection with the 1947 Royal Visit. Although not philatelic, it proved of great interest.

R. E. Eskill: The stamps of Norway. This was the first showing by this member and was well laid out and covered a full range of the issues.

M. Holtz: A selection of Israeli stamps.

C. M. Pillans: Various covers of very great interest on general lines. A card was included showing Cape stamps and rhyme of Good Hope, first seated, then turning her back on the Mountain and finally leaving Cape Town.

Mrs. H. M. Scott: It is always pleasant to see a woman exhibiting. Mrs. Scott has been a stalwart of the Royal and also the Thematic. She showed Great Britain special covers and these were very complete.

J. O'Brien: A good comprehensive collection of Canada. This was also a welcome change and it is always good to see a small but well set out general collection of one single country.

These All Member evenings are becoming more and more popular, and are well attended. They give the smaller collector an opportunity to display and always prove varied and interesting.

27th January 1955: The evening was devoted to the Competition for the Jacob Cup, which is given to the best of the three exhibits in the year previous, selected by the Committee, and which have never received an award. As usual the three selected were of a very high standard and the judges had no easy task in making a decision. The winner of the Cup, was R. Putzel with his collection of Austria. This collection begins at 1910 and continues to date and is one of completeness, including covers, especially those of all balloon flights, etc. Where specialisation was necessary this was carried out. These made a fine and interesting show and was equally of interest to the serious philatelist and to the visitor. The other two selected were:

O. G. Mummery: "Switzerland". Here the Cantonal Fournier Facsimiles 1843-1852 were shown, together with plate proofs 1904 and 1906, die proofs 1880, prestamp covers, from 1855 onwards a selection of the stamps together with the Charity issues, the "Ruetli" essays 1891, miniature sheets, and Pro Juvente on covers. This was well written up.

Dr. P. L. Vautier: "France". This included early prestamp covers, essays and trials of early issues, first issues 1849, and on to the modern issues, Paris Siege issue 1870, miniature sheets, and a tete beche pair of the 1862 20c. blue.

It will thus be seen that Mr. Putzel is to be sincerely congratulated on the winning of the Cup. A welcome visitor was Mr. J. D. Rossouw of the Paarl Society.

M.F.S.

THE CAPE TOWN THEMATIC SOCIETY.

10th January, 1955: This was an "All Members" night. As usual it was a draw. Those who showed were as follows:—

F. Sinnot: The collection of Bechuanaland, Swaziland and Basutoland. These included the latest as well as early issues. This stalwart is always able to give a few interesting facts in connection with his material.

Miss F. Simenhoff: She showed her thematic collection "Crowning Glory" which dealt with hair styles and head gear. A most interesting subject which she handles well.

Mrs. H. M. Scott: A most interesting collection of Australian and New Zealand Covers, which covred first day issues and special issues.

Capt. M. F. Stern: A selection of stamps from Belgian Congo, Uranda-Urindi, and Madagascar Free French. This was a change from the usual.

24th January, 1955: Capt. M. F. Stern showed the first portion of his specialised thematic collection on the History of Architecture. This was carefully written up and illustrated to cover from the beginning and carried through the styles up to the Renaissance. The stamps were not swamped by needless long writing up and the illustrations were black and white which showed up the stamps.

M.F.S

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF RHODESIA.

The **January** meeting was not very well attended, no doubt due to the Christmas and New Year holidays, and those who did not attend missed a very excellent exhibition of Newfoundland stamps sent in by Mr. R. E. King.

The **February** meeting was the Society's Annual General Meeting and a fairly good attendance was recorded. The Chairman, Mr. G. Whitehead, read his report and thanked the outgoing Committee for their excellent services, loyalty and support during his term of office, and proposed that Mr. Sinclair (Vice-Chairman) should take office as Chairman for the forthcoming year.. This was seconded by Mr. Lazarus and carried unanimously. The following officers and committee were elected. Mr. B. P. Jaffa, Secretary; Mr. Lazarus, Exchange Superintendent/Treasurer; Mr. Atkinson, Vice-Chairman; Committee, Messrs. Creewel, Fitzstephen, and Mrs. Wallace. The Porter Cup winner for 1954 was Mr. R. E. King of Bulawayo, with his magnificent collection of Pacific Islands, and he was presented with a silver cup, a small replica of the original Porter Cup.

B.P.J.

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

On **Tuesday, 18th January** the 35th Annual General Meeting was held at the Regent Hotel, Benoni. We had a very good attendance considering we have not a very large membership.

After the formal business had been concluded the Chairman, Mr. Suklje announced that the Sam Legator Cup which was open to all East Rand Philatelic Society members, was won by Mr. J. H. Clement; his collection was Canada and he was asked to exhibit it at the Pretoria exhibition this year. There was eight entries for this trophy, and it was stressed that more members should endeavour to come forward , irrespective of the completeness of the collections. This would make the meetings more enjoyable, and it would not leave all exhibits to be shown, to a few members. Some of these silent members have marvellous collections, but they are shy to bring them along.

The election of the Society Officers for the year 1955 was then proceeded with, and the following were elected: President, Mr. J. Shepherd; Vice-President, Mr. S. Legator; Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. E. N. Rigg. Two Committee Members, Messrs. C. Warner and J. H. Clement; Exchange Superintendent and News Editor, Mr. W. N. Sheffield; Federation Delegate, Mr. S. Legator; Federation Delegate Alternate, Mr. H. Suklje; Congress Delegate, Mr. J. Shepherd.

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Our **February** meeting on **Tuesday 1st** was well attended, and after the usual business was concluded there was a general discussion on current events including the new 1d. Union stamp in roll form; the new issue of Post Cards with 32 different views; the high values of Great Britain to have the various Castles on them. More collectors in other countries are showing signs that are favourable to Union of South African Stamps, especially the new issue.

Members who have not already got the Union Handbook were advised to get cracking before the month's end.

The evening's exhibit was provided by Mr. Suklje, Southern Rhodesia George VI. This was a large collection of all the values in singles, pairs, blocks, and up to half sheets. All the stamps were used, and it must have taken a long time for them to be collected.

Mr. Legator in passing a vote of thanks to the exhibitor made a few remarks on the collection dealing with the quantity of high values and the way they were placed on the sheets. This collection will no doubt be very valuable as some of the stamps are very hard to get, but members were shown what can be achieved if one goes all out for it. E.N.R.

AFRIKAANSE FILATELISTIESE VERENIGING.

Saterdag, 15 Januarie: Sake het soos gewoonlik mooi verloop en handel teen 'n nie onaansienlike bedraggie is gedryf. Die bywoning was egter swakker, waarskynlik omdat Januarie 'n vakansiemaand is. Die ou bende geesdriftiges is egter altyd daar en altyd gelaai om te verkoop of te koop. Hierdie aspek oortref gewoonlik die ander sy van die saak, nl. die veiling wat nie so goed ondersteun word nie.

To dusver is dit net lede wat die Saterdag-by-eenkomste steun, met so hier en daar 'n buitestaander. Ons hoop nog dat ander versamelaars hulle opwagting sal maak. Onthou alle blanke versamelaars is welkom—dit maak nie saak watter taal hy besig nie—selfs Duits en Frans word gepraat.

Vrydag, 4 Februarie het die laaste inskrywing in die reeks wedstryde vir die jaar 1954/55 om die Rembrandt Wisseltrofee gesien. Dit was dan sommer ook 'n buitengewone en besondere inskrywing wat lid G. H. van Rooyen uitgestal het — Suidwes-Afrika, en daarby 'n versameling soos min, en 'n maklike wenner van ons afdeling van die wedstryd.

Lid van Rooyen begin sommer daar doer in 1846 met 'n geskiedkundige oorsig van dié streek se poswese. Hy behandel die eerste posmeester Hugo von Goldammer en die oprigting van die eerste poskantoor by Otjimbingwe in 1888. Trap vir trap wys hy hoe die pos eers per draer, later met spoorpos en nog later met die meer ortodokse manier vervoer was.

Hy vervolg met die verskeie Duitse uitgawes wat daar gebruik was tot 1914, die Unie-oordrukke ens., ens., tot die jongste uitgawe van 15 November 1954. Meeste van die belangrike drukfoute is daar — boete- en amptelike seëls vanselfsprekend ook. Bv. al die seëls van 15 November het hy een seël

Die hele spul is kunstig en smaakvol voorgelê. op 'n koevert met 'n kunstenaarstekening van die motief op die koevert aangebring — iets sonderlings en mooi. O.a. ook miniatuurvelle van almal.

Die uitstalling was 200 blaaie uit 'n versameling van meer as 400 blaaie. Veels te veel om hier te bespreek.

Drie nuwe aansoeke is goedgekeur: mnre. J. W. du Plessis (Tulbagh) en G. W. van der Merwe (Piet Retief) en jongeheer J. R. Frank (Florida), terwyl drie verdere aansoeke ontvang is. S.J.V.

O.F.S. & BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Our 22nd Annual General Meeting took place in January, and was very well attended, taking into consideration that it is usually a dry and uninteresting evening! After the usual business part had been dealt with, the President, Secretary and Exchange Superintendent gave their annual reports, which were received with appreciation. The following Office-bearers were elected for the year 1955:

President, A. H. Scott; Vice-President, J. W. Hodgson; Hon. Sec./Treas., H. E. Roux; Exch. Supt., H. V. Gardiner; Auditor, A. Meyburgh; Publicity, Dr. K. Freund. Committee Members: Dr. K. Freund, M. Sachs, J. Weil, D. MacDonald.

Note. Our meetings are held at 7.30 p.m., on the 4th Fridays, in the Methodist Hall, Charles Street, **not** in the Technical College as stated in the January S.A. Philatelist. H.J.N.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The first meeting of 1955 saw a poor attendance due no doubt to the school holidays and to the storm which hit Pretoria just before the meeting was to be held. The 20 members who braved the elements were well rewarded as the President of the Federation, Mr. F. C. Ferguson, came over from Johannesburg and entertained the meeting.

He first of all spoke on the work of Federation and how societies and philatelists in general benefitted. He made mention of the Expertising Committee which has been formed to provide information regarding the genuineness etc., of stamps, which means that this facility is now available in South Africa and there is no longer any need to have stamps sent overseas to be categorised. He also stated that a firm liaison has been established between philatelists in this country and the postal authorities whereby the views of philatelists in general could be brought to the notice of the post office. Other points he mentioned were the publication of the South African Philatelist, the Handbook, and more especially Volume 2 of the Handbook which would be published shortly, as well as other publications such as the one relating to the stamps of Basutoland which was recently issued.

To round off the meeting Mr. Ferguson showed his collection of the Vatican city giving a great deal of extremely interesting information about this small place. Mr. Ferguson was thanked on behalf of the meeting by Mr. Howie who expressed the Society's appreciation for a most interesting evening and the information given about the workings of Federation certainly gave the members a lot to think about. P.M.J.M.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Annual General Meeting held at the Volkskas Bank Building on Wednesday the 9th February, 1955, at 8 p.m. Mr. S. J. Hagger in the Chair, 10 members, 1 visitor, and the Secretary/Treasurer in attendance. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read and confirmed.

Chairman's Report. The year just ended, the second in the Society's existence, had been a satisfactory one. It differed from the previous year in one most important respect ,as during that period we began to pay to and receive visits from other Philatelic Societies on the Rand. The Society is making steady if not spectacular progress, and I think we can safely say that it is here to stay.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report. During the past year 12 General Meetings were held and due to the kindness of Mr. Muller, all such meetings were held on the Volkskas Bank premises. The average attendance at our monthly meetings was 14, which proved to be a drop of a third compared with the attendance during 1953. It is to be hoped however that during 1955 more members will attend and at the same time introduce new members. Our membership remains at about the same figure as last year.

Election of Office Bearers for the Ensuing Year. President, Mr. S. J. Hagger; Vice-President, Mr. E. Muller; Hon. Secretary/Treasurer, Mr. I. S. Burniston; Hon. Librarian, Auctioneer and Exchange Superintendent, Mr. H. Christophers. Committee Members: Pr. Picton, Mr. Retief, Mr. Deverell. Hon. Auditor, Mr. Theo Ross again consented to act as Hon. Auditor during 1955.

Programme for 1955. The Secretary reported that out programme for 1955 was about complete except for a fe wmonths.

Exhibit for the Evening. Our President, Mr. S. J. Hagger, gave us a special treat when we were priveleged to view his extensive collection of used Union stamps. Before he tabled his display Mr. Hagger read a paper on this specialised collection. Hearty words of thanks to Mr. Hagger were spoken by Mr. E. Muller, Mr. Picton and Mr. Ross. I.S.B.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG.

The meeting of **February 5th** was the Annual General Meeting of the Society. Reports were presented by the President and Executive Officers. The President announced the awards made for the past year. These were: Lang Cup: Mr. W. Oppenheim; Thematic Award: Mr. E. Schaiowitz (for "Music"); The W. Redford Award: Mr. Haggar (for Union Exhibit); The J. H. Harvey Pirie Award: Mr. L. Buchen (German Colonies Exhibit); Society Award for best progress: Dr. Hesse.

Mr. E. Hunt presented a Silver Cup to the Society and asked the incoming committee to fix the conditions of its award. Election of Committee: The

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following were duly elected: President: Mr. K. Lydall; Vice-President: Mr. B. Glassman; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. M. Jecks; Joint Hon. Secretaries: Dr. W. G. Hesse and Mr. J. Michelson; Joint Hon. Exchange Superintendents: Mr. P. Seligman, Mr. A. J. Nathanson and Mr. G. Duigan. Members of Committee: Messrs. F. G. Froehlich, I. Isaacs, R. T. Lilley and W. N. Sheffield with Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie and Mr. B. Joseph ex-officio.

The retiring President Mr. B. Joseph gave a thematic exhibit of "Business Terms". This was a very amusing, ingenious and interesting exhibit of stamps illustrating common business terms such as farthing stamps for "Petty Cash", stamps with ships for "floating assets" and animal stamps for "Livestock". Mr. Joseph read a paper on the exhibit. Mr. I Isaacs spoke on the exhibit. On the 28th February Mr. J. Michelson showed a fine exhibit of the stamps of Lithuania. This was a specialised collection including several rare items. The Exhibit included several blocks and several flown covers. There were also errors. Mr. Michelson included some forgeries in the exhibit.

Mr. L. Buchen spoke on the exhibit.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL.

At an Extraordinary General Meeting held immediately prior to the regular Monthly Meeting on **5th January,** it was decided to raise the annual subscription from 15/- to £1 and that of Country Members from 5/- to 7/6.

The motion, proposed by Mr. Claude Whysall, met with very slight opposition and was passed with only one dissentient vote.
The increase takes effect from 1st January, 1955.

At the following meeting Mr. Bob Richards displayed his "Life Story of Queen Elizabeth II" — a thematic collection in competition for the Maynard Cup. Completely representative of the theme; well-mounted and written-up; with plenty of out-of-the-ordinary varieties to add philatelic interest; the collection met with a most interested reception and maintained the high standard to which members have now become accustomed.

Auction, Society business, and refreshments completed the agenda presented to a well-attended meeting.

Humidity has no terrors for the "Banana Boys!"

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

18th January, 1955.
The first meeting of the year took place in entirely new surroundings. The Society has been very fortunate in obtaining the use of a spacious, modern, welllit and comfortably furnished room (No. 506) in the Natal Building Society's Building in Main Street. Thus a long cherished wish has at last been realized. The President, when opening the meeting, welcomed members and visitors and expressed his delight at the change, which was fully shared by all present. We are looking forward to happy meetings in most congenial surroundings. Official business was attended to and members reminded of the pending Annual General Meeting. An auction and a three sheet — display of unusual or favourite stamps from a goodly number of members concluded a. happy evening.

1st February, 1955.
Many members and a few visitors assembled punctually to do justice and enjoy two very fine displays of stamps. The first one: Music on Stamps by Mrs. H. A. Fryer, a visitor herself, was much admired, and Mr. G. Bülbring thanked her warmly for her fine gesture and her talk which went with the display. The second treat was a lovely collection of Rhodesian Stamps in really first class condition, with many of the scarce and top values included, the property of Mr. E. Baer. Mr. W. Pavitt thanked the exhibitor on behalf of all and stressed particularly the superb condition of the material. Members lingered longer than usual over their tea, dotted about the room in little groups enjoying animated discussion. A good and well supported Auction conducted by Mr. Pearson brought the evening to an end well after 10 o'clock.

FRANCE.

On 5 February there appeared a 12fr. stamp honouring the 2nd centenary of the death of Saint-Simon, famous, posthumously, for his "Memoirs", dealing with the history of society and French literature.

SOME RECENT AUCTION PRICES.

H. R. Harmer.

Greece 1861. Paris printing, 10L with inverted 10, used although with tear and thinning, £120.
1st Athens printing, 1L used, £86.
Do. Do. 20L (S.G. 10), £230.
Do. Do. used on entire, £525.
Kenya, £4 (S.G. 106), unused, £16.
£1 (S.G. 143) unused, £8 10s.
S. Africa £1 (S.G. 24) unused, £13.
1920 Handley Page cover £33.
Cape Block 4 1d. deep brick red on deeply blued paper, used, £150.
Woodblock 1d. error of colour (S.G. 15), used, £480.
Newfoundland 1927 60c. 'De Pinedo' (S.G. 163) on cover, £120.
Rhodesia £10 (S.G. 13) unused, £13.

Robson Lowe.

Australia 1913 £1 (S.G. 15), unused, £12 10s.
1929 £2 (S.G. 114), unused, £15.
Cyprus 1924 £5 (S.G. 117a), unused, £33.
Falkland Is. 1933 Centenary set complete, £40.
Malta 1919 10/- (S.G. 96), unused, £34.
S. Africa £1 (S.G. 24) unused, £9.
New Republic combination cover with Z.A.R. stamp, £23.
Papua Cover with Queensland stamps 1885, £28.
Seychelles 18 Mauritius stamps with B 64 cancellations, £18.
Great Britain 1d. red brown Plate 77 error "A" omitted, used, £270.
Wurtemburg 1856, 18k. with silk thread, pair used, £62.
Nyasaland 1895 £25 (S.G. 31), unused but slightly creased, £42.

J. H. Wicks.

Cape 3d. on 4d. with 'PENCB' error (S.G. 34a), £5.
Vryburg (S.G. 1), paid double surcharge, pair £3.
G. Gritain £1 (S.G. 212) used £2 10s.
Rhodesia £5 (S.G. 92) unused, £8.
8d. on 1/- (S.G. 17) unused, £2 5s.
8d. perf. 15 (S.G. 246) unused, £3.
Transvaal 1/- (S.G. 37) used, £20.
France 1853-61 Proof of the 'Barre' 1c. £1/7/6.
Ladysmith Siege Cover, £3 15s.
Seychelles 45c. on R2.25 narrow '5' variety (S.G. 52), £10 10s.
O.R.C. ½d. with value omitted (S.G. 142), £3.

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UNION NOTES

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

Charcoal Centre ½d. Springbok Stamps — Red Serial Numbers.

A matter mentioned some three years or so ago by Mr. A. Lichtenstein of Bloemfontein and Dr. G. I. Faerber of Germiston, and unfortunately not recorded at the time, has recently been brought to light again by Mr. R. T. Lilley, Johannesburg, showing us a portion of a sheet of the ½d. Plate XXI Springbok stamps with the dull charcoal centres and **four-figure red** serial numbers in the margin instead of the five-figure black numerals.

At the time of its issue, the dull charcoal ("Rough") centres of the ½d. Plate XXI printing was believed to be confined to those sheets bearing only the five-figure black serial numbers and notes to this effect were published on page 114 of the Union Handbook of Postage Stamps. From information and examples that have since come to hand it is evident that the dull charcoal centre stamp was produced with both four-figure red and five-figure black serial numbers printed twice on the right hand margin of the sheets.

Mr. Lilley also notes that the frames of these particular stamps appeared in three quite distinct shades of green — light, medium and dark — and that the following cylinder flaws are constant in all three shades.

Row 17/5—Large white spot at foot of left hand vertical pillar.

Row 19/4 — Green spot under "A" of POSTAGE.

Row 20/3 — Large black spot at foot of right hand vertical bar.

New Machine Cancellations from Oudtshoorn.

Three new machine cancellations recently sent to us by Mr. C. Calitz of Mossel Bay are shown in the illustration on next page.

It is of interest to note that the two lower examples are machine versions of the "Paid—Betaal" type recorded and illustrated in its hand canceller form on pages 15 and 33 of our February and March issues.

"Fight Cancer" Slogan.

Further to the note in our January issue on the above slogan, Mr. Edwin Allison of Mowbray, Cape, has observed the following specimens.

Non-continuous machines:

"Fight Cancer" on the top line from Cape Town, East London, Johannesburg and Pretoria.

"Bestry Kanker" on the top line from Bloemfontein, Cape Town, Durban (Paid), Johannesburg and Port Elizabeth.

Continuous machines:

"Fight Cancer" in two lines and "Bestry Kanker" in two lines, one in each of the two spaces for slogans. Recorded from Johannesburg (Paid) and Kimberley.

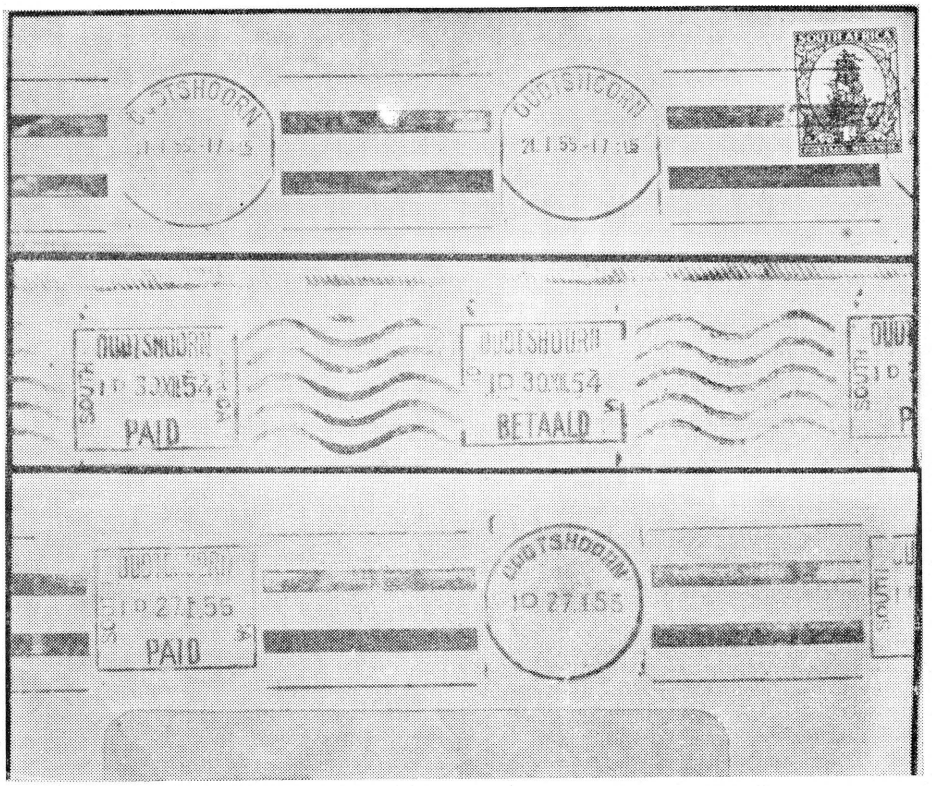
Unrecorded King's Head Variety.

A used copy of the 5/- King's Head issue with the three letters "UNI" missing from the word UNIE, three of the white dots absent from below this word and a portion of the white outer line also missing from above it, as shown in the photograph, was picked up a little while ago by Mr. G. N. Gilbert of Westminster, O.F.S.



Not having seen the variety listed in the Union Handbook or any of the earlier Union catalogues, Mr. Gilbert was considering it as non-constant until quite recently he saw the identical item in the collection of Dr. T. B. Berry of Bryanston, Transvaal and since the flaw was evidently constant, for a period at any rate, there are probably many other copies about simply waiting discovery.

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"Blind Perforations."

A perforation variety frequently seen in Union stamps and recently drawn to our attention by Mr. M. Sacks of Bloemfontein as occurring on some of the current issue 3d. stamps (Rhinoceros), is that of "Blind" perforations.

The feature shows up when one or more of the perforating pins fail to penetrate the paper and instead simply leave a round mark on the surface, or an imperfectly punched out disc. It can occur when the edges of the holes in the perforating plate have become partly blunted by the normal wear and tear action of the perforating pins and conditions are brought back to standard requirements by machining, or grinding off, a minute amount from the surface of the plate and so restoring the sharp cutting edge to the circumference of each hole.

"Blind" perfs. generally occur in groups or in fairly large numbers on a sheet, whereas "missing" perfs., which are the result of broken perforating pins, nearly always show up as "singletons" with no circular mark on the paper and surrounded by cleanly cut perforations. In addition, a "missing" perf. variety will be found in a constant position on those sheets printed during the period the perforating apparatus with the broken pin is in use.

Rotogravure 1d. Pictorial Plate XIV Variety.

A photograph of a variety sent to us last year by Mr. E. Wilkinson of Enniskerry and which originally came from Mr. J. J. Keenan of Dublin, is reproduced below.

It takes the form of a series of short marks on the horizontal lines in the left upper portion of the oval and on the stamp itself is not unlike a flight of large birds flying in formation across the sky.



To the best of our knowledge this variety was first noted by Mr. K. F. Giles in the January/February 1954 issue of "The Springbok" and was recorded as constant and illustrated by Mr. Keenan in the following number of the same magazine. From an inspection of a sheet of the Plate XIV stamps we can confirm its constancy and that it appeared on the fourth stamp of the sixth row in the sheet.

Union Handbook/Catalogue—Volume II.

At the time these Notes appear the printers will be busy running off the second volume of the "Handbook/Catalogue — Union of South Africa Stamps" and it is expected that the new book will be on sale towards the end of April or early in May.

As mentioned last month, the same high standard as that employed in the production of the first volume, has been fully maintained in this well printed, informative and excellently illustrated supplementary edition and as such will prove a pleasure to always have at hand.

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Apart from a large number of additions to the main text and a general revision of prices, some of the sections in the original volume have been modified to assist the more advanced collector and there is no doubt but that the combination of the two Handbooks will have an unequalled reference value and be used as the basis for starting and building up any collection on the stamps of the Union.

One of the new features in Volume II is the inclusion of a bibliography on articles that have appeared in the "South African Philatelist" since 1923 on the Union's stamps. These articles are listed under the various sections of the Handbook to which they apply so that they form an instant reference for the collector in search of additional information on the items he happens to be particularly interested in at the time. A limited supply of back numbers of the "South African Philatelist" is available and for those who happen to be short of any particular copy application can always be made to the Secretary for the issue required.

Finally, we should just like to repeat that the edition of Volume II is a limited one, half of it has already been bespoken and if you have not ordered your copy we strongly advise you to do so without any further delay.

PAPER

By

A. I. MACKENZIE.

Paper to the manufacturer is the finished article, to the printer it is a raw material. These conflicting viewpoints of the same article have confused the layman for hundreds of years.

For the sake of convenience paper is made up in two ways. In reels and in sheets. A reel of paper may weigh half a ton, consist of five miles of paper and the breadth of the sheet may be 6 feet.

When we come to sheets we are faced with a very wide field.

Looking at a paper-maker's advertisement which is in front of me as I write, I see the following:

20in. x 30in. 36, 39 and 45 lbs 500's.
22½in. x 35in. 50, 56 and 60 lbs. 500's.
There are seven altogether, the last one reads 36in. x 46in. 106 and 120 lbs. 500's.
What does this mean?

The figure 500 gives the clue. It means that in a ream (bundle to you) of 500 sheets each sheet being of a size 20in. x 30in. there are three different weights of paper. Or in other words 500 sheets of the size 20in. x 30in. may weigh 36 lbs., 39 lbs. or 45 lbs.

Why should there be this difference?

It is the same size and the same paper; the difference lies in the proportion of ingredients used. It is generally one ingredient known as "filler", which varies in quantity.

Paper is a fibrous substance, and to make it capable of being written on, the holes between the fibres have to be filled in. One substance used is china clay. If a small amount of this clay is used we arrive at the weight of 36 lbs. per 500 sheets for a sheet size of 20in. x 30iu.

If more filler is used, and all the other ingredients remain exactly the same, we arrive at a weight of 39 lbs. and if still more filler is added we have a weight of 45 lbs.

It means in effect that these three papers have different writing, or printing qualities. On the lightest paper the ink might "strike through", that is it can be seen on the reverse side; on the heaviest quality paper this would not be the case.

If we use larger sheets we find heavier weights, because we are dealing with larger areas.

But in all cases the paper is the same. So for a stamp collector to say that because the weight of the paper varies the grade of paper varies, might be misleading. The grade of paper is determined by what goes into its manufacture, all the ingredients, not just one of them, and unless we know the "recipe" used it is not wise to go on weight alone.

Now of course we arrive at watermarks. Water-marks when present are the "hall marks" of paper and enable its identity to be established beyond dispute. But what happens when there is no watermark as is the case with several of the stamps being printed today? Australia for instance?

Here we have to depend upon official information.

To try and identify paper by seeing if it is laid or wove is not always possible. In the examples quoted above, the manufacturer will supply the same grade and same weight of paper in either laid or wove. It is merely a question of changing the dandy roller.

If the paper is put under a microscope all questions can be answered, but not all of us have microscopes.

While the paper manufacturer, the warehousemen and the machine-minder can often identify paper by its look, its feel and its weight and some other rough and ready guides, the stamp collector is unfortunately not in that position.

This article is written to show the average stamp collector that the identification of stamp paper is a more complicated job than he might have thought it was.

ROBBERY OF CAPES.

The British Philatelic Trade is to be congratulated on the manner it brought to light the robbery of a collection of Cape stamps valued at about £18,000.

A dealer in Southampton was offered some fine triangulars by an unknown vendor; he thought their pedigree should be known and after some search found illustrations of them in a Harmer catalogue of a year or two back. Getting into touch with Bond Street, the purchaser of them at that sale was ascertained; he was asked if he were breaking up his collection —his reply was in the negative, but when he went to refer to his collection, he found it was missing. The hunt was now on.

No public announcement was made, but the stamp trade in general was informed. Very soon several dealers reported offers to them of suspicious stamps and while one was being considered the police were notified. The thief came back, was captured, and the outcome was a sentence of 10 years' imprisonment.

This story is told in greater detail in "Stamp Collecting" of 4th February. It may be added that stamps to the value of about £13,000 were recovered; the remainder have not apparently been traced.

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NUMBERING THE ROWS

By
GORDON WARD, M.D.

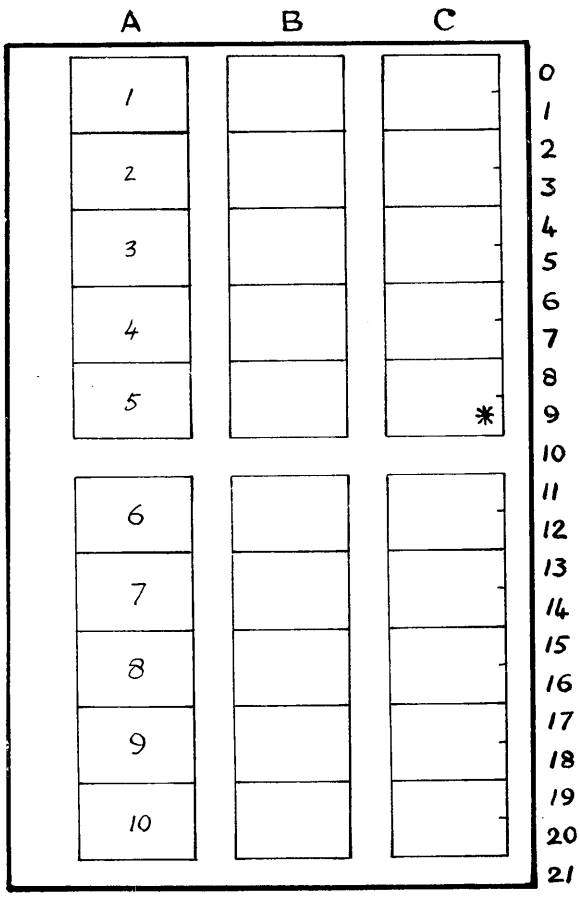
The study of photogravure issues of South Africa is already so difficult that I make no apology for pleading for some agreed ruling on one particular point, namely, the method of numbering the rows on each sheet. This would seem to be simple enough but there are really grave difficulties because there are different forms of sheet, all derived from the same multipositive, and all showing its characteristic flaws e.g.—

(1) The simple 20-row sheet of early issues—where a flaw noted as appearing in one place was always in that place.

(2) The 22-row sheet used for rolls and made from a 22-row multipositive which was also used for sheet issues, employing sometimes rows 1-20, sometimes 2-21 and even 3-22. On these a given variety may be completely absent or it may turn up in some unaccustomed position.

(3) The booklet sheet in which rows 10 and 21 have been blacked out and in which a given variety may again be absent or misplaced.

Permit me to take a particular example. The Handbook/Catalogue describes a "Flaw over the top right corner tablet" as appearing in position 9/12 in Plate 19 and 22 but in position 8/12 in Plates 20 and 21. In the current booklet/sheet this same flaw is in position 10/12. (See article by Sam Legator and W. N. Sheffield in South African Philatelist for March and April, 1953). The collector who obtains a copy of this flaw will not necessarily be able to plate it and will therefore be at a loss as to how to position that block and that is something we all want to do if possible. May I therefore suggest that we ought if possible to make the matter rather less complicated, in short, that flaws should be allowed to keep to one position. This would not be difficult. The whole of the trouble arises from the use of a 22-row multipositive for making 20-row sheets. There are always two rows which have to be blacked out and these could be (a) two rows at the top, or (b) two rows at the bottom, or (c) one row at the top and one at the bottom, or (d) one row in the middle and another elsewhere. In each case the flaws change their position on the printed sheet but remain where they always were on the multipositive. I think that the position of the flaw on the multipositive should be taken as standard. In order that this position may be that to which we have all been accustomed for some years it will be necessary to imagine the 22 rows of the multipositive numbered from 0-21. Any other number would give us a lot of new flaw positions to learn. Is this too difficult? To most collectors it will not matter at all. To the specialist it would be a great convenience.



Objection may be taken to the making of a row with number "0". This is suggested to avoid re-numbering the numerous flaws already long since catalogued. The alternative is to re-number all these flaws and to make the ordinary average sheet commence with row 2, the first row having been moved up one. It is not a very convenient alternative.

I enclose a diagram of the current booklet sheet, based, of course, on that in the article already quoted but I have allowed for paper of the normal width and have shown two horizontal rows as blacked out, a point assumed by the authors without specific mention. The large asterisk shows the position of the flaw over the right tablet, and the proposed numbering of rows is shown on the right hand side. Rows 10 and 21 have been blacked out and the numbering of panes is that suggested by Messrs. Legator and Sheffield.

NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION 1956.

The most important International Exhibition to be held in 1956 will take place in New York from the 3-12th March and will be known as FIPEX. It will be housed in a $35 million building called the New Coliseum now being erected in New York City.

At the last New York Exhibition in 1947 over 200,000 visitors attended and it is expected that this number will be exceeded in 1956.

The Executive Committee have invited Mr. Douglas Roth of Mona Crescent, Newlands, C.P. to serve on the Committee as special representative for South Africa and collectors interested should write to him for further information. The first prospectus will be published in March 1955.

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OBITUARIES

JACK SHEPHERD.

Jack Shepherd was born in Johannesburg 46 years ago. He was educated in Middelburg, Transvaal. He planned to celebrate his 47th birthday, May the 19th, on a trip up the East Coast to Mozambique, but it was not to be.

He commenced his business career by joining his father in a fishmonger's business, in Brakpan. He was not happy at his job, and decided that there were better prospects for him in Johannesburg. Here he started an Estate Agency, but soon felt that he could do better in Brakpan. His view was correct and he established a flourishing business there.

In October 1933 he married Elsie Stern, a girl endowed with a wonderful nature and courage. Their three sons have the same spirit and will be a tower of strength to their mother in her sad loss.

As a youth Jack collected stamps of the world, and by 1935 had amassed a substantial general collection. Then specialising in South West Africa he gradually built up a fine collection; he did not just amass stamps in quantity, but felt that every stamp he put into his collection had to be there for a purpose.

In 1947, he had reached a stage in his South West Africa collection, where he felt that he could not get much further, and he turned his fancy to the collecting of Capes. Here was something near to his heart, he would be able to study Early Postal history, Post Marks, the stamps and forgeries that went with a Cape collection. He set about it in a most methodical manner and during the last six or seven years his Cape collection has become renowned. In 1952 he exhibited this collection in Cape Town at the Van Riebeeck Exhibition, and we can remember how beautiful the display was, and what a wealth of material was shown. The winning of a high award at this Exhibition urged him to higher levels and he set about adding some very rare items to this collection and also corresponded with collectors of Capes throughout the world. He was gaining knowledge and had reached the stage where he was ready to put his knowledge into print.

The world in general and South Africa in particular have lost a fine Philatelist. He was a member of the East Rand Philatelic Society for more than 20 years and was their President on numerous occasions. He was a delegate to the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa for a long time and was also a Vice-President for the Transvaal on this body. He hardly missed a Congress. He also served on the Expert Committee, where his knowledge was invaluable.

Outside Philately, Jack Shepherd was a highly respected member of the community, his word was his bond and he never forgot his obligations. His success was due to these high principles.

He was a keen Mason, Rotarian and member of the Hebrew Order of David. During 1951/54 he was a Town Councillor and in 1953/54 served as Deputy Mayor.

He enjoyed his game of Bowls as he did his golf and swimming. He was interested in organised sport, arranging Bowls tournaments, and at the time of his sudden death, was arranging an important golf competition for the women of the East Rand.

He believed that "Disease is a hinderance of the body, not the will, unless the will itself consent."

JAN WILLEM SCHUBART.

Death has claimed another prominent philatelist from the Southern Transvaal in the sudden passing of J. W. Schubart at the early age of 47.

He had been a member of the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg for a considerable period and was at one time Exchange Superintendent. He was very public spirited and when any exhibition or show was on, his services were given to the full; as an expert draftsman they were also in great demand for writing up certificates, show cards and the like.

He took an active part in the foundation and work of the Afrikaanse Filatelistiese Vereniging and was its Voorsitter for the current year.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to his widow and family in their bereavement.

FORMATION OF NEW SOCIETY IN WESTERN TRANSVAAL.

A well attended inaugural meeting held at Klerksdorp on February 15th saw the formation of a new society, the Western Transvaal Philatelic Society, which will fill a long felt want in this area and is intended to cater for the many philatelists spread throughout the Western Transvaal. The National President, Mr. F. C. Ferguson, presided and amongst decisions taken was one establishing the new body as a bilingual one. An active committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Mr. P. J. van der Merwe, with Mr. Scholtz as Honorary Secretary. Meetings will be held on the third Monday of each month and stamp collectors desirous of becoming members should send their applications to the Hon. Secretary, P.O. Box 254, Klerksdorp. The annual subscription will include a copy of the "S.A. Philatelist".

Mr. Ferguson gave an outline of the activities of Federation and a resolution was taken to apply forthwith for membership of the national body. At the close of the formal business, Mr. Ferguson tabled two exhibits which the gathering found intensely interesting.

During the National President's periodical business visitation of the Western Transvaal he found many philatelists not belonging to any society and seemingly isolated from their fellow hobbyists. It is to be hoped that these collectors will now avail themselves of the opportunity not only to link up with the new Society but will also give it practical support in the way of talks, papers and exhibits. Good luck to this latest addition to our ranks.

A. LICHTENSTEIN.

Mr. A. Lichtenstein of Bloemfontein has asked us to make his apologies to clients who may have had delays in replies to letters, etc. He has been much upset by the sudden death of his second son just a few days after his 20th birthday. The lad was an experimental officer at Modderfontein Dynamite Factory, also a keen philatelist. Our sympathies go out to the parents.

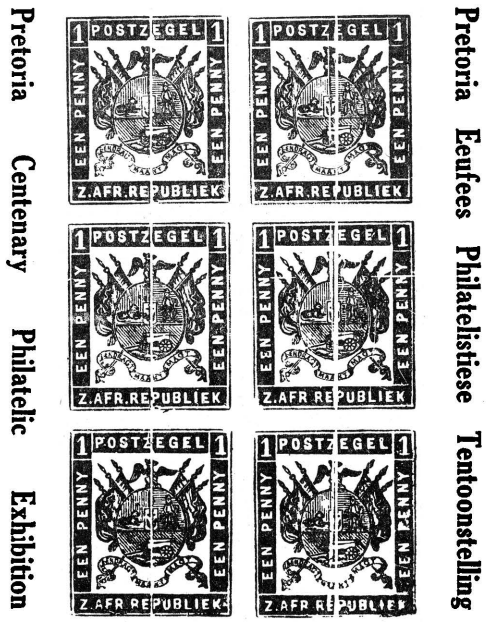
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TEPPEX.

The National Exhibition — "TEPPEX" — to be held on 31 Oct. to 5 Nov. under the auspices of the Philatelic Societies in Pretoria, in connection with the city's centenary, are not appealing for funds but hope to defray expenses largely by the sale of reproductions of the 1d. Z.A.R. stamp in a block of six on glazed cards.

These are on sale now at 6d. each or in quantity at 35/- per 100, and we are informed that about half the printing has already gone.

Teppex 1955



The Committee will also service the **Official Pretoria Centenary Covers** at 6d. each (33/4 per 100). The service charge of 4d. per cover includes provision of a stiffener, but not the postage, which is extra.

All orders and remittances to be placed direct to Exhibition Committee, P.O. Box 514, Pretoria.

WANTED

Contacts willing to supply shades, varieties, etc., from various parts of the Union. Also office lots Bank clippings. Write to-day to:

C. E. SHERWOOD, P.T.S.,
"THE UNION SPECIALIST"
105 MARFORD CRESCENT, SALE, MANCHESTER
G.B.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR THE MONTH

Union Postage Due, 2d. double image, Handbook Nos. D40va and D45vb, the two mint blocks of 8, 10/-.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Mint Cylinder Blocks:—

½d.	11A/11B	1/6
½d.	70/31	6d.
½d.	70 missing 31	20/-
1d.	6A/6B	2/6
1d.	36/6925	1/-
1d.	14/70	1/-
1d.	14/76	1/-
1d.	88/70	5/-
2d.	37/2	1/-
2d.	6927/50	1/-
2d.	46/27	5/-
2d.	18/27	1/-
2d.	18/30	1/-
3d.	44A/44B	5/-
3d.	17	1/6
6d.	6/6930	3/-
1/-	6926/6935	6/-
2/6	6919/17	15/-
5/-	6925/36	30/-

4d. Cape Triangular Centenary, 2 bottom rows of sheet with cracked plate variety, broken knee and Cylinder Block 7/6

G. J. de Swardt
P.O. Box 281,
PRETORIA.

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OUR EXCHANGE PACKETS

By W. IMPEY.

(Concluded from page 36 of March issue.)

There is also less likelihood of the exchange superintendent accidentally spoiling other stamps when he squares off the booklets, and marks the spaces from which stamps have been removed. Use good quality hinges which are peelable and which may be easily removed without damaging the stamps. But be sure that the hinges are gummed. Sometimes hinges are not well gummed — even good hinges — and the stamps become loose and are lost. The selling price of each stamp should be written in ink **above** it. It is also useful to add the catalogue number and the catalogue price. This greatly assists buyers. A good plan is to mount all your duplicate stamps, and when doing so, to write down the catalogue number and the catalogue price in pencil above the stamp and then when the booklet is full to go through it and write the selling prices in ink, total each page and write a summary of the selling prices on the inside of the back cover of the booklet. It is also very helpful to mount in each booklet or at any rate on each page the stamps of only one country. It takes a buyer much less time to go through a booklet made up in this way, than if the stamps are all mixed up. Be sure that your selling price appears immediately above each stamp otherwise buyers make mistakes when buying.

I will say very little about the pricing of stamps. Both the seller and the buyer must be satisfied if a sale is to take place. You should remember that the price of anything is the lowest amount which the seller will be prepared to accept and the highest price tha the buyer will be prepared to pay. If a buyer finds that the price of the stamps in the booklets is a little less than he would have ordinarily have expected to pay, he will more readily buy. Buyers should not, however, expect sellers to sell good stamps at a third or a half of the catalogue price. A good stamp cannot be obtained from a reputable dealer at less than catalogue price. Therefore buyers should be prepared to pay near catalogue price for good stamps. The Society deducts a commission on all sales, and although this commission is not much, it must be taken into account. On the other hand it pays sellers to sell their duplicates at a lower price than what they would otherwise expect to receive, rather than to not sell them at all.

In regard to buyers. It should be borne in mind that many collectors acquire their stamps through exchange booklets. There are various reasons for this. Usually they can obtain their stamps at lower prices than they would if they were to buy them from dealers. Members who receive the exchange booklets see the stamps of scores of other collectors — those who send in booklets. They do not have to deal with one person or dealer. They have the advantage of examining the stamps at their leisure, with their albums beside them. They can examine the stamps carefully and compare them with those in their own collections. They may obtain varieties which they do not have and they have the opportunity of improving their collections. If they buy by the catalogue they may forget that the stamps which they have ticked off in their catalogue may not be good specimens.

Many members, especially country members, join Philatelic Societies mainly with a view to obtaining the exchange packets. Country members gain very little by being members of Societies other than in obtaining the packets. They cannot attend our meetings or see our exhibits. I know for a fact that most members who receive exchange packets eagerly look forward to receiving them. Our members are scattered over the whole of South Africa and even South West Africa and the Protectorates. The packets go to Cape Town, Durban, East London, Kimberley, various towns in the Free State and in the Eastern, Northern and Western Transvaal, besides circulating between a large number of members in Johannesburg and its environs and of course in Pretoria.

What happens when members receive the packets. In the first place I must remind you that members are responsible for the safe custody of the packets and of all the stamps in the various booklets. They should arrange to take personal delivery of all packets and keep them in a safe place while they are in their possession. When they deliver packets to the next member on the list the packets should be handed over personally or if this is not possible, to some other responsible person on behalf of the member. If the packets are sent by post they should be securely packed and sent by insured post — Insured for their full value.

Packets should be dealt with and passed on with a minimum of delay. The booklets have to circulate amongst nearly 100 members. If each member retains the packets for only three days it will take at least 300 days for them to go round. If account is taken of the inevitable delay in delivery, especially when parcels are sent by post, it will be seen that it is almost impossible to send them round in much less than a year.

Members must sign for all stamps removed from the booklets. Quite a number only initial. This makes it very difficult to ascertain who have taken stamps. Come members' signatures are almost illegible. The best is to use a small neat rubber stamp — which can be purchased, with an inking pad for about 5/-. This rubber stamp will be found useful for many other purposes as well. To do things systematically pays in the end. As soon as a stamp is removed it should be signed for immediately — or your rubber stamp stamped on the space from which the stamp has been removed. Keep for your own benefit a record of all packets received with the date when received and the date when they are passed on. Also keep a record of all purchases. Keep a piece of paper handy for this purpose. It will also help when adding up your purchases. As each book is gone through sign or stamp your name on the cover and write on it the total amount of your purchases. When you have gone through all the books make out an advice slip, which must be sent without delay to the Exchange Superintendent, with a remittance for the amount due. Some members do not send in their advice slips, especially members who make no purchases. It is essential that these slips be sent in as soon as possible so that the Exchange Superintendent may know when a member has sent on

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the packet to the next member and so keep track of the packets. If a member does not send in an advice slip the packet is presumed to be still in his possession and he may receive a reminder to send it on. Some members do not add up their purchases correctly, or they miss out an item here or there. This makes it difficult for the Exchange Superintendent to square off the booklets, and he is obliged to make an adjustment (if it is a small amount) or collect the amount owing from the member concerned — which it annoying.

Only by the co-operation of all concerned can the exchange department be made a success.

Lastly the Exchange Superintendent's side. Unfortunately the Exchange Superintendent has an onerous job. When he receives exchange booklets he must check them, keep a proper record of each booklet such as the owner's name, the date received and the value of the stamps in it. Receipt of the booklet is usually acknowledged. As soon as there are sufficient booklets on hand they are made up into packets and sent out. Booklets are, as far as possible, first sent to those members who are known to be most interested in them. All new booklets cannot, however, be sent to the same members first. Usually packets are made up in such a way that each circuit received some new booklets and some that have been to other members. The booklets must be so circulated that they do not go to the same members twice.

A record is kept of all packets in circulation and it is for this reason that it is important that members should send in their advice slips. After all it only costs a 2d. stamp to post them. A remittance for the amount due for all purchases made should accompany the advice slips. If members attend the meetings of the Society regularly I have no objection to them paying for their purchases at the first meeting thereafter but they cannot expect the Society to give them credit. All sales are on a strictly cash basis.

The cash received is immediately entered in the cash book and banked at frequent intervals.

When the packets have been circulated and are returned they are checked: each booklet is squared off and if everything is in order the spaces from which stamps have been removed are stamped with the Society's stamp. The necessary bookkeeping entries are made. The sales from each book are entered against that book and the owner's accounts are credited. Books which have completed the circuits are withdrawn, the commission on the total sales is debited and as soon as possible thereafter the books are returned to their owners, together with a cheque for the stamps sold, less commission.

It causes a lot of trouble if members forget to sign for stamps taken or if they add up their purchases incorrectly. A little care in this connection certainly simplifies matters for the Exchange Superintendent. Delay in sending on the packets is also annoying. Other members are anxious to receive the packets and owners are anxious to get their booklets back as soon as possible. I can assure you that the Exchange Superintendent does not like to send out reminders or impose fines, but he must do so sometimes. On the whole most members are very co-operative but there are some who think a delay of a week or so does not matter.

I cannot give you a very spectacular exhibit on the exchange department but I have mounted a few pages to show how booklets should **not** be made up, what stamps should **not** be put into booklets, how stamps should **not** be mounted, e.g. by hinging them badly so that the hinges cannot be removed without damaging the stamps, the using of inferior hinges and hinges without gum. I am also showing a few pages to illustrate how stamps should be mounted into booklets, what types of stamps are in demand and how they should be hinged. I am also showing a method whereby stamps can be hinged with the owner's name on the hinge so as to avoid substitution .This method will not spoil the stamps and if the stamps are removed the hinge cannot be used again.

I am showing a few pages of booklets where the purchaser has only initialled for the stamps taken and others where the signature of the purchaser is quite illegible. On the other hand I shall show some booklets which are properly signed and on the covers of which the entries have been correctly made. I have taken the precaution to see that the identity of the members concerned is not disclosed.

I am also showing a map to illustrate how the packets circulate. As you see there are three country circuits and each is illustrated in a different colour. It is very difficult to show exactly how the packets go to all the country members but the map will give you some idea. I am unable to draw up a similar map to illustrate how the packets circulate among the large number of town members who receive them but all I can say is that they go to about 50 or 60 local members.

Lastly I am showing how the records of books received are kept, how the packets are recorded and how the purchases and sales are recorded. In doing this I have similarly taken the precaution of seeing that the identity of sellers and buyers is kept confidential.

I hope that the matter may be of interest.

SOUTH AFRICA ESSAYS

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Other Specialist Material often in stock — record your requirements.

W. L. FRESHWATER

THE OLD PARSONAGE, FRILSHAM, HERMITAGE, NEWBURY, BERKS.,
(Tel.: Yattendon 275) ENGLAND.

HELP WANTED.

In a letter addressed to the "South African Philanthropist" (but which found us) an optimist says he has just started a collection of mint Union stamps.

He wishes to mount the 1d. roll stamp in one continuous strip, but as it is 40 feet long he has difficulty in finding a suitable album.

The local stamp dealers are not at all helpful. Can anyone offer a really practical solution. No leg-pullers wanted.

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Wants, Offers and Exchange

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

APPROVAL SELECTIONS INVITED. Top-grade copies only. Barbados, The Nigerias, St. Helena, Somaliland Protectorate. — WILLIAM REDFORD, Box 1182, Johannesburg.

Common and better African stamps off paper, wanted in large quantities. Give good Presidentials, Airs, Foreigns. — JOSEPH WIEDMAN, 1616 Redfield Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin, U.S.A.

WANTED. Common Southern African stamps, current or obsolete, on or off paper. Any quantity. Please state quantities available and price required. A. LICHTENSTEIN, Box 1117, Bloemfontein.

SWAZILAND. Wanted ½d. with o'ptd. error "Swazielan" (S.G. 4b), mint or used.—Dr. HARVEY PIRIE, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

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.

Arrangements can be made to bind back-numbers at an additional charge of 2/6 per volume. On orders under 10/- please add postage. Early application is strongly recommended.—Business Manager, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

ORANGE FREE STATE. Am breaking up a magnificent collection containing most of the principal rarities.—DOUGLAS ROTH, Mona Crescent, Newlands, C.P.

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

COMPLETE English-Afrikaanse Phlatelic Glossary. 3/6 post free.—Afrikaanse Filatelistiese Vereniging, c/o. P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

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

WANTED On Cover Pietersburg; Vryburg (Cape initialed C.S.Q.); also Boer War Locals. Forward particulars.—J. D. ROSSOUW, P.O. Box 4, Paarl.

CAPE TRIANGULARS. Available on Approval subject to usual Guarantee. — Apply U. CHOWLES, P.O. Box 429, Pretoria.

WANTED URGENTLY, Common Southern African stamps, current, obsolete, on or off paper. Any quantity. State quantities available and price wanted. — SPRINGBOK STAMPS, Dept. S.A.P., Box 82, Klerksdorp.

SUPERB used copies of classic of Switzerland and France please offer to: B. SEELIG, P.O. Box 5521, Johannesburg.

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.

1951 UNION BOOKLETS—Wanted Nos. A3, A6, A9, B2, B3, B6, C4 and C5 Purchase or exchange for others in same series.—W. N. SHEFFIELD, c/o. Box 99, Cleveland, Tvl.

WANTED on cover Cape of Good Hope in superb condition Rectangulars 1864-1904. Especially blocks and strips. — C. R REYNOLDS, Box 105, Beaufort West.

SEND 100 different stamps to receive 110. BRIAN FRAHER, Maryknoll Nyegina Musoma Tanganyika.

OFFERED pre-1914 collection of Africa including foreign. Catalogue Value approx. £350—with some very nice items. To be sold as a whole for £100 or near offer. — Mrs. I. BETZLER, 16, Caister House, 635 Pretorius Street, Pretoria.

EXCHANGE. Send 100 or more African pictorials, receive same quantity and quality U.S.A. and Canada.—LEON HERVEY, Apt. 16D, 175 West 93rd Street, NEW YORK 25, N.Y., U.S.A.

STAMPS. EXCHANGE wanted with the African Colonies. I give in exchange Sweden, Norway, Finland, Russia, etc. — SVEN CARLSSON, Finntorp, Nykoping, Sweden.

MINT K.G. VI & Q.E. II Collection for sale. Containing many fine items. Whole or in lots. Please contact H. HORN, P.O. Box 707, Johannesburg.

SUIDERTYDING., die versamelaar se kwartaalblad, sal u in aanraking met di seëlliefhebber in andere gebiede bring. Spesiale korting vir filatelistiese verenigings en Voortrekkerkommando's. Stuur asb. 2d. seël vir besonderhede en 'n proefnommer aan: SUIDHOEK STOKPERDJIES (Afd. S.A.P.), Posbus 8, Observatory, Kaapland.

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ANGLO-BOER WAR CENSOR MARKS & LABELS

By J. D. ROSSOUW and J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

(Concluded from page 43 of March issue).

CENSOR LABELS.

Colour of Paper	Size in m.m.	Wording, Etc.	Place of Use	Dates of Use
		(1)		
White	80 x 26 Boxed 64 x 20	Postdepartement Z.A. Republiek. Ambtshalve gesloten (P. no 30) (Perforated).	Pretoria Johannesburg	10/10/1899 11/10/1899
		(2)		
White	68 x 32	Postdepartement Z.A. Republiek. Geopend voor Insagen onder DE OORLOGSWET. Postkantoor Johannesburg.	Johannesburg	10/10/1899
		(3)		
White	96 x 46 Boxed 88 x 30	British Coat of Arms between V.R. Officially sealed in the Post Office at.....Natal. By..... (Outside Box): G.P.O. No. 110-10,000-98 (at top) and Initials of Clerk (at bottom).	Durban	27/11/1899 12/10/1899
		(4)		
White	114 x 51 Box 88 x 30	Similar to above but at top of box (outside) G.P.O.: No. 110-5000-99.	Durban	
		(5)		
Pink	80 to 95 x 26 Boxed 63 x 20	Postdepartement, Z.A. Republiek. Geopend onder krygswet. (P. no. 30). Found imperforated and perforated or perforated top and bottom.	Pretoria Krugersdorp	15/10/1899 28/4/1900 19/4/1901
White		This cover was open when it reached the Censor.	Field P.O. No. 11	2/2/1900
		(7)		
Pink	108 x 50 Boxed 95 x 41	British coat of arms between V.R. Opened under Martial Law.	Durban Cape Town	23/1/1900 11/9/1900
Pink	98 x 34	Small British coat of arms between V.R. Opened under Martial Law.	Cradock Bloemfontein	Nov. 1900 20/12/1900 21/2/1901
		(8)		
Pink	80 x 26 Boxed 64 x 20	Similar to the fifth label above. Overstamped in red On His Majesty's Service.	Pretoria	9/1/1901
Pink	108 x 60	Crown between V.R. Opened under Martial Law between two lines (large print).	Durban	18/1/1901
Pink	93 x 27 Boxed 64 x 20	C.10. O.H.M.S. Opened under Martial Law.	Johannesburg Waterval Boven	16/8/1900 24/9/1901
Pink	93 x 27 Boxed 64 x 20	536. O.H.M.S. Opened under Martial Law.	Johannesburg.	22/6/1900 13/10/1900
Pink	83 x 50	Crown between V.R. Opened under Martial Law between two lines.	Bloemfontein	12/2/1901 25/12/1901
		(9)		
Pink	95 x 30	Large British Coat of Arms between V.R. Opened under Martial Law. Initials of censoring officer.	Bloemfontein	2/10/1901

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Colour of Paper	Size in m.m.	Wording, Etc.	Place of Use	Dates of Use
Yellow	95 x 32 & 94 x 35 & 94 x 29	Large British coat of arms between V.R. Opened under Martial Law. Initials of censoring officer.	Bloemfontein	24/4/1901 2/5/1901
Pink	114 x 27	436. On Her Majesty's Service. Opened under Martial Law. (10)	Johannesburg.	18/1/1901
	80 x 27 Boxed 63 x 20	(11)	Pretoria Port Elizabeth	1/4/1901
Pink	120 x 64	Large crown between E.R. Opened under Martial Law. (12)	Durban	16/7/1901
Pink Brick	110 x 57	Crown between E.R. Opened under Martial Law between double lines.	Standerton Johannesburg Durban	19/12/1901 25/3/1902 8/4/1902
Pink	63 x 20 (boxed)	On His Majesty's Service. Opened under Martial Law.	Johannesburg	July, 1901
Pink	112 x 56 Boxed 94 x 42	Large British coat of arms between E.R. Opened under Martial Law.	Bloemfontein Pretoria	19/6/1901 17/7/1901
Yellow	93 x 32 and 102 x 30	British coat of arms between E.R. Opened under Martial Law. Initials of censoring officer: (also one dot after officer). (13)	Bloemfontein	10/12/1901 8/4/1902
White	130 x 38	British coat of arms between E.R./Opened under Martial Law.	Cape Town Swellendam Paarl Wynberg	17/1/1902 4/6/1902
White	75 x 27 Double boxed 62 x 22 & 53 x 12	Opened under Martial Law (in gothic print). (14)	Kimberley Cradock De Aar	2/8/1900 23/8/1901 2/3/1901
White	71 to 65 x 26 Double boxed 62 x 22 and 53 x 12	Opened under Martial Law(in heavier roman print).	De Aar Graaff Reinet	18/6/1901 23/11/1901
White	75 x 26 Double boxed 62 x 22 and 53 x 12	Opened under Martial Law. (Perforated on two, three or all sides).	Cape Town	17/4/1901
Orange Yellow White Brownish Red	95 to 105 x 28	Opened under Martial Law. (15)	Paarl	9/1/1901 21/1/1902
Yellow	98 x 29	Opened under Martial Law (applied by means of a rubber stamp).	Paarl	6/1/1902
White	76 x	Passed by Censor in red between two lines.	Beaufort West	10/12/1901
White	98 x 32	British Coat of Arms. Opened under Martial Law. Initials of censoring officer.	Kingwilliamstown	27/7/1901
Blue Green	104 x 32 92 x 26	Opened under Martial Law. Initials of Censoring officer . . .	Uitenhage	15/4/1901 26/4/1901
White	93 x 26	Passed Press Censor. Opened under Martial Law. Between two lines.	Cape Town	22/3/1901

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Colour of Paper	Size in m.m.	Wording, Etc.	Place of Use	Dates of Use
Pink	113 x 26 Boxed 63 x 20	On His Majesty's Service/Opened under Martial Law.	Johannesburg Pretoria Germiston Standerton	8/7/1901 9/6/1902
		(16)		
White	72 x 27	Opened by Government Censor.	Umtata	26/5/1902
		(17)		
White	92 x 30	Partion of a Dutch Post Office circular used as Censor's label overstamped in red On H. Majesty's Service.	Barberton	5/7/1901

(1) "Department of Posts. S.A. Republic. Officially closed." This was a civilian postal label converted to war usage.
(2) "Department of Posts. S.A. Republic. Opened for inspection under MARTIAL LAW. Post Office Johannesburg.
(3) & (4) Both these were civilian postal labels converted to war usage. The latter one reported by Mr. W. Newlands of Pretoria. Mr. J. H. Rathbone reports what was apparently another printing of (4) with the P.O. number as 110-50,000-99.
(5) "Department of Posts. S.A. Republic. Opened under Martial Law." Mr. W. Newlands of Pretoria reports samples of these labels with broken letters etc. This type of label was used during the latter part of 1900 and the early part of 1901 also by the British Censor at Krugersdorp, apparently due to the shortage of British Censor labels. Illustrated by S. G. Rich "Philately of the Anglo Boer War" at page 154 illustration No. 10-1.
(6) Rich's illustration No. 10-2 page 155 ibid.
(7) Rich's illustration No. 10-3 page 155 ibid. Mr. J. H. Ratbone reports one specimen of this with the Coat-of-Arms inverted, 24-1-00.
(8) Rich's illustration No. 10-5 page 156 ibid. (9) Rich's illustration No. 10-4 page 156 ibid.
(10) Rich's illustration No. 10-10 page 159 ibid. (11) Rich's illustration No. 10-7 page 158 ibid.
(12) Rich's illustration No. 10-9 page 159 ibid. (13) Rich's illustration No. 10-11 page 160 ibid.
(14) Rich's illustration No. 10-8 page 158 ibid. (15) Rich's illustration No. 10-6 page 157 ibid.
(16) Rich's page 161 ibid.
(17) The authors have disregarded manuscript censor labels which were used at different periods and at various centres by censors owing to the lack or shortage of the regular censor labels.

O.F.S. POSTMARKS.

Mr. A. Cecil Fenn, writing from England, reports the following two interesting lots of covers he has just acquired, each of them showing something new in the postmark line:—

(1) **Letter "K" in an 11-bar oval grid.** Three covers with this killer and either a squared octogon or a circular date stap of Zastron, the dates ranging from 29 Nov. 89 to 25 Jan. 94. "K" has been previously recorded as used at Rouxville, but Mr. Fenn has not seen such usage and asks if anyone can confirm definitely its use there, with dates.

(2) **The word "GEREGISTREERD" as a postal cancellation** (a) On a cover to England, with no other cancellation or local date stamp, but the boxed 'Geregistreerd' cancelling the stamps. Arrival English postmark dated 27 DEC 96.

(b) A registered envelope with Smithfield c.d.s. of My 13 99 and the boxed Geregistreerd on the front; Bloemfontein and Cape Town registered cachets on the back, also English c.d.s.

This boxed mark has been recorded as used for Deed Registration, but these two covers give another viewpoint, especially the first one, which has no other O.F.S. marking. Comments by O.F.S. collectors are invited.

CANADA.

Seven new stamps have been announced for 1955. The present 10c. has been replaced by one showing an arctic scene with an Eskimo hunter. In April there will be two more of the wild life series, followed by two special issies for the Jubilee of Alberta and Saskatchewan Provinces and for a Scout Jamboree. In addition two former Prime Ministers will be honoured, Tupper and Bennett.

FRANCE.

The spate of new issues continues. The latest official notice we have received records the issue on 5 March of 6 stamps ranging in value from 5 to 30 fr., each one featuring the portrait of an inventor, with appropriate symbols of his work. Those so honoured are le Bon, Thimonnier, N. Appert, Sainte-Claire Deville, P. Martin and Chardonnet.

On 19 March a 12 fr. plus 3 fr. stamp was issued commemorating the balloon post of 1870.

BECHUANALAND.

We have not made any splash over the Q.E. set for this Protectorate, which was issued on 3 January, as one could hardly get excited over them. The design is the same as that of the K.G. VI issue, except for the change in the Monarch's portrait. The values show slight changes; there is now no 1½d. or 4d., but a 4½d. and a 1/3 have been added. Printed in recess by Waterlow & Sons, watermark mult. script CA. Perf. now 13¼ x 14.

U.S.A.

We are informed by the U.S. Information Service that in addition to the various commemoratives announced in their programme for this year (which we have already mentioned) there are still 12 stamps to come to complete the new regular issue. These range from ½c. to $5 values.

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CORONATION 1937 Cpl. 202	£3 9 6
VICTORY Cpl. 164	1 17 6
SILVER JUBILEE Cpl. (special album)	25 0 0
BERMUDA No. 98-106 9 cpl.	0 10 6
BR. GUIANA 1931 Centenary	2 7 6
BARBADOS 1939 Tercentenary	0 12 6
GIBRALTAR No. 127, 16/6; No. 128	1 7 6
NEW ZEALAND 1940 Centenary	1 9 6
NEW GUINEA No. 1-6	3 17 6
NEW GUINEA No. 22, 23, 25 and 26	7 10 0
SIERRA LEONE No. 72-83	7 0 0
MAURITIUS high values:	
No. 192, 193 and 194	1 7 6
No. 201, 202, 203 and 204	4 10 0
NEW ZEALAND No. 473	1 15 0
INDIA 218-219, George V at 10 per cent. over face	3 6 0

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(1) Write giving us your name and address if you wish to receive catalogues for our monthly sales.
(2) Entries of stamps to be sold must reach us at least one month prior to sale.
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SOUTH AFRICA

We have been fortunate in acquiring a few of the rare official covers (with special Afrikaans cachet) carried on the First Flight of the short-lived "Comet" service of U.A.T. (Aeromaritime) on 29 Oct. 1953, from JOHANNESBURG TO PARIS.

FRANCIS J. FIELD, LTD.,
SUTTON COLDFIELD.
Publishers of the "Aero Field," England.

KILOWARE

The parcels of stamps on paper each contain good variety, guaranteed unpicked, with commemoratives, higher values, etc.
AUSTRALIA, very fine ..... lb.—10/-, 4oz.—1/9
Australia commem. only ..... lb.—24/-, 4oz.—3/9
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Also many others, ask for complete list.
Prices in Sterling, Post free.
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AUSTRALIA.

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AFRICAN AIRMAILS

By
MILTON F. STERN.

Concluded from page 38 of March issue.)

On the 2nd January 1939 R.A.N.A. opened up the service to Barotseland from Lusaka to Mankoya and Mongu and also to Fort Jameson. On the 5th to 9th February Henshaw put up his new record London-Cape-London record flight in less than 4½ days. On the 7th June was a survey flight of first importance namely that of the "Guba" Catalina flying boat to investigate an Empire Reserve route from Australia to England via Cocos Islands and Mombasa and thence via Khartoum or the Congo and the West Coast to England. In that month also Elders Colonial Airways extended their service to Conakry.

Angola was connected with the Union through a service from Windhoek to Loanda, operated by South African Airways on the 21st August. Outbreak of war disorganised services, and the British war routes for airmails in Africa followed delivery of official mails by way of West Africa to Khartoum, private mail being sent by boat to Durban, from where it flew to Cairo, India and Australia. This came to be known as the Horseshoe route. Sabena co operated with the British to maintain services.

In January 1940, R.A.N.A. was taken over by S. Rhodesia Air Services. During that month K.L.M. made a special flight to South Africa from Naples and Sabena operated only as far as Marseilles. On the 1st April 1940 Imperial Airways was absorbed into B.O.A.C. Internal services by South African Airways ceased. On the 8th February 1941 P.A.A. ran a regular service Lisbon to New York via Bolama (Portuguese Guinea) and Sabena inaugurated its Leopoldville to Johannesburg service on the 14th March.

The first airgraph service (Middle East Forces to Great Britain) came into operation on the 17th April. This service was gradually extended to cover Africa. In July 1941 the first Air letter cards were issued. On the 8th December 1941 P.A.A. inaugurated their service from Miami to Leopoldville via Lagos and Bathurst. Meanwhile Aeromaritime operated in 1942 its service Dakar to Pointe Noire and Iberia its service from Fernando Po to Bata. In addition a Free French service operated from Leopoldville to Tananarive in 1943. By 1944 regular French mails had reopened between North Africa and France and British air services operated from Cairo-Gibraltar-Great Britain.

On December 1st 1944 civilian air services were resumed in the Union by South African Airways on the return of planes by the Defence Department. Gradually services in Africa returned to normal and on July 8th 1945 Sabena resumed its Brussels-Leopoldville service. In 1945 British South Ameican Airways commenced its survey flights via Bathurst. On the 9th November the "Springbok" service from Hurn to Johannesburg was inaugurated via Khartoum and in December Sudan Airways commenced operation, as also did Ethiopian Air Lines. In 1946 Panair do Brazil began operations to London from Pernambuco vit Dakar, and T.W.A. its service between Cairo and Washington on the 4th April 1946.

On the 1st June 1946 Central African Airways was formed replacing the previous Rhodesian Companies, and on the 23rd June Air France resumed the South Atlantic services via Dakar, followed by B.S.A.A. on the 27th with their inaugural flight to Santiago. August 6th marked the beginning of flights by K.L.M. to South America via Dakar and by the Colombian Company "Avianca", also by way of Africa to Paris from Bogota.

On the 28th October West African Airways was formed and operated its internal and connecting network. The 31st December saw the opening by Transportes Aereos Portugueses (T.A.P.) of its service from Lisbon-Loanda-Lourenco Marques.

1947 was a year of development in which were the following: 4th May P.A.A. extension of service from Accra to Johannesburg; 3rd August, Swissair flight Geneva to Johannesburg; 18th November K.L.M. service, Amsterdam-Casablanca-Montevideo; 18th June Sabena's second colonial line, Brussels-Cairo-Juba-Stanleyville; 6th March T.A.P. service Santa Isabel (Sp. Guinea) to Madrid; the reopening of French North African services and colonies in West and Equatorial Africa; 30th March the opening by Air France of its line Paris-Tunis-Saigon-Shanghai; 28th October W.A.A.C. services inaugurated.

In 1948 January 1st Cyprus Airways, Nicosia-Cairo; April Nigeria-Gambia by W.A.A.C.; 4th May, Johannesburg-Ndola by C.A.A. On the 14th November 1948 Quantas made the first experimental flight from Australia to Johannesburg. This company has a proud history in Empire airways, particularly in regard since 1925 of services in Australia and the links with England and the Far East. This survey flight was made via Cocos Islands and Mauritius.

West African Airways commenced services to Kumasi, Takoradi and Accra on the 3rd January 1948 and on the 22nd February C.A.A. opened up services to Victoria Falls, Livingstone and Lusaka. An interesting flight was the global flight in February by "Atlas Sky Merchant" with a call at Cape Town en route. On the 8th June, Air India International operated its first airmail flight from Bombay to London via Cairo. Behind this line also lay a long history of development from the time of Tata Sons. On the 29th December, due to the ban on Dutch aircraft over India, K.L.M. operated its regular service to Batavia by way of Khartoum and Mauritius. It was noteworthy that on the 19th January 1948 a special flight with mails was made by Iberia between Madrid and Bata (Gulf of Guinea). A regular service was operated between Amsterdam and Tunis as from 20th April 1948 by K.L.M. and on the 14th December 1949, K.L.M. made a special Dingaan's Day flight to the Union.

In 1949 T.A.P. had organised a service between Loanda and St. Thome and by July 1949 K.L.M. were again operating their Batavia service over the old route. Air Ceylon on the 27th August were also operating a service from London to Singapore via Cairo and Hellenic Airlines had a link from the 14th December 1949 between Preswick (Scotland) and Cairo via Paris, Rome and Athens. Meanwhile French development progressed in North Africa.

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In 1950 (1st April) the Empire Air Mail Scheme was again introduced within the African Postal Union and on the 2nd June, Drakensberg Air Services were running a service between Basutoland and Ladysmith. C.A.A. on the 1st April 1950 inaugurated a new direct service Johannesburg - Salisbury - Blantyre - Dar-es - Salaam. K.L.M. was now operating to Johannesburg.

In 1951 the following are of importance: 10th August, C.A.A. service Salisbury-Bulawayo-Lourenco Marques; 7th November, B.O.A.C. service London to Johannesburg via West Coast Route; the development of Air France new route via Nairobi to Mauritius via Madagascar and Reunion.

1952 was perhaps the most eventful year as B.O.A.C. saw its first Comet service from London to Johannesburg on the 2nd May, followed by a service to Colombo and Singapore; Aquila Airways flew a service to the Falkland Islands from Southampton via Dakar on the 21st April; Quantas inagurated their Sydney-Johannesburg service via Perth, Cocos and Mauritius on 1st September; K.L.M. flew a special mail 25th March in connection with the Van Riebeeck celebrations to Cape Town (up to now only to Johannesburg); Iberia commenced a regular service 30th July from Madrid to Bata (Spanish Guinea).

It is of interest here to note how mails were accelerated to South Africa from London viz: 20th January, 1932, to Cape Town 13 days; 26th April 1933 to Cape Town 10 days; 11th April 1934 to Cape Town, 9 days; 16th May, 1935, to Cape Town, 8 days; 24th March, 19366, to Cape Town, 7 days; 2nd June, 1937, to Durban, 6 days; 10th November 1945 to Germiston 2½ days; 7th November 1950, to Jalmietfontein, 30 hours; 2nd May 1952 to Palmietfontein 23½ hours. A Comet was delivered to Aeromaritime in December 1952 and after trial flights, the first regular French Comet service operated Paris-Dakar 19th February 1953, extended to Abidjan on the 14th April and Brazzaville 11th May 1953.

During January 1953 a Helicopter flight was made to French North-West and Equatorial Africa by the French to study use of the helicopter in Africa. Air France also developed a new line Algiers-Biskra-Touggourt-Tamanrasset. During February and March East African Airways, using a Catalina, made a survey flight on the 17th January Mombasa-Diego Suarez (Madagascar) - Seychelles - Mombasa and B.O.A.C. extended their Comet service to Tokyo on the 3rd April.

On the 8th January 1953 Scandinavian Airlines System (S.A.S.) extended their Scandinavia-Nairobi service to Johannesburg. Union Airlines now connect Odendaalsrus with the Rand. Aden Airways by 1953 had been operating from Aden and developing that area from 1945 onwards, with links to various points on the African Continent. All-India International also developed a service to Nairobi. South West Airways still exists as a charter company. Very few points now exist in Africa which cannot be reached by the network established by the Companies mentioned above. In 1953, Aeromaritime extended their Comet service from Brazzvaille to Johannesburg.

The above is but a brief outline of the main milestones in the development and history of African airmails. Unfortunately many names have had to be omitted and even flights over such a large panorama and it has not been possible also to give the development of types of aircraft used. Every effort has been made to give the main services developed and the part played by the Companies involved in the various air services.

A Correction.

In the last paragraph of the portion of this article in the March issue, p. 38, commencing in the 10th line up from the end, it should read: On the 24th June, Elders Airways had extended their services to Bathurst. 11th October 1938 saw the D.E.T.A. extend its services to Villa de Jaoa, Belo, Lumbo, Port Amelia, . . .

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SHORT NOTICES.

Post Office Progress. This is the Union P.M.G.'s Annual Report for 1953-4. It is an account of Progress in practically all its departments — new Post Offices, additional telephones, increase in postal mail, etc. Two main factors, however, still keep the progress from being what it is aimed at, viz., shortage of trained staff and lack of suitable buildings, especially for telephone exchanges.

Publicidad Filatélica. A copy of this little magazine although addressed (in French) to the "Philatelic Information Service, Johannesburg," has reached us. It is published by J. Majo Tocabens, Pelayo 1, tienda, Barcelona, Spain. It contains short articles, and stamp news of the world, but to appreciate it you must be able to read Spanish.

O.F.S. Study Circle. The Hon. Sec. of this circle, Mr. S. G. Laurence, of 11 Beech Avenue, Horsforth, Yorks., England reports that they are going strong. Their Bulletin comes out regularly with lots of fresh material. Eight new members have joined this year already, but they still need more members, especially some willing to work towards getting the stamps and postal history of the territory completely worked out. Although philatelically a "dead country" there is still a lot to be discovered about it.

International Pharmaceutical Congress. At this Congress, to be held in London, Sept. 19-23, under the auspices of the Pharmaceutical Society of G.B., there will be a special commemorative postmark. Collectors can obtain a specimen by sending an addressed envelope and an international reply-paid coupon to the Secretary at 17 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.1.

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SWAZILAND—POSTAL HISTORY and STAMPS

By
J. H. HARVEY PIRIE

(Concluded from page 47 of March issue.)

COMPLETE LIST OF POST OFFICES

Past and Present.

This list has been compiled from official Annual Reports and Post Office Guides of the Z.A.R., the Transvaal Colony and the Union of South Africa and may therefore be taken as reasonably accurate although an occasional error of location of an office has been noted in these reports. In the reports of a few years no list of new offices opened or of offices closed is given, so it is just possible that the opening or closing dates of a few offices may be a year out, but the number of such possible cases is very few. Also, it must be remembered that no offices were functioning in 1900, 1901 and the greater part of 1902.

The figures in brackets after the names of offices functioning at the present time indicate the scope of the office according to the Union Postal Department's classification:—

1. Money Order, Savings Bank, Post, Telegraph and Telephone Office.
2. Postal Order, Post, Telegraph and Telephone Office.
3. Postal Order and Post Agency.
4. Post, Telegraph and Telephone Agency.
5. Telegraph and Telephone Office only.
6. Telegraph Office only.
7. Telephone Office only.

The offices in Classes 5-7 are, generally speaking, not supposed to cancel stamps on letters, but cancellations with their office stamps are occasionally met with. These offices may be in stores or police stations, mostly the former.

BREMERSDORP. (1) 1889 to present day.
DARKTON. 1889-1899 and again in 1909-10.
DWALENI (2). 1918 to present day.
EMBEKELWENI. 1889 to 1894 or 1895. The postmark "718" which was used at Embekelweni has also been noted on a Transvaal Edwardian stamp and the regular Embekelweni postmark on a Union stamp with date JA 29/29, but where or how these came to be used it not known.
EMLEMBE (1). 1938 to present day. In 1938 it was incorrectly listed as in Transvaal, but since then correctly as being in Swaziland.
EZULWINI (4). 1910 to present day. Name at first spelt "Ezulweni."
FERREIRA'S. Possibly an office here in 1889-1895 period, but no certain record of its existence.
FORBES REEF (3). 1906 to present day.
GOEDGEGUN (1). 1925 to present day.
HLATIKULU (1). 1903 to present day.
HLUTI (2). 1912 to present day.
IVY. Situated in area between Barberton and Piggs Peak. Listed in 1913 as in Swaziland, in 1914-16 as in Transvaal, then it is no longer listed as in existence. No postmark known.
JUNCTION HOUSE. Possibly the original name of Darkton (q.v.). No postmark known.
KUBUTA (2). 1926 to present day. In 1926 it was listed as being in Transvaal, but since then as in Swaziland.
LISMORE (5). 1934 to present day.
LUBULI (5). 1941 or 1942 to present day.
LUKUBA. 1926-1935. No postmark known.
MacNABS (7). 1926 to present day. No postmark known.
MAFUTENI (5). 1926 to present day. No postmark known.
MAHAMBA. 1899 and 1909-1925. After 1925 listed as being in Transvaal.
MALKERNS (2). 1914 to present day.
MALOMA (5). 1926 to present day.
MALUMENI. Listed in 1950 only but apparently in error, as in Swaziland no such place is known. Probably confused with Mhlumeni. (See below).
MANKAIANA (1). 1913 to present day.
MAWELAWELA (7). 1936 to present day. Postmark not known.
MBABANE (1). 1896 to present day. Originally "Embabaan".
M'DIMBA (or N'DIMBA). 1897-1899, Postmark not known. Appears again as a Telephone office in 1932 only.
MHLOTSHENI (2). 1910-1911 and 1922 to present day.
MHLUMENI (5). 1947 to present day. (Border Customs and Police Office).
MOOIHOEK (2). 1918 to present day.
MTAMBANE. Telegraph and Telephone office in 1942 only. No postmark known.
MOTSHANA. 1929-1930. No postmark known.
MPONGOZINI. 1928-1932. No postmark known.
N'DIMBA (See M'Dimba).
NOMAHASHA. 1904-1910. No postmark known.
NSOKO (5). 1927 to present day. Has recently been wrongly listed as being in Natal (Zululand).
PIGGS PEAK (1). 1899 to present day.
SANDHLAN. 1905-1936.
SICUNUSA (2). 1913 to present day.
SINGCENI (5). 1929 to present day.
SIPOFANENI BRIDGE (5). 1936 to present day.
STEGI (1). 1910 to present day.
SULPHUR SPRINGS. Listed in Swaziland 1903-1919, after that as in Transvaal. No postmark known.
TULWANE. 1928-1934. No postmark known.
UMKWAKWENI. 1899 only. No postmark known.
USUTU PONT. 1929-1935. No postmark known.
WHITE UMBULUZI (7). 1922 to present day. Was an Agency 1925-1935 with a cancelling stamp, now only a Telephone Office.
628. The place of usage of this killer, which was employed in Stages 2 and 3, is not known.
718. See Embekelweni.

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SOME RECENT AUCTION PRICES.

Robson Lowe.

China Cover from Pakhoi to Hong Kong with 13 different stamps, £17/10/-.

Falkland Is. 1912. 1d. with diagonal "Port Foster" handstamp, £44.

Hong Kong 1865 8c. orange with N2 (Nagasaki) cancel, £37.

Palestine. A folded entire of 1459 from Ascalon to Venice, e22.

Br. Guiana 4c. of 1850 used on cover, £140.

Mauritius 1848 1d. vermilion on blue, used, £80.

St. Vincent 1881 4d. on 1/-, used, £37.

H. R. Harmer.

Austria 1850 9 kr. type II, £10/10/-.

1858 4 k. Journal stamp used, £30.

Belgium 1849 10c. brown, unused, £28.

Finland 1856 small pearls 5 k. pair used, £130.

Malta ½d. (S.G. 1), £22.

Caroline Is. 1913 Prov. 5 pf. on 3 pf. (S.G. 26), used, £29.

Kenya £10 (S.G. 98), £27.

1922 £10, £25 and £50 "specimens", £11/10/-.

1925 £100 "Specimen"), £11/10/-.

Gambia 4d. (S.G.1), £26.

J. H. Wicks.

Union 1½d. white mine dump (46 Vd.), £1/10/-.

Block of 4 No. 1 used first day, £3/10/-.

1918 2nd. Nov. flown p.c., £3.

O.R.C. 1d. (S.G. 143), value omitted, £2.

Z.A.R. 6d. (S.G. 73) fine roulette, mint, £7/10/-.

AUSTRALIA.

A 3½d. stamp will be issued on 4th May to honour the Australian-American friendship. It will feature the upper part of the American Memorial at Canberra. It will also be associated with the celebrations to be held during the first half of May of the battle of the Coral Sea (1942), the turning point in the Pacific war.

When the necessary legislation is passed giving Australia administrative responsibility for the Cocos (Keeling) Islands special covers will be issued there in celebration of the opening of an Australian post-office.

A 1/0½d. stamp portraying H.M. Queen Elizabeth, was due for issue on 9 March. This rather curious value is intended for prepayment of combined postage and registration charges.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL.

France. A 30 fr. stamp, with Rotary's cogged wheel on an outline of France to the right, a tractor and a factory building to the left.

Philippines. A set of three, featuring the Mayon Volcano, said to be the world's most perfect cone.

Cuba. Two stamps, featuring the founder, Paul P. Harris, in a surround of the wheel.

Saar. A 15 fr. denomination.

Brazil. A 2.70 Cr. value.

U.S.A. and **Australian** issues have previously been referred to.

Egypt, Monaco, Nicaragua and Panama can also be added to the list.

FINE BRITISH COLONIAL STAMPS OF THE WEST INDIES.

			£	s	d
Antigua	1913	5/- S.G. 49	£1	17	6
	1921/29	M.C.A. set S.G. 55-61	7	10	0
Bahamas	1912/19	£1 S.G. 91	4	0	0
	1921/29	Set complete S.G. 122-131	5	15	0
Barbados	1882/86	5/- S.G. 103	5	0	0
	1912	Set complete S.G. 170-180	6	15	0
Cayman Is.	1901/02	Set complete S.G. 3-7	3	0	0
	1907	1d. on 5/- S.G. 19	5	10	0
Dominica	1907/08	5/- S.G. 46	2	15	0
	1908/19	Set complete S.G. 47-53a	1	10	0
Grenada	1883	Half of 1d.; unsevered pair, S.G. 29a Used	8	0	0
	1883	Set complete S.G. 30-36	3	15	0
Jamaica	1921/29	Set complete S.G. 91-103	9	0	0
Leeward Is.	1902	Set complete S.G. 22-30	2	15	0
Montserrat	1908/13	Set complete S.G. 35-47	5	0	0
	1914	5/- S.G. 48 Used	4	0	0
Nevis	1879/80	2½d. S.G. 24 superb	3	0	0
St. Christopher	1885	½d. on 1d. S.G. 22a, unsevered pair	2	5	0
St. Lucia	1863	6d. S.G. 8	6	0	0
	1907/09	Set complete S.G. 72-78	3	0	0
St. Vincent.	1877	4d. S.G. 24 used	4	0	0
	1921/32	Set complete S.G. 131-141	6	0	0
Trinidad	1935/37	Perf. 12 set S.G. 230-328	1	7	6
	1947	2c. S.G. D26 blk. of 8, one stamp has variety "Missing Crown" in wmk.	30	0	0
Turks & Caicos Is.	1909	Set complete S.G. 117-126	2	15	0
Virgin Is.	1922/28	M.C.A. and Scr. sets S.G. 86-97	3	12	6

All mint except as stated.

We have just purchased a collection of 65 Boer War Covers which we can offer, subject unsold, at **£22/10/-.** Also just received a small stock of S. Africa used in S.W. Africa including several with altered German obliterators, two dated 1916; details upon application.

B. J. HUNTER

79 MARINE PARADE, BRIGHTON 7, SUSSEX.

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SOCIETY NEWS.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF THE WESTERN RAND.

The Annual General Meeting was held in the Parish Hall, Roodepoort, on Wednesday, February 23, there being 7 members and 2 visitors.

The outgoing Chairman, Mr. J. Keet, in his report, stated that 1954 has been an excellent year for the Society, in that many of its members had received awards: Mr. S. Vermaak won the Skinner Cup, Mr. J. T. Burrell a bronze plaque for his Kenyas, Mr. I. Godfrey a bronze plaque for his Airmails and also a certificate of merit for his Postal Stationery, Mr. J. Keet a certificate of merit for his Zoology and Master D. G. Crocker, a junior member, a society certificate for each of his displays of Boer War covers and early Great Britain. Mr. I. Godfrey went further afield and at the Exhibition in Lourenco Marques, he won a silver plaque for his Airmails.

In conclusion he thanked the Secretary, Mr. H. F. Henderson, for his hard work and also thanked the ladies for their effort in making the evening enjoyable by providing tea and cakes.

The following were elected the new office bearers for 1955:—

Chairman: Mr. S. Vermaak; Vice-Chairman, Mr. W. S. Yelland; Secretary, Mr. B. G. Simpkins, c/o. Y.M.C.A., Box 1001, Johannesburg; Committee Members: Messers. I. Godfrey, J. T. Burrell and H. F. Henderson.

Delegate to Federation and Congress: Mr. J. Keet.

Alternate Delegate to Federation: Mr. B. G. Simpkins.

It was announced that Mr. J. T. Burrell had been awarded the "Semmens" award for 1954.

Mr. W. S. Yelland displayed portion of his reconstructed sheets of the South African 3/6 booklet stamps. This interesting display was commented on by Mr. S. Vermaak.

The meeting terminated at 10.15 p.m.

The monthly meeting for **March** was held in the Parish Hall, Roodepoort, on Wednesday, 23rd, at 8 p.m.

Before the meeting opened, the Chairman asked the members to rise in memory of Mr. Shepherd and Mr. Schubart who had passed away during the month.

Mr. S. Vermaak presided with ten members and five visitors present.

Mr. J. T. Burrell wa spresented with the "Philatelic Society of the Western Rand" Cup for the best display for 1954. This was the first occasion that this new trophy had been competed for.

Following the tea interval, Mr. J. Keet displayed portion of his Zoology collection and in thanking him for his excellent exhibition, Mr. B. G. Simpkins stated it was a philatelic feast to see such a display, beautifully mounted and that a vast amount of research must have gone into the collection. B.S.

CAPE TOWN ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

10th February 1955. On this evening the Committee entertained the members and visitors. The following was shown: Miniature Sheets by the President, Mr. G. Petroulis, who was seriously ill and was unable to be present; Cape Rectangulars by Mr. A. M. Jones; Commemoratives and Charities by Mr. C. V. R. Solomon, which was as usual well written up; Swiss Army Stamps, recent stamps and covers of his recent visit overseas, by Dr. P. L. Vautier; Zanzibar and Burma by Mr. H. C. Bernaud. This was a really interesting and varied showing, but if not enough, the Committee went on to have two competitions, which were conducted by Mr. I. E. Hall. The first a verbal quiz was won by Mr. W. G. Combrink and the second a identification of stamps by Mr. R. Putzel. A really enjoyable evening.

24th February 1955. This was the Annual General Meeting and was well attended, Mr. Hunt from Johannesburg being among the visitors in addition to Mr. C. F. Fergusson, the President of Federation. The following were elected for the ensuing year. President, Mr. A. M. Jones; Vice-President, Mr. W. G. Combrink; Hon. Sec., Mrs. Joan Hall; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. I. E. Hall; Hon. Librarian, Mr. H. C. Bernaud; Hon. Exchange Supt., Mr. C. V. R. Solomon; Committee: Dr. P. L. Vautier, and Messrs. L. Simenhoff, H. R. Savage and C. F. Chapman.

Again it was unfortunate that Mr. G. Petroulis could not be present. After the business had been concluded, Mr. Fergusson gave an illuminating talk on "Federation" and in addition showed his thematic collection "Vatican" (which gained a certificate of Merit at Durban in 1954), "The Royal Family", Siege of Mafeking and the Bahamas P.O. on the Sea Floor. Members and visitors really moved around to view the exhibit and Mr. Fergusson was thanked for having taken all the trouble for having come so far to honour the Society and for his fine exhibit. In addition Mr. Fergusson presented the awards for 1954 which were as follows:

Jacob Cup — Mr. R. Putzel; Jurgens Cup — Mr. A. M. Jones; Kaganson Cup — Dr. P. L. Vautier; Simenhoff Cup — Mrs. D. Flint.

CAPE TOWN THEMATIC CLUB.

14th February 1955. Mr. C. G. Mummery showed his fine collection of the Swiss Pro Juventute stamps, which included the first unofficial ones issued in 1911. In addition Mr. C. V. R. Solomon showed selected sheets for his collection being in main Commemoratives including first day covers. Both exhibits were of a very high standard and exceedingly well written up.

28th February 1955. Capt. M. F. Stern showed his collection of the History and Development of Portuguese East African Airmails. This fine and complete collection is one of those he is sending to the Auckland International Philatelic Exhibition to be held in July. He gave a talk on the subject and was followed by the Portuguese Consul, Dr. de Bissao Lopez, who added information. The meeting was well attended and among the other important visitors was Mr. W. Robb, the General Manager of Tramways and President of the Institute of Transport. M.F.S.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The usual monthly meeting was held in the Railway Recreation Club on **9th February,** there being 20 members and 3 visitors present.

Before the exhibit was tabled the Chairman, Mr. L. B. MacLachlan, expressed the appreciation of the Society to Mr. P. K. Brown who did so much sterling work for the Society as Exchange Superintendent, which post he has now had to relinquish on transfer to Nelspruit. Ken, most ably assisted by his wife, put a great deal of time and work into this most important aspect of our Society's work and built it up into a very thriving and active section. Many thanks to you both and all best wishes in your new post at Nelspruit. Mr. D. Brown has kindly consented to take over the Exchange Section and members are requested to write to him in connection with exchange books c/o. P.O. Box 2388, Pretoria.

Due to unforseen circumstances it was not possible to table Mr. Kachelhoffer's exhibit as intended, but Mr. MacLachlan kindly substituted and showed us his "Railway" collection plus some selected items from Germany and Hungary, which were greatly enjoyed by the members present. Major Pidsley, commenting on the display, stated that the "Rail way" collection was obviously one which Mr. MacLachlan derived much pleasure out of due to his own association with the Railways and he thanked him for his well displayed and interesting exhibit. P.M.J.M.

GRAHAMSTOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

11th February. Annual General Meeting. Mr. Pote conveyed the congratulations and good wishes of members to the President, Mr. Justice Graham, on his elevation to the Bench as Acting Judge. After replying, the President opened the meeting for formal business. Reviewing the activities of the Society during the past year, the President referred to the monthly displays which had given much pleasure and had shewn that individually and collectively members had some very good selective collections, notably Dr. Cory's Cape Triangulars, the late Major van Wyk's South West Africans and Mr. Pote's British Colonials. The displays given by Mr. Brown (North America) and Mr. Hugh Smith (Austria, Italy and Switzerland) were enhanced by by a wealth of interesting historical and geographical data. We also had the pleasure of visits and displays from Mr. Thornton of East London and from members of the Port Elizabeth Society.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Mr. R. A. Brown; Vice-President, Mr. E. C. Pote. Miss Reece was re-elected Hon. Sec./Treasurer; Mr. Clarkson, Hon. Sales Superintendent; Mr. Drury, Hon. Librarian; Mr. Sheffield, Representative on the Executive Committee, and Mr. Ellenberger ass Publicity Officer.

The President paid special tribute to the sterling services given by Miss Reece and Mr. Clarkson.

The Society is indebted to Mr. Tom Drury for making his home available for meetings and to Mrs. Drury and Mrs. Blankert for providing refreshments.

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GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

At our March meeting we had the pleasure of receiving a visit from Mr. F. C. Ferguson, the President of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa. Our Chairman, Mr. S. J. Hagger very quickly disposed of any business that was necessary and handed over the meeting to our visitor.

Mr. Ferguson gave an address on the objects and activities of the Philatelic Federation and mentioned the various ways and means by which our members could assist the Federation in order that the Federation could help us. At the conclusion of his address, Mr. Ferguson provided the exhibit for the evening, which consisted of a Thematic collection, entitled "Our Royal Family". This exhibit consisted of many stamps with portraits of the various Kings and Queens. It was wonderfully illustrated and very well written up.

This was followed by an extensive and most interesting collection of Vatican stamps. Mr. E. Muller, our Vice-President, spoke on both collections and expressed the thanks of our members to Mr. Ferguson for the courtesy of his visit and congratulated him on winning an award at Congress in Durban last year for his collection of the Vatican City. At the same time, Mr. Muller conveyed to Mr. Ferguson a short resumé on what we had accomplished in Germiston since our Society had been formed in February, 1953.

Our Hon. Auctioneer, Mr. H. C. Christophers, and one of our Committee members, Mr. Picton, would be absent from meetings for a few months, on vacation overseas. Our President, Mr. Hagger, wished Mr. and Mrs. Christophers and Mr. and Mrs. Picton, Bon Voyage and a safe return.

The meeting terminated at 10.10 p.m. Later than usual.

I.S.B.

THE O.F.S. & BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

At the February meeting, two admirable displays were given. The first by Prof. G. H. van Rooyen, was thematic, with the subject "The Development of Transport." All members, and in particular the Juniors, were greatly intrigued to see the large array of pages showing Transport from the ancient ages to the most modern. Dr. J. R. Mellett's exhibit was of a more classical nature and dealt with the "German States". This fine display was studiously written up and contained a number of scarce items. Pages showing up the contrast of "originals" and "reprints" were particularly interesting. Dr. Freund gave a talk "Tit-bits from the Philatelic Press" which will be a regular feature in future "New Issues of the month" submitted by several members were on display. An auction sale of various stamp lots rounded off an interesting evening.

The Junior Society has so far not had the desired success. In spite of the great pains Messrs. Hodgson and Sacks are taking by "giving a hand" at the Junior Meeting, the Juniors have not shown any independent initiative yet. We would like to see them elect their own chairman and committee and to be on their own feet. Seniors will certainly always be happy to assist with advice and displays.

K.F.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

January 10th. The Hon Secretary convened an evening of philatelic jostlings and was supported by Messrs. L. J. Dodd, E. C. Wright and R. N. Castignani all of whom brought along material that proved of interest to the members.

January 24th. Mr. C. S. J. Gouws convened an evening of thematic exhibits, himself bringing along a selection from his "Zoo", and being supported by Drs. Sherel and Hack and Mr. L. B. McLachlan. Their respective themes were "Sports Stamps: Olympic Games issues", "Stamps of medical interest" and "Trains and Transport". First-class evidence, had it been necessary, was offered for the reasons for the terrific increase in the number of "Thematists".

February 7th. The annual general meeting was held at which the following officers were elected:—

President, Mr. E. Manville-Ford; Vice-President, Mr. D. Slater-Kinghorn; Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. M. Weinstein; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. C. S. J. Gouws; Hon. Exchange Superintendent, Mr. W. Impey; Hon. Curator and Auctioneer, Dr. H. O. Reisener; Hon. Correspondent and Librarian, Mr. J. A. Parker.

Committee members: Miss B. J. Versfeld, Dr. T. B. Berry and Mr. E. C. Wright.

Federation Delegates: Mr. E. Manville-Ford, Dr. H. O. Reisener and Mr. D. Slater-Kinghorn.

The reports of the Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Exchange Superintendent were wholeheartedly approved.

Our worthy President, Mr. Manville-Ford, presented his report which reflected a healthy spirit amongst the members, wholehearted support from and co-operation by his office-bearers and a most satisfactory financial position.

Part of the Society's collection was on view after the general meeting.

February 21st. Our President gave an introductory talk directing his remarks towards encouraging a greater interest in "general collecting", as opposed to specialisation which it is agreed is the vogue today. In support of his assertions Mr. E. C. Wright showed a wonderful selection of British Colonials. But then not all of us can ever hope to emulate Mr. Wright. The meeting created considerable interest, both on account of the excellence of the exhibit and the contentious point raised. Union enthusiasts in particular were given some food for thought and lively discussion. More meetings of this nature are what is required.

March 7th. This was the occasion for the official visit of the President of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, our worthy member Mr. F. C. Ferguson. He gave a most interesting review of the functions and activities of the Federation together with up-to-the-minute information of matters of interest to us that were presently being handled. After tea Mr. Ferguson tabled his collection on the theme of the Royal Family as depicted in philately — a most attractive and well presented exhibit.

J.M.W.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The annual general meeting on the evening of **15th February** was well attended. The Financial Statement for the year ending 31st December, 1954 proved to be very satisfactory, and the Secretary was able to disclose continued growth of the Society and lively interest by members during the year. The retiring President, Mr. G. Bülbring, after expressing his sincere thanks for support and co-operation by both members and the outgoing Committee, called for the election of new officers for the coming year. Elected were: President, Mr. D. Berg; Vice-Presidents, Dr. J. W. Harris and Mr. W. Pavitt; Secretary, Mr. G. E. Smukler; Treasurer, Mr. G. Monaghan; Auditor, Mr. H. Youngleson; Exchange Superintendent, Mr. E. Baer; Auctioneer, Mr. A. Leale; Librarian, Mr. G. K. Forbes; Press Correspondent, Mr. G. Bülbring. Several lady members volunteered to function as Refreshment Committee, which gesture was gladly accepted. In a very characteristic and generous manner Mr. G. K. Forbes presented to members of the outgoing Committee some very fine and rare stamps selected to fit their individual collections and was warmly thanked for this by the lucky recipients. The new President called for suggestions to further improve the running of the Society and quite a number were put forward. It was further made known that East London and Grahamstown collectors would be paying us return visits during March and April respectively to which events we are looking forward with much pleasure. The meeting closed after 10 o'clock.

G.E.S.

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

At our March meeting Mr. Legator, Vice-President, occupied the Chair. He paid tribute to our late President, Mr. Jack Shepherd, who suddenly passed away on Friday, the 11th Marcr and whose services to our Society will be greatly missed. He was always willing to give his advice and a helping hand to anyone needing it. To his wife and family we extend our heart-felt sympathy.

After our formal business was concluded Mr. W. N. Sheffield exhibited his collection of Union Commemoratives which was complete from 1910 up to 1950.

Mr. Feinstein on behalf of the Society's members thanked the exhibitor for his very fine show. Several covers were passed round also the new Australian Queen Elizabeth 1/0½d. stamp. Mr. Sheffield exhibited and explained two interesting books, from an American Society dealing with Thematic Collections.

E.N.R.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL.

Annual General Meeting. Following the pattern that has become traditional in this Society, the business on the Agenda was disposed of at great speed. An increase in subscriptions—Full membership from 15/- to £1: Country membership from 5/- to 7/6; a Balance Sheet that reflected the serious financial difficulties that had been almost completely overcome; changes, through death, in the management of the Exchange Packets; all were accepted almost without comment.

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As another evidence of the confidence of the members in their officials, these were re-elected almost without change; the two vacancies on the committee being caused by death and a resignation.

In his address, the President, Mr. G. Milner Palmer, referred to the major items in the year's programme — The Philatelic Congress and Exhibition. These two events, so successful from the philatelic viewpoint, received very little public support, with the result that the Society was in danger of suffering considerable loss. Thanks, however, to generous donations, a Grant-in-Aid from the Durban Corporation covering the hire of the City Hall, and the sale of souvenir envelopes at the Natal Industrial Exhibition, the final loss was only £13.

The President referred to the work, in this connection, of Mr. H. H. Winde, assisted by Mrs. Winde and their son, and stated that, without their efficient and willing work, so unstintingly given, the work of staging these two events could not have been attempted.

As a mark of appreciation of Mr. Winde's continual efforts on behalf of the Society over a period of many years, he was awarded Honorary Life Membership.

The following Officials were elected: President, G. Milner Palmer; Vice-Presidents, A. Lionel Bevis, H. R. Brown, J. Lyle, C. Selwyn Smith, D. McK. Malcolm; Committee, W. H. Winde, N. Paterson, J. G. Walker, J. Planting; Sales Packet Supt., Mr. and Mrs. K. I. Bevis; Hon. Auctioneer, J. Lyle; Hon. Librarian, C. Selwyn Smith; Hon. Auditor, K. D. McIntyre; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, K. I. Bevis.

Winners of the Trophies were: P. C. Bishop Cup (Commonwealth), J. Lyle, Great Britain; W. H. Winde Cup (Foreign), C. A. Whysall, German Occupied Countries; Maynard Cup (Thematic), R. Gilzen. Kings, Queens and Presidents; Union Cup, R. Walsh, De La Rue Georgian Issues.

The winning collections were on display during the evening.

Following refreshments, members were entertained by a most intriguing exhibition of magic and legerdemain by Rev. Reg. Duxberry who had most peoples' eyebrows looking like question marks by the end of the programme.

To ensure that there was no break in tradition, it rained cats and dogs the whole evening!

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG.

At the meeting held on **March 8th,** the Philatelic Society of Pretoria were the visitors and provided the exhibits.

Mr. Kinghorn showed a selection of G.B. prestamp covers of great historical interest. Mr. Kinghorn before his exhibit gave a short address on the coming Teppex Exhibition to be held at Pretoria. The Rev. Loxley Chamings spoke on the exhibit. Dr. Berry showed a selection of the first definite issue of Unions. He gave an address on this, explaining the printing. The exhibit consisted largely of a series of miniature sheets of each value. Mr. W. Sheffield spoke on the exhibit. Mr. Wright showed a collection of postal stationery and also one of local stamps. The Postal Stationery was in mint condition chiefly of the British Empire. The Locals embraced many different countries. Mr. Kupferman spoke on the stationery and Mr. Seligmann on the Locals. Mr. Newlands' exhibit consisted of stamps of Nyasaland including several cheque stamps in fine used condition. Mr. E. Hunt spoke on this exhibit. Dr. Reisener showed a selection of post-war Germany including stamps of each of the occupied Zones. Mr. W. Oppenheim spoke on the exhibit.

On the **28th March** there were exhibits of 10 sheets each from several members.

Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie showed travelling Post-offices of Southern Africa, beautifully illustrated with maps. Commander Enoch showed Indian States, No. 1 stamp of each. Mr. Duigan showed unusual postmarks of South Africa and South West Africa.

Mr. Seligmann showed some sheets of Mozambique. Dr. Von Varendorff showed some sheets of Poland and Iceland. Mr. Seligmann also showed Mozambique War Tax Stamps. He gave a little talk on them and pointed out they were printed in Johannesburg.

Professor J. M. Watt spoke on the exhibits.

PHIL. CONGRESS OF G.B.

At this 37th Congress, being held in Norwich 17-20 May, 1955, there will be as usual special envelopes and a postmark available. The Congress Hon. Sec., 38 St. Giles Street, Norwich, England, is prepared to service covers at an inclusive charge of 8d. per cover.

EARLY RHODESIAN AIRMAILS.

Mr. I. H. C. Godfrey writes:—

"In Mr. Milton F. Stern's article "African Airmails" in the February issue it is stated that official mails were first carried in Rhodesia in 1929 from Bulawayo to Salisbury. This is not quite correct. Capt. Douglas Mail, during the period of the Railway Strike that year, flew mails to and from Bulawayo and Livingstone, no mails being flown to Salisbury."

Meanwhile Mr. Stern has acquired a specimen of a French air mail, which he says upsets his numbering of Rhodesian flights. Here are the particulars of the item:

17th to 27th October 1929. Flight by Goulette, Bourgeois and Marchesseau. Paris was left on the 17th October and Antanarivo reached on the 27th October 1929. Before commencing the return flight, a tour of the island and a flight to Reunion was made, this being the first flight between Madagascar and Reunion. Mail was carried both to and from Reunion and the return flight to France actually started at Reunion, as only a night was spent at Antanarivo before the homeward flight was resumed. There was a forced landing at St. Juan de Nova (N.E. of Madagascar), the mail being forwarded by boat and arriving in France on the 10th January 1930.

Two other postal flights were made after this in 1929 all three being subsidised by the French Air Ministry. One cover was despatched to S. Rhodesia (Salisbury) and this was flown to Broken Hill which was a stage. Cover is back-stamped Broken Hill 26 Oct. 29 8-0 AM. and Salisbury 30 Oct. 1929. The cover was registered and posted in Paris 16th October 1929.

PAARL VINTAGE FESTIVAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.

Die Paarlse Posseëlversamelaarsvereniging is to be congratulated on the fine show put on at the Paarl Vintage Festival. This was opened on the 23rd February 1929 by Mr. C. F. Ferguson, the President of Federation, and continued on show until the 5th March 1955. The exhibition of stamps was held in the Minor Hall, and only space prevented a bigger selection.

As it was there was a large variety catering for all tastes, from the specialist to the merest tyro. For the non-philatelists there were thematic collections but it was unfortunate that not more of the countries were shown which had "pretty" stamps. These always interest the public.

The Rembrandt Trophy was won by Mr. N. C. Combrink, the Chairman of the Society, and was well deserved for his fine thematic Collection on "Godsdiens" (Religion). The runner-up was Mr. G. H. van Rooyen, of the Afrikaans Filatelistiese Vereniging of Johannesburg, with his "Posgeskiedenis en Posseëls van Suid Wes Afrika" (Postal History and Stamps of South West Africa). Mr. Combrink's collection was bilingual, well written up and instructive.

Space prohibits us from giving a full list of the exhibitors and their subjects. There were some 25 of them, all showing by invitation as it was not a competitive exhibition. One exhibit, however, we feel must be mentioned: it was what could have been shown quite well as a general collection of Griqualand West, but Mr. J. G. le Roux entered it as a thematic exhibit, the theme being Tschaikowski's "Theme and Variations in G"—a very bright idea.

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

RECENT PRINTINGS

The Publicity Officer of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs has kindly supplied the following information covering the period from 22.10.1954 to 21.1.1955. For the previous list see our February issue.

Animal Series.

1d. — Job No. 103290 contd. On an order for 1,000,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, a total of 390,054 has been delivered to date. Same cylinder No. 12.

2d. — Job No. 103293 contd. On an order for 1,000,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, the total delivered to date amounts to 349,280 sheets. Same cylinder No. 56.

3d. — Job No. 103294 contd. On an order for 100,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, deliveries to date amount to 62,510 sheets. Same cylinders as before, Nos. 16 Interior and 107 Exterior.

4d. — Job No. 103295 contd. On an order for 60,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a total of 59,200 was supplied up to the final date of delivery on the 4.11.54. Same cylinders as before, Nos. 53 Interior and 93 Exterior.

4½d. — Job No. 103,296 contd. On an order for 25,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a total of 23,500 was supplied up to the final date of delivery on the 4.11.54. Same cylinders as before, Nos.. 76 Interior and 47 Exterior.

6d. — Job No. 103297 contd. On an order for 150,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, 38,046 had been delivered up to the 21.1.55. Same cylinders as before, Nos. 1 Interior and 121 Exterior.

1/- — Job No. 103298 contd. On an order for 120,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, the total delivered is unchanged at 30,000. Cylinders Nos. 94 Interior and 104 Exterior.

1/3 — Job No. 103299 contd. On an order for 25,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a total of 23,950 had been supplied up to the final date of delivery on the 9.11.54. Same cylinders as before, Nos. 106 Interior and 38 Exterior.

Pictorial Postage Stamps.

1d. — Job No. 17426/3 contd. On an order for 650,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, a total of 577,180 was supplied up to the final date of delivery on 16.11.54. Same cylinders, Nos. 54 Interior and 48 Exterior.

2d. — Job No. 5906 contd. On an order for 1,000,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, a total of 814,674 was delivered up to the final date on 10.8.54. Cylinders Nos. 27 Interior and 18 Exterior.

Pictorial Post Cards.

1½d. — Job No. 107820 contd. On an order for 2,730,000 cards, a total of 1,299,840 had been delivered to date. Same printing on Chambon Machine.

Air Letter Cards.

6d. — Job No. 8659 contd. On an order for 6,000,000 cards, 6,132,600 were delivered up to the final date on 13.1.55. New cylinder from the 30.9.54. Wording on the stamp was changed.

Roll Stamps.

1d. — Job No. 101898. On an order for 12,000 Rolls of 506 stamps per roll and 6,000 Rolls of 1,012 stamps per roll, the number of the former supplied to date amounted to 4,200 rolls and of the latter, 1,740 rolls. New cylinder No. 27. (This is the new animal series.—Ed.).

Customs Stamps — Supplied by the P.M.G. and overprinted DOUANE :—

½d. — 3,000 sheets x 240; 1d. — 3,000 sheets x 240. Delivered 28.10.54.

Official Brochure on the Animal Series.

We have received the following communication from the Publicity Officer of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, Pretoria, and collectors who have not yet got one of these excellent little brochures, printed on art paper illustrating and describing the Third Definitive Series of the Union's postage stamps, will be well advised to take advantage of the Department's offer before the limited supply runs out!

THIRD DEFINITIVE SERIES OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

Copies of the brochure describing the Union's new postage stamps which were issued on the 14th October, 1954, were forwarded to all philatelic societies in South Africa in sufficient numbers to permit of the distribution of at least one copy to each member. A limited number of these brochures still remains and I shall be glad if you will inform your readers that copies will be supplied on request to persons who are still without one.

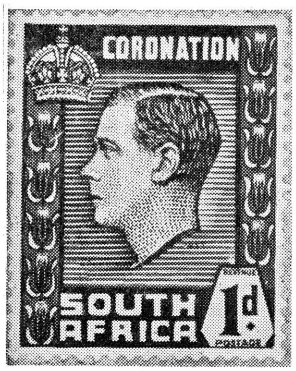
King Edward VIII Coronation Essay.

A letter received a little while ago from Prof. V. Dix of Tunbridge Wells, England, asked for

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information on the King Edward VIII coronation essay illustrated below and which he had purchased in 1950.

Dr. T. B. Berry of Bryanston, Johannesburg, who has a similar copy in his possession, is of the opinion that the item is an official "photoproof" of a stamp that was in the process of production and which would have been printed and issued had not the abdication intervened. Readers may be interested in this little known item and Dr. Berry's notes on the subject are as follows:



a.—A statement appears under "Coronation Stamps" on page 182 of the S.A. Philatelist, December 1936, and reads:—

"A photograph of the proposed design has been published. There is a head of the King similar to that on the new British stamps, at the top CORONATION and at the bottom, SOUTH AFRICA. In the top left corner is a crown and in the bottom left corner, a tablet of value. On either side a border of Protea flowers. Presumably there is a corresponding Afrikaans stamp."

b. — The S.A. Philatelist of April 1937, page 49, illustrates under CORONATION STAMPS four reproductions — two depicting the head of King Edward VIII with the caption "As they might have been" and two of King George VI, with the caption "As they are to be."

c. — Further information pertaining to the CORONATION STAMPS evidently emanating from correspondence received from the Government Printer dated 19th April 1937, appears on page 65 of the "S.A. Philatelist" for May 1937 and an extract from the second paragraph reads:—

". . . the first set with the caption "As they might have been" is of the stamps that would have been printed and issued had King Edward VIII not abdicated and the lower pair as a set of stamps now being printed for the Coronation of King George VI."

d. — Messrs. Hugh Cecil Portraits Ltd. produced the photograph of King Edward VIII which was used for the production of the Great Britain issue of Edward VIII stamps, and due to the similarity of the head appearing on our essay to that on the Great Britain issue, it may be concluded that the Union's reproduction was also taken from a photograph emanating from this source.

Philatelic.

I possess a "Photoproof" of the English inscribed stamp similar in every respect to the item submitted by Prof. Dix except that my specimen is not covered with "varnish on cellophane" and is not of a purple brown colour, but in black and white similar to the colour of a photographic print. An inscription appears on the card and reads "As prepared in November 1936 for King Edward VIII Coronation issue but not printed."

My specimen also bears the date 1937 below the head similar to Prof. Dix's with the corresponding white dot in the numeral "1" of "1937". It is interesting to note that this date does not appear on the reproduction illustrated on page 49 of the S.A.P., April 1937.

"The O.F.S. Philatelic Magazine."

Our hearty congratulations and good wishes to the Orange Free State and Basutoland Philatelic Society, Bloemfontein, on the launching of their Society organ "The O.F.S. Philatelic Magazine".

The appearance of "No. 1, Vol. 1." came as a surprise, but indeed a most pleasant one, and every member of this enthusiastic body of O.F.S. collectors cannot help but feel very proud of being associated with this new venture to foster the spirit of philately and provide another medium for the circulation of knowledge among the stamp collectors of the Union.

Good luck to the little band who have brought this interesting informative magazine into being. It has made an excellent start and with the support that we feel will be forthcoming from all concerned it cannot fail to prove anything but the success it deserves.

Pictorial Post Card Varieties.

Two varieties in the new series of pictorial post cards bearing an impression of the 1½d. Leopard Head stamp and issued during the early part of the year, have been shown to us by Mr. A. H. de Villiers of Kimberley.

As shown in the accompanying illustrations, both cards have appeared with only about one-quarter of the normal sized picture printed on each and Mr. de Villiers mentions that they were both found in the one packet of 32 cards. He adds that apart from various shades in the colour of the 1½d. stamp printed on this issue, these are the only two varieties he has so far come across in the new series.

A piece of "Spot News" in the first number of the new publication "The O.F.S. Philatelic Magazine" records, however, that "Mr. C. E. Kachelhoffer has discovered several current 1½d. Post Cards without the stamp impression", so it is evident that other varieties are there for the finding.

Regarding the variation in the shade of the 1½d. stamps, Mr. A. W. Duigan of Johannesburg has also drawn attention to this feature on the new cards and half a dozen examples he has collected show a range from a very light sepia brown to a stamp in full colour.

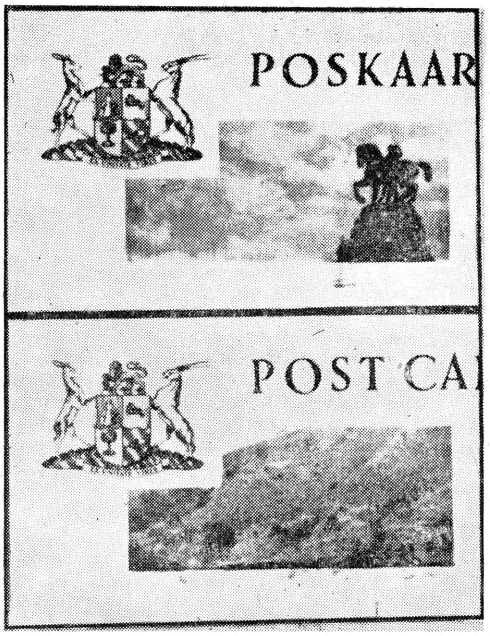
We also illustrate four Van Riebeeck stamp varieties which Mr. de Villiers found on the previous issue of pictorial post cards. The one with the "Question mark" is an unusual item we have not heard of before.

Current 1/- Stamps with Red Sheet Numbers.

Mr. Jack Joseph of East London reports that the current 1/- stamps now on sale in that area have the sheet numbers printed in red.

It will be remembered that the first issue of both the 3d. and the 1/- denominations appeared with five-figure black numerals on the sheets and the 3d. was recorded in our March issue to have been changed to red. The 1/- value has evidently now followed suit indicating

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that another batch of sheets has been printed but on a different machine to the one employed for the first lot.

Cylinders Employed for the Printing of the Union Stamps.

The following list setting out the number of times the many different cylinders have been used in the production of the Union's postage stamps has been compiled by Mr. Jack Joseph of East London.

He notes that 75 cylinders have been used in 66 combinations of which 30 were for the last definitives, 19 for seven of the commemorative sets, 3 for the three new pictorial values issued in October 1953, and 14 for the new animal series.

1 (2)	23	54 (2)	106 (2)
2	25	56	107 (2)
3 (2)	27 (2)	60	118
4	29	66 (4)	121
5	30 (3)	68	6919
6 (2)	31 (2)	70 (2)	6919A
6A	32	72	6919B
6B	36 (4)	76 (3)	6923
8	37	78	6925 (2)
11	38 (2)	84	6926
11A	44 (2)	85	6927
11B (2)	44A	86	6930
12	44B	88	6931A
14	46	90	6931B
16	47 (2)	93	6935
17 (2)	48	94	7018
18	50	98	7020A (2)
19	51 (2)	103	7020B
21 (2)	53 (2)	104 (3)	

Union Handbook/Catalogue — Volume II.

Despite the burning of much midnight oil it became evident about the middle of April that there would be a slight delay in the publishing date of Volume II of the Handbook. Conditions over which those concerned had really no control interfered with the set time-table, but fortunately not to any marked extent and there is every indication that the book will make its appearance towards the latter end of May instead of, as we previously estimated, about the beginning of the month.

Toned Paper Variety in the 1951 Union 3/6 Booklets.

An interesting feature not previously recorded and only recently discovered by Mr. A. W. Duigan of Johannesburg, is the use of both white and toned paper in the printing of some of the stamps found in the 3/6 Booklets of 1951 and incidentally still available at a number of post offices.

The difference between the white and creamy toned paper is quite distinctive, but up to the moment the two shades have only been observed in the 2d. panes.

FRANCE.

Only two issues to chronicle in March! Both issued on 26 March; a 12 fr. with a view of Limoges, and a 25 fr. belonging to the series boosting commercial activities — this time, glove making. A lady is presented with a long black glove.

On 2 April there was issued a 12 fr. stamp with a bust of the Chevalier de Florian, an ornament of French literature of the 18th century.

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AN ERRONEOUS CORRECTION CORRECTED.

The Newfoundland 5 cents stamp issued in 1866 (S.G. 26) showing a Seal on ice floe has been considered for many decades as an error in design.

Neville Lacy Stocken was probably the first to point out that the artist of the stamp was right after all. He shows in his book "Stamps of Great Price" a picture of the Great Grey Seal (Halichoerus Grypus).

L. N. & M. Williams basing their statement on the former's pronouncement wrote in "Stamp Lore" . . . "For more than 60 years the animal's anatomy has been ridiculed by philatelists, but one day it was pointed out that the artist had been right after all. There is a species of seal with forefeet, the Great Grey Seal, which inhabit Newfoundland, and the artist had drawn his inspiration from this species."

In Zoology in Postage Stamps the seal is described as ". . . uncommon variety 'the Great Grey Seal', which inhabits the Newfoundland coast in small numbers."

After a very careful investigation I must state that the artist's drawing shows the Common Seal (Phoca vitulina). The position of the Seal's forelimbs are shown in a manner which was and can easily be misinterpreted. The facts are that the forelimbs of a seal are very mobile; they may equally easily be placed forwards or backwards; the seals are able to hold their food between the forelimbs.

With regard to the definition of paw and flippers, let me quote the dictionary:—

PAW: The foot of a beast having claws or nails.

FLIPPER: A limb used to swim with, in a seal or walrus esp. the forelimb.

The limbs of most species of seals have claws of varying sizes and are used to a greater or lesser extent for swimming, so that either the term paw or flipper may be used correctly, although flipper is more generally used. In Newfoundland Seals' Flippers are a delicacy on the dining-room table.

The 1866 stamp and the redrawn stamp of 1876 (S.G. 48) depict the same species with the front limbs directed forwards and backwards respectively.

Whilst it is correct that the Grey Seal (Halichoerus Grypus) also occurs around Newfoundland, it is **not** the animal shown on either of the stamps (S.G. 26 and S.G. 48), as the Grey Seal has a very pronounced "roman nose" and not the broken profile and rounded head of the Common Seal. ALFRED BRASCH.

JOHANNESBURG DEALERS.

Mr. J. Robertson of the Robertson Stamp Coy. is leaving soon for a month or two's trip to Europe. During it he will be visiting the Scandinavian exhibitions. We wish him a very pleasant tme.

Mr. R. T. Lilley is giving up business shortly to go on an extended holiday in Europe. He will carry on his Sales Packets for a few months, but does not wish further contributions to them — address, 7 Hannibal Street, Kensington, Johannesburg. He does not actually leave until March 1956, proposing returning about November 1957.

NORWAY AND SWEDEN.

Special stamps, covers and cancellations will be available in connection with the Oslo and Stockholm Exhibitions.

Norwex. Centenary stamps issued on 3 Jan., 1955 will be overprinted "Norwex—Oslo 1955" and will only be sold at the exhibition post-office. Price of the set of 3 will be kr. 2.05 (kr. 1.00 for admission ticket plus the face value of the stamps (kr. 1.05). First day covers for the overprinted stamps are to be sold at kr. 1.00 each; they will receive the special exhibition postmark. There will also be souvenir blocks of four of Norway No. 1; one will be a **reprint** of this stamp, the other 3 will show well-known flaws. Cost of block, kr. 3.00.

Orders for these items may be sent to the General Secretary, "Norwex", P.O. Box 104, Oslo,, in good time before 12th June, the opening day of the exhibition. Return postage must be added.

Stockholmia 55. There will be issued on 1 July a set of 5 reprints of the first Swedish stamps, the "skilling banco" series. As Swedish currency has changed since then, the new 3, 4, 6, 8 and 24 skill. b:co will have the franking value of the corresponding numbers of öre. They will only be sold in complete sets, at the exhibition post office, admission tickets at kr. 2.00 entitling the purchase of one set. Collectors not attending may order a set on cover for 1st Day postage at kr. 2.45 each; remittances by money order to the Secretariat, Generalpoststyrelsen, Stockholm 1, Sweden. Mint sets may also be ordered, but the Post Office reserves the right to adjust orders to the supply available. Orders to be in by 10th June.

Later information reports two more stamps on 16th May, 25 and 40 öre in the style of Sweden No. 1, but with 1855-1955 at the bottom.

WOMEN CAN DO IT.

So said a recent display in Johannesburg, showing female activities is pretty well every field of activity. And so, in effect, says the 2nd April number of the "Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly", which is described as a Ladies' Number, all the articles being written by Philatelettes (as they call 'em in Pretoria).

The first article tells us that feminine influence in philately goes back to 1842 when a young lady advertised for used penny blacks to enable her to finish papering her dressing table. Not serious philately? Agreed, but within a year of its foundation the Philatelic Society of London (now The Royal) elected its first lady member, who lived in Wellington, New Zealand. Three years later Miss A. L. Fenton read a paper at the "Royal" on early issues of Peru. To-day their activities in many fields of philately are too well known to need mention.

MOZAMBIQUE.

In the O.F.S. and Basutoland Philatelic Society's March News Letter there is noted a find by two of their Junior members, Colin Scott and Kevin Corrigan, which seems to deserve special mention.

This appears to be a constant major variety in the recent 3.50 Esc. "Waterfall" stamp, with the Escudo symbol **reversed.** So far as we know this has not been recorded and the discoverers are to be congratulated.

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Wants, Offers and Exchange

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PHILATELY BY ANY OTHER NAME . . .

By Dr. W. G. HESSE.

(A Paper communicated to the Durban Congress, June 1954, and given a Congress Award.)

In the beginning, there was the stamp. And man looked at it, and liked it. And so he kept it and collected it. And all his little black brethren. He could not get enough of them, and he put an advertisement in the London "Times" that friends and well-wishers help him, so that he could wallpaper the remaining three walls of his bedroom. If only his address had been preserved . . . .

So was the stamp collector born. Not the collector, for collecting had been going on long, long before 1840. Man has always collected, to keep and to hold, stones and flowers, clocks and cowbells and even echoes. The headman of the tribe collected heads, the emperor colonies, the miser coins, the actor cuttings, and all of them had been boys, collecting bird's eggs. Had there been stamps available, Alexander and Caesar and Napoleon might have been less migratory, and had there been someone to tell Hitler of stamps and their obvious advantages in acquisition and housing, we might have been spared a second World War.

Man has always collected, and all men collect. For a thing to be collectable, it has only to be available in large numbers, in the plural; but this plural must consist of individually distinguishable singulars. For example, fingerprints would seem to be ideal objects.

The stamp collector was born when man looked once more and found such individualities in his assembly. There were those check letters, and every stamp was different. No need any more to put those pieces of paper to extraneous use, as do, to this day, all those who make quilts of coloured material ends, or trays from cigar bands. Instead of sticking them all together on the wall, he could stick them individually into an album, using the same permanent kind of glue.

But, of course, he had to find an excuse towards the others who could not see any sense in this pre-occupation. And since any occupation becomes sensible if you give it a name, a good and learned name, he gave it the name of "philately". Originally, he knew what that word meant, namely "love of postage stamps", and nothing else; when he really got busy with the work, he, and all others, forgot its meaning.

He really got busy with the work. Seeing variety in sameness, he studied it, and looked for more, and wrote the differences up, and encouraged others to do like him. Unfortunately, there was no diversity in design, and too little in colour; and so he had to turn to characteristics of his stamps which were, in reality, of no importance to the stamps as such, side-issues which the G.P.O. considers, and rightly so, to this day as unessential: paper, gum, perforation, shade. To the Post Office, the design is the thing, so much so that it still forgets to add the country's name to the effigy of its monarch; to the philatelist, that unrelieved sameness could not hold any interest.

But there came more stamps, other countries followed suit, and with the diversity in design there came albums and catalogues, hinges and tweezers, and fraternities of those who used all of them. And when the first stamp journal appeared, it had to fill its pages with reading matter. The story of a stamp's origin was quickly told, but the study of those side-issues yielded enough material. Especially, as the people were not content any longer to just collect numbers, and soon left it to school boys to ask each other, "How many stamps have you got?" They wanted to be different. In order to be comparable, they had all to collect the same, stamps, but in order to be different, they took to different countries, issues, denominations; and there were also to be taken into account the different sizes and contents of their purses.

So was born the Specialist. From the one country and the one issue, he soon got down to the one stamp, and every duplicate became a variety. The bigger the garden grew, the smaller the flower patch became. After the trade had got wise to this useful quality of their markets to absorb everything, the governments also took notice. Frequent changes of normal issues were followed by special emissions, air mail stamps that were valid for "normal" postage, "official" stamps that could be had over every counter, miniature sheets that could be had at only one counter, booklet tête-bêches that were sold in panes, plate numbers in eight places on one sheet, remainders sold at Post Office auctions, and commemoratives commemorating persons and events, down to persons who had never got near the country commemorating them, and to events which had such significance as the founding of poppy day, and the fiftieth anniversary of the first American chicken.

And all of them found their customers. The atomisation, which is the disease of our times, conquered philately, too. After the specialist, there came the investor, the speculator, the professional amateur, and the faker and forger, the remainderer and the spiv at the back-door of the printers followed suit. The collector forgot sameness over diversity, and had a hard time finding others who shared just his specialised interest, whether mint or used, postal history or rarities, foreign and not-so-foreign, classics and moderns; and when he went to competitions, local or national, and international, he found himself in a section among many sections.

And then came the day when someone looked up from his catalogue with its 360,000 entries and varieties, and got an idea. Why should he bother to distinguish between laid and wove paper, between comb and line perforation, between red and white gum? Why should he bother at all to look at the back of a stamp, when it had a front as well? Why should he not look at the design? Be it understood, not its frame and re-entry and flaws, but the story it told by the picture itself? Did it not tell a tale of the country and time, and the country's beauty spots, wares, proficiencies, its great men and their achievements? Was not the design the thing? Did the printer's name matter more than what he had printed, was the age of the stamp, or the size of its issue so important? Would he not be able to have more stamps, and have them cheaper, if he collected designs only? And then be really different?

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What he had so far written on his album pages, had been notes cribbed from catalogues and periodicals — the date of issue, the watermark, the perforation; but never anything really important about the design itself. If he did that now, and from now on, he could link up his profession with his hobby, being an engineer, he could collect bridges on stamps, or as a historian, battlefields, or as a gardener, flowers; and he would, incidentally and very pleasantly, at last be able to interest his wife, his children, his friends in his hobby, or, at least, dissolve their doubts about his sanity.

So, at last, was born the theme-collector. So great had been his mental exertion, in re-discovering what, in fact, had been the origin of philately, that he could not collect enough wit any more to think of a name for himself, and emerged finally with that untranslatable horror, "themately". Nor has he had time, since, to try again, for from the beginning he has needed all his strength to defend himself against the incessant attack of all the suddenly re-united vested interests of the true trade and hobby. But he seems now to have won his battle at last, as all secessions win through in our world which, idiotically, believes in diversity rather than in unity. To-day, he stands fairly well entrenched, facing all his competitors, but totally unprepared for the next atomisation to come: for, surely, there will be the day when Thematic Societies will break up into warring study circles, and only "real" animals will be allowed here, heraldic ones there, when the ones may collect only such doctors who did not afterwards decide to become novelists, and the others only novelists who did not afterwards decide to become politicians. If the "true" philatelists have already spit up to the extent when they only collect shilling stamps, or S.G. number ones, or specimens, or black stamps on emerald paper, and if we already know of "false" philatelists who collect only stamps on stamps, dates on stamps, errors on stamps, we are bound to have soon the one who collects giraffes only, or hairdressers, or portraits of Washington.

Not a word said against this development. It is a lovely one, and great and general the fun to be derived from it. Why should there not be a collection of all the possible post marks of only one town, through all its postal history? Why not a collection of all the possible denominations, from one eighth to one hundred, even if it would be expensive to get the Moldavian 81? Why not a collection of all the views of a country, accompanied by picture post cards of the original scenes? Surely all of these and many more, have their birthright, and should hold their own when compared with those of the plating and hairline type? If philatelic competitions ask for study and presentation and interest to be of a high level, these collections certainly can have all these qualities; and as for that frightening obsession with completeness, they should fare better and less frighteningly, quite apart from the fact that, fortunately, completeness, impossible everywhere, would be deadly to the hobby, as must be all ending of striving.

Not a word said, therefore, against this diversity. But a lot of words must be said, and loudly, against the reluctance to see unity in it. As people nowadays are apt to forget that, in spite of their differences of nationality, individuality, and achievement, they still are all people, so the stamp collector of today is apt to forget that, in spite of the difference between aero-philately and thematic philately, both are still philately, and it is not fair, nor very intelligent, to think that fighting for "unused" as against "mint", one might gain one's own family thte greater number of followers. As has been said for some hundreds of years before the advent of philately, if there is anything worth fighting for, it is to fight against fighting, to fight not for one's differences but for the unity that is everyone's. It seems, then, worth fighting for that the word "against" be dropped between thematic collecting and philately, and an equation sign be substituted.

All of us are collectors, are we not? And all of us collect stamps, do we not? All of us are, therefore, lovers of stamps, philatelists! By all means, throw out from your ranks those enemies who do not love stamps, those who think more of collecting match box labels, or coins, or cinema programmes, or sheet music. But allow everyone into your ranks who collects stamps, whatever his reasons, and whether they are to show trees or multiple C.A.'s. For there is no difference in whether you interest yourself only in perforations, or postmarks, or whether you look only at the pictures.

It is not an argument against thematic collecting, as friend Creewel maintained in his paper at the last Congress, that it is not the stamp but what the stamp portrays, which interests thematic collectors. For it may easily be contended that what the stamp portrays is the stamp, and nothing else. This is, at least, the view of those that produce and issue stamps. For the government and its need, the design is the stamp's most important part, not the watermark which is an afterthought in the interest of security, not the perforation which is an afterthought in the interest of handling, not the paper which is changed whenever the cost of production requires it, and most certainly, not the varieties which are purposely being overlooked — for no printer who wants to work economically, will worry about finickeries of that description—, if they are not just a nasty nuisance, as is shown by the example of Greece which had to re-print a whole issue with the surcharge inverted, after one sheet of such an inverted surcharge had slipped by.

If it pleases the collector to labour over plating instead of buying the whole pane and be done with it, if it pleases him to catalogue shades when the printer tries so hard not to produce them, if it pleases him to mount 200 stamps together among which no printer would see the slightest differences — well and good; neither printer nor government will mind such grist to their mills. But neither should the philatelic old-timer, when someone else decides to mount only one stamp on each page, and leave aside some five others of the same set which only differ from it by their colours. Nor, that he prefers to fill the remaining space of the album page with data on the design, with drawings and reproductions. Far from being false to philately, he is, moreover, true to his government, for that intended him to take proud notice of the picture glorifying it. The colour is prescribed by the U.P.U. regulations, the size is prescribed by the price of the label, the printing

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is prescribed by the available machinery; the design alone is a matter for which the government, being free in its choice, offers competitions; it is of first importance to the creator.

Let it be of first importance to some collectors. Let them, who look at stamps the way all laymen and true amateurs do, carry on in your midst, and were it only to balance that money-and-investment-aspect among so many others. Allow them to call themselves philatelists, if they ask for it so nicely and so longingly, since they would be good to have among you, even if their love goes out to the subject, not the object of the stamp, even if they are internationalists who will stick to no country but are world collectors of their particular interest. Don't tell them that to them, the stamp is only incidental to its content; for they might answer that for you, the content is only incidental to the stamp.

If you fight them, they will stay out. If you accept them, on equal terms, you might even teach them to repent. Most of them admit already that they also collect, secretly, according to the catalogue, that their thematic collection is still only a side-line (for which awful pronouncement they should be severely punished since all collecting is side-line to one's making a living). Of course, they might also corrupt you. They might make you believe that collecting proofs only, or interprovincials only, is perhaps also only a side-line. And wouldn't that be nice if we all became a bit more united, a bit more interested in the other fellow?

Of course,, lest someone clever find that out for himself, such an open door to the amateur will lead to infiltration of forbidden valuations and judgments. These newcomers might condemn a perfectly healthy specimen merely because it has an ugly picture, and they might not accept the fact that "classic" and "perforated" are contradictory terms; they might even prefer a normal stamp to one with frame inverted. Worse still, they might infect you with the realisation that collecting by design, if you rigorously refuse atrocities, fulfills an aesthetic desire, stultified by looking at plate numbers and jubilee lines (what a word again! I shall never forget the look my wife gave me when I once explained what that joyful term really meant), stultified and crippled by watermark detector and quartz lamp and perforation gauge.

For these people, believe it or not, may look for perfection, instead of for flaws, for the whole instead of for the parts; and their sixpence buys them more fun, if less taxable value, than for £50 for a triple overprint, twice inverted, which to them is even more of an eyesore than are many of the "classic" stamps, and few only of the moderns. They are content to leave the showing-off of a knowledge to others, which, if it does come from their own study, concerns itselfs with malicious detection, implying that the printer was either so careless as not to be worth its name, or a downright criminal who did not succeed in hiding his misdeeds under retouches. They rather show off a study of culture, history, geography, a learning that can go further than the little paragraph on the design in their magazine, and that does go further in benefiting them as social and sociable beings.

All this must not be thought to be an attempt to deride philately, as the terms was understood in the dark middle ages of the history of stamps. Once more, we all do keep on collecting stamps in albums which we fondly believe to be investments, and which will provide our widows with a posthumous compensation for so many unsociable spent hours at the dining room table. No — let everyone among us just carry on as he likes, and like him for doing so. If we must be unsociable to our families, let's not be so among ourselves. All of us, the platers and spotters and speckers and themesters, all of us who lick hinges and write up pages and read advertisements as avidly and religiously as others read the sports pages, all of us who love stamps are philatelists. As no cricket fan will dare to hold that cricket is the only sport, let us also allow the thematic athfetes on the sports field — they, too, have their rules, their umpires, and they pay their subscriptions. Let us refrain from creating lower classes and lesser ranks in society, lesser interest, and lesser medals. At least in our hobby we can keep factions and strife out, and unity in.

In the beginning, there was the stamp. It is still the beginning with everyone of us. Let it also be the end. Our hobby is still sweet for all of us, is still, by any other name, philately.

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PUBLICATION DATE MAY, 1955

Handbook / Catalogue of Union of South Africa Stamps

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CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor,
S.A. Philatelist.

Sir,

"REVENUE STAMPS POSTALLY USED"

I was interested in your remarks on this subject in your March 1955 issue. Far from this being exceptional it would appear to be commonplace!

I have 21 covers bearing S.A. Revenue stamps, sometimes solus and sometimes used in conjunction with normal postal stamps. The majority of the covers emanate from Cape Town, and **all** are from one of the district offices of a large organisation to its head office; there can, therefore, be no suggestion of a "try-on" by the parties concerned.

After coming into possession of a number of these covers from Cape Town I came to two conclusions:

(a) The sender of the covers was an office junior who did not know the difference between Revenue and Postage stamps, or

(b) The G.P.O. stamp clerk/s were not aware of the difference since the issue of the new Animal Series postage stamps.

To-day that theory was rudely shattered: I secured a cover emanating from KRUGERSDORP and bearing a Revenue 3d. (Queen) together with the three current 1d. postage stamps!

There are intriguing possibilities in this matter, especially if, in the meantime, other readers have also come across covers bearng Revenue Stamps postally used.

QUESTION: If a G.P.O. stamp Clerk issues Revenue stamps when asked for "Stamps" when the purchaser intends to use such stamps postally, would such items come under the definition of "Fiscals **authorised** for postal use"?!

However, to assist anyone who may be interested in pursuing this matter further I list hereunder details of the covers in question, insofar as I am able to give the information with certainty.

It would seem that this spate of Revenues "postally used", both in Rhodesia and South Africa, has some definite connection with the issue of new-series stamps in both cases.

UNION COVERS

Posted at	Date of Cancellation	Revenues Affixed	Postage Stamps (if used in conjunction)
Randfontein	28/8/54	6d. King	
Germiston	26/9/54	2d. Queen	
Cape Town	2/12/54	3d. Queen	
Cape Town	4/12/54	3d. Queen	
Cape Town	5/12/54	3d. Queen	
Cape Town	5/12/54	3d. Queen	Two 1d. Pictorials
Cape Town	7/12/54	3d. Queen	
Cape Town	8/12/54	3d. Queen	
Cape Town	9/12/54	3d. Queen	
Cape Town	11/12/54	3d. Queen	
Cape Town	14/12/54	3d. Queen	
Cape Town	15/12/54	3d. Queen	
Kingwilliamstown	?/12/54	3d. Queen	4d. Pictorial, obsolete.
Undecipherable	?	3d. Queen	Five 1d. roll stamps obsolete.
Undecipherable	?	6d. Queen	One 1d. pictorial obsolete.
Germiston (?)	?/?/54	1/- Queen	
Germiston	?/?/54	Three 2d. (Queen)	
Cape Town	18/2?/55	3d. S.A. Arms	One 2d. pictorial, obsolete.
Cape Town	22/2/55	3d. Arms	Two 1d. animal series.
Cape Town	28/2/55	3d. and two 2d. Arms	
Krugersdorp	25/3/55	3d. Queen	Three 1d. animal series.

OTHERS

Undecipherable	Received late 1954	Two 2d. Southern Rhodesia Arms	Two Southern Rhodesia 6d. Queens (obsolete).
Undecipherable	Received late 1954	One 2d. ditto	One 6d. ditto.

CURIOSITY

Cover posted at Bloemfontein 12/6/1954 bearing three ½d BRITISH stamps, K.G. VI, and not even surcharged for under-postage!

Yours, etc.,

"AGAPANTHUS".

The Editor,
South African Philatelist.

Sir:

"FIRST DAY KING'S HEAD UNIONS — SEPTEMBER, 1913."

Some information not on printed record according to all signs, would appear to be needed in connection with the date, Sept. 1, 1913, officially given and reported in all works, for the First National Issue of the Union. Perhaps this letter may serve to urge someone into writing the needed article.

Studying my own collection, into the making of which have gone some 30-odd years of handling this series, some values literally by thousands, I noted lately that there is **not even one** stamp in it which I have with a postmark showing the date Sept. 1, 1913. I do have the ½d.

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and the 1d. dated Sept. 2, 1913, from different offices in the Cape Province; and the 1d. dated Sept. 4, 5, 6 and 9 from offices scattered all over the country. But the 2d. does not show up till after Sept. 15. The ½d. recurs, after Sept. 2, next as a Sept. 26th 1913 use.

Most of the other values appear first in October 1913 use.

But the 3d. I have, in all these years, not secured earlier than Jan. 1914.

A real question arises here. Is Sept. 1, 1913 the actual date of issue? If such is the case, how does it happen that in all these years no dealer, whether in South Africa, in Britain, or in North America, has ever offered me a first day cover of any one of the First National Issue (King's Head) stamps? Surely some such covers may be expected to exist. None seem to have ever been shown by anyone.

I hazard the guess that Sept. 1, 1913 was the date upon which supplies were first sent to the various post offices. Presumably not all offices were then supplied, but only those which had requisitions for the stamps in hand at Pretoria. We know that the great bulk of mail was carried with Interprovincials until at least mid-December 1913; later than that at Maritzburg, for instance, on which the first Union 1d. does not show up till February 1914.

Since first day covers of the first Union stamp, the 2½d. of Nov. 4,1910 are known, as well as numerous first day singles and even some first day blocks off cover, it would seem most unlikely that the Sept. 1,1913 date would be without similar results. The absence of such material is certainly an indication of the need for restudy of the situation.

The Handbook/Catalogue might well give the actual first known date for each stamp. Likewise, presumably first day of use, loose and on cover, might well be listed and the market price reported, in future editions. This is not a criticism of omission of these facts and listings hitherto, but a suggestion for something useful to add.

This situation is not unique. The United States series of 1890 is given everywhere as issued Feb. 22, 1890. Yet no copies showing post mark of that date, no covers of that date with the stamps, have turned up. The 2c, corresponding to the 1d. Union in general use, was for many years not known used earlier than Feb. 27, 1890, five days after official date. Only in 1955 has a cover showing use on Feb. 24, 1890, two days after official issue date, turned up. It is quite probable that several values did not get into use until four weeks or more after the official date. Yet the specialized catalogue for U.S. corresponding to the South African Handbook/Catalogue, has for years reported the official date for each value most uncritically.

Presumably there are other cases, from various countries and periods, which could be cited. This happens to be the only one known at first hand to me.

Yours, etc.,
STEPHEN G. RICH.

Verona, N.J.

FINE BRITISH COLONIAL STAMPS OF THE WEST INDIES.

			£	s	d
Antigua	1913	5/- S.G. 49	£1	17	6
	1921/29	M.C.A. set S.G. 55-61	7	10	0
Bahamas	1912/19	£1 S.G. 91	4	0	0
	1921/29	Set complete S.G. 122-131	5	15	0
Barbados	1882/86	5/- S.G. 103	5	0	0
	1912	Set complete S.G. 170-180	6	15	0
Cayman Is.	1901/02	Set complete S.G. 3-7	3	0	0
	1907	1d. on 5/- S.G. 19	5	10	0
Dominica	1907/08	5/- S.G. 46	2	15	0
	1908/19	Set complete S.G. 47-53a	1	10	0
Grenada	1883	Half of 1d.; unsevered pair, S.G. 29a Used	8	0	0
	1883	Set complete S.G. 30-36	3	15	0
Jamaica	1921/29	Set complete S.G. 91-103	9	0	0
Leeward Is.	1902	Set complete S.G. 22-30	2	15	0
Montserrat	1908/13	Set complete S.G. 35-47	5	0	0
	1914	5/- S.G. 48 Used	4	0	0
Nevis	1879/80	2½d. S.G. 24 superb	3	0	0
St. Christopher	1885	½d. on 1d. S.G. 22a, unsevered pair	2	5	0
St. Lucia	1863	6d. S.G. 8	6	0	0
	1907/09	Set complete S.G. 72-78	3	0	0
St. Vincent.	1877	4d. S.G. 24 used	4	0	0
	1921/32	Set complete S.G. 131-141	6	0	0
Trinidad	1935/37	Perf. 12 set S.G. 230-328	1	7	6
	1947	2c. S.G. D26 blk. of 8, one stamp has variety "Missing Crown" in wmk.	30	0	0
Turks & Caicos Is.	1909	Set complete S.G. 117-126	2	15	0
Virgin Is.	1922/28	M.C.A. and Scr. sets S.G. 86-97	3	12	6

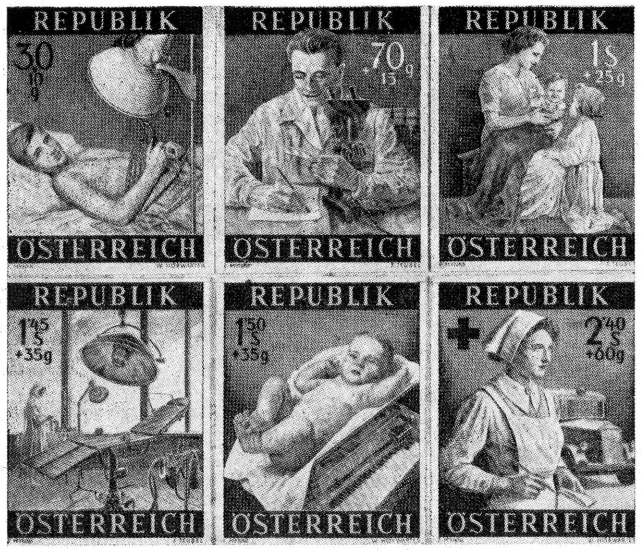
All mint except as stated.

We have just purchased a collection of 65 Boer War Covers which we can offer, subject unsold, at **£22/10/-.** Also just received a small stock of S. Africa used in S.W. Africa including several with altered German obliterators, two dated 1916; details upon application.

B. J. HUNTER

79 MARINE PARADE, BRIGHTON 7, SUSSEX.

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AUSTRIAN 1954 HEALTH STAMPS.

This set of six stamps was issued in 1954.

The surcharges were in favour of a Welfare Fund.

30g Helio Therapy.

70g. Doctor with Microscope.

1s. Mother and children.

1.45s. Operating Theatre.

1.50s. Baby on scales.

2.40s. Red Cross nurse and ambulance.

THE AVERAGE COLLECTOR

(This little article, by a writer who wishes to remain anonymous, is, we presume, more or less autobiographical. There is doubtless some truth in his remarks, but his experiences cannot be the whole truth regarding Society meetings. If it were, societies would all be dying rapidly whereas, on the contrary, most of them are steadily increasing in membership. The average collector often graduates into the group which is accused of monopolising societies' activities.—Ed.)

This is the story of the average collector, not philatelist, who at some time or other, perhaps already as a child got enchanted and captivated by our fascinating hobby. He is not fortunate enough to take over an old valuable collection formed by his father or grandfather, neither is he blessed with unlimited financial resources. Same as thousands of fellow collectors throughout the world he started by accumulating everything and anything in stamps, he filled exercise books, fast bound albums, remounted his stamps on loose leaf sheets, and later, realizing the impossibility of forming a whole world collection, began to concentrate on single countries and groups. Painstakingly and lovingly he built up his collection, exchanged, bought within the limit of his income, and he created something of which he was immensely proud. He read trade magazines, tried to locate correspondents in foreign countries with a view to exchange — and all the time his activities gave him much pleasure and contentment. At the first opportunity he attended a meeting of the local Philatelic Society as a guest, and he admired much the exhibit of one of their star members. Never before had he seen such an accumulation of fine material including rarities, errors, varieties in profusion. He was overwhelmed, but consoled himself by realizing that even collectors of that status had to begin sometime on his own basis, and that there must be many collectors whose aims and ambitions correspond with his own, namely to build up a nice clean collection.

It does not take him long to find out however that nearly all exhibits shown and papers read originate from the same group of Society members, who provide practically all displays at Society meetings. National and International exhibitions. Their excellent collections and the means to improve them bring them as near perfection as possible, enable this privileged group of members to monopolize the Society's main activities. Our friend the average collector has to accept that straightforward collections in spite of the best possible presentation can arouse only mild polite interest amongst the smug owners of famous prize-winning collections. He gets discouraged, his interest in taking part in his Society's activities is diminishing and gradually ceasing.

What are Philatelic Societies going to do about it?

AUSTRALIA.

"Stamp News", the Australian monthly newspaper, says the outlook for stamps there is gloomy and that the country will suffer for many years from the present mediocre standard of its stamps. This editorial view is prompted by a letter received from the acting P.M.G. replying to suggestions from **Stamp News** for a change of policy about stamps. They had advocated larger, better designed and better printed stamps as effective propaganda in place of the present small insipid portrait stamps and flat-looking dull commemoratives. But the Postal Department appears to be against any change of policy; as **Stamp News** puts it — the die-hards are too firmly entranched.

We have no desire to embark on this controversy, but would merely say that whatever one may think of the stamps themselves which the P.O. sells, one cannot but take off one's hat to the publicity work of the P.O. in pushing the sales of its wares. Every mail we get stocks of leaflets about stamps, commemorative envelopes special cancellations, etc., etc. Anybody want any?

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AIR MAIL NOTES

CENTRAL AFRICAN FEDERATION.

Airways Letter Service.

On 1st April, 1955 **Central African Airways** inaugurated a service similar to that first introduced by Great Britain in 1933 whereby the Airline undertakes, for a consideration and the purchase of an adhesive stamp, to accept mail at certain airports up to half an hour before the departure of the aircraft, or ninety minutes before, if handed in at the Corporation's town office. A fee of 6d. for each two ounces (maximum 4 ozs.)* is levied and a special yellow, blue and white stamp must be affixed to the letter in addition to the normal postage. The Airline then undertakes to post the letter on arrival at destination, or to retain it for collection by the addressee.

The stamp which measures 33 x 55 mm. of vertical format depicts the Federation's crest and is inscribed in seven lines "Central African Airways. CAA. Airways Letter Service. 6d." This is cancelled at point of departure with a rubber-stamp impression, in purple, bearing the name of the Airline and town. **The postage stamp is not postmarked until arrival,** and, as the service operates to and from the three Federated territories, whose individual stamps are still interchangeable, interesting and genuinely (as against philatelically) "Used Abroad" specimens are obtainable.



To commemorate the start of this important service **Central African Airways** issued, and serviced, a limited number of First Day covers suitably inscribed, from Bulawayo and Salisbury only. Covers flown on the first day to and from Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland have not yet been seen, but some probably exist from Lusaka, Ndola, Livingstone and Blantyre — the other towns which are served at present.

(Note: As long ago as 1st June, 1936 South African Airways accepted "Late Fee" letters at Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town, Kimberley and Windhoek aerodromes but special stamps were not used. The aerodrome's rubber-stamp was impressed on the back of the envelopes and the postage stamps cancelled at destination. Here again, but for a very short time, Union stamps were postmarked at Windhoek and, conversely, South West African cancelled at Kimberley. Later the stamps were merely defaced by pen and ink.

*Mistakenly given as 6d. per quarter oz. on page 36 of our March issue.

AEROGRAMMES

Nyasaland. A **third** Emergency printing of 1945 has now been brought to the writer's attention. It is the same in all respects to the first and second printings described on page 202 — November 1954 — but bears the Control number "1773-S.87".

For some time now Nyasaland has been without sheets bearing imprinted stamps and, pending the arrival of the new Federation issue, forms are obtainable at the Post Offices which require adhesive franking. They are very similar to the 1942 British Colonial type (5 lined text top left) but the word "AEROGRAMME" is inserted between "BY AIR MAIL" and "AIR LETTER".

Basutoland. The new type sheets have now appeared with letter "G" (reversed) in the watermark (1954 paper). Sheets with the "F" watermark have not yet been seen.

I. H. C. GODFREY.

RHODESIA & NYASALAND

1855 Centenary of Discovery 1955 of Victoria Falls

First Day Covers issued on 15th June, 2 values 3d. and 1/- on attractive Bi-coloured Envelope — **2/- each.** Special Prices to the Trade.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF RHODESIA,

P.O. Box 803 ——— BULAWAYO.

POSTMARKS OF THE WORLD.

Very very few people attempt to-day to collect the stamps of the world, even though there may be only some 80,000 of them (not counting any varieties).

But what do you think of making a collection of the postmarks of each post office in the world? "Stamps" tells of a Dr. Thompson, who is the President of the "New England Philatelists" and who does this very thing. He has been at it since 1912. He has over 93,000 U.S.A. offices represented, many foreign countries nearly complete, and a good showing in all (except Soviet). Some effort, isn't it?

A NEW CHAPTER IN AIR MAIL HISTORY

began with the introduction, for the first time in the world, or regular jet-plane mail and passenger services by "Comet I" in 1952. Soon Comet II and III will take up the good work, and you will be asking us for flown covers.

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PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

CONSTITUENT SOCIETIES

Cape Town, Royal P.S. of, P.O. Box 1973, Cape Town	2nd & 4th Thursdays, St. Johns Church Hall, cor. Long & Waterkant Streets, Cape Town.
Copperbelt, P.S. of, P.O. Box 211, Kitwe, N.R.	3rd Thursday, Jewish Synagogue, Kitwe.
East London P.S., P.O. Box 925, East London	2nd Friday, Museum Lecture Hall, East London.
East Rand P.S., 157 Woburn Avenue, Benoni	3rd Tuesday at 8 p.m., Regent Hotel, Benoni.
Germiston P.S., 57 Driehoek Road, Germiston	2nd Wednesday, Volkskas Bank Building, Germiston.
Grahamstown P.S., 20 Market Street, Grahamstown	2nd Friday, 1 Thompson St., Grahamstown.
Jewish Guild P. Section, c/o. P.O. Box 10, Jhb.	Last Thursday at Jewish Guild Memorial Hall, Jhb.
Johannesburgse, Afrikaanse Fil. Vereniging, 82 Kruger Avenue, Selwyn, Florida	1st Friday, 8 p.m., 2nd Saturday, 2.30 p.m., Room 91, Public Library, Johannesburg.
Johannesburg Phil. Society of, Box 4967, Joh'burg	2nd Tuesday, 4th Mondoy, Room 97, Public Library, Johannesburg.
Ladysmith, Colenso & District P.S., c/o. P.O. Box 109, Ladysmith	Women's I. Club, 350 Burgers St., Maritzburg.
Maritzburg P.S., P.O. Box 256, Pietermaritzburg	2nd Wednesday, Room 4, Salisbury Polytechnic, Salisbury.
Mashonaland P.S., P.O. Box 74, Causeway, S.R.	1st and 3rd Wednesday, 7.30 p.m., 31 London Assurance House, 319 Smith Street, Durban.
Natal, P.S. of, P.O. Box 588, Durban	4th Friday at Free State Technical College, Bloemfontein.
O.F.S. & Basutoland P.S., Box 702, Bloemfontein	2nd Wednesday, Paarl African Trust Building, Main Street, Paarl.
Paarlse Posseëlversamelaarsver., c/o. P.O. Box 528, Zuider Paarl	1st and 3rd Tuesday, Room 3, City Hall, P. Elizabeth
Port Elizabeth P.S., P.O. Box 3, Port Elizabeth	1st & 3rd Monday, Council Chamber, Technical College, Pretoria.
Pretoria, Afrikaanse. Fil. Ver. van, Box 706, Pretoria	2nd Wednesday, Railway Recreation Club, Berea Park, Pretoria.
Pretoria Philatelic Society, Box 514, Pretoria	1st Wednesday, Royal Hotel, cor. 6th Ave./Rhodes Street, Bulawayo.
Pretoria Railway P.S., Railway Recr. Club, Berea Park, Pretoria	2nd and 4th Monday, St. Johns Church Parish Hall, cor. Longmarket and Waterkant Sts., Cape Town.
Rhodesia, P.S. of, P.O. Box 803, Bulawayo, S.R.	Arranged during Academic Year, Senior Common Room, Students' Union.
Springs & Dist. P.S., P.O. Box 688, Springs	4th Wednesday, Parish Hall, Amelia St., Roodepoort.
Thematic Stamp Club, P.O. Box 418, Cape Town	
University of C.T. P.S., University of C.T., Rondebosch, Cape	
Western Rand, P.S. of, c/o. B. G. Simpkins, Box 1001, Johannesburg	

The South African Philatelist

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CORRESPONDENCE: The columns of this Journal are open to correspondence on subjects of Philatelic Interest. In particular, the Editor will be pleased to receive information regarding new issues, discoveries of errors and varieties, etc.

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T.P.O. – NATAL

By
J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

The first finding of a Natal T.P.O. mark was recorded in the "South African Philatelist" Vol. 26, 1950, p. 200. As is seen in the illustration it is a double circle mark of 27 mm. diameter with the wording "T.P.O." at the top and "NATAL" at the bottom. There are Maltese crosses between the upper and lower lettering and the date, 27 DEC 06, is in two lines in the centre. The mark is a backstamp on a registered cover from Standerton to Durban. A note of this finding was also published in "T.P.O." Vol. 5, 1951, p. 34.



Since then three further findings of T.P.O.-NATAL marks have been reported in England, but all on loose stamps, not on cover.

(a) Mr. Norman Hill, Editor of "T.P.O." has seen an apparently identical mark, but with the date 23 FEB 99. (Personal communication).

(b) Mr. J. F. Dight, of London, in a personal letter, and by way of a note in "T.P.O." Vol. 5, 1951, p. 72, reports a mark on a Natal 2d. Q.V. stamp (S.G. 106). This mark differs from that originally described in having no Maltese crosses and in having an index letter "H" above the date. The date is AP 12/93 or 03, the year part being too indistinct to be certain. (From the history of the service which follows, '03 would seem to be the more probable of the two possibilities, although '93 cannot be completely ruled out.)

(c) The Editor of "T.P.O." in Vol. 5, 1951, p. 104 states that he had had reported to him, but had not actually seen, a mark with index letter "G"; it is stated to be like that reported in (b) above, therefore presumably is without Maltese crosses. The date is given as 18th December, 1891. From the history which follows, this date must be regarded as very doubtful.

Since mid-1951 no further records have been noted. To try to trace the history of this T.P.O. service I have done what, of course, I should have done originally, viz., gone to the obvious source of possible information, the Annual Reports of the Natal Postmaster-General. Extracts from these, which follow, give us a fair amount of information, although the story is not yet quite complete in some respects.

Report for Year ending 30 June, 1893.

This is the first mention found of a T.P.O. service; it reads:—

"For several months a sorting-van was employed on the railway between Newcastle and Charlestown, but it was ultimately discontinued as a matter of economy, because it was found to afford but very trifling advantage on account of the limited quantity of mail treated in it."

As there is no official record of any earlier service, this would seem to rule out the date given in the record (c) above as impossible.

If the date given in the record (b) above were '93 then the specimen would be an example from this short-lived experimental service. The fact that the mark is on a Queen Victoria stamp might be taken as supporting usage in '93 as against usage in '03, although it does not rule out the latter.

Year 1896. It had been decided to bring forward by special train from Elandsfontein (Germiston Junction, J.H.H.P.) the English mail reaching Cape Town once a week, and here is the next mention of a T.P.O.

"In order to avoid delay to correspondence arriving by the English mail for up-country places it was decided to put on a sorting-van for the treatment on the railway beyond Charlestown of all mail matter received from overseas for places other than Pietermaritzburg and Durban."

"A van was fitted and supplied by the railway department, and after arrangement with the Transvaal Post Office and the Netherlands Railway Company (which operated the railway between Germiston and Charlestown as well as the Pretoria-Delagoa Bay line, J.H.H.P.) was brought into use on Sat., 18 July; the country portion of the mail ex "Roslin Castle" which reached Cape Town on the previous Wednesday, being the first mail matter to be dealt with."

"The work of the van is performed by two clerks and two stampers, and is got well in hand by the time Charlestown is reached".

This indicates clearly that the sorting-van or T.P.O. ran from Germiston so that the English mail could be sorted out before the Natal border was reached at Charlestown.

Year 1897.

"A larger and more conveniently fitted postal van was provided by the Railway Department for service in connection with the treatment of the European mail between Elandsfontein and Charlestown. It has been found to answer very well indeed. It is employed so that the mails for places in the Colony other than Pietermaritzburg and Durban, may be divided and dispatched to their destination, without necessarily passing through either of the two principal offices."

Years 1897-1901.

There is no mention of the service in the Annual Reports for these years. During most of the Anglo-Boer War period the service must naturally have been suspended as the railway from Elandsfontein to Charlestown was in the Transvaal and the Boers were in possession in the early days of the war of the railway in Natal as far south as Ladysmith. Even after Northern Natal was recaptured by the British the English mails for Natal continued to be sent by sea from Cape Town to Durban.

The general impression I get from these Annual Reports is that the service in the 1890's was a one-way service dealing solely with the weekly European mail coming from Cape Town. Stampers are mentioned as working in the sorting-van so presumably the mail they handled was back-stamped, possibly with a T.P.O. mark; no mention is made, however, of their handling any mail proffered en route between Elandsfontein and Newcastle. If Z.A.R. or Natal stamps, or covers bearing such stamps, should be found with T.P.O. marks of indubitable date in the '90's then of course this opinion would have to be modified.

Year 1902.

"Early in April the overland route for mails to and from Natal, Europe, Cape Colony and Orange River Colony and the running of the Natal Travelling Post Office (the first occasion it is so termed in these Reports. J.H.H.P.) be-

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tween Newcastle and Elandsfontein in connection with the European mails, were resumed. The first inward European mail was despatched from Cape Town on 1st April and the first corresponding outward mail was forwarded from Pietermaritzburg on 5th April. Regular services have since been maintained."

The wording of the above statement made me think at first that the resumed T.P.O. service might have been a two-way one.

This possibility must, however, be ruled out. Mr. J. H. H. Chamberlain of Durban has been able to contact a Mr. Rouse who had been an operator on this T.P.O.; the information given by Mr. Rouse was to the effect that the 'crew' of the T.P.O. only worked on the DOWN journey (towards Natal). On the UP journey they travelled as ordinary passengers on the mail train, not working in the T.P.O. van.

The 1902 Annual Report also mentions the introduction of the "Train Letter" system, whereby letters could be handed in at certain places, either at the Post Office or at the Railway Station, for forwarding by the first available train. Only Ladysmith and Newcastle are given in the list of places north of Pietermaritzburg. But it seems highly probable that some such mail may have been handled by the T.P.O. and received its special date-stamp.

Year 1903.

"The circulation of mail between the smaller towns and villages along the main line was undoubtedly a very slow one . . .

A Travelling Post Office attached to the Night Mail Trains was at first suggested as a means of improving the service, but it was found that, apart from the cost of such an arrangement, which would be considerable, the night mail trains were already loader to their utmost capacity, so that no additional coach could be attached to them.

After careful consideration . . . the Mooi River P.O. was kept open all night after the 23rd November, for the receipt and despatch of mails. The result has been highly satisfactory.'

Year 1904.

"Since the 18th August last the sorting of the European mail has been performed in a new van constructed on the most up-to-date principles. The staff employed are thereby afforded much greater facilities for dealing with the correspondence in a prompt and efficient manner, and, by reason of the increased space it has been possible for a larger number of direct bags to be made up, thus minimising delay at many of the smaller offices.

The old van, which had been in use for some years, was not sufficiently large to meet present requirements; it had, in fact, not been specially designed for the work and was badly lighted and ill-ventilated."

Year 1905.

In this Report it is noted that the "Train Letter" system had been extended and that the regulations now allowed of a letter bearing a 1d. stamp in addition to the regular postage fee, being accepted at any station in the Colony and conveyed by the next passenger train for delivery from any post office in the Transvaal or in the district of Lourenco Marques under conditions similar to those obtaining in the case of letters addressed to places within the Colony of Natal.

I can find no mention anywhere as to whether or not mail could be handed in directly to the weekly T.P.O., but at any rate there would seem to be the possibility that "train letters" were handled by it. In fact, the one recorded cover with a T.P.O. mark shows conclusively that some mail picked up en route between Germiston and Newcastle was handled by the T.P.O.

Year 1909.

This Annual Report gives the only other mention of T.P.O.'s that I have found. It states "The Mooi River experiment for the night sorting of mails for places between Maritzburg and Ladysmith has been a success and since then the demand for a (nightly) Travelling Post Office has ceased."

Mr. B. C. Baylis, of Newcastle, Natal, who was at one time connected with this service, has sent me the following short extract from his "History of Newcastle":—

"The European Mail was sorted in a Travelling Post Office between Germiston and Newcastle. A staff of six or more clerks from the Newcastle Post Office travelled to Germiston each week and sorted the Natal mail on their return journey."

"I cannot say for certain when the T.P.O. expired, but I think it was just before Union in 1910."

Summary.

1893. Experimental service for a few months between Newcastle and Charlestown.

1896-1899. Service between Germiston and Newcastle, only one-way (towards Natal).

1902-? 1910. Service between Germiston and Newcastle.

Covers with clearly dated postmarks of this T.P.O. are still a desideratum, particularly to make clearer to what extent mail posted en route was handled. It appears perfectly clear that the service was intended primarily to speed up the sorting of the weekly European mail, but to some extent mail picked up en route was also dealt with, at any rate in the 1902-10 period of its operation.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION PRAGUE 10-25 SEPT., 1955.

We have just received the prospectus of still another international stamp exhibition to be held this year in Prague, September 10-25. It is curious that the International Philatelic Federation states in its rules that as a matter of principle it will only give its patronage to one international exhibition per annum, but this year it is recognising three, one in Oslo, one in Stockholm, and now one in Prague.

The occasion for the Prague exhibition is that the Czechoslovak people this year celebrate the tenth anniversary of the liberation of their country from Nazi occupation.

We have been asked to advertise the exhibition to philatelists in South Africa and to invite them to show collections. Unfortunately this information comes rather late as the provisional entry forms have to be in by April 30th, i.e. before we can publicise the fact.

CROATIA IN EXILE.

The self-styled Government of the independent state of Croatia, in exile, has issued from an office in Buenos Aires, No. 1 of a Croatian Philatelic Bulletin. This lists over 20 stamps issued in the period 1951-54, with illustrations and descriptions, but, curiously enough, no prices seem to be given.

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SOCIETY NEWS.

SPRINGS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The monthly meeting held on Monday, 14th March was attended by 14 members.

The Society started the buying and exchanging of stamps, and the effort was appreciated by members.

The Chairman, Mr. Earnshaw, gave a very interesting talk on how to value a stamp collection.

Mr. Suklje of Benoni Stamp Shop exhibited his Queen Elizabeth II collection of mint stamps.

Dr. Harrison, our secretary, has been awarded an overseas scholarship, and his services to the Society will be lost from the end of July.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN.

10th March. Mr. K. Freyman showed his collection of Ukraine and Caucasian States. This included many rare errors and varieties of the overprints made by hand or machine. An interesting section was devoted to bogus stamps on which an interesting talk was delivered.

24th March. Mr. E. B. Lye, F.R.P.S.L., showed his Chalon Heads of Queensland. This proved to be an unusual evening as the collection consisted of the complete issues of superb Classics and was enhanced by New South Wales issues used in Queensland before the first issues of Queensland were made use of. The collection was well written up and the stamps perfect examples, having full margins, bright colours and included extremely rare items. Mr. Lye gave a very fine talk, particularly on the history of the Chalon portrait.

CAPE TOWN THEMATIC CLUB.

14th March. This was one of the popular All Members Evenings. Items shown were as follows: Canadian Queen Elizabeth stamps and Booklets (Mrs L. Grout); Miscellaneous covers of the Union of South Africa (Mrs. H. M. Scott); Plants and Flowers on Stamps (L. Simenhoff); George V issues of New Zealand (R. Axer); Stamps of Great Britain used in Turkey (W. G. Combrink); Modern stamps of the Netherlands (M. F. Stern).

28th March. The Annual General Meeting was held and the following were elected for 1955:

President, F. Sinnot; Vice-President, M. F. Stern; Hon. Secretary, K. Cameron; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. H. P. Savage; Hon. Librarian, R. F. Chapman; Hon. Exchange Supt., A. Simson; Committee Members, J. P. Enslin, W. G. Combrink, G. Petroulis, Dr. L. P. Vautier, L. Simenhoff (ex officio).

A well deserved honour was paid to Mr. George Petroulis in that he was elected an Hon. Life Member for his long and fine service to the Club. It was mentioned that more thematic collections should be shown, but it was pointed out that it was often more difficult to get together such a collection than a straight philatelic collection.

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

10th March. At this meeting the following was shown: George VI issues (P. Freedman); Israeli and George V issues (M. Hotz); Issues of the Soviet Sector of Germany (M. F. Stern).

31st March. This was held in the Union. Mr. O. Greenwood showed the Maf Stamps of George VI and some Queens Stamps and Mr. P. Borcherds selections from the British Empire and Commonwealth. In addition a number of interesting covers and cards were exhibited, which included one addressed to Winston Churchill and another to Clem Attlee. Both exhibits were good and says much for the younger members of the hobby. A. Michalowsky showed a most interesting find he made in December at Albertinia of current Union ½d. stamps showing a distinct line variety. He is preparing a full report on this item.

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

7th March. This Society is now organised and meetings are being held on the first Monday of each month at 8 p.m. at the Green Parrot Tea Room, Main Road, Fish Hoek. At this meeting Mr. K. L. M. Alexander displayed miniature sheets of Commemorative issues, which proved most interesting.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

A dual purpose meeting took place in the Railway Recreation Club on Wednesday, 9th March, and was attended by 22 members and 3 visitors. Before the meeting opened the Chairman, Mr. Howie, requested those present to stand for a minute as a mark of sympathy towards the widow and family of the late Jack Shepherd. Jack was well known to the members of the Society and had only recently entertained us with a very fine exhibit. We feel sure that his passing will be deeply felt by all fellow philatelists.

The Special General Meeting unanimously approved the introduction of associate membership in the Society whereby non-railway applicants may enjoy the full facilities of the Society, with the exception of voting powers, and may become full members as soon as vacancies occur. The Society has quite an impressive waiting list of would-be members who are not employed by the S.A.R. & H. and the amendment of the constitution to allow associate membership will expand the Society's activities and further promote the interests of philately.

Two exhibits were tabled at the meeting, the first being a selection of Mr. Michael's "Northern Rhodesia" collection and the second being a portion of Mr. Kriste's "Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika" collection. Mr. Slater-Kinghorn, commenting on the exhibits, stated that they both provided a most entertaining display and that he was glad to see that they both had not reached completion yet as it indicated that both members would retain great interest and enthusiasm for their collections in their endeavours to attain this state. Bill Kriste's collection was very colourful and displayed to advantage while Mr. Michael's exhibit was presented in a very novel way and was a credit to him for his patience and the meticulous manner in which he specially printed the write-up on each page. Both exhibits were greatly enjoyed by all members present.

P.M.J.M.

AFRIKAANSE FILATELISTEVERENIGING.

Vrydag 1 April.

Met diep leedwese moet ons die afsterwe van ons voorsitter, mnr. J. W. Schubart, op Dinsdag 15 Maart 1955 aankondig. Na 'n aanval van aarverstopping, het mnr. Schubart so pragtig herstel dat hy Maandag, 14 Maart, weer op kantoor kon wees. Die nuus dat hy die Dinsdagaand skielik beswyk het, het dus as 'n geweldige skok gekom. ....

Filatelie in Suid-Afrika het een van sy groot seuns verloor, terwyl sy dood vir ons vereniging 'n onherstelbare verlies beteken.

Jan Willem Schubart is op 8 Januarie 1906 te Kaapstad gebore. Hy het sy geboortestad in 1928 verlaat, na hy aan die Universiteit Kaapstad gestudeer het, en na Windhoek vertrek om aldaar 'n pos as tekenaar in die Landmeterskantoor te aanvaar. Hy was egter nie lank in Windhoek nie, of die groot depressie het hom teruggedryf na Kaapstad, waar hy tot 1935 in diens van die Departement van Poswese was.

'n Aanstelling waarvoor hy uitgeknip was, het hom in 1935 na Johannesburg gebring, waar hy sedertdien in die Mynbriewekantoor as tekenaar werksaam was en later tot hoofklerk bevorder was.

Sy liefhebbery het nie posgevat terwyl hy in die poskantoor gewerk het nie. Nee, dit gaan verder terug. Dit was in sy vader se boekwinkel (Spandauboekhandel) waar die jonge Jan se eerste seëltjies gepluk het. Later het hy, eers as Boy Scout en toe as Rover, die toon aangegee in die seëlkringe van hierdie twee bewegings. Dit het hom goed toegerus vir die groot take wat hy nog op die gebied van posseëlversameling sou hê.

In -1938 het hy tot die geledere van georganiseerde versamelaars toegetree deur by die „Philatelic Society of Johannesburg" aan te sluit. Hier het hy vinnig gevorder. Met sy innemende geaardheid was hy spoedig 'n groot gunsteling onder versamelaars en eerlank was hy ingespan om die posseëlkundige kennis wat hy van kindsbeen af aangeleer het aan andere oor te dra. Net gou het hy lid van verskeie uitvoerende komitees geword, en reeds in 1943 was die groot en verantwoordelike taak om die vereniging se rondsenddiens waar te neem aan hom opgedra. Hierdie plig het hy uitgevoer tot 1950.

Sy grootste prestasie (ons praat nie nou van sy wonderlike versamelings nie) het egter in September 1950 begin, toe hy hom hart en siel in die stryd gewerp het om te help om 'n Afrikaanstalige vereniging op die been te kry. Baie oortuigingswerk was nodig om die vooroordeel wat daar teen so 'n onderneming was uit te wis, en hier het Schubie se

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daadwerklike optrede baie gehelp. Sy verdere bedrywighede is aan almal bekend. Maar ons wil tog herinner aan sy groot aandeel in die opstel van ons Enigels-Afrikaanse filatelistiese woordeboekie. Dit is paslik dat sy naam hierin verewig is. Ook mag ons nie versuim om te boekstaaf dat hy in medewerking met die sekretaris gehelp het om posseëlterme vir die „Groot Woordeboek" te definieer.

'n Liewe vriend is ons ontneem. Ons sal hom onthou as 'n man wat drie stokperdjies gehad het en wat aldrie deeglik beoefen het: sy huis en gesin (eggenote en dogter),; sy voorliefde vir kuns en goeie musiek; en sy seëlversameling.

Soos maar g woonlik met jaarvergaderings gaan, was ons vierde jaarvergadering swakkerig bygewoon, en het die verkiesing van die nuwe bestuur as volg uitgeloop:

Voorsitter, lid dr. W. G. Hesse; ondervoorsitter lid P. C. Seligmann; eresekretaris, lid S. J. Vermaak; penningmeester en rondsendbeampte, lid M. V. Mioch; reklamebeampte, lid J. C. Knobel; ander bestuurslede, lede J. Keet, D. W. Rossouw en B. Slabber. Lede Knobel, Schwartz en Seligmann sal die vereniging se federasie-belange behartig.

Met hierdie byeenkoms is 'n baie belangrike grondwetlike besluit geneem. Dit is naamlik eenparig besluit om die naam van ons vereniging te verander na **Afrikaanse Filatelistevereniging.** Die rede vir die verandering sal vir almal duidelik wees.

Die penningmeester/rondsendbeampte het met syfers getoon dat die vereniging se geldelike sake baie gesond is, en dat die rondsenddiens 'n besondere hoë persentasie aan verkope lewer. Die diens brei steeds uit en dit word in die vooruitsig gestel om binnekort minstens 15 pakkies (150 boekies) in omloop te hê.

Gedurende die jaar is 39 nuwe lede gewerf. Gemiddeld drie nuwe lede per byeenkoms word gehandhaaf en ons stryk tans voort op pad na die tweede honderdtal. Die drie nuwe lede vir April is: mnr. G. J. Oosthuizen en die seuns G. van Delden en J. J. Kanis. Aansoeke word oorweeg van mnre. H. Landgrebe en A. B. Hollander en die jongeling W. Koekemoer.

Die Saterdag-byeenkomste word nog gereeld ondersteun. 'n Groot gebrek aan goeie Unie-materiaal is gewoonlik aan die orde en versamelaars wat sulke stukke het is hier verseker van 'n goeie afsetgebied.

S.J.V.

ORANGE FREE STATE AND BASUUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The **March meeting** was again full of life and variety. The various items of the programme changed in quick succession and kept the large audience well entertained.

Prof. G. H. van Rooyen showed another portion of his "S.W.A. collection", consisting of the German period, S.W.A. postcards and the new pictorial stamps. Some of the latter were shown on a set of highly artistic, hand-drawn First-day covers. Dr. Freund reported interesting "Tit-bits from the Philatelic Press". Mr. A. Meyburgh displayed a large number of frames containing "Foreign Pictorials" This collection is built up for its pleasant eye-appeal only, and is really delightful in its free and unrestricted presentation.

A new regular feature, "Surprise items", kept the audience amused. One item was a quiz show in Radio style, with two teams quickly chosen and competing against each other. The quiz-master was Mr. A. H. Scott, the President. Another amusing item was the reading by the President of Dr. Freund's well-known articles which appeared in the Cape Centenary number of "The South African Philatelist" on his "Lucky Find of Cape Triangular Sheets".

The auction sale of various stamp lots made sellers and buyers happy. The auctioneer was Mr. J. Hodgson.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

March 1st.

The first evening of the year for Juniors was well attended — an indication that they fill a need. This time the young folk had to exercise their brains by answering quizz questions set by and put to them by Dr. J. W. Harris. Some children showed remarkable Philatelic knowledge and fully deserved the prizes awarded.

March 15th.

This meeting was particularly successful due to an outstanding contribution by Mr. P. Smits, who showed a wonderful selection from his well known collection of the stamps of the Orange Free State. He prefaced the actual display by a lucid and not too long talk on these interesting issues, which enabled members to more fully understand and appreciate the material put on view. The variety and detail of the display astounded members and gave a glimpse of the knowledge Mr. Smits has been able to acquire in the course of his collecting and specialized study. Mr. G. Bülbring thanked the Exhibitor most warmly for the philatelic feast provided. Mr. C. V. Jensen, from East London, Mr. Vorster from Durban and Mr. Turpin were welcome visitors to the meeting. Official business, tea and an auction filled the rest of the evening.

Over the weekend 19th/20th March, the East London Philatelic Society paid us a visit which proved to be very enjoyable. This team consisted of Mr. J. Joseph, Mr. C. Thornton, Mr. L. Hellman and Mr. Feros. They brought with them some very fine stamps which we were able to view on the evening of the 19th at the Refectory of the Technical College. Mr. Feros opened the round by an explanatory talk on the "Darmstadt" Trials and Proofs, supported by an almost complete display of all the known varieties. Mr. Hellman had brought along his fine U.S.A. stamps. Mr. Joseph a wonderful lot of Unions and Mr. Thornton provided a treat with his beautiful collections of Natal and Cape Triangular stamps, which were very greatly admired. In addition Dr. Drusinski had kindly sent a display of Boer War Covers, featuring especially Letters from Field and Camp Post Offices. Most items were in fine and clean condition and proved most interesting.. Our President both welcomed and thanked the visitors, and other members spoke on the individual displays and thanked the East Londoners for their very fine effort. It was an altogether enjoyable evening, everybody declared, and we shall now have to "put our best foot forward" when our team comes to visit East London again.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

A very poor attendance at our **April** meeting, only eight members present. However, as several of our members were away overseas on holiday, and others who had sent apologies for non-attendance that evening, the Chairman stated that he hoped we would have a better turn-out at our next meeting, at which we would act as hosts to the East Rand Philatelic Society.

The exhibit for our April meeting was provided by one of our new members, Mr. P. J. Geustyn, who tabled his collection of South African issues and of the British Empire. Mr. Deverell spoke on the exhibit and stated that he was very pleased with the set-up of the stamps on each sheet. He congratulated Mr. Geustyn on his collection, which he understood had only been compiled since the beginning of the year.

The meeting terminated earlier than usual, at 9.45 p.m.

I.S.B.

PAARLSE POSSEËLVERSAMELAARS-VERENIGING.

Op die Jaarvergadering van die Paarlse Posseëlversamelaarsvereniging, gehou op die 30ste Maart, 1955, het die penningmeester, mnr. T. G. Beukes verslag gelewer van die suksesvolle afgelope twaalf maande. As gevolg van die goeie aanvraag vir die spesiale fedskoeverte wat gedurende die Nasionale Wingerdfees uitgereik was, het die Vereniging 'n aansienlike wins gemaak en was besluit om £50 by te dra tot die koste van die Nasionale Wingerdfeeskomitee.

Die Voorsitter mnr. N. C. Combrink het verslag gelewer van die suksesvolle Posseëluitstalling en daarby genoem dat die bywoning daarvan 'n paar duisend was. Die bywoning en die belang wat deur die Afrikaanssprekende besoekers getoon was, was verbasend. Die volgende komitee is gekies vir die volgende jaar:—

Ere-president, mnr. N. C. Combrink; Voorsitter, mnr. J. D. Rossouw; Sekretaris, mnr. J. G. le Roux; Penningmeester, mnr. T. G. Beukes; Lede van die Komitee, mev. Dr. F. J. Joubert en mnr. Hannes Burger.

20 April 1955. Mnr. Harold Gribble het die vereniging vergas met 'n uitstalling van krygswet-afkondigings gedurende die 1899-1902 Oorlog, veral met betrekking tot die Paarl. Dit sluit in amptelike kennisgewings, permitte, bewysstukke, ens. — 'n uiters interessante en seldsame versameling van Africana.

Mnr. J. D. Rossouw het die uitstalling opgehelder deur posgeskiedenis van dieselfde tydperk: behalwe

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sensormerke ens., wat tot die Paarl betrekking het, het sy uitstalling van plaaslike oorlogsuitgawes baie aandag getrek, en veral moet melding gemaak word van die Kuruman-beleg uitgawes en 'n baie volledige versameling Pietersburg.

Met die Maart vergadering is die volgende bestuur gekies: President, mnr. N. C. Combrink; Voorsitter, mnr. J. D. Rossouw; Sekretaris, mnr. J. G. le Roux; Komiteelede, mnr. T. G. S. Beukes (tesourier), mev. (Dr.) F. J. Joubert en mnr. J. S. Burger.

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

At our **April** meeting we had the pleasure in having at our meeting Mr. F. C. Ferguson, President of the Federation. The aims and object of the Federation were fully explained to our members, and what can be gained not only by Societies becoming affiliated to the Federation, but the individual members themselves, from the various facilities that are provided.

Mr. Ferguson brought along two exhibits which were greatly appreciated by the members, the first was a collection of the British Royal Family from Queen Victoria right up to the present Queen Elizabeth II.

The second exhibit was a marvellous collection of Vatican City. This exhibit was very well illustrated with plates.

Mr. Feinstein thanked the exhibitor on behalf of the members for the two exhibits and for coming out to our meeting and giving us such a great treat in philately.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG.

On the 12th April 1955 Mr. W. Oppenheim showed a portion of his collection of Luxemburg. The exhibit was a comprehensive one from earliest to the modern issues. The first issue shown in fine used condition and in a variety of shades and postmarks. The arms issue was also in fine used condition and included some blocks and there was one fine specimen on cover. The later issues were shown mint and used and included several blocks. There were also miniature sheets, several first day covers and some flown covers. There were special cancellations and commemorative envelopes. The exhibit included postage dues, charity stamps and postal stationery. Mr. P. Seligmann spoke on the exhibit.

On the 25th April the exhibits were provided by members of Die Afrikaanse Filatelistevereniging who paid an official visit to the Society. Mr. D. W. Rossouw showed a thematic collection "Game Reserve". This was an exhibit of the current animal stamps of the Union shown with beautifully drawn illustrations of the animals in black and white and maps of the Game Reserve. The drawings were fine representations of animals and the exhibit was an artistic treat. There were also S.W.A. Animal stamps. Mr. E. Schaiowitz spoke on this exhibit. Mr. H. Schwartz showed a Sudan collection. These included issues from the earliest to modern and included mint and used. There were official stamps and military telegraph stamps included. There were some blocks and also stamps on cover. The air stamps were in the different perforations. Mr. W. Oppenheim spoke on the exhibit. Mr. J. M. Keet showed Modern Netherlands. This was an exhibit strong in air mails and commemoratives and included mint and used items. There were some blocks of fine used as well as miniature sheets. Mr. Vlieghert spoke on the exhibit. Mr. C. H. de Wet showed U.P.U. Commemoratives. This was a collection of the world issues of these stamps in fine condition. Mr. B. Glassman spoke on this exhibit.

SHORT NOTICES.

Le Timbre Sovietique. A quarterly bulletin published by the Cercle Philatelique France—U.R.S.S. at 29 Rue d'Anjon Paris (8e). Has short articles and a chronicle of new issues of the Soviet Union and of its satellites(or, as it terms them "peoples' democracies").

Pen-Friend. The October 1954 number of this little monthly magazine is a special Indian Stamp Centenary issue with a number of general and topical articles. The magazine is devoted to world fellowship and peace, hobbies and penfriendship; published at Round Building, Kalbadevi, Bombay 2. Yearly subscription 10/-.

Air Mail Stationery Catalogue. Miss Mildred Hodson, of 29 Viewforth, Edinburgh 10, Scotland has just issued Part I (British Commonwealth) of an Air Mail Stationery Catalogue, covering the three groups: air mail envelopes, postcards, and air letter sheets or aerogrammes, with numerous varieties within each group. Pricing is usually in three columns (1) Unused entires; (2) flown entires; (3) entires with first day or special cancellation. There is a wonderful lot of detail in this compilation. Price 21/-. Total printing 480 copies.

Robson Lowe Ltd. A Review of 1953-54. This Annual Review of the manifold activities of Robson Lowe have carried on at No. 50 Pall Mall, London, and at Bournemouth, seems to be rather later than usual this time. There is, however, no falling off in interest of the accounts of the private treaty and auction sales, publishing and other activities.

There has been a striking increase in the number of bidders at sales, but vendors have rather been marking time; competition has therefore been very keen and sellers have done very well, although there has been a slight drop in the total value of sales. Just recently however there have been increased quantities offered for sale, as people are taking advantage of the amazing demand for stamps all over the world.

The Review is well illustrated by many of the star items sold in the period covered by it.

The O.F.S. Philatelic Magazine.

We extend a hearty welcome to our new contemporary, No. 1, Vol. 1 of which has just reached us. It is being published by the O.F.S. and Basutoland Philatelic Society under the editorship of Dr. K. Freund, a choice which alone presages success. It embodies the usual features of societies' monthly news letters, but it is purposed to extend this by the inclusion of original notes or articles, especially by their own members and on Unions. This is an excellent idea for raising the philatelic status of their present members and they hope it will be a good recruiting agency for more members, especially from the country districts.

They will be only too pleased if anything they publish is copied (with acknowledgements, of course) into other magazines, especially the South African Philatelist. We, on our part, hope we will get lots of material. We will start by referring to an article by Dr. Freund on "The South African Flag on Foreign Stamps". But we are not going to quote from it this time, merely to ask readers "How many foreign stamps do you know of with a Union flag?" Dr. Freund's answer will be given next month.

Philatelic Terms in Afrikaans. Another little item in the O.F.S. magazine is a list of some 20 philatelic terms in English with their Afrikaans equivalents. These are to be continued.

Non-members of the O.F.S. Society can however get a **complete** English-Afrikaans Glossary at once for 3/6 from the Afrikaanse Filatelistevereniging, c/o. P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg. This can be strongly recommended. See our "Wants, Offers and Exchange" column.

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THE
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Business Manager: Mr. J. MICHELSON.
P.O. Box 375. Johannesburg.
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NOTICE.

Commencing with the next (July) Issue, it is proposed to publish this magazine early each month, instead of near the middle.

Copy for any particular month's issue should therefore be in the hands of the Hon. Editor or the Business Manager by the 15th of the preceding month.

UNION NOTES

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

RECENT PRINTINGS.

The publicity Officer of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs has kindly supplied the following information covering the period from 22. 1. 1955 to 21. 4. 1955. For the previous list see our May issue.

Animal Series.

1d. — Job No. 103290 contd. On an order for 1,000,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, a total of 919,744 sheets has been delivered to date. Same cylinder as before, No. 12.

2d. — Job No. 103293 contd. On an order for 1,000,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, deliveries to date amount to 541,063 sheets. Same cylinder as before, No. 56.

3d. — Job No. 103294 contd. On an order for 100,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a total of 97,628 was delivered up to the final date on 15. 2. 55. Same cylinders, Nos. 16 Interior and 107 Exterior.

6d. — Job No. 103297 contd. On an order for 150,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a total of 74,425 sheets has been delivered to date. Same cylinders, Nos. 1 Interior and 121 Exterior.

1/- — Job No. 103298 contd. On an order for 120,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a total of 72,450 has been delivered to date. Same cylinders, Nos. 94 Interior and 104 Exterior.

Pictorial Post Cards.

1½d. — Job No. 107820 contd. On an order for 2,730,000 cards, a total of 2,403,840 has been delivered to date. Same printing as before.

Air Letter Cards.

6d. — Job No. 113233. On an order for 6,000,000 cards, 14,400 were delivered on 18. 1. 55. and the total to date amounts to 1,564,446. New cylinder from 30. 9. 54. Wording on stamp was changed.

S.W.A. Air Letters.

1½d. — Job No. 303226. On an order for 3,600 cards, this number was supplied by the P.M.G. and overprinted S.W.A. Delivered on 25. 1. 55.

Swaziland Air Letters.

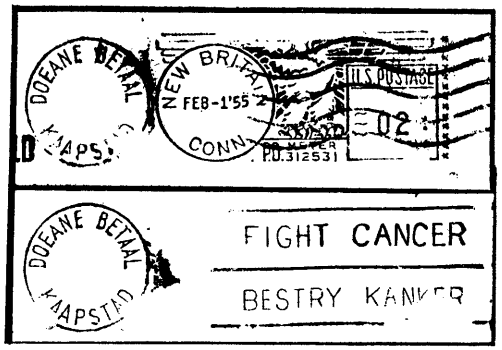
6d. — Job No. 303043. On an order for 28,800 cards, this number was supplied by the P.M.G. and overprinted SWAZILAND. Delivered on 25. 1. 55.

Roll Stamps.

1d. — Job No. 101,898 contd. On an order for 12,000 rolls of 506 stamps per roll and 6,000 rolls of 1,012 stamps per roll, the number of the former supplied to date amounts to 9,200 rolls and of the latter 3,300 rolls. Same cylinder as before, No. 27.

"Doeane Betaal" Machine Cancellation.

Something new in the way of machine cancellations and evidently intended to take the place of the stamps overprinted DOUANE used for the prepayment of the Customs duty on advertising matter from overseas, has been brought to our notice by two readers, Messrs. C. Calitz of Mossel Bay, Cape, and U. M. Milunsky of Mafeking, Cape.



The accompanying illustrations show the two examples observed to date and in both cases they appeared on covers carrying advertising matter from the U.S.A. and on which the usual DOUANE stamps had not been previously affixed by the senders.

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Unrecorded Varieties on 1d. Van Riebeeck Ship Stamps.

The accompanying sketches and description of varieties noted on several copies of the 1d. Van Riebeeck ship unhyphenated rotogravure series have been received from Mr. A. E. Wilkinson of Enniskerry, Eire.

Some of them are probably fairly well known and quite possibly may be the result of factors other than retouching, but in any case they always form items of interest to collectors of the Union's stamps and Mr. Wilkinson's sketches will assist in checking up on the many other examples that must exist and which only await some identification.

R.1. Two lines shading over second yard arm from Top heavily redrawn. Pl. VIIa, English stamp.

R. 2. Considerable retouching under and just above the 3rd yard arm from Top, which is weak. Triangular space between rigging and mast filled in with small dots and dashes.

Afrikaans stamp — Plate VII.

R. 3. Four lines shading strengthened under 4th yard arm from top, between oval and rops —English stamp, Plate VI.

R. 4. Five short heavy lines of shading drawn in directly under 4th yard arm. In normal copies the lines of shading are continuous on either side of the rope. In the retouched stamps they are not.

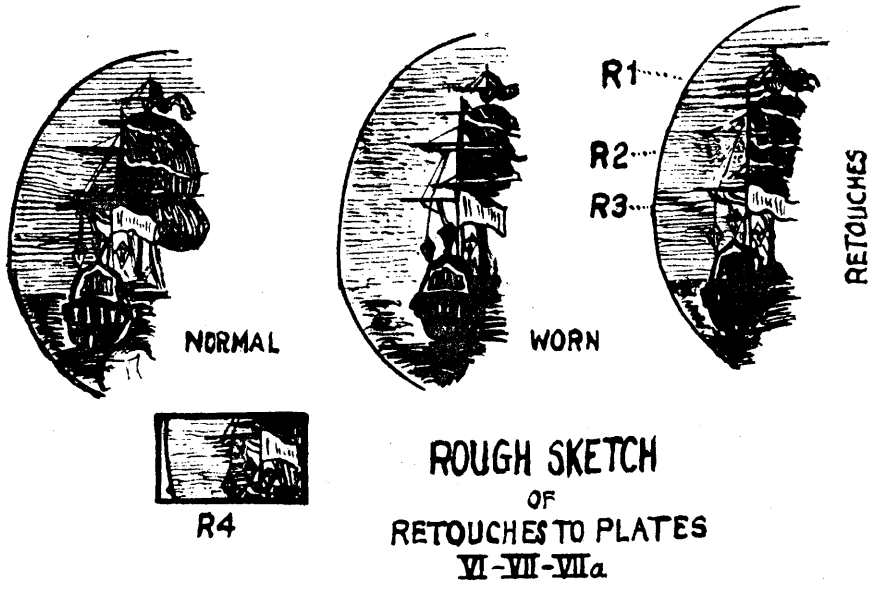
English stamp. Plates VII and/or VIIa.

R. 1. Four pairs p.m'd July, Oct and Nov. 1932 —all inverted watermark and all overinked.

R 2. Four copies p.m'd. Oct. 31, Aug. 32 and one overinked copy p.m'd. Sept. 32. — All inverted watermark.

R. 3 Five copies — only clear p.m. Sept. 31. — One pair with Afrikaans stamp showing neither of the "features" of Pl. VII. Watermarks upright.

R. 4. Two pairs and a single — The Afrikaans stamps show "features" of Pl. VII one dated Aug 32, has overinked appearance of VIIa. The other, p.m'd July 31 is Pl. VII.



TEPPEX & CENTENARY STAMPS.

In our April issue we published particulars about the Secretary of Teppex (Box 514, Pretoria) being prepared to service special covers. Unfortunately the value of the two special stamps to be issued, has not yet been announced so that it is impossible so far to know how much to add for postage. Up to the present time they have only supplied covers, but doubtless the Postal authorities will soon announce the values of the stamps and the exhibition committee will then be able to take orders for stamping and posting covers.

Later. As we go to press we learn that the two special stamps will be a 3d., on which the central design will be a portrait of President Kruger, and a 6d. with a portrait of President M. W. Pretorius.

They will be on sale from the 21st October for a period of three months. On the day of issue a special date stamp with the Pretoria coat-of-arms will be used at Pretoria on first day covers. at the special Teppex Post-office the cancellation will have an outline of the Pretoria City Hall.

Further information will be given next month coming both from the Postal Authorities and from the Teppex Committee.

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GEORGIAN DOUBLE STRIKES

DONALD D. SMYTHE, M.R.P.S.L.
(San Francisco.)

In 1923, Mr. Stephen G. Rich first called attention to a peculiarity shown by a copy of the 6d. value of the 1913 issue of the Union of South Africa. This stamp showed a faint doubling of parts of the white portions of the design, particularly noticably in the figures of value. The same abnormality has since been noted in several other values which were reported in the "South African Philatelist," (March and June, 1951) and elsewhere.

Various hypotheses have been advanced in explanation of the origin. Lobdell in "The De La Rue Georgians of South Africa" stated that the doubling might have been due to printing mishaps rather than being true double strikes.





"Double strikes" as seen on Union 6d. and on earlier Transvaal Edwardian 3d.

Rich, South African Philatelist, Vol. 17, p. 36, said, " . . . it probably came about through a flapping of the paper as it came off the plate." The Handbook/Catalogue of the Union of South Africa lists a double strike of the 6d. value.

The flapping or bowing of the paper on leaving the plate does not appear to be a logical explanation. Such an occurrence would allow the paper to contact the plate twice and, if the two contacts were not in register, might produce a partial double impression by the addition of ink. Copies of the 3d. blue and the 4d. showing this added ink are in the writer's collection and others have been reported in the philatelic press. It seems highly improbable, however, that a second contact would remove enough ink to cause a doubling of white portions of the design.

When several copies af a specific value were available for study (three copies of the 2d., twelve copies of the 6d., and singles of the 4d., 2/6, 5/- and 10/- are in the writer's collection) it was noticed that the displacement of the "ghost" numeral was constant in both distance and direction for each value. This certainly suggested that a plate flaw was the cause. This explanation is untenable, however, if Dt La Rue used their normal methods in preparing the plates for it is mechanically impossible to produce a doubling of the white portions of the stamps by that process.

These conclusions were discussed with Mr. Rich without reaching a decision as to the true origin. At a later date, Mr. Rich called the writer's attention to a reprint of an article which appeared in the London Philatelist of Sept.—Oct., 1913. This described how Messrs Perkins Bacon had used a steel transfer roller in making steel plates for printing the ½d. typographed New Zealand of 1909. Use of this method would produce a doubling of the white lines should there have been a double strike. It occurred to the writer that Messrs De La Rue may have tried this method in making the plates for the Georgians, although he could find no reference to their having done so. Consequently he wrote requesting information.

In reply, Messrs De La Rue stated, "We still use the method of relief engraving introduced by Joubert in 1855 for all letterpress stamps, so the theory advanced in the fourth paragraph of your letter does not arise." This paragraph had referred to the possible use of a transfer roller and steel plates. Their letter offered to seek an explanation of the doubling if a speciman was sent for examination. This kind offer was accepted and a 6d. sent along for inspection. The prompt reply confirmed Lobdell's statement that the abnormality was due to a printing mishap although he had given no explanation of just how it had occurred. Messrs. De La Rue's letter stated, "I . . . regret that I have to report — bad printing! The inking roller dried leaving a white impression and some quantity of sheets might have gone through before it was noticed."

The mechanics of how a dried inking roller can produce a doubling is of considerable interest but Messrs De La Rue can hardly be expected to provide a detailed explanation. Consideration of the construction and operation of the Wharfdale machine* used by them suggests the following as a possible explanation.

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A series of inking rollers picks up the ink from the inking table and distributes it on the printing plate. The inked plate is then moved back under a drum on which an attached sheet of paper receives the impression. Inking rollers, plate bed, and paper drum are all geared together. Consequently, when backlash is disregarded, any particular point on the plate will touch the same point on the inking roller every time they come in contact. The term "backlash" is used to mean the small amount of play or clearance provided in the moving parts of any mechanism to reduce friction.

When the plate contacts the inking roller, the "highs" (those portions standing in relief) pick up ink from the roller and later transfer it to the paper. The "lows", however do not remove ink from the roller. Consequently, the roller after having passed over the plate carrys an inked pattern which is the reverse of that appearing on the stamp. When this ink remains fluid it loses its identity the next time the roller passes across the inking table and produces no abnormalities in the later impressions.

It is quite another matter when the ink left on the roller dries and hardens there. This makes the surface of the roller uneven. If it continued for some time, a bit being added each time the roller passed across the printing plate, the pattern of the "lows" on the plate would build up in relief on the roller to a considerable height.

Springs press the inking rollers tightly against both inking table and printing plate in order to provide an even distribution of ink. Normally, this pressure is evenly distributed along the length of the roller. With an uneven roller, however, only the areas standing in relief would come in contact and the pressure per unit area would be greatly increased. Should these areas in contact be only a fraction of the normal contact area, as would be the case with our dried ink pattern, the pressure would be so great that the liquid ink would be forced aside. Consequently, this raised pattern would carry no ink away from the inking table. If it passed over an already inked section of the printing plate, the liquid ink would be pushed aside.

A combination of conditions is needed before a dried ink pattern produces the "double strikes", probably the reason why no more of them have been found. It would have to exist on the last roller to cross the printing plate before the latter contacted the paper. Even so, no double strike would develop if the relief pattern coincided exactly with the "lows" of the plate for the "lows" do not transfer ink to the paper. It was pointed out above, however, that moving parts of a machine are given a slight clearance to avoid excessive friction and this permits a very slight abnormal movement. Should such a movement, even of only a fraction of a millimeter, bring the uninked relief pattern on the last roller in contact with a normally inked portion of the printing plate, an abnormal print would result. Since the uninked relief pattern follows that of the normal white areas of the stamp, these would be doubled and the white "ghosts" would develop.

*John Easton. "Postage Stamps in the Making," Faber & Faber, London.

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NEW REPUBLIC
STAMPS and POSTAL HISTORY

By
J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

CHAPTER I.

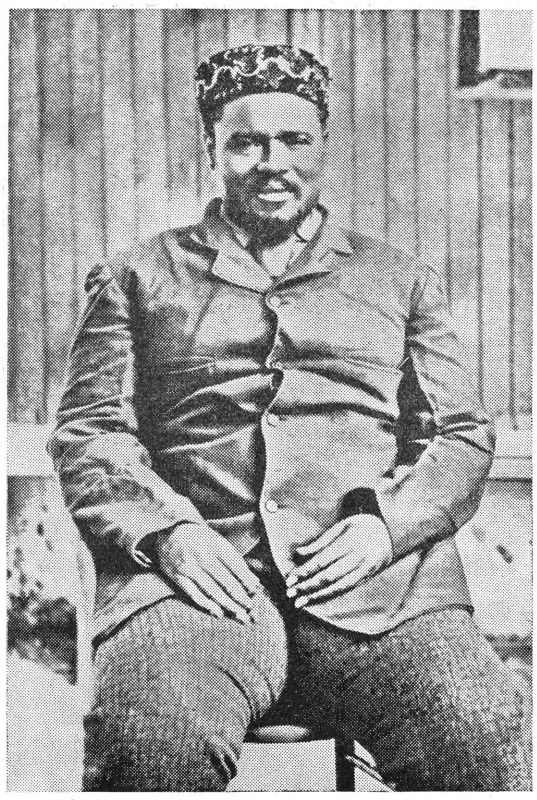
GENERAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY,

A short account of the general history and geography of this territory seems to be desirable for a proper understanding of its postal history.

The New Republic — Nieuwe Republiek — may be said to have come into existence as a direct consequence of the Zulu War of 1879.

Cetawayo, who had reigned as King or Paramount Chief of the Zulus since 1857 and who had been crowned as such at his own request by Sir Theophilus Shepstone as representing the Natal Government, came into conflict with the British authorities through his refusal to hand over certain chieftains, and he took up arms against them.

He was ultimately defeated by a force under the command of Sir Garnet Wolseley and was banished to Cape Town. The British had won the war, but it is doubtful if they can be said to have won the subsequent peace. They appointed no successor to Cetawayo as Paramount Chief but left Zululand divided into some thirteen petty states of chieftainship. This may have been done on the principle of 'Divide and Rule' but its result was a state of practically constant war between the rival chieftains.



CETEWAYO. Photo: Africana Museum.

Some of them called in white assistance so freely that H.M. Government allowed Cetawayo to return to Zululand in 1884. Natal had been pressing for permission to annex Zululand, but in vain, the attitude of the British Government being that of disclaiming authority in that territory. The Transvaal was also debarred from interfering by the terms of the London Convention of 1884.

On Cetawayo's return to Zululand he found himself a King only in name. He was merely one of a bunch of rival chieftains and only a remnant of the Zulu as a whole was prepared to yield him fealty. After a bloody battle with two of his more important rivals. Usebepu and Oham ,he was brought to the realization that his day was over and he took refuge in the British Reserve (a strip of territory between Natal and Zululand, and under British control) where he died shortly afterwards.

Before his death, after an unsuccessful appeal to the Imperial Government for assistance, he had solicited aid from the Boer farmers in the adjacent parts of the Z.A.R. to obtain rehabilitation. Help was privately offered him but the negotiations were interrupted by his demise. On his deathbed he expressed a desire that his son, Dinizulu, should succeed him and this prompted his chief adviser to renew negotiations with the Boers and a plan was agreed on to restore Dinizulu to his heritage as King of the Zulus.

It cannot be said that the Boers agreed to do this entirely through a sense of holy duty to answer the appeals of the Zulu Chief, or even to rescue the few white settlers in Zululand who were in constant danger from the intertribal struggles. A secondary inducement, and perhaps really their main reason, was to obtain grants of land in the fertile and more or less empty country beyond the Tugela. To gain possession of St. Lucia Bay and so have an outlet to the sea, was also an objective, even if not an openly declared one.

The first necessity in putting the plan into operation was to secure the person of the young Prince, Dinizulu, partly as a pledge of the bona fides of his party, and partly for his own safety, his life being in constant danger from the opposing chieftains, especially Usebepu. This was done at considerable risk to the party which

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DINIZULU Photo: Africana Museum.

went in search of him and he was conveyed to the Transvaal border in April, 1884.

Here in the presence of some 8,000 tribesmen Dinizulu was crowned King of the Zulus on an ox-wagon by a small commando of farmers, they undertaking to place him securely on the throne and to restore his country to a state of tranquility. But, at a price! These doings were of course soon reported to the British authorities in Natal but all they did was to protest to the Boer Republics. Both of these disclaimed all knowledge of any projected invasion of Zululand and said that if any such action was proposed it was essentially a filibustering expedition by private individuals and beyond the control of either the Transvaal or the Orange Free State. Actually there was a number of persons of British origin, from Natal, among the "filibusters", two of the prominent personalities among them being Jack Andrews and Tom Kelly.

Fighting soon took place between Dinizulu's followers, supported by some four or five hundred 'filibusters' on the one side, and Usebepu's Zulus on the other. The latter were defeated at Itshana on 6 June, 1884 and in his turn Usebepu had to seek refuge in the British Reserve.

Then the bill was presented to Dinizulu. The "filibusters", who by the time the fighting was all over had increased to fully 800 in number, each demanded a farm of about 4,000 acres. It was soon realised that it would require about three-quarters of Zululand to satisfy such claims, so the leaders decided that only the 400-500 men who had joined the commando before 6th June, 1884 would be entitled to the full grants of 4,000 acres, the others having to put up with half that amount.

It had also been decided:—

(a) That the grantees of farms would constitute themselves into an independent republic foregoing their citizenship of the Z.A.R., O.V.S or Natal as the case might be.

(b) That such portion of Zululand as might not have been ceded as farms would become a Protectorate of the Republic to be formed.

On 5th August, 1884 a Proclamation was issued establishing the "Nieuwe Republiek". Lucas Meyer was named at the President and D. J. Esselen as the State Secretary. Actually the Presidency had been offered in the first place



ITSHANA BATTLEFIELD. from Vryheid's Jubilee Brochure, 1934.

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to Piet Joubert, Commandant-General of the Z.A.R. He however did not see his way to accepting the dignity and so Lucas Meyer, who had been the leader of the fighting commando, was elected.

A few days later Dinizulu and his ministers were called together and a long parley ensued concerning the administration and the extent of land to be ceded. After much discussion a settlement was arrived at and this was set forth in proclamations published in Natal and Transvaal newspapers. The Proclamation by Dinizulu is here quoted in full, it being the first, and perhaps the only, time that an African King has taken a hand in establishing a white man's state.

TO ALL WHO MAY SEE OR HEAR THIS READ:

. . . SALUTE.



LUCAS MEYER and D. J. ESSELEN. from Vryheid's Jubilee Brochure, 1934.

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I, Dinizulu, King of the Zulus and of Zululand, with the advice and counsel of my chief Ministers and Headmen, and of William Grant as my Representative and Adviser.
and by these Presents make known that I, with my Ministers and Headmen before mentioned, have given in full and free possession to a certain number of South African Boers in Zululand, certain portion of Zululand bordering on the South African Republic and the Reserve, to the extent of approximately one million three hundred and fifty-five thousand morgen of ground, with the right to establish there an independent Republic under the name of

The New Republic

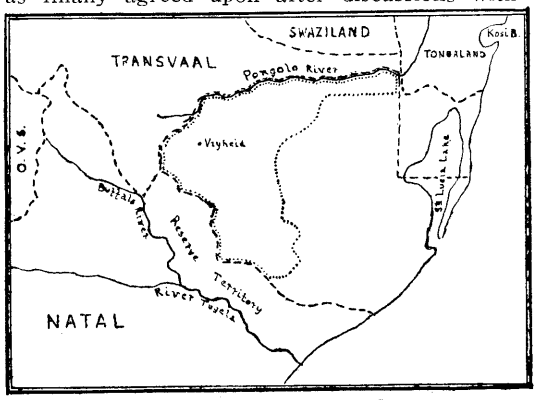
and I proclaim further that henceforth the remaining portion of Zululand and the Zulu nation shall be subject to the control of the Executive Council of the said new Republic.

Given under my hand at Hlobane in the New Republic on this 16th day of August, A.D. 1884.

Mark X, Dinizulu.

William Grant.

The accompanying sketch-map shows (a) the area of Zululand originally claimed by the New Republic and agreed to by Dinizulu, amounting in area to nearly 3 million acres or rather over 4,000 sq. miles. It will be noted that it includes St. Lucia Bay and some 60 miles of coastline. (b.) The extent of the New Republic as finally agreed upon after discussions with



— — — — — — Area originally claimed.
. . . . . Boundary finally agreed upon

the British in October, 1886. The area was reduced to under 3,000 sq. miles, the St. Lucia Bay area and the whole of the eastern part of Zululand not being included.

(To be continued.)

O.F.S.—S.G. No 52.

Stephen G. Rich reports that in a recent batch of covers he obtained, one was a real prize, establishing an earlier date of issue for S.G. No. 52 than that given, viz. Oct. 1888. This stamp, 2d. surcharged on 3d. (var. wide 2) was used alone on a letter to Frankfort-on-Main, Germany; it of course got postage-due markings, "T" in hexagon and 5d. (why 5d.?). But the interesting feature was the cancellation by the Bloemfontein double circle in red, with date 29 SE 1888. This establishes the fact that the stamp was issued in September, 1888, not in October as catalogued.

POPULAR SOUTH AFRICA.

In the Jan.-Feb. issue of "Philately", the Journal of the B.P.A., Mr. W. A. Page has the ½d. Springbok Head as the "Collector's Choice" item. Answering his own query as to why choose an ordinary halfpenny stamp, he explains that it is because this stamp has caused one of the greatest printing controversies to appear in the philatelic press in recent years. This was caused by the appearance of the "cross-hatch" ½d. raising the whole question of rotogravure with or without screening. Solid portions of a design must be broken up to hold the ink in rotogravure printing and it is now accepted that this may be done either by criss-cross lines or by a screen.

The **Commonwealth Courier** in replying to a letter of congratulation on their listing of South Africa says: "We would put South Africa at about the top of the list as the favourite of specialists. Once a week we fill up envelopes with shades and varieties and we have to fill up more of South Africa than those of any other two countries. There is nothing left from a very big stock to put in and where can we obtain more?"

"The Springbok", official organ of the South African Collectors' Society in Great Britain, is now entering its third year of publication under the editorship of Mr. C. E. Sherwood; it goes strong with interesting articles. The Society is only just holding its own as regards membership, they are 21 short of 250 and would much like to reach that figure.

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WESTERN GERMANY.

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C.S.A.R.; SAR, & NGR

Some little time ago a reader in England (Mr. L. H. Lomax) wrote us as follows:— "May I suggest that suitable articles in your back numbers be reprinted so that they are more readily available to the larger public interested in South African philately which you now have. Naturally, I do not suggest that quite out-of-date ideas or wrong deductions should be dished up again, and articles might quite well need some "vetting". As an example, there was an article published in your predecessor "The Quarterly Review of Philately" on stamps overprinted "C.S.A.R." which I know at least six people would like to see, but cannot get hold of it. There must be other things too."

Mr. Lomax's idea rather appealed to us. Just as we are getting ready to reprint the article he refers to, which incidentally was written by that Grand Old Man of South African philately, Emil Tamsen, in the Q.R.P. Vol. 1, No. 2, p. 19, 1921, a curious coincidence happened.

Mr. Robson Lowe started publishing in "The Philatelist" (Vol. 21, Feb., 1955, p. 140, and two subsequent issues) alterations and additions to his original listing of the "C.S.A.R." stamps in his Encyclopaedia, Vol. II, p. 135, (Railway Stamps). So far as we are aware this is the first time any really new information about these stamps has been published since Tamsen's 1921 article.

In the circumstances it was felt that a literal reprinting of Tamsen's article was not indicated, but rather that a welding of the essential or important facts and views of the two writers should be attempted, and that is what here follows. For completeness a listing of stamps perforated NGR is also given, although they are not dealt with by Tamsen. Actually we shall start with an **ex cathedra** statement by the late A. E. Basden on these stamps, as given in the South African Philatelist" Vol. 9, 1933, p. 179; it succinctly summarises our opinions about them:—

"Gibbons' Catalogue says on Transvaal stamps 'Many of the King's Head stamps are found overprinted or perforated C.S.A.R., for use **on** the Central South African Railways.' The note on the corresponding Orange River Colony stamps uses correctly the word **by** instead of on.' May we clinch the matter by stating that the C.S.A.R. administration was an Inter-Colonial (Transvaal and O.R.C.) Department; that the stamps were used for franking the Department's postal matter; that the overprint was officially sanctioned; that the overprint was applied in the Department's printing works; that the overprinted stamps are just as collectable as the official departmental stamps of any other country; and that these stamps should be catalogued as other official stamps are catalogued. The stamps were not issued to the public, consequently unused could only have been obtained by courtesy of officials."

Tamsen starts his article by stating that in 1905 several of the King's Head Transvaal and O.R.C. stamps were overprinted in black with the letters C.S.A.R. and were used by the Railway Administration in these Colonies for their correspondence. Collection of these stamps has been much neglected in South Africa, mainly because Gibbons does not give them catalogue rank; secondly because they are scarce and some rare, and thus not easily obtainable.

He then reports what various catalogues, British, French, American and German have to say about the C.S.A.R. stamps, summing up by saying that the information is rather meagre, and in no one instance correct.

A prominent railway official in Pretoria informed him that the overprinted stamps were introduced because of abuse of the rubber franking stamps. Tamsen was of opinion that the smaller stations stocked only supplies of the ½d. and 1d. values, the former being used for sending out goods advice notes and the latter for letters. Higher values, 2d. to 1/-, were used mainly at headquarters.

So much for generalities; the details of the issues for the two colonies may now be considerred.

TRANSVAAL

Tamsen's listing is as follows, although the S.G. numbers of the basic stamps have been added (as given in the 1955 catalogue):—

1st Issue. Feb. 1905. Transvaal stamps of 1902, watermarked Crown and CA, overprinted with the letters C.S.A.R. in one line, in black block type at the top of the stamps. The overprinting in this, and the further issues, was done at the Railway Printing Works, Germiston.

½d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d. and 1/- (S.G. Nos. 244-251, except the 2½d., No 247.

2nd Issue (?) 1905. Similar to the 1st Issue, but overprint at the bottom of the stamps.

3rd Issue. (?), 1905. As before, but on stamps with watermark multiple Crown and CA.

½d. and 1d. (S.G. Nos. 260 and 261). The 1d. comes with double overprint, one at top, one at bottom; have not heard of any other value in this state.

4th Issue. October, 1905. Transvaal stamps with Multiple Crown and CA watermark, perforated through each stamp with letters C S / A R so arranged that one falls in each corner of the stamp and does not touch the King's effigy. (One is illustrated as seen from the back, as it shows up better photographically that way.)

½d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d. and 1/- (S.G. Nos. 260-267, except the 2½d. No. 263.

5th Issue: September, 1910. Transvaal stamps with Multiple Crown and CA watermark, perforated through each stamp, but with only three letters, arranged S / A R

½d., 1d., 2d., ? others.

Notes. The stamps of the first three issues were withdrawn in October, 1905, sent to the Postmaster General and burnt by his order.

It has been stated that the stamps are not Government issues, having lost caste through not being overprinted by the Post Office. Tamsen points out that the Post Office had not got its own printing plant. He also asks the pertinent question "Why had the Railway Administration to return the unused balance of the stamps to the P.M.G.?

The perforation of the 4th issue was not always well done. Inverted, double, and more or less faulty perforations occur. That issue served till August, 1910.

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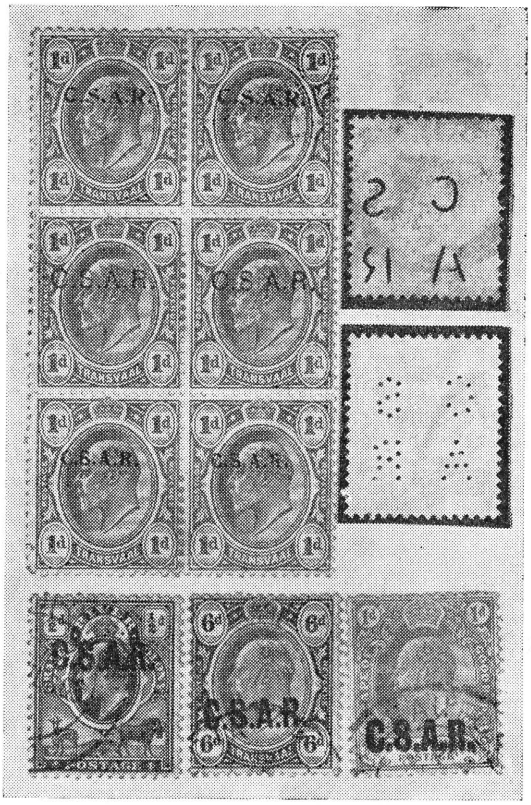
The 5th Issue, with only S.A.R., was consequent on the formation of the Union, when all the railways merged into the South African Railways. Tamsen records specimens of this issue with dated cancellations ranging from 15 Sept., 1910 to 11 May, 1912.

Now for Robson Lowe's new listing:—

R1—R2. 1904 (July). Stamps of 1902 watermarked Crown CA, with letters CSAR stencil-cut in one line.

R3—R4. 1904 (?). ½d. and 1d. as before, but with the stencil-cut letters in two lines, CS over the AR. Varieties — ½d. with sideways stencil-cut. This method mutilated the stamps and was abandoned after a short trial.

Comment may be made that these stencil-cut stamps are very scarce. Mr. J. Robertson of the Robertson Stamp Co., Johannesburg tells us that in 30 odd years of stamp dealing he has never seen a specimen. Mr. E. Hunt has several of the two-line variety, one of which is illustrated (as seen from the back, as it



photographs more clearly that way). No specimen of the one-line variety is available for illustration, and, incidentally, Robson Lowe does not figure it either.

R5—R12. 1905 (28 February). Stamps of 1902 with Crown CA wmk. overprinted C.S.A.R. in one line.

½d. to 1/-, including 2½d.

This classification covers both of Tamsen's 1st and 2nd issues, as there is a note "The overprint is placed at either top or bottom of the stamps and its position is dependent on how the sheets were trimmed or cut up before the overprint was applied."

R13—R15. 1905 (?). Stamps with multiple Crown and CA overprinted C.S.A.R. in one line.

½d., 1d., and 1/-. Var. 1d. with double overprint — 120 copies existed.

This corresponds with Tamsen's 3rd issue, but with the addition of the 1/- denomination.

R16—R22. 1905 (October). Stamps with multiple Crown and CA wmk. perforated CS over AR.

½d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d. and 1/-. Varieties—Inverted, Double, and Reversed. Faulty perforation is also known.

R23—R26 1910 (September). Stamps with Multiple Crown and CA watermark, perforated only "S" over AR.

½d., 1d., 2d., and 6d. Corresponds with Tamsen's 5th issue but with definite addition of "6d." in place of his "? others".

There is a Note "It is probable that remaining stocks of the Transvaal stamps could then be legally used interprovincially.

The Union Handbook/Catalogue gives the following Transvaal stamps perforated CSAR as used in the Interprovincial period:—

IP 75—IP 77. Stamps of the 1904-09 issue. 2d., 3d., and 6d. (S.G. Nos 262, 264, 266).

IP 78—IP 80. Stamps of the 1905-09 issue. ½d., 1d., and 2d. (S.G. Nos. 273-275).

ORANGE RIVER COLONY.

Tamsen's listing:—

1st Issue. 1905 (Feb.) O.R.C. stamps of 1903 with Crown CA watermark overprinted in black with the letters C.S.A.R. in one line at top of stamps.

½d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., and 1/- (S.G. Nos. 247-254 excepting the 2½d. No 250).

2nd Issue. 1905 (?). Similar to 1st Issue but overprint at bottom of stamps. The ½d. has been noted with overprint in the middle of the stamp.

3rd Issue. 1905 (?). O.R.C. stamps with Crown CA watermark perforated through each stamps with the letters CSAR arranged so one letter falls near each corner of the stamp.

½d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., and 1/-.

4th Issue. (?). O.R.C. stamps with Multiple Crown CA wmk. perforated in same manner as the 3rd issue.

½d., 1d., ? others.

? 5th Issue. Stamps perforated only "S.A.R." No specimens seen. Does it exist? If not, why not? If such an issue was needed in the Transvaal, why not in the O.R.C., seeing that the Railway Administration was the same for both?

Robson Lowe's new listing:—

R30—R36. 1905 (28 Feb.) Stamps with Crown CA watermark overprinted C.S.A.R. in one line.

½d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d. and 1/-. The overprint is found (as Transvaal) at top or bottom.

(This covers Tamsen's 1st and 2nd issues).

R37—R43. 1905 (?) Stamps with Crown CA watermark perforated CS over AR (a letter at each corner).

½d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d. and 1/-.

(Identical with Tamsen's 3rd issue).

R44—R45 1910 (?) Stamps with Multiple Crown CA watermark perforated as R37—R43.

½d., 1d.

(Same as Tamsen's 4th Issue).

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The Union Handbook/Catalogue gives the following O.R.C. stamps perforated CSAR as used in the Interprovincial period:—

IP 108-IP 109. Stamps of the 1905/07 issue. ½d., 1d. (S.G. Nos. 256-7).

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE & NATAL

With regard to the Cape, Tamsen says "I do not know if the Cape Government Railways issued any special stamps for their service. Can any collector give information."

In connection with Natal he says a little about stamps overprinted "Official" and others perforated "NGR", but makes no mention of any overprinted C.S.A.R.

It is indeed difficult to see why there should have been either Cape or Natal stamps so overprinted as their Government Railways did not come under the administration of the Central South African Railways.

Robson Lowe's inclusion of some in his new listing (There was no mention of any such in his original printing of the Encyclopaedia) comes therefore in the nature of something like a bombshell or a spanner in the works. It must be presumed that a careful observer like him has good reasons for including them, but so far he has given no indication of his grounds for so doing.

It may be said that one speciment of a Cape 1d. with C.S.A.R. overprint, which appears to be identical with that figured by Robson Lowe, has been known in South Africa for about 20 years, but it has never been recorded as its owner thought it was a bogus item. It is now illustrated here. The overprint is heavily overinked and looks quite different from that on the Transvaal and O.R.C. stamps. It measures about 1mm. longer and 0.5 mm higher. (? Overinking or a different stereo.)

No Natal stamps with C.S.A.R. overprint have been recorded in South Africa.

Robson Lowe's listing follows:—

Cape of Good Hope.

R 50—R54. 1905. Stamps of the Cape of Good Hope, 1902-04 issue overprinted C.S.A.R. in one line.

½d., 1d., 4d., 6d., and 1/-. There is a Note saying "We have not recorded the 2d. or 3d."

There are no published records of Cape stamps perforated CSAR or SAR but it can be stated here that one or two specimens of the Edwardian ½d. and 1d. are known in South Africa perforated SAR and used in the Transvaal in 1910 and 1911. So far none perforated C.S.A.R. appear to be known.

Natal.

1904 (?). "OFFICIAL" stamps (S.G. Nos 303-308). All Government concerns used these stamps; supporting evidence of Railway use is necessary with each individual item.

R 60—R 63. 1904. Stamps of the 1902-03 issue overprinted C.S.A.R. in one line.

½d., 1d., 5d., and 6d. with a note "Other values of the 1902-03 series may exist."

It has not been possible to illustrate this overprint. The illustration given by Robson Lowe is made rather indistinct by a somewhat heavy cancellation. The impression it gives is that it more closely resembles the overprint seen on the Cape stamp than those on the Transvaal and O.R.C. stamps.

Some Generalities.

(1) Tamsen refers to Natal stamps overprinted "Official", asking why all catalogues list them but do not list the C.S.A.R. overprints. So far as railways were concerned they served exactly the same purpose, but one lot is collectable the other not. So, at any rate say the catalogues and collectors of South Africa accept their dictation without comment!

(2) He mentions O.R.C. stamps perforated "N.G.R." (Natal Government Railways) saying that these belong to Natal issues. As a possible explanation he says "I believe the Natal Government Railways administered the Harrismith, Bethlehem and Lindley line for some time and there used these stamps (this line continued through the Van Reenen Pass to link up with the Natal Railways at Ladysmith). Query. Could a sort of reverse type of action — overprinting of Natal stamps with C.S.A.R. — for use on this line, account for them?

(3) Forgeries. Tamsen mentions that the first three Transvaal issues were being forged in London while they were still in current use. "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News" of Oct., 1905 refers to such forgeries and a later issue mentions vendors of them by name. This gave rise to a celebrated libel case "Lowden v Ewen" heard in 1907 before the Lord Chief Justice and a special Jury. The case lasted five days and a whole array of philatelic experts were called (Sir Edward Bacon was one of them); they clearly proved that Ewen was right, he won his case with costs.

It has not been possible to consult Ewen's paper here, to get possibly a description of these forgeries, but a description of forgeries is given in Curle & Basden's "Transvaal Postage Stamps", p. 110. These my be the same as those of Ewen.

It states there "Fournier forged the 'C.S.A.R.' overprint. It is fairish, but the letters 'C' and 'S' give it away. In the genuine the 'C' is narrow; in the forgery, wider. The 'S' in the genuine is like the figure 8, in the forgery its ends are not so close. The good 'A' is narrow; the false one is wider. The good 'R' is inclined to be flat, the bad 'R' is well-shaped.

We illustrate a specimen, kindly lent by Mr. E. Hunt, on a Transvaal 6d. stamp. It is alongside a genuine overprint on a ½d. O.R.C. stamp for comparison.

(4) **Essays.** Mr. E. Hunt has also been good enough to lend something which has never previously been recorded, so far as we are aware, viz., Essays for the C.S.A.R. overprint. We show a block of six Transvaal 1d. stamps with three different varieties of this overprint, none of them being the type actually issued for use.

(5) Tamsen ends his article with the following plea:—

"It will be seen that there are still many missing links in the C.S.A.R. issues and I would be thankful to South African collectors for further information so that a correct record could be made of these interesting issues."

It has taken only 34 years for further information to be forthcoming!!

N G R (Perforated

The listing here given is that of Robson Lowe as given in his Supplement in "The Philatelist" page 197; there are also Notes taken from what is so far as we are aware, the only other listing of these stamps, viz., in the Union Handbook Catalogue, 1952, Section dealing with "Interprovincials," pp. 9-14. ("U.H.C." for short).

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Natal.

The perforated letters are similar in character to those already described for CSAR and SAR.

R 64—R 65. 1904 (?) Stamps with Mult. Crown CA watermark, perforated NGR in one line.

2d. and 3d. (S.G. Nos. 305 and 306). A Note states that other values of the series S.G. Nos. 303-308 may have been perforated similarly.

R 66—R 73. 1904 (?). Stamps with Mult. Crown CA watermark, perforated NGR in one line.

½d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., 1/-, 2/-, 2/6d. varieties: ½d., 1d., 2d., and 3d. are recorded with the perforated letters inverted.

The U.H.C. gives the following:—

IP 45 1902-03 issue, Wmk. Crown CA

3d. with varieties NGR inverted, and NGR reversed.

IP 46-IP50. 1904-08 issue, Wmk. Mult. Crown CA. The various inverted, reversed and misplaced perforations were caused by the fact that sheets of stamps were folded before being perforated.

½d. Vars. Inverted, Reversed, Misplaced.

1d. Rose-carmine and Deep carmine, Vars. Inverted, Reversed, and misplaced.

2d. Vars. Double and Reversed.

1/- (S.G. 155).

1/- Official (S.G. 308).

Transvaal.

R 80—R 85. Stamps with Mult. Crown CA Wmk. Perforated NGR in one line.

½d. (S.G. 273), 1d. (S.G. 274), 3d. (S.G. 264), 4d. (S.G. 265), 6d. (S.G. 266), 1/- (S.G. 267).

The U.H.C. gives **IP 71-IP 74,** ½d. and 1d. as above, 3d. as above with Var. misplaced, and 1/- as above with Var. reversed.

Orange River Colony.

R 86—R 91. ½d. green, 1d. scarlet, 2d. (S.G. 249), 3d. (S.G. 251), 4d. (252), 6d. (253).

The U.H.C. only gives the ½d. (S.G. 256), with Var. reversed.

Cape of Good Hope.

R 92—R 96. Stamps of the 1902-04 issue. ½d., 1d., 3d., 4d., 6d.

The U.H.C. gives these with the exception of the 4d., but also gives the 2d., and Vars. reversed for the ½d. and 3d.

The following **Notes** come after Robson Lowe's listing:—

The issue of perforated initial stamps ceased in April, 1912, but stocks in hand continued till exhausted.

The similar perforating of the interprovincial issues with NGR was done to absorb the surplus before the definitive Union issue arrived and may have been arranged between the Railway executives.

Originally Transvaal requested and were authorised by the Post Office to use the C.S.A.R. overprint; O.R.C. Railways were actually supplied unasked with overprinted stamps to which they objected and, in consequence, withdrawn. No Post Office authority was needed for the perforated initials as any firm was entitled to do so at will.

Both Transvaal and O.R.C. overprinting was done at Germiston from the same stereos.

Two Railway "Locals"

The Union Handbook/Catalogue lists two Interprovincials which may be regarded as "Locals". These are:—

IP 21 and IP 22. These are described as "Used on trains from Caledon, Cape Province, in 1911 and 1912."

The former is a 1d. Cape (S.G. 71) inscribed "C.G.R." (Cape Government Railways); the latter is the same stamp inscribed "S.A.R." (South African Railways).

JAMAICA.

Honouring Jamaica's 300th anniversary a set of four stamps was issued on 10th May, of 2d., 2½d., 3d. and 6d. values, all tricoloured and with different designs, in addition to the portrait of the Queen.

A RHODESIAN ERROR OF DESIGN

As I pointed out in the "S.A. Philatelist" Sept. 1952, the Union produced a stamp replete with anachronisms. This was the 1/- value wrongly named the "Landing of van Riebeeck". The mistake, however, was not that of the stamp designer, but of the artist, Charles Bell, who painted the original in 1850.

Now our subcontinent can boast an original error of design almost as glaring as the well known Nevis stamp, which shows Columbus using a telescope more than a century before it was invented.

In 1953, S. Rhodesia issued its Rhodes Centenary commemorative set. Each value shows a facet of pioneer life in 1853 contrasted with the corresponding modern facilities. The ½d. value is dedicated to the medical services. It shows the modern native hospital in Salisbury and below Dr. Livingstone ("I presume") is shown about to attend to a native who is lying on a litter on the ground outside a hut. The doctor has his medicine chest open at his feet, while in his right hand he holds a modern binaural stethescops.

Laennec (12fr. value France 1952) stumbled on the idea of listening to the chest sounds through a tube on 13.9.1812. From his rolled sheets of paper was evolved the wooden monaural stethescope. Here it is unnecessary to go into the conflicting claims and dates of the invention of the modern binaural instrument. It did not become generally known to the profession till 1873 (the year of Livingstone's death), when Dr. C. J. B. Williams read a paper on the subject before the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London. After that the use of the instrument was generally adopted by the physicians but even as late as the early 1920's I saw senior consultants at Edinburgh still using the old wooden monaural stethescope.

It is obvious from the above that Livingstone could not have used in 1853 the rubber binaural stethescope which he is shown holding.

Stamp designers, even more than theatrical producers should verify their data, for the error once perpetrated, is there for all to see for all time. But then our hobby would lose an interesting thematic branch!

Dr. J. W. Harris.

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SOCIETY NEWS.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF THE WESTERN RAND

The monthly meeting for April was held at the home of Dr. A. De Villiers on Wednesday, April 27, 1955, at 8 p.m.

Mr. S. Vermaak presided with ten members and two visitors present.

Dr. De Villiers provided a most unusual evening of philately in the form of a display and a quizz. The display was formed entirely of covers, but it was the way in which they were displayed that made them interesting. The unusual departure from the normal routine of displaying was quite remarkable. Following the tea interval, Dr. De Villiers provided a very enjoyable and instructive 15 minutes in the form of a quizz.

In thanking Dr. De Villiers for the really excellent evening, Mr. S. Vermaak stated that there was no end to the game of stamp collecting and in the manner in which it could be served up, and congratulated Dr. De Villiers for the unusual, instructive and very pleasant evening.

Before closing the Meeting, Mr. S. Vermaak reminded members that the next meeting would be held in the South African Club, Human Street, Krugersdorp, at 8 p.m. on Wednesday May 25, when the Johannesburg Philatelic Society would be visiting us. B.S.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

March 21st. Dr. T. B. Berry, one of our stalwart exhibitors, entertained us with a most interesting talk in which the contentious question of 'general' as opposed to 'specialised' collecting was once again introduced. It seems that at this stage the honours are fairly even in the dispute with perhaps a slight swing to the 'Right' — (the 'general' collector!). Following his talk, Dr. Berry tabled in order the following:—

A very fine lot of Natal Edwardians, a very exhaustive and almost complete collection of 'inter-Provincials', a magnificent selection of Union Essays, a complete collection of the Union London printings, and last, but not least, a most creditable display of mint British Colonials. Although Dr. Berry regarded this last show as a 'schoolboy' collection it evoked considerable favourable comment from the members.

April 4th. The President, Mr. Manville-Ford, convened an evening of exhibits entitled "My favourite pages". As an introduction, Mr. Ford conducted a short quiz 'with a difference'. This, members learnt, meant that no prize would be awarded to the winner! As was almost to be expected, Mr. E. C. Wright obtained the highest number of points. The selections of favourite pages were as follows:—

Mr. Roselaar: Austria post-war;
Mrs. Betzler; a flower collection;
Mr. Peacock: Ship letters and selected Colonials;
Mr. C. S. J. Gouws: Zoology;
Mr. L. E. Orkin: Natal 'Chalon Heads';
Mr. R. A. Hudson: Some pages from his late father's collection;
Mr. J. A. Parker: "Philately in miniature"
Mr. Weinstein: Cape pre-stamp covers and early Union Flights.

April 18th. Dr. Reisener having left for overseas, could not exhibit as per programme, but his place was taken by the following:—

Mr. Bottomley: U.S.A. Commemoratives; Mr. Mc Killop: Penny Blacks to modern Colonials; Mr. Peacock: Great Britain, 1840 to K.G. VI; Mr. Castignani: Modern Australian and New Zealand.

Obituary. It is with deep regret that the death of Mr. Donald Young, a member since 1951, has to be recorded. J.M.W.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN.

14th April. The Paarl Philatelic Society made their usual annual visit to the Royal and put up the exhibits. These consisted of the following: "Variations in G" (J. G. le Roux); "Vineyard and Wine on Stamps" (Mrs. E. J. C. Beukes); "Postal Covers of the Anglo-Boer War" (J. D. Rossouw); "Postage Dues of S.W.A." (J. S. Burger); "Religion on Stamps" (J. F. Kruger). This proved an interesting evening and was well attended.

28th April. Mr. A Taylor showed his collections of Nova Scotia and Cape Triangulars. It is not often the Society can have such a philatelic feast. The stamps besides showing all varieties and rarities, were in fine condition.

THE THEMATIC STAMP CLUB.

25th April. This meeting was held on University premises together with the University of Cape Town Philatelic Society. Prof. J. M. Watt's (Wits. University) slides on "Trees on Stamps" were shown. These proved most interesting. Mr. L. Simenhoff gave a most illuminating commentary as the slides were shown. Mr. M. Hotz arranged for the use of the Lecture Hall and also the loan of the projector.

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

4th April. These meetings are now being held regularly. At this month's meeting Mr. F. L. Archer gave a talk on stamp printing processes, showed his Vatican collection, and Mr. I. E. Hall showed George VI stamps and booklets. M.F.S.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The usual monthly meeting of the Society took place in the Railway Recreation Club on Wednesday 13th April and was attended by 24 members. A very fine exhibit of "Canada" was tabled by Mr. Slotboom who had obviously spent a great deal of time and patience in the mounting of his collection. Dr. Peisach, commenting on the exhibit, praised the manner in which it had been displayed and drew attention to the many shade varieties that were to be seen in the earlier issues. He thanked Mr. Slotboom for the interest and enjoyment which his exhibit had provided, a sentiment that was heartily endorsed by all the members present.

The Chairman, Mr. MacLachlan, announced that advice had been received from Mr. Kachelhoffer to the effect that he had valued his collection at £100. In view of the many rare and almost irreplaceable items contained in the collection this was a very conservative estimate and the Society has now started a special fund to recompense Mr. Kachelhoffer for his great loss. The manner in which members have rallied to the appeal for contributions has been outstanding and to date a total of £32 has been received or promised, as have several packets of stamps. The Society is deeply indebted to fellow members for their warm-hearted generosity in supporting this fund so wholeheartedly. P.M.J.M.

AFRIKAANSE FILATELISTEVERENIGING

Saterdag 9 April: Hierdie byeenkoms was nou nie wat wonders goed bygewoon nie, maar die aanwesiges het heerlik baljaar onder die seels wat vir ruilhandel deur lede beskikbaar gestel was. Dit was weer 'n geval van verdaag voor sake afgehandel kon word.

Die klem bly maar op Unie-seëls val. Die aanvrag blyk onversadig te wees want die vraag "Wat het jy in die Unie?" hoor 'n mens gereeld.

Maandag 25 April was kuieraand en het agt lede met vier verskeie versamelings lede van die Philatelic Society of Johannesburg vergas. Onder andere het lid D. W. Rossouw iets heel nuuts te voorskyn gebring met 'n tema oor die Unie se Nasionale Parke met die dierereeks as basis. Die versameling is pragtig versier met kunstige tekenings van diere en natuurtonele en het groot byval onder die tematiste gehad.

Vrydag 6 Mei: Een van die mooiste uitstallings oor moderne seëls wat ons in 'n lang tyd te sien gehad het, was met ons laaste maandelikse byeenkoms op Vrydag, 6 deser, deur lid Seelig voorgelê. Hierdie ervare en beskeie versamelaar wys ons gereeld in Mei van elke jaar iets uit sy uitgebreide versameling en ons het al geleer om altyd iets besonders van hom te verwag. Hierdie keer was ons dan ook vergas met 'n pragtige voorstelling van die seëls van moderne Frankryk.

Nuwe Lede: Mnre. A. B. Hollander en H. Landgrebe en die jongeling Willem Koekemoer is as lede verklaar. Hulle word hartelik verwelkom.

Nuwe Aansoeke is ontvang en aangekondig: Mnre. L. Abrams, L. Buchen, W. Coetzer en P. Z. N. Reinecke en die seuns Camiel de Vleeschauwer en Wim van Duivenbooden. S.J.V.

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

At the meeting on 22nd April, after the usual preliminary business Mr. Shingler was in the chair.

Mr. Andrew Watson, well known for his very large collection of Great Britain stamps, was offered the first viewing of Mr. Franklin's acquisition, a reconstructed sheet of 1840 penny blacks. This is in itself a treasured item, but the interesting part is that practically every stamp was superb. Mr. Franklin continued to shock the members by

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producing reconstructed sheets of the 1841 Imperf penny and another of the same issue cancelled with black maltese cross. Also he showed a reconstructed sheet of the 1880 Venetian red 1d. and the 1856 penny.

Mr. Smits of Port Elizabeth showed us his collection of the O.F.S. Dr. Drusinsky praised Mr. Smits for this collection particularly for its variety, neatness and writing up. G.H.I.

O.F.S. AND BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

At the **April Meeting** members spoke enthusiastically on the new happy event in the history of the society, the birth of a fully-fledged magazine. Hearty thanks were expressed to those responsible.

The Publicity officer, Dr. Freund, related some interesting "tit-bits" in his usual "News Talk." Three very fine displays were given: "Queen Elizabeth," by Mr. W. J. Bentley, a newcomer to the society, whose collection was neatly adorned with cuttings; "1937 Coronation", by Mr. C. E. Kachelhoffer who introduced his collection with various pages of special Coronation labels; "South Africa", by Mr. A. H. Scott, an "early" collection inherited from his father which contained some fine items. Capt. Dickson, Dr. Freund and Prof. van Rooyen commented on these exhibits.

The surprise item of the evening turned out to be a "20 Questions" quiz. The designs of several stamps that were held up and turned away, had to be guessed within the limit of 20 questions. For every correct final guess, the stamp in question was given as a prize.

An auction sale with Mr. Hodgson as auctioneer rounded off a pleasant evening.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

On Wednesday, 11th May, 12 members, 3 visitors and 5 members of the East Rand Society were present.

Correspondence: The O.F.S. Philatelic Magazine and various pamphlets on stamp collecting were tabled for the benefit of all present.

Exhibits: As we were hosts to the East Rand Philatelic Society, the business of our Society was dealt with very quickly; Mr. S. J. Hagger introduced their members and handed the chair over to Mr. H. Suklje, their acting chairman for the evening. The following exhibits were tabled. Nyasaland by Mr. Rigg, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II, mint collection by Mr. Finstein. Mr. Clements collection of Newfoundland was shown by Mr. Suklje. Finally Mr. Suklje provided his own collection of Canadian mint blocks of four. Four of our Germiston members spoke on the exhibits; Mr. Bompas, Mr. Deverall, Mr. Retief and Mr. Muller. All stated that the exhibits were collections that are not often seen and there was nothing but praise for every one of them. Finally Mr. S. J. Hagger thanked our visitors for coming from the East Rand and displaying such outstanding collections, which he was quite sure had been thoroughly enjoyed by all. I.S.B.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

April 5th—Mr. A. T. W. Kennedy provided members with a very commendable exhibit entitled "Monarchs past and present" and showed a fine range of stamps of various European, Asian and African Countries depicting the highest in the land. A comprehensive range was on show and Mr. Kennedy is to be complimented on his fine effort, which was made more instructive by the reading of a paper on his subject collection. Our President, Mr. D. Berg expressed the warm thanks of the gathering to Mr. Kennedy. The usual Auction Sale rounded off a very pleasant evening.

April 19th—A very representative gathering of members attended first to official business and the election of Delegates to the forthcoming Congress at Pretoria and then settled down to the inspection of a very fine display by Mr. R. W. Pearson covering the stamps issued by the British African Territories during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. All the stamps so far issued in both mint and fine used condition were on view, including shades and varieties, mounted in the fastidious manner we have come to associate with Mr. Pearson. Mr. G. K. Forbes ably thanked Mr. Pearson. It was a really enjoyable display and members could hardly tear themselves away from the sheets adorning the tables. An informal discussion on our Exchange Packet Service and another good auction concluded the evening.

PAARLSE POSSEËLVERSAMELINGSVERENIGING

10 Mei. Mnr. Simenhoff van Kaapstad het die vereniging vergas met so 'n groot verskiedenheid van onderwerpe, dat dit 'n ware posseëluitstalling was. Die onderwerpe het gegaan vanaf filatistiese terme tot 'n versameling van fontiewe drukke en eienaardighede van Unieuitgawes; vanaf 'n posgeskiedenis van Bauveteiland en Tristan da Cunha, tot tematiese versamelings wat Runs, sport, helde, musiek ens. uitbeeld. J.G. le R.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF RHODESIA.

The March Meeting was quite well attended, and it was suggested that a new meeting place for the Society's monthly meeting should be found. It was proposed that we return to the Women's Institute in Lobengula Street, as the Hotel's room available for the Society was too noisy, and inadequate. Mr. M. O'Neill gave a very interesting exhibition of German Zone stamps.

The April Meeting, owing to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. B. P. Jaffa, being absent, on annual leave at Durban, Mr. Fitzstephen acted as Secretary. The Festival of the Passover falling on this evening many Jewish Members did not attend this meeting and the meeting was a poor one. Mr. Fitzstephen gave a talk on the origin of the postage stamp in the United Kingdom, and gave a wonderful display of very early covers and extended this by displaying items from the earliest period to the present day. Those who attended the meeting enjoyed the exhibition and the talk given by Mr. Fitzstephen very much indeed; under the circumstances it turned out to be quite a successful evening.

The first May Meeting, the last which is to be held on the 1st Wednesday of the month at the Royal Hotel, was very well patronised. Owing to the absence of the Chairman, Mr. R. E. Sinclair, the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Atkinson took the Chair. Mr. J. Creewell read a lengthy article on Philately which he had come upon in the course of his research. Mrs. Marcus read a very interesting paper on the Birth and Growth of the Stamps of Israel and exhibited a very fine collection of Israeli stamps. Mr. Porter also gave an exhibition of amusing, well illustrated envelopes, the work of quite a brilliant characterurist. These two exhibits were greatly appreciated, and Mr. B. P. Jaffa thanked them for their excellent exhibits. Mr. J. Lazarus, Exchange Superintendent Treasurer, auctioned a quantity of First Day Covers, stamps and albums.

Intending visitors please note that the Society's meetings, are in future, to be held at the above hall, the last Thursday of each month. All are welcome. B.P.J.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Recent Activities: Despite the rather inclement weather the two meetings this month have enjoyed excellent attendance. If the quality and interest of the exhibits is a guide, there is every indication that the meetings planned for the near future should attract equally good attendances. We can sincerely commend to those members who have not been in the habit of attending meetings regularly, the fare that has been provided for the remainder of the year.

May 2nd: Allan Cup Competition. For this competition there were three entrants this year, as follows:—

1) Mr. R. A. Hudson—Union of South Africa.
2) Mr. R. N. Castigani — Union definitives in photoproofs and stamps.
3) Dr. C. Been—Southern Rhodesia.

All the exhibits evoked considerable interest and the closeness of the result gave further proof of this fact. After the final count the exhibit of Southern Rhodesia was adjudged the winning one and Dr. Been was duly presented with the Allan Cup by the previous holder, Mr. F. C. Ferguson. Mr. Castignani's exhibit was declared runner-up and in the process 'Cassie' seems to have established a record of his own by being runner-up six times in succession! Certainly proof of gameness, if that was necessary, and an example to the rest of us. May 16th was the occasion of a visit from our neighbours, the Pretoria Railway Philatelic Society. As always they turned up in strength led by their President, Mr. L. B. McLachlan. In order the exhibits were as follows:—

1) Mr. S. J. Slotboom — Modern Canada.
2) Mr. N. Michael — Northern and Southern Rhodesia.
3) Mr. Eric Walker — Union 'Officials'.

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A feature of all the exhibits was the attractive presentation and writing up. Our sincere thanks are due to those who so ably provided the entertainment for the evening, particularly to Mr. Walker for being able to answer so many queries raised by members individualy on the subject displayed.

May 17th: A car load of members journeyed to Benoni for the annual visit to the East Rand Philatelic Society. The exhibitors were Messrs. McKillop, Parker, Peacock and Wright. The subjects tabled were selected British Colonials, 'Philately in Miniature', Northern Rhodesia and Postal Stationery and Indian States respectively. As usual, generous hospitality and fare was provided allthough the shocking weather caused a number of the home Society not to venture out-of-doors for the evening.

J.M.W.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG.

At the meeting held on **May 10th** Mr. S. Hirschman showed a portion of his collection of the stamps of Israel.

Mr. Hirschman gave a talk on the exhibit and gave a short history of the origin of the Israeli postal service.

The exhibit was confined to the stamps of 1948-1950. It included complete sheets mint, Plate Blocks and Tablet Plate Blocks mint, miniature sheets mint and fine used, Printer's Sheets and Souvenir sheets. There was also a presentation sheet made to Mr. Hirschman by the Israeli Minister of Posts. The exhibit included many rare varieties including perforation varieties, first day covers and special postmarks, official stamps and postage dues. The exhibit was beautifully presented and written up.

Mr. L. Buchen spoke on the exhibit.

At the meeting of **May 23rd** there were two exhibits. Mr. F. G. Froelich showed an exhibit he called "Your Bavarians". He read a paper on the exhibit in which he explained that he gave this name to it because most of the stamps in the collection had come from the Society's Exchange Books. The exhibit consisted of 40 sheets with chiefly fine used stamps though there were also some mint. The early stamps were well represented with different shades and postmarks. There were numerous photographs of the chief cities of Bavaria. There were some entires and stamps on cover. Mr. W. Oppenheim spoke on the exhibit which was much appreciated by the members.

Mr. P. C. Seligman showed a Thematic Collection —"The Philatelic Calendar". He gave a few notes on it explaining that he aimed at obtaining stamps which, either in the design or in the overprint, showed different dates and he wished to complete the whole year. His exhibit was on twelve different sheets each representing a month and each sheet is divided into the dates as on a calendar. The appropriate stamp appears on each date. The members much appreciated this ingenious and interesting Exhibit.

Mr. E. Schaiowitz spoke on the exhibit. I.I.

BEIRA STAMP EXHIBITION.

This was held on 1—10 Decembsr, 1954, but we have only just received word about it; there was apparently considerable delay in announcing awards, owing to a silver cup not arriving from Lisbon.

It would appear to have gone off very successfully, held in the Commerce Association Hall, with special post-office, envelopes, cancellation, and new stamps on sale on opening day (one day before being put on sale anywhere else).

Silver cups were awarded to Dr. Sacadura (numismatic collection), Sam Legator (Unions) A. L. Ramos, J. Carlos and F. C. Cylindo. A. F. d'Almeida got a silver tray for the best collection of Mozambique stamps. Amongst other prize winners we note the names of I. H. C. Godfrey and J. Crewell.

GOUGH ISLAND

We have been informed from England that an expedition is going to Gough Island and will be there from July '55 to January '56, but have no details as to its object or under whose auspices it is being arranged.

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"THE AVERAGE COLLECTOR"

The Editor,
South African Philatelist.

Sir,

Your May, 1955, issue containing an article entitled "The Average Collector" together with your comments on page 84, is very interesting. As a member of two Societies in this country over many years my experience as an average collector has been exactly that of your correspondent.

Meeting after meeting, one finds members of the same small group whose collections are very much in the expert category including those of professional status, who generously give their time and produce their exhibits in order to keep the members interested. We ordinary collectors must be thankful that they do this, otherwise there would be nothing to show and little to say at our meetings. But most of us feel like we do after a visit to the Crown Jewels, still wondering if our paltry gems are flawed, of correct colour or even set out to the best advantage!!

On the few occasions that some shy "average collector" has been persuaded to produce his very best pages or items, little or no interest seems to have been shewn by anyone and there is never any constructive discussion of the exhibits on the boards. By far, the majority of Society members are "average collectors" and I suggest that they really join (a) to have the chance to buy and sell (or exchange if you like) stamps available in the Exchange Packet organisation. (b) To try and gain philatelic knowledge from their Club experts which could not otherwise be available to them than by building up a very costly library dealing with the many intricacies of their hobby and (c) To feel that they can with every confidence ask their Club "experts" from time to time to pronounce upon their many little queries cropping up in their collections.

In other words, they look to the Club to be a practical help to them in teaching them so much they must know of philately if their collections are to become other than "heaps of junk".

As an "average collector" I should like to find my Clubs:—

(1) Form a knowledgeable group to whom — through the Secretary— members may send in writing any philatelic query which is bothering them and expect to get an answer with reasons and a full discussion at the next meeting.

(2) Build up libraries of philatelic publications (not the catalogues of course) to which members may have access on payment of some fee.

(3) To organise a meeting occasionally in daylight so that members may see and recognise colours and shades properly.

(4) The above mentioned "group" to request any "average collector" to exhibit at a meeting say, a few pages anywhere from his album upon which the "group" will pronounce on every aspect in a clear constructive and friendly critical manner.

This group referred to in (1) above must above all avoid making itself in to a sort of Quiz team asking members riddles which do little but exhibit the encyclopaedic brain of the Quizmaster. What is wanted is a sort of 'panel' like the "Voice of Science" panel we hear weekly on our Radios, which thoroughly discusses and gives clear opinions in answer to questions sent in for clarification.

Societies do not "die" Mr. Editor, because there are daily so many new collectors who join with the fervent hope that they may get help and advice from their clubs but especially to try and build up their collections through the agency of the Club's Exchange Packet system. I suggest that most Cluubs would "fade away" very soon if the Exchange Packet organisation were done away with.

I subscribe my name and address but must request your indulgence that the publication of this article shall be,

Yours faithfully,

"Anonymous".

SWEDEN.

Still 2 more stamps, to be issued on 6th June, are coming out in connection with the centenary of Swedish postage stamps. They are termed "Flag Stamps," as the predominant part of the design is the Swedish flag (yellow cross on blue ground); at the top is a crown with the value (10 or 15) on either side of it; at the sides are respectively "Sverige" and "Den 6 Juni."

SHORT NOTICES.

Sanders Philatelic Journal. We have received Nos. 1 and 2 of this new stamp magazine. It is the House magazine of J. Sanders, 7, Commercial Road, Southampton, England, and is published monthly at 6d. per copy. It is well got up and has original articles dealing with both old and new in philately, in addition to commentaries on new issues and such like.

Handbuch der Militar-Luftpost. Alfred Clement Graz/Austria, Schwimmschulkal 6/11. A book of 158 pages just crammed full of information about military air mails. It covers the period 1793-1954, but actually it deals with World Wars I and II mainly, only about a couple of dozen pages dealing with earlier and later periods. Geographically the area covered is the world, there are numerous illustrations of postmarks, cachets, etc., and lists galore of military air units, their locations, periods of service. Many items are priced, but not the book itself.

XIXth Century U.S.A. We have received the catalogue of the famous Waterhouse U.S.A. Collection to be auctioned by Messrs H. R. Harmer Ltd. on 27—30 June. This is a marvellous production of 120 pages with 28 photoplates and 75 inset illustrations, amounting pretty nearly to a catalogue of U.S.A. stamps of the 19th century with Postmasters, Departmentals, carriers and locals. The estimated value of the whole collection is £30,000.

African Forgeries. Mr. J. Stephen of 26 Coed Pella Road, Colwyn Bay, Great Britain is breaking up a collection of forgeries accumulated 20 years ago. A group of 15 Africans (4 Cape Triangulars, 2 O.F.S., 4 Transvaal, 2 Stellaland, 1 St. Helena and 2 Sierra Leone) is offered at 35/-. This is the reserve price, but the highest bidder will get the lot.

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The Humerous Side of Philately

By the late A. J. Cohen.

(An earlier instalment of this address, read in 1907, appeared in our issue of November, 1954, —Editor.)

Even if we study the designs portrayed on stamps I know more mottoes and coats of arms than if I had been a student of heraldry, or a special favourite of the pursuivant at arms all my life. Still I cannot quite agree with all I have come across. I think the Cayman Islands should have been represented by an alligator, Cook's Islands by a portrait of Savarin or some well-known chef, Jamaica by a bottle of rum, Brazil by some nuts, Cochin China by an old rooster, Hungary by one of the unemployed, Cashmere by one of the Queen's Indian shawls, Ceylon by apacket of Mazawattee, Gold Coast by a nugget, Uganda by a goose, and Zululand by a portrait of Cetchywayo. I also think that all stamps of Monaco should properly be rouletted.

I once showed my Pietersburg and Madagascar labels to a tricky acquaintance of mine, and he said I can let you have plenty like them to order, with the result that I now show you, postmarked, rouletted, surcharged and full gum.

We learn in philately that different kinds of paper are employed for stamps, such as **quadrille** named after a certain dance because a nice dance it is to get hold of them,**Pelure** so named after Mount Pelure because they cause eruptions in some philatelic hearts, **Cowan** named after some unknown relative of myself, and **Porous** no doubt connected with a certain kind of plaster for the chest.

Now as regards perforations I have an instrument for measuring perforations called an odontometre, and a young friend, whose sister Milly is a collector, called on me one day and asked me to lend her my "Odontormenter" as she wished to measure the length of the sun's rays on the Argentine stamps. I said to my young friend tell Milly that my millimetre is no good for this purpose and I advised her to get a **raydiometre.**

Now we are on the question of perforations I think all ardent philatelists should certainly give their attention to the collection of sponges as it will be a splendid opportunity to study perforations.

In the year 1900 France issued some stamps inscribed with the motto "Droits de l'homme" which means "The Rights of Man"; a large number of French suffragettes took umbrage at this design and provided their own stamps with the motto altered to "Droits de la Femme", "The Rights of Woman" I show you a specimen of each of these stamps.

Besides postal uses stamps have been known to fulfil other purposes, if we look in the advertising columns of certain newspapers we shall find many other functions that the postage stamp is made to perform. "Send seven penny stamps" says one, "and you will receive a silver spoon" (made in Germany of course). "Send a dozen stamps" says a second, "with a specimen of your handwriting and I will disclose to you the mysteries of your own mind and temper and put you in a position to guard against the temtations that beset you". A third offers in exchange for a few postage stamps to divulge to you a secret, the possession of which will put you in funds for the remainder of your life. A fourth for thirteen stamps will send you an infallible receipt, which he purposes to have won by the sad experience of years of personal suffering, for the cure of all nervous disdorders, hypochondria, indigestion and all the ills that flesh is heir to, and a fifth for a certain number of stamps will give you the latest tip for the Spring Handicap—a dead cert.

I will now give you a description of some curious post offices. Many years ago on the Island of Ascension, a small volcanic bit of terra firma in the Atlantic between Africa and Brazil, there was a peculiar crevice in a large rock known as the "Sailor's Post Office". In that crevice crews of vessels passing to India or returning, left such letters as they wished to send back. These letters were faihfully taken to their destination by the next ship passing in the contrary direction.

Another similar arrangement is well known and is, I believe, still in use in the straits of Magellan. About half way through the Straits on a singularly exposed jutting rock almost overtopped by the waters of the sea is erected a lofty flagstaff and on the middle of the pole are coarsely painted in red letters these two words "Post Office". Beneath is suspended by an iron chain a middling sized cask, whose lid with a hinge may be freely opened and shut, being destitute of either lock or padlock. Vessels passing Eastwards deposit letters for Pacific ports and take out those in the cask intended for European ports and vice versa.

A traveller thus describes the post office in Omaha, Nebraska, U.S. in 1854. "I wended my way through tall rank prairie grass in search of the Post Office. At length I found an old pioneer seated apparently in solitary rumination upon a piece of hewn timber and inquired of him for the Post Office. He replied he was the Postmaster and would examine the post office for my letters. Thereupon he removed from his head a hat, to say the least of it somewhat veteran in appearance, and drew from its cavernous depths the coveted letters."

The special correspondent of the "Illustrated London News" tells us in his book "The Land of Gold," in which he details his journey through the Western Australian Goldfields, of a roadside letterbox which he passed in his travels. "It consisted simply of an old wooden box such as might have been used for packing tinned provisions in, nailed to a post. In the front of it was roughly written "Twenty Mile Letter Box," There was no lid or safeguard of any sort, yet into this primitive receptacle our driver dropped several letters.'

How about approval sheets!

The people of Welkima, Indiana, W.S., used to write letters and get no answers. This was borne for a year or two but finally the people got tired of it and demanded an investigation. The post office inspector came, went through

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the office and found a sack nearly full of letters, the accumulation of about three years. When asked why he didn't send the letters the Postmaster replied that it was foolishness to put the Government to the expense of making a trip for that little bundle. He thought he would wait until the sack was full.

The following is a new use for postage stamps taken from a Californian Newspaper:— At Fort Yuman in Arizona an officer states that he had sent for Twenty dollars of postage stamps and left them on the table in his tent. On this occasion a young squaw who had the run of the quarters happened to stray into his room and seeing the postage stamps began to examine them with great curiosity. She discovered they would stick if wet and forthwith a happy idea struck her. Now the fashionable dress of the ladies of her class in that warm climate is of the briefest description. She was ambitious to dress up and excite the envy of the other Pocahontases, so she went in on the postal currency and much to the astonishment the other Pocahontases, so she went in on the parade ground entirely covered over with postage stamps. She was stuck all over with Benjamin Franklin, and the father of his country was plastered all over her ladyship's glossy skin indiscriminately, regardless of dignity and decency. The roar that greeted her from the commanding officer down to the drummer boys was loud enough to be heard nearly at head quarters in San Francisco, but Indian-like she preserved equanimity and did not seem at all disconcerted, but sailed off with the air and step of a genuine princess, while the officer rushed into his quarters to discover himself minus twenty dollars worth of postage stamps, and that what was intended for the mail had been appropriated by the female. She might have been put in the overland coach and gone through; she certainly could not have been stopped for want of being prepaid.

A lady once called at a post office in the city and asked the Postmaster to be kind enough to place a black postage stamp on her letter so that her friend might know there was a death in the letter before she opened it.

The following letter written by an amorous swain of the Emerald Isle to his fair lady was found in the Dublin Post Office:

My darling Peggy,—I met you last night and you never came. I'll meet you again tonight whether you come or whether you stop away. If I'm there first sure I'll write my name on the gate to tell you of it and if its you that's first why rub it out darling and no one will be the wiser. I'll never fail to be at the trysting place, Peggy, for faith, I can't keep away from the spot where you are, whether you're there or whether you're not. Not knowing your address I could not put it on the envelope, but I kept the stamp as a receipt that I posted you the letter. Please write to me as soon as possible, if not sooner. — Your own Paddy.

In last week s "Lloyds" I read that a motor race was taking place from Pekin to Paris and that the competitors arrived at a place called Pong-Kiong in China where the telegraph office had been open for seven years and the telegrams from the motorists were the first that had ever been dispatched from it.

In reference to the Kingston Relief Fund stamps recently issued the following is from the Philatelic Journal of India:—

We understand that a special issue of earthquake relief fund stamps are to be issued in Jamaica. The current design is to be slightly altered, the coat of arms remaining the same, but the supporters are to be the figures of Sir Alexander and Admiral Davis with the crest above of a crocodile in tears.

If this information is reliable the appropriateness of the design may be questioned. If the Governor allows the issue to appear the stamps will hardly be popular on either side of the herring pond in or out of philatelic circles.

Our Yankee cousins well may stare
And think that we're a-getting 'em,
While stamp collectors will declare
The Governor is a Swettenham.

Having thus brought my paper to a close I trust that it has offered you a little amusement and that you find it a change from the papers giving you a number of statistics, perforations, dates, etc., which must to a certain extent be tiring. If I have caused a laugh to be raised I shall feel happily content and shall wish success to Philately and all its collectors, although I find that the leading dealers in London are all "Stranded".

SOME RECENT AUCTION PRICES

H. R. HARMER:
- Barbados. 5/- 1873 (S.G. 64), £10.
- Basutoland. Several mint sheets of 1d. and 2d. Postage Dues with St. Edward's Crown Wmk, £5-10. to £7 per sheet.
- Falkland Isles: Frank of 1868, £100.
- Bisect 1d. (S.G. 11b) on entire £32.
- 9d. (S.G. 29) with marginal handstamp "South Georgia," £30.
- Cover 1911-12 "Paid at South Georgia" and Filchner Label, £105.
- S. Georgia 2½d. on 2d., mint £18, used £20.
- France: 15c. 1849-52, unused, £44.
- 25c. General Colonial issue (S.G. 45), £60.
- Newfoundland: 1/- (S.G. 15) used, £210.
- 1d. (S.G. 17a) unused, £170.
- 3c. Hawker 1919, on flown cover, £420.
- 60c. de Lindeo 1927, on flown cover, £160.

ROBSON LOWE:
- Bechuanaland, 1910 6d. Transvaal overprinted Used on cover £7.
- Great Britain: 1d. Plate Ia, used on day of issue 6 May 1840 £67-10.
- 1d. Plate XI on cover, Feb. 1841 £60.
- 2d. Blue 1840. Bisect on cover, one of five known £100.
- ½d. Cyprus-green, 1912, mint block of 4 £60.
- Heligoland; Postcard to Hamburg franked by ¾ Sch. perf., £40.
- Silver Jubilees, Complete "Specimen" set (176 stamps) £36.
- St. Vincent: 1/- 1875 perf. 11-12½, unused £84.
- 4d. 1886-89, Steel-blue, unused £57.
- 5/- 1880 used £42.

AUSTRALIA.

The Information Bureau reports that three stamps, 3½d., 7½d., and 2/- are to be issued about the 17th October, 1956, in connection with the Olympic Games to be held in Melbourne 22nd November to 8th December, 1956. The designs on each stamp will be different.

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CARBON TETRACHLORIDE

The following letter appeared in a recent issue of "The Stamp Lover" (Journal of the Junior Philatelic Society, London).

As the warning given in it deserves wide publicity, we have taken it over **in toto** without waiting for permission, but we feel sure our contemporary will not raise any difficulties and we express our thanks in advance.

Dear Sir,— Members of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents are concerned at the use of certain chemicals for hobbies, and in particular at the danger relating to carbon tetrachloride. This chemical has taken the place of cyanide, ether and chloroform as a quick killer of butterflies and beetles. Some philatelists use it for cleaning stamps, and some craft teachers recommend it as a cleaning fluid and solvent because it has no fire hazard. It is often used by amateur photographers to clean films.

The fumes of this substance are toxic, producing damage to liver and kidney. People engaged in hobbies are often encouraged to have it in open dishes at their side, and are unaware that they may be breathing deadly vapour. If you can smell the odour exposure is dangerous.

We should, therefore, be grateful if a warning could be printed in your journal pointing out the danger of carbon tetrachloride when used for hobbies.

Major General B. K. Young,
Director General, R.S.P.A.

NEW ZEALAND.

The first stamps of New Zealand were issued on 18th July 1855. Three stamps commemorating their centenary are to be issued in July of this year, possibly on the 18th. The three stamps are to be: 2d. with a Maori runner; 3d. full-face portrait of H. M. the Queen, based on the format of the first issue; 4d. an aeroplane.

Health stamps will be put on sale about the beginning of October. There are to be three this year; 1½d. plus ½d., 2d. plus 1d., and 3d. plus 1d. The common design will be the medallion of the Children's Health Camps Federation.

PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

At the Congress held this year in Norwich, 17—20 May, there were four elections to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists:—

Major K. M. Beaumont, C.B.E., D.S.O., President of "The Royal" and a well known stuudent of and writer on British stamps; Maurice Burrus, the famous French collector, now living in Switzerland; Col. Guy R. Crouch, postal historian, especially concerned with Armed Forces mails; Gunnar A. Hagemann of Sweden best known for his work on the stamps of Denmark and the Danish West Indies.

FRANCE.

The Postal Administration announces the following new issues:— 16 April, a 15 fr. stamp honouring Television and featuring the Eiffel Tower; 23 April, a 12 fr. stamp commemorative of the 10th anniversary of liberation from the German concentration camps — featuring the barbed wiring and a watch tower; 11 May a 12 fr. stamp featuring recent progress in the electrification of the railway systems.

NETHERLANDS.

The Netherlands Embassy in Pretoria informs us of the issue on 5 May of a special 10c. stamp commemorating the 10th anniversary of the full liberation of the Netherlands. The main emblem on this scarlet stamp is a flaming sword.

Five summer stamps, semi-postals with surcharge for cultural and social purposes, will be available from 25th April to 24th June. The subjects chosen this year are buildings characteristic of architecture of the last fifty years.

S. RHODESIA.

Our Advertiser, Mr. B. J. Hunter, reports in his fortnightly list No. 169, that on 27th December, 1954, the post office at Shabani was totally destroyed by fire. For Dec. 30th and 31st a date-stamp was borrowed from N. Rhodesian Railways and used to cancel mail. A few such covers are on their way to him and customers interested should contact him immediately.

CANADA.

Two new stamps of the Wild Life series appeared on 4th April — a 4c. with the head of a musk-ox and a 5c. picturing a pair of whooping cranes in flight against a desolate far north background.

The date of the issue of the Saskatchewan—Alberta 50th Jubilee commemorative stamp has been fixed for 30th June.

GOOD WEATHER FOR STAMPS

Mr. Phil. Ately and Mr. St. Amp
Were two good men who each had the hump,
For the weather was putrid, the children had hols;
Their wives were both "frantic", and the Boss had the grumps.
Out of the house strode Mr. St. Amp
With a brow like the storm clouds that swept o'er the sky
And Mr. Phil Ately grabbed his hat with much haste
To depart with all eagerness from home and the kids.
Believe it or not, round the corner they met
St. Amp and Phil. Ately, those jolly good men;
Their troubles soon vanished, the sky turned to blue
As they prattled and chatted of perfs. and new issues,
Of albums and catalogues, penny blacks, and Mauritius,
Of three cornered Capes, and miniature sheets,
Till at last they turned homewards (the hour was late).
With a date to exchange both their swops and and their dups.,
With a hearty "Goodbye" and a shake of the hand,
Each fellow agreed, "Twas good weather for stamps."

Marjorie Wallace—Bulawayo.

EXCHANGE AND CORRESPONDENCE.

Michael Sprague, of 4 Linden Terrace, Benton, Forest Hall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 12, England, would like to exchange stamps and correspond with someone of about his own age, 15.

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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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UNION NOTES

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

Commemorative Postage Stamps for Pretoria Civic Centenary.

We have received the following Bulletin from the Philatelic Agency, Post Office Publicity Branch, G.P.O., Pretoria, dated June 1955.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.
DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.
CIVIC CENTENARY: PRETORIA 1955.

Commemorative Postage Stamps.

Special 3d. and 6d. postage stamps to commemorate the Centenary of the City of Pretoria will be on sale at **all post offices** in the Union for a period of approximately three months from the 21st October, 1955. The stamps will be printed in vertical format 40.5 by 24.2 millimeters and in sheets of 120. The central designs will be:

3d.: Portrait of the late President S. J. P. Kruger.

6d. Portrait of the late President M. W. Pretorius.

Commemorative Date Stamps.

On the date of issue of the commemorative postage stamps 21st October, 1955, a date-stamp bearing an engraving of the Pretoria coat-of-arms will be available at Pretoria for post-marking addressed first-day covers.

A Philatelic Exhibition is to be held at Pretoria from the 31st October to the 5th November, 1955, under the auspices of the Pretoria philatelic societies. A special date-stamp, bearing the name "TEPPEX", with the outline of the Pretoria City Hall as a design wil be in use at the temporary post office to be opened in the exhibition hall.

Pretoria Centenary: Commemorative Envelopes

The organisers of the TEPPEX Philatelic Exhibition have recognised centenary covers of the Pretoria City Council. These envelopes will be used as first-day covers on the day of issue of the commemorative postage stamps and during the period of the Philatelic Exhibition. The covers, to which both denominations of the commemorative postage stamps wil be affixed, may be obtained from The Secretary, Teppex (1955), P.O. Box 514, Pretoria, at a cost of 1/6 each. He will arrange to have the covers addressed and handed over to the post office for datestamping as follows:

(a) first-day cancellation (21st October, 1955).

or

(b) "TEPPEX" cancellation (31st October, 1955).

but **not** both on one envelope.

Applicants should indicate clearly which of the two postmarks is required.

Remittances in respect of orders for these special envelopes should be made payable to The Secretary Teppex (1955), P.O. Box 514, Pretoria, to whom all enquiries regarding such orders should be addressed.

Plain or Privately Printed Envelopes.

Envelopes for use as first-day or commemorative covers will **not** be sold or provided by the Post Office nor will such envelopes be purchased from outside sources on behalf of the public.

Applicants who desire to have their own plain or privately printed **addressed** envelopes serviced, should forward them to The Philatelic Agency, c/o Post Office Publicity Branch, G.P.O. Pretoria, indicating clearly which of the two postmarks is required. The number of stamps and denominations required. should be indicated in pencil in the upper right-hand corner of each envelope. Orders must be accompanied by a postal or money order, or bank draft, payable to the Postmaster-General, Pretoria, in payment for the stamps to be affixed to the covers. Cheques will not be accepted.

Closing Dates.

Orders in respect of first-day cancellations for the 21st October, 1955, should reach Pretoria not later than the 20th October, 1955, and those for the TEPPEX cancellation, not later than the 29th October, 1955.

Despatch of Orders.

Every effort will be made to despatch orders as soon as possible, but in view of the large number of orders expected and the consequent volume of work involved, delay in some cases will be unavoidable. Applicants are therefore requested to withhold enquiries or reminders relating to their orders until the end of December, 1955.

TEPPEX Commemorative Covers.

In addition to the foregoing, a circular letter containing the following information on the cover service the TEPPEX Committee is organising for the benifit of collectors and the

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public generally, has been received from the Hon. Secretary of the Philatelic Exhibition.

The Cover and its Status.

The design on the cover shows the Pretoria Coat-of-arms surmounted by the Union Buildings and flanked by the flags over the Transvaal as in 1855 and 1955. The whole design in full colour is striking in its simplicity and its colours probably make it the most attractive cover ever produced in this country.

As TEPPEX 1955 forms part of the centenary celebrations, the Pretoria City Council has accepted the cover **as the only recognised centenary cover.** Philatelists will realise that it thus has the same status as other covers listed in "The Handbook/Catalogue of the Union of South Africa stamps" as official and thus merits inclusion in that volume.

Special Postmarks.

A special pictorial-type postmark showing an outline of the city's coat-of-arms will be used on the first day of issue, 21st October, 1955, at PRETORIA. All serviced first day covers will bear this special cancellation.

At the exhibition there will be a temporary post office, TEPPEX, for the period 31st October to 5th November, 1955. This post offices will use a special cancellation, the design of which features the Pretoria City Hall where the exhibition is being staged.

Orders for covers should clearly state whether a first day or an exhibition postmark is required. The Post Offices regulations prevent the application of both postmarks to the same cover.

How to Order.

Fully prepaid orders should be addressed to the Secretary, TEPPEX, P.O. Box 514, Pretoria, South Africa, to reach him before 18th October, 1955.

(1) Official covers without stamps or stiffeners:—

Singly	6d.	$0.10
Per 100	£1.13.4	$4.80
Per 500	£6. 5.0	$17.50

(2) First day covers, cancelled PRETORIA, fully addressed and bearing one stamp of each value, with enclosed stiffener:—

Singly	1/6d.	$0.25
Per 100	£6.13.4	$18.80
Per 500	£31. 5.0	$87.50

(3) Prices for covers bearing the TEPPEX postmark are the same as for those bearing the PRETORIA first day cancellation.

How to Remit

Remittance from South Africa may be made by cheque, money order or uncrossed postal orders payable to TEPPEX, Pretoria.

Remittance from overseas should be made by international money order, British postal orders or bank draft payable in South African currency. Foreign coins are not acceptable.

Change from "Posseel" to "Posgeld" on Air Letter Card Stamps.

Mr. I. H. C. Godfrey of Johannesburg has drawn attention to the recent change in the use of the Afrikaans word "Posseel" to that of "Posgeld" on the imprinted stamps of both the 1½d. and 6d. Air Letter Cards.

"Posgeld" is the Afrikaans word for Postage whereas "Posseel" means Postage Stamp and



the change follows the policy which first made its appearance on the Orange Free State Centenary stamps issued in February 1954 and now being adopted on all Union Postage Stamps.

5/- King's Head Variety.

Our note and illustration on page 53 of the April 1955 number, recording an uncatalogued variety on the 5/- King's Head stamp, has brought a letter from Mr. L. H. Twiss of Whitley Bay, England, mentioning that he also possesses a copy of this particular variety. A report to this effect appeared in the July/August 1954 issue of "The Springbok", but until Mr. Twiss pointed it out, we were unaware of any previous record..

The variety is undoubtedly an interesting one which has apparently escaped very much attention until last year. It is certainly not as well known as one would have expected and it is possible that many more copies will now come to light.

New Postal Slogan — "Buy South African".

Mr. B. L. Cairncross of George, Cape Province, records another postal slogan now in use which reads:—

KOOP SUID-AFRIKAANS —
BUY SOUTH AFRICAN

in two lines. He has copies from Cape Town (with letter "C") and from Port Elizaebeth and understands there is also one from Cape Town with the English version on top.

King's Head 4d. with numerous Lettering Flaws

A communication recently received from Mr. R. D. Allen of London, England, refers to our notes in the February 1953 issue where we list and illustrate a multiplicity of small errors in the lettering and frame portion of the design on a copy of the 4d. King's Head Stamp.

Mr. Allen records being in possession of a used copy with similar errors to those listed and detailed below.

(1) "SOUIH" instead of "SOUTH".
(2) "AIRICA" for "AFRICA".
(3) Only two jewels missing from base of crown instead of four as in previous list.
(4) Postmark covers any missing jewels in dome of crown.
(5) "Postage" and "Postzegel" lettering damaged.
(6) See (4), but what is visible is not faulty.

In addition to the foregoing, the bottom line of the "Z" in ZUID is only about half its correct lenght, and the centre arm of "F" in "OF" is missing, as shown in the photograph on page 17 of February, 1953.

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Revenue Stamps Postally Used.

In our March issue we mentioned that some of the 3d. Queen's Head revenue stamps had been used for postage on letters sent from Cape Town during December last year and thought at the time that the examples given were simply the result of the Christmas rush.

It would appear however that revenue stamps are being used for franking envelopes more frequently than one would at first imagine for we have been shown two from Kimberley bearing EXPRESS labels (fee 1/-) and revenue stamps, and a letter from Mr. E. Roux. Pretoria, gives a list of a dozen covers in his possession posted at various towns in the Union since August last year to February this year, all franked with 2d. Queen's Head revenue stamps. He notes that in only two instances was there a surcharge to pay and they were posted in Cape Town on the 7th and 8th of January, 1955.

Change in Roman Numerals for April Date Stamp.

The photograph of the machine cancellation mark shown in the accompanying illustration was sent to us by Mr. E. S. Whitlock of Graaff Reinet, Cape Province, with a query as to why the fourth month in the year has been set with the Roman numerals "IIII" instead of the usual "IV".



We have noticed on previous occasions that this little mistake crops up nearly every year on postal cancellations from one place or another and is undoubtedly simply the result of an error in setting up the date when changing from March to April.

SOME RECENT AUCTION PRICES

Robson Lowe.

Antigua 6d. 1863-67, £19/10/0.
Barbados 5/- 1873 'Specimen' £16.
Cayman Is. Cover with two ½d. of 1885 £47/10.
1908, 2½d. on 4d. mint, £36.
Jamaica 1859 cover with G.B. 1d. cancelled A74, £19.
St. Vincent 1880, 5/- unused £44.

H. R. Harmer.

U.P.U. Complete set G.B. and Colonies £7/15.
Canada $4 (S.G. 139) £12/10.
Cape 6d. (S.G. 7a) £21.
Gambia 4d. (S.G.1.) £34.
Union 1½d. Wmk. sideways (S.A.H. 4 Wg.) £21.
Belgian Congo 1895 10c. centre inverted £20.
Niger Coast ½d. in vermilion on 2½d. (S.G.31) pair £36.

J. H. Wicks.

Transvaal 1d. (S.G.55.) £7/10.
6d. (S.G.128) £10/10.
Nyasaland 1895 £10 'Specimen' £1/15.
S.W.A. 1927-30, 1/3 opt. in blue, £5.

Wants, Offers & Exchange

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

APPROVAL SELECTIONS INVITED. Top-grade copies only. Barbados, The Nigerias, St. Helena, Somaliland Protectorate. — WILLIAM REDFORD, Box 1182, Johannesburg.

WANTED. Common Southern African stamps, current or obsolete, on or off paper. Any quantity. Please state quantities available and price required. A. LICHTENSTEIN, Box 1117, Bloemfontein.

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.

Arrangements can be made to bind back-numbers at an additional charge of 2/6 per volume. On orders under 10/- please add postage. Early application is strongly recommended.—Business Manager, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

ORANGE FREE STATE. Am breaking up a magnificent collection containing most of the principal rarities.—DOUGLAS ROTH, Mona Crescent, Newlands, C.P

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

COMPLETE English - Afrikaans Philatelic Glossary. 3/6 post free.—Afrikaanse Filateliste-Vereniging, c/o. P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

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.

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

EXCHANGE desired. Wanted all Aerogrammes and air letter sheets, used and unused of the world. Have for exchange mint and used British Colonies, South and Central America, United States and European Commemoratives, Pictorials, new issues, etc. Correspondence welcomed. Sol. Whitman, 1462, Taylor Avenue, Bronx 60, New York City, United States.

FOR Lithographic Duplicating, Printing, Secretarial and Addressograph Service. Also Philatelic Translations. Contact: Framic (Pty.) Ltd. Telephone 44-0075, P.O. Box 11443, Johannesburg.

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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A PHILATELIC TRIP TO THE VICTORIA FALLS

By Dr. K. Freund.

The discovery of the Victoria Falls, nature's most magnificent spectacle in Southern Africa, will be celebrated by the Central African Federation with an issue of two stamps in June this year. When Dr. Livingstone came upon this majestic scenery on the 15th November, 1855 he was so much overwhelmed that he exclaimed: "Scenes so lovely must have been gazed upon by angels in their flight." The natives with him overawed by the tremendous thunder and spray of the cataracts, called the falls "Mosi oa Tunya", which means "The Smoke that thunders."

The Falls are one mile wide. Its Zambesi waters drop 340 feet, at one point even 355 feet, into a deep narrow gorge. Its greatest volume of water comprises 75 million gallons per minute during the month of April. At that time, mist and spray actually obscure the Falls.

Owing to their immensity, it is impossible to see the Falls in their entity at once, except by plane. There are several segments, the "Devil's Cataract", the "Main Falls" and the "Eastern Cataract", all of them impressive, but all of varying character and appearance.

If **you** would like to admire them in their entity but cannot afford a visit just yet, a fair substitute would be to undertake a **philatelic** excursion to them in the meantime and to enjoy the view from various angles leisurely at home. On the other hand if you have been their already, you may re-live your wonderful holiday by thumbing through your stamp album.

The postal authorities have made all the preparations for your "trip": They have put at your disposal quite a number of stamp issues featuring the Falls in various aspects. If you are a South African thematic collector, here is an appropriate and attractive subject for you. Let us see how we could arrange our "philatelic" excursion:

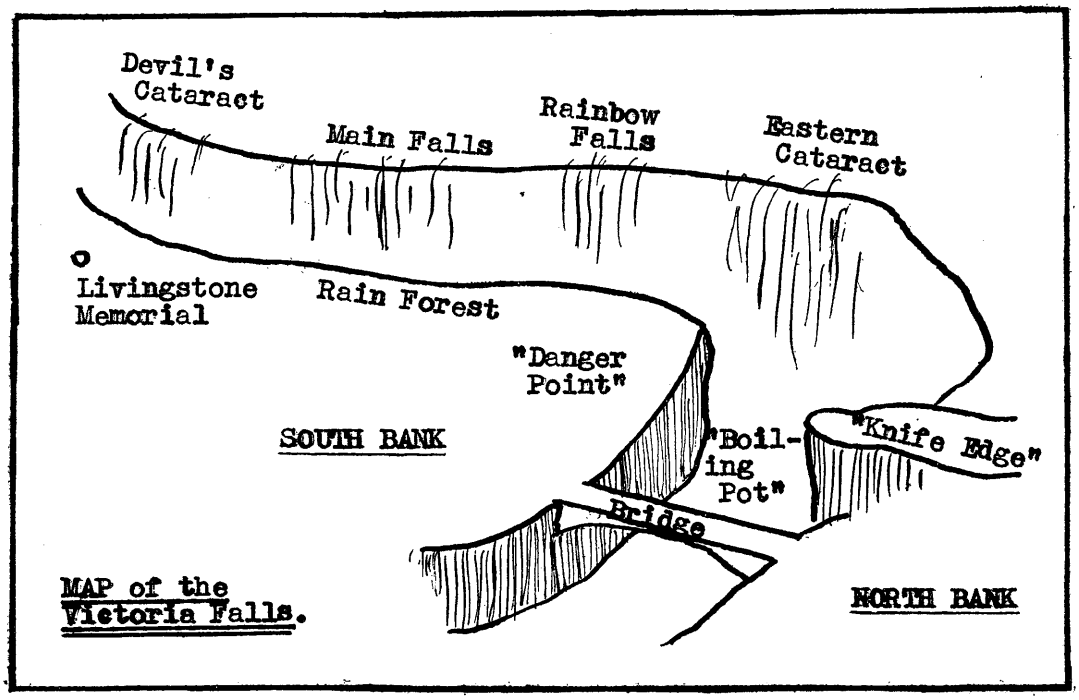
(1) Introductory "Guide".

Before we set out to "visit" the Falls,, let us first get acquainted with our object and have some data. We start off with one or two good **reproductions** of the Falls, preferably on **post cards** (first introductory page).
Then we need a **Map of the Falls** (second page), to find our bearings when wandering later on from view to view.

Thereafter we should be told something about the great discoverer of the Falls, **Dr. Livingstone** (I presume). The new 1/- Commemorative stamp offers us a large portrait of the great man in his younger years. Another stamp on this page could be the 1d. of the Centenary set of Southern Rhodesia (1952): Although most people do not realise it, the man attending to the native patients in the foreground is supposed to be none other than Livingstone. To round off this page, a clear complete postmark from the town "Livingstone" on an early stamp will indicate that this township situated near the Falls has honoured its great discoverer by adopting his name.

Our last preparation before visiting the Falls should be some information about the **dimensions** of the Victoria Falls **in comparison** to **other** famous Falls. Select an attractive stamp showing the Falls, say one of the Silver Jubilee stamps of S. Rhodesia, with a caption stating the data which we have given earlier on. Next to it place a U.S.A. stamp showing the Niagara Falls as for instance the quite common 25c. green of 1922, and add this caption in contrast: "The famous Niagara Falls, U.S.A. have a drop of only 170 feet".

And now we are off to see the Falls:



MAP of the Victoria Falls.

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(2) View from "Danger Point".
(BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY 13.7.1905).

First we have a front view of what appears to be the **"Eastern Cataract".** It appears on a set of five denominations which was issued in 1905 at the occasion of the visit of the British Association for the Advancement of Science and of the opening of the large Railway Bridge. This Cantilever Bridge can be seen on our Map and has a span of 500 feet. The design of the five stamps was based on a photograph by Percy M. Clark. The view of the falls is bordered by cliffs and bushes. The left cliff is known as the "Danger Point". while on the right is the cliff of the so-called "Knife Edge". Some misty spray can be observed on the right and at the bottom of the Falls. The inauguration year "1905" appears prominently in the left and right top corners of the stamps.

Besides a set in mint condition, the set can also be shown cancelled with a special postmark of the inauguration day, containing the words "British Association Victoria-Falls".

(3) A "Reduced" View.
(S. RHODESIA, 1931-33).

Now let us have the same view, but seen through the wrong end of our binoculars: A **reduced** version of the first scene comes into focus, but with details much clearer and sharper It appears on two stamps of **small** format, a 2d. and a 3d., which were issued in the George V. series of 1931/33. The misty spray has now disappeared on the side. The inscription "Victoria Falls" has also disappeared, probably because we are now familiar with the Falls. The words "Postage and Revenue" have replaced the original inscription.

(4) Back Again to the Full View.
(S. RHODESIA, 1932-41).

A number of stamps follow which are in size and appearance a replica of the 1905 issue. The view of the Falls is however re-drawn and sharper. The Falls appear more serene and majestic, and no misty spray can be seen anywhere this time. Two fancy stars in the top corners have replaced "1995", presumably to indicate that the Falls have now a "2 star" rating in the Baedecker Tourist Guide.—(a) In May, 1932, the stamps, a 2d. and a 3d. value, had an ornamental top bar and the perforation measured 12½.—(b) In 1935, the 2d. was again re-drawn and received the inscription "Postage and Revenue" in the top bar. The perforation gauge of 14.—(d) In 1941, the 2d. followed suit with the same perforation gauge 14.

All these stamps exist in a great variety of shades and of paper thickness.

(5) Some Wild Animals can be Sighted.
(SILVER JUBILEE, 6.5.1935).

On our sight-seeing tour of the Falls, some wild animals are now coming into the picture. By this we do not refer to some badly behaved visitors and their noisy children (the thunder of the Falls drowns any other noise anyway), but some captivating four-foot creatures. These friendly-looking beasts, a giraffe, an elephant, a lion and a buck, seem to have emerged from the deep bush or even from the Kruger National Park, attracted by the scenic wonder and its thundering. They can be seen on the four stamps of the Silver Jubilee set of 1935. The Falls themselves appear in the most delicate pastel shades, in striking contrast to the deep tones of the surrounding bush foliage. There can be no doubt that this is the most beautiful view we have ever seen (on a stamp).

(6) A Train crosses the Falls Bridge.
(CORONATION, 12.5.1937).

Now we have climbed up to the great Cantilever Bridge and stand this side next to the railings to have a good view of the "Eastern Cataract" (Coronation set of 4 stamps, 1937). Unfortunately, a train of the Rhodesian Railways is just pasing by. The prosaic smoke of the engine is slightly obscuring the great Falls, and the whole railway scene is spoiling the picture.

(7) View of the Falls Bridge from below.
(S. RHODESIA, 3.6.1940).

We hastily leave the Bridge therefore and climb down the so-called "North Bank" until we get right down near the water level and not far from the "Boiling Pot", as the boiling and foaming cauldron in the gorge below the Falls is called. The 4d. stamp of the 1940 Golden Jubilee set of Southern Rhodesia shows us this position. High up we see the great arch of the Cantilever Bridge which appears to us more impressive now. Through the Bridge, underneath, we can glance a section of the Falls, the "Eastern Cataract", almost opposite the so-called "Danger Point".

(8) Birds-eye View taken from a Plane.
(NORTHERN RHODESIA, 30.5.1953).

So far ,we did not see much of the more westward sections of the Falls. Let us therefore go up by plane and survey the whole stretch and the surrounding countryside. The "Rhodes

1955 ANPEX 1955
ADELAIDE TOWN HALL
October 17th to 22nd 1955
FIRST DAY COVER FACILITIES

POSTMASTER GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
Special commemorative stamp of 3½d. value. Commemorative registration label, and cancellation stamp together with a special postal service in the Town Hall, where the cancellation stamp will be used. Two colours will be used, one for the First Day, and the other for the remainder of the exhibition. Both will be different to the ordinary BLACK cancellation.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA ADVISORY COUNCIL
Official First Day Covers ..... 3d. each.
Commemorative Stickers ..... 1d. each.

SERVICING CHARGES
(All monies so collected are for the ANPEX Funds).
Single stamp on self addressed cover ..... 1d. each
Surface mail. (All covers) ..... 3d. each
Air Mail. Registered Mail. Reg. Air Mail 6d. each
Mint Stamps, per dozen or part thereof ..... 3d.

Please add servicing charges to postage with airmail, or registered fee or both, plus cost of First Day Covers (if required) and stickers and send remittance to cover all, IN AUSTRALIAN CURRENCY to:—

Mr. C. R. CURTIS,
100, Price Avenue, CLAPHAM, South Australia.
Convenor for First Day Covers ANPEX 1955.—Exchange Supt. Philatelic Society of South Australia.

Stamp Dealers interested in First Day Covers should write direct to Mr. Curtis.

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Centenary" set of Northern Rhodesia, 1953, gives us on 5 stamps this aerial picture. Far below, in the right foreground, we can spot the Railway Bridge, small like a toy. As the picture is taken high above the "North Bank", the arch of the bridge is seen from the "left" side. The tumbling waters of the Falls are hardly visible, as most sections of the Falls are covered by a hazy mist created by the enormous up-shooting spray.

(9) Aerial View of the "Rainbow" Section.
(S. RHODESIA, 31.8.1953).

Flying lower down, more towards the "South Bank", we get a better and clearer picture of other sections of the Falls. The resulting picture appears on the 4½d. stamp of the last Queen Elizabeth set issued individualy by S. Rhodesia before the formation of the Central African Federation. The original photograph was taken by John Rau and Ronald D. K. Hadden, and a large reproduction of it appeared in "Gibbons Stamp Monthly", March 1955. The view shows the Railway Bridge this time from the "right" side, but the cantilever arch is practically hidden by the top-runway which gleams white from far above. Three sections of the Falls come into view: a small top part of the "Eastern Cataract", the whole top ledge of the "Rainbow Falls" and a part of the so-called "Main Falls". The latter two sections of the Falls show a magnificent high--shooting spray which reaches far above the ledge and the cliff tops.

(10) Back Again to the Starting Point.
(Central African Federation, 15.6.1955).

At the end of our "philatelic" excursion, we come back to our starting point: The two new stamps of the "Livingstone" commemorative set return to the orginal design as far as the view of the Falls is concerned.While the 3d. stamp shows some Natives in tbe foreground and an aircraft flying overhead, and the 1/- value has



the Livingstone portrait on the left side, both stamps present again the section of the Falls which appears to be the "Eastern Cataract", bordered by cliffs and bushes.

Saying good-bye to the Victoria Falls, we end our "philatelic excursion with one of the attractive bi-coloured "Centenary" First Day covers which are issued by the Philatelic Society of Southern Rhodesia as a souvenir.

SOUTH AFRICA

1927/28 Set complete S.G. 34-39.**£11. 0. 0.**
2d. S.G. 34 **6/6:** 3d. S.G. 35 **10/-:** 4d. S.G. 35a **15/-:** 1/- S.G. 36 **£1. 5. 0.**
2/6 S.G. 37 **£2:** 5/- S.G. 38 **£3.**
1930/45 3d. S.G. 45 **15/-:** 3d. S.G. 45a **6/6:** 4d. S.G. 46 **11/6:** 6d. S.G. 47 **12/6:** 1/- S.G. 48 **13/6:**
2/6 S.G. 49a **10/-.**
1933/48 ½d. S.G. 54a **6/-:** Strip of four with gutter between **15/-**
½d. S.G. 56b **7/6:** Strip of four with gutter between **£1.**
1½d. S.G. 57 **2/-:** Block of four from each of four corners **£1. 5. 0.**
Pair with Broken Chimney, **10/-:** Pair with Flag on Small Chimney **7/6.**
1½d. S.G. 57a **1/6:** block of four from each of four corners **17/6:** Booklet pane **10/-**
2d. S.G. 58 **£1. 17. 6.:** Block of four from left corner of sheet inc. variety at Row 20/2 **£4.**
2d. S.G. 58a Block of four top left corner of sheet inc. variety at Row 2/2,**10/-:** Block of four from bottom left corner inc. variety Row 20/2 **10/-:** Sheet No. block of four, **10/-**
3d. S.G. 59 on toned paper **2/-.**
6d. S.G. 61 **£1:** Block of four with Mole Hill variety **£2. 10. 0.**
Block of four with Green Top to Tree **£2. 15. 0.**
5/- S.G. 64 **£1:** 10/- S.G. 64b **£1. 12. 6.:** 10/- S.G. 64ba **£1. 4. 0.**

Postage Dues.
1914/22 Set complete S.G. D1-D7 **£2.**
1922 Set complete S.G. D8-D10 **4/-.**

Officials.
1926 2d. S.G. O1 Block of four **£2. 10. 0.:** ½d. S.G. O2 Block of four **12/6.**
1d. S.G. O3 Block of four **4/-.**
1928/29 2d. S.G. O5 Block of four **2/6:** 2d. S.G. O6 Block of four **2/-:**
6d. S.G. O7 Block of four **£1.**
1929 ½d. S.G. O8a in Block of four with S.G. O8 **8/6:** 6d. S.G. O10 Blk of four **7/6.**
1930/46 ½d. S.G. O11b in Block of six with S.G. O11 **10/-.**
1d. S.G. O13a in Block of four with S.G. O13 **10/-:** 1d. S.G. O13b in Block of four with S.G. O13 **15/-.**

All Mint except as stated.

The above is only a small selection of what we have available in our stock of Union stamps. We also hold good stocks of Rhodesia, Southern Rhodesia and South West Africa, as well as of all other British Colonial issues.

B. J. HUNTER

79, Marine Parade, Brighton, 7, Sussex England.

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REVIEW

A Handbook of K.G VI issues of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, by R. D. Barrington. This book is sponsored by the Nairobi Stamp Club and distributed for them by "Stamp Collecting" Ltd., 42, Maiden Lane, London, W.C.2. Price 10/-

This book, well printed and bound, covers all the definitive, provisional, commemorative and postage due issues of K.U.T.

With a reasonable number of illustrations, it gives a comprehensive listing of varieties, shades, perfs., retouches, re-entries, papers, and plate numbers. The Potter tables of the various printings are reproduced.

A.P.O's, Naval Postmarks, Air Letter Forms and Censor marks of the 1940-45 Campaign are fully considered, with references to fuller listings which exist, and even the postal services of the Mau-Mau rebellion are dealt with.

My advice is KUT your other stamp buying by 10/- to get this handbook.

J.B.

FIRST 1st DAY COVERS.

When would you think the rush for 1st day covers started? We suggest that the claims of the 10th January, 1840 for this honour be seriously considered, i.e. about 4 months earlier than the appearance of the Penny Blacks. The claim is based on the following quotation kindly sent us by Miss P. M. Speight, Acting City Librarian, at the Johannesburg Public Library, who thought it might be of interest to philatelists:—

> "1840, Jan. 10th—Today the penny postage commenced; a great crowd collected at the post-office, putting in letters,—which were in vast number, as people had refrained from writing, awaiting the opening of the penny post. The band was playing in front of the office."

She adds: This quotation is from **Wanderings of a Pilgrim in Search of the Picturesque** (v.2, p. 339) by Mrs. Fanny Parks, published in 1850 by Pelham Richardson in London. Mrs. Parks was the wife of an Indian civil servant, and kept a diary from 1822 to 1847 while she was in India and during their periods of leave in Europe and at the Cape. Unfortunately it is not clear from the context whether she was in Knapton (Ireland) or in Liverpool on 10th January, 1840, but as her journal is a rare collector's piece, the quotation will probably not be generally known to philatelists.

CANADA

On 1st June there was issued a 5c. blue commemorative for the International Civil Aviation Organisation which is a United Nations agency with headquarters in Canada. It depicts a dove, with the dates 1945-1955.

It is announced that a Boy Scout commemorative will soon appear.

VICTORIA FALLS CENTENARY.

Thanks to Mme. Claire Birsen, Lalapanzi, and Mr. Willem C. Kunn of Kitwe for 1st day covers of the two special commemorative stamps.

We regret that we cannot raise much enthusiasm for the stamps themselves; the designs are allright, but the colours are very wishy-washy.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION FINLAND, 1956.

An International Philatelic Exhibition is to be held in Helsinki, Finland from 7-15 July, 1956, to commemorate the Centenary of the first postage stamps of Finland.

It is evidently going to be on an extensive scale as they hope to have about 3,000 frames on show. There will be no charges to exhibitors except for insurance.

The Editor (in his personal capacity) has been asked to serve as Commissioner for S.A. for the Exhibition. As such he will be pleased to receive names and addresses from those who might think of exhibiting; these will be forwarded to the organising committee and Exhibition Bulletins, when ready, will be sent directly to them.

ISRAEL.

On 26th April, there was a special 150 pruta stamp commemorating the Seventh Anniversary of the Proclamation of the State of Israel; the design is the Emblem of Israel with seven arms of the Menora lighted.

The Youth Aliyah set of 6 values (5 to 750 pruta) were due for issue about 10th May.

There is to be soon an issue of 12 stamps, each with the heraldic symbol of one of the twelve tribes.

AUSTRIA.

A set of 5 stamps noting the 10th anniversary of the end of German occupation were put on sale on 22nd April, and became valid for postage on 27th April, the actual date of liberation.

½d BANTAMS.

The Editor,
S.A. Philatelist.

Dear Sir,

I have come to the conclusion that there must have been two cylinders used for the above stamps, one for Printings I to III and a different unreported Cylinder for Printings IV and V. My reasons are as follows.

The retouching has been done to the multipositive because :—

1. The diagonal screening shows up quite clearly on the retouched portions of the stamps If retouching had been done to the Cylinder there would have been no signs of screening.
2. Retouching to a Cylinder can only be done by cutting lines into the copper surface with an etching tool or graver. There are no signs of this, in fact the retouching is of such a kind that it could not have been done by a graver.
3. On the contrary the redrawn tops show all the signs of the usual touching up done to a photographic plate. The brushwork can be seen, particularly on No. 17, and vertical strokes in the corners on Nos. 3, 5, 6 and 7.

And as the glass multipositive plate only comes into use once for each particular cylinder, then it follows that a 2nd cylinder came into use in March 1945, which by oversight was not reported to you by the Postal Authorities.

Yours faithfully,
ARGUS.

Prague Exhibition—Sept. 1955.

The Entry date for this exhibition has been extended, so you may still be in time if you write **at once by air.** Forms obtainable from Mr. L. Buchen, 176 Market Street, Johannesburg, Commissioner for South Africa.

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THE AIRGRAPHS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA 1941-1945

By I. H. C. Godfrey

TEN YEARS will have elapsed in July 1955, since the final AIRGRAPH despatches were made to and from all countries which participated in this wartime method of conveying mails by air. Many readers, by now, have almost forgotten the existence of this useful emergency service; a few, perhaps, among the younger or more recent arrivals in this country may never have heard of it, whilst the majority undoubtedly, do not realise the interest that can be had in collecting used and unused varieties of these historical pieces of Postal Stationery, or their intrinsic value. Except for the topical references during the war years, nothing has appeared in the local Philatelic Press on this sideline of philately and no comprehensive survey has hitherto been published.

In 1941, when Britain stood alone in her fight for freedom, her shipping and air fleets sadly depleted, it was vital, for the sake of morale, that some means should be devised to enable members of her Land, Sea and Air Forces stationed in the Middle East and Africa to communicate as speedily and as cheaply as possible with relatives and friends in their Home countries. The problem was solved by introducing the AIRGRAPH (also known after the United States' entry into the war as the "V . . . — Mail"). The War Office, Air Ministry, Admiralty and Post Office co-operated with the well known photographic firm of KODAK LTD. (whose founder George Eastman was honoured last year by a commemorative postage stamp in the U.S.A.) in perfecting machinery for expediting written messages by means of microphotography.

On 22nd April, 1941, Postal Notice No. 1751 was issued by the G.P.O., London, reading:—

"NOVEL AND SPEEDY LETTER SERVICE FROM THE MIDDLE EAST FORCES.

The Postmaster-General announces that in order to meet the need for cheapening and expediting homeward postal communication from the British Forces in the Middle East, the Post Office is introducing an Airgraph Service — the first of its kind in the world. Under this system a letter will be less than a fortnight in transit. The charge from the Middle East to this country will be 3d. Ordinary air mail letters, owing to the weight involved, have to be carried part of the way by sea and take much longer on the journey. "This remarkable change in the speed and cost of letter transmission is being effected by harnessing photographic science to the Postal Services. Working in co-operation with Messrs. Kodak, the War Office believes that a solution to the problem of the long time taken by correspondence from our Forces in the Middle East has been found.

The operations of the Airgraph Services can be summarised as follows:—

1. The sender writes his message on a special form 11 inches by 8 inches. In a panel at the foot he prints the address in block letters.
2. The completed form is then photographed on a very small film, the letter being reduced many times its original size.
3. The miniature film is sent by aeroplane to its destination.
4. On arrival of the film an enlargement measuring 5 inches by 4 inches — about a quarter the size of the original — is made.
5. The enlargement is placed in an envelope, with the block printed address showing in the cut-out panel, and delivered in the usual way.
6. The original letters are eventually destroyed.

The homeward Airgraph Service from the Forces in the Middle East to this country will begin almost at once, and a similar outward service from Great Britain to the Middle East will be started as soon as the necessary technical arrangements can be completed. In the Middle East members of His Majesty's Forces will be able to obtain the necessary forms which, when completed, would be handed in with stamps affixed in accordance with information issued locally.

The Airgraph Service is being introduced because of the great reduction in weight and space caused by films replacing the original correspondence. Thus 4,500 film negatives of letters will weigh only one pound. An equivalent number of ordinary letters would weigh one and a half hundredweights. Therefore, all the negatives can be sent by air to their destination, and it is possible to fix a much lower charge than is at present possible for an ordinary air mail letter.

It may be said that this system will be less private than ordinary correspondence, but the difference is more apparent than real. Under an arrangement of this kind it is obvious that a communication cannot be sent in a sealed envelope throughout its transmission, but the Airgraph letters will be delivered in envelopes and in this respect they can be likened to telegrams.

Of course, the Airgraph Service is only supplementary to the normal service, and correspondents not wishing to avail themselves of this cheap and more speedy method of communication can continue to use the existing facilities.

A great deal of effort has been spent upon organising this Airgraph Service as quickly as possible. Special filming equipment has been sent to the Middle East, and an expert of the Kodak Company has gone out.

"Owing to certain difficulties the inward and outward services cannot commence at the same time. It is hoped, however, that the first Airgraph letters from the Middle East will begin to arrive in this country very shortly. The outward service will be started as soon as the necessary technical arrangements can be completed."

As mentioned in the above Notice, the essence of the AIRGRAPH was to photograph letters on to a tiny film — 16mm. cine film being used — at such a degree reduction that the photographic image occupied only 1/250ths of the area of the original and approximately one-hundredth of the weight. (The photographing was done at the rate of 1,500 an hour after the forms had been numbered in the top right corner at the rate of 70 to 80 a minute.) An aeroplane could thus carry roughly one hundred times the number of letters each trip —

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a very important factor at that critical period of the war when every available inch of aircraft space had to be used most profitably. A further advantage, not mentioned in the Notice, was that, in the event of an aeroplane being lost by enemy action or otherwise, the original manuscript forms could be re-photographed as they were kept until notice of safe arrival of the films had reached the G.P.O.

The Postal Notice avers that the service would be the first of its kind in the world. This is incorrect as, seventy years earlier during the Franco-Prussian War, the same technique had been employed. Written messages, costing 5d. a word, were micro-photographed in London, flown into beseiged Paris by carrier pigeons, and projected on to a screen by means of a magic-lantern. (Postal Notice dated 19th November, 1870.)

Occasionally it was found more expeditious to post the original hand-written messages by ordinary airmail than to have them photographed. Also letters from Great Britain addressed to destinations to which the AIRGRAPH service did not operate were sent by air after being rubber-stamped by the G.P.O. "Airgraph Service not available. Forwarded by air mail." Such items are extremely rare.

The first batch of AIRGRAPHS numbering some 50,000 reached the United Kingdom from the Middle East on 13th May, 1941, and the subsequent popularity of the service can be gauged by the fact that no less than **three hundred million** messages were sent by this means up to the time the service ceased to operate on 31st July, 1945.

The term "Southern Africa — usually applied to Africa south of the Equator — must necessarily be extended in this article to embrace the Occupied Enemy Territories (O.E.T.) of Abyssinia and Italian Somalia, as their postal services during the period under review came within the orbit of British East Africa.

The chaotic state of overseas communications during 1941/2 in certain African areas, due mainly to the acute shortage of aircraft, is clearly shewn by the length of time many of the earlier AIRGRAPHS took to reach their destinations.

INAUGURATION OF AIRGRAPH SERVICES IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER.

(Note: "F" indicates Forces mail — "C" Civilian mail.)

Date of Despatch.	Arrival	
15 8 41		G.B.—Kenya, Uganda Tanganyika & O.E.T. (F)
1 9 41	28 10 41	Abyssinia—G.B., via Cairo.
15 11 41	18 12 41	Southern Rhodesia — G.B. Special Christmas concession for members of the R.A.F. only.
17 3 42		Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, O.E.T. & Nyasaland. (F) — G.B.
1 5 42	18 5 42	Union of South Africa—G.B. (C & F).
18 5 42		Southern Rhodesia—G.B. (C) 8d. postage.
21 5 42		G.B.—Seychelles, via Nairobi. (C).
10 9 42	9 10 42	G.B.—Southern Rhodesia (F)
	7 10 42	Union of South Africa (C & F) Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Madagascar, Mauritius. (F).
20 11 42	12 1 43	Southern Rhodesia—Canada (C & F).
4 3 43		Southern Rhodesia Government introduced A/Gs for commercial purposes—specially printed forms.
1 6 43	30 6 43	G.B.—Madagascar (C).
18 8 43	21 9 43	Southern Rhodesia — New Zealand (C & F).
	29 9 43	Fiji Is. & Tonga.
	1 10 43	New Hebrides.
25 8 43	18 9 43	Kenya—New Zealand &c. (C & F).
1 9 43		New Zealand—Southern Africa. (C & F).
25 10 43		Civilian postage rate from Union and Southern Rhodesia reduced to 3d. from 8d. Previously the 3d. rate was only applicable to Forces mail.
31 7 45	14 -21 8 45	FINAL AIRGRAPH DESPATCHES FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA.

Note: Prior to June 1943, postage stamps were affixed to the back of Airgraph forms and postmarked: from then on the postmarks were applied at the top right corner of the forms. Delivery envelopes were date stamped at destination.

(To be Continued).

KENYA, UGANDA, TANGANYIKA.

Two new values are to be added to the current set; 65c., shewing Mt. Kilimanjaro (as on current 2/-), and 1s. 20c. shewing elephants (as on current 5/-). These values meet many of the present rates on postcards and letters.

EXPLOITAPEX.

Under this title Gibbons Stamp Monthly condemns the practice at Exhibitions where stamps specially prepared for the occasion are sold to collectors **only on condition that the entry fee to the exhibition is also paid for.** This charge (which adds in some cases 400 per cent to the face value of the stamps) is on each set whether purchased by personal visit or by post. It is certainly a case of holding collectors to ransom, and the plea that it is necessary to raise funds to cover the cost of the exhibition should not be allowed to prostitute stamps in this way.

EXCHANGE WANTED.

Mr. N. S. Sampson, of 4710 Linton Avenue, Apartment 9, Montreal, Canada wishes to exchange with collectors in Southern Africa.

CENTRAL AFRICAN FEDERATION.

The last definitive issues of Southern and Northern Rhodesia and of Nyasaland were demonetised on July 1st.

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NEW REPUBLIC
STAMPS and POSTAL HISTORY

By

J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

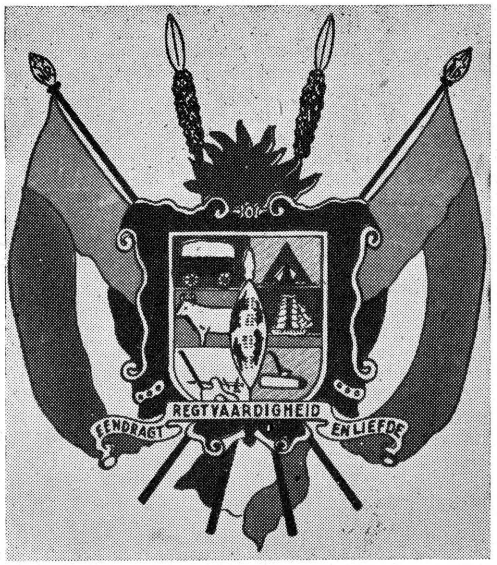
(continued from page 101 of June issue).

The first task of the new state was the cutting-up of the land into farms. A survey party of sixteen was appointed to make the lay-out and it is interesting to note that one of them was Louis Botha, a name later on to become famous in the Z.A.R. and in the Union of South Africa. It was fairly early recognised that their ideas had been somewhat grandiose and a second survey, making the farms all smaller, was authorised; this was not completed until the middle of 1886.

Vryheid was decided on as the site of the capital.

The New Republic was fully provided with the outward symbols of sovereignty. The Flag, as described by R. Gerard in his "Flags over South Africa", and understood to have been designed by Julius Jeppe, a former Postmaster-General of the Z.A.R., was four- coloured. There was a vertical pale (strip nearest the flagpole) in blue and 3 horizontal strips, red, white and green, in that order from above downwards. Gerard states further that by Volksraad resolution para. 139 of 13.11.1884 the flag was charged with four small ones; a Union Jack on the blue pale, a Vierkleur (Transvaal) on the red stripe, on the white stripe the flag of the Orange Free State, and on the green stripe another Union Jack. No such flag is known ever to have been made, however.

The Coat-of-arms, which is seen embossed on the later stamps of the Republic, and which incidentaly ,is now incorporated in the seal of the town of Vryheid, when seen in colour is rather suggestive of Joseph's coat of many colours. There is first of all the blue, red, white and green of the flanking flags; the flame between the two centre assegais, the little panel below "Regt Vaardigheid", the background of the ox-wagon, the triangle in the top right panel of the central shield, and the sky background of the ship are of a greenish yellow colour; the backgrounds of the top and bottom panels on the right-hand side of the central shield are a stippled pink; the back-ground to the ox and the sea below the ship are blue; finally the surround to the central shield is a stippled brown. The motto on the riband below the central shield is "EENDRAGT REGTVAARDIGHEID EN LIEFDE" meaning "Union, Justice and Charity", The tops to the two flagpoles each contain the letters "NR". The New Republic was not at first officialy recognised **de jure** by Great Britain even if they had to admit its existence **de facto.** This was probably mainly because, although it was set up as an independent republic, its affinity with the Transvaal was obviously such as was liable to give the latter direct access to the sea and the prevention of this had for long been a cardinal point in British policy in South Africa.



A secondary reason for non-recognition was possibly piqué. It must have been rather hard to admit that a handfull of farmers had successfully brought peace to Zululand where their policy had failed.

Another factor came into the picture when it was rumoured that a German in the employ of the Z.A.R. who had acquired a large cession from Dinizulu around St. Lucia Bay, was about to sell it to an agent of the indefatigable Herr Luderitz. The British then bethought themselves of a treaty made in 1843 with Panda, father of Cetywayo and King of the Zulus at that time. St. Lucia Bay was ceded to them at that time but no actual occupation of the area ever took place. It was felt, however that now was the time to act on this old treaty; a warship was sent to St. Lucia Bay, the British flag raised and formal annexation proclaimed. The plenipotentiaries of the New Republic sought help over this high-handed action (as they regarded it) in France, Holland and Germany. There was a chorus of protests from Vryheid, from Pretoria and from Berlin but the thing was done and the only serviceable harbour between Durban and Lourenco Marques was in British hands.

That the British fear of St. Lucia Bay giving the Z.A.R. a seaport was no figment of the imagination is shown by the accompanying map, published in **Petermann's Geographische Mitteilungen** Vol. 31, 1885, p. 426. It shows the New

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Republic with the boundaries as originally claimed for it, also a projected railway running from St. Lucia Bay through the New Republic to link up with the railways in the Z.A.R. via Vryheid and Utrecht.

This map was the outcome of a visit to the New Republic by a Herr Einwald and a Captain Schiel in 1885. A copy of it was sent on publication to the New Republic authorities and it was pasted on the door of a cabinet belonging to D. J. Esselen. Here it remained, lost sight of or unrecognised for 49 years, and it was only rediscovered in 1933.

Although discussions took place between British authorities and representatives of the New Republic early in 1886, it was not until October of that year that agreement between them was reached.

This agreement, which involved official recognition of the New Republic by Great Britain, resulted in a very considerable reduction in the area ceded by the Zulus, from a little over 4,000 sq. miles to under 3,000. It will be noted from the sketch map on page 101 that the St. Lucia area and the whole of the eastern part of Zululand were excluded from becoming part of the New Republic; Zululand was left in fact practically with the area it has at the present time.

Before this settlement took place there was a period of serious doubt as to whether the Imperial Government would not repudiate the Boer claims altogether and many of the New Republican burghers were of opinion that incorporation with Natal would be the safest way of retaining the land gained from the Zulus.

No actual move was made in this direction, however, and when it was learned that the British were dickering with the New Republic and likely to recognise it as an independent state, even if on a reduced scale, they were all for independence and there was a boom in the price of farms.

For a time all went well with the new state; the Volksraad occupied itself mainly with matters of detail relating to the occupation of farms by the burghers and with the collection of hut-tax which was the principal source of revenue in the early stages. It is recorded that a rough census revealed that there were some 29,000 natives in ward 2 alone (**i.e.** the north-western portion of the state). This figure was given by Louis Botha who had become Field-Cornet of this Ward.

And what about the Zulus themselves all this time? They saw pretty nearly their whole country being steadily beaconed off into farms but all they could do was to protest.

In Jan., 1886 they sent a petition to Queen Victoria and in April a second appeal. As a

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result of this the British asked the New Republic to send a deputation to Durban to discuss matters. This was a failure, however, as the deputation was completely intransigeant over any reduction of boundaries and over the matter of their having a Protectorate over the unabsorbed portion of Zululand.

In May, 1886 Dinizulu again complained to the British. Another meeting was held in October between representatives of Britain and the New Republic and this time the agreement already mentioned was arrived at. The Republic agreed to the restriction of area described and gave up their clame to suzerainty over the unannexed portion of Zululand.

Actualy Zululand was annexed by Britain as a colony the following year, 1887, being placed under a Resident and the Governor of Natal. One of the early results of this annexation was the banishment of Dinizulu to St. Helena in 1888. He had been residing within the area of the New Republic but fell out with its authorities and fled to British Zululand. Shortly afterwards he became entangled in disturbances and as a result was deported.

The deposition of Dinizulu pretty well concided with the passing of the New Republic. After a comparitively uneventful year in 1887, that South African bugbear "politics" somehow or other crept into the state. President Meyer found increasing opposition to his Government and, fearing defeat at the next election, entered into negotiations with President Kruger and the Z.A.R. Before an election and a change of Government could take place the New Republic found itself willy-nilly incorporated in the South African Republic (Z.A.R.) it made its exit from independent statehood in a sound financial position, on 20th July, 1888.

It became a magistracy of the Z.A.R., a condition lasting for only twelve years. After the Anglo-Boer wer it was ceded, together with portions of the Utrecht and Wakkerstroom districts, to Natal.

(To be Continued).

FRANCE

The following commemoratives were officially announced for the dates shown:—

4th June—A 30fr. stamp for the 50th anniversary of the death of Jules Verne; showing his portrait and his **Nautilus.**

6th June—A 50fr. air-mail stamp in memory of Maryse Bastié, pioneer airwoman.

13th June—A series of six semi-postals featuring famous Frenchmen: Philippe Auguste, Malherbe, Vauban, Vergennes, Laplace, and Renoir.

SWITZERLAND

The annual "Pro Patria" issue of semi-postals was due for release on 1st June. The five stamps this year feature:— 5c. Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich; 10c, River Saane; 20c, Lake Aegeri; 30c. Grappelensee; 40c. Lake Bienna. The 5c. has a surcharge of 5c., the other 10c. each. 90% of the surcharges will go to the mountain population, 10% to the Swiss Art Research Institute.

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U.S.A.

An unexpected stamp honouring the Armed Forces Reserve was issued on 21st May. A 3c. stamp picturing five branches of the Reserve—Marines, Coast Guard, Army, Navy and Air Force.

Commemoratives for some considerable time past have been of 3c. denomination. It is rumoured, however, that the basic letter rate is to be raised soon to 4c. so 3-centers will no longer be the common everyday stamp.

New Hampshire is to have its first special stamp sometime soon; it will feature The Old Man of the Mountain, a rock profile on a cliff of the White Mountains above Franconia Notch.

CLOAK AND DAGGER

Why occupy your time in the vicarious excitement of "thrillers" when you can savour the real thrills of personal action in hunting up those Covers (and their stories) that are associated with the mysteries and achievements of aviation in the past two generations?

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SHORT NOTICES.

Commemorative Stamps of the British Commonwealth. This book, by H. D. S. Haverbeck, the Hon. Sec. of the Collectors' Club of New York, is being published by Messrs. Faber and Faber of 24, Russel Square, London. Price 25/-.

The first part describes philatelically and historically the commemorative stamps specially issued by Great Britain and each dominion, colony, and protectorate of the British Empire up to the end of the reign of K.G. VI. The second part gives details in tabulated form of the uniform series issued for the colonies.

It is illustrated by nearly 600 photographic reproductions. The name of the author is sufficient guarantee that the work will be a scholarly, full and accurate production.

Lufthansa Airflights. Waltham Stamp Co., of 152, Finchley Road, London N.W.3. informs us that they arranged the philatelic mail service for the first flight of the resuscitated Lufthansa Service from London to Germany on 16th May. Practically 1,500 covers were carried to various points. The firm will also handle all future first flight series for Lufthansa.

Fipex. We have received the first prospectus of Fipex (Fifth International Philatelic Exhibition to be held in the U.S.A.) It is being held in New York, March 3-11, 1956, in the New York Coliseum. The Prospectus deals mainly with this fabulous building, occupying two city blocks and costing a mere 35 million dollars. Fipex is to be the main feature of the opening of the building; it was chosen for this honour because of its truly international character.

Il Collezionista. A monthly magazine — The Collector — official organ of the Italian Stamp Dealer's Association. Price, 1,000 French francs per annum, reduced to 800 for Philatelic Societies. Contents appear to be mainly of interest to dealers although there are a few articles of general interest. All in Italian.

Meridian. We have received a prospectus and membership list of this International **Stamp Exchange and Correspondence Club.** It appears to be well run and on a fairly extensive scale, with members all over the world. The annual subscription is 7/-. Address: Gertrud Meyer, Markplatz 32, Schwabisch Gmund. W. Germany.

United Nations, its Stamps and Postal History. The postal activities of the U.N. — the first international organization to issue and use its own stamps — are recorded in this book by Douglas Patrick, a Canadian philatelist. It is obtainable from the Ryerson Press, Toronto, or from the U.N. Bookshop at U.N. Headquarters, New York. Price $4.00.

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SOCIETY NEWS.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The **May** monthly meeting of the Society was held in the Berea Hall on the 11th instant and was greatly enjoyed by the 22 members and 4 visitors who attended. Two exhibits were tabled the first being Dr. Been's mint collection of Southern Rhodesit, which recently won the "Allen" cup at a meeting of the Pretoria Society, and the second was a fine exhibit of "Airmails" by Mr. D. Brown our exchange superintendent. Mr. Slater-Kinghorn spoke on the two exhibits, thanking both members for displaying their entertaining collections.

A lively auction of stamps donated by members towards the Kachelhoffer Fund concluded the business of the evening and brought in a further 35/-. This is still far short of the target and the Committee would be grateful for donations which, if desired, may also be debited against members' accounts. Stamps too, will be acceptable as these can be disposed of by auction.

It is with sincere regret that we record the death of Mr. Don Young. He was one of the most popular of our members and very rarely missed a meeting. He always had a cheery word for everybody and his passing will leave a big gap which will be very difficult to fill. To Eric and Mrs. Walker I would like to express the Society's deepest sympathies. The passing of Mrs. A. Alexander, wife of our Cape Town member, and Mr. Funston, father of a Pretoria member is also recorded and to Messrs. Alexander and Funston I express the Society's sincerest condolences. P.M.J.M.

PHIILATELIC SOCIETY OF THE WESTERN RAND

The monthly meeting for May was held at the Krugersdorp Town Hall on **Wednesday May 25th** 1955, at 8 p.m.

Mr. W. S. Yelland presided with 14 members and 8 visitors present.

Two new members, Messrs. Richards and Scarfe, were welcomed to the Society.

After the formal business was disposed of, Mr. Yelland handed over to Dr. Harvey-Pirie who was in charge of the Johannesburg Philatelic Society's contingent who were paying their annual visit to the West Rand.

Johannesburg members displayed four collections as follows:—

An interesting thematic collection of "relief" cancellations by Mr. A. Duigan, followed by portion of Commander C. E. D. Enoch's 20th century Siam, Mr. H. W. Vleghert's portion of Holland and Dr. P. Keller's portion of Poland.

It was an "out of the ordinary" display for all the collections were foreign ones.

Messrs. Burrell, Yelland, Keet and Simpkins spoke on the exhibits.

The meeting terminated at 10,15 p.m. B.S.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN.

12th May. Visit to the University of Cape Town Philatelic Society when members saw the plating of the 2d. Queen Union Coronation stamp by Dr. T. B. Davie.

26th May. Mr. A. E. F. Murray showed "Nigeria" and "Free French Cameroons". Both were very fine exhibits and included many rare items, principal among which were a block of 18 of the orange yellow 4d. Kings, a corner block of £1, and first flight covers 1936 Lagos to England with full sets of stamps (Nigeria) and no less than three covers flown with the full sets of "Spitfire" stamps, the "Valmy" stamps, and the Gen. de Gaulle stamps. Mr. Murray gave a fine talk which included something on the history and countries shown in the stamps. The evening was one enjoyed by the members and was well attended.

9th June. At a very well attended meeting Mr. S. Kaganson showed U.S.A. Commemoratives. This was a bright exhibit and members showed much interest. There were in addition the Airmail stamps, the definitives since 1922 up to 1950, and special delivery stamps. Of great interest were the fine first day covers issued.

THE CAPE TOWN THEMATIC CLUB

9th May. Mr. A. Sydow showed his "Shakespeare and Music on Stamps". This was even more interesting than his previous showing and carried with it the history of the Musicians. He also showed the Liberty Cavalcade Stamps, original blocks, etc. and gave a lengthy talk on their printing, as well as reproduction of Stamps generally.

23rd May. The All Members evening proved as usual a big draw and was attended by a number of visitors. On this occasion the following was shown: Miscellaneous Covers by Mrs. H. M. Scott; Union Booklets, with plating, by Mr. A. Simson; Early Great Britain stamps used overseas, by Mr. F. Sinnott; Indo-China, Laos, Cambodia and Viet-Namh by Capt. M. F. Stern. There is little doubt of the popularity of these meetings and it gives the opportunity for members to show small lots of interesting items.

13th June. The second half of the thematic collection, "Architecture on Stamps" was exhibited by Capt. M. F. Stern. This covered the Modern structures, and non-historical styles, such as China, Japan, India, and also Architectural Engineering and Bridges. Other interesting sections were:— British Colonial Architecture, and those of other European countries; Mohammedan; Exposition and Fair Buildings; Architect and Builder; Destruction and Reconstruction. This subject is no easy one to handle and members showed interest in the setting out of this exhibit.

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

12th May. The Society was host to the Royal of Cape Town and a large number attended to see Dr. T. B. Davie's Plating of the 2d. Queen's Coronation stamp of the Union. Needless to say, the Principal of University showed his scientific training in this amazing study of one stamp and gave a fine talk on how this was done with slides to illustrate his talk. To the ordinary collector it was an eye-opener and to the specialist a real lesson in patience and correct approach to such a piece of philatelic investigation.

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

2nd May. Mr. and Mrs. I Hall displayed U.S.A. Commemoratives and George VI Great Britain. Mr. H. A. Hunter in addition showed his collection of Great Britain Classics, fine specimens of the "Penny Reds" predominating. This Society is now well established and is availing itself of the best of philatelic collections at its meetings.

6th June. Capt. M. F. Stern showed his collection of Israel, which included all the issues and first day covers, special cancellations, also the stamps and covers of the provisional period, and postal stationery and air letter sheets.

PAARLSE POSSEELVERSAMMELAARS VERENIGING. (Paarl Philatelic Society).

10th May. Mr. L. Simenhoff, F.R.P.S.L., exhibited a variety of interesting stamps and read his usual fine paper. Mrs. Bevis of Durban sent up an exhibit "Private Printings". The evening proved not only interesting but instructive and this Society is also availing itself of outside exhibitors and is growing in strength. Meetings are now held on the second Tuesday of each month, but the July meeting will be held on the Third Tuesday owing to the school holidays.

14th June. A fine showing was made of Mrs. Beukes' exhibit of Queen Elizabeth II coronation stamps. In addition members showed 5 to 7 selected sheets from their collections. M.F.S.

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The June meeting was fairly well attended, but the meeting commenced on a sad note when members stood in silence in memory of the late Mr. S. F. Fowler, who had recently died very suddenly. The President paid tribute to Mr. Fowler's long service as Honorary Secretary of this Society, and for which a few years ago he was made an Honorary Life member.

Five new members were elected, and an interesting Union Quiz was held, which proved popular, and Mr. W. J. Gillespie won, securing full marks.

Arrangements for the forthcoming Hobbies Exhibition were finalised. Various members have undertaken to display stamps of different countries, and it was thought the main display should be of the new Queen's issues which are proving so popular, and which would no doubt interest the public, and which we hope would attract people to take up the hobby.

The monthly competition was held and there were interesting displays of stamps, consisting in the main of British Colonies.

The main display of the evening was of Union Stamps, but owing to the absence of several members the display was not fully representative. Mr.

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W. J. Gillespie showed a very fine selection of ½d. and 1d. values and spoke to his exhibit.

The President reported that the Executive Committee had decided against inviting the Congress to East London next year as it was felt that it would be better to do this in 1959, when the Society will celebrate its 50th birthday and when it should be in a stronger position to organise a National Exhibition.

It was also decided to adopt the suggestion of a member that "Want Lists" and "Items for sale" be advertised at the back of the monthly meeting notices. It was felt that in this manner members would be able to buy and sell stamps which normally could not be circulated through the Exchange Club Section. There would be a small charge for these advertisements but no commissions would be payable to the Exchange Club Section. J.P.S.

AFRIKAANSE FILATELISTEVERENIGING

Saterdag, 14 Mei. Dit was weer sulke tyd en die mooi klompie versamelaars wat gekom het om iets by te kry was nie teleurgestel nie. Unieseëls was meer skaars. Gelukkig was daar dan ook nie spesialiste teenwoordig nie.

Hierdie byeenkoms was gekenmerk deur die groot belangstelling onder die penkoppe. Nie minder as agt het hulle opwagting gemaak en, nouja, u weet hoe hierdie nasie te kere kan gaan . . . Die aanmoediging van die jeug is die tweede doelstelling van ons Saterdag-byeenkomste. Dit is nie altyd moontlik vir kinders om saans 'n posseëlvergadering by te woon nie en waar hulle dan hulle Saterdag-bioskoop prysgee, verdien hulle alle steun wat lede hulle kan gee.

Vrydag 3 Junie. Die besoek van lede van die Germistonse vereniging het 'n mooi klompie lede na hierdie maandvergadering gelok. Germiston het dan ook daarvoor gesorg dat daar geen teleurgesteldes sal wees nie. Met 'n goedgebalanseerde uitstalling het hulle die sukses van die byeenkoms verseker.

Die jongeling Allen Deverell het Germiston se uitstalling ingelei met 'n versameling van Brits-Afrika, wat gesprankel het van hoë waardes, iets wat 'n mens nie gewoonweg in penkop-versamelings verwag nie. Tweede aan die beurt was Mnr. Retief, met 'n doodgewone versameling van die V.S.A. Die doel van sy vertoning, het hy verduidelik, is om te bewys wat verrig kan word sonder die behulp van geld. In die opsig is die versameling merkwaardig, want dit is geheel en al saamgestel deur die uitruil van alledaagse seëls van die Unie met versamelaars in Amerika.

Die verrassing van die aand is gelewer deur mnr. Eilers met 'n pragtige voorbeeld van spesialisasie en wel op 'n gebied wat vir almal vreemd is, t.w. vroeë Duitsland. Selfs dr. Hesse, wat geen vreemdeling hier is nie, het verbyster gestaan. Ter afsluiting het ons dr. Kaplan se voorstelling van Antigua gehad. Hierdie versameling — klein maar kragtig — het onlangs 'n sertifikaat van verdienstelikheid te Durban verdien. Die versameling is voltallig tot op die geringste kleurskakerings en sluit ook in 'n aantal oeroue koeverte uit die dae toe daar nog nie eens aan posseëls gedink was nie.
S.J.V.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Minutes of General Meeting held at the Volkskas Bank Buildings on Wednesday the 8th June 1955, at 8 p.m.

Our Chairman suggested that all correspondence and the financial statement of the Society be left over until the next meeting, in view of the fact that we were now to act as hosts to the Johannesburg Philatelic Society.

Mr. S. J. Hagger then welcomed our visitors and stated that we were eager to view the exhibits which they had brought out with them to table at this meeting. The first to exhibit was Mr. Oppenheim who tabled a large number of Belgian Congo stamps most of them on entires. This was followed by Dr. Keller's display of what he called the most interesting issues of Poland. Then came Mr. Seligmann's "Philatelic Calendar", this most interesting exhibit was tabled by Dr. Duigan as Mr. Seligmann was unable to be present. The last two exhibits were Gilbert and Ellice Islands collected by Mr. E. Glassman and tabled by Mr. Lydall, followed by Mr. Joseph's item of interest to Philatelists, being what he called "Business Terms Illustrated by Stamps", something most unusual and different from the ordinary collections.

Mr. Deverell, on behalf of our members, stated how difficult it was for him to try to criticize any one exhibit,, he could, however, say, that Johannesburg always seemed to be able to provide something new and two of the exhibits this evening were most unusual. He thanked Mr. Lydall and the other members of the Johannesburg Philatelic Society for coming out to Germiston and for providing us with such an entertaining evening.

Mr. Lydall, before handing back the chair to Mr. Hagger, remarked on the pleasant and friendly atmosphere of the meeting and mentioned that they in Johannesburg were looking forward to meeting us again when we were to visit his Society in September of this year.

Mr. S. J. Hagger apologised for the poor attendance of Germiston members at this meeting but mentioned that several of our most keen members were away on holiday. Then on the other hand other members think twice before going out in these winter evenings. However, he felt that all present had spent a most enjoyable evening, not only in viewing the exhibits, but also in the very keen manner in which the Johannesburg members were always ready to answer any philatelic query and to give advice whenever asked to do so by one of our members. I.S.B.

O.F.S. & BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

May Meeting: A most enjoyable programme kept members and visitors entertained till late into the night. There were three exhibits: Mr. J. B. Levy's specialised "Newfoundland" collection, containing some scarce items (a flown "DO-X" cover may be singled out) and picked copies throughout; Mr. John Price's collection of "Oranje Vrij Staat", beautifully written up and containing some elusive varieties (errors "missing figures of value" and three items of the "Iostage" error); Rev. A Brutsch's display of "Swiss official Presentation Cards and Folders", a large number of colourful sets officially mounted. Mr. H. J. Weil, the President (Mr. Scott) and Dr. Freund spoke on the exhibits.

"New issues of the month", contributed by several members, were on display throughout the evening, A small auction sale of covers was conducted by Mr. J. Hodgson. Some interesting "Titbits from the Philatelic Press" were reported by Dr. Freund.

The "Surprise item" this time turned out to be a novelty in Radio style: "Money or the Box". Practically everyone at the meeting was drawn in as participants, by drawing lots. The President, who was the Quiz-master, with the Secretary, Mr. Roux, as assistant. Philatelic questions had to be answered, with stamp prizes offered for correct answers. After a correct third answer, a participant had the choice to pick "Money" (a voucher to buy stamps from the exchange packets) or the Box". There were nine boxes displaying the initials of the Society to choose from. Only two members succeeded to go for the box, after the quiz-master had vainly tried to make a cash (voucher) offer instead, amid great excitement from the crowd: Mr. J. B. Levy found a good prize in his box, while Mr. J. Lewis,, having refused a high offer, found a common used ½d. stamp in his box.

GRAHAMSTOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

March 11th. It was decided to hold future meetings on the second Thursday of each month, to have two displays at each meeting, and a "Quiz", each member bringing three questions and sixpence worth of stamps for the prize pool. Members were urged to bring at least one item for auction. Mr. Bradley displayed his New Zealand stamps. On the 18th of March there was a special meeting to welcome Mr. Thornton who spent the evening here, on his way to Port Elizabeth, to treat us to a display of his early Cape and Natal classics.

April 14th. Formal business was quickly disposed of and was followed by the "Quiz", which was won by the President, and by a display of early Capes and Mafeking Siege stamps by Dr. Cory who also gave a talk on the early postal history of the Cape.

May 12th. The meeting agreed unanimously that the President should convey members' congratulations and good wishes to the Philatelic Society of the Orange Free State and Basutoland on the occasion of the first publication of the O.F.S. Philatelic Magazine. The meeting also agreed, in principle at this stage, with a suggestion made by the East London Philatelic Society that inter-town visits should be arranged. The Quiz was won by a narrow margin by Dr. Callan, and the evening's display was given by the President whose subjects ranged from Eire to Austria via Sweden and Russia, then to Germany (Olympic Games and the French and Russian Zones), thence to Egypt and post-war Sudan, and back through Cyprus, Malta and Gibralter; and, for good measure, St. Helena Q.E.

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THE

SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST

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The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

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P.O. Box 375. Johannesburg.

Vol. 31. No. 8. AUGUST 1955. Whole No. 365.

UNION NOTES

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

Commemorative Postage Stamps and Date Stamps for Pretoria Civic Centenary.

Further to the G.P.O. Bulletin (Philatelic 26) published in our July number, we have received the following Bulletin (Philatelic 27) from the Post Office Publicity Branch, together with the accompanying reproductions of the postage stamp and date stamp designs.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
DEPARTMENT OF POSTS & TELEGRAPHS
CIVIC CENTENARY: PRETORIA.
COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMPS.

As already announced in philatelic bulletin No. 26, special 3d. and 6d. postage stamps will be issued on the 21st October, 1955, to commemorate the Centenary of the City of Pretoria. The stamps will be on sale at **all** post offices in the Union for about three months.

Photographic reproductions of the designs are enclosed. The portrait and signature on the 3d. stamp are those of the late President S. J. P. Kruger and those on the 6d. stamp are of the late President M. W. Pretorius.

President Pretorius, first President of the South African Republic, was the founder of Pretoria and named it in honour of his father. President Kruger was closely associated with Pretoria for fifty years and was President from 1883 to 1902.

New Printing of the 2d. Zebra Head Postage Stamp.

The arrival of a cover posted to us by Mr. Eric Walker of Pretoria on the 25th June, 1955, and bearing two pairs of the current 2d. postage stamp with strange broad bars on the attached margins, as shown in our accompanying photograph, brought to light a new printing of the 2d. Zebra head stamp, which because of the many new features embodied in its reproduction, will undoubtedly prove of considerable interest to all Union collectors.

This latest issue is indeed "something new" for all students of this country's stamps and we are indebted to the Publicity Officer of the G.P.O., Pretoria, for the full and illuminating information he has kindly given to Dr. T. B. Berry of Bryanston, Transvaal, for publication in the "South African Philatelist."







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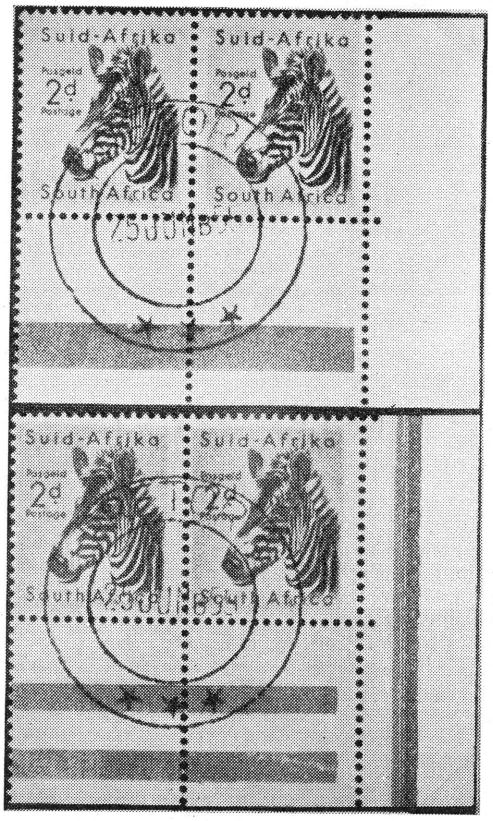
In the notes which follow, Dr. Berry has set out the main features and varieties of the new printing and in an interesting article on another page he has given the explanation furnished by the Publicity Officer, and illustrated by a sketch, the reason for the "Marginal smudges" on the side selvedges of some of the sheets of the new stamp which might otherwise have proved a puzzling characteristic to all of us.

It is of particular interest to note that in addition to the broad coloured bars now printed across what used to be blank spaces at the top and bottom of each sheet, in order to deface (for security purposes) the watermarked and perforated marginal pieces the same size as the stamps, the Government Printer has revolutionised the process of stamp printing in the Pretoria Works by practically halving the time previously taken in the production of the inland letter rate postage stamp. With the present day importance of the economic and time factors ever before us the Department is to be congratulated on overcoming the many technical difficulties which has enabled the staff to first of all prepare a wider cylinder and then print, perforate, number and guillotine sheets of 2d. standard size postage stamps in a manner that has actually doubled the output for which the machine was originally designed.

Truly a most progressive and noteworthy achievement and since the changes include the discontinuance of printing the cylinder numbers on the margin of the sheets — a policy adopted in 1948 which evidently started something none of us ever envisaged at the time — we can now mount copies of this latest production with the knowledge that it marks a new era in the printing of the Union's stamps.

Dr. T. B. Berry's notes on the new issue are set out below.





The Second Printing of the Twopenny Stamp of the Third Definitive Series.

During June 1955, a change in the current twopenny stamps of the Union took place. A new printing was made in which the stamps appeared without the familiar Cylinder Number and in the new guise of 480 stamp sheet format.

The following are the general features of the issue.

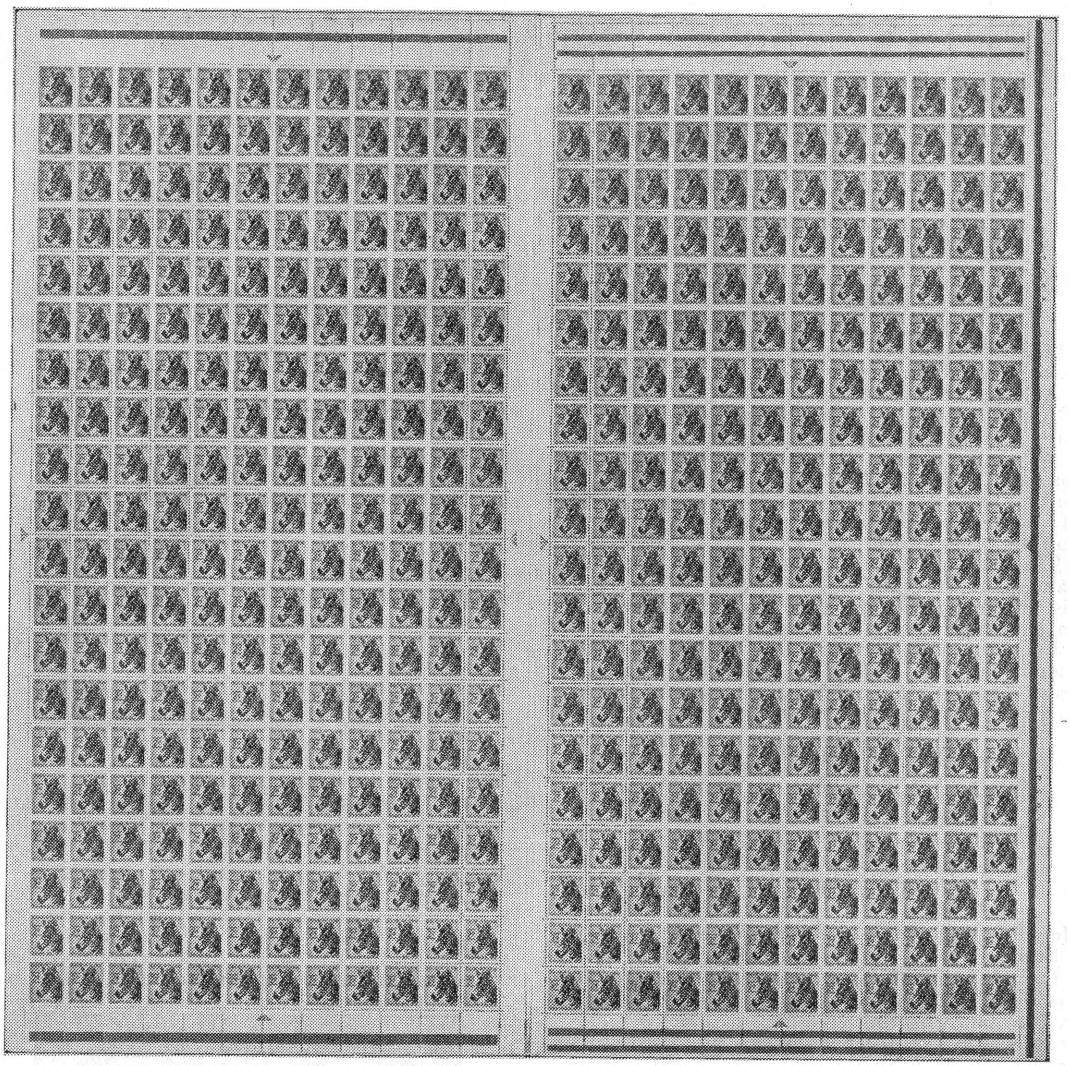
Sheet Format. The printing was made by Rotogravure at the Government Printing Works, Pretoria, in sheets of 480 stamps, each sheet consisting of two panes of 240 stamps with a vertical gutter the width of a stamp separating the panes. The sheets were guillotined into their respective panes after printing and the panes issued to Post Offices under the description of "sheets".

A new multipositive consisting of 480 stamp images was prepared from a single stamp master negative. One cylinder, No. 20, of a greater length than that previously used, was employed to print the sheets, the impressions of the two panes having been etched thereon.

Pane Format. The two panes comprising the sheet are similar in the following respects:— Each pane consists of 240 stamps (12 x 20) in vertical format, bears four marginal arrows of the solid type, one at the centre of each margin in the shade of the stamps, and contains four-figure red sheet numbers printed twice in the right hand vertical margin.

The right hand pane may be distinguished from the left hand pane in that it bears on the top and bottom margins two unbroken

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lines, 3 and 4 mm. wide, in the same colour as the stamps and extending across the sheet to correspond to the width covered by the stamps, but not encroaching on to the vertical side margins. The left hand pane bears only one line, 5 mm. wide, on its top and bottom margins, the other conditions being similar.

Screening. A fine mesh-type (cross-lined) screen was used in the production of both stamps and the top and bottom marginal lines, but due to the fact that the marginal lines were not etched as deeply as the stamps — to eliminate the possibility of ink accumulation and consequent smudging — the lines have taken on a mosaic effect.

Watermark: Multiple Springbok's Head — Upright.

Perforations: 15 x 14 multiple comb; the top and bottom margins being perforated through and the side margins imperforate.

Inscription: Bilingual; the size and design of the stamps being similar to those of the previous issue.

Colour: Dark violet, but of a shade slightly darker than that of the previous issue.

Smudges: "Smudge" marks of various designs occur in the same colour as the stamps on some of the right hand vertical margins of the right hand panes and on some of the left hand vertical margins of the left hand panes.

Varieties: Left hand pane—one bar in top margin of sheet.

Row 1/6 Dot to left of "P" in POSGELD.
2/10 Smudge across bottom left corner.
6/8 Smudge over "UT" of SOUTH.
14/6 Dot in "S" of SOUTH.
18/9 Broken "F" in AFRICA.
20/2 Dot above "d" of "2d."
20/11 Smudge left of Zebra's nose.

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Right hand pane — Two bars in top and bottom margins.

Row 1/4 White streak across top left corner.
1/5 Dot after second "A" of AFRICA and dot below Zebra's muzzle.
1/7 White smudge on left leg of first "A" of AFRICA.
2/10 Scratch mark at bottom right hand corner.
8/9 Dot below Zebra's lower jaw.
10/5 Dot below "OS" of POSTAGE.
10/6 Dot above "E" of POSTAGE.
11/10 Dot above "P" of POSGELD.
15/8 Dot below "d" of "2d."
16/11 Dot above "R" of AFRICA.

NOTE. Many very small "fly-spot" markings exist in both panes and have not been recorded.

A letter received from Mr. B. L. Cairncross of George, Cape Province, records the appearance of the new stamp in his area and that some of the sheets (those with one bar in the top and bottom margins) have an irregular purple line of varying thickness on the edge of the left hand margin running from top to bottom of the sheet.

This is the doctor-blade mark on the left hand pane referred to by Dr. T. B. Berry in his article on the Marginal Smudges published on page 144.

In addition to the varieties listed above, Mr. Cairncross also notes the following constant flaws on the left hand pane of stamps.

Rod 1/3 Small dot in margin above "S" of SUID.
4/5 Spot under last "A" of AFRIKA.
4/12 Spot at left of "S" of SUID.
13/6 Small mark between "T" and "H" of SOUTH.
16/2 Spot under "D" of SUID.
16/5 Spot to left of first "A" of AFRIKA
17/8 Dot under "P" of POSGELD.
19/2 Spot under first "A" of AFRIKA.

New Printing of the 1d. Black Wildebeest Stamp.

On the point of going to press we learn from the Publicity Officer of the G.P.O., Pretoria, that a new printing of the 1d. Black Wildebeest stamp has just been placed on sale and its production as a two-pane sheet of 480 stamps has been carried out on similar lines to that of the new 2d. issue.

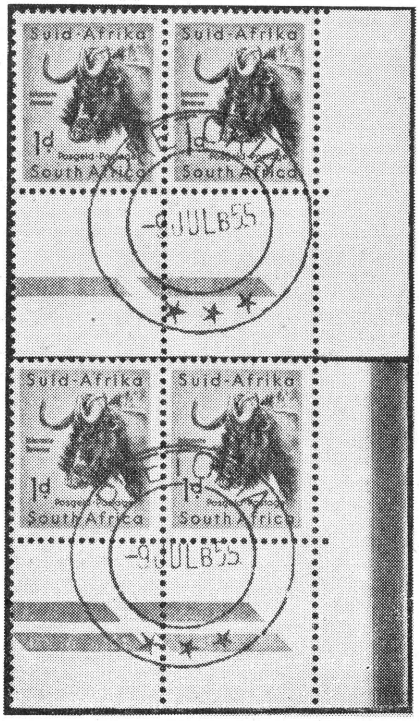
We have no time for more at the moment, but expect to have further information for publication next month and meanwhile tender our thanks to Mr. Eric Walker of Pretoria for his kind assistance and prompt posting of the cover bearing the two corner pairs of the new 1d. stamp which we reproduce in the accompanying photograph.

It is interesting to note that a similar type of doctor-blade smudge already mentioned as being present on the right hand margin of some of the "2-Bar" panes of the new 2d. issue, has appeared again in practically the same position on the corner pair received from Mr. Walker.

King's Head 5/- "Purple Nose" Variety.

An interesting item illustrated in our accompanying photograph has been shown to us during the last month by Mr. G. N. Gilbert of Westminister, O.F.S. who has named it the "purple nose" variety.

It takes the form of thicker lines of shading on the nose of the design of one of the 5/- first definitive stamps and looks very much like



a retouch. Mr. Gilbert adds that it occurs in the first printings, i.e., those with the co-extensive lines and is in the bottom left hand pane. Its exact position he is not sure of, but thinks it may have been in the 3rd Row and the 4th stamp.

If any reader has knowledge of the variety appearing in the later printings of the 5/- issue, Mr. Gilbert would be interested to hear for he considers it strange that a retouch should have been necessary in the first printings.



New Printing of the Current 4d. Stamp with Red Sheet Numbers.

The July issue of the O.F.S. Philatelic Magazine (Vol. 1, No. 4) which has just come to hand records that the 4d. "Elephant" denomination has now also appeared with the marginal sheet numbers in **red.** The numerals are four-figured, while the previous black figures were in fives. The "staggered perforation" variety is now also present, between the second and third vertical row. The other denominations showing these characteristics are the 3d., 6d. and 1/- values as previously reported."

(Concluded on page 148).

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SEMI-PERFORATION: Coronation 2d. Blue, 1953.

by T. B. Davie.

All collectors are familiar with the small circular perforation discs of paper which instead of having been removed from the sheets of stamps at the time of perforating are found partially attached when a sheet of mint stamps is being dismembered. Some of the sheets of our ½d. and 1d. printings in recent times have exhibited this untidiness to a marked extent; but that the attachment of the discs to the stamps is of a very flimsy nature is obvious from the fact that the very great majority of them become completely detached and disappear during the use of the stamps and their subsequent removal from the envelope in the process of their preparation as "used" specimens for our albums. It will, however, be readily recognised that just as a seriously defective or absent pin in a perforating machine can produce the "missing perforation" variety, so a partially defective perforating pin may produce a constant variety in which the little disc of paper is separated completely from one while remaining firmly attached to the adjoining stamp.

In coining the term "semi-perforation" for this condition I would suggest that it should be applied only when the defect in the particular perforating pin is such as to produce the partial perforation as a **constant** feature throughout a particular printing. In general the plates or cylinders of our definitive issues remain in use for considerable periods of time during which the relatively minor errors in the perforating apparatus are liable to be corrected at intervals, e.g., the readjustment of slightly bent or displaced pins, etc. The ideal conditions for the appearance of semi-perforation are thus to be found in the short-lived commemorative issues and the Coronation issue of 1953 shows the condition in a particularly striking manner.

It will be remembered that the Coronation 2d., though only on sale for a relatively short period, from 3rd June to about the end of September 1953, was actually printed from two cylinders, viz., 68,416 sheets from cylinder 98 and 326,371 sheets from cylinder 66 (S.A. Phil. September 1953). Each sheet of 120 stamps was divided into two panes of six rows of ten stamps separated by a vertical gutter of the same width as the stamps themselves. Perforation was effected by "grid" perforators which perforated a complete pane with a single "strike". Any defective pin would therefore manifest its imperfection twice on each sheet: in the same row on stamps x and x + 10.

In the course of a search for examples of multo-positive errors, i.e., those which occur constantly in printings from both cylinders, 98 and 66, I cleaned (removed from paper) and examined a very large number of used stamps and at one stage was struck by the fact that each one of four used examples of a particular stamp already identified showed a pair of semi-perforations in holes 1 and 3 on the bottom border. This stamp was row 5 No. 10 and a quick examination of the mint stamps in my possession (two sheets of 66 and one of 98) showed that these two semi-perforations were present not only on stamp 5/10 of both printings, but also, as would be expected, on stamp 5/20 from both cylinders. I thereupon searched through all the used stamps in my possession (about 2,000 to 2,500) and picked out 33 with the double semi-perforation in holes 1 and 3 on the bottom border. These on examination and by comparison with stamps 5/10 and 5/20 of the mint sheets from cylinders 98 and 66 were found to be divided as follows:

Cylinder 98:
No. 5/10: 5 stamps; No. 5/20: 5 stamps
Cylinder 66:
No. 5/10: 14 stamps; No. 5/20 9 stamps.

This is shown in the accompanying illustration fig. 1. (only 11 of 5/10 of cylinder 66 shown) and incidentally accords with the probability expectation having regard to the number of sheets printed from the two cylinders and the number of used stamps examined. Furthermore, every stamp showing semi-perforation in this position (bottom border holes 1 and 3) was one or other of the above four stamps, and at that stage I found no stamp 5/10 or 5/20 from either cylinder which did not show these semi-perforations.

This investigation revealed, however, that there were many other stamps which showed partially attached perforation discs in various positions on the four borders. As a matter of interest I separated all of these into groups for each position of the attached disc and soon found that there were three or four positions in which the degree of attachment was such as to produce that frequency of occurrence which probably derived from a constancy meriting classification as semi-perforation. Chief of these were Row 1 Nos. 8 and 18 and Row 3 Nos. 9 and 19. Of the former a total of 37 were identified by comparison with their counterparts on the abovementioned mint sheets and were found to be distributed as follows: (fig. 2.)

Cylinder 98.
Row 1 No. 8: 2 stamps;
Row 1 No. 18: 6 stamps.
Cylinder 66.
Row 1 No. 8: 17 stamps;
Row 1 No. 18: 12 stamps.

Of the latter (3/9 and 3/19), twenty-four were identified, (fig. 3) with the following distribution:

Cylinder 98: Row 3 No. 9: 2 stamps.
Cylinder 98: Row 3 No. 19: 3 stamps.
Cylinder 66: Row 3 No. 9: 10 stamps.
Cylinder 66: Row 3 No. 19: 9 stamps.

In this group there appears to be definite evidence that the pin defect commenced during the course of the one week during which printings were made from Cylinder 98, as not only is there one used specimen of 3/9 without the semi-perforation, but in my mint sheet of cylinder 98 specimens 3/9 and 3/19 are similarly devoid of the attached disc. All these three are in the very dark (bronzey) blue of the Cylinder 98 printings which would thus appear to have been the colour of the earliest printings. All the mint and used examples from cylinder 66 show the semi-perforation.

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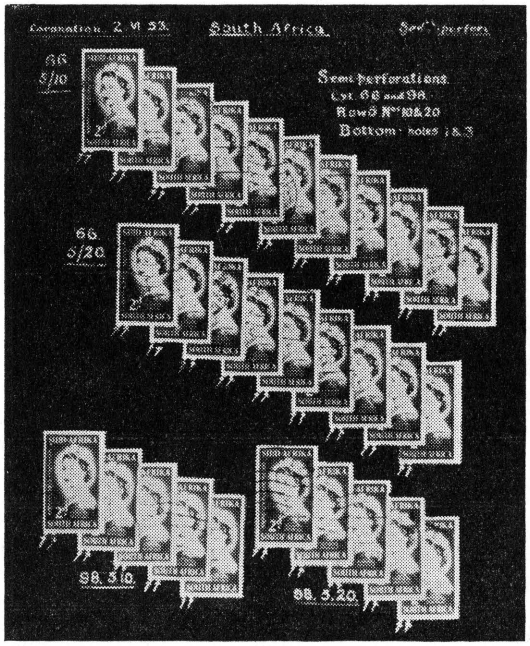


Fig. 1.

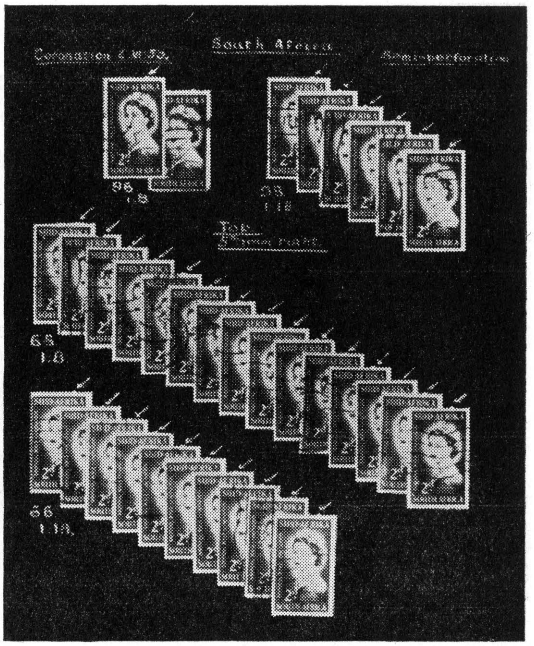


Fig. 2.

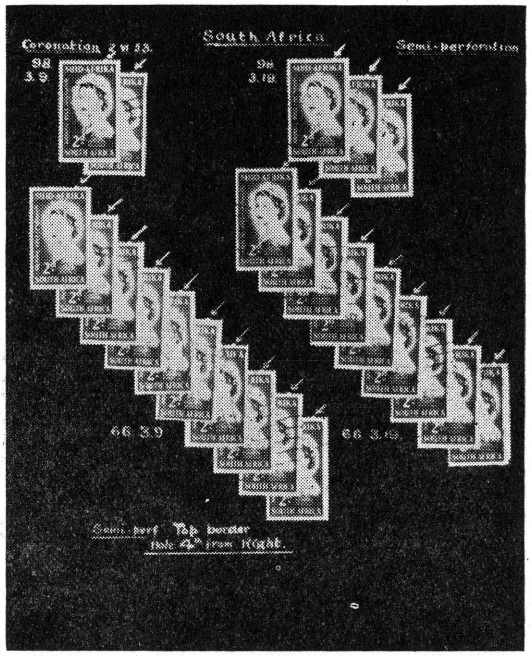


Fig. 3.

In the case of stamps 8 and 18 of Row 1, I have found three in which the semi-perforated disc has become detached. This can, I suggest, be regarded as accidental, possibly associated with rough handling. The high percentage with attached discs in the large number identified is sufficient to establish its claim to "semi-perforation."

Lesser degrees of attachment exist at many other places and attached discs in some of these situations occur with sufficient frequency not only to rule out the element of chance but also to indicate a very definite defect of the perforating pin, though not of such a degree as to produce a constant flaw. The more important of these imperfect semi-perforations is listed later. (Table 1.).

Several examples were found in which attached discs occur in the same relative position on stamps from different parts of the panes. Thus the fourth hole down from the top on the right border which is accorded full semi-perforation status for Row 6 Nos. 9 and 19 is also not infrequently found with attached disc on stamps 2 and 12 of Row 1 from both cylinders. So also numbers 3 and 13 of Row 1 and numbers 5 and 15 of Row 4 share the attached discs in the first hole (from the left) of the top border. These cases and also the very considerable number of chance attachment of discs add a great deal to the difficulty of final identification of the stamps exhibiting the anomaly of attached discs. A fairly detailed study of this phenomenon has therefore convinced me that for practical purposes it is desirable to regard only the first three examples (illustrated above) as meriting full recognition as semi-perforations, viz., 5/10 and 5/20, 1/8 and 1/18 and 3/9 and 3/19. In them the defect is constant or very nearly so in both printings.

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Fig. 4.

In all these cases identification of the stamp can be achieved by comparison with each of the four stamps in turn on mint sheets from cylinders 98 and 66. Since may collectors do not possess full sheets of each printing and yet might like to collect and identify the individual sets of four for each of these three major examples of semi-perforation (Row 5, Nos. 10 and 20; Row 1, Nos. 8 and 18, and Row 3, Nos. 9 and 19) I have prepared reproductions of each of the twelve stamps on which I have marked the position(but not the size, as this may vary) of the major **constant** dots, spots, scratches, etc., by which every one of these stamps can be identified by the aid of a hand lens. (Figure 4.).

(to be continued.)

U.S.A.

On 28th June there appeared a 3c. stamp commemorating the centenary of the locks on the river channel between Lakes Superior and Huron at Sault Sainte Marie — commonly known as the "Soo Locks." The stamps feature a map of the great Lakes area, with an enlargement of a steamer in the locks.

FIPEX.

An unfortunate accident occurured in the Coliseum building which is to house the International Exhibition on March 3, 1956. A large section of the 3rd floor caved in under two tons of freshly poured concrete, steel beams and wooden forms. One workman was killed and 51 injured.

It is understood, however, that there will be no postponement of the opening date.

AUSTRIA.

The treaty restoring independence to Austria, with freedom from occupation by foreign troops, was celebrated in a hurry by overprinting a 2 Sch stamp with the Austrian Coat of Arms, first issued in 1945, with the legend "Staatsvertrug 1955."

On the occasion of the 4th World Congress of the Internat. Confed. of Free Trade Unions a 1 Sch. stamp was issued on 20 May. It featured three workers of different races helping each other to the top of a globe.

FIRST DAY KING'S HEAD UNIONS.

In response to the query raised by Mr. Stephen G. Rich in his letter in our May issue as to when the King's Head issues of the Union really went into use, 1st Sept. 1913 or not, we have so far received only the following information:—

Mr. J. C. G. Kupferman passed round two covers at a meeting of the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg:

(a) A registered cover bearing a King's Head 2d. stamp along with a 3d. Transvaal Edwardian, posted at East London on 1st Sept. 1913. A clear 1st Sept. as First day for the 2d.

(b) A registered cover bearing 1d., 2d. and 3d. King's Heads posted at Pretoria on 15th October, 1913. This is only earlier for the 3d. than Mr. Rich's records, as he has not seen it before Jan. 1914.

OBITUARY

R. J. F. AXER.

We regret to hear from Cape Town of the sudden death of Mr. R. J. F. Axer, on the 5th July. He has been a prominent and active philatelist in the Peninsula for a number of years and a frequent sender of South African stamp news to overseas papers. Of recent years he has been greatly interested in Meter Posts and had probably the most extensive collection of these in the country.

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THE OFFICIAL STAMPS of the ORANGE FREE STATE

by A. Cecil Fenn, Sutton Coldfield, England.

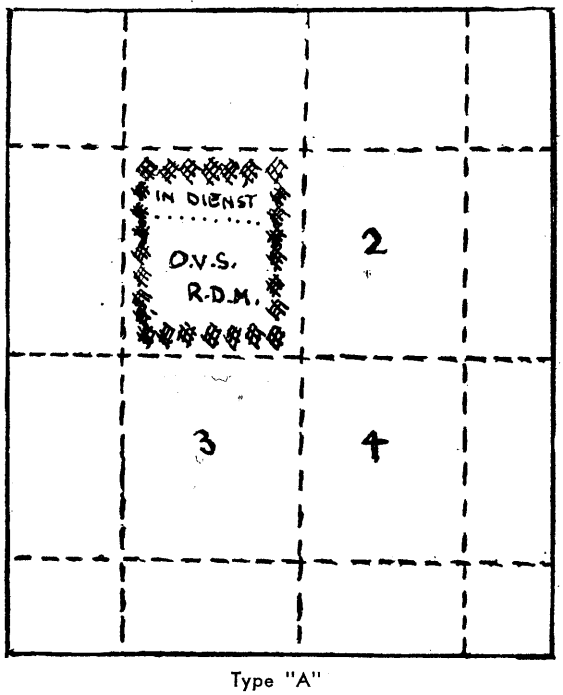
There appear to have been three types of stamps used as "Officials" by the Orange Vry Staat Mounted Police, the date of issue of which is not certain but is suggested as 1896. The only dated pieces in my collection are 1899 and 1900.

TYPE "A" is printed in black on white paper in blocks of four (2 x 2) and is perforated from top to bottom and across thus giving margins all round. The design consists of a border of ornaments nine at each side and five in between at the top and bottom, the design making 28 ornaments altogether. Inside the ornamental frame are the words "IN DIENST" in Roman capitals on the first line, the letters "O.V.S." in Roman capitals on the third line with periods after each letter, and a little to the right on the fourth line the letters "R.D.M." also in Roman letters with stops. The letters "R.D.M." in Afrikaans meaning "Rijdende Dienst Macht" which in English is "Mounted Police Force", whilst the words "IN DIENST" mean "On Service". This stamp measures 29 mm. verticaly. These four stamps contain the following varieties :—

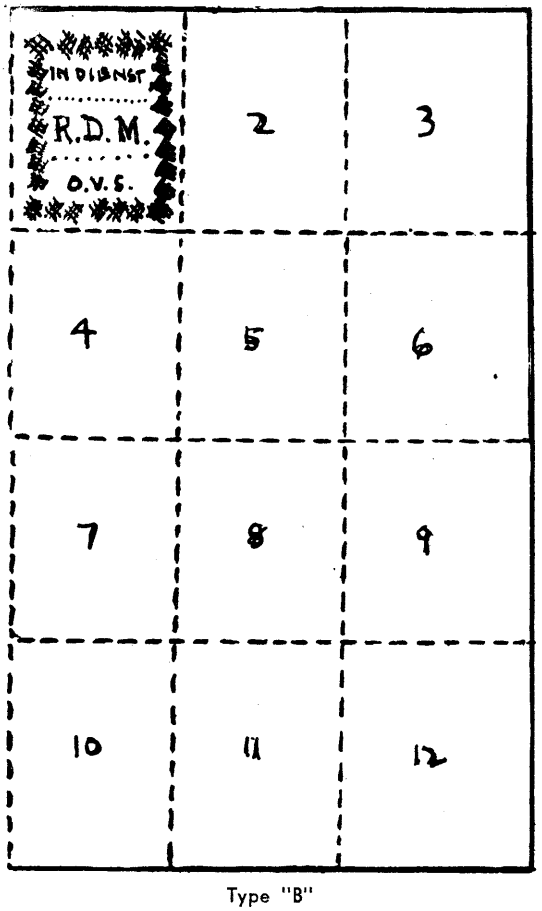
1st stamp. No stop after "V".
2nd stamp. Broken base to "O".
3rd stamp. Broken left serif "V".
4th stamp. Normal.

The cancellations I have consist of one on a cover to the Commisioner of Police at Bloemfontein. The stamp affixed in the bottom left corner is canselled "P.A.K. KAFFIR RIVIER" and dated with a c.d.s. "FE 6 99". Across the stamp is presumably the officials signature "R. Schaeman" in manuscript. Another stamp off cover has the "B.E." cancel (I wish I knew what this really means!) and another with c.d.s PETRUSBURG with date of the stamp. I also have two sheets of blocks of four unused, as shown in the sketch.

TYPE "B" is of an entirely different setting. From two mint blocks in my collection they would appear to have been set in blocks of twelve (or more) (4 x 3). The two blocks mentioned are identical, being printed in black on yellow paper. The left hand side is perforated, whilst hte top and bottom edges are imperf. The stamps themselves are perforated down and and across between each stamp in the ordinary way, except of course that the third vertical row and the top and bottom rows are imperf. on one edge. The design consists of similar ornaments forming a border to type "A", that is, nine at the sides and five in between top and bottom (28 all told). Inside the frame the words "IN DIENST" in Roman capitals on the first line, a line of15 periods on the second line, the letters "R.D.M." on the third line, 15 periods again on the fifth line.



Type "A"



Type "B"

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These twelve stamps contain the following varieties :—

Stamp No. 1. All stops evenly spaced.
2. 4th stop top row wider spaced, also 10th stop second row; and a faulty "R" and "M".
3. Faulty "D".
4. Faulty "V".
5. Faulty "O" and "R".
6. Faulty "V".
7. 7th stop top row and tenth stop bottom row wider, Faulty "D" and "M".
8. 7th stop top row and 10th stop bottom row wider.
9. 7th stop top row and 10th stop bottom row wider. Faulty "D" and "M".
10. 7th stop row and 10th stop bottom row wider.
11. 7th stop top row and 10th stop bottom row wider. Faulty "R".
12. 7th stop top row and 10th stop bottom row wider.

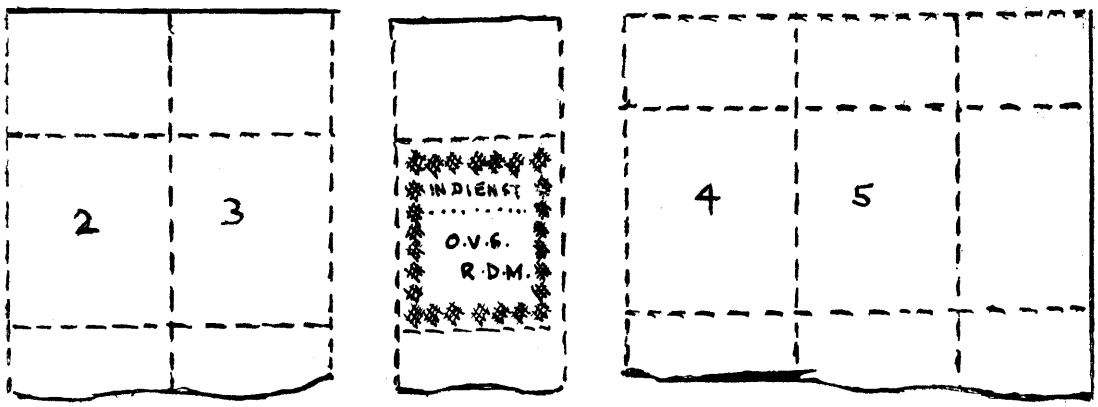
On the used ones the cancels in my collection are "Kroonstad Ap 28 00" and the BLOEMFONTEIN Box type.

TYPE "C" is a type similar to Type "A" and is unrecorded except that Robson Lowe illustrates it for Type "A" in his Encyclopaedia II Africa. The design is identical to type "A" except that there are only **eight** ornaments at each side instead of **nine,** and the underlining periods are unevenly spaced, in fact some are missing perhaps through worn type or light printing. But, by far the more important difference is that it is not printed in either blocks of four or twelve. From material in my collection it is printed in two **rows** (probably of six) with a gutter margin in between. My reason for this statement is that I have a pair with stamp perforated at the top and bottom and sides but there is a top margin imperf. and a bottom margin also imperf. which could have been scissors cut. The second pair is entirely different in the perforation viz. it is the right hand marginal pair and shows an imperf. marginal edge at the right hand side and normal gutter perforation at the top, suggesting that another strip has been detached. The left hand side is a normal perforation of an internal part of a pane and the bottom is imperf. with a margin apparently scissors cut as before. The third item is a single stamp with an imperf. margin at the top, a narrow margin apparently scissor cut at the bottom and perforated at the sides in the ordinary way. This stamp measures 27 mm. Of the five stamps, four have varying defects as follows :—

1. Single stamp. Right corner ornaments dropped.
2. 3. Centre pair. Fifth top ornament damaged at left, and all the periods clear. Bottom right ornament damaged and "D" also damaged. Periods 6 and 13 faint.
4. 5. Marginal pair. Left stamp as single except perforated differently. Right stamp has left ornaments dropped. The 8th period is large and the 9th is a comma.

None of these stamps are used.

I should be glad to know if any reader has any type of "C" other than those described.



TYPE "C"

SOUTH AFRICA AT "NORWEX."

South African exhibitors at NORWEX are to be congratulated inasmuch as every single one of them has obtained an award.

The report of the Jury states that the standard of entries was very high.

Awards are :—

Silver Gilt. A. R. Kleiner, Johannesburg, for Seychelles.

Silver. L. Buchen, Johannesburg, for S. W. Africa.
A. Kaplan, Germiston, for S. Rhodesia.
M. F. Stern, Cape Town for Africa Air Mails.

Bronze. J. E. Frankland, Johannesburg, for Morocco Agencies.
J. Michelson, Johannesburg, for Latvia.
J. H. Harvey Pirie, Johannesburg, for Antarctic Posts.
L. Young, Pietermaritzburg, for Norwegian Air Flights.

SWEDEN.

On 21st July a series of stamps was issued honouring the centenary of the death of Per Daniel Amadens Atterbom, distinguished poet, man of letters and literary historian. He was commonly known as the poet of the flowers.

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SOUTHERN AFRICAN CENSOR MARKINGS
1914 — 1918.

By J. Hunter.

SOUTH AND SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

The special war-time postmarks of the South-West African campaign and of the period up till 1923 have been very carefully dealt with by L. Simenhoff in a series of articles in the "South African Philatelist", Vols. 14, 15 and 17 of 1938, 1939 and 1941.

There appears, however, to have been no corresponding record made of the Censor and other markings of this area and period. Having a fair quantity of such material I have thought it might be of interest to put it on record. No claim is made that the list is complete, but the mere starting of a record may stimulate others to add to it.

South and South-West African marks can conveniently be taken together because those of the occupied or mandated territory were applied by South African authorities and marks of similar type were in use in both areas. Moreover, the censoring of S.W.A. mail was, in part at any rate, done in Cape Town, so that it would not be easy to make a hard and fast division into two areas. But, in describing the marks, indication is given when possible of the place of origin of the mail and the place where the censoring was done.

Unrecorded Army Postmark.

Before starting on the Censor markings proper I may record a type of S. African Army Postmark, of which I have a specimen, but which is not listed by Simenhoff in the list he gives of Army Base and Field P.O.'s.

This is a double oval (outer one double-lined), overall size 50mm. x 30mm., in violet from a rubber stamp. The wording between the ovals is "Army Base Post Office/South Africa" with Maltese crosses between the upper and lower lettering. In the centre is "Force C/ 26 Oct. 1914." The mark cancels a 1d. and a 4d. Union stamps.

Mail Service Suspended.

Also may be mentioned here a mark applied at Cape Town. This is a two-line mark in blue "Undeliverable—War/Onbestelbar—Oorlog" It is on a cover addressed to Germany, posted in Cape Town on 18 July, 1914. The mark is additional to the Returned Letter Office's usual mark of "Undelivered for reason stated/Return to Sender, Etc."

Censor's Marks.

(1) Single line circle of 33mm. "Passed by Censor" round the top, an asterisk at the bottom. Z/13 in centre.

(2) A 30mm. single-line circle with "Passed" at top, "Censor" at the bottom. "105" in centre, and small circles at sides between the top and bottom lettering.

(3) Single-line circle of 29mm. "Passed By" at top, "Censor" at bottom, "99" in centre. In purple, red or black.

(4) Single-line circle of 28mm. with "Passed Censor" at top and a small 5-point star, Maltese cross or asterisk at the bottom. In the centre a number, those seen being 15/99, 16/99, 19/99 8/100 and B/100. Marks in purple or gray-black. A type used both in S.W.A. and at Cape Town.

(5) Single-line circle of 27-28mm. in violet. "Passed by Censor" at top, a star or an asterisk at bottom. In centre Z/5 on cover from "Keetmanshoop" to Cape Town in 1918; another with Z/17 from Warmbad to Johannesburg in 1917; others with Z/4, Z/7, Z/10, Z/14 or Z/16 in centre.

(5a) Single-line 28mm. circle. "Passed" at top, "Censor" at bottom, Maltese crosses at sides, "105" in centre.

(6) Single-line circle of 27mm. "Passed" at top, "Censor" at bottom, "23/1"in centre. In purple, on cover from overseas to S.W.A. Probably used at Cape Town.

(7) Single-line circle of 27mm. in blue. "Passed By" at top "Censor" at bottom. 105 in centre, on internal mail in S.W.A., 1917. Also seen in black with 99 in centre, on cover from Aus to Cape Town in 1919.

(8) Single-line circle of 27mm. with "Passed Censor" at top. Nothing at bottom; C14 in centre.

(9) Single-line circle of 25mm. in blue or gray-black. "Passed Censor" at top, a small asterisk or Maltese Cross at bottom. A number in centre, those seen being C4, C5/99, C9, C12, and C13. On both soldier's and P.O.W.'s mail from S.W.A.

(10) Single-line circle of 24mm. "Passed Censor" at top, a small asterisk or Maltese Cross at bottom. In centre numbers seen are C15 and C17, in blue on covers to or from overseas. Probably used in Cape Town. Also, in brownish, with C5/99 in centre on cover from Luderitzbucht to Cape Town in 1918; another with C6/99.

(11) Single-line circle of 24mm. with "Passed By Censor" at top and small asterisk at bottom. C8/99 in centre.

(12) Single-line circle of 22-23mm. "Passed Censor" at top, may or may not be a small 5-point star at bottom. In blue or black. C5, C6, C8 or C9 in centre; on mail from S.W.A. to Cape Town, and also on mail from East London or Cape Town to overseas.

(13) Similar to (12) but nothing at bottom of circle. In blue or blue-black. Numbers seen in centre are 2/99, 15/99 and 19/99. On commercial mail from Luderitzbucht to Cape Town in 1917, also on P.O.W. mail from Albrechts to Sweden.

(14) Similar to (13). In violet, with 100A in centre. On internal mail in S.W.A., 1918. A similar mark seen with a 5-point star at bottom of circle.

(15) Rectangle 75 x 25 mm. or 75 x 21 mm. with "Passed by Censor/Doorgelaten door Censor" /100 all block capitals, initial letters larger than others, in red.

(16) Rectangle 70 x 23mm. with same inscription as (15), but in upper and lower case type; on civil cover from Windhoek to Cape Town.

(17) Rectangle 63-64mm. x 24-25mm. In blue or black, with "Passed by Censor/Doorgelaten door Censor" in block capitals 2.5mm. high. On soldier's mail from S.W.A.

(18) Like (17) but with a number under the wording, such as 3, 3a, 4, or 4a. In purple, violet or blue. On soldier's mail 1914-15 and also on P.O.W. mail 1915. One seen with "No 4" in ink m/s.

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(19) Rectangle 63 x 17mm. with "Passed by Censor/Doorgelaten door Censor", all in block capitals.

(20) Rectangle 60mm. x 17mm., in blue with "Passed by Censor/Base 6/Doorgelaten door Censor" on soldiers' mail from Walfish Bay, 1915.

(21) Rectangle 54mm. x 10 mm. in blue-black or violet, with "Passed by Censor/Doorgelaten door Censor" in caps. 2mm. high. On soldiers' mail from S.W.A. 1915, on internal mail S.W.A. and on mail from S.W.A. to Europe.

(22) Rectangle 55 x 17.5mm. with "Passed by Censor/Door Censor Doorgelaten/Vom Censor Durchgelassen."

(23) Rectangle 36-37mm. x 13mm., in violet. "Passed by/Censor" in caps. 2.5mm. high. On internal S.W.A. mail, 1917.

(24) Rectangle 35 x 13mm. with rounded corners, in violet from a rubber stamp; inside the letters "P B C", 9mm. high, with serifs. On postcard from Worcester, Cape to China, 13th June, 1916.

(25) Single line mark 62mm. long. All italic caps. 5mm. high, "Passed by Censor" in purple on cover from P.O.W., Aus.

(26) Single line 68mm. long. "Passed by Censor" block caps. 4mm. high, in grey-black on P.O.W. covers from Fort Napier, Pietermaritzburg.

(27) Single line 35mm. long. "Passed by Censor" in block caps. 4mm. high. In purple from P.O.W. camp, Aus; in violet from P.O.W. camp, Fort Napier, also on internal mail in S.W.A. 1919.

(28) Double oval 47mm. x 28mm. in blue. "Censor/Capetown" and, in centre, "22 Nov. 1916". On mail from S.W.A. to Cape Town.

(29) Double oval 45mm. x 32mm. in blue. "Censor/Cape Town" and stars between upper and lower lettering. It looks as if something had been cut out from in front of "Censor", but there would not have been room for "Passed". Date in centre is 14 Mar. 1916 and there are two stars above and also below the date. On cover from Switzerland to S.W.A.

(30) Oval 36mm. x 23mm. in blue. "Censor/Cape Town" with stars between upper and lower lettering. In centre 10 Mar. 1916. On cover from Cape Town to P.O.W. in Germany. Also in violet on cover from Luderitzbucht to Cape Town.

(31) Triangle, 30mm. base and 19mm. high. Outside the triangle, in block capitals 3mm. high is "Passed Censor Pretoria". On piece of envelope from U.S.A., Oct., 1914.

Censor Marks combined with Free Postal Franks.

(1) A 2-line mark, overall length 72mm., all capitals, 10mm. high. "Postage Free. Passed Censor/Posvrij. Doorgelaten Censor". In blue on soldier's mail from S.W.A.

(2) Rectangle 50 x 25mm. with "Postage Free /Base (No.)/ Passed By/Censor". The Nos. seen are **1 and 5a.**

(3) Rectangle 38mm. x 24mm. with "Postage Free/Base1/Passed By/Censor"

(4) Rectangle 38mm. x 14mm., in blue, purple or violet. Wording "Postage Free/Base (No.)/ Passed By Censor". Numbers seen are 1, 3, 4a, 5, and 6. On Soldier's mail from S.W.A.

(5) Rectangle 35mm. x 17mm., in violet. Wording as in (4), with 1c.

(6) Rectangle 38mm. x 24mm. with "Postage Free/Base 8a/Passed By/Censor."

(7) Rectangle 34mm. x 20mm. with "Postage Free/Base 6/Passed By/Censor."

(8) Single-line circle of 33-34mm., with "Post Free" at top and "Prisoners of War" at bottom, in 3mm. block capitals. In centre "P.C." in letters 8mm. high. In violet, gray-black or red. On covers from P.O.W.'s Fort Napier to Europe; also one specimen on cover from International Red Cross, Geneva to Luderitzbucht.

(9) A 2-line mark, overall length 45mm., height 10mm., with "Postage Free/Passed By Censor", all block capitals.

(To be continued).

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AIR MAIL NOTES

AUSTRALIA to SOUTH AFRICA via the NORTH POLE.

Souvenir covers were printed, and a special purple cachet applied to mail to commemorate THE CANADIAN PACIFIC AIRLINES' first regular service from Sydney to Amsterdam, Holland via New Zealand, Fiji Is., Honolulu, Vancouver, B.C. and the North Polar regions. The flight was accomplished by a Douglas DC 6B plane between 2 p.m. Wednesday, 8th June and 2.30 p.m. Saturday, 11th June, 1955, and covered a distance of 13,205 miles. 5,337 miles between Vancouver and Amsterdam, over the top of the world, were flown non stop.

Mail addressed to South Africa by this new service was received in Johannesburg on Monday, 13th June, and was, presuumably flown from Holland by K.L.M.

AEROGRAMMES.

Union of South Africa.
The word "POSGELD" has replaced "POSSEEL" on the imprinted 6d. stamp of the current Aerogramme, and also on the penny-halfpenny blue Letter Card. This change appears to have been made, so far, only on those sheets in which the Afrikaans inscriptions come first.

Swaziland.
The new 6d. Aerogramme with the word "POSGELD" described above has been overprinted for use in this territory. The overprint is identical to the previous issue—i.e. 27.5 mm. x 3 mm., in red.

Basutoland.
The current Queen Elizabeth 6d. sheet has now appeared **without watermark.**

Mauritius.
Released recently — a 35 cent sheet, similar in some respects to the 1953 issue but for the new reign. Impressed stamp in purple depicts Government House, as before, but with a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II. Blue unwatermarked paper; two-lined enclosure warning on reverse.

Nyasaland.
Mr. C. D. Twyman advises that, contrary to information given in our May Issue, there are still adequate stocks of Aerogrammes with imprinted stamps to be had in the Protectorate.

I. H. C. Godfrey.

AUSTRALIA.

Two stamps, of 3½d. and 2/- denominations are to be used on 6th July, featuring a Cobb and Co's coach and team. These stamps are a tribute to the pioneers of the coaching era which lasted from about 1853 to 1910. Messrs. Cobb and Co. being an outstanding firm in the business.

On 10th August a 3½d. is due to commemorate the work of the Y.M.C.A. in Australia for over 100 years.

In September a 3½d. will be issued honouring the nursing profession and the centenary of Florence Nightingale in the Crimea.

Bulawayo.

The Editor,
The S. A. Philatelist,

Mozambique Error.

In your May Issue I was very interested to read that two young collectors of the O.F.S. and Basutoland Society, had discovered the reversed "S" in the $ 3.50 Mozambique Waterfall Stamp, but would like to correct what appears to have been a slight exaggeration in that it was stated that this had been discovered by the two lads. I do not wish to detract in any way from their honour — in fact, I think it is highly commendable — because this variety apparently has been overlooked by most collectors of Mozambique. Whether it is a variety or not is open to question.

I myself, noticed it about 4 or 5 years ago, and reported it to you and it was duly published in the S.A. Philatelist. On making subsequent enquiries at Beira and Lourenco Marques I discovered that the error had been noticed by the Post Office shortly after the stamps had been issued and that all supplies were withdrawn and were never replaced. As the reversed "S" is the only type known and has not been corrected, is it a variety? Perhaps you can answer that one, because we have often discussed it here and have not really reached any satisfactory conclusion. While I was inclined to regard it as a variety, on learning the true state of affairs I now feel it is more of an error of design similar to some of those others which have been featured from time to time, i.e. the Jamaican Bananas growing down instead of up, the Telescope on the Columbus Issue of St. Kitts and so on.

Yours etc.,

J. E. CREEWEL.

FRANCE.

The Postal Administration reports the following recent issues:—

June 14. A 30 fr. stamp with effigies of Auguste and Louis Lumiére, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the invention of the cinematograph.

June 20. A 12 fr. stamp honouring the memory of Jacques Coeur (1395-1456). He was largely responsible for France's economic recovery from the terrible depression resulting from the Hundred Year's War.

BOGUS ROUMANIANS.

Nine labels have appeared purporting to be stamps of "Free" Roumania. They have portraits of Roumanian Hohenzollerens, an outline map of Roumania, or Royal Arms. There are also figures of value, 5, 10 or 15 but what the currency may be is not disclosed. The makers and distributors are not yet known.

UNION 2/6 VALUES.

An article by W. A. Page in the May number of the "Stamp Magazine" summarised the various issues of these stamps from 1927 onwards. A list is also given of papers giving similar summaries for other values (from 1951 onwards) with a note that the 5/- and 10/- values will be dealt with soon.

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THE MARGINAL SMUDGES OF THE 2d., 480 SHEET FORMAT STAMPS

by Dr. T. B. Berry

Various smudges are found on the right and left margins of some sheets of the 2d. stamp, and appear more pronounced on those sheets which were printed from the right hand pane of the 480 sheet format than from the left hand pane. These marks were caused by a damaged doctor-blade which was used during the printing process.

The doctor-blade was damaged by the rough edge at each end of the printing cylinder taking a "bite" or a "nick" out of the edge of the blade at its two ends, with the result that instead of scraping the printing cylinder completely clear of all surplus ink, the "depressions" in the edge of the doctor-blade allowed two trails of ink to foul the printing cylinder and so mark the paper to cause the smudges.

When the shorter cylinder was used to print the narrower sheets of the previous issues, the doctor-blade had a "play" of about eight inches before its ends would come into contact with the edges of the printing cylinder, but when the longer cylinder was used to print the 480 stamp sheet format, the "play" was reduced to about ¾ inch, with the result that the damaged ends of the doctor-blade were just able to make contact with the edges of the printing cylinder which was thus inked unintentionally and so to be in a position to mark the paper.

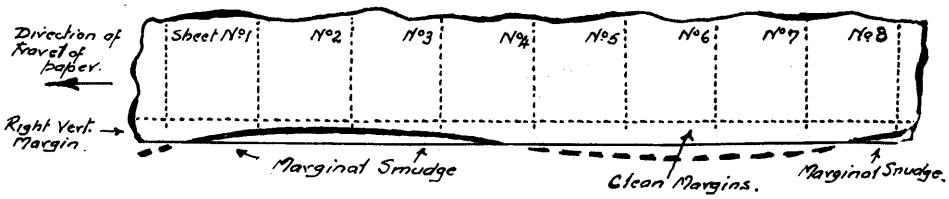
revolving printing cylinder; two, the forward movement of the sheet of paper onto which the stamps are printed, and in this connection attention may be directed to the fact that the sheets of printed stamps come off the machine "backwards", that is with the bottom margin of the sheet leading; third, the recipocratory movement of the doctor-blade which sweeps across the printing cylinder from right to left and vice versa, in a manner similar to the movement of the pendulum of a clock. These combined movements account for the apparant erratic "smudging" of the sheets.

The smudging of the sheets is relative to the path described by the "inking flaw" on the doctor-blade which condition is represented diagramatically in the accompanying sketch.

Eight sheets of stamps bearing consecutive numbers were selected to represent eight consecutive sheets coming of the printing machine. These were placed in contact with one another end on when it was observed that the "smudge" described a path which marked some sheets and not others.

The "path" is represented by the curved line on the diagram, and indicates the route which the "nick" on the doctor-blade took in its ink-laying course as the doctor-blade moved over the printing cylinder to the left and/or to the right in its recipocratory movement while the paper moved forward during the process of printing.

When the doctor-blade occupied a position to the left, ink found its way on to the printing cylinder which in turn distributed it to the paper, but when the doctor-blade altered its position to the right, the cylinder no longer received ink and consequently those sheets of paper which was passing the printing cylinder at the time, were unmarked — the cycle of events repeating itself for every eight sheets throughout the printing process.



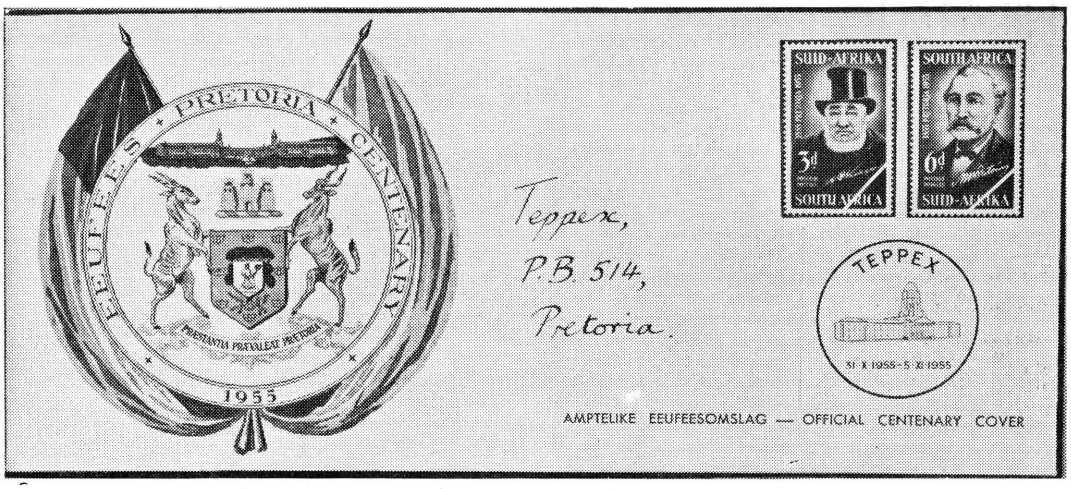
Portion of Right Margin of Right Hand Pane - Sheet.

The smudges do not occupy a constant sheet position. Some sheets contain a smudge mark along their entire margin; others are partly marked, while there are those which are not marked at all. This "hit and miss" condition is the result of the reciprocatory movement of the doctor-blade relative to the movement of other other parts of the printing machine.

During the process of printing, three types of movement (among others) take place simultaneously:— one, the rotary movement of the

A similar set of conditions may be shown to account for the "smudges" appearing on the left hand margin of the sheets, but a study of those appearing on the right hand margin was made as these smudges are more extensive and consequently more helpful in solving the problem, the first of its kind, and in which connection I desire to record my sincere appreciation of the help offered me by Mr. T. I. Ferreira of the Publicity Section of the G.P.O., Pretoria.

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TEPPEX

The accompanying composite photograph shows the Official Centenary Envelope, with the two special stamps and the Teppex post mark. Covers will be serviced by "Teppex", Box 574, Pretoria at 1/6 each, either on the day of issue of the stamps (21st October) or at the exhibition post office.

Intending exhibitors are reminded that 15th August is the closing date for entries. Later received entries **may** be considered, but they will be too late for cataloguing.

SOUTH AFRICA

1910 2½d. S.G.1, a fine block of 24 from top left corner of sheet, **£5.**
1913/21 1½d. S.G.9b with isolated perf. **5/-**, in vertical pair **10/-**
2d. S.G.10a vert. pair with coil join **£1.**
£1 S.G.24 **£15.** another copy with interesting minor variety "UNIUN" **£16. 10. 0d.**
1926 1d. S.G.31a booklet pane of six complete with margin (partly severed and strengthened **£7. 10. 0d.**
1927/28 2d. S.G.34 complete strip of 22 from roll with one stamp showing "Rift in cloud" variety **£7. 10. 0d.**
1938/48 ½d. S.G.54a **6/-:** strip of four with gutter between **15/-:** block of four with sheet no. **£1.**
1d. S.G.56b **7/6:** strip of four with gutter between, **17/6.**
1½d. S.G.57 block of four, one stamp "Broken chimney" **10/-.**
2d. S.G.58 block of four Rows 1 and 2 with bar through "E" of "POSTAGE" at 20/2 **£4.**
6d. S.G.61 **£1:** 5/- S.G.64 **£1:** 10/- S.G.64ba **£1. 2. 6d.**
1926 Official 2d. S.G.01 in block of four **£2. 10. 0d.**

SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

1923 1d. S.G.2a, surcharge inverted **£5. 10. 0d.**
2/6 S.G.10 with faint stop after "Africa **£3.** 10/- S.G.14 **£5.**
5d. Postage Due S.G.D10 **£2. 10. 0d.**
1927 Official Set S.G.01-04 **£7. 10. 0d.**

OTHER FINE BRITISH COLONIALS.

BARBADOS 1852/56 ½d. S.G.2 superb **£2. 10.**
CANADA 1859 17c. S.G.43 superb used **£5.**
CAYMAN IS. 1907 ½d. on 5/- S.G.18 **£6.**
CEYLON 1938 50c. S.G.394 **£4. 10. 0d.**
DOMINICA 1923/27 £1 S.G.87 **£5. 5. 0d.**
FALKLAND IS. 1912/20 £1 S.G.51 **£5. 10. 0d.**
GT. BRITAIN 1902/10 10/- S.G. 265 **£6.**
HONG KONG 1903 $10 S.G.76 **£4.**
KENYA 1935/36 £1 S.G.123 **£3. 15. 0d.**
NEWFOUNDLAND 1919 Alcock $1 S.G.143 **£4.**
NIGER COAST 1893 ½d. on 2½d. S.G.11 **£3. 15.**
RHODESIA 1910/15 10/- S.G.164 **£5.**
1d. S.G.286 **£2. 10. 0d.**
TRINIDAD 1921/22 £1 S.G.212 **£3. 10. 0d.**
TURKS & CAICOS IS. 1913/18 2/- S.G.137a **£3. 15. 0d.**
VIRGIN IS. 1888 4d. on 1/- S.G.42. **£2. 15. 0d.**

SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

In the early hours of the morning of 30th Dec. last, the Post Office at Shabani was destroyed by fire. The mail on the following day (which consisted very largely of accounts) was cancelled by the Railway date stamp R.R. (Shabani). Only a very few such covers exist, and we can offer at 10/- each.

All mint except as stated.

B. J. HUNTER

79, Marine Parade, Brighton, 7, Sussex England.

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PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

CONSTITUENT SOCIETIES

Cape Town, Royal P.S. of, P.O. Box 1973, Cape Town	2nd & 4th Thursdays, St. Johns Church Hall, cor. Long & Waterkant Streets, Cape Town.
Copperbelt, P.S. of, P.O. Box 211, Kitwe, N.R.	3rd Thursday, Jewish Synagogue, Kitwe.
East London P.S. P.O. Box 925, East London	2nd Friday, Museum Lecture Hall, East London.
East Rand P.S. 157 Woburn Avenue, Benoni	3rd Tuesday at 8 p.m. Regent Hotel, Benoni.
Germiston P.S. 57, Driehoek Road, Germiston	2nd Wednesday, Volkskas Bank Building, Germiston.
Grahamstown P.S. 20, Market Street, Grahamstown	2nd Thursday, 1, Thompson St., Grahamstown.
Jewish Guild P. Section, c/o P.O. Box 10, Jhb.	Last Thursday at Jewish Guild Memorial Hall, Jhb.
Johannesburgse Afrikaanse Fil. Vereniging, 82, Kruger Avenue, Selwyn, Florida	1st Friday, 8 p.m., 2nd Saturday, 2.30 p.m., Room 91, Public Library, Johannesburg.
Johannesburg Phil. Society of, Box 4967, Joh'burg	2nd Tuesday, 4th Monday, Room 97, Public Library Johannesburg.
Ladysmith, Colenso & District P.S. c/o P.O. Box 109, Ladysmith	
Maritzburg P.S. P.O. Box 256, Pietermaritzburg	Women's I. Club, 350 Burgers St., Maritzburg.
Mashonaland P.S. P.O. Box 74, Causeway, S.R.	2nd Wednesday, Room 4, Salisbury Polytechnic, Salisbury.
Natal, P.S. of, P.O. Box 588, Durban	1st & 3rd Wednesday, 7.30 p.m., 31, London Assurance House, 319, Smith Street, Durban.
O.F.S. & Basutoland P.S. Box 702, Bloemfontein	4th Friday at Free State Technical College, Bloemfontein.
Paarlse Posseëlversamelaarsver., P.O. Box 60, Main Street, Paarl.	2nd Wednesday, Paarl African Trust Building, Main Street, Paarl.
Port Elizabeth P.S. P.O. Box 3 Port Elizabeth	1st & 3rd Tuesday, Room 506, Natal Building Soc. Bldg., Main Street, Port Elizabeth.
Pretoria, Afrikaanse Phil. Ver. van, Box 706, Pretoria	4th Wednesday, Council Chamber, Technical College, Pretoria.
Pretoria Philatelic Society, Box 514, Pretoria	1st & 3rd Monday, Council Chamber, Technical College, Pretoria.
Pretoria Railway P.S. Railway Recr. Club, Berea Park Pretoria	2nd Wednesday, Railway Recreation Club, Berea Park, Pretoria.
Rhodesia P.S. of, P.O. Box 803, Bulawayo, S.R.	4th Thursday.
Springs & District P.S. P.O. Box 104, Springs.	2nd Monday, Werner's Studio, Windsor House, Third Street, Springs.
Thematic Stamp Club, P.O. Box 418, Cape Town	2nd & 4th Monday, St. John's Church Parish Hall, cor. Longmarket & Waterkant Sts., Cape Town.
University of C.T. P.S. University of C.T., Rondebosch Cape	Arranged during Academic Year, Senior Common Room, Students' Union.
Western Rand P.S. of, c/o. B. G. Simpkins, Box 1001, Johannesburg.	4th Wednesday, Parish Hall, Amelia St., Roodepoort.
Western Transvaal P.S. P.O. Box 254, Klerksdorp	

The South African Philatelist

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CORRESPONDENCE: The columns of this Journal are open to correspondence on subjects of Philatelic Interest. In particular, the Editor will be pleased to receive information regarding new issues, discoveries of errors and varieties, etc.

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SOCIETY NEWS.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

May 3rd. The writer has no doubts in his mind that this meeting will be remembered as one of the high-lights of the year. Mr. H. L. Keefe, one of our keenest collectors presented to well nigh 30 members his very fine collection of the stamps of Great Britain issued during the reigns of Queen Victoria and King Edward VII. By way of introduction he read a very clear and concise paper dealing chronologically with all issues and describing briefly their characteristice. This enabled everybody to understand much better the fine stamps ranging from the line engraved, via the embossed to the surface printed emissions. Really fine copies were on view, with varieties included and most stamps were represented by their various plate numbers. Mounting and writing up were in keeping with the lovely stamps and **Mr. G. Bülbring** enjoyed expressing to the exhibitor the gathering's warm and sincere thanks. After tea interval Mr. E. Baer reported on the progress of the Exchange Packet Circulation and members departed well after 10 o'clock after having bid at auction for their various fancies. Indeed a fine evening it was.

May 17th. Mrs. R. Pearson, one of our keenest Lady Members, came forward to put on view for us her collection of interesting and first day covers. They made a colourful and varied display in their good and clean condition, and proved very popular with and attractive to our members. Each cover had it's own story to tell for those having eyes to see. The President, Mr. D. Berg, thanked Mrs. Pearson for her effort and for showing the way to those who are not so ready to display their hidden treasures.

Official business, and an auction yielding a record sum to the Society's Funds, concluded the evening.

June 7th. The Meeting lasted from 8 to 10 o'clock. Young Mr. Peter Barnes regaled us with his Canadian collection which he has been building up over the last few years. Dr. J. W. Harris voiced the opinion and feelings of all present when he thanked young Peter and remarked on the outstanding neatness and cleanliness of the sheets, brought about by the carefully selected copies of stamps, their attractive arrangement and first rate calligraphy. Many older collectors could take tips from this display, which covered the period from 1870 to 1955.

In the absence of Mr. Leale, Mr. Pearson conducted our always popular auction after tea-interval.

June 21st. In opening the proceedings, our President Mr. D. Berg, welcomed Mr. Arnold Geard to the meeting, the first he has been able to attend since his recent illness. In more than one respect it was especially Mr. Geard's evening, as he gave his last display before leaving Port Elizabeth for Durban shortly. With him the Society loses it's oldest member and Port Elizabeth collectors their stamp-dealer friend, as Mr. Geard on medical recommendation has sold his business. We are all very sorry to see him go, because we valued his friendliness, ready help, and cheerful ways and shall miss him greatly. All members joined the President as spokesman of their feelings and wished Mr. Geard well, and improved health in the time ahead. Friend Arnold provided us as a parting gift with some excellent fare by giving us the opportunity of seeing, admiring and appreciating his comprehensive, colourful and well set-out stamps of France. Members were much impressed with the unusual display, Mr. E. Baer warmly thanking Mr. Geard for honouring his undertaking of providing a display in spite of his recent indisposition. The evening will long remain a pleasant memory with those present.

THE THEMATIC STAMP CLUB.

27th June. This meeting was "President's Evening", and Mr. Sinnott, with his usual versatility, produced a most unique exhibit. The main feature was an almost complete collection of the Caricatures of the Mulready Envelope, something which is probably unequalled in South Africa. The rarity of some of these skits on what was intended to be a serious attempt to provide a useful commodity for the public can be judged by the prices realised at London auctions. Mr. Sinnott's paper on the subject was, as one member described it, "typically sinnottesque"! The exhibit was rounded off by some pages of "Penny Blacks" arranged in plate numbers, and a selection of Rhodesian "double-heads."

L.C.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

6th June, 1955. Mr. Slater-Kinghorn presented a composite exhibit with the object of showing the development of the postal history of several European countrie. The marked similarity in this development was well illustrated by the stamps and entires of Gt. Britain, France, Holland, Belgium and the Channel Islands that were displayed. Special thanks are due to Mrs. Keet and Mr. Newlands who provided much of the material that was tabled.

20th June, 1955.

Certificate of Merit for Thematic Collections.

The inaugural competition for this award attracted the following four exhibits:—

1) Dr. P. Hack's 'Stamps of Medical Interest'
2) Mrs. I. M. Butler's 'Musicians on Stamps'
3) Mr. R. N. Castignani's 'Nudes on Stamps'
4) Mr. C. S. J. Gouw's 'Zoological Collection'

The themes covered a very vast field and all the collections were most attractively arranged and presented. The first two exhibits, in particular, contained veritable mines of information which revealed some extensive research on the parts of the exhibitors. All the entries were thoroughly enjoyed and most pleasing to inspect and digest. The judges, who had the difficult task of deciding on an award that was being made for the first time in a completely new field, unanimously agreed that Mrs. Butler's 'musical' exhibit be awarded the certificate for 1955.

J.M.W.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL.

The Ordinary Meeting was held on the **1st June,** and was attended by some 43 members and visitors. A welcome was extended to Mr. A. J. Denne of Bloemfontein, who is one of our country members. Mr. Milner-Palmer also mentioned how nice it was to see so many of our Lady Members present and sincerely hoped that they would continue to come regularly. The General business of the Society was soon disposed of. The Auction was one of the best we have had, with many popular items on the table. Our thanks are extended to Mr. Richards who acted as the auctioneer, and made a good job of it too. The Society's auctioneer was absent due to illness. We all sincerely hope that Joe will be with us at the next meeting. The exhibit of the evening was given by Mrs. B. Bevis, who showed her stamps of the Reign of Queen Elizabeth II. This was very attractively arranged and attracted a lot of interest for this collection contained many of the listed varieties that have so far appeared in the reign. Mr. Richards proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of the members present. We trust that this has set the ball rolling and that we shall be having other exhibits from the other ladies of the Society. Tea was available after the exhibit and the meeting closed soon afterwards.

The swapping evening was held on **15th June** and again had quite a good attendance. Many items changed hands. Of the Auction a fair number of items were sold. Altogether a very pleasant evening was spent either buying, selling or exchanging stamps and latest stamp gossip.

Obituary.

It is with deep regret that I have to report the death of the following members:—

Mr. R. E. Hardie, who has been a member for a very long time although we did not see very much of him at the meetings. Mr. Hardie was a former Post Master of Durban before his retirement. To Mrs. Hardie and Family we extend our deepest sympathies.

Mr. C. J. Meeuwis, of 12 Wandsworth Road, Malvern, although only being a member for about three years was a very ardent worker for Philately. Whilst on the Rand, he devoted a lot of his spare time to the Juniors of the Reef Societies. He was a regular attendant at our meetings while his health allowed. To Mrs. Meeuwis and Family we also extend our very deepest sympathies.

July. Visitors from several parts of the Union were present at the fairly-well attended meeting on 6th July.

Mr. R. N. Robinow interested members with a talk on the current publication of the Society of Arts in which, beautifully illustrated, was an account of the talk to that Society on The Chalon Heads by Mr. Robson Lowe. A special copy, supplied by the Society for the purpose, was donated to the Society's library by the speaker.

Mr. Robinow is to be congratulated on his recent success in the Union-wide competition for South African Hotel Signs.

The display for the evening was Madagascar, presented by Mr. Lionel Bevis. Mr. Claude Wysall, in thanking the exhibitor, said that the collection would be noteworthy in any company, but it was particularly creditable in the circumstances, as Mr. Bevis had shown his collection at very short notice.

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Final arrangements for the Society's exhibit at the Hobbies Fair, the usual auction (with bidders unusually reluctant), and refreshments completed the evening's programme. K.I.B.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF THE WESTERN RAND

June 22nd. The meeting was held at the residence of Mr. H. F. Henderson at 8 p.m.

Mr. W. S. Yelland presided with 8 members and 3 visitors present.

Mr. O. C. Kylander, one of the visitors, was welcomed by the Vice-President, M. W. S. Yelland, Mr. Kylander was a member of this Society some years ago and we hope that he will be with us at the next meeting as a member.

Mr. H. F. Henderson provided the exhibit for the evening with his Fiji and Kenyas, in thanking him on behalf of the Society, Mr. J. T. Burrell stated that the stamps had been well written up and much time had gone into the work.

Before closing the meeting, Mr. W. S. Yelland thanked Mr. and Mrs. Henderson for the excellent evening's entertainment and members were told that the meeting for July would be held in Krugersdorp Town Hall.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

June. The cold weather failed to stop an appreciative crowd from enjoying the usual monthly meeting when Mr. R. N. Castignani exhibited his colection of the stamps of "Islands of the British Empire". Although not absolutely complete in all issues Mr. Castignani certainly has some extremely interesting items, and Dr. Peisach in thanking him for his fine exhibit made mention of a number of them.

Another lively auction of stamps and covers donated by the members to the Kachelhoffer Fund concluded the meeting and this brought in a further 24/-. At present the fund stands at £55 and our thanks are expressed to those members who have made donations. We would however, appreciate support from all members to help the Society defray the full amount as soon as possible. A donation of South African Handbook/Catalogue and a set of 1896/97 and 1897 sets of the British South Africa Company (Rhodesia) overprinted "Specimen" towards the Fund have been made. These will be auctioned at the July meeting and interested members can send their offers to the Secretary to reach him before the 13th July. This "Specimen" set is a "must" to Rhodesian collectors.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

Meeting 23rd June, 1955.

Inspite of the exceptionally cold weather, some 40 members turned out to see the "Vatican City" collection of Mr. F. L. Archer.

As this member joined our ranks only recently and this was his first chanche to show what he can do, he is to be congratulated on the fine presentation of these fine stamps which was well received by everyone. The beauty of the stamps was enhanced by Mr. Archer's display work and writing up.

This member's intimate knowledge of his subject, enabled him to tell the meeting much of interest as regards the history and geography of the State.

It was also interesting to hear, that all the different processes of printing are used in the production of these stamps; also that the Vatican City is one of the three issuing countries that use coated paper for their stamps.

O.F.S. & BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

June Meeting. In spite of the cold inclement weather a good crowd turned up and was kept in bright spirits by a most entertaining programme. Mr. and Mrs. Searle gave an admirable display, entitled **"United Nations".** This fine collection showed a complete array of all the stamps issued by this great organisation, and also some very elusive covers posted at the U.N. Headquarters in New York. two covers addressed to Mr. Trigvie Lie himself, printed circulars with stamp reproductions, some impressive photographs of the famous modern building and various other items. — **A seond display**, given by the same two members, also found great acclaim: It consisted of a large number of pages containing attractive sets of the **British Empire.** — A very original thematic display followed, given by Dr. Freund and entitled: **"South African Cigarettes and Stamps".** This display must be seen to be appreciated, Over 50 Cigarette brands were illustrated, in lighter vein and in artistic arrangement, by means of stamps. Some examples: "Mills" cigarettes (Trademark "Windmill") was a complete thematic display of Windmills in itself. "Westminster Petite" showed a postmark of Westminster, O.F.S., the Westminster "petite". Also liked was the arangement of "C to C" (Cape to Cairo). A second display by Mr. Freund was a highly specialised collection of Union **"Easter Labels",** with various printings, perforation varieties and major and minor flaws. — Mr. J. S. Levy and the chiarman, Mr. J. Hodgson, commented on these four interesting displays.

"Tit-Bits from the philatelic Press" were as usual reported by Dr. Freund. — An **Auction sale** of many stamps and entires also took place, with Mr. D. H. MacDonald as auctioneer. — The **"Surprise item"** was a continuation of the "Money or the Box" quiz, causing great excitement among participants and encouraging shouts from the crowd.

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The Society's monthly meeting was held on the 4th July. Dr. F. Rifhill displayed his collection of Great Britain George VI overprints to an enthusiastic audience.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, 1st August, at 8 p.m., in the Green Parrot Tea Room, Main Road, Fish Hoek.

Visitors are welcome. E.R.B.

REVIEW

Postal History and Postmarks of British Central Africa and Nyasaland Protectorate.
by W. G. Nodder and C. D. Twynam.
The "Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly"
44, Bedford Row, London, W.C. 1. Price 5/-

This handbook of 105 pages amplifies and brings up-to-date the earlier work of H. C. Dann and does it in a manner worthy of that great pioneer in the postal history of Rhodesia and B.C.A.

Both parts, B.C.A. and Nyasaland are very fully dealt with; the history is illustrated by three maps, and the postmarks by almost a hundred types of mark.

This is a work which should be in the hands of everyone making a serious collection of Nyasaland; even if postmarks are not specially collected it makes most excellent reading.

NETHERLANDS.

5 values of stamps with surcharge for the benefit of the combat against Cancer, will be on sale from 15 August to 10 September. The principal motif is a microscope, with a stabbed crab, the symbol of combat.

(Concluded from page 132).

Three Printings of the 3d. "Animal" Stamp.

Another of the many items of interest to Union collectors in the latest number of the O.F.S. Philatelic Magazine is a report on the different printings of the current stamp which reads as follows:—

Mr. M. Sacks has correctly pointed out to us that there have so far been three distinct printings of the 3d. Fauna stamp:

(1) **Black** sheet numbers on margin; shades were dull, rather light.

(2) **Red** sheet numbers; perforation similar to first printing, **without** variety "staggered perforation"; shades were bright, the **brown** colour particularly **deep.**

(3) **Red** sheet numbers; perforation: 11-comb machine **with** "staggered perf." variety shades **light** again, but the **brown** with a **reddish** tint.

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UNION NOTES

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

RECENT PRINTINGS

The Publisity Officer of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs has kindly supplied the following information covering the period from 22/4/1955 to 21/7/1955. For the previous list see our June Issue.

Airmail Series Postage Stamps.

1d.—Job No. 103290 contd. On an order for 1,000,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, the quantity supplied up to the final date of delivery on 17/5/55 amounted to 1,057,744 sheets. Same cylinder as before, No. 12.

1d.—Job No. 125,208. On an order for 1,000,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, the first consignment of 20,500 was delivered on 5/7/55 and the total to date, 170,000 sheets. New Cylinder for Double Die, No. 3. (Note. This is evidently the number of the cylinder employed for the printing of the new 1d. stamps mentioned in our last month's "Notes."—Ed.)

2d.—Job No. 103,293 contd. On an order for 1,000,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, a total of 541,063 was delivered from cylinder No. 56. Commencing with the first delivery of 27,000 sheets of 240 on the 21/6/55 a New Cylinder for Double Die, No. 20, was used and the total to date from this cylinder amounts to 161,000 sheets.

3d.—Job No. 125,209. On an order for 150,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a consignment of 8,000 was delivered on the 12/5/55 and a total of 73,500 sheets up to 7/6/55. Same cylinders as before, Nos. 16 Interior and 107 Exterior.

6d.—Job No. 103,297 contd. On an order for 150,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a total of 114,789 has been supplied to date. Same cylinders as before, Nos. 1 Interior and 121 Exterior.

1/—Job No. 103,298 contd. On an order for 120,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, the total to date of 72,450 is unchanged.

10/—Job No. 125,212. On an order for 5,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a total of 4,817 was delivered on 7/6/55 from same cylinders as before, Nos. 44 Interior and 6 Exterior. (Note —The last information received on the printing of the 10/- denomination was published in our February issue and a typist's error may have crept into the previous order given as 25,000 sheets.—Ed.)

Pictorial Post Cards.

1½d.—Job No. 107,820 contd. On an order for 2,730,000 cards, a total of 2,758,080 was supplied up to the final date of delivery on 16/6/55. Same cylinder as before. (Animal Series).

Air Letter Cards

6d.—Job No. 113,233 contd. On an order for 6,000,000 cards, the total delivered to date amounts to 3,384,000. Same cylinder.

Roll Stamps

1d.—Job No. 101,898 contd. On an order for 12,000 rolls of 506 stamps per roll and 6,000 rolls of 1,012 stamps per roll, the number supplied up to the final date of delivery on 7/6/55 was 12,500 of the former and 5,280 of the latter. Same cylinder as before, No. 27. (Animal Series)

Customs Stamps— Supplied by the P.M.G. and overprinted DOUANE.

½d.—3,000 sheets X 240. Delivered 26/5/55.
2d.—3,000 sheets X 240. Delivered 16/5/55.

Assize Stamps—Supplied by the P.M.G. and overprinted ASSIZE YK.

1d.—400 sheets X 60. Delivered 28/6/55.

New Insured Parcel Rates

The new regulations applying to insured parcels, which came into force on the 1st July this year, now allow for parcels addressed to destinations within the Union to be insured up to a maximum of £200. A minimum fee of 6d. is charged for £5, 7d. for £10 and thereafter 1d. for each additional £10 or part thereof. Parcels for the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland may only be insured up to a maximum of £40.

New Air Letters.

The August Issue of the O.F.S. Philatelic Magazine notes new Air Letters as follows:—

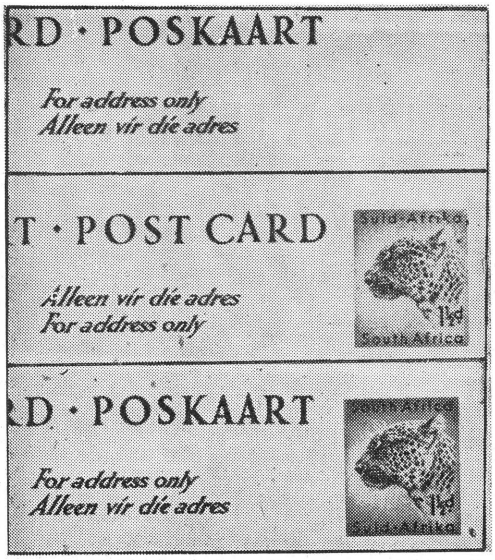
"Mr. W. Arnott, of the G.P.O., informs us that the current Air Letters which had a recent change of the Afrikaans word "POSSEEL" to "POSGELD", are now supplied also with the English version "SOUTH AFRICA" first. Previous stocks had "SUID-AFRIKA" on top.

Pictorial Post Card Varieties

Further to the notes published in our May issue, we have received the following interesting information and accompanying photograph from Mr. M. B. C. Hotz of Sea Point, Cape.

"I enclose a photograph of three postcards purchased recently at Sea Point Post Office. These three came from the same 'packet', and

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as I have all, I was able to study them rather closely."

"There is a very marked colour gradation throughout, as is evident from the photograph. The lowest may be regarded as the normal, and it appears that the machine was running out of ink as the shade gets progressively lighter. Towards the end of the packet a dark spot appears behind the leopard's ear; two cards further on a distinct white line becomes evident across 'ik' of Afrika. It was not possible to determine whether this was a fault in the plate or caused by a hair as the last two cards, apart from a small smudge in the lower right hand position of the stamp (see photo) were blank."

"Another point which may be of interest is that the letter 'A' in Poskaart in all the new postcards is slightly shorter than the other 'A's' in the same line. Whether or not this was intentional I have not been able to discover."

Gum Splashes on Union Rotogravure Stamp

The appearance of white streaks and irregular shaped white blemishes ranging in size from small spots to large blotches, have been noted from time to time on used specimens of the Union King's Head stamps. In our February, March and November issues of 1951 we illustrated some of these varieties and recorded that they were evidently due to some of the adhesive solution used in the gumming process finding its way onto the wrong side of the roll of stamp paper.



All the examples previously noted on Union stamps have so far appeared in the King's Head series and we are indebted to Mr. H. A. Hofman of Johannesburg for the opportunity of now showing in the accompanying illustration an interesting specimen of this variety on a c opyof the Union rotogravure stamp printed in 1949 for the Third Voortrekker Issue.

Additional Valieties on the New 2d. Stamps.

The following list of varieties, which appear on the left hand pane — one bar top and bottom of sheet — of the new 2d. stamps, has been submitted by Mr. I. A. Miller of Johannesburg and is additional to the constant printing flaws given last month.

Row 7/1 Sloping hairline from left margin across stamp.
8/1 Short thick purple vertical mark in margin.
11/2 Dot half way down right back ground.
12/3 White marks below "OS" of POSTAGE.
14/2 White spot to left of numeral "2".
18/4 Small break in stripe of face of Zebra at right.

Hyphenated 1d. Stamps on Unwatermarked Paper

The block of four 1d. Stamps illustrated herewith has been shown to us by Mr. B. S. Challen of Wilderness, Cape Province, as a specimen of the 1d. hyphenated rotogravure issue printed on unwatermarked paper.



Examination showed that the block was from a sheet of the Plate XV printing — U.H.B. No. 45a — positions 9 and 10 in the two top rows and with the usual multiple Springbok's Head watermark absent.

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We have no record of any such variety in the hyphenated printing of the 1d. denomination and all other copies of the Plate XV stamps seen during recent years have invariably been clearly unwatermarked. It is quite possible, however, that in the manufacture of the roll of paper on which these particular stamps were printed, there was one section, which for want of a mechanism adjustment, escaped the watermarking action of the 'Dandy Roller," and consequently it would be interesting to learn if any other collectors happen to have come across what is undoubtedly a most unusual variety.

"Narrow Stamp" Variety in Single Comb Production

An interesting variety which only occasionally shows up in the mechanics of perforating when printing on a machine with a single comb perforating apparatus has recently been brought to our notice by Mr. R. B. Cronwright of Germiston, Transvaal.

As may be generally known, thre are two rotogravure stamp printing machines in the Government Works in Pretoria, one of which operates with a multiple-comb perforating device and the other with single-comb equipment. Sheets produced from the former may be distinguished by the four-figure red serial numbers on the margin and also, very frequently by a narrow row of stamps which automatically and consistently show up at the junction of the strokes made by the 11-row perforating apparatus. (See the explanatory note on "Narrow Stamps" on page VI of the Union Handbook/Catalogue, Vol. 1.)



In the case of the single-comb machine, the sheets produced have five-figure serial numbers printed in black ink on the margins and because of its single row action it is really only when the operator on the machine makes a hand adjustment to offset the effect of creepage and re-align the perforations to their correct position in the centre of the gutters, that any doubling of the perforations takes place and in the particular row concerned all the stamps are slightly narrower than those in the adjoining rows.

Our illustration of a block of the current 4d. stamps purchased by Mr. Cronwright, is an excellent example of a stage in the printing process when the operator made the necessary adjustment in two successive rows to bring the perforations back to the centre of the gutters, and though there is no doubt such adjustments take place quite frequently it is not often one comes across a specimen as clearly defined as in the present instance.

GOUGH ISLAND.

Following the bald announcement in our June issue of the possibility of an expedition visiting Gough Island and of there being postal services connected therewith, we are now able to give particulars through the good services of Mr. A. B. Crawford, Post Meteoroligical Officer, Cape Town, who has been appointed the expedition's representative for South Africa, and who hopes to accompany it to, and see it settled in at the island.

The Expedition is being taken to the island from Simonstown by the frigate H.M.S. Magpie.

The expedition is organized from Cambridge University for a general scientific survey of the island and expects to spend 5 to 6 months there(Oct. 1955—March 1956). They will establish a Post Office, using the stamps of Tristan da Cunha, of which Gough Island is a dependency.

Mail and covers for servicing should be sent to **Mr. M. W. Holdgate** at the following addresses:—

(Before 23rd Sept. 1955) c/o Mr. A. B. Crawford, 3, Norfolk Lane, Rosebank, Cape Town.

(Thereafter until the end of January, 1956) c/o Postmaster, Tristan da Cunha.

Postage Rates:

Letters—Commonwealth, first oz. 3d., each additional oz., 1½d. Foreign, first oz. 4d. each additional oz. 2½d.

Post Cards—Commonwealth 1½d., Foreign 2½d.

Airmail (per ½ oz. U.K., Africa, Near and Mid-East 1/-. Europe 1/2d. Rest of world 1/11d.

Letters etc. must be fully addressed; they will be serviced with the expedition's cachet "Gough Island Scientific Survey 1955-56", and will be postmarked "Gough Island, South Atlantic" with date.

There will be no servicing charge, but if possible covers etc. should have the correct Tristan da Cunha stamps already affixed.

If such stamps are unobtainable, British or South African Postal Orders or International Reply Coupons will be acceptable to cover cost of stamps, but will senders **please mark clearly on the covers the value(s) of stamps to be affixed.**

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SEMI-PERFORATION: Coronation 2d. Blue, 1953

by T. B. Davie.

(Continued from page 136 of August Issue).

There is one other aspect of semi-perforation which is well illustrated by the Coronation issue. It is obvious that if two printings are made consecutively from two cylinders, then it is quite possible that perforation varieties may appear in the second printing which are not present in the first, i.e., may be developed in the perforating machinery during the course of these printings or in the interval between the two printings. And conversely perforation varieties may occur in the first or earlier printings which, having been detected and corrected, are not manifested in the second or subsequent printings. As yet I have not met with any certain examples of the latter variety, i.e., of semi-perforation present on printings from cylinder 98 but absent from those from the later cylinder 66. On the other hand, I have found at least one excellent example of the first type, i.e., those in which the defect does not occur in or is very nearly completely absent from the first or earlier printing (from cylinder 98), but is present as a constant variety in the second or subsequent printings (from cylinder 66). This eaxmple is found in Nos. 9 and 19 of Row 6 in which the semi-perforation occurs in the 4th hole down from the top on the Right border. A second example of nearly similar constancy is found in Nos. 5 and 15 of Row 5. The details of these two semi-perforations, mainly exhibited by the later printing (66), are included in the attached table, and illustrated in Figure 5.

It must be noted, however, that the absence or scarcity of examples of attachment of the disc in used stamps from cylinder 98 examined, does not exclude the possibility of their being found by other collectors. The defect (blunting of cutting edge of pin or bending or other displacement of the pin) may have occurred late in the first printing and it may therefore just happen that no examples have occurred amongst the stamps I have examined, while they may well be quite numerous among the (earliest) mint sheets and used examples possessed by other collectors. Nevertheless, these two examples appear to merit classifacation as semi-perforations exhibited mainly, if not solely by the second printing (cylinder 66). The identification of the eight stamps concerned will be aided, for those who do not have access to mint sheets, by the accompanying illustration (figure 6). In figure 7 the location of all five of their major examples of semi-perforation is illustrated.

For those who may be interested to make a special study of these semi-perforations, the following is a list of those in which the attachment of the disc occurs with sufficient frequency to indicate that it is due not merely to chance, but to some imperfection of the perforating mechanism which, however, is not of such a degree as to ensure constancy of the perforation error.

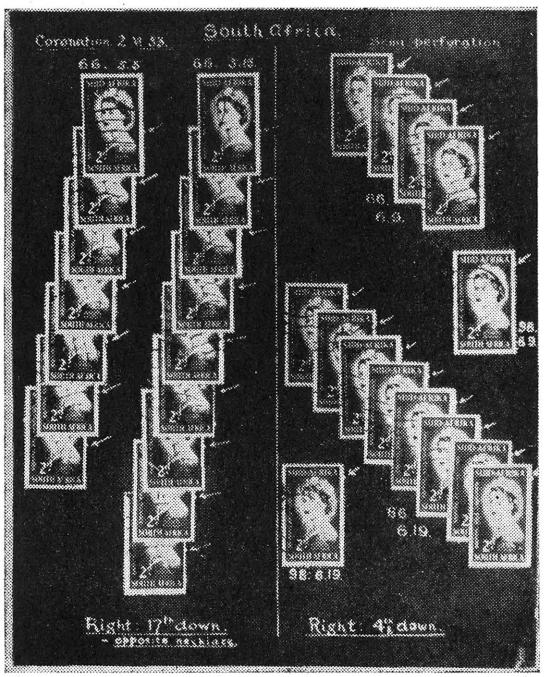


Fig 5.



Fig. 6.

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Table 1. List of "Frequent" but not "Constant" perforation imperfections or varieties.

Left border	1st hole down from top	Row 3 Nos. 1 and 11	Cylinders 98 & 66 (16)
" "	4th " " " "	Row 1 Nos. 3 and 13	Cylinder 66 mainly (8)
" "	7th " " " "	Row 1 Nos. 4 and 14	Cylinders 98 & 66 (13)
" "	10th " " " "	Row 4 Nos. 9 and 19	Cylinders 98 & 66 (7)
" "	15th " " " "	Row 3 Nos. 10 and 20	Cylinder 66 (4)
" "	8th hole up from bottom	Row 4 Nos. 3 and 13	Cylinders 98 & 66 (9)
Top border	1st hole from left	Row 4 Nos. 5 and 15	Cylinder 66 mainly (7)
" "	1st " " "	Row 1 Nos. 3 and 13	Cylinder 66 mainly
" "	5th " " "	Row 6 Nos. 5 and 15	Cylinders 98 and 66 (15)
Right border	4th hole down from top	Row 1 Nos. 2 and 12	Cylinders 98 & 66 (13)
" "	5th " " " "	Row 6 Nos. 1 and 11	Cylinders 98 & 66 (8)
" "	10th " " " "	Row 4 Nos. 8 and 18	Cylinder 66 mainly (7)
" "	8th hole up from bottom	Row 1 Nos. 3 and 13	Cylinder 66 mainly (8)
Bottom Border	1st hole from left	Row 5 Nos. 2 and 12	Cylinders 98 & 66 (7)
" "	6th " " "	Row 3 Nos. 8 and 18	Cylinders 98 & 66 (7)
" "	8th " " "	Row 3 Nos. 5 and 15	Cylinders 98 & 66 (12)
" "	9th " " "	Row 5 Nos. 1 and 11	Cylinders 98 & 66 (7)
" "	6th hole from right	Row 6 Nos. 7 and 17	Cylinder 66 mainly (5)
" "	Last hole from left	Row 3 Nos. 2 and 12	Cylinders 98 & 66 (10)

The figure in brackets at the end of the line shows the number of used specimens in my possession already identified. In all these cases, examples of used stamps (and also in some cases mint as well) without the semi-perforation have also been identified.

Semi perforation as here described is obviously one of the lesser varieties in stamps as issued, resulting from a minor imperfection at some stage or other in the various procedures which together produce the finished stamp. As such, many will dismiss it as belonging to the despised category of "fly spots". To others, however, this variant of varieties will appeal for several reasons. Firstly, as defined, it has positional constancy (or at least sufficiently high positional frequency) to permit of its being used for identifying not only the cylinder of origin, but even the stamp row for identifying not only the cylinder of origin, but even the stamp row and number. This, of course, should be the basis of any charting or recording of "fly spots" or other minor blemishes or markings on otherwise perfectly printed stamps. It is the real justification for the recording of the numerous minor errors such as "the high diver", "balloon in sun's rays", "St. Elmo's fire", etc., etc., (of the Union 1d. Roto — van Riebeeck's ship) which have the distinction not only of being visible to the naked eye, but of (in most cases) enabling the collector thereby to identify the printing (cylinder) as well as the row and number of the stamp in its sheet. The value for example, of these identifying minor errors to those attempting to assemble specimens of **all** the printings of a particular issue, such as, say, our 1d. rotogravure, is obvious. An intensive study of original mint sheets of each and every plate or cylinder printing and a charted recording of all the **constant** spots, dots, etc., should be a feature of the central bureau of every country's philatelic activity — for the sake of the future specialist.

In the second place, "semi-perforation" illustrates a failure in the mechanism of production of the flawless stamp. Several explanations could be adduced to account for the failure to produce separation of the minute disc of paper normally cut out when the perforating pins strike the paper along the unprinted gutters between the freshly printed rows of stamps. Whatever the explanation, it must account for the persistent adhesion of the disc to the one and not to the other stamp involved. It is obvious too, that while the well recognized and catalogued "missing perforation" is probably due to a completely missing pin, it might in some cases result from progressive exaggeration of the imperfection which produces at first occasional partial detachment of the disc and later full semi-perforation as defined.



Fig. 7.

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Table 2. — Analysis of Frequency of the five major Semi-perforations.

Semi perforation position	Stamp position Row	Number	Number identified with attached disc Cyl. 98	Cyl 66	Number identified without attached disc Cyl 98	Cyl 66	Total with discs	Grand Total	Percentage constancy of semi-perforation
Bottom border Holes 1 and 3	5	10	5	14	0	0	33	33	100%
		20	5	9	0	0			
Top border Hole 12 (5th from Right).	1	8	2	17	0	1	37	40	92·5%
		18	6	12	0	2			
Top border Hole 13. (4th from Right)	3	9	2	10	1	0	24	25	96%
		19	3	9	0	0			
Right border Hole 17 down (opposite necklace).	5	5	1	9	3	1	21 (20 : Cyl 66)	29	72% (Cyl 66 · 95%)
		15	0	11	3	1			
Right border Hole 4 down.	6	9	1	7	0	0	20 (18 = Cyl 66)	22	91% (Cyl 66 : 100%)
		19	1	11	2	0			

In the third place, semi-perforation arising in issues in which line, comb or grid perforators are used will introduce a new and interesting aid to the identification of individual stamps and thus of their printings. This, however, is only possible as the outcome of painstaking investigation by those having access to large numbers of stamps — used and in mint sheets. In Table 2 I have analysed the frequency of occurrence of the five major semi-perforations described above in the 2,000—2,500 used stamps examined for this purpose.

One other aspect of semi-perforation may be of interest. The perforating grid was used for our stamps by the Government Printing Works, Pretoria, for the first time in the Coronation issue. Since then the same method of perforation has been used on the O.F.S. Centenary commemorative issue (two printings of the 4½d. and one of the 2d.) and it would be interesting to find out whether (a) the same grids were used as for the Coronation issue, (b) whether these grids show evidence of correction or repair of the faults producing the semi-perforations of the Coronation issue, and (c) whether new imperfections had developed with consequent new constant perforation varieties. I have not available for study the necessary mint sheets of these O.F.S. commemoratives to start this investigation, but possibly some one who has may be tempted to undertake this investigation and thus to contribute towards that total of philatelic information which it is the rightful object of our journals, federations and societies to foster and pursue.

WANTED

Contacts willing to supply shades, varieties, etc., from various parts of the Union. Also office lots Bank clippings. Write to-day to:

C. E. SHERWOOD, P.T.S.,
"THE UNION SPECIALIST"
105 MARFORD CRESCENT, SALE, MANCHESTER G.B.

BOUVET ISLAND.

It is announced in the public press that plans to send another expedition to Bouvet Island have been held up.

After the expedition sent there at the end of 1954 returned, a conference decided that it would be desirable to send another expedition in August to see what winter conditions were like. This idea has had to be postponed, however, but the project is not abandoned as it is hoped that a station there will form at any rate, part of South Africa's contribution to the International Geophysical exploration of the Antarctic in 1957-8.

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SOUTHERN AFRICAN CENSOR MARKINGS

1914—1918

By J. HUNTER.

(Continued from page 141 of August Issue)

SOUTH & S.W. AFRICA (Continued)

Cachets serving as Free Franking Marks, possibly also as Censor Marks.

(1) Rectangle 50-54 mm. x 18-22 mm. (several with slight differences in size), with "Prisoner of War/Krijgsgevangene/Prisonnier de Guerre" in block caps. 3-3.5 mm. high. Mostly in violet, occasionally in grey-black. From P.O.W. or Internee camps such as Fort Napier, Pietermaritzburg or Aus in S.W.A.

(2) Double oval 50 mm. x 30 mm. in violet. "Commandant/Prisoner of War Camp" with Maltese crosses between upper and lower wording. Date in centre, 24 Feb. 1919. From P.O.W. Albrechtshohe, S.W.A.

(3) Double oval 50 mm. x 30 mm. surmounted by a crown. "Defence Department/Internment Camp, Roberts Heights" with stars between upper and lower wording. In centre "Official Free/Commandant/Prisoners of War."

(4) Double Oval 48 mm. x 30 mm., in violet. "Commandant/Prisoner of War Camp". In centre "15 Apr. 1918/Aus."

(5) Double oval 43 mm. x 26 mm., in violet. "Stationary Hospital/On Active Setvice". In centre "Official Free."

(6) 3-line marking in violet. "Prisoner of War /Free of Charge/Aus"

(7) Envelopes with printed heading in black "Prisoners of War" and in top right corner a rectangle with "No stamp required."

Censor's Seals. (Sizes approximate. There are also variations in length and spacing of wordings and numbers).

(1) White label 9 cm. x 3 cm. In bright red, all block caps. 3mm. high "Opened by Field Censor/Geopend door Veldcensor". On cover passed by Censor at Base 3. Date indistinct.

(2) White labels 10-11 cm. x 4.5 cm. with printing thereon all in red. At top in very small type is a printer's imprint (several different as regards numbers, quantities and printer's name). In letters 8 mm. high (Caps. 10 mm.) "Geopend door Censor/Opened by Censor/ (number)". Numbers seen, 99, 100, 104 and 105. On covers from Union and from S.W.A. to Europe, also one on a cover from a military internee in Holland to Cape Town.

(3) White label 10 cm. x 5 cm. In red, in letters 8 mm. high (Caps. 10 mm.) "Opened by Censor/Geopend door Censor". On covers from S.W.A. to Cape Town.

(4) White label 10-11 cm. x 4-5 cm. In red in letters 8 mm. (Caps. 10 mm.) high "Geopend door Censor/Opened by Censor/(number)" Nos. seen, 99 and 100. On overseas letters to and from Union and S.W.A. Also internally in S.W.A. and from S.W.A. to Cape Town.

(5) Like (4) but English wording first. Nos. seen, 99, 100, 103, 104, and 105. On same types of mail as (4).

(6) White label 10 cm. x 5 cm. In red "Opened by Censor/Geopend door Censor/21" Lettering 4 mm. (Caps. 7 mm.) high. Only one specimen seen, on cover from Switzerland to Johannesburg, 1917.

(7) This is recorded with some doubt as to its South African origin. A white label 9 cm. x 6 cm. In black "Opened by Censor/375". It is on a cover from the International Peace Bureau in Switzerland to Luderitzbucht. It has also a Censor Mark of Type (3a) and another Censor's label of Type (2).

EAST AFRICA..

Some listing of Censor Marks and Seals from the East African theatre of war has been given by Pirie in the "South African Philatelist" Vol. 20, 1944, p. 22. I have not very much material from this area, but can add a few items to this listing.

Censor Marks.

(1) Single-line circle of 25-26 mm. diameter, in violet. "Passed Censor" at top and stars between that and "E.A." at bottom. A "C" 11 mm. high in centre. On a letter headed in M/S "Kriegsgefangenen-sending—Tax frei" addressed to Europe. Arrival postmark dated 8-12-19.

(2) A cover from Stockholm to a German near Tanga; much re-addressed, mainly to various places in Egypt. The original address has added to it "By Censor of Prisoners of War Office, Nairobi" and because of it the following mark is recorded as being possibly a Nairobi one:— Rectangle 54 mm. x 20 mm. with "P. of W./Central Censorship/Bureau". There is also a 2-line mark in red-brown reading "Passed Censor/C.T. DSM" Can this be for Daressalaam?

(3) Additional numbers to Pirie's Type 10 mark, which is a square of 27 mm. sides which has inside "Passed by/(a crown) No...../ Censor". Additions are:— 3139, 3298, 3312, 3313, 3329 and 3346.

(4) An octagon 22 mm. across, in black with "Opened by Cen...../...../Martial Law" and date 8 Apr., '16. Cover has an Indian F.P.O. No. 24 postmark but there is no clue to the place of application of the Censor mark.

(5) Single line circle of 32 mm., in violet, with "P.C. (7mm. letters) Zomba/Nyasaland (1.5 mm. letters)". On registered cover with six 1d. "N.F." stamps, addressed to East London, 14-2-17.

(6) Pirie's Type 4, i.e. A rectangle 53 x 24 mm. with "Postage Free/Base (No.) N. Rhodesia/Passed By Censor". Additional Base No. "9".

(7) Rectangle 50 x 25 mm. with "Postage Free/(Signature)/Passed by Censor". On cover with postmark of Field Post Office 8.

(8) On cover from Belgian Congo to Europe. in M/S, black ink "Censure Militaire/Le Lieut. Colonel, Chef d'Etat/(signature)" Over this is a double-circle 40 mm. diam. cachet with the Belgian coat-of-arms in the centre and between the circles "Congo Belge/Ct. des troupes de l'Est".

(9) Doubtfully East African. A triangle, base 35 mm., height 27 mm., in red. "Passed by Censor" above a crown and a number. Nos. seen are 570 and 4208.

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Censor's Seals.

(1) Blue paper 10.5 cm. x 5.5 cm. with, in black, "Opened by Censor/under/Martial Law". This label is on the Belgian Congo cover described under No (6) above. The seal is tied with an Entebbe post-mark and is probably a Uganda type not previously recorded.

(2) Like Pirie's No. 1 type at Nairobi but yellow coloured rather than buff and the printer's inscription is "Leader, Nairobi & Mombasa. Tied to cover by a "K" in M/s, red ink.

Unrecorded Army Postmarks.

I shall end up as I started, with what I think are heretofore unrecorded Army Postmarks, from East Africa. At all events they are not listed by Pirie in the article of his referred to; nor are they in the more recent article by General Jean du Four in "The Philatelist" of March, 1954, p. 145.

(1) Additions to numbers of Indian F.P.O.'s Nos. 301 and 315, possibly also No. 36 although this might have been in Egypt and not in East Africa.

(2) A single-line circle of 25 cm. diameter with, in black "Base Office/E/10 De/15". also another with date 28 Mr./16.

Acknowledgements.

I have to express my indebtedness to the following for permission to include some items from their collections in my listings:— L. Buchen, Johannesburg; E. Jagger, England; E. G. Kinsey, England; J. G. Walker and D. Malcolm, Durban.

SOUTH WEST AFRICA

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APPROVAL SELECTIONS INVITED. Top-grade copies only. Barbados, The Nigerias, St. Helena, Somaliland Protectorate. — WILLIAM REDFORD, Box 1182, Johannesburg.

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

ORANGE FREE STATE. Am breaking up a magnificent collection containing most of the principal rarities.—DOUGLAS ROTH, Mona Crescent, Newlands, C.P

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

COMPLETE English - Afrikaans Philatelic Glossary. 3/6 post free.—Afrikaanse Filateliste-Vereniging, c/o. P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

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.

WANTED. Common Southern African stamps, current or obsolete, on or off paper. Any quantity. Please state quantities available and price required. A. LICHTENSTEIN, Box 1117, Bloemfontein.

BREAKING up fine King George VI Collection. Approval against references. Alex. van Rensburg, Box 69, Zastron, O.F.S.

MINT British Empire G. VI. 1938-42 Printings. Am breaking up a collection at very reasonable prices. Wants lists solicited. B. Challen, Box 2, Wilderness, C.P.

APPROVAL selections invited, or exchange, Postmarks Rhodesia (B.S.A. Co.) Clear impressions only. G. B. D. Williams, 4 Jameson Avenue, Melrose, Johannesburg.

WANTED: Mint and fine used pairs and blocks of the 1952 Van Riebeck 1/- "Missing Shadow" variety (Row 19/2) of South Africa and South West Africa. Offering 10/- and 12/6 respectively, premium on blocks. (Handbook valuation 7/6 for South Africa). Offers to J. M. Weinstein, P.O. Box 419, Pretoria.

I REQUIRE Exchange-friends in Africa, also pen-friends. I give Scandinavia. Write to Bo Lundin, Ballefors, MOHOLM, Sweden.

EXCHANGE Pictorial Stamps anywhere. Answer All. Ed. Petersen, 1265 N. Harvard Los Angeles 29, Calif., U.S.A.

STAMP COLLECTION sterling countries and few others, value £250 for £130 cash or nearest offer. Countries obtainable separately too. F. J. Visser, c/o Magistrate, Potchefstroom.

FOR 10/- Stamps. I'll send you 120 Pesos Mint Stamps, Postage-Airmail, of Chilie. Dr. Darrigrande, PUENTEALTO, Chilie.

A RHODESIA-NYASALAND FLAW.

Mme. Claire Birsen reports a constant flaw in the 3d. Livingstone (Victoria Falls) stamps. This takes the form of a projection like a gun, pointing upwards from the plane over the Falls till it nearly touches the first "5" of 1955. It occurs on the 3d. stamp of the 3rd row. Perhaps as she suggests, the gunner was trying to shoot birds.

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THE AIRGRAPHS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA 1941-1945

I. H. C. GODFREY.

(Continued from page 121 of July Issue).

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AIRGRAPHS

The G.P.Os. of the Union and Southern Rhodesia and the Army Post Office, Nairobi, printed pictorial AIRGRAPHS for use during the Christmas seasons of 1942, 1943, and 1944. Naturally, innumerable "Christmas Airgraphs" were also illustrated by individuals but these do not fall within the scope of this article as they had no official status.

It is interesting to note that, although the first Christmas Airgraphs were posted in the Union on 17th November, 1942, they did not reach Great Britain until 5th January, 1943, as is shewn by the arrival postmark on the delivery envelopes. In subsequent years the actual date was obliterated, or merely the year of arrival was shewn in the postmark.

1942/3/4 Union of South Africa, for use also in Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland. (Illustration No. 1.).
A variety exists in which the "V" and holly leaves are smaller.

1943/4 Southern Rhodesia. Inscribed "CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR / GREETINGS / FROM / SOUTHERN RHODESIA."

1943 Kenya.
General issue for East Africa Command (Ill. No. 2.)
Southern Rhodesia Survey Unit. (Ill. No. 3.).

AIRGRAPH STATIONERY.

Union of South Africa.

1942 Type I. Address panel 4⅝ x 1⅜ in. Text at left reads "The address/must be/ written in / LARGE/BLOCK / LETTERS/ wholly within/the panel/alongside. (Arrow) The address/must NOT be type-/ written." Rt; of panel: "P.1122." (Arrow) "GP-S." First instruction on back reads " . . . Service is available to the United Kingdom only . . .".

1942 Type II. Panel 4⅝ x 1 11/16in. "P.1122." now placed above left hand text. Right of panel "Above space for/Post Office use only. GP-S."
Airgraph charges shewn on back and first instruction amended ". . . to the United Kingdom, Eire, Canada and Newfoundland only . . .",
Printing of 17,500,000.
(Distributed also for use in S. Rhodesia).

Southern Rhodesia.

1941 Nov. 15th. Special Issue. Christmas concession to R.A.F. personnel only.
Address panel at foot of form.
Right of panel reads "Franking Officer's Signature, and Unit Censor Stamp Impression" (four lines) with vertical arrow.

1942 May 18th, **Type I.** Address panel 4 7/16 x 1 9/16 in. At right "Above space for Post Office use only. G-PS."
First instruction on back reads ". . . Service is available to the United Kingdom only . . . ".
3d. Adhesive stamp on back.
(Distributed for use in Northern Rhodesia.)

1942 May 18th. **Type II.** As before, but right of panel blank except for "P.1122" (Solid black horizontal arrow) "GP-S."
No postage stamp affixed (for civilian use.)

1943. Mar. 4th. **Type III.** Type 1 with printing on face. Issued by the Director, Dept. of Supply, with flimsy copy attached. Text in 19 lines reads, inter alia "PERMIT TO IMPORT AND CERTIFICATE OF ESSENTIALITY. **This is to certify that the goods ordered . . . either are required directly in connection with War purposes or are so essential that lack of them will impair the efficiency of Southern Rhodesia's, Northern Rhodesia's or Nyasaland's economy for prosecution of the War as a whole."**

1943 June **Type IV.** Union of South Africa sheet Type II.

Northern Rhodesia.

1942. **Type I.** Southern Rhodesia Type I.

Nyasaland.

1943. **Type I.** Entirely different from all other issues in format and texts. Side borders consist of four vertical lines.

Tanganyika.

1943. March. **Type I.** Imprint on back "G.P.-Dsm. P1849/3- 43/100 m/5-3 up."
Side borders consist of horizontal shaded lines.

Kenya (Civilian)

1942 March **Type I.** Form No. GPO.A.79. First instruction on back reads ". . . Ser- is available to the United Kingdom only ."

1943 August. **Type II.** As before, but amended to read ". . . United Kingdom, Northern Ireland, Eire, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji Islands, Tonga and New Hebrides . . . .".

MILITARY AIRGRAPHS—EAST AFRICA

Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika and O.E.T. of Abyssinia and Italian Somalia.

1941 Oct. **Type I.** Address panel 4 13/16 x 1 5/8 in. and detachable instructions at **bottom of form.** First instruction reads:- ". . . Service is available only to the United Kingdom from troops serving with the Middle East Force and the East African Force."
50,000 printed. Imprint "D.A.P.S.S.—2345—1941—50,000."

1941 Dec. **Type II.** Similar to above, but text in smaller lettering. Address panel 4¾ x 1⅝ in. Imprint: "G.P.K.C.".

1942 March. **Type III.** Address panel now at **top of form—**4⅝ x 1⅝ in. Instructions on back, the first of which reads " . . .Service

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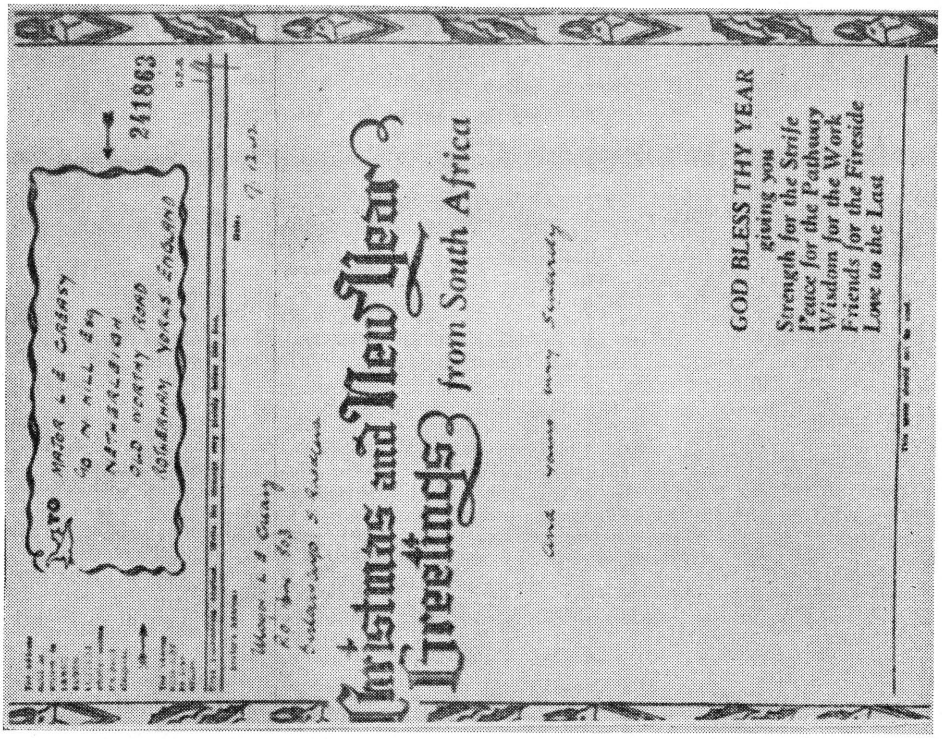


Illustration No. 1.



Illustration No. 2.

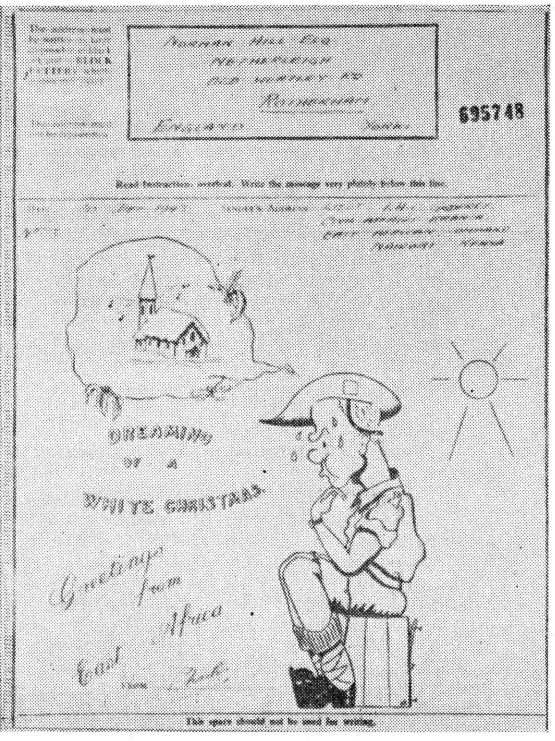


Illustration No. 3.

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is available **to** the United Kingdom only . . ." "Read Instructions overleaf. Write the message very plainly below this line" appears beneath the panel.

1942 **Type IV.** As Type III, but no Instructions printed on back, despite inscription "Read Instructions overleaf."

1942 **Type V.** Emergency roneod form issued in Mogadishu, Somalia. Very rough impression. "Read Instructions overleaf" omitted from text.

1943 **Type VI.** Address panel 4½ x 1⅝ in. Write message very plainly below this line" placed approximately 1¾ in. to right below panel. 30 cent red Meter frank on back.

1943 **Type VII.** "Write message &c." directly below panel. "S" of "Sender's name" beneath "g" of "message". 30c meter frank on back.

1943 **Type VIII.** As before, but "S" of "Sender's name" below "a" of "message".

1943 **Type IX.** "S" of "Sender's name" below second "s" of "message". 30c meter frank on back.

1944 Feb. **Type X.** Panel no longer solid but bordered by two parallel lines. 30c. meter frank.

1945 **Type XI.** Crude final printing—panel borders broken and lettering indistinct. Postage rate reduced to 25c. and meter franked on back.

AIRGRAPH DELIVERY ENVELOPES.

Union of South Africa.

Window envelope 4¾ x 3¾ in. with oval opening. Inscribed at top left corner in black letters "P.216/AIRGRAPH/FOFOBRIEF" in three lines. Buff paper.

Southern Rhodesia.

Similar to above, but inscribed only "AIRGRAPH" in black block letters.

East Africa—Forces Mail.

British type of envelope—inscribed "AIRGRAPH" with angular device underlining the word. Printing varies from pale to dark blue.

East Africa—Civilian Mail.

Type I. Envelope inscribed in black block letters "POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT KENYA, UGANDA, AND TANGANYIKA."
"AIRGRAPH" underlined with single barbed arrow.

Type II. Inscribed in pale blue, small letters "Posts and Telegraphs Department Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika."
"AIRGRAPH" surrounded by joined arcs.

Note: Union of South African envelopes were used in Southern Rhodesia when the service first started.
Type II. of East Africa were used in Madagascar in 1943 and in Southern Rhodesia during the Christmas season 1944/5.

UNITED NATIONS.

On UN Day, 24th October, the Postal Administration will issue (a) 3 stamps of 3c, 4c, and 8c denominations (b) a souvenir sheet, bearing one of each of these three stamps, each printed in its own colour.

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It was instituted in 1950 and is for the purpose of inspecting and reporting on medium class stamps which the owners think hardly worth the expense of submitting for a formal expert certificate.

The stamps are examined on the special printed cards (supplied free on request) and returned with the card marked with one of the 12 categories into which the stamp may fall, e.g. B—bogus, C—cleaned, Y—reprint, etc. The minimum charge is 5/-, but for this up to 10 stamps may be submitted; stamps in excess of this are charged 6d. each.

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NEW REPUBLIC
STAMPS and POSTAL HISTORY

J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

(Continued from page 125 of July Issue).

CHAPTER 2.
THE STAMPS

Although the New Republic was constituted and tacitly, if not officialy, recognised by Great Britain in 1884 its adhesive stamps did not come into use till Jan., 1886. Presumably some letters were written in the period between those dates and the question naturally arises how were they franked for transmission through the post.

A. Use of Z.A.R. stamps.

There may be some doubt as to what were actually the first stamps **of** the New Republic — a point dealt with a little later on — but it seems to be reasonably well established that prior to Jan., 1886 stamps of the Transvaal (South African Republic or Z.A.R. for short) were used and that they therefore constitute the first stamps **used in** the New Republic.

For contemporary information about the stamps of the New Republic we are dependant practically entirely on the writings of Emil Tamsen. Although he never actually visited Vryheid he was in frequent communication with the postal authorities there during the whole period they were issuing stamps. His writings are in "The Philatelic Record", Vol. X, 1888, "The Stamp News Annuals" of 1890 and 1891, and in "Gibbons Monthly Journal" Vol. XIII, 1902-03, pp. 115, 143 and 164. He writes:—

"During the time of issue of the first stamps of the New Republic **or before** (italics mine, J.H.H.P.) the black 1d. Transvaal stamps appear also to have been used for franking purposes. At least I have several specimens obliterated with the first cancelling stamp, but the dates are not legible nor have I any on envelopes. Their scarcity lead me to suppose they were only provisionaly used pending arrival of the New Republic handstamp."

This is presumptive evidence but there is a possible fallacy in the argument that these Z.A.R. stamps were actualy paying postage **in** the New Republic. In the absence of dates there is no conclusive proof that these black 1d. Z.A.R. stamps did not come from the covers which had also been franked with true New Republic stamps. These throughout their existence were only "locals", with franking powers only within the state boundaries. Letters going to the Transvaal therefore had to have Z.A.R. stamps as well.

It is the case that these "Penny Blacks" being cancelled only with a New Republic postmark, and the first type at that, is presumptive evidence of their having been used as New Republic stamps but it is not quite conclusive. (See later consideration of Combination Covers and of Postmarks.)

Fortunately there is now available stronger evidence showing that Z.A.R. stamps were used in the New Republic prior to 1886. In the collection made by that keen student of South African postal history, A. E. Basden, and now in the possession of Mrs. G. Hunt there are the following Z.A.R. stamps all cancelled in violet with the first type of New Republic postmark:- four 1d. black (S.G. 171), one ½d. grey (S.G. 175), two 1d. carmine (S.G. 176) and one 4d. bronze-green (S.G. 181). These all have recognisable portions of the 1st type postmark but none of them show a date and the same objection therefore applies to them as to the stamps reported by Tamsen. There are also a ½d. with part of type II cancellation and a 2d. with part of a type III cancellation.

But there is also a pair of the 1d. carmine with a large part of the Type I New Republic postmark with a date in ink M/s /7/85. Basden recognised the importance of this item from



the point of view of New Republic postal history and published a note on it, with illustration, in the "South African Philatelist", Vol. X, 1934, p. 68. This specimen is now in the Hunt collection.

B. A Possible New Republic Pre-adhesive stamp.

There is some evidence, though it cannot be said to be conclusive, of the use of a certain handstamp as a postal frank prior to the recognised adhesives.

Tamsen in his 1891 article already referred to says the first stamps of the New Republic were made by an india-rubber handstamp reading, at the top 'Nieuwe Republic, at the bottom 'Vrijheid' and in the centre the name 'A. de Vletter'; the whole is enclosed in an oval buckle with ornaments at the ends. There was no date but the value was written in with pen and ink and initialled.

He further states that he had never seen a specimen but his information was that they were printed on blue foolscap writing paper

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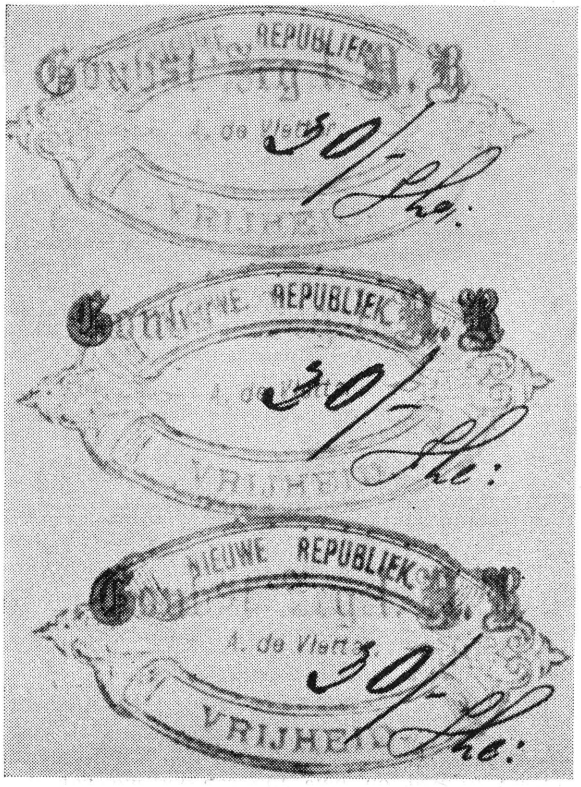
with blue lines, ungummed and imperforate, also that at the end of 1885 all such stamps were called in and exchanged for the new ones which went on issue at the beginning of 1886. Also that there were revenue stamps from the same handstamp but bearing an additional overprint "Gonuvs Zegel NR." (Government Stamp New Republic), the value also being written in and initialled.

Later, he writes with regard to this "De Vletter" stamp:— "I have not been able to find out whether any did postal duty, though I have heard that they did." He gives the initials on them as being "Thes" short for "Thesaurier"—Treasurer, and ends by saying he thought it safe to put them down as fiscal stamps only.

Despite this weighty pronouncement by Tamsen and despite the fact that no specimen of this stamp is known actually used postally I venture to put in a plea that the possibility of their having been used should still be regarded as an open question. My reason for so doing is twofold:—

(1) It seems to me unlikely that Tamsen could have heard rumours, if one may so term them, of the existence of such a stamp used postally if there had been nothing substantial behind the rumours.

(2) In the Pretoria postal museum there is in the collection made by the Z.A.R. Government a sheet with 10 of these stamps. Now, this is a collection practically entirely made up of postage stamps (the only exception being a few Cape of Good Hope revenue stamps) so it seems to me unlikely these "De Vletter" stamps would have been included if they had been



purely fiscal stamps. There are quite a lot of the ordinary adhesives of the New Republic there as well and it seems to be a fair presumption that they were all put there as samples of the country's postal stamps just as were the stamps of various other territories in Southern Africa and of other countries throughout the world.

The stamps are printed as described by Tamsen with values in manuscript and initials which appear to be, as he says, "Thes" abbreviation for Thesurier—Treasurer. The ten stamps are:— one for 5/6; three on one piece of paper, for 13/-; three on one piece for 20/- and three on one piece for 30/-

It must be mentioned, however, that all ten have the additional overprint in black described by Tamsen in the Stamp News Annual of 1891, as distinguishing revenue stamps from postal ones. This requires consideration and I make the suggestion that although it may quite well have been used on stamps used for fiscal purposes it might also have been used on stamps used postally. At the period if and when this stamp was used postally there would quite likely have been no regular postal canceller available.

The overprint itself also needs some further consideration. It is not exactly as described by Tamsen and the little difference may be of some significance. The overprint is in Old English characters and not too easy to read but from a careful study of the 10 specimens available it may be taken definitely as "Gouvst. Zegel N.R." not "Gonuvs Zegel." The point is what exactly does the contraction "Gouvst" stand for? If the "s" were there by mistake, the matter would be simpler; we would then have "Gouvt. Zegel" i.e. Official Stamp. But if the "s" is really meant to be there, it has everyone stumped. A number of philatelists and postal officials, some of them familiar with High Dutch, have seen it but are puzzled. The favourite suggestion is that it is made up from the two words "Gouvernment' and 'Stempel' (Government and Cancel) and a fair English rendering might be "Officially Cancelled stamp—New Republic". No one, however, is completely satisfied that this is the correct interpretation.

Admittedly there is much that is uncertain about this matter but I think there is just sufficient in the way of probabilities to justify my plea that the question of recognising the "De Vletter" stamp as having been postally used be still an open one. Something may yet turn up to enable a positive answer to be given, one way or the other. See also later, under "Postmarks".

Note: A further complication about the 'De-Vletter' stamps came to light, just on going to press, through my becoming aware of the description of them given in Bridger and Kay's catalogue of Revenue, Telegraph and Railway stamps published in 1908.

Two varieties are there described as issued in 1885 (a) Fancy oval with buckle, "Nieuwe Republic — Vryheid." A. de Vletter in centre, on blue laid ruled paper, overprinted "Gouvts. Zegel, N.R. (Gothic Type), value in MS. and initialled. 6d., 5/- and 10/- values listed. (b) Similar, but oval without buckle. Values listed are 1/6, 2/6, 7/6, 13/- 20/- and 30/-; in the case

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of the 7/6 and 30/- the spelling of the worrying word is given as "Gouvst."

The specimens in the Pretoria Museum **all** have "Gouvst". Have they a buckle or not? I took the contraptions at the ends of the oval to be the buckle; now I am not so sure—they may be the minus buckle variety.

(To be continued).

PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

17th Congress — Pretoria— 31 Oct. to 5 Nov. 1955.

Full details may be obtained from the Congress Arrangements Committee, P.O. Box 514, Pretoria, but the following brief outline of what is to take place in Pretoria will act as a guide to those who plan to spend one or more of the days during Congress Week in the city. Hotel accommodation will be at a premium during that week and those concerned are advised to make the necessary reservations without further delay. If any desire assistance in this regard apply to the Congress Committee.

Monday, October 31st. Opening of Exhibition at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, November 1st. Welcome to guests and opening of Congress by His Worship the Mayor at 10.15 a.m.

Wednesday, November 2nd. Visit to the Government Printing Works in the afternoon, and organized bowls and golf for those more sports-minded.

Thursday November 3rd. 5.30 p.m. Civic Cocktail party at Fountains kiosk.

Friday, November 4th. 7.30 p.m. Cocktail party and Dinner, including presentation of Awards.

Saturday, November 5th. Closing of Exhibition at 10 p.m.

POSTAL HISTORY.

The 11th Annual Conference of the (British) Postal History Society will be held at Looe (Cornwall) on October 6—10. Visitors are welcome to attend the public meetings of the society, but any intending visitor should get in touch beforehand with the Hon. Sec., Mr. N. E. Wallis, Nortonbury, Taplo, Maidenhead, Berks.

AS OTHERS SEE US.

In the July "Commonwealth Courier" Jim Crow deals with the question of why several of the Union animal stamps are already fetching practically full face value in used condition.

He finds the answer in the February Issue of the S.A. Philatelist, viz., the quantity of stamps printed, these figures being "supplied officially by an enlightened Post Office."

He goes on "I would like to say a word or two about the particular stamp publication, which is one of the finest of its kind. Edited and published by the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, it is a must for all those collectors who have interest in Southern African stamps. No philatelic magazine comes the writer's way which is more looked forward to."

A NETHERLANDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY IN SOUTH AFRICA

Under the stimulus of Mnr. H. Roselaar, Box 417, Pretoria, some collectors have formed a Branch of the "Philatelisten Vereniging Baarn" of Baarn, Holland. Membership of that Society entitles members to new issue services for stamps of Holland and the Dutch Colonies, Exchange Packets, etc., etc. Anyone interested should communicate with Mr. Roselaar.

AUSTRALIA.

On the 17th October a 3½d. stamp will be issued to commemorate the centenary of the first South Australia stamps. The design incorporates the head of Queen Victoria and other features of those of 100 years ago. The date of issue coincides with the opening of the National Philatelic Exhibition at Adelaide, about which there have been advertisements in our last two issues.

STAMP ARTISTS.

There are artists who design stamps, but there are also others who cut up stamps and use the pieces in picture designs, especially portraits.

One such, is Mr. Baron P. Jaffa, Hon. Sec. of the Philatelic Society of Rhodesia, and a real philatelist as well as being an artist in stamps, particularly in the making of portraits. Visitors to the Congress and Exhibition in 1953 may remember a portrait of Rhodes which he exhibited there; this is now in the Rhodesian University.

He has recently completed a portrait of Sir Winston Churchill and the Prime Minister of S. Rhodesia has approached Sir Winston to see whether he would care to accept the portrait for his birthday on 30th November. A photograph of Mr. Jaffe holding the portrait appears in the Bulawayo Chronicle of 28th July 1955.

MARION ISLAND.

Leaving about the end of September or beginning of October, the Guano Islands' Departments' boat "Gamtoos" is going to Marion Island with material and personel for the rebuilding of living quarters for the meteorlogical staff. Mail will be taken and brought back.

This will be no new task for the "Gamtoos" as she took part in the setting up of the station there at the beginning of 1948.

LIONEL B. GOLDSCHMIDT.

We regret to report the death, after a long illness, of L. B. Goldschmidt, F.R.C.S., F.R.P.S.L., of Cape Town where he had practised as a urologist for many years. He was born in Queenstown and was 63 years old. As a philatelist he was best known for his collection of and work on Cape stamps; a past President of the Cape Town Society, only a few weeks ago he was elected an Hon. Life Member of it.

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REVIEW

UNION HANDBOOK/CATALOGUE

Volume II

Published by the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

Price 22/6.

The eagerly awaited supplement to the 1952 Union Handbook/Catalogue made its appearance at the beginning of August and is now on general sale.

Strongly bound in dark green with gold lettering, it presents a dignified and pleasant appearance for any book-shelf, and a worthy companion to the original edition.

The Handbook contains 198 pages of thin but good quality paper. The printing and general layout are similar to its forerunner, but the 140 odd photo illustrations have not come out quite so clearly, probably due to the thinner paper.

Although the supplement contains a large number of alterations, amendments and additions to the original text, the limited number of new emissions, including new commemoratives, animal series and the sections on perforating, rotogravure and general bibliography justify its publication in supplement form at this stage. One feels, however, that if the Federation contemplates a further publication in a few years' time, it should then be in a consolidated edition with one or more volumes.

A welcome feature of the supplement is the bibliography at the end of each section, so that the person interested in research and needing more detailed particulars than could reasonably be included in the Handbook, now knows where to look for the information.

The queries over the Darmstadt trials having been clarified by the Postal Authorities and accepted by the Federation, these trials now take their place as a suitable introduction to the Rotogravure printings in Section 8, but no prices for items are quoted.

Those collectors who have individual sheets or marginal pairs from booklets will appreciate greatly the listing of these, with prices, in their correct context in relation to the basic stamps sold over the counter. The section on booklets, however, remains as before giving details in respect of complete booklets, but some new listings have been made and the information, identifying the booklet stamps with the basic stamps and plates, together with diagrams of settings, will be found most helpful.

In some sections the whole text has been completely re-written. This applies to the ½d. "cross hatch", silver jubilees, and the introduction to Group III of the postage dues, while the section of officials overprinted from stereotyped plates has also been re-written and brought up to date with a study on the stages of the "broken C" variety.

In most sections numerous previously unclassified varieties have been included, noteworthy additions being the diaeresis varieties on the officials. The newly discovered Plate VIa of the Id. unhyphenated rotogravure issue has also been recorded but without much detail at this stage. The section on roll stamps has been considerably amplified and identification with basic stamps recorded. Generally all sections have been brought up-to-date.

As regards pricing, it is not possible to review this adequately in the space available. Noteworthy increases have been made for numerous arrow blocks and other plate identifying material. Whether one agrees or not with the extent of these increases, it is a significant fact that very little of this material has become available on the market, and prices realised indicate that in many cases the previous prices have been out of proportion to the firm demand and scarcity of items. One section which has received marked increases is the 3d. — 2/6 values of the unhyphenated rotogravures, and to quote another example, the early wartime airletter cards have jumped to twice, three times and even six times their former prices. In a few cases, prices have been reduced. Examples of these are the silver jubilees, and the 1d. Pretoria typographed pictorial (so-called "twisted ship" variety) which has been amended from £25 to 150/-, mint.

Over all, the authors have completed a stupendous task with great credit to themselves and the Federation. A vast amount of checking and re-checking has been done, many errors of description or classification have been corrected, numerous varieties have been included, new material added, sections brought up-to-date and obvious price anomalies adjusted. Those of us who think of Union stamps as so much more than collecting 'fly-spots', offer our sincere congratulations and thanks to the editors.

K.L.

FRANCE.

On 9th July there was issued a 30fr. stamp featuring the corvette "La Capricieuse"; the occasion was the centenary of the voyage of this vessel to Canada in 1855, the first official visit of a French vessel since Canada was lost to the British in 1763.

OBITUARY

JOHANNA E. RICH.

Johanna E. Rich, wife of Stephen G. Rich, but a well known collector in her own right, and a South African by birth, died suddenly of a heart attack on June 26th, 1955. She was well known in philatelic circles in America, where she had lived since 1921, save for two trips to South Africa. Mrs. Rich was particularly known for her Topical collections of Camels, Cattle, Dogs, Insects and Fishes on stamps. In the 1930's she had been prominent in pre-cancel collecting. She was 65 years old, and had collected since the age of 10 when living on her parent's farm in the Vryburg district of the Cape Province. Her will provides that all her stamp material be sold.

Mrs. Rich was a member of the Women's Philatelic Society of New York, American Topical Association (life member) Precancel Stamp Society (life member) and other organizations. For at least 20 years she had been a subscriber to the "South African Philatelist". Her collection of Union of South Africa commemoratives, including semi-postals, had taken high awards at a number of American stamp exhibitions in the last five years.

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FRENCH CATHEDRAL STAMPS

by O. L. Harvey.

(Reprinted from "Stamps" by permission of the Editor and of the Author)

Although other countries have cathedrals as beautiful, none has so artistically portrayed them on postage stamps as France has done on her semi-postals of 1944 and 1946. To possess a dieproof of each of these ten items, preferably signed by the artist-engravers concerned, must surely be one of the supreme joys of a collector of the best in philatelic art.

The only two items which were not both designed and engraved by one person were Angoulême (SP139), designed by Dufour, and engraved by Dufrense and Amiens (SP141) by Lucas and Cottel. It is evident, therefore, that, with these two possible exceptions, each result ant product is truly reflective of the intent of the artist. The series thus provides an interesting study of differences in approach to approximately the same problem.

Curiously enough, it is the design that at first seems least inspiring to which, on better acquaintance, one eventually returns for the most satisfaction. In Angoulême it is as though the artist were saying: "Here is the front of the cathedral. There is no exaggeration of height, no distraction of depth. It is just about what you would see in the light of near noon." An so it is. Details are merely suggested; nevertheless, one gets the impression that they would prove worthy of more careful study. Horizontal shadows break up the vertical lines of the building into a wall of pictures, each of itself a story, and one's curiosity is aroused to learn more.

Compare this approach with that of Cottet in his Albi (SP143) and Lucas in his Amiens (SP141). Here the artists are impressed with the sheer bulk of the subject—the upward soaring line, the depth of moulding, the contrast of light and shade.

Lucas' Amiens cathedral is so vigorously done such a contrasting of shadow against brightly reflecting surfaces, that one tends to overlook the detail altogether. The front is so impressive that it is in danger of being mistaken for a facade—an impression not entirely dispelled by the confusion caused on the one hand by the apparently shallow perspective of the building as a whole, and on the other by the exaggerated depth of the main entrances to the cathedral.

The same vigorous contrasting of light and shade characterises Cottet's Albi; but here the perspective of the building is a forcefully exaggerated as is the height of the tower, with a resultant improvement in balance. In this item it is surprising to note, in both of these items, how few lines in fact are used to convey the impression of massive majesty. Detail is unimportant. It is the overall effect that counts. Bright sunlight pouring out from among the clouds does much to accentuate this impression. It is well to note how skillfully as an engraver Cottet cuts his lines — some so light as to be almost imperceptible, and others deep, but at all times fine. Compare, for example, the heavy shadows of Angoulême.

Mazelin's contributions to the 1944 series are both interiors. His treatment of Beauvais cathedral (SP142) is remarkable for its perspective and impression of height. The observer is standing at the crossing, looking east. The tiled floor and the dark arches at either side of the picture suggest a frame for the stamp. The massive pillars at the inner corners of the crossing are very lightly touched in. The choir stalls between them and the altar are somewhat more heavily shaded, but still only sketched. The altar itself, and the windows and architectural detail behind them are firmly shaded. The eye is carried first to the altar, and then upwards to the arched ceiling, which, because of the great lighted windows, seems to float on air. The intricate detail of the ceiling deserves special study under a high-powered lens.

The great rose window of Chartres (SP140), one of the most beautiful in ecclesiastical architecture, is the subject of Mazelin's second contribution. In this stamp again the artist employs side-pillars as his frame, both to emphasise vertical dimension and to exaggerate the depth of perspective. The engraving detail consists mainly of massing of lines. This is proper, so as not to distract from the window itself. Thus, for example, the figures in the five windows immediately below the rose are deliberately only suggested. And the arched doorway at the foot of the wall is heavily engraved to balance the light from above.

In the 1946 series Mazelin's contribution — the cathedral of Clermont-Ferrand (SP168) —is an exterior. It is not so interesting as a work of art, but from the point of view of engraver's technique it contains several worthwhile characteristics. Note how the dotting on the rounded walls and the pavement in the foreground give a somewhat sombre effect. Also note the the patching on the roughly finished roof in the lower right corner. Just below the centre dome is marked a ribbon of stars. Triangular dots in the sky help to vary the shading, but they look just a little like snowflakes.

Piel's Notre Dame (SP171) is a calm, graceful, and soothing picture — almost too gentle, when one considers the life-filled history of that famous cathedral. The river runs quietly, under a bridge of classic proportions. Trailing vines and rounded trees on the lawns are smoothly engraved. Flying buttresses and piercing spire carry the eye heavenward, but not too far. The rose windows are merely suggested Were it not that one knows the cathedral is in the heart of Paris, one would think it lay in some pastoral far remote place. But perhaps, when first built, it did so lie. As Our Lady is gentle, so too is this artist's portrayal of her dwelling.

Munier's Cathedral of St. Sernin at Toulouse (SP167) reminds one of some of the cathedral stamps of Bohemia-Moravia. Perhaps this is because of the manner in which dotted clouds billow up behind the six-tiered spire. Interesting are the small turret-like windowed compartments that buttress the main body of the edifice, and pleasing is the succession of curving roofs that lead up to the tower. The engraving technique is straightforward and relatively uncomplicated.

Decaris is always Decaris. Whether he draw animals or trees, human figures or cathedrals, his style is as individual as unusual. As though merely throwing his lines together,

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yet with a masterliness approaching genius, in his Saint Julien-Le Mans (SP170) he blocks out contrasting shades, hints at lines that do not appear, carries the eye through a rapid exercise in up and dnwo movement, and ends up with a palace of gleaming blue ice.

Compare the rich round coppery warmth of Barlangue's St. Front (SP169). Indeed these two items fall artistically together. Here abound minarets and cupolas in Byzantine profusion. Where Decaris's style here is northern male, Barlangue's is the female of the south. Even the sky is rich and varied. The clustering of buildings is as well balanced. The engraved lines are more often horizontal or broadly diagonal. There are many curves. And the colour is most appropriate.

Here then are as many styles as seven artists and engravers. They are by no means all of France's philatelic art. But representative of her craftsmanship and love of beauty, certainly. We who enjoy them would do well to see that these gems are not missing from our collections. And perhaps other countries could be pursuaded too to let their artist-engravers contribute unrestrained. Yes?

SOME RECENT AUCTION PRICES

H. R. Harmer.

U.P.U British Commonwealth, complete except Basutoland £9. 9. 0.
B. Guiana. 4c. S.G. 8. £140.
Cape. 6d. triangular, deep rose-lilac £30.
Union. Handley Page cover 1920. £20.
G. Britain 1d. Black. Reconstructed sheet, complete but for one, £140.
10/- I.R. Official (S.G. O26) £625.
Falkland Is. 1868. Small black frank on cover £125.
Natal. 1857. 1/- embossed. £23.

Robson Lowe.

S. Australia. Pr. 2d. 1855 used £33.
1/- 1856-58 used £32.
"Tenpence" on 9d. 1860-69, surcharge inverted £62.
2/6 & 5/- 1891-1903 o'ptd. "O.S." £47.
Sudan 1936-37 5p. on 10p. mint £70.
G. Britain. 1d. Black Plate II. NL on cover £52 10. 0.
1½d. 1858-70 Error OP-PC £67. 10. 0.
Falkland Is. 1933 Centenary set ½d. to 10/- £40.

SOUTH AFRICANS AT STOCKHOLM.

The number of South African collectors showing at the "Stockholmia 55" International Exhibition was not quite so large as at "Norwex". Awards gained were as follows:—

Silver Medals. A Kaplan, Germiston, for S. Rhodesia.
Sam Legator, Brakpan, for Union of S. Africa
M. F. Stern, Cape Town, for African Airmails

Bronze Medals. L. Buchen, Johannesburg, for G.S.W.A.

Certificates. S. Legator, Brakpan, for Israel.
J. H. Harvey-Pirie, Johannesburg, for Antarctica.

Two collectors, whose names at any rate are fairly well known in South Africa, were Mr. E. Huston and Mr. A. Cecil Fenn. The former, whose Cape collection won the Grand Prix at Cape Town in 1942, was awarded a Silver-Gilt medal, with the congratulations of the Jury; the latter obtained a Silver award for his collection of Orange Free State.

MAMMOTH RAMP IN 'RELIGIOUS' STAMPS.

Thematic collectors should beware of a ramp in the proposed issue in Panama over the next few years of a set of 259 stamps featuring all the Popes of the Roman Catholic Church.

The story is told in the May issue of the Australian Stamp Monthly as taken from an article in the New York Herald-Tribune by its stamp editor, Ernest Kehr.

Apparently a group of Americans have made arrangements with the Republic of Panama to sponsor this issue of stamps. From the sale of the stamps 35% goes to those financing the project, 10% "to the Catholic Church in the Vatican," 10% to a Panamanian charity; 45% being retained by the Panamanian government. The first issue will consist of a set of 12 values, each featuring a Pope with the name Pius; from this the investors hope to get their share (35%) of 105 million dollars.

KILOWARE

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SOCIETY NEWS

PAARLSE POSSEELVERSAMELAARSVERENIGING

19 July 1955. Ons gasspreker en vertooner van die aand was mnr. E. Blum van Kaapstad, wat 'n groot verskiedenheid vertoon, en bespreek het, sommige waarvan uiters waardevolle stukke.

Dit het ingesluit lugposkoeverte van S.A. en Newfoundland, Unie en O.V.S. Varieteite. Duitse besetting van die Kamaaleilande en Palestynse uitgawes.

9 Augustus. Die volgende lede het vertoon en ook elkeen het 'n praatjie gelewer oor sy uitstalling:—

1. Mnr. A. M. Lewis: Die Koningin uitgawes van Transvaal in 1878.
2. Mevr. Dr. F. J. Joubert en Mnr. A. de Minnaar: Nederland.
3. Mnr. N. C. Combrinck: Landbou op Posseëls.
4. Mnr. J. G. le Roux: Militere Posstempels van die Britse Magte in die Anglo-Boereoorlog.

J. G. le R.

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Owing to absences from town and the Hobbies Exhibition, the attendance at the **July meeting** (8th) was only half of the usual members present, and Mr. T. A. Harper acted as Chairman.

Three new members were elected and the Secretary reported on the wide range of stamps on display at the Hobbies Exhibition, had achieved a record attendance. It is hoped that the activities of the Society would thus be brought to the notice of "secret" and new collectors locally.

The Exchange Club Superintendents mentioned that a few members were still dilatory in passing on Stamp packets within the prescribed period of three days, and an appeal was made by the Chairman for closer co-operation.

Talk: Mr. Atkinson's talk on the significance of the designs of the current Definitive Issue of Nigeria was most enjoyable and the Members present were able to improve not only their knowledge of the stamps but also the history and geography of this country.

The results of the June Competitive Display were announced, and four members took part in the July competition.

A display of the stamps of Italy by Mr. I. Lazarus was most interesting and was enjoyed to the full by all present as were various new issues passed round by several members. J.P.S.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Attendance at our **July meeting** again left something to be desired. The Chairman asked: "Was the attendance poor on account of the cold winter evenings" — or "Are Germistonians losing interest in the Philatelic Society?" It was decided at the meeting to ask the Secretary to forward a questionaire to each member in an endeavour to ascertain what is wrong and obtain their suggestions and views for improvements.

Two exhibits were on view at this meeting: the first a very extensive display of Finland stamps tabled by Mr. Eilers. The second a mint and used collection of South West Africa by the Secretary.

Mr. Bompas, on behalf of all members present, said a few words of praise and thanks to Mr. Eilers, mentioning the distinct difference in design between the old and new issues of that country. The older issues were hard to obtain, but he noticed that Mr. Eilers did not lack many of the higher denominations. Mr. Retief thanked the Secretary for tabling his collection of South West Africa, he stated that this country was one that he was interested in, and although he had always hoped to view Dr. Kaplan's collection, this hope had never materialised and he was very pleased to view the Secretary's display, even though it was not extensive and lacked many of the higher denominations. I.S.B.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

4th July, 1955. Mr. J. A. Parker organized the entertainment for the evening and commenced proceedings with an auction, to which members contributed on a 'no reserve' basis. Bidding was brisk and interest was lively, and as a result it was decided that in future at the first meeting each month a short auction be introduced at the beginning of the evening's programme. Thereupon Mr. Parker tabled some selected pages from Dr. M. Peisach's collection which comprised items of King George VI and Israel, all very neatly arranged and presented.

18 July 1955. The Transvaal Museum authorities exhibited some 120 pages from the multi-volume collection that has come into their custody as a result of this country's membership of the Universal Postal Union. Miss Versfeld very kindly presented the display which she prefaced with a paper compiled by the Museum's director, Dr. Fitzsimmons, to which she added some of her own observations. The information divulged was new to many members, and certainly caused many of them to wish that they had such a sure service of supply of new issues as are the U.P.U. authorities in Berne. The material shewn was all of a foreign nature and certainly illustrated very effectively the diverse methods of printing in use and the terrific scope for design and artistry that exists in the production of the postage stamp. It may not be generally known that anyone interested is at liberty to examine the collection housed at the Museum at any reasonable time, and that from a reference viewpoint, concerning issues since 1933, it may be of considerable assistance to collectors of countries whose stamps are not often seen in this country. Our thanks are due to the Museum authortiies for agreeing to the display and Miss Versveld who did all the chores necessary to make this possible.

J.M.W.

CAPE TOWN THEMATIC CLUB.

Thematic Philately on Tour.

July 21-23. The Club, in association with Worcester Rotary, presented a full scale Exhibition in the spacious new Blooms Galleries at Worcester.

This was carried out by Messrs. W. G. Combrink and Geo. Petroulis and the Exhibition was thematically philatelic and in two parts: the story of the posts from the earliest days represented by letters from each century from the fourteenth to the last century with interesting seals, transit and disinfection markings, up to the advent of the adhesive stamp in 1840: the second part illustrated the modern trend of philately, being 40 frames of Thematic Collections, contributed by junior and senior members, covering such subjects as Godsdiens (Religion), Landbou (Agriculture), Blommewereld (Flowers), Nasionale Parke (National Parks) Dieretuin (Zoos), Education, Music, Native Culture, the Posts at the Cape and Art.

The publicity in the local and Cape Town Press, on the Radio, and the series of Talks given at the various local Schools by Mr. W. G. Combrink, who arranged the Exhibition, resulted in a big attendance and the continuance at special request for the whole of Saturday instead of closing at noon. The droves of scholars soon exhausted the free gift packets at the Information Desk. This effort deserves publicity as it is in this way that Philately can be brought to the notice of the public. As a result one school has since begun a Philatelic Society.

25th July. On this occasion Mr. Geo. Petroulis, the old stalwart of the Club, came to light with a very fine collection of the Union and S.W.A. Airmails. This consisted of a very specialised collection of the stamp issues and included all the rarieties. Flown Aircovers were also exhibited and these included the rare first Pigeongrammes, Cobham flight, Beaufort West flight and other record flights. Needless to say members were kept busy seeing this exhibit long after the usual period set aside.

This effort on the part of the Thematic Club has led to a wide interest in the Boland; societies are starting up at several places around Cape Town. Perhaps other centres could follow suit, but they should be warned that it needs much time and enthusiasm on the part of the foster parent.

M.F.S.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN.

14th July. A record crowd came to see the collection of the Union of South Africa shown by Mr. L. Simenhoff, F.R.P.S.L. Needless to say not a soul was disappointed as there was a comprehensive display covering all issues, including booklets and postage dues, and included were many of the real rarieties that one seldom has the opportunity to see but which one reads of in the catalogues. It still seems that a Union specialised collection can be a formidable draw to the members as well as the general public and even more so when a collector of the calibre of Mr. Simenhoff makes a showing. Philately can ill afford the lack of such specialists who maintain such a high standard and whose research adds so much to the knowledge of the hobby. Members always look forward to his showings and his talks which reveal so much of the interesting past.

28th July. On this occasion there was the competition for the best thematic collection in connection with the award of the Kaganson Cup. This was

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won by M. F. Stern with his "Architecture". This was awarded on the research shown and general presentation. The other two collections shown were Mr. G. Petroulis' "Art", which is outstanding and beautifully presented, and Mr. W. G. Combrink's "National Parks", a full study of this interesting theme. The Society has lost several members who have passed away and many will miss an old frend in Mr. R. J. Axer, who was one of the old stalwarts. Mr. L. B. Goldschmidt has resigned due to ill health and was unanimously elected an Hon. Life Member. He was a former President of the Society. M.F.S.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

A rather poor attendance at the **July Meeting,** caused no doubt by the cold weather, enjoyed the fare provided by members of the committee who each brought along some dozen or so pages from their collections. The Chairman started the ball rolling with twelve pages of his New Zealand collection, mostly definitives. George Norval also exhibited New Zealand, but he concentrated upon the Health issues, which were well written up. Dr. Peisach brought six pages each of Switzerland and Israel, explaining that when the latter country started issuing their own stamps they arranged for printing experts from Switzerland to aid them. His exhibit showed the similarity between the printing of the stamps of these two countries. Eric Walker brought twelve pages of Unions showing many retouches and printing flaws. Derek Brown tabled an interesting selection of U.S.A. First Day covers while the Secretary brought along Australian and New Zealand retouches, re-entries and other varieties. W.J.K.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF THE WESTERN RAND.

The monthly meeting for July was held in the Krugersdorp Town Hall, on **Wednesday July 27th,** 1955, at 8 p.m.

Mr. S. Vermaak presided with 13 members present.

During the evening members were able to look through the De Luxe edition of Volume II of the South African Catalogue of Union Stamps. This copy had been kindly presented to the Society by the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa.

Members were reminded that the Afrikaans Philatelic Society would be visiting our Society next month, August, and that the venue would again be at the Krugersdorp Town Hall. The venue for September would be at the residence of Mr. J. Keet.

The exhibit for the evening was tabled by Mr. J. T. Burrell in the form of the Transvaal 1883 re-issues of the original issue of that country. It proved a very interesting philatelic query in that there was much argument about whether or not the stamps were forgeries. Many theories were put forward and finally Mr. S. Vermaak came forward with some very definite points that proved that the collection was a mixed one of genuines and forgeries. Much useful information was gained by all those present and all went away with something new learnt again about stamps. Mr. H. F. Henderson spoke on the exhibit.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Bruwer and the Town Council for the loan of the room and for the facilities put at the disposal of the Society for catering. B.S.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF RHODESIA.

29th May, 1955. The Society held its first meeting in the new meeting place, The Women's Institute Hall, Lobengula Street, Bulawayo, and a very interesting evening was spent. The Secretary reported the passing away of an old member, Major A. Gurney, and a message of sympathy was sent to his widow. Mr. R. E. King showed a very enjoyable collection of used and mint Canadian Stamps, and his collection was entered for the Porter Cup. Mr. G. Whitehead gave a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. R. E. King for exhibiting so worthy a collection.

30th June 1955. A most enjoyable programme was offered and kept members and visitors well entertained until 10.30 p.m. Mr. B. P. Jaffa arranged and gave a very amusing Quiz. Three prizes were awarded. The 1st going to Mr. R. E. Sinclair, 2nd to Mr. Morgan and 3rd prize to Mrs. A. Wallace. After a showing of several packets of Covers, sent to us by Lord Greenway of Salisbury, Mr. A. Fitzstephen showed a very interesting collection of Northern Rhodesian Stamps, which were greatly appreciated by all members and visitors.

28th July, 1955. This meeting was taken over by the President of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, Mr. F. C. Fergusen. The meeting was very well patronised by members and several visitors, and a most successful evening was enjoyed by all.

Mr. F. C. Fergusen spoke about the working of the Federation, which was news to many members, and he also spoke on the merits of the "South African Philatelist." He showed two excellent and splendid exhibits, which he had kindly brought along with him during his visit to the Philatelic Society of Rhodesia. "The Vatican City" and the Royal Family. These drew special attention and were greatly appreciated by one and all. Mr. R. E. Sinclair thanked Mr. F. C. Fergusen for making so great a journey and for bringing with him two collections, and he asked Mr. Fergusen to take back with him this Society's greetings and best wishes to the 17th Congress and the Federation. B.P.J.

O.F.S. & BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

July Meetin. Mr. J. Hodgson in the chair.

The formal meeting dealt mainly with preparations for the Pretoria Congress. The meeting elected two delegates to represent the Society at Pretoria, namely Dr. Freund and Mr. H. E. Roux. New Issues of the month were on show throughout the evening.

Two fine displays were shown: Mr. B. J. MacKenzie's collection of "Vatican City", a very good and colourful representation of all issues of this "State within a State"; and Mr. D. H. MacDonald's collection of "Great Britain", a full run of most of the stamps issued during six reigns, mostly in used condition, with some reconstructions of the 1d. red.

The News Report of the Publicity Officer dealt primarily with the new Union printings of the 1d. and 2d. values. Parts of sheets showing the new pecularities and characteristics were circulated by him.

The "Surprise Item" of this meeting was in the form of a display by Mr. C. A. Larsen consisting of his "Hotch-Potch" collection. The display proved that even your odd sets and ordinary philatelic items which do not fit into your main collections, can also make an interesting show, if you go the right way about it.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG.

Variety was the keynote again at our **July** meeting. On **Tuesday 12th,** another of the popular "Members' Evenings" was held. Those who wanted to show that they were still mounting-up what they collected, had brought along ten sheets each of their fancies; the others, who merely "collect", indulged in an extensive "Bourse". Both sections, were highly satisfied with the results, and it was felt generally that we should have such informal meetings more often. Your Committee have taken up this and other requests immediately, and some innovations, reported below, will be put to the test soon. There were so many exhibitors that evening that the Society could award three prizes:— Mr. Buchen obtained first prize for his "Israel", Mr. Economides was second with U.S.A. stamps, and Commander Enoch third with some of his popular 'S.G. One's".

On **Monday, 25th,** we had a one-man display again, Mr. B. Seelig's collection of "Switzerland". While it was only part of his eight-volume collection, it still over-flowed from the display stands on to the long tables, and every taste could feast on its own choice. Not only the intriguing "classics" were there, in beautiful condition, and "silk threads" cannot be had in good condition too easily nowadays; but there was also a complete show of all those queerly punched tete-beches and se- tenants; the miniature sheets were there, showing what Swiss printers really can do in multicoloured printing; and the different bureaux of the League of Nations were shown in complete sets of overprints. It is a pity that such lovely designs are spoilt by overprints, and one might feel that such treatment might be less amiss when meted out, say to the emaciated body of that six-penny animal of the Union; but some of those overprints are rare, and that makes us possibly overlook their looks. W.H.

CANADA.

On 20th August a 5c Scout Stamp was due for issue in connection with the eighth World Jamboree being held at Niagara-on-the Lake.

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THE
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UNION NOTES

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

Pretoria Centenary Commemorative Stamps

Further to the particulars and illustrations published in our July and August issues this year, the following additional information regarding the two Pretoria Centenary Commemorative Stamps has been received from the Publicity Officer of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, Pretoria.

Denomination	Colour	Cylinder No.
3d.	Deep Green	74
6d.	Dark Brown	119

The cylinder numbers will not appear on the marginal edging of the sheets, which will instead bear a double bar in conformity with the recently introduced practice. The sheets will, however, be printed from a single cylinder.

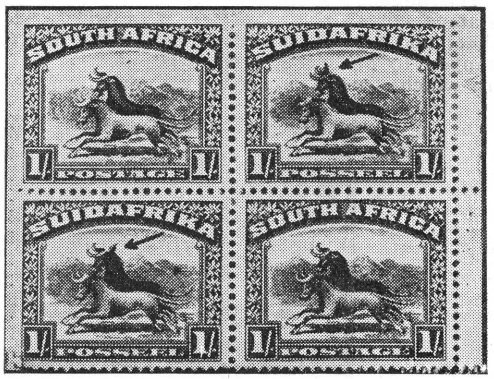
"Extra Horn" Variety on 1/- London Pictorials

The accompanying photograph of a block of four of the 1/- London Pictorials of 1927, showing an "extra horn" on the upper right and lower left hand stamps has been sent to us by Mr. J. Hammond of East Finchley, England.

Mr. Hammond states that he purchased the block in January this year and an enquiry about it which appeared in the March/April issue of that admirable and informative magazine "The Springbok"—published by The South African Collectors' Society, Manchester, England—brought the following reply which we quote in full from the May/June 1955 issue of the same journal.

....."Dear Sir,—Anent the 1927 recess 1/- with the "extra horn" in Mr. J. Hammond's possession and which I was able to see at a recent London meeting, I noted the existence of this variety when going through a back file of the "South African Philatelist" as early as February 1928 where it was illustrated. Below is a quotation describing it."

(S.A.P., Feb, 1928). "We illustrate . . . the unusual variety in the 1/- pictorial referred to last month. An examination of a number of sheets proves that varieties of the type illustrated are fairly frequently met with. On



stamp number 2 it will be seen that the wildebeeste has been provided with an extra horn but it is turned the wrong way. On the third stamp in our illustration one of the animals appears to have an additional ear of a type not peculiar to wildebeesten. The rear animal on the last stamp in our picture seems to have an unduly (long?)—article actually reads "unduly mane" and a word has obviously been missed—mane. On one of the stamps illustrated the front wildebeeste is club-footed but our illustration does not do this deformity justice."

"From the foregoing, and from a pair of 1/-s in my collection with a blue blob on the lower right frame, I should think it likely that all these varieties are due to excess of ink on the plates, not uncommon in recess-printing and may or may not be constant on one position on the sheet." — A. J. Brown, London, S.W. 19."

The article in the February 1928 issue of this magazine, referred to in the foregoing extract, mentions Mr. Newcombe-Bond as the collector who recorded this particular variety at the time and it would be interesting to learn if any other copies happen to be in existence.

Unrecorded Varieties on the 1d. Plate XI Hyphenated Issue.

Two varieties on 1d. Plate XI stamps, which if constant, appear to have escaped previous mention, have been shown to us by Mr. P. Frame of Johannesburg.

As illustrated in the accompanying photograph, the English inscribed stamp of the pair has a large triangular shaped black mark touch-

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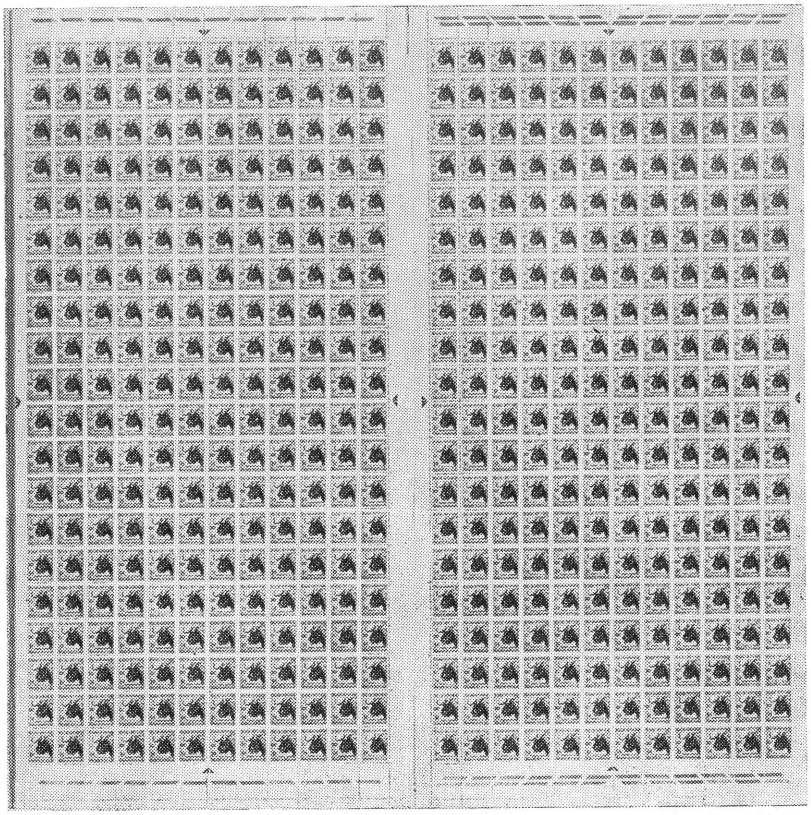
ing the stern of the ship, and the other, a distinct black line sloping upwards from the denomination tablet and across the perforation gutter into the frame design of the adjoining stamp.

As indicated by the marginal piece, the two stamps come from the left hand side of the sheet and perhaps some reader can say if they happen to be constant and the particular row in which they appeared.

photograph of the sheet of 2d. stamps on page 131 of the August number, shows the manner in which the solid colour bars in the top and bottom margins differ from those on the 2d. sheets.

The colour of brick red and other general features such as the design, bilingual inscription, watermark, perforation, marginal arrows and fine mesh screening are all unchanged and apart from the new two-pane method of pro- apart from the employment of a new cylinder the stamps themselves are the same as the first printing. The cylinder number, however, does not appear in the margin of the sheet.

An interesting feature is the presence of a similar type of doctor-blade smudge mentioned in the August "Notes" as having been found on some sheets of the 2d. stamps and described in Dr. T. B. Berry's article on page 144 of the same issue. In the case of the two 1d. sheets shown in the current photograph, the smudge is on the left hand pane, but like the 2d. sheets it followed a sloping path and appeared just as frequently on the outer margin



New Printing of the 1d. Black Wildebeest Stamp.

In our August issue we mentioned the appearance of a new printing of the 1d. Black Wildebeeste stamp which had been produced as a two-pane sheet of 480 stamps and like that of the new 2d. recently placed on sale, issued in sheets of 240 stamps.

Our accompanying illustration shows the complete sheet format of this new stamp printed from Cylinder No. 3, and comparison with the of the right hand pane.

Recent Printings — Correction.

On the first page of our last month's issue — September — the "printers devil" got busy with the type in the first heading and mussed it up to read **"Airmail** Series Postage Stamps." Our apologies and please correct it to "**Animal Series Postage Stamps.**"

Creased Paper Variety on Current ½d. Stamps.

Creased paper varieties occasionally come to light on copies of the Union stamps and the

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last one recorded in these "Notes" was in February 1951 when it occurred in one position on a number of sheets of the 2d. Postage Due stamps.

Mr. R. T. Lilley of Johannesburg has recently come across another example in a used pair of the current ½d. Warthog stamps and our illustration shows the "white crack" in the paper resulting from the crease. This example was evidently posted in Bloemfontein but unfortunately the date does not appear or it might have been possible to try and trace other copies on sale at about the same time.

17th CONGRESS AND TEPPEX

We are all agog for Pretoria's Centenary celebrations in October-November. As stamp collectors here are a few reminders for you:

21 October. Issue of the 3d. and 6d. commemorative stamps (illustrated in our August issue).

28 October. Teppex Jury gets busy judging exhibits.

31 October. Opening of TEPPEX, 10 a.m. in the City Hall.

1 November. Congress opens 10.15 a.m., Union Hotel, Church St. East.

4 November. Dinner at 7.30 p.m. and Presentation of Awards.

5 November. Exhibition closes at 10 p.m.

COMMEMORATIVE COVERS AND SPECIAL POSTMARKS

The Secretary of TEPPEX, P.O. Box 514, Pretoria will service the special covers (see our August issue p.145), to receive the special postmarks (illustrated Aug. issue p. 129) if fully prepared orders are sent in before 18th October. It must be clearly stated whether a 1st Day (21st Oct.) or an exhibition cancelllation is required — you cannot get both on the same cover. The covers will be franked with one stamp of each value; the charge is 1s. 6d. per cover.

Wants, Offers & Exchange

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

APPROVAL SELECTIONS INVITED. Top-grade copies only. Barbados, The Nigerias, St. Helena, Somaliland Protectorate. — WILLIAM REDFORD, Box 1182, Johannesburg.

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.

COMPLETE English - Afrikaans Philatelic Glossary. 3/6 post free.—Afrikaanse Filateliste-Vereniging, c/o. P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

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.

WANTED. Common Southern African stamps, current or obsolete, on or off paper. Any quantity. Please state quantities available and price required. A. LICHTENSTEIN, Box 1117, Bloemfontein.

BREAKING up fine King George VI Collection. Approval against references. Alex. van Rensburg, Box 69, Zastron, O.F.S.

MINT British Empire G. VI. 1938-42 Printings. Am breaking up a collection at very reasonable prices. Wants lists solicited. B. Challen, Box 2, Wilderness, C.P.

APPROVAL selections invited, or exchange, Postmarks Rhodesia (B.S.A. Co.) Clear impressions only. G. B. D. Williams, 4 Jameson Avenue, Melrose, Johannesburg.

WANTED: Mint and fine used pairs and blocks of the 1952 Van Riebeck 1/- "Missing Shadow" variety (Row 19/2) of South Africa and South West Africa. Offering 10/- and 12/6 respectively, premium on blocks. (Handbook valuation 7/6 for South Africa). Offers to J. M. Weinstein, P.O. Box 419, Pretoria.

EXCHANGE Pictorial Stamps anywhere. Answer All. Ed. Petersen, 1265 N. Harvard Los Angeles 29, Calif., U.S.A.

STAMP COLLECTION sterling countries and few others, value £250 for £130 cash or nearest offer. Countries obtainable separately too. F. J. Visser, c/o Magistrate, Potchefstroom.

FOR SALE. Magnificent MINT Collection of Queen Elizabeth II complete to date and well written up. The Coronations are in pairs, imprint and cylinder numbers, and each coronation sheet has descriptive notes of the country. What offers to Louis Feinstein, 542b, Jules Street, Malvern, Johannesburg.

A. D. GORDON, 5, Wimpole Chambers, 76, Kruis Street, Johannesburg, Phone 22-4208. Always has a good stock of Gibbons stamp albums on hand. Collections purchased, Immediate cash settlement.

B.W.I. used, King George VI, Queens, Coronations, Commemoratives, in exchange for South African & Colonies, large size, used stamps, 100 or more. Robert Kahn, 1330-45th Street, Brooklyn 19, N.Y., U.S.A.

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The Earliest Transvaal Pre-Stamp Covers

By C. R. Reynolds

Whenever a country is colonized, or large numbers of people settle in a new land, there are certain civic necessities which are usually the first to germinate, e.g. a place of worship, a press and a means of communication. When the Voortrekkers settled in the Transvaal there were obviously none of these amenities, and it is perfectly logical to conclude that the general trend of events in the Z.A.R. followed much the same pattern as mentioned above.

Although adhesive postage stamps were issued only in 1869, there is evidence that as early as 1850 a regular postal service between Potchefstroom (the old Capital) and Lydenburg was inaugurated. Prior to this, it was presumably every man for himself, and letters were carried by opportunity, or friends, or sent by native runner. This first postal service was of short duration, but it was the genesis of an improved service which was started in 1852. One finds, according to Dr. A. N. Peltzer's researches, that a certain Biddulph was responsible for carrying mail between Potchefstroom and Winburg at a premium of £40 per annum; the very irregular service between the Cape Colony and the Z.A.R. was for some time handled by a Mr. W. Roos at a salary of £27 10s. per annum. The Volksraad, by using native runners, delivered mail for Natal every two or three months to a Mr. Smuts at Pietermaritzburg, who in turn carried the mail further afield, charging 6d. for a private letter and keeping half for himself.

By 1858 postmasters had been appointed at the more important towns, and by 1859 there was a fairly regular internal postal service. Jeppe became Postmaster General in the Z.A.R. in April 1860.

According to Curle & Basden, the earliest known Transvaal postmark bearing a date was one from Potchefstroom—December 1864, but there were, however, earlier Potchefstroom marks without a date. These marks took the form of the single word "Potchefstroom" in italic type 2 m.m. high and 25 m.m. overal in length. This, Curle & Basden term the first Transvaal postmark, and record a letter bearing it with the Cape Town receiving date of sometime in December, 1859. Robson Lowe, in his Encyclopaedia apparently refers to the same letter, calling it "the earliest known letter from the Transvaal." This letter was formerly in A. E. Basden's collection, and is now in that of Mr. Ernest Hunt; a photograph of it is reproduced in the Teppex brochure.

I was very fortunate in going through thousands of old letters belonging to a Mr. Charles Pritchard (father of William Auret Pritchard, the Surveyor, who was so closely connected with Johannesburg) to come across two covers from J. W. de Villiers addressed to Charles Pritchard, Beaufort (now Beaufort West).

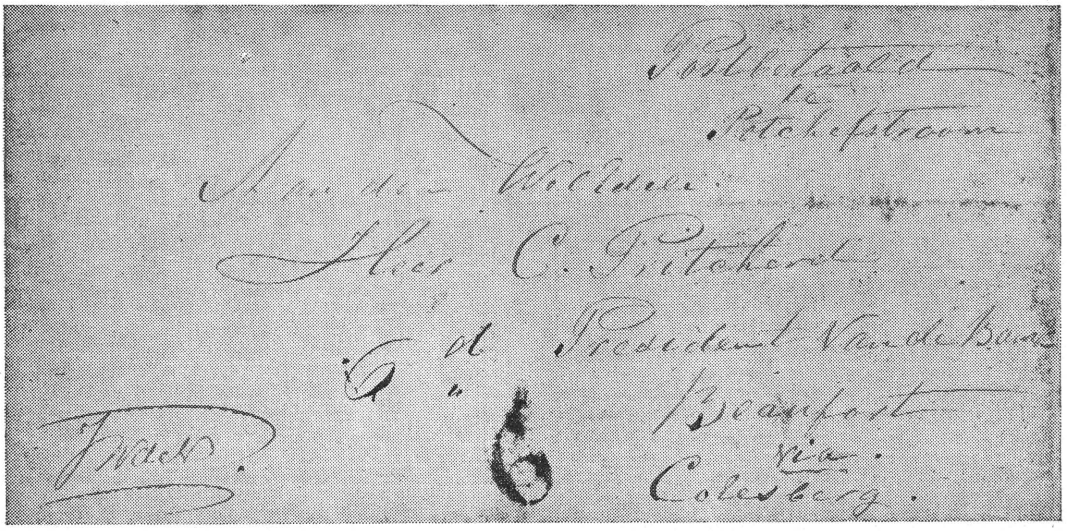
(1) The earlier letter has no postmark, and it is not dated by the sender, either inside or outside, but fortunately it is clearly back-stamped — Colesberg Jy 29.1859, with the oval postmark of 1853. In front, in the top right hand corner, in M/S is "Postbetaald te Potchefstroom" (i.e. postage paid at Potchefstroom) and there is twice a "6d.", once in M/S and once from a handstamp.

(2) The other cover has a postmark of the single word "Potchefstroom" as already described. Above and below it, there are in M/S — "Z.A. Republiek," and "4 Octbr. 59." In the top right corner in front there is in M/S — "Postpaid at Potchefstroom 1/3." On the back is a Colesberg transit mark with the date Oc. 6. 1859.

An excerpt from the letter itself is of some interest and is here quoted verbatim:

"I will enclose a five pound bank note if I can get one from the agents or Krige.

I will trust the post, because New Regulations has been erected (**sic**? enacted) and a general Postmaster appointed, Dr. Jeppe.



Postmark on back "Colesberg" JY 19, 1859.

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The letters that goes to Cape Colony goes in a packet so they could steal it at Bloemfontein, as they did before."

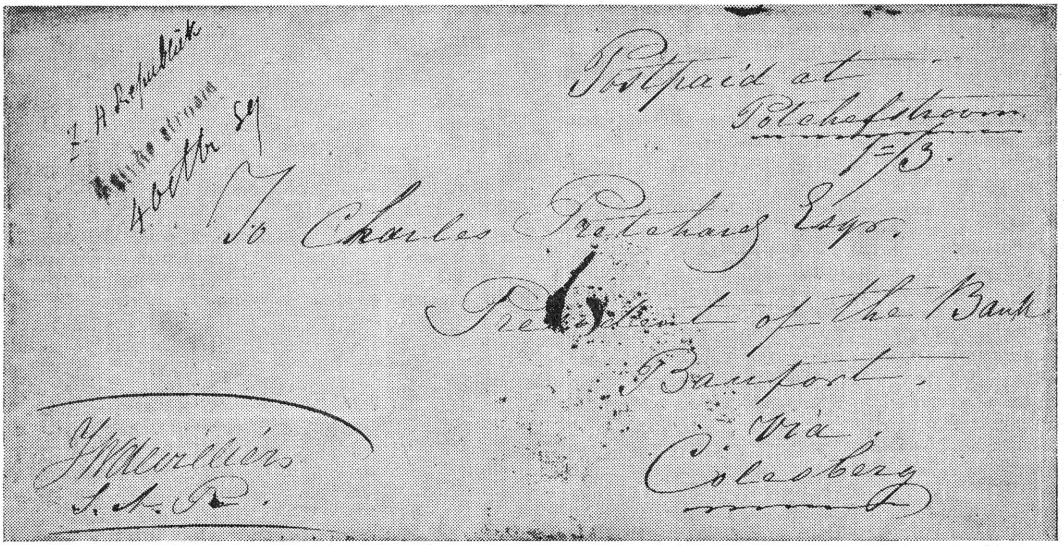
These two covers may now be claimed to be:

(1) The earliest recorded letter from the Transvaal.

(2) Showing the earliest recorded Transvaal postmark. Would it be fair to assume that this postmark came into use sometime between July and October 1859? Two covers obviously cannot fix a date, but perhaps more covers of this period will turn up, and then one can, with more certainty, arrive at an accurate date.

I would in conclusion like to point out that I actually have two more covers from Potchefstroom to Charles Pritchard, but unfortunately the first letter dated 1st June 1859, is torn in half, and the address portion is therefore missing.

The second complete letter dated 24th April 1860 has in M/S in the top front right corner



Dated 4 October '59. Colesberg transit mark on back OC. 6, 1859.

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Mr. Georg Jahries, Stuttgart-Sillenbuch 28, Germany, of the German Philatelic Society, and believing that youth of all nations can come closer together by exchanging stamps, is prepared to help any young collector to make contacts. Write him, indicating your interests and whether you wish to obtain stamps from other countries; he will forward your letter to a member, who will then write you.

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KRUGER ESSAYS

By Dr. K. FREUND

PRESIDENT S. J. P. KRUGER, the last head of government of the South African Republic and one of the truly great and most colourful personalities of South African history, will be commemorated on the coming 3d. Pretoria Centenary stamp. Although this will be the first postage stamp paying homage to "Oom Paul," as he was affectionately known, there were nevertheless several endeavours in the past to have his leonine features immortalized on a stamp.

There was the **Kruger Essay of 1899.** Somehow, the full tale of this fascinating item has been sadly neglected and its full implications have not been told so far. Yet the great story of the Transvaal stamps is not complete without it. This Essay, created to herald a new era of independent, fully governmental stamp production in Pretoria and a new proud Kruger stamp issue, was destined to become the **climax** and **final stage** of the Republican postal history, passing away prematurely with the outbreak and outcome of the South African War.

Then there were the various **Essays** of a Kruger stamp which appeared on the philatelic firmament exactly fifty years later, **in 1949.** The question of their true status has been subject of much guessing and uncertainty. The authorities themselves have denied that they were "official" (see "The South African Philatelist," August 1949). But even if they had been a mere "private" effort, they are certainly of interest to the philatelic student who appreciates **any** essay which has been prepared for official consideration. As it is, the 1949 Kruger Essays must be considered to be at least of "semi-official" character, as I shall relate below.

The original photographs from which the designs of the Kruger Essays and of the coming 3d. Kruger stamp were adopted, are interesting essay material falling with the scope of this subject.

It is worthy of note that all three Kruger emissions from different periods appear to have been based on a certain "century" motive for their creation: The 1899 Kruger issue as to celebrate the birth of the new 20th century; the 1949 stamp was supposed to commemorate a half-century since the outbreak of the South African War; and the coming 3d. Kruger stamp celebrates the centenary of Kruger's town, Pretoria.

Here then is the full story and what I believe to be a complete record of all existing essay material which was created in preparation of Kruger stamp issues.

CHAPTER I.

THE KRUGER ESSAYS OF 1899

The constant effort of the Transvaal authorities to improve gradually the standard of their stamp issues which manifested itself in a continuous change of printers and printings, did not abate at all during the period of the Second Republic. Thus, during the last decade of the 19th century, the following issues followed in quick succession: The Enschedé issues, various provisionals, the "Shaft" issue, various surcharges, the "Disselboom" issue, a Fiscal stamp used postally, a 1d. commemorative lithographed in Pretoria and a further complete set printed in Holland.

It is most significant that **during all this time** when all these many issues were resolved and commissioned, the government was anxious and busy to make arrangements for its own stamp production in Pretoria, an activity which culminated at last in the resolution of a "Kruger" issue and the production of the "Kruger Essays."

This is an interesting, vital story which runs **parallel to** the story of the contemporary issues, but which, as already stated, has not been recorded so far. None of the authoritative handbooks and treatises on Transvaal stamps have dealt with it:

The late **A. E. Basden,** that great authority on Transvaal stamps, was of the opinion that "the true story of this (Kruger) stamp appears to have been lost" (see his treatise "Transvaal Essays etc.", in "The S.A. Philatelist," Oct. 1940, p.151). — **J. H. Curle,** fastidious compiler of the world's greatest Transvaal collcetion and Basden's co-worker, also appears to have missed this episode and its product, the "Kruger Essay" — The **Royal Society's** work "Africa," published in 1906, is equally silent about it, giving merely some details about the so-called "Kruger printing paper," a product of that period.

It is most essential to save this story from oblivion. I was fortunate enough to find sufficient material and documents at the Free State Archives in Bloemfontein to be able to piece it together. It represents the full history of the contemplated Kruger issue, extending over the six last years of the South African Respublic. Here it is:

1. HISTORY OF THE "KRUGER ESSAYS"

(a) **Decision to print stamps in Pretoria on** Paper Watermarked "Z.A.R."

1893.—The earliest reference I found, representing the first important step towards **a domestsic stamp issue on special paper, watermarked "Z.A.R.",** is contained in a letter written by the Postmaster-General, Mr. Isaac van Alphen, to President Kruger as the President of the Volksraad, in 1893 (Reference number: R.235.93). In his "Report for the year 1893," he refers to this letter again in a paragraph No. 56. As this "Recommendation" forms the **basis** for the future Kruger issue, I translate it here in full from the original High-Dutch version (leaving the heading as in the original version):

> **"Verslag** van den **Postmeester-Generaal** der Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek vor het Jaar **1893.** —Voorgelegt an den Ed. Achtb. Volksraad, door Z. H. Ed. den Staatspresident, in de Zitting van 1894.
>
> Generaal Postkantoor
> Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek
> Pretoria, 28 Maart, 1894.
>
> **56. The Manufacture of Postage Stamps. —** In consideration that the State Printing Works are provided already with the necessary printing machines, I propose, for the decision of the Hon'ble Government, in particular per R.235.93, **that all postage stamps be printed in future at Pretoria.**

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This will be not only safer ("vieliger") than the presently existing situation, but it will also prevent that the department, at any time, will will find itself short of sufficient stocks of any values of stamps. And as a better measure of security, I have proposed in the mentioned letter that all stamps should be printed **on specially prepared paper, with the watermark Z.A.R.**, as it is well known that the faking of watermarked paper is more complicated than the forging of engraved plates.

Isaac van Alphen
Postmeester-Generaal."

This proposal by Mr. Van Alphen was **accepted** by the Second Volksraad in the Session of 10.5.1894 with a Resolution "Art. 45."

(b) Postponement of the scheme until the erection of proper Printing Works in Pretoria."

1895.—On further enquiries, Mr. Van Alphen convinced himself that contrary to his original motion, the facilities at the existing Pretoria Printing Works were **not** adequate for the proposed scheme of a domestic issue. In his "Report for the 1894," presented at the Session of 25th March, 1895, he made therefore the following Recommendation:

> **"80.—The Manufacture of Postage stamps.—** In reference to my proposal put before the Hon'ble Government (R.235.93), about which I gave Notice in my previous Report, namely that the **stamps should be manufactured only here, instead of in Europe,** no further decision can be taken yet. The Director of the State Printing Works is of the opinion that one should **wait** with the execution of such a scheme, **until the new Printing Works have been built,** where provision will be made **to execute such type of work."**

In the meantime, the Postmaster-General proposed, enquiries should be made about further details about the stamps, about the costs involved and tenders should be called for in connection with the scheme.

(c) A New Law regulating the proposed Manufacture of Postage Stamps at Pretoria.

1898.—There followed a long period when only inter-departmental Memos concerning the scheme were passed, but no further definite steps were taken. Reluctantly, the Government had to continue giving printing orders to "outside" firms, in particular to Enschedé & Sons, Haarlem.

But in 1898, things got moving again. On August 9th of that year, the Second Volksraad passed a **special Law** organising the contemplated domestic stamp production. Provisions for a new, special Stamp Commission were made in it (different from the old Stamp Commission of 1875) to deal with the handling and safe-guarding of the coming Government's "own" stamps. Here is a brief translated excerpt of some articles of this Law:

> **"Law No. 13, 1898.**
> Regulating the manufacture and the administration of Postage and Revenue Stamps in the South African Republic, . . .
> (Approved and enacted by resolution of the Second Volksraad, Art. 952, dated August 9th, 1898, noted and accepted by the First Volksraad by Art. 1039 of the Minutes, dated August 29th, 1898.)
> Whereas it is necessary **to revise the Law** with regard to the **manufacture** and administration of Postage and Revenue Stamps . . ., it is hereby provided and enacted as follows:—
> **Art 1.** There shall be a **Stamp Commission** consisting of three persons, two of them shall be appointed by the Government and the third shall be the Director of the State Printing Office . . .
> **Art. 2.** The Stamp Commission **shall be provided** by the Government with the necessary **paper and machinery** required under this Law. In manufacturing the necessary **dies and plates,** the provisions laid down in Art. 4 of this Law must be observed.
> **Art. 3. . . . .**
> **Art. 4. During the manufacture** of the Postage and Revenue Stamps, at least two of the members of the Stamp Commission shall be present.
> **Art. 5 - 10.** (deal with the Safe Storing of all stamp dies, plates and paper).
> **Art. 11.** The Postage and Revenue Stamps shall have their **money value impressed** on them. The **form, design** and **colour** thereof shall be **determined by the Government** in consultation with the Office in question.
> **Art 12 - 15.** (defining the term "postage stamps", stating penalties for forging, etc.).
> S. P. J. KRUGER, State President.
> F. W. REITZ, State Secretary."

(d) Refusal of the Holland Printers to hand over the old Plates for Pretoria Printings.

1898/99.—One of the first activities of the new Stamp Commission was to try to get hold of some of the more recent stamp dies and plates from which the Holland firm of Enschedé & Sons had printed and supplied quite satisfactory stamps. The idea was that the Government should make a start with its own stamp production by printing first from these ready plates on its own printing machines. One is reminded of the analogous case in 1927 when the Union Government obtained the Waterlow typographed plates from London to produce the stamps at the Government Printing Works in Pretoria. But unlike the 1927 case, the Holland Firm **refused** to part with the plates, a fact which in the end forced the Government to prepare its own plates right away and with them of course **a new original design,** opening the door for the **Kruger Essays.**

Here is the original version (translated), as presented by the Budget Commission ("Begrootings-Commissie") In its Report **for the year 1898** before the First Volksraad on the 3rd May, 1899:

> ". . .**IV. Stamp Administration.**
> a. The Administration of the Stamp Commission has been inspected.
> After the passing of the Law 13, 1898, **correspondence was entered into between the Government and the manufacturers of stamps in Holland, the Firm Joh. Enschede & Sons,** concerning **dies** and **plates** used by them. The Firm insisted resolutely that the mentioned instruments ("werktuigen") **are their property, and and not the Governments.**
> This correspondence has been thereafter referred to our Embassy in Europe for further dealing.
> This Stamp Commission had subsequently turned to the Government to obtain **authority for the manufacture of . . . stamps** with subsequent approval of the Government. **The approval has been given.** The **sketched designs** for Postage and Revenue stamps **are already approved** and the **plates for the printing of the stamps** based on the sketches **are now being manufactured.** It can be expected that one can **make a start** with the printing of the Postage and Revenue stamps **this year still . . . "**

(e) Decision to print one type of stamps for both postage and revenue purposes.

1899.—When discussing details of the contemplated new Kruger Postage stamps, the suitability of making it an issue which should serve at the same time **also Revenue purposes,** was discussed and approved. This was a new revolutionary step, as until then no South African territory had adopted the practice of combining both the postage **and** revenue characters in one stamp.

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In this regard, the Budget Commission made the following Recommendation in its Report **for the year 1899:**

> **"Eerste Rapport** der Begrootings-Commissie van 1899. Pretoria, 11 Februarie 1899.
> **II.** With regard to the expenditure of £1200 for the manufacture of stamps (Hoofstuck XXXII blz. 47), your Commission has received information in regard to the desirability of the **adoption** of **one type** of stamps which can serve for all purposes, so as **post, revenue, telegraph,** etc.
> For the public, this measure will be of**great convenience; the cost of manufacture of stamps will be reduced** and the **accounting by the** Stampmaster ("Zegelmeester") **will be simplified** through it.
> (Signatures of the Commission)."

During the session of 8th March, 1899, after thorough discussions of the pro's and con's which need not be published here, the First Volksraad accepted this recommendation with Resolution "Art. 270."

(f) Tender for the erection of the New Government Printing Works.

1899.—The reason for the long delay in making a start with the Government's own manufacture of stamps was, as stated earlier, the need for more up-to-date Printing Works able to cope with the complete stamp printing process.

The Tender of a certain R. B. Steenhuizen (£1,737) for the **"construction of a Building for the Printing of Stamps with a fire-proof Cellar"** was only accepted in the middle of 1899 by the Executive Council in a Resolution "Art. 563."

The Government was determined however **not to delay matters any longer** and **to make a start with the new domestic stamp issue immediately.** The orders to prepare "Kruger" Dies and printing plates were therefore placed with a private printing firm in Pretoria. The last stage of the actual printing from these plates and perforating the stamps was intended to be effected in the **old Government Printing Works** until the new Works would be ready.

(g) The Official Announcement of the Kruger Stamp Issue.

20th April 1899.—The Government released for publication in the daily press the following Official Announcement which I have culled from "De Express en Oranjevrijstaatsche Advertentieblad,"... Bloemfontein... (21.4.1899, p.4) and which forms the **climax** of our story:

"Pretoria, 20th April 1899.—**"Arrangements have been made whereby stamps will in future be printed in the Republic. One kind of stamp will be issued available for postal and revenue purpose, from a ½d to 1s. It will be the same size as the present, bearing the impress of the President. Stamps above that will be of the same size as the present revenue stamps, and will have the impress of the coat-of-arms of the republic."**

According to E. Tamsen ("S.A. Philatelist," 1925, p.31), the issue was scheduled for the 1st January, 1901 (1900?) to inaugurate the present century. But in October 1899, the South African War broke out, putting an end to the ambitious stamp printing scheme of the South African Republic.

Only the "Kruger Essays" were created, bearing testimony of that period.

2. THE ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPH used for the Kruger design.

(Essay item No. 1)

Among the essay material of a stamp, the original photograph featured in the design is usually of particular interest, as it can be regarded as the earliest "antecedent" of the future stamp.

Going through a large assemblage of Kruger photographs at the Free State Archives, I was fortunate enough to discover an original copy of the full portrait photograph of President Kruger which was intended to form the main feature of the low-value stamps, in accordance with the Official Notice of 20th April, 1899, cited above.

The portrait was taken in 1898 by a photographer in Pretoria. It shows the President en face, bareheaded and wearing his broad presidential sash. The impressive Coat of Arms of the Republic can be seen embroidered in the lower part of the sash.



Fig. 1.

3. THE "KRUGER ESSAY" for the lower denominations.

(Essay No. 2)

This Essay presented the design for the contemplated lower denominations from ½d. to 1s., in accordance with the Official Announcement of 20th April, 1899. The principle expressed in this announcement was to pattern the coming issue on the particulars of the then current Enschedé issue, except of course for the novel design. We can take it therefore that the folowing denominations of the 1896/97 issue were also intended for the low-valued

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Kruger stamps: ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 6d., and 1s.

The **size** of the stamp picture, following the example of the Enschedé stamps, as officially announced, is 18 x 22 mm.

The **colours** of the stamps were to be the same as those of the 1896 stamps, as E. Tamsen reports ("S.A. Philatelist," 1925, p.30), with the values printed in green.

The Essay itself is a **blue** photostat ("blue on blue"), not unlike the blue Baden-Powell stamp of the Mafeking Siege issue.

The **perforation** of the Essay gauges 10½ and is "rough."

The **design** shows the bust of the President, as it appears in the original photograph, Fig. 1. However, the lower part of the photograph has been trimmed off for the purpose of the stamp design so that in the Essay the embroidered **Coat of Arms** on the lower part of the sash has now **disappeared.**

At the top of the Essay, there is a flying band bearing the inscription "POST- EN STAATSZEGEL," indicating the validity for postage and revenue. The term "Staatszegel" was a new one, trying to improve on the "Zegelregt" which had appeared previously on the Republic's revenue stamps. The word "Zegelregt," meaning literally "Stamp Law," was considered inexact and not meeting the point. In my opinion, the corrected version "Staatszegel" was not much of an improvement as all that this term actually implies is "Stamp of the State" which would apply rather more to an "Official" stamp. Besides, "postage" stamps are after all also "Staatszegel," strictly speaking.

Incidentally, the endeavour to find the proper Afrikaans versions of the English words "Postage" and "Revenue" has continued to this day.

Returning to the Essay design, another ribbon can be seen below the portrait, curved upward, in deep colour and with the light-lettered inscription "Z. AFR. REPUBLIEK."

Below this, there is a wide tablet, completely **blank,** intended for the inscription of the various values of the contemplated stamps.

4. THE "ARMS" ESSAY for the higher denominations

(Essay No. 3)

This Essay, displaying the Coat of Arms of the Republic, is of the same size which was characteristic of the contemporary Revenue stamps (see Announcement of 20th April, 1899), measuring 22 x 30 mm. A catalogued prototype is the 6d. "Zegelregt" stamp, overprinted "Postzegel" in 1895, S.G. 215.

The "Arms" Essay was destined for the contemplated higher values, running from 1/6 to £20, with the very high values intended primarily for the usual Revenue denominations.

The colour and the perforation of this Essay are similar as those of the "Kruger" Essay.'

The Coat of Arms in the design is surrounded by a double circle which contains the inscription "ZUID-AFRIKAANSCHE REPUBLIEK." At the top, the Essay is inscribed "POST- EN STAATSZEGEL," and at the bottom there is again a very large **empty** tablet extending right across the stamp, left blank for the insertion of the various values.

5. ESSAYS in IMPERFORATE condition

(Essays Nos. 4 and 5)

A few Essay copies have been reported to exist in **imperforate condition.** This refers to both types, the "Kruger" Essay (Fig 2.) and the "Arms" Essay (Fig. 3). The two reference copies in the Royal Collection are in this imperforate state.



Fig. 2. Fig. 3.

6. ESSAYS overprinted "SPECIMEN"

(Essays Nos. 6 and 7)

The majority of the Essay copies in existence are **plain without any overprint,** in conformity with the usual practice in the case of essay material. A few of the "Kruger" Essay copies, however, exist also with the overprint "Specimen," as shown in Fig. 2 and 3. The reason for such precautionary measure is not quite apparent, as the essay character of the copies is pronounced enough by the fact that they show empty tablets without any value inscriptions and there was never any danger of using these novel items for franking.

The "specimen" overprint, as can be seen in the illustrations, is of a certain "typewriter" style, but slightly smaller. It has been applied horizontally at the bottom of the stamp, in contrast to the usual practice of placing it prominently in the centre of the stamps or diagonally across them.

The overall length of the overprint, including the full-stop at the end, is 16 mm. The capital "S" is 2 mm high, while the rest of the lettering is 1.5 mm high.

(To be continued).

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THE MACHADODORP 1900 POSTCARD

By J. D. Rossouw

On the 7th June, 1900, the Government of the South African Republic issued an Extra-ordinary Gazette containing a proclamation whereby Machadadorp was established as the capital of the Republic.

Translated the proclamation reads as follows:

PROCLAMATION

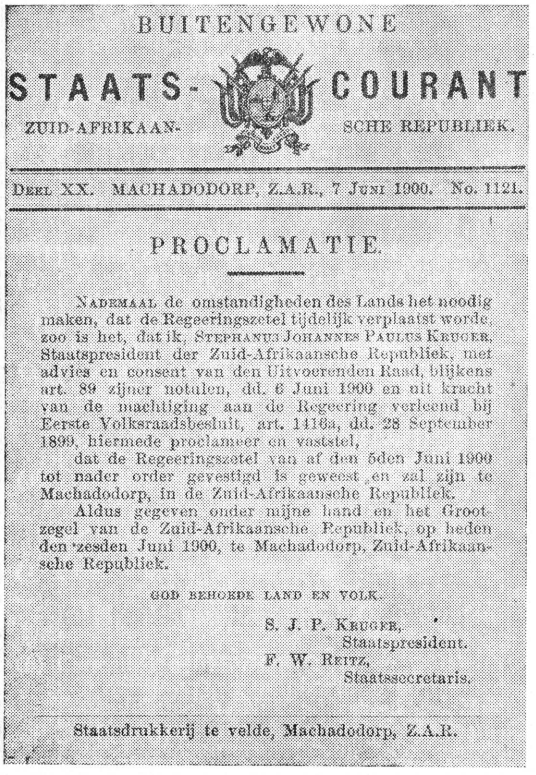
Whereas the conditions prevailing in the country necessitated the temporary transfer of the Government therefore I, STEPHANUS JOHANNES PAULUS KRUGER, State President of the SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council in terms of clause 89 of its minutes dated 6th June, 1900, and by virtue of the authority granted to the Government by resolution of the FIRST VOLKSRAAD, clause 1416 dated 28th September 1899 do hereby proclaim that the seat of the Government shall be established as and from the 6th June, 1900, at Machadadorp, South African Republic until further notice.

THUS GIVEN under my hand and the Great Seal of South African Republic on this the sixth June, 1900, at Machadadorp, South African Republic.

GOD SAVE COUNTRY AND NATION.

S. J. P. KRUGER,
State President.

F. W. REITZ,
State Secretary.



BUITENGEWONE

STAATS-COURANT

ZUID-AFRIKAAN-SCHE REPUBLIEK.

DEEL XX. MACHADODORP, Z.A.R., 7 JUNI 1900. No. 1121.

PROCLAMATIE.

NADEMAAL de omstandigheden des Lands het noodig maken, dat de Regeeringszetel tijdelijk verplaatst worde, zoo is het, dat ik, STEPHANUS JOHANNES PAULUS KRUGER, Staatspresident der Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek, met advies en consent van den Uitvoerenden Raad, blijkens art. 89 zijner notulen, dd. 6 Juni 1900 en uit kracht van de machtiging aan de Regeering verleend bij Eerste Volksraadsbesluit, art. 1416a, dd. 28 September 1899, hiermede proclameer en vaststel,

dat de Regeeringszetel van af den 5den Juni 1900 tot nader order gevestigd is geweest en zal zijn te Machadodorp, in de Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek.

Aldus gegeven onder mijne hand en het Groot zegel van de Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek, op heden den zesden Juni 1900, te Machadodorp, Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek.

GOD BEHOEDE LAND EN VOLK.

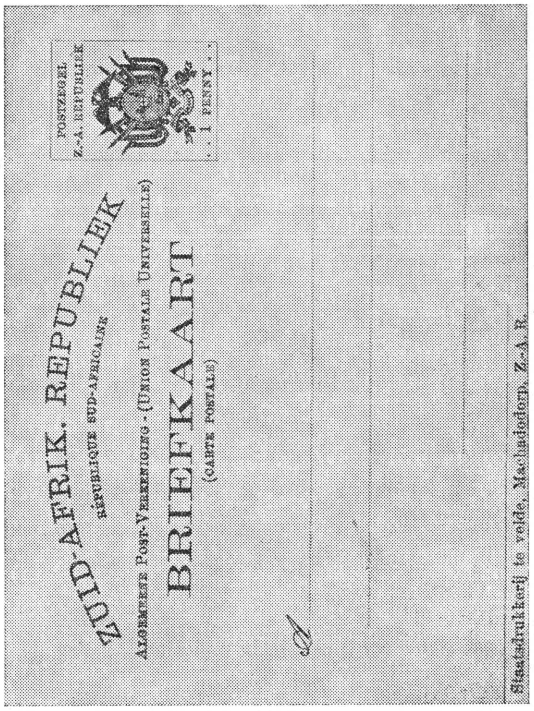
S. J. P. KRUGER,
Staatspresident.

F. W. REITZ,
Staatssecretaris.

Staatsdrukkerij te velde, Machadodorp, Z.A.R.

The philatelic interest in this Gazette lies in the fact that it was printed on the then current Z.A.R. half penny and one penny postcards. To the half penny post-card was affixed a further half penny adhesive postage-stamp. This was due, either to the rate of postage having been increased or that those cards were intended for dispatch overseas. Although this was a novel way of issuing a Government Gazette it certainly was a convenient method for distributing it by post to the various government officials in the towns over which the Republican Government still held sway.

The Gazette was printed by the State Printing Works in the Field (Staatsdrukkery te Velde) which consisted of a printing press installed in the train, carrying the government's archives from Pretoria. This train in company with other trains were shunted onto a branch line at Machadadorp station and from these trains the Government of the Republic functioned until the 14th August, 1900, when it moved to Barberton and so ending Machadadorp's career as the capital of the Transvaal. The town however, remained in republican hands until August the 28th when it was occupied by the British troops.



POSTZEGEL Z.-A. REPUBLIEK 1 PENNY

ZUID-AFRIK. REPUBLIEK

RÉPUBLIQUE SUD-AFRICAINE

AFDEELING POST-VERZENDING - (UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE)

BRIEFKAART

(CARTE POSTALE)

Staatsdrukkerij te velde, Machadodorp, Z.A.R.

The bulk of the supply of the post-cards brought from Pretoria having been used for the Gazette, it was decided that a provisional post-card be printed by the same press. Five thousand cards were printed late in July, 1900, and supplied to the various post-offices in the Eastern Transvaal as their supplies of ordinary post-cards ran out.

This post-card printed in red on cream-coloured card of good quality 3½ x 4¾ inches has a postage stamp showing the same cut of the republican coat of arms as the Gazette and carries the same imprint. Actually two

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types of card were employed for the printing, one being much lighter in colour and thinner than the other.

These cards are to-day found mostly unused but with postmarks of various post-offices in the Eastern Transvaal. In actual used condition they are not plentiful but certainly not scarce, virtually not as scarce as in absolute mint condition.

These cards were sold by the post-office only after having the cancellation of the post-office impressed on the stamps. The reason for this is that the cut from the Republican coat of arms was one so often found that the authorities feared the card could easily be forged. If one considers the past philatelic history of the Transvaal, one has every reason to agree with the view of the postal authorities. Sight must also not be lost of the fact that the same officials later in the following year took similar precautions with the Pietersburg issue by insisting that each stamp be initialled by the Controller. This may be the reason why absolute mint condition cards are so scarce. The reason why some unused cards have postmarks of two different post-offices, is explained by the fact that postmasters often cancelled some cards as routine work and as the post office had to move owing to the nearness of the enemy these cards were then taken to the next office where they were again impressed with the cancellation of that office.

The postmark of the furthest post office is always of a later date than that of the one nearer to Machadadorp. One card used from Waterval Onder on 9th August, 1900, to Germany is very interesting, so much so that I would like to reproduce the full text (translated from German).

Nooitgedacht, 9th August, 1900

"L.G. I send you herewith a very rare Card which has been printed in the main lager (or camp) in wartime. These cards have only been issued in small quantities and have since become very scarce.

As far as I am concerned, I am in good health and happy and think of you; The Postmaster and I have just consumed the liver of a young pig. You should have seen me as a cook! First the liver is mixed with flour, then bacon cut into slices is added, and into the pan! This was a delicacy which cannot easily be procured in the veld on Commando. Well, L.G., in the hope that a good fortune awaits me in the next few days, and a thundering hurrah for the independence of Transvaal, I remain yours, LORE.

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THE STOCKHOLM EXHIBITION

By DOUGLAS ROTH

As I write these lines at the end of August, I have just returned to the Union from the Stockholm International Philatelic Exhibition. It was magnificent.

The Exhibition was organised by the Swedish Post Office who financed it by selling 410,000 sets of reprints of the first issue ,available for postage) for 3 shillings more than the face value. A good start financially! The weather was superb throughout and Stockholm, with its setting of 2,000 surrounding islands and its many waterways, a most delightful spot. All hotel booking was made through a central P.O. agency and this enabled the organisers to publish, and distribute to all concerned, lists of all visitors with their hotels and length of stay. Thus one could easily locate friends. It also resulted in everyone receiving numerous invitations to cocktail parties, boating trips, sightseeing voyages (sightseeing is done by motor-boat), and a special theatre performance in the Royal private theatre at Drottingholm.

The stamps on view were quite remarkable and the general standard very high indeed. The value of the material on view was said to be 2½ million pounds and this I can well believe. At any rate I have never before seen 17 copies of the Double Geneva in one collection especially when they were flanked by 21 Basle Doves! Of No. 1 Sweden there must be have been about 200 copies on show, most of the world's supply I imagine. A notable feature to my mind was the award of a Gold Medal to a fine collection of Australian Commonwealth — not previously considered to be in this class so far as I know. In this respect therefore there would seem to be hope for Unions in the near future.

The greater part of the collections entered were those of European countries although there was plenty of good American material too and some showing of British Colonials but generally these were not important. Needless to say I saw the entries from the Union too. All the Exhibits were very well displayed and the general arrangements were excellent in every respect. Paying proper attention to the stamps on view, and also the fine refreshment facilities available at all hours, I just managed to get round all the frames in the ten days the Exhibition was open.

The super Grand Prix, that is the one awarded the best collection in the invited Class of Honour, and the most coveted distinction of all, was awarded to a wonderful collection of first type Greece which was, without exaggeration, the **worst** written up collection I have ever seen. However the stamps were there and that is what counted with the highly experienced Jury drawn from many countries who were plainly unimpressed by expert calligraphists who failed to produce stamps on a par with their penmanship. In Europe few, if any, philatelists will travel far to see 'writing-up'. What they want is to see stamps in fine condition which are normally beyond their reach.

The awards to successful Exhibitors were lavish and the Gold Medals presented at the final Banquet appeared to weigh about half a pound each!

Congratulations to the Swedish Post Office on a wonderful and most successful Exhibition!

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O.V.S. Commando Brief

By A. Cecil Fenn, F.R.P.S.L.

Much has been written about the pros and cons of this postal item. It has been called a "stamp", a 'label", a "local", and many other names, but as yet nothing has been recorded as to any official document having been seen giving details of the authority for issue. Who was the printer, where was it printed, and who paid for it? These are questions which still require answering.

Suffice it to say that they are found used in towns as far North as Heilbron, East as far as Glencoe, South as far as Stormberg, and West as far as Barkly West, and in all the intervening towns as detailed in a following paragraph.

As far as dates are concerned, although the Cape frontier was crossed on the evening of Oct. 14/15 1899, the first date to be recorded for a Commando Brief is Oct. 20 1899, and the last recorded date for one is March 27, 1900.

In a personal letter written by A. J. Hochapfel he says:— "I was appointed Field Postmaster of the forces serving under General Delarey and Chief Commando Wessels when Commandos crossed the frontier into Cape Colony on the evening of Oct. 14, 99. For the first few days letters had to be initialled but when the mail became of larger dimensions the Officers refused to sit for hours initialling letters. I have not seen an initialled Commando letter. (Has any collector?). Stamps were therefore ordered to be printed by Acting Commando-General Barend, and came into use on Oct. 15, 99. (?are any known dated Oct. 15th to Oct. 19th, 99)".

I think, therefore, that it can fairly be assumed that they were officially "condoned" and proved that letters did in fact come from the Commandos from the seat of war, as I have not seen any cover with a Postage due rater cachet, initialled or in any way marked that they were not correctly carrying an official stamp, all covers being correctly backstamped at town of destination.

As troops moved from place to place copies may be found with various town cancellations. They are stated to have been in use after Hochapfel's departure from the front in March 1900. The many unused copies are suggested to have been found in General Cronje's camp when he surrendered.

No ordinary stamps were apparently sold in the Field Post Offices, so that unstamped letters which were placed in the boxes provided in the Camps had the "stamp" applied and were not charged Postage due fines. This appears possible as no cover has yet been found that has any postage due rating or other similar cachet as is seen on British Boer war covers. This would give them an "official condoned" status.

From material in my collection it appears that they were printed in black on yellow paper, unsurfaced, and perforated 12, in sheets of 20 and gummed. It has been suggested that they were printed in four panes of 20 making 80 "stamps" to a sheet but this is not proven by known "panes"; such material in my collection and in that of Mr. Redford are all printed shewing a narrow margin at the top and left hand side, and a wide margin on the right hand side and bottom. No "panes" or pieces have been recorded shewing a different arrangement of margins to these, so that they all appear to be what would be termed "bottom right panes".

In the collection of Mr. Redford is also a pair of "stamps" with double perforation. It is cancelled at Bloemfontein Ja. 14th (00). The double perforation is at the left side.

They are type set being made up in a forme with a fancy designed edge containing 8 pieces (each shewing two pearls) on the top and bottom sides, and five similar pieces at each side; also there is a square at each corner with one pearl. In the centre of this fancy frame are the words "COMMANDO BRIEF." with a stop, in italic sans serif capitals. Under this in very large fancy sans serif capitals the letters "O.V.S." with an oblong stop with corner rays after each letter. These letters are boxed with a thin line above and underneath. The third line consists of the word "FRANKO" in seriffed capitals with a stop after "O". The overall size of the design is 34mm. x 25mm.

The first row of the forme contains five impressions of this typesetting, each being plateable by means of individualities as follows:—

(i) White break between top left square and first vertical ornament, first "O" of commando broken at top left, all stops normal.

(ii) Short vertical stroke in first "M" of COMMANDO, damaged stops after "O" and "V", 5th top ornament damaged outer line.

(iii) Blotch on 6th top ornament, damaged stop after "V", damaged "N" of FRANKO.

(iv) Breaks in inner line of first ornament at left, dent in first "O" of COMMANDO, broken ornament 4th on bottom, missing line of shading top right corner ornament. Stops normal.

(v) Flat top to "C" of COMMANDO, damaged second ornament at left, damaged stop after "O".

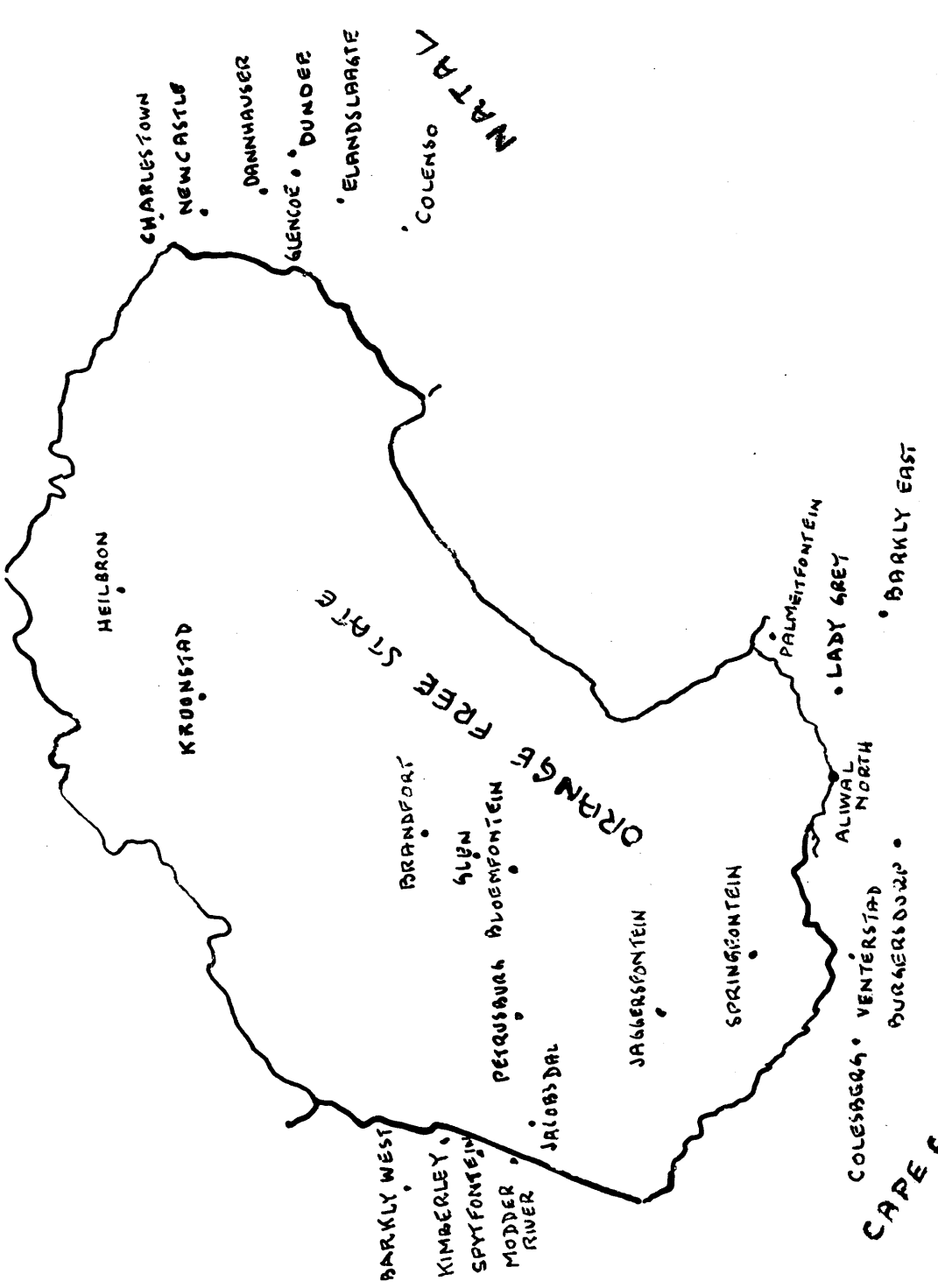
It would appear that they are printed four times as each vertical row has the same individualities. They could have been done by stereotypes but the printing does not appear to have the defects noticeable, for example, on the stereotyped overprint on the Cape stamps overprinted "ORANGE RIVER COLONY". I have examined hundreds of these "Stamps", but these are the only varieties I have found, except that some are occasionally shewing a slightly worn type.

It has been stated that 10,000 stamps were printed, i.e. 500 sheets, but to me this seems to be an understatement as this number spread over six months from Oct. 20 to Mar. 27 only means approx. 50 a day on all fronts.

Copies found in a washed out yellow without gum are caused through dampness or exposure to light or immersion in water. One copy I have is printed on a much darker yellow paper nearing orange, but until another turns up it is not possible to say if this is constant. As previously mentioned only 500 sheets are stated to have been printed.

From my own material and information I have obtained through the kindness of other

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Sketch map showing places whose postmarks are known on Commando Brief Stamps.

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collectors to whom due acknowledgement is here made, the list below gives the places and dates of usage.

October 1899.
20 Modder River.
21 Modder River.
21 Spytfontein.
22 Modder River (Redford).
22 Modder River (Rossouw).
26 ? (Geldhof).
27 Modder River.
28 Modder River.
31 Modder River.

November 1899.
1 Jacobsdal.
2 Modder River (Redford).
4 Spytfontein.
7 Springfontein R O (Durell).
7 Palmietfontein (Geldhof).
11 Palmietfontein.
11 Barkly West (Rossouw.)
12 Barkly West.
13 Modder River (Newlands).
13 Jacobsdal (Hinde).
13 Barkly West, in green (Hinde)
13 Barkly West, in black.
14 Spytfontein.
15 Modder River.
15 Bloemfontein.
16 Barkly West (Newlands.)
17 Modder River.
17 Jacobsdal.
18 Barkly West.
20 Modder River.
21 Barkly West.
22 Modder River.
22 Barkly West (Sharpe).
23 Modder River (Hinde).
23 Barkly West.
25 Modder River.
27 Modder River (Rossouw).

December 1899.
3 Barkly West (Freund).
4 Jacobsdal.
13 Modder River.
15 Barkly West.
21 Lady Grey (Geldhof).
24 Bloemfontein (Rossouw).
31 Modder River.

January 1900.
1 Barkly West.
10 Barkley West.
11 Bloemfontein.
13 Aliwal North (Rich).
14 Bloemfontein.
20 Colenso.
21 Bloemfontein (Freund).
29 Burghersdorp.
30 Bloemfontein (Rich).
30 Glen.
31 Brandfort.

February 1900.
2 ? (Geldhof).
6 Stormberg.
6 Lady Grey (Redford).
7 Petrusburg.
9 Charlestown.
11 Bloemfontein (Rossouw).
15 Dundee.
16 Barkley **East.**
17 Ventersburg (Hurt).
19 Bloemfontein.
21 Springfontein.
24 Colesberg (Newlands).
27 Bloemfontein.

March 1900.
1 Springfontein (Kachelhoffe
8 Heilbron.
16 Kroonstad (Newlands).
19 Bloemfontein.
27 Kroonstad.

Undated.
Boxed "245" (Hurt) (Place unidentified).
Boxed "252" (Barkly East).
Glencoe (Hochapfel).
Dannenhauser (Hochapfel).
Elandslaagte (Hochapfel).
Hoofdlager (Hochapfel).
Hoofdlager Natal (Hochapfel).
Hoofdlager Kimberley (Hochapfel).
"9" in barred oval (Jaggersfontein).

All those not otherwise marked are in my collection.

The following covers either in my collection or recorded by other collectors to whom due acknowledgement is given here.

(1) Cancelled at "Jacobsdal" De 4 99, backstamped Bloemfontein in 5De addressed to Den Wel Ed. Heer General Postmaster, Bloemfontein, O.V.S. from Lieut. Anderson, O.V.S. Artillery.

(2) Cancelled at Barkly West 8 JA 19 (00). backstamped Bloemfontein JA 16, addressed to W. A. Wright, Cash Bookseller and Stationer, Bloemfontein.

(3) Cancelled at Dundee (Natal) FE 15, backstamped Bloemfontein 19 FE, addressed to A. F. Hochapfel, c/o Major Albrecht's Division, near Jacobsdal, O.V.S.

(4) Cancelled at Burghersdorp C.G.H. JA 29, Backstamped Bloemfontein 1 FE, addressed to H. W. Shakelton Esq. P.O. Bloemfontein, O.V.S.

(5) Barkly **East** cancellation Fe 16, backstamped Bloemfontein 3 Mar. addressed to H. McQueen Esq. G.P.O. Bloemfontein, O.V.S.

(6) Cancelled at Modder River 27 OC with additional 252 in box, backstamped Bloemfontein 1 NO, addressed to Mrs. S. M. Deppenaar, St. John St., Bloemfontein, manuscript "van Commando Dienst".

(7) Cancelled at Modder River NO 25. backstamped Jacobsdal NO 27 addressed to Johannes Jacobs, Jacobsdal O.V.S.

(8) Cancelled at Modder River 21 OC 99, backstamp not given. Addressed to Commandant A. P. Pietersen, Camphersdam, by Kimberley (Leon Davis).

(9) Cancelled at Stormberg Junction 6 Feb. backstamp not given, addressed to The Secretary, Sanitary Board, Bloemfontein. (Sharpe).

(10) Cancelled at Jacobsdal 17 NO 99, backstamp not given, addressed to W. A. Wright, Stationer, Midland St., Bloemfontein. This is said to be cancelled with the numeral "9" rather faint reading Jacobsdal. It is possibly Jaggersfontein. (Sharpe).

(11) Cancelled at Barkly West No. 21 99, backstamp not given, addressed to Mrs. J. A. Burriet, Brandfort O.V.S. also manuscript "in Dienst op Kommando" (Rich).

(12) Cancelled at Aliwal North CGHJA 13 19, backstamp not given, addressed to Mr. W. A. Wright, Bookseller, Bloemfontein, O.F. State (Rich).

(13) Cancelled at Kroonstad 16 MR 00, backstamp not given, addressed to Den Welrd Landdrost Klerk, Kroonstad (Newlands).

(14) Cancelled at Modder River NO 25 99, backstamp not given, addressed to Mr. J. P. Combrink, Jacobsdal, O.V.S. (Redford).

(15) Cancelled at Colenso straight line in purple dated 20 Ja 00, backstamped Johannesburg Jan 24, addressed to Messrs. Wright and Andrett, Photographers, Bloemfontein.

(16) Cancelled at Jacobsdal — 99, no backstamp given, addressed to Den Herr D. Looyen, Executeur/Kamer, Bloemfontein (Lewis).

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Of these covers three viz., Nos. 3, 4, and 5 are addressed in the same handwriting.

Forgeries.

There are two known forgeries. One is similar in appearance to the genuine but instead of being type set it is apparently lithographed on a coarse wove unsurfaced lemon yellow paper and is perf. 11½. The difference in design are:

(1) the border is not of fancy type but is a lithographed design, similar to the type-set pattern.

(2) There are no rays to the stops after "O.V.S." they being plain oblong.

(3) There is no stop after "BRIEF" or "FRANKO."

(4) The size of the design overall is 34½ mm. x 25½ mm.

The second one is of type set pattern but differs from the genuine one as follows:

(1) There is an additional pearl ornament top and bottom (making 17).

(2) The type of "COMMANDO" is smaller

In the copy in my collection the postmark is also forged, the type being of a different font to that used at "Barkly West" from which this stamp is alleged to have been cancelled.



Forgery 1. Genuine Forgery 2.

CORRECTIONS—O.V.S. OFFICIAL STAMPS

A few errors crept into Mr. A. Cecil Fenn's article on the "In Dienst" O.V.S. stamps in our August issue, page 138, and the following corrections should be made:—

Type "A" Second column, line 4. "date of the stamp" should read "date off the stamp.

Type "B" line 7 should read "whilst the top, bottom and right edges are imperf."

The line just above the diagram of Type "B" should read "third line, 15 periods again on the fourth line and "O.V.S." in Roman capitals on the fifth line."

WANTED:

S.A. and other stamps on paper in bulk, we pay at least 10/- to 15/- per lb. Small or large quantities. for cash or in exchange.

OFFERED:

Stamp bulk on paper (Kiloware), ask for our complete list with about thirty different items, including Brit. Empire Mix, Australia, Pictorial-Mix, Bank lots, etc.

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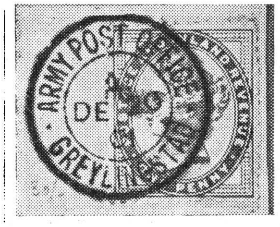
'FIPEX' POSTPONED 2 MONTHS.

The accident to the Coliseum building turns out to be more serious than was at first thought to be the case, and the opening date of the building and the Exhibition has had to be postponed from 3rd March to 28th April. Fipex will therefore run from April 28th to May 6th, 1956.

A HITHERTO UNRECORDED BRITISH A.P.O. — 1901

About the middle of the second half of 1901 the British Army Postal authorities in South Africa started setting up 'fixed' post offices, with place names, mainly in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony.

A considerable number of these have been listed (see Rich's "Philately of the Anglo-Boer War" p. 136) and one would hardly have thought it likely that any marks still remained to be discovered. That indefatigable student of Boer War Philately, Mr. Wm. C. Hinde (of Cheadle Hulme, England), however, sends



us a photograph of a new one, which is here shown. It is of the type of all the others, a double-circle mark, with 'Army Post Office" at the top and the place-name 'Greylingstad' at the bottom; it has the index letters 'A' and the date is DE 20 01. It cancels a British 1d. stamp.

The owner of this unique specimen is Mr. R. E. Ellison, Eastbourne.

UNION—STOP PRESS.

A 2d. stamp will be issued on 1st December, for the Covenant Celebrations at Maritzburg.

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SOCIETY NEWS

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL.

August. When Mr. R. F. Robinow is responsible for an exhibit, members may be sure of something unusual and something unusually interesting.

His "mixed bag" as he called it, shown on 3rd August to a fairly well attended meeting, comprised a country — Sweden; pages of used blocks, including some real beauties (one was a superb block of eight 10/- Union); pages showing colour gradations; and pages illustrating the good and the bad in stamp design, in illuminating contrast.

With design as the main motif, the snappy running commentary, given as the pages were put on the frames, was as entertaining as the stamps themselves.

As the writer of these notes had the privilege of thanking Mr. Robinow for his display, it will not be difficult to guess what he said!

Six new collectors were admitted to membership. The usual society business, an auction, and, finally, a cup of tea, completed a well-worth meeting.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

10th August. One of the most successful meetings we have held, not only by the attendance, but by the variety of exhibits tabled that evening. "Members' Evenings" are proving very popular and out of the twelve members present, all but two brought along something of philatelic interest. Each exhibit consisted of about ten sheets of stamps, and the collections of their exhibitors were as follows:- Mr. Bompas with Pakistan, St. Vincent and St. Lucia; Mr. Deverall, Basutoland; Master Deverell, New Zealand; Mr. Picton, Canada; Mr. Hattingh, Southern Rhodesia; Dr. Kaplan, France; Mr. Christophers, St. Vincent; Mr. Eilers, Germany; Mr. Retief, with stamps of the second world war; and lastly, Mr. Muller, our Vice-Chairman with a large selection of Christmas Stamp booklets.

Mr. Muller, who acted as chairman for this meeting, in the absence on holiday of Mr. Hagger, thanked everyone who had exhibited and mentioned that the Committee hoped that in next year's programme, more evenings would be set down as "Members' Evenings", in view of the great interest shown by all of our members whenever they were notified of such an evening. Mr. Muller on behalf of all present congratulated Dr. Kaplan on obtaining a silver medal at NORWEX.—I.S.B.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

5th July. The meeting held on this evening was quite well attended by members and a couple of visitors. Mr. A. B. Clarke submitted to view a nice lot of mostly First Day Covers from many corners of the World, including U.S.A., Canada, Uno, Japan, Israel, Rhodesia, New Zealand, Netherlands, etc. Outstanding were First Day Cover of the first United Nations emission and a First Flight from Sidney via the Polar Route to Amsterdam. Mr. Clarke related how he came to accumulate Covers of the type shown; it really was a classical example of the romance of stamp-collecting through the medium of exchange correspondence. He was congratulated and thanked by our President. A lively auction filled the rest of yet another very pleasant meeting.

19th July. The second July meeting was well attended, and included a number of visitors.

The evening commenced with official business, and it was announced that an enquiry had been received from the Philatelic Federation of S.A. as to whether we were prepared to act as hosts to the 1956 Congress. Mr. G. Bulbring proposed, seconded by Mr. G. K. Forbes, that subject to formal approval of the 1955 Congress, the next Congress should be held in Port Elizabeth. This was unanimously adopted.

Mr. G. Bulbring afforded members the opportunity of seeing his collection of Swedish stamps. This was a very comprehensive collection, and included many early issues and a number of rare items.

Mr. Bulbring also gave a most interesting lecture, which explained the stamps shown, as well as some special and interesting aspects relative to them. In addition, he touched briefly on the geography and history of Sweden and referred to some famous personalities from that country.

Mr. G. K. Forbes thanked Mr. Bulbring on behalf of the members, and, after the tea interval, a successful auction concluded a most enjoyable evening.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF THE WESTERN RAND.

The monthly meeting for **August** was held in the Krugersdorp Town Hall on Wednesday, the 24th, at 8 p.m.

Mr. S. Vermaak presided with 9 members present.

The Society was host for the evening to the Afrikaans Philatelic Society, who sent four of their members.

A pleasant evening was spent by members viewing three very good exhibits brought over by our guests. The first exhibit was "ESTONIA" by Mr. P. C. Seligmann on behalf of Mr. J. Michelson; the second exhibit was a Thematic collection entitled "THE PHILATELIC CALENDAR" tabled by Mr. J. Seligman and the third was "ST. HELENA" by Mr. H. Schwartz, who also read a short paper on his exhibit.

After the tea interval Mr. S. Vermaak spoke on the two first exhibits and Mr. J. T. Burrell spoke on the third one.

Members were reminded that the next Meeting would be held at the residence of Mr. J. Keet.

After a vote of thanks to the Krugersdorp Town Council for the room and to Mr. Bruwer for the catering and to our guests for coming all the way to Krugersdorp, the meeting terminated at 10 p.m.

B.S.

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

There was a good attendance at the **August** meeting which is the annual night for the junior collectors.

This year for the first time worth while prizes were donated from the Ruby Alabaster Memorial Fund, very kindly donated by Dr. George Alabaster in memory of his wife, who was a keen philatelist and President of the Society for two years.

There was a representative attendance of school children of East London and junior members of the society, and the following were the awards:—

Section A, 14 years and under, Barry van der Vyver.

Section B, 15-17 years, Merle Hellman.

Section C, 18-20 years, Brian Fennell.

Only one entry was received from the children of the Society's country members, and it is hoped that more children from the country will enter in future.

The competitions were carefully judged by a selected panel of judges, who took some time to decide on the best collections in the different groups.

Mrs. Jack Sparkman, wife of our energetic secretary presented the prizes, and thereafter each competitor received a packet of stamps.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. Paviour and a number of assistants.

The President reminded the exhibitors that the winners in the various sections would not be able to exhibit the same collections in the same sections again but as their ages permitted their collections would be eligible for exhibition in the higher age sections.

Various members displayed stamps not only for Seniors but also for Junior visitors with the idea in mind that they would gain knowledge and experience in the methods of mounting and arrangement and condition of stamps.

After a lively auction a pleasant evening came to an end about 10 o'clock.

J.P.S.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

11th August. The University of Cape Town Philatelic Society paid a visit to the Royal under the leadership of their Chairman, Mr. M. Hotz. No less than six students exhibited and put up a fine showing, covering a very wide field, which included thematics, Israel, British Commonwealth issues and many other sundry items. It is an eye-opener to realise that these young members can still find time after their studies and other activities at the University to mount up stamps. But then these are the future specialists and they are already developing a hobby. Their visit is always a welcome one to the Royal.

25th August. This was the popular "All Members" night. Every frame was filled and there was a good attendance. The following is a short report of the various exhibits: "Norwegian Red Cross, Union Xmas Stamps, and other labels of a similar nature" by Mr. K. Alexander. These included a sheet of Ossewabrandwag stamps, Liberty Cavalcade and Exhibition stamps: 'Modern France" by Dr. P. L. Vautier. This was the second section to be shown of these attractive stamps. Also shown was a 1910 Cover from the Betheny Air Rally in France and

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posted to Bechuanaland, and a cover from Switzerland with the "Atoms for Peace" cancellation: "Canadian Stamp Booklets and Officials" by S. H. Moyle. These attractive booklets were well set out and the Officials proved most interesting: "Unions and S.W.A." by Mr. J. Bunderman. Some were shown from this collector's album and some items were of great interest: "First Day Covers" by Mr. C. M. Pillans. This exhibitor showed many recent covers and in particular those from Macquarie, and Heard Islands with the new stamps, and the Transpolar flight from Sydney to Amsterdam: "Health Stamps" by Mr. B. Green. These were chiefly those of New Zealand and were well set out: "Ships on Stamps" by Mr. C. V. R. Solomon. As usual the sheets were a masterpiece of mounting: "Australia and Bermuda" by Dr. F. Rifkil. A number of most interesting sheets from his collection: "Hungarian Stamped envelopes" by Mr. W. G. Combrink. Again very well presented sheets. Mr. Combrink has always something new to show and makes a real study of any section of his hobby: "Special Covers" by Mr. A. J. Nathan. The few covers exhibited were most interesting especially Zeppelins and a cover which had gone around the world. It was an interesting evening and one realised haw wide philately has become. Anyway one was transported to almost every part of the world. M.F.S.

CAPE TOWN THEMATIC CLUB.

8th August. Mr. K. Cameron, the energetic Hon. Secretary and Editor of the Thematic Magazine, gave a showing of a number of well mounted sheets to illustrate his talk on 'Low Brow Collecting." This talk has since appeared in the Thematic Magazine and is really worth reading as it gives every serious collector much food for thought. It is hardly necessary to state that the talk was more than enjoyed. The sheets showed various sets arranged in a variety of thematic subjects illustrated by attractive sets of stamps and even included those of Tannua Tova. It was an exhibition which would bring into the ranks of philately many new recruits. There were no great rarieties but all were well presented and well written up to bring out the real interest which lay behind the stamp. Such showings and well prepared talks are rare events.

22nd August. The second meeting of the month saw Mr. L. Simenhoff, F.R.P.S.L., showing "Cape Postal History and Stamps of the Cape of Good Hope" and delivering his usual most illuminating talk on them. Shown were the prestamp covers, which included the old ships letters and others sent to Governors and important personages and this was followed with a selection from Mr. Simenhoff's fine collection of Capes, and to give full measure those of Griqualand and Mafeking, with a section from his specialised collection of types of cancellations used. It was heard that the evening was almost a thematic evening and there is little doubt that when a specialist makes a showing such as this, it unfolds the whole postal history of a country. Added to the wonderful array of rarieties, the collection is very well written up and easy to follow by even the general collector.

Note: The postal address of the club has been changed to Box 4290. Also that the meeting place is at cor. Long and Waterkant Streets. M.F.S.

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

1st August. This young Society gave its members and visitors another interesting evening when Dr. M. Korodetz showed his Union of South Africa and Victory issues collection. Dr. Korodetz is a serious collector and this showed itself in the exhibit which was shown. The Fish Hoek has issued invitations to other collectors and it is understood that Mr. George Petroulis will soon be showing his "Art on Stamps" collection, which has given such pleasure to the other Societies. M.F.S.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

1st August. Our Hon Exchange Superintendent, Mr. W. Impey, provided the fare on this occasion and brought along an exhibit which was completely new to us all. This comprised a portion of his collection of the postmarks of the Union of South Africa, of which several thousand are known to exist. He preceded this exhibit by a very informative talk on the Subject which certainly helped to add considerably to our knowledge of this particular branch of South African postal history.

15th August. The annual social and philatelic treat that our lady members' confer upon us took place this evening. Miss Versfeld arranged the programme which comprised the following selections:

1) Modern German and Holland—Mrs. I. Betzler.
2) "Rare and Interesting"—Mrs. I. M. Butler.
3) Malta—pre-stamps covers and the early issues—Mrs. L. Keet.

The material shown covered a wide field and there was something special to appeal to every type of collector. Certainly where originality is concerned, most of us can learn a great deal from the fairer members of our Society. The spread that was provided for the tea was superb and in that respect particularly it is regretted that such evenings do not take place more frequently. J.M.W.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG.

Our age of mass production has long already pictured itself in the flood of collections that want to be displayed. Last month, we consumed four collections in two meetings, and it seems as if this will be the average consumption in the months to come. What a time they must have had in the days of the Johannesburg United Philatelic Society, and what a time we have now!

9th August. Only one exhibit, but its size was tremendous and all the display stands and tables were covered by the emissions of the Russian Zone of Germany shown by Mr. H. Markowitz. This is dealt with in the general part of the magazine.

22nd August. Three exhibits, and all three were most stimulating. Messrs. Feinstein, Sheffield and Suklje had come over for the evening from Benoni, to show us that the East Rand Society is as lively as ever. Mr. Feinstein showed, with a discrimination necessitated by the amount of stamps already issued, sample sets of all the emissions of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

Mr. Sheffield, lest we thought we had seen all his Union stamps, showed only his rarest items, in complete sheets, the sun-rise pennies as well as the sun-sets, the crosshatched as well as the brown-centred halfpennies, the Official twopenny with the rare variety of overprint; and while our mouths watered for a half-sheet of the crosshatch, he calmly remarked that the really rarest of the lot was the 1½d. large Mine stamps with the shading missing. Of course, that did not mean that he would let us have the cross-hatch.

And then, we were still treated to a complete lot of the George VI mint Canadians by Mr. Suklje, including the rarer overprints O.H.M.S.—however, these were in blocks of four only, not in sheets. We'll have to do something about that return visit to Benoni next year! W.H.

AIR MAIL NOTES

Union of South Africa:

The companion sheet of the 6d. Aerogramme inscribed "Posgeld", illustrated in the July issue, i.e. the sheet with English inscriptions first, was placed on sale in Johannesburg mid July.

South West Africa.

The Union penny-halfpenny **blue** Letter Card (Afrikaans inscriptions first) has been overprinted SWA in thick letters 13 x 3 mm. This sheet was first placed on sale at Windhoek on 9th July, 1955.

Southern Rhodesia.

Stocks of the 6d. Air Letter sheets, bearing the imprinted Queen's Head/Boabab Tree stamp which was first put on sale on 12th October, 1953, have been sold out at some Post Offices and, pending the arrival of a definitive issue for the Federation, forms which require an adhesive stamp are now in use. These are supplied by the Post Offices free of charge provided that a 6d. stamp is purchased. The form, which has a pale blue overlay and with all printing in blue, is watermarked "KENT VALE G PARCHMENT" (the letter G being inverted) signifying that the paper was manufactured in 1954.

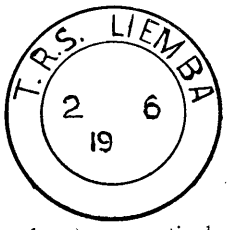
I. H. C. Godfrey.

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THE EPIC STORY OF T.R.S. "LIEMBA"

"T.R.S." stands for Tanganyika Railways' steamer, the **Liemba** being a small steamer of about 800 tons operated by the Tanganyika Railways on Lake Tanganyika.

For the convenience of passengers the Master of the steamer runs a Postal Agency aboard,



which is based administratively on Kigoma. Recently I received through sheer accident a cover with a postmark of this Agency. Having heard of a steamer on Lake Nyasa with a post-office or postal agency aboard I asked a friend in Nyasaland to obtain a specimen of this mark for me. My request was passed on to someone who was going north on a safari from Nyasaland, but I never received the mark of a Nyasa steamer.

I was surprised, however, to get a cover with K.U.T. stamps and the postmark of which a drawing is here shown. Puzzled by it I made enquiries of the P.M.G. at Nairobi and received the information given about about the Liemba.

Since then I have learned the history of this steamer from an article by J. Teigh in "Chambers Journal" and it seems to me to be of sufficient general interest to summarise it here.

She started life as the **Goetzen** in 1913, coming from Germany in pieces which were assembled at Kigom,a the terminus of the Central Railways from Daressalaam. Ready for trials in 1915, her first job was to take some 700 troops to Bismarckburg (now Kasanga), for World War I was now on. A severe storm nearly wrecked her on this trip but she survived and, for about a year, plodded up and down the lake raiding Belgian Congo ports on the other side, and she had at least one battle with two British vessels which had started life as pleasure boats on the Thames but had been transported overland entire through Northern Rhodesia.

In 1916 she was bombed by Belgian aircraft while at Kigoma and when in July of that year the Germans abandoned that town, the **Goetzen** was taken by them a mile or two down the coast, filled with cement and scuttled in shallow water.

The Belgians raised her and towed her back to Kigoma, but there she incontinently sank at her mooring and remained thus till the transfer of Kigoma to the British in 1921.

Once again she was salvaged — in 1924 — and was found to be in surprisingly good condition after her eight years submersion. She was refitted and was re-named **Liemba,** which was the local name for Lake Tanganyika when Livingstone first visited it.

In World War II she again worked over-time carrying troops, Labour Corps recruits, stores, etc. At the end of the war she was again re-conditioned, and now, fully 40 years of age, carries out a regular cargo and passenger service up and down the lake throughout its whole length. A brave little ship!

J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

REVIEW

STANLEY GIBBONS' 1956 CATALOGUE.

Part III, Foreign Countries.
America, Asia and Africa.

391, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Price 18/6 net, postage abroad 1/3.

The 'Blue' Gibbons is the first of their catalogue parts to appear in their centenary year, the previous edition of it being in 1954.

Guadalajara (Mexico), Nepal and Tibet have been completely rewritten, with good specialist assistance.

There have been considerable changes in the listings of Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, and Haiti and Indonesia has been transferred to this volume from Part II.

In the U.S.A. a useful addition is given on p. 714 in the shape of an alphabetical index of all commemorative stamps issued from 1938 onwards; this makes identification much easier.

The full lists of countries like Burma, Egypt, etc., formerly in Part I have been transferred here, only issues made under British control listed in Part I.

After a lapse of two years there are naturally many price changes, the main trend being upwards, both for early classics and many moderns.

BIG AUCTION SALES

The 1954-55 season closed a couple of months ago and the 1955-56 season has already started, although here 6,000 miles away one hardly appreciates that there is any break. The past season has been one with several very big sales, with the usual breaking of records, about which we may have more to say when Resumeés come along. For this season two big sales are looming up: The "Caspary" sale at Harmer's New York house — an all-world collection estimated to fetch about £1,000,000 and the late Mr. H. C. V. Adam's collection at Robson Lowe's in London; this is mainly a British Empire collection, with special emphasis on Great Britain.

R. OSBORNE

P.O. BOX 6710 JOHANNESBURG.

Wishes to inform his customers and friends that he will be overseas until the end of this year.

Will customers please send their usual want lists only at the beginning of 1956, when they will receive the usual prompt attention.

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THE
SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST
PROPRIETORS AND PUBLISHERS:
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Business Manager: Mr. J. MICHELSON.
P.O. Box 375. Johannesburg.
Vol. 31. No. 11. NOVEMBER, 1955 Whole No. 368.

UNION NOTES

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

Union Covenant Celebration Stamp—December 1955.

Further to last month's Stop Press note on the new commemorative postage stamp to be issued in December this year, we publish below the information and photographs of the stamp and the special datestamp received from the the Publicity Officer of the Post Office Publicity Branch, G.P.O., Pretoria.

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.
UNION COVENANT CELEBRATIONS AT PIETERMARITZBURG, DECEMBER, 1955.

COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMP.

To commemorate the Union Covenant Celebrations which will be held in Pietermaritzburg this year, a special 2d. postage stamp will be issued on the 1st December, 1955. It will be on sale **at all post offices** in the Union for the month of December, 1955 only. The stamps will be printed alternately in English and Afrikaans in sheets of 120, and their size, 30.2 by 24.2 mm.

The design of the stamp embodies a portrait of Andries Pretorius, the hero of Blood River, and an outline of the Church of the Vow, with the flag of the Republic of Natalia in the background.

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."

COMMEMORATIVE DATE-STAMP.

A date-stamp specially designed for the occasion will be in use at the temporary post office which will be opened at the festival camping site at Pietermaritzurg. This office will be known as "Church of the Vow, Pietermaritzburg" and will be open from the 13th to the 18th December, 1955. The special date-stamp will bear the name of the office "Geloftekerk — Church of the Vow, Pietermaritzburg", the dates 13-18. XII.55 and an outline of the original Church of the Vow.

It is NOT the intention to provide a special date-stamp for use on the first day of issue of the stamp i.e. the 1st December, 1955.

COMMEMORATIVE COVERS.

Envelopes for use as commemorative covers will **not** be provided by the Post Office nor will they be purchased from outside sources on behalf of the public. Covers on which impressions of the special date-stamp are required will need to be supplied by the applicants. Orders for the servicing of plain or privately printed **addressed** envelopes should be accompanied by postal or money orders or bank drafts to cover the cost of the postage stamps to be affixed. Cheques will **not** be accepted and remittances should not be made by means of postage stamps. Orders from applicants **within the Union of South Africa** should be addressed to

THE POSTMASTER (PHILATELIC),
PIETERMARITZBURG.

Requests for more than one postmark on a cover will **not** be entertained.





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Specially designed envelopes may be obtained from The Secretary, The Covenant Festival Committee, 55 Morcom Road, Pietermaritzburg, t 8d. each.

CLOSING DATE.

Orders should reach Pietermaritzburg not later than the 12th December, 1955.

DESPATCH OF ORDERS.

Every effort will be made to despatch orders as soon as possible, but in view of the large number of orders expected and the consequent volume of work involved, delay in some cases will be unavoidable. Applicants are therefore requisted to withhold any enquiries or reminders relating to their orders until the end of January, 1956.

Hyphenated 1d. Stamps on Unwatermarked Paper.

Apropos of the note and illustration in our September number of a block of four 1d. hyphenated rotogravure stamps on unwatermarked paper, we have received the following letter from Dr. T. B. Berry of Bryanston, Transvaal.

"In the response to the request contained in your comment on the 1d. block of four stamps, Plate XV printing, submitted to your scrutiny by Mr. B. S. Challen, I possess a pair of 1d. stamps, Plate XV printing, with the watermark completely missing. The item was purchased some three or four years ago at a London auction and unfortunately its Sheet position is not determined.

"In connection with this item, I would draw your attention to a "Union Note" appearing iin the "S.A. Philatelist" of October 1948, page 166, wherein, under the heading 'Faint Watermark on Recent 1d. Printing,' Mr. H. W. James of Cradock, reports on a block of 12 stamps taken from the bottom right hand corner of a sheet, the watermark on the stamp being so faint as to require particularly close examination to discern its presence.

"This condition bears out your contention that the absent watermark is due to the dandy roller failing to leave its imprint on a portion of the paper comprising the roll from which the stamps were printed, and is in contra-distinction to the condition of mal-alignment of the paper which resulted in the missing watermark varieties of the 1d. and 2d. King's Head printing."

New "Registered Letters" of the Zoological Series.

The September number of our Bloemfontein contemporary "The O.F.S. Philatelic Magazine" — published by the Orange Free State and Basutoland Philatelic Society — records the interesting information that new Registered Letters have made their appearance bearing an impressed 6d. Lion stamp of the current animal series and in its report on the matter gives the following particulars:—

"The impressed stamp is a replica of the normal 6d. postage stamp, but in **blue** throughout. Other features of this 6d. impression are:

"The stamp is framed by thin lines while the background shows no shading (in contrast to the normal stamp). The flowers and foliage around the Lion are much more pronounced thon on the postage stamp. The inscription next to the 6d. value, which is 'Posgeld—Postage' on the postage stamp, has been replaced here with the words "Registrasie—Registration'. There is no dot over the 'i' of 'Suid', at least not on the copy I have but that may not be constant.'"

The change in the denomination of the stamp on the Registered Envelopes is in keeping with the increase in the Registration Fee from 4d. to 6d. on the 1st of July 1954. The two previous envelopes, listed in the Union Handbook/Catalogue as Type 35 and Type 35a, carried an impressed 4d. "Native Kraal" stamp on the pointed flap folding to the back and like its 6d. successor, was also printed in blue.

Current 1d. Sheets with Trimmed Margins.

"The O.F.S. Philatelic Magazine" for September also records that the sheets of the 1d. Black Wildebeest stamps are now being issued with the vertical marginal "smudges" trimmed off by guillotining.

Illustrations of these heavy broad coloured markings on the side margins of the new 1d. and 2d. printings appeared in our August number and in the same issue, an article by Dr. T. B. Berry gave the explanation for their presence. It is therefore all the more interesting to learn now that they are being trimmed off the 1d. sheets and it is quite possible that the same policy will be adopted for the 2d. stamps.

The "O.F.S. Philatelic Magazine" report on the matter reads as follows:

"New Printings of the latest 1d. issue in two panes show a pronounced **trimming** of the vertical outside margins, i.e. of the left vertical margin of the left pane and of the right vertical margin of the right pane. The effect is that those **ugly, heavy smudgy bars** which usually appeared on these margins, **cannot be seen any more.**

"As is now known, these heavy smudgy lines on the sides, in contrast to the heavy lines on the horizontal margins, were **not** intentional but were caused through a damage ("nick") in the doctor blade.

"Apparently, an effort has now been made by the Government Printer to avoid these smudgy bars by **cutting** off strips from the vertical outside margins, thus causing the stamp sheets to be slightly narrower and not liable to be affected by the damaged part of the doctor blade.

"An interesting feature of these new margins is the fact that the **red cyclometers** are now **very** near the vertical perforation lines of the stamps. In previous issues, the cyclometers appeared further off and were mostly covered up by those heavy streaks. The cyclometer registering machine seems therefore to have been re-adjusted."

"Staggered Perf" Variety on Mono-coloured 1/3 Stamps.

A note and illustration of a "staggered perf" variety on a a 1946 issue of the 1/- pictorial stamps appeared in our March number this year and a more recent example on the mono-coloured 1/3 stamps of 1953 has been shown to us by Mr. C. Clement of Port Elizabeth.

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As explained in our previous note this variety is the result of temporary misalignment of the multiple-comb perforating equipment which is in use on the printing machine and until corrected, will show up in the manner illustrated at each stamp in the row of every eleventh perforation gutter. In the case in point, the junction of the two beats of the perforator takes place at the middle of the sheet.

"The Springbok Halfpenny"

One of the most interesting and comprehensive series of articles on the Union ½d. Springbok stamp that we have had the pleasure of studying for a long time is at present appearing in "The Strand Stamp Journal," published by H. E. Wingfield and Co. of the Strand, London.

Written by Dr. Gordon Ward and titled "The Springbok Halfpenny", the series is printed on art paper, well illustrated, and set out in a manner that will warm the heart of every lover of this lowest value and ever popular emblem of the Union of South Africa stamps.

The design of the "Springbok Head", first introduced on the ½d. stamp of the new definitive series of 1926 and then used continuously for the same denomination right up until October 1954, has by its general attraction and appeal to all ages, undoubtedly gained a place in the stamp collecting world which its successor the Warthog on the present ½d. issue, is likely to have some difficulty in acquiring and though a Springbok is again depicted on the current 1/3 stamp, this item can never hold the same place in the minds of Union enthusiasts as the well known "Springbok Head" stamp.

However, to return to the articles by Dr. Ward, his illuminating introduction to the stamp in the June 1955 issue of the magazine has been followed up in the July, Aug./Sept. and now the October numbers by full descriptions, check lists and clear illustrations of the many printings and varieties in a style which enables one to study with ease and interest the characteristics and features of so notable an issue. Though now replaced by a different design, students can be assured that there must be more than sufficient copies of the old stamp to satisfy the needs of all except the highly specialised collector, for many years to come and because of the pleasure which one seems able to derive at a comparatively low cost in the collecting and placing of this particular Union issue, we can recommend the attention of all those who study this country's stamps to the series of articles now appearing on "The Springbok Halfpenny."

BOUVET ISLAND "OFF".

The Director of the Union Weather Bureau, Dr. T. E. W. Schumann, has announced that the plan to establish a meteorological station on this inhospitable island, has been abandoned for the time being.

Although such a station would have been of great value from a weather forecasting point of view, the conditions are considered too difficult and dangerous for its erection.

SOUTH AFRICANS AT AUCKLAND.

We have not yet seen an official list of the entrants and prize winners at the International Exhibition recently held at Auckland, New Zealand, on the occasion of the Centenary of New Zealand stamps.

It hos been reported, however, in the Cape Town press that 75 awards were given in all and that S. African recipients were (1) Capt. M. F. Stern, a silver medal for his exhibit illussrating the development of South Affrican airmails, and a bronze medal for "The airmails of Portuguese E. Africa, Madagascar, Etc." (2) A. R. Kleiner, a silver award for his Seychelles exhibit. (3) Dr. J. Harvey Pirie, a bronze medal for his "Postal History of Swaziland."

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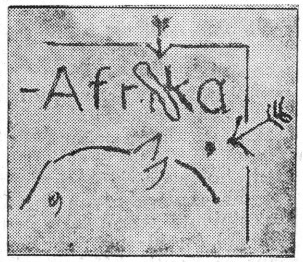
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VARIETIES AND PRINTINGS OF THE CURRENT UNION POST CARD SERIES.

(Reprinted from the O.F.S. Philatelic Magazine).

Only a few varieties in the current series of pictorial Post cards were reported in the "S.A. Philatelist" (May 1955, p. 74.) Mr. Sheffield added that other varieties may be there "for the finding." Our attention was drawn to a certain recurring "brown spot" variety by Mr. M. Sacks. On further study, we can give herewith a full report which reflects on **three distinct printings** of the current post card series.

The constant variety "Brown Spot and white Maggot."



The "heavy brown spot" can be found in the right top corner of the impressed stamp on certain cards (see illustration. This "spot variety is **constant** within a printing, i.e. it can be found on all cards of the same landscape in one printing, changing over to other types of cards in another printing. With this variety, another minor variety can always be found on the same stamp. We would call it "white Maggot" which can be seen wriggling around the letters "i" and "k" of Suid-Afrika, having "eaten up" the dot over the "i" and left foot of the "k". This "double variety" can be found on **three** cards of the so-called printing "B" and on **four** cards of the printing "C". The cards are named below, in a detailed description of the three contrasting printings.

The "Green Fly" Varieties.

A peculiar flaw, consisting of a small vertical stroke and light green smudges to the left and right of it, can be found on several post cards. It has the appearance of a "Green insect with spread wings". Similar flaws appeared in red on the 1d. post cards of former issues. While most of these "fly" varieties are of minor importance as they are not constant, there is one in particular "green fly" variety in the present series, on the post card "Howickvalle", which is constant. It appears to the left of the impressed stamp, in front of the Leopard's eye. There are three stages in its appearance, progressing in the three printings which will be described below.



Large Green Smudges.

The latest printing (Printing "C", see below) is characterised by various large green smudges which appear on quite a few cards, usually on the left side near the landscape pictures.

The Three Printings.

The large range of shades, mentioned in the "S.A. Philatelist" (May 1955, p. 74), can actually be **grouped into three definite printings** which have so far appeared in the current post card series. The first two varieties mentioned above, offer an additional help to differentiate between these three printings.

Printing "A" These cards were delivered on the 2nd September, 1954. The colour of the "Leopard" stamp was **yellowish Sepia-brown.** The lettering in the stamps was rather thick. The "brown spot" variety did **not** appear on **any** stamp. The "Green fly" variety ("Howickvalle" card) shows only the "body" of the **insect, i.e. a thin green** stroke, in front of the Leopard eye **within the stamp** (not outside yet) —stage I.

Printing "B" The stamps of this printing had a **reddish** light brown shade, quite distinct from the yellow tint of the first group. The lettering in the stamps was much **thinner** than in the first group. The views were not quite as sharp as before. The "brown spot" variety appeared in the stamps of the following cards—

(1) "Nasionale Krugerwildtuin" (Giraffes)
(2) "Chuniespoort"
(3) "Nasionale Park" (Mountain Peak).

The "green fly" variety ("Howickvalle" card) appeared just outside the stamp, with "wings" only faint — stage II.

Printing "C" New stocks of the 1½d. cards show the impressed stamps now in a pronounced **"coffee-brown, no** yellow tint, **no** red tint. The large majority of the stamps are **very deep,** but some are also light. The views are now still deeper green, particularly also the backgrounds and the sky in each case. The lettering in the stamps is mostly thickish again. The "brown spot" variety appears now in the stamps of the following cards—

(1) "Howickvalle"
(2) "Goudmyn"
(3) "Skaapboerdery"
(4) Nasion.Krugerwildtuin" (Elephants)

The "green fly" variety ("Howickvalle" card) appears now well outside the stamp, and with pronounced "wings"—Stage III.

NICARAGUA.

The Philatelic Agency announces the issue on 30th August of 3 sets of stamps commemorating the Golden Anniversary of Rotary International (somewhat belatedly!). They are: (a) Five low value air mail stamps (b) Five higher value air mail stamps, and (c) Five ordinary postage stamps.

We understand there is to be a Rotary Commemorative set soon, including a miniature sheet. How very reminiscent of their U.P.U. set!

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KRUGER ESSAYS

By Dr. K. FREUND

(Continued from page 177 of October issue)

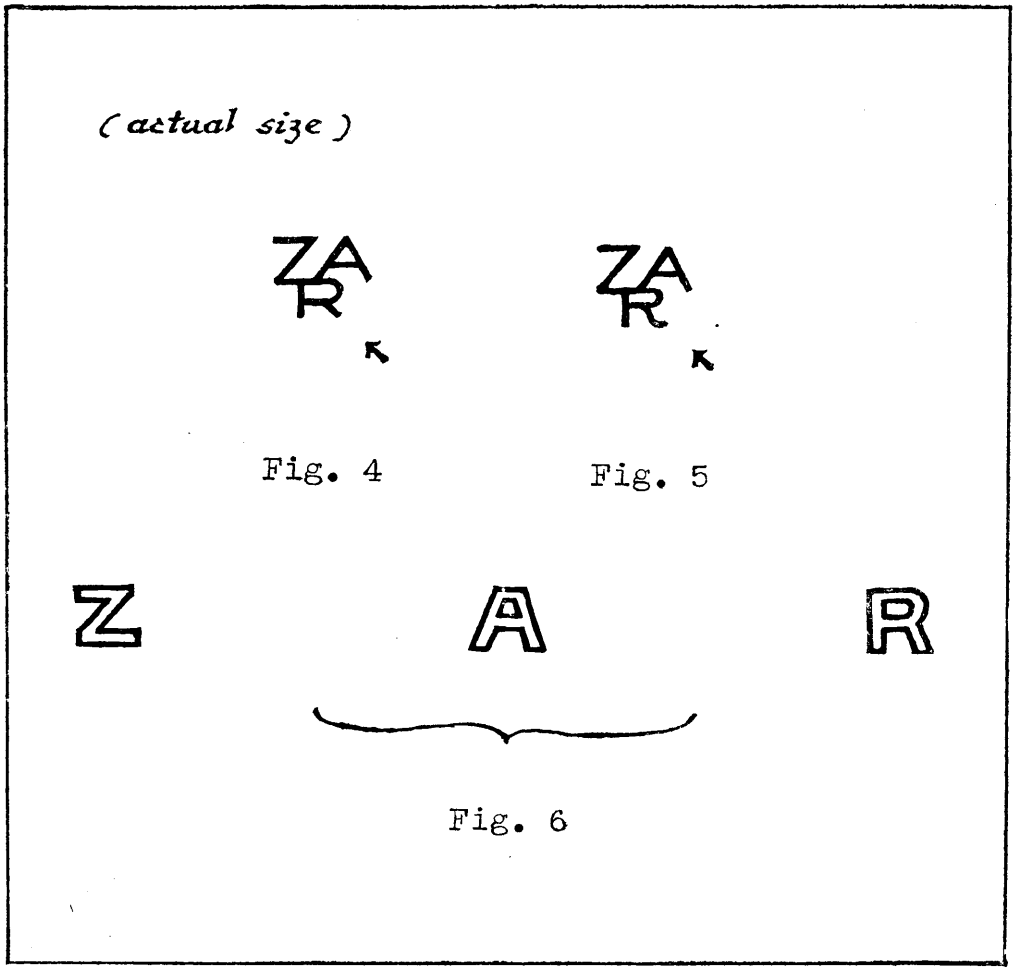
7. The "KRUGER" PRINTING PAPER
(Essay material No. 8)

(a) **Story of the ordered paper stocks.**
The Republican Government did not overlook the old resolution of the Second Volksraad dating back to 1893/94 ("Art. 45") which according to our story actually had started off the whole stamp scheme: It was the decision to print the future stamps at Pretoria **on specially prepared paper, with the watermark "Z.A.R."**

Accordingly the Stamp Commission ordered now, in April 1899, such specially watermarked paper in England from a well-known firm of paper makers.

The manufacturing process of this printing paper took some time. When stocks were ready at last, the Anglo-Boer War had meanwhile broken out so that the order could not be sent out to Pretoria. (The brief statement in Vol. III of the "Royal's" work "Africa" — 1906, p. 421 — namely that the Republican Government actually **did** obtain a supply of this paper shortly before the war, is **not** correct).

The stocks of the paper were left for some time at the store room of the papermaker's factory, until they were sold a few years later to the well-known firm of stamp auctioneers, Messrs. Robson Lowe Ltd., London. A few of the paper sheets with the Z.A.R. watermark were sold to collectors, but the bulk was used up by the auctioneers for their auction catalogues. At that time, probably nobody took much notice of the intriguing type of pages on which the auction lots were printed. A few years later, when the Firm realized that the paper should not suffer such "sacrilege", they used the balance of the stock for various interesting booklets on a variety of philatelic subjects, with the "Z.A.R." watermarked pages being made a special attraction and curiosum for philatelists. One of the last of these intriguing publications was a brochure "The early Postal History of Cape of Good Hope



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and Natal", by C. S. Morton, issued at the occasion of the Durban Philatelic Exhibition in July, 1928. The foreword by the publishers is not without interest (p.4 of the booklet):

"This is a special edition partly printed on the last portion of the stock of "Kruger Paper", watermarked Z.A.R.

Kruger intended having his own stamps printed and went so far as to order the paper specially watermarked. His plans not maturing, the paper was lying idle until it came into my hands."

(b) The "Z.A.R." Watermark.

The watermark consisted of the three letters Z A R, with the R placed in each case below the two letters Z A, as shown in Fig 4 and 5. This symbol makes a well defined and easily noticed impression.

The watermark units are distributed on sheets of 4 panes, each pane containing sixty watermarks, arranged in six horizontal rows of ten (see Diagram, fig. 7).

The sheet I possess also contains the **four-**pane arrangement; R. B. Yardley's description in the "Royal's" work "Africa" III, p. 421, that there were only **2 vertical** panes in a sheet, is therefore **not** correct.

Watermarked initials "ZAR" in double-line sans-serif type (see Fig. 6.) appear widely spaced at the top and bottom of each pane.

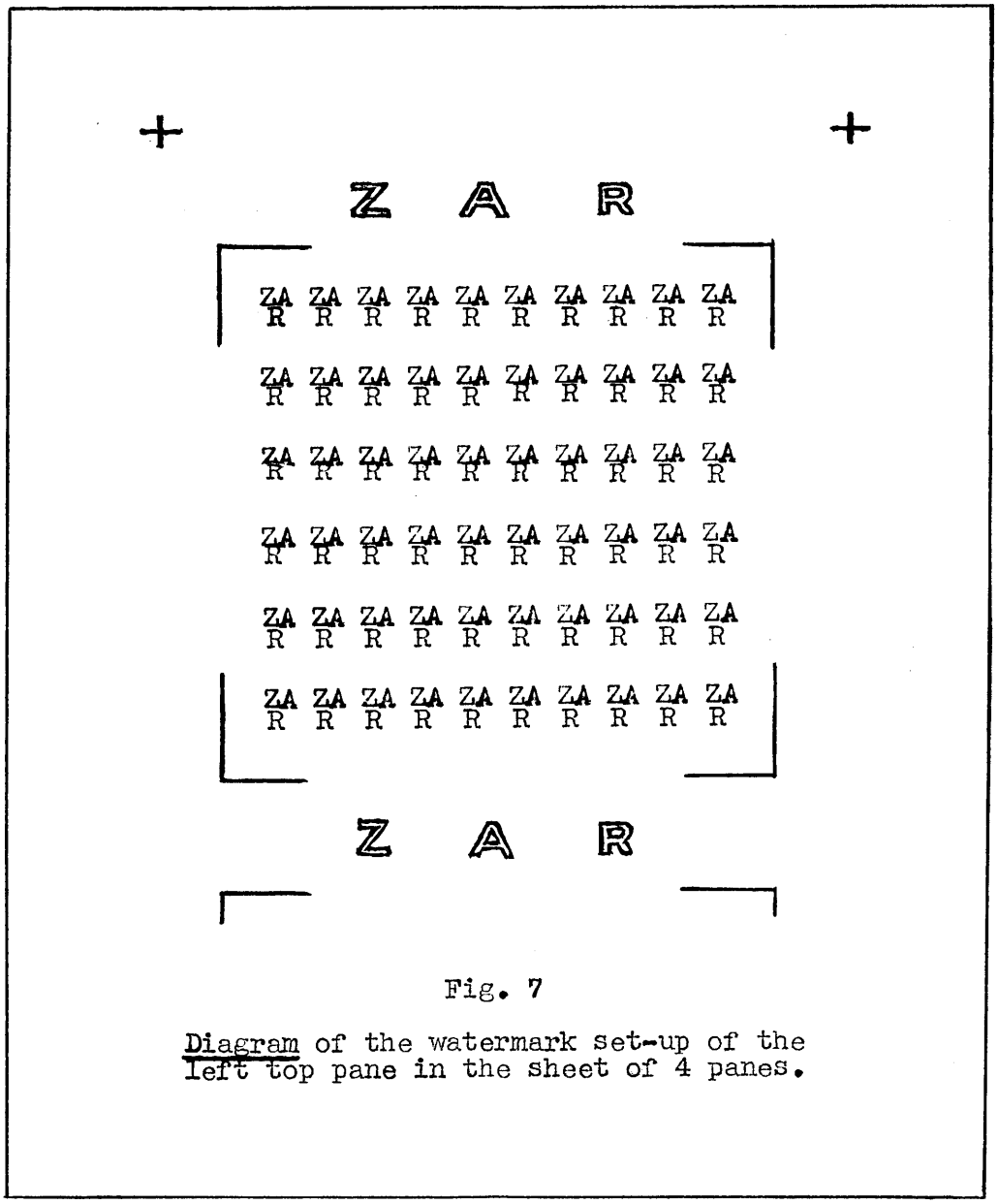


Fig. 7

Diagram of the watermark set-up of the left top pane in the sheet of 4 panes.

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Each pane is enclosed at the four corners with watermarked lined **angles** (see Fig. 7). The same type of watermarked lined corners are repeated again in the outside corners of the **whole** set-up. A large watermarked **cross** appears in the middle of the whole set-up, while four slightly smaller **crosses** can be seen just outside the set-up in the middle of every side in the sheet.

The watermark units were so arranged that each one was supposed to fall on a stamp. One can conclude therefore from the watermark set-up of the paper sheets that if the stamp printings had taken place, sheets of 240 stamps would have been created in 4 panes of 60 each.

(c) Varieties of the "ZAR" Watermark.

The 240 watermark units are by no means all of the identical, firm, even type. There are a number of small variations of the three letters, in particular of the R. Most pronounced are the two types, **"R with a firm straight foot"** (see Fig. 5) and **"R with curved foot"** (Fig. 6). They appear in irregular arrangement throughout the four panes in about equal numbers.

A few "R" letters are "in between" types, with a straight foot showing just a touch of a curve on the bottom. Other minor types to be found in the watermark set-up are: "R with small head", do. "with very wide head", "short foot" varieties of the A and of the R, and many others.

CHAPTER 2.

THE KRUGER ESSAYS OF 1949.

During 1949, several "die proofs" of a 1½d. stamp bearing the image of President Kruger appeared on the philatelic scene. Some philatelic periodicals, dating back to April of that year, published eagerly the "scoop" of such an impending stamp, on the authority of "well-informed" correspondents. Its date of issue was scheduled according to these reports for October 10th, 1949. The occasion for the issue was stated to be "the 50th Anniversary of the outbreak of the South African War", by some, others gave briefly "a commemoration of President Kruger" as the cause.

"The South African Philatelist" in its issue of July 1949, brought the following announcement (p. 106):

> "We understand that the 1½d. commemorative stamp, which it is proposed to issue on the 10th October this year, will bear a portrait of President Kruger on the right-hand side. The stamps will be of the same size as that of the Natal Settlers stamp and similar in colour. It will also appear inscribed alternately in the two official languages, necessitating the collecting of bilingual pairs."

Then came an **official denial.** In the following month, "The South African Philatelist" brought the following "Correction" (August, 1949, p. 123)

> "We are informed by Mr. Swanepoel, Pubbility Officer of the Union Post Office Department, that we were incorrect in our statements about the President Kruger Commemorative . . . which appeared on page 106 of the July, 1949, issue.
>
> "Mr. Swanepoel informs us that the Department has no knowledge of a proposed issue in so far as the President Kruger stamp is concerned and no official statement has been issued in this connection."

This official denial gave cause for much speculation and guessing about the true status of the Essay copies which after all **had** come to light. Nobody seemed to be inclined to take the official statement at its face value. Various reasons were advanced for the withdrawal of the controversial stamp. It is interesting to note some of them: (1) The design of the stamp was considered not a successful one and the stamp was rejected as very ugly; (2) the issue might have caused political ill-feeling among a section of the population; (3) the similar looking Natal Settlers stamp had appeared only a few months previously and such a spate of souvenir issues withiin a short time was not advisable. Two further explanations were reported by Mr. D. B. Armstrong, the former editor of "Stamp Collecting" who was at that time in South Africa ("Stamp Collecting," August 5th, 1950, p. 641): (4) Kruger was universally known as "Oom Paul", and the name "S. J. P. Kruger" beside the design meant little or nothing to the South African of to-day (?); (5) the proposed day of issue, the 10th October, 1949, practically coincidied with the one on which the U.P.U. stamps were to appear.

All these explanations, well meant as they were in an effort to clarify matters, never sounded convincing; some, in particular those under (2) and (4), are preposterous.

Let us make it quite clear at the outset: According to the actual facts, related below, one must agree with the authorities that the 1949 Kruger Essays had indeed **no** "official" status. Nevertheless, there are certain elements in their story which give them in my opinion some degree of a "semi-official" character. Most significant in this regard is the mere fact that some of the existing essay copies have the official hand-stamp of the Government Printing Works impressed on the back. This fact alone, liable to cause misleading presumptions, proves that there is a definite necessity to record the true story of the 1949 Kruger Essays.

1. The History of the 1949 Essays.

The **idea** of a Kruger stamp was suggested by a highly placed government official who had close relations with the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs at that time. The official was to show the completed design to the Minister for his approval.

The well-known artist, Mr. A. S. Konya, of Pretoria, was commissioned with working out a suitable design. Mr. Konya did a pencil and wash drawing, but then decided that together with it, the complete article — an engraved stam proof. — would show off better and would have more prospect of gaining the minister's approval. The artist therefore made preparations to engrave the design on copper plate.

The engraving job took a long time. In the meantime, there was a change in the ministerial post. The official in question also left the government service. With the main personality behind the stamp project gone, there was no point for the artist to contiinue with the preparations and he stopped the further processing of the "artist's proofs".

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However, a few impressions had already been made on an engraver's proof press at the Government Printing Works. These impressions, called in printing jargon "artist's proofs", are according to our philatelic terminology "Essays" as they did not bring forth any corresponding stamp issue.

In fact, from the foregoing it becomes clear that the Essays did **not even get to the stage** when they could be called "official" ones: They had never been presented for approbation before the competent authorities. The view and statement of the authorities disowning any connection whatever with them, is therefore understandable and correct.

As soon as the Kruger stamp scheme was abandoned, the engraved copper plate was duly **defaced to prevent any further printing.**

2. The Original Photograph adopted in the Design.

Mr. Konya in laying out his design, placed on the right half of the stamp picture a portrait of President Kruger which appears familiar to us: It is indeed the same original photograph, which, significantly enough, had also served as the main feature of the 1899 Essay (see Fig. 1). Thus he linked up a philatelic vision from the past century which did not materialize, with a new philatelic project to celebrate this great South African statesman, hoping that there would be success this time.

In Mr. Konya's design, the original photograph has received a further trimming at the bottom: The oval rounding off to a straight cut. In addition, part of the sleeve on the right of the essay has also been cut off for the purpose of the stamp picture (see Fig. 8).

3. The Artist's Drawing.
(Essay No. 9)

Mr. Konya's original Pencil and Wash Drawing which was mentioned earlier and which was the first stage in the production of the stamp essay, has to be recorded here as the first Essay type of the 1949 Kruger Essays in existence. Its present owner could not be ascertained.

4. The Die Essays on Cardboard.
(Essays No. 10 to 12.)

The engraved Die Essays were printed on hard coarse cardboard paper of creamish colour. The overall size of the cardboard measures roughly 3¼ x 2⅜in.

The horizontal design is **sunken** in the card. The paper surface of this sunken part is smooth.



Fig. 8.

The design shows the portrait of President Kruger on the right half, his name "S. J. P. KRUGER" vertically downward on his right in some deep shading, the value "1½d." prominently on the left slightly below the middle, the lettering "SUID-AFRIKA" on the left top within heavy shading which extends also down the left side, and the word "POSSEEL" on the left bottom.

The format and dimensions of the "sunken" design are similar to to the ones of the Natal Settlers stamp, namely 36 x 21 mm.

The Die Essays were printed and exist in the following three colour trial varieties:

(a) in **scarlet;**
(b) in **slate-purple;**
(c) in **violet-black.**

As already mentioned, a few of these Die Essays show on the back of the cardboard the large circular handstamp of the Government Printing Works in violet. This single-circle rubber stamp contains a large amount of lettering in code and a coat of arms within a wreath in the centre.

Essay Stamps.
(Essays No. 13 and 14)

Essays in the form of actual stamps, printed from the same engraved plate as the Die Essays, but on stamp paper, are also in existence. They were obviously made to provide further samples to show what the finished article would look like.

Two varieties of colour have been reported of these Essay stamps:

(a) in **deep claret** (similar as the colour of of the Natal Settlers stamp);
(b) in **deep red.**

For the sake of completeness, it must be recorded that essay copies of both types of colour are known to exist "used on cover" with date stamps of "Pretoria" and I believe of "Port Elizabeth". Quite obviously, some philatelic "horseplay" is concerned in these instances which should not be taken seriously. The Essay stamps as such are certainly of a proper status as far as "semi-official" essays go.

6. The "English" Essay Without Lettering
(Essay No. 15)

In conformity with the practice still existing in 1949 to have uni-lingual stamps alternating in the sheet in the two official languages, the 1949 Kruger issue was also intended by its sponsors to have unilingual stamps, with English and Afrikaans stamps separately.

While all completed 1949 Kruger Essays represent only the **Afrikaans** version (see Fig. 8), an attempt was actually made to have also an Essay in the **English** version, as Mr. Konya has told me. The sudden abandonment of the scheme interrupted the work in this regard. However, preparations had already reached a certain stage resulting in yet another type of Essay which is very rare:

An entry of the design had been made into a second copper plate **without the original Afrikaans text.** The idea was to engrave the English text later on. From this provisional state of the second copper plate, **two** impressions were taken for reference (See Fig. 9).

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Fig. 9.

As can be seen, this Essay merely shows the Kruger portrait and the "1½d." value as the only text.

(To be continued)

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AUSTRALIA

The 3½d. "Nursing Stamp," announced for issue in September features a present-day nurse with a figure of Florence Nightingale in the background. It is entitled "A Tradition of Service."

Covers to be serviced at the Antarctic offices of Mawson and Macquarie Island should reach the Philatelic Bureau, G.P.O., Melbourne by the 1st November, with the wherewithal to cover postage at 3½d. per cover. Heard Island P.O. has closed down.

The taking over of the Cocos (Keeling) postal service has been delayed and the acceptance of covers for first-day servicing was extended to 16th September, although the actual date of the air-service opening has not yet been announced.

CENTRAL AFRICAN FEDERATION.

Mr. S. Kelly of Kitwe, N. Rhodesia reports that about 1st August the 1d. Federation stamps appeared in coil form (480 stamps in one unjoined strip); they are in rather a deeper shade than the stamps in sheet form, and are perf. 12¾ x 14 instead of the ordinary 13¾ x 14.

In connection with the flaw on the stamp reported in our September issue ("gun pointing upward from the aeroplane") Mme. Birsen reports that she can no longer find specimens of it at her local postoffice.

We suggest that the possible explanation is as follows: We understand these stamps are printed on sheets of two panes, but that they are distributed to post offices in single panes only. The error or flaw presumably developed on one pane only. At first her office had the panes with the flaw, now they have the other panes without the flaw.

P.S. The latest report is that the "gun" has come back and the flaws are now commoner than the normals.

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ROTARY GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY.

This occurred on 25th February of this year and 27 countries have honoured the occasion by the issue of special stamps, whilst it is understood that some more are still to come. Others had special postmarks for the occasion.

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EAST GERMAN "LOCALS" 1945-46.

Mr. H. Markowitz sprang what was a surprise to most members of the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg in August, with his display of the local issues of the Russian-occupied part of Germany between April 1945 and 31st October 1946.

Few members had any very exact ideas as to the numbers of these stamps, and as to the amazing variety of the designs. Many of them are reasonably numerous, especially in mint condition, but used specimens, more particularly on cover, are in many cases very very few in number.

Mr. Markowitz did not deal with the local issues of the areas occupied by the Western Allies, beyond intimating that they are not so numerous as those of Eastern Germany.

The local issues are fully listed in Michel's catalogue and in the Muller-Berlin catalogue.

Following are notes read when demonstrating the collection:—

As the victorious Allies advanced into Germany, they prohibited the use of the current German stamps, depicting Hitler or any other Nazi symbol.

Some of the burgomasters of the towns in the wake of the allied advance issued their own local stamps. Either new stamps were quickly designed or any official label for internal use was overprinted, handstamped or even typewritten in order to denote it as a valid postage stamp. Due to the fact, however, that the Western Allies had prepared for their entry into Germany by bringing supplies of stamps along for the population of their sectors (Amgot stamps) Local issues of the Western Sectors of Germany are by far not as numerous as those of the Eastern sector.

Chaos reigned in the Russian sphere of influence. Whole districts were cut off from the rest of the world, and the P.O.'s had only Hitler stamps. The Russian armies, unlike their Western counterpart, had no stamps prepared. It was therefore ordered, that in most of the occupied districts Hitler stamps were allowed to be used, with the proviso that the image of Hitler on the stamps had to be blotted out. No specific instructions were however, given, as to the manner in which this should be done, size or form etc. Each community pleased itself how to blot out Hitler's face by rubberstamp, corkstamp, bars, slogans, silhouettes of buildings, etc.Other communities did not make use of the privilege of using Hitler stamps this way, and designed new stamps or used labels suitably inscribed.

From the 8th of August, 1945, all Hitler stamps thus disfigured, were withdrawn (in many cases before this date) and were no more allowed to be used. From the 31st of October, 1946, only the official Russian general issue for the whole Russian sector was permitted.

FIPEX.

It is announced that New York's Fifth International Philatelic Exhibition, 28 April to 6 May 1956, will have 4 First-Day items, a 3c. stamp, a souvenir sheet, a postcard and an envelope, the last probably an air mail.

It is expected that a large number of Governments will be participating in the Exhibition.

SWAZILAND

K.GV Jubilee Issue.

Mr. Eric Bloch, London, writes me to point out that the listing I gave of the "Flagstaö Varieties" in my article in the January issue of this magazine, page 11 is incomplete. Mr. Bloch has made a special study of all the Silver Jubilee stamps and has submitted the following listing:

Stamp No. 4, Plate 3. On 2d., 3d. and 6d. values; also reported on the 1d., but this needs confirmation. Sometimes called the "Small lightning conductor."

Stamp No. 7. As given, but is more commonly called the "short extra flagstaff." Occurrence on 1d. also needs confirmation.

Stamp No. 11. As given, but usually called "the lightning conductor." Occurrence on 1d. again needs confirmation.

Stamp No. 14, Plate 1. On all 4 values. A short vertical line on left of castle.

Stamp No. 26, Plate 6. On the 1d. value only. The "double flagstaff."

Stamp No. 31, Plate 1. On all 4 values. Two dots in top left sky.

Stamp No. 37, Plate 5. As given.

Stamp No. 48, Plate 2. On 2d., 3d. and 6d. values with a doubtful record of the 1d. A long vertical line to left of main turret.

Stamp No. 49, Plate 1. As given, but is called "**The** Extra Flagstaff," not the Double Flagstaff (which is No. 26).

Stamp No. 56, Plate 4. On the 2d., 3d. and 6d. values, doubtfully on the 1d. A very thin short vertical line in centre turret on left of castle.

He would appreciate any comments on the above.

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BRITISH HIGH VALUES.

The high value Elizabethan stamps of G.B. have now appeared. They feature castles in the four portions of the U.K.; the 2/6 showing Carrickfergus Castle in Northern Ireland, the 5/- Caernarvon Castle in Wales, the 10/- Edinburgh Castle in Scotland and the £1 Windsor Castle in England.

It is noteworthy that they have the St. Edward's Crown in the watermark. It has also been stated that this type of paper has been used for some of the lower values, though it is not known if such stamps have yet been put on sale.

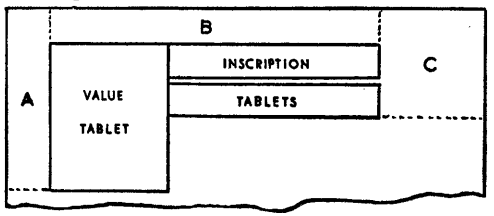
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THE RETOUCHED TOP ROW OF THE ½D. BANTAM STAMPS

By "CAECULUS"

In the first three printings of the ½d. War Effort "Bantam" series, those stamps in the top row of the sheets were easily distinguishable by the irregular, or total absence of the green back-ground which normally forms the top frame line between the upper inscription tablet and the top perforations.

This lack of any defined top frame line proved a constant variety and evidently a characteristic of the cylinder in use for when, around about October 1945, a new printing (Plate IV) of this particular denomination appeared, it was immediately noted that some form of re-touching, or additional etching, had taken place along the top row of images on the cylinder in order to reproduce the top frame line of the stamps. This same feature was present again in the 5th, or final printing of the ½d. "Bantams" and because of the obvious change that had taken place by the addition of an upper frameline to the top row of stamps, the earlier variety of the "missing background" took on a new philatelic interest for collectors.



As a result, "Before and After" copies of this top row of the stamps, especially those with the marginal slogans attached, now form a regular item in most Union collections and the following list with the accompanying illustration of the distinctive upper background features of each stamp in the row, by CAECULUS, will prove of interest and assist in the study of the series.

For descriptive purposes, the top portion of the design on the stamps has been divided into three rectangulor parts, "A", "B" and "C" as shown in the illustration herewith, and also, the more prominent flaws are printed in capitals. Lightly inked copies will show rather less shading than the diagram, which it should be noted is not to scale, and heavily inked copies, rather more. Some of the marginal flaws may be affected by the same factors or may have been cut out by the perforations. (W.N.S.).

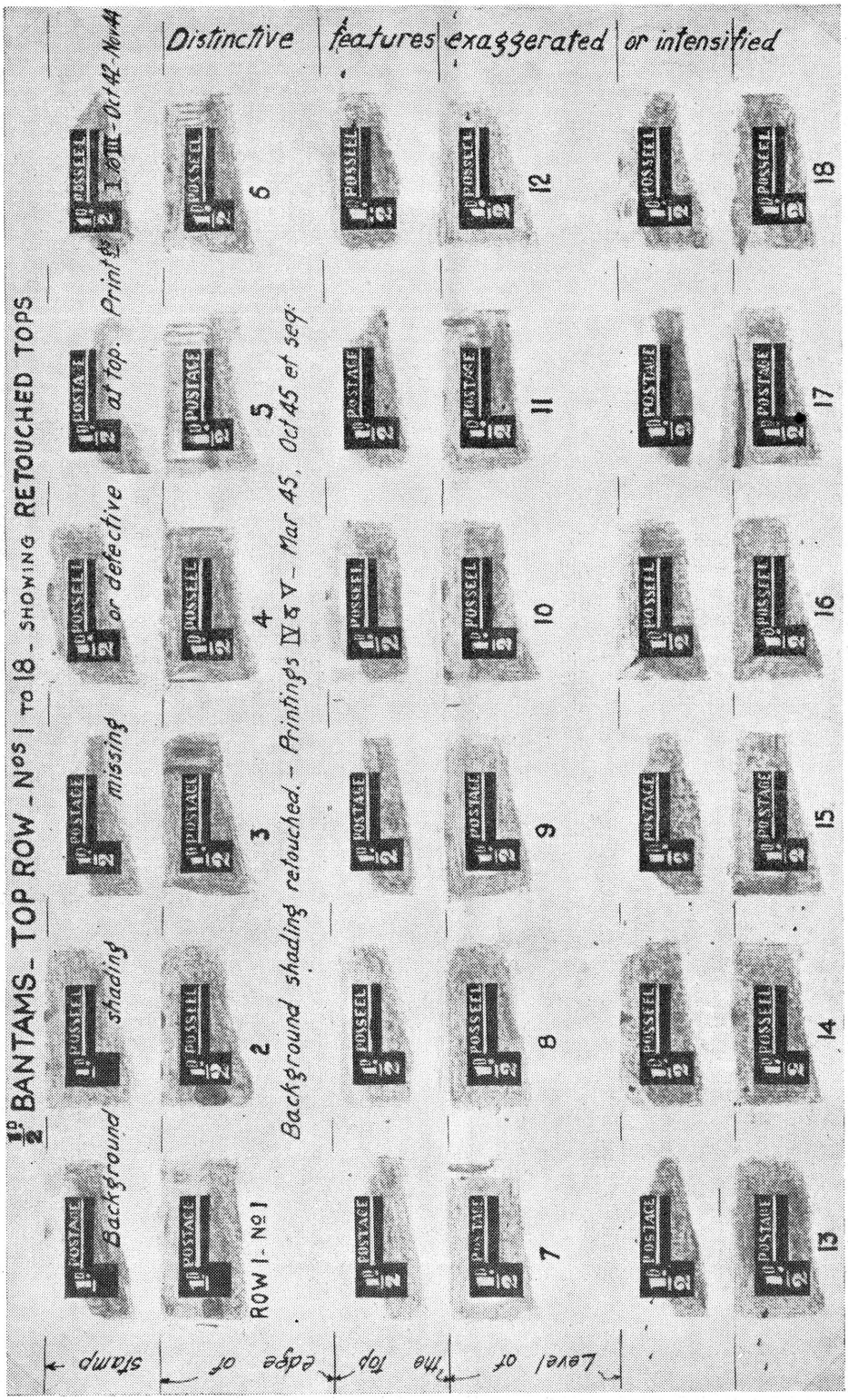
DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

Stamp No.	Top Line Shading Missing Printings I, II and III.	Top Line Retouched Printings IV and V.	Flaws Common to All Printings.
1.	A. Shading absent from above bottom of "1".	A. ALMOST-VERTICAL LINE OF SHADING OUTSIDE LEFT EDGE FROM UNDER BALL OF "2" NEARLY TO TOP OF "1". ANGLE N.W. CORNER cut off and SHADING PROJECTS INTO MARGIN just underneath. Somewhat heavier shading from under ball of "2" to bottom "1". Value tablet outlined by white vertical line from top to near bottom "1".	Tiny dot in margin R. just under bottom line of haversack and 1 mm. from edge.
	B. Absent on L. faint on R.; strong touch on top edge over "T".	B. Shading extends into top margin all along top edge. Somewhat heavier touch over "TA".	
	C. Weak at top line of tablet and N.E. corner cut off opp. final "E".	C. Shading uneven and blotchy.	

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Stamp No.	Top Line Shading Missing Printings I, II and III.	Top Line Retouched Printings IV and V.	Flaws Common to All Printings.
2.	A and B. Quite normal—a somewhat ragged top edge with slightly heavier shading on top edge over "SE", and to a lesser degree over "1". C. N.E. corner rounded.	No signs of retouching but stamp distinguished by a heavy blob of colour in left margin extending from middle of "1" to bottom of ball of "2".	Tiny dot L.M. opposite top line of "S" and a still finer one R. oppo. soldier's elbow and 1 mm. from it.
3.	A. Shading absent from above top of "1". B. No shading; small dot over "1" close to top of value tablet and another smaller one on top edge over "OS". C. Shading absent from just over white white dividing line.	A. A LONG SLICE OUT OF VERTICAL EDGE N.W. CORNER from top to near bottom of "1". White vertical line outlines N.W. edge value tablet. B. Fully redrawn — spot over "1" can sometimes be seen in lightly inked copies. C. Heavy vertical strokes leave a light space parallel to end "Postage" tablet—SNICK OUT OF N.E. CORNER.	No distinguishing feature. Row 2 x 3 has spot in top margin to R. of "D". Also green stroke at back of foremost soldiers helmet—"Plumed Helmet".
4.	A. Shading more or less missing from top of "1". Touch at angle N.W. corner. B. A PROMINENT SPOT NEAR TOP EDGE and L. OF FIG. I. Shading slopes upwards from corner value table to top edge over "OS" and is somewhat heavier over "SE". C. N.E. corner blunted.	A. PROMINENT WHITE MARKS IN N.W. CORNER. B. THE SPOT IS STILL VISIBLE. Shading swells into top margin noticeably over "D" to "P". C. Faint projection from N.E. corner.	Tiny dot L.M. 3 mm. above top corner name tablet and ½ mm. from edge.
5.	A.B.C. Shading completely absent from bottom of "1" to white dividing line.	A. Swelling into margin on left from top corner to bottom of fig. 1, and heavy vertical line shading down centre. N.W. angle value tablet outlined in white. B. LARGE WHITE SPOT ON EDGE VALUE TABLET OVER "1". C. Long vertical slice out of N.E. corner. This corner presents the appearance of 3 vertical smears from top edge to white line.	GREEN SPOT AT BOTTOM OF PATCH OF SUNLIGHT — ON FOREMOST SOLDIER'S LEFT LEG. LARGE GREEN SMEAR IN R. margin opp. same and two tiny dots opp. final "a" in Africa. 2 x 5 Prominent dot under "IN" of Inkomste.
6.	A.B.C. Mostly missing, some shading over "ID" and "SE."	A. White patches. Small swelling into margin opp. bottom "1". B. Fully redrawn. A darker line of shading over "1" and 2nd "S". C. BIG SLICE OUT OF N.E. CORNER and two white vertical lines show up well.	GREEN DOT top of white patch on soldier's left leg. CLUSTER OF GREEN DOTS in L. margin just above name tablet

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(To be continued)

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REVIEWS

Sudwestafrika: Handbuch Zur Geschichte Eines Sonnelandes. By Dr. Herbert Gewande. Bad Ems, 1954. Werner Kuhn Verlag; paper, 198 pp.

(This Review was done by Mr. Stephen G. Rich for the "Collectors Club Philatelist," but thinking that it might be of interest to many readers of the "S.A. Philatelist" he sent us a copy, with full authorization to use it. His action is much appreciated and we feel sure many readers will be glad to know of this work—Editor).

Beginning with Poole's 1909 brochure on Zululand and Allis's great 1920 book on The Cape, the various Southern African countries have one by one found adequate philatelic treatment. Geldhof 1938 on Orange Free State, Curle and Basden, 1940, on Transvaal and the Union Handbook/Catalogue of 1952 bring the coverage nearer to complete for the area. Natal and Southwest Africa alone have remained untreated save in magazine articles. Now the latter is covered by a really adequate book. We regret that it exists in German only, thus far, and hope some enterprising writer and publisher will bring it into our language.

Southwest Africa's philatelic five periods are all treated with full detail. In particular, the history involved in the change of philatelic status, such as the circumstances for Union stamps used there from 1915 to 1920 and the different conditions under the South African Mandate from 1920 till Southwest's stamps appeared in 1923, is given with full detail but strict limitation to relevance.

For a small country such as Southwest Africa usages and postmarks bulk far larger philatelically than when there are many stamps with many varieties to report, sort into order and perhaps even plate. Dr. Gewande has missed nothing, from the usages of the German forerunner stamps, through the dates of establishment of all the post offices, to the illustration of almost every postmark that has any separate interest.

Thus, the interesting "Wanderstempel" of the German colonial period are treated fully, with ample illustrations. These cases, in which a metal dating postmark without town name was used with a straight line rubber town name struck over it, two-operation cancelling, are given needed listing and explanation. Though this reviewer has been cultivating the field desultorily for many years, he was able to fill numerous gaps in his information out of this chapter.

Likewise, the treatment of the mutilated or altered German postmarks of the occupation and early mandate years, is remarkably informative. This reviewer had hardly realized that actual changes were made — German Olukonda device being mutilated and partly remade for Ondonga, for example, Bethanien altered to Bethany as well as having parts of German wording removed; Gochas similarly denuded and changed to Guchab.

The treatment of philatelically done-to-order usages in the Occupation and early Mandate period is sane, eminently fit to prevent those reading it from being deceived or paying high prices for covers of no significance. (pp. 105-106). We note a picture showing a stamp invalidated in 1908 among those used on such material in 1917 — but Dr. Gewande evidently did not know of this detail.

Seapost usages and R.P.O. usages at various periods are handled with all needed detail.

We commend Dr. Gewande for his restraint on the mention of the political matters and changes involved, though we would have liked him to be more candid on the massacre of the Herreros in the 1904-05 war. But by and large, he has avoided partisanship in his explanations.

The only lacuna we can find is on page 131, where recognition of the lithographic Type la surcharges of 1923 by the normal characteristics of lithographed work. (the "irregular string of beads" edge on line) is not mentioned. Nor does Dr. Gewande attempt to explain why the 5d. surcharged dues are always those of Transvaal: perhaps he was not aware that these were white elephants, useless stock, at Pretoria, even that late, thirteen years after Transvaal's stamps had ceased to be colonial in use and were valid throughout the Union of South Africa.

Maybe it is good German usage to speak of "Englisch" for things and countries that are **British.** If so, no fault applies. But seeing as it was the Cape Colony that annexed Walfish bay in 1878, the Imperial government (which is British—i.e. Scotch and English and Welsh and some Irish combined) that furnished the arms for the 1915 conquest by the South African army without an English regiment even accompanying, and in the light of other similar facts, the wrong term seems to have been used. With this minor detail of fault finding, this book can be recommended to anyone working on Southwest Africa in any of its periods, as factually reliable, comprehensive in coverage, and sane in its interpretations of any philatelic matter. Now who will give us an equally good handbook for Natal and thus round out the coverage of Southern Africa?

S.G.R.

The Postal History and Postage Stamps of Grenada. By Alfred Charlton, F.R.P.S.L. Published by P. L. Pemberton & Son, Leominster, England. Price 12/6 net.

As the writer says, if an excuse is needed for this book, it is that no comparable work has been published, since A. J. Sefi's in 1912. After dealing briefly with general history and geography there is a consideration of the British handstruck stamps and postmarks (about 16 in number) used from 1783 to 1861, with British adhesives during the last two or three years of this period.

Then control of the post office was vested in the island itself and we get an account of the various offices and their post-marks.

There is then a full account of the various stamp issues up to 1949, i.e. in sterling currency. Unpaid letter stamps, postal stationery, fakes and forgeries are also dealt with. All sections are well illustrated.

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Wrona Deutschland-Spezial-Katalogue 1956. Published by R. Wrona, Neue Winterfeldstrasse 26, Berlin, W.30.

A pocket-sized priced catalogue, with numerous illustrations of German stamps of all stages from the old States to the modern divisions into which stamps at present fall. Perhaps not big enough for the specialist, but most convenient for the general collector.

Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue, 1956. Part I British Empire, 717 pages published at 391 Strand, London, W.C.2. Price 16/6 net (postage from U.K. 1/1).

This centenary number of the publisher's catalogue marches on successfully; it is about 20 pages larger than the preceding edition.

Major rewritings this time are the half-lengths of Victorta, based on Mr. J. R. W. Purves' recent work on them; the small "G" overprints of Griqualand West, and a number of the Indian States. These relistings are of course regarded at first by those who have collections mounted up on the old listings, as a bit of a nuisance, but they will soon come to be accepted as an improvement.

All the St. Edward's Crown varieties are now listed in their proper places, but prices have not so far been quoted for them.

As usual there are numerous prtce changes, both iin old and recent issues. Noteworthy among the latter are the big jumps for the last issues of the three territories now combined in the Central African Federation.

Seychelles: Postage Stamps and Postal History. By H. V. Farmer, F.R.P.S.L. Robson Lowe Ltd., 50 Pall Mall, London, S.W.1. Price 25/-. (Postage 1/1).

I must congratulate the writer on the clear way this book is written and the wealth of material it contains.

It is based on years of intensive study and research into his own outstanding collection, as well as into printers' records and all available publications to date.

Each issue is treated separately, giving its history and settings.

Mr. Farmer makes a strong case for inclusion in catalogues of Mauritius stamps used in Seychelles (cancelled with "B.64" obliterator). When it is considered that these stamps were the only ones in use for about thirty years till the appearance of the first definitive issue, it is only right that they should find their proper place.

Inevitably there are some errors, the most important being the setting of 1896 overprints. Unfortunately Mr. Farmer had no opportunity of seeing a big enough block to form his own opinion and consequently based his findings on a book published by Mr. B. W. M. Poole in 1905.

Each cancellation type ("B.64", Victoria, Rural, Local and Paquebot) is fully described and illustrated and its history given. There are also numerous illustrations of stamps.

There is a marked similarity to Union issues, as Mr. Farmer ltsts all the flaws appearing on Geo. VI issues, till one begins to wonder whether there is a normal stamp in existence.

There is no doubt that with this publication, the popularity of Seychelles, already well on the upgrade, will increase among collectors. It will find tts place among the best handbooks on any individual country published to date.

A.R.K.

American Air Mail Catalogue of Air Letter Sheets (Aerogrammes)—1955 Edition.

This, the fourth revised edition of the American Air Mail Society's Catalogue, has just been received. It comprises 173 pages, profusely illustrated, and lists all Air Letter sheets bearing imprinted stamps issued prior to 1st May, 1955. Prices, where shewn and stated to be current market values, continue to shew an upward trend and(of interest to collectors of Southern African items, the following are noteworthy:

Union of South Africa:

	'Handb.' Vol. II.	AAM Cat.
PAL 13	8s.	21s.
14	8s.	21s.
22	15s.	28s.
7a & 8a (pr)	20s.	350s.

The last couple of sheets are of the greatest rarity and have steadily increased in value — from $16 in 1952, $30 in 1953 to $50 in 1955.

Korea — Free Forces Mail: Handbook Vol. II, page 190.

UA 94, UA 94d. and UA 94e are unknown either in mint or used condition and are therefore omitted from the American Catalogue.

Southern Rhodesia:

The price of the first **"Active Service Letter Card"** (1941) has doubled during the past two years and now stands at $25 (say 175s.) mint.

Swaziland:

The first overprinted issues of 1944 have increased from $5 (35s.) to $11.50 (80s. 6d.) the pair.

The American Air Mail Catalogue of Air Lettre Sheets (1955) is edited by Mr. L. B. Gatchell, who is also Editor of the Society's monthly publication "The Air Post Journal" and, among the twelve Associate Editors is the undersigned through whom copies may be obtained. (Price 22s. including postage).

I. H. C. GODFREY.

S.W.A. 1914-1918 CENSOR MARKINGS.

Mr. N. Snowden of Manchester, England, has sent the following additions to the list given by Mr. J. Hunter in our August issue, p. 140. The type numbers follow those given by Mr. Hunter.

Type 1. add Z/5 and Z/18.

Type 4. B/100 found from July '17 to March '19. The other numbers only in November and December '16.

Type 5a. Add No. 106.

Type 14. 100A known from Aug., 1917 to May, 1919.

Type 16. On civil cover from Swakopmund to Windhoek, 22-/-16; also on cover from Windhoek to Kamerun. 21-11-16.

Type 21. Two sizes of rectangle: (a) 54 x 11½ mm., in violet, blue or purple, Dec. '15 to Dec. '16. (b) 54 x 9½ mm., in blue, Feb. '15.

Type 23. In blue or reddish-purple, Sept. '15 to Nov. '17.

Additional Type — Say 26a. Single line 55 mm. long, "PASSED BY CENSOR" in sans serif capitals, 3 mm. high. In violet, on cover from Swakopmund to Klein Windhoek, 8-8-19.

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SOCIETY NEWS

O.F.S. & BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

At the **August meeting** in the Methodist Hall, Charles Street, several displays were given which were "something special" and out of the ordinary. Mr. M. Sacks started off with an exhibition entitled **"Russia"** which was not the usual tedious display of straight-forward sets, but a clever and witty presentation with an original and striking write-up and a frequently cynical comment on the propaganda incorporated in the stamps.

Mr. G. H. van Rooyen showed a very pleasing thematic array of **"Red Cross"** postage stamps, some of which were "semi-postal" helping towards the Red Cross fund, while others showed Red Cross motifs. The prominent regular appearance of the red cross in the design of practically all the stamps throughout all pages made a uniform, striking appeal.

The publicity officer, Dr. Freund, demonstrated in his **"Philatelic News Report"** the technical reason for the heavy bars on the sheet margins of the current low values, and he also related various other tit-bits from the philatelic press of the world.

The "surprise item" of this evening turned out to be an unusual display by Mr. H. J. Weil, consisting of a number of foreign pictorial post cards from his **"Philatelic Curiosity Shop"**. The post cards had a definite philatelic-historical appeal and were some really interesting "specialities". Here are some of the "oddities" shown: A very early German "Balloon post card" with flight cachet; an entire from the "Boxer Rebellion" with Chinese flanking etc.; an early Greek pictorial post card with one stamp impressed and another stamp embossed in albino; a German Souvenir post card commemorating the date "12.12.12.12" (four times), meaning "12th December 1912, 12 o'clock," with corresponding cancellation and slogans; a French entire sent by "Pneumatic Mail", a tube sytem which is similar to the one employed nowadays in large stores; an Austrian souvenir post card "heiling Hitler", having a "mixed" franking (Austrian and German stamps) and showing the slogan "We thank our Führer!" (for what?); various Swiss pictorial "Pro Juventute" post cards issued in conjunction with the "Pro Juventute" stamps. There were many more delectable things. Unfortunately, many of our members who are only interested in Union fly-specks, did not seem to comprehend the fascinating philatelic items.

Altogether, it is most pleasing to note that the majority of displays given by our members for some time now, are of a special standard, having advanced from the usual standard of straight "run-of-the-mill" collections of the unimaginative collector, to some original collections well-constructed with ideas and imagination. K.F.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

2nd August: A large proportion of our members and two visitors foregathered to hear the talk of Dr. J. W. Harris entitled "Denmark fights T.B." and see his display of the Christmas Seals issued by Denmark and countries associated with it, such as Iceland and Greenland and even a Society in England.

Listeners were introduced to Einar Holboll, the originator of these stamps (1904) and conducted step by step through the varied and amazing developments and growth of this now firmly established practice of raising funds for tuberculosis sufferers. Dr. Harris was able to show in an outstanding display of seals how one idea led to yet another in the unflagging and successful fight of Denmark against this scourge. The talk and displays deserve the highest praise, which was ably expressed by our President, Mr. D. Berg.

The remainder of the evening was filled by another of our auctions.

16th August. The evening was the second one of the year devoted to our Juniors. The President opened the proceedings by welcoming both young and old and by announcing the programme for the meeting.

Mr. G. Bülbring had brought along about 50 sheets of stamps selected from various European countries and spoke to the Juniors on the subject "Stories of Stamps". He gave interesting details with the stamps displayed, their purpose, origin, historical or cultural associations or pointed out the thematic subjects depicted on them. He showed how much knowledge could be gained by more than mere superficial collecting of stamps.

Mr. Kennedy followed up with a display of his collection, "Monarchs on Stamps".

After refreshments had been served the young people showed their stamp collections, drew for a prize in a raffle and were given duplicate stamps out of the Society's Stamp Box. It was felt that all departed having spent a very pleasant evening.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

14th September: Thirteen members and one visitor were present at this meeting to view excellent collections tabled by Mr. Picton and Dr. Kaplan. Mr. Picton provided the first exhibit, a very specialized collection of Great Britain 1d. reds. This was followed by Dr. Kaplan with an extensive display of mint South Africans, all consisting of the current Animal issue.

Dr. Kaplan spoke on Mr. Pitcon's collection stating that it was a fine, if not the finest collection of Great Britain in South Africa. Our Society was very pleased to have such a philatelist as one of our members; and, on behalf of all present Dr. Kaplan thanked Mr. Picton and wished him the very best of luck with his collection which would be displayed at the Philatelic Congress in Pretoria.

Dr. Van Niekerk stated that he intended compiling a Union Collection, but, after viewing Dr. Kaplan's display of South Africa, current issues only, he realised the great amount of work he would have to do. Dr. Kaplan was to be congratulated on tabling a collection of such interest, his method of writing-up was of great help to all members present. I.S.B.

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

5th September. Mr. Geo Petroulis showed his well known thematic collection of "Art on Stamps". This is one of those outstanding collections that is so well written up and illustrated, that it can be seen many times without it losing its attraction. Needless to say the evening was much appreciated by both the members and visitors who attended. M.F.S.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN.

8th September. Mr. J. P. Enslin showed his "Great Britain in Africa." This proved an interesting evening as Mr. Enslin always can make a good showing and moreover a varied one which appeals to the expert as well as the beginner. This was well attended.

22nd September. This was the "Ladies Night" when the Simenhoff Cup was competed for. There were three exhibits, Mrs. L. Grout, who won the Cup with her fine collection of the stamps of the Union, with Mrs. H. M. Scott as runner-up with a fine collection of Australian first-day sovers and collection of Netherlands Health Stamps; last but not least the Early Great Britain, with platings, shown by Miss D. Herrick. This was the first occasion on which she has shown and it is hoped that the Society will see more of her stamps and also those of the other lady members. The meeting was well attended as members look forward to this evening every year. M.F.S.

THE CAPE TOWN THEMATIC CLUB.

12th September. This was the ever popular All Members' Evening and the following was shown: F. Cinnot (Persia, Poland and Bavaria); Mrs. H. M. Scott (First Day Covers); S. Helbron (Switzerland, Germany and Israel); Miss F. Simenhoff (Thematic hair styles 'Crowning Glory"); H. R. Savage (Jap. Occupation of Malaya); C. R. V. Solomon (Modern France); F. Putzel (Modern Germany). The exhibits were well written up and there was a large attendance, particularly by junior members, who had been roped in by Mr. Simenhoff. So popular are these evenings that it means some members having to wait until the next one to make a showing. Moreover it brings in a number of visitors who enjoy the large variety of countries.

13th September. The Club paid a visit to the Paarl Society and showed there the following: W. G. Combrinck (Turkey pre-stamp covers and Roumania); K. Cameron (Bavaria); F. Sinnot (Mulready Caricatures and G.B. Penny Blacks); Miss C. D. F. Simenhoff ("Crowning Glory"); L. Simenhoff, F.R.P.S.L. (Unions, Inter-Provincials and George V); Mrs. H. M. Scott (Netherlands "Voor Het Kind" stamps); H. R. Savage (Jap. Occupation of Malaya and Bermuda).

26th September: A successful auction of stamps was held for Club funds. M.F.S.

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PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG.

Those of us who like to see stamps in plenty will feel that September wasn't a bad month at all, and compared very favourably with the offerings of preceding months: three meetings and a total of eight displays being excellent conditioning for Congress and Exhibition.

Firstly there was Mr. I. H. C. Godfrey's justly famed collection of "Air Posts of the World" on **Tuesday, 13th September.** Of course, it was not the whole collection, there would not have been enough space and time at one meeting; but even that part of it that was shown, and which gave examples for all continents except Africa, was truly tremendous not only for the rarity of the material but, more so, for the amount of additional information and illustration given in each instance. Here was philately and "themately" in one, and it made a display which was spectacular in both senses of the word, the prize rarities were nearly lost to the eye, the first official air mail of the World, in 1911, in India, and that famous flight from Windsor to London, the first Zeppelin flights and so much else. This really was a philatelic history of flying, from the beginnings, those Ballon Monté covers, to the most recent Round-the-World chases. Much as Mr. Godfrey has published of this history already, there is a lot to come still, and this display gave probably only a very slight indication of that lot.

Four more collections were shown at our annual visit to the Pretoria Society which proved as much of an enjoyable evening as we had expected. Commander Enoch showed his "S.G. One" collection which has improved considerably by the inclusion of some major rarities, for that collector is not satisfied with the fact that most numbers "One" are expensive per se — he must needs have pairs and errors of them! Mr. Kleiner followed with his "Seychelles" which have just won him plaques in Norway and New Zealand, and which have only one fault — the sheets of mint stamps are so big that they curl instantly. But Mr. Kleiner will not take the gum off them. Dr. Harvey Pirie showed a very instructive collection of modern Antarctic posts, complete with huge maps of the polar region showing those strangely named observation posts whose essential outfit always includes a postal canceller. Mr. Oppenheim concluded with a most colourful exhibit of the stamps of the Dominican Republic, a display so out of the ordinary that only the Pretoria Society was able to find an expert for the vote of thanks: in our society, Mr. Oppenheim would have had to give that himself to himself.

The remaining three displays were provided for us one week later, on **Monday, 26th September,** by the members of the Germiston Society visiting us. Mr. Eiler showed us his beautifully arranged collection of Germany from 1870 to 1945, the first time in years that the interesting emissions of the German "Empire" have been shown at our Society; Dr. Kaplan's Canadian booklets and other varieties followed, and Mr. Hagger concluded with an amazing lot of the unhyphenated issues of the Union, complete with all the want list items. We've seen a lot lately of that country, and it seems that it is, after all, not so uninspiring a proposition for real philatelists! W.H.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF THE WESTERN RAND.

The 28th of September Meeting was held at the residence of Mr. J. Keet.

Mr. J. Burrell, in the absence of the Chairman, presided with nine members present.

Mr. Burrell reminded the members that, during Congress, they would be allowed to visit the Government Printing Works on Wednesday the 2nd of November, 1955.

It ias learnt that Mr. Godfrey had received a letter from the City of Johannesburg congratulating him on his exhibit of "HISTORY OF AIRMAIL" and have requested him to hold an exhibit at the Johannesburg Public Library. Mr. Godfrey has agreed to this and the exhibit will take place for three weeks, commencing on the 16th of January, 1956.

Mr. Keet provided the philatelic fare for the evening, showing Union Postage Dues and Christmas Seals.

Mr. Henderson spoke on the exhibits and stated that they were refreshing, a change, nicely mounted and most interesting.

After a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Keet for their hospitality, the meeting closed at 10 p.m. B.S.

SHORT NOTICES.

A "Postage Due" Soars.

Mr. Warren Smith of I Arundel St., London, W.C.2 reports that at one of his recent sales the Eritrean Postage Due Error "10 ENTS", catalogued at £22, fetched £48.

"Caspary" Sales.

This fabulous collection will be sold in a series of some 16 auctions, spread over the next year or two. The subscription for the catalogues of these is to be £5 10s (not £3 15s as originally noted), but this charge will be refunded to purchasers at any auction.

Premier South African Stamp Album.

The Premier Printing Works, 6-12 Alfred Street, Cape Town, have sent us a sample, size 10in. x 8in. of their recently published bilingual album for Union collectors. It has a spiral binding and there is a space for all normal stamps on right-hand pages only. There are blank pages at the end for further issues, varieties, etc.

Suitable for beginners, but would not appeal to more advanced collectors. Price not mentioned.

World Postal Stationery Catalogue.

There is a strong revival of interest in the collecting of postal stationery, but collectors are much at sea through the lack of an up-to-date catalogue. Most of those covering the world are obout 25 years old, and in any case are out of print.

The Berlin Postal Stationery Collectors' Association has undertaken to produce a new catalogue, based on Ascher's. It is to be issued in parts, Europe being tackled first.

The Philatelic Magazine
(Established 1875)
is your illustrated guide to world collecting!
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: 15/-
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29, Buckingham St., London, W.C.2, England.
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R. OSBORNE, P.O. Box 6710, Johannesburg.

U.S.A.

25th August. The 50c. of the definitive issue, featuring Susan B. Anthony, was released first at Louisville, Ky., on the occasion of the meeting of the Society of Philatelic Americans.

18 September. A 3-cent stamp commemorating the founding of Fort Ticonderoga in 1755. This fort was erected in the wilderness about 100 miles above Albany, N.Y. It features a plan of the fort, a figure of Ethan Allen and artillery.

21 September. The 30c. of the definitive series showing Robert E. Lee, the Confederate General.

24 Sept. The 40c. of the definitive series, featuring John Marshall; it is a commemorative in the sense that its issue is on the 200th anniversary of his birth.

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STAMPS WANTED.

We have received two applications for stamps:—

(1) Through the State Information Office. Mr. W. Ireland, 66, Crawford Road, Brighton-le-Sands, New South Wales, Australia, was totally incapacitated in World War I and his sole hobby is stamp collecting. He would much appreciate some Southern African stamps.

(2) Through the Governor-General's Office. Mr. A. W. Moffat runs a stamp club for pupils at the Fort Eire High School, Ontario, Canada. He would like used S. African stamps from letters or parcels, and would gladly communicate with any collectors wishing to exchange stamps.

WANTED! LARGE QUANTITIES OF ANY ISSUE FROM SOUTH AFRICA, S.W.A., NORTHERN & SOUTHERN RHODESIA, NYASALAND, BASUTOLAND, SWAZILAND AND STAMPS FROM OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

on or off paper, for Cash or Exchange.

AIR MAIL YOUR OFFERS NOW, STATING PRICE per 100 or 1,000 to

EASTAMPS (P.T.A)

Kampar, Perak, Malaya.

Also required, interesting covers including Army, F.P.O., Paquebot, Pre Stamp, etc.

STAMPS EASILY MISTAKEN

In an article with this title in Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News of 1st July, Stephen G. Rich deals with a number of stamps from various countries which are frequently mistaken for something other than what they actually are.

Of particular interest to S. Africans is the Cape S.G. No. 6 4d. deep blue of 1855 on white paper, Perkins Bacon printing. He states that in four recent exhibitions he has seen this stamp in three of them shown as a De La Rue 4d. dark blue of their 1863 printing.

He gives a touchstore for distinguishing—the U.S. 5c Garfield in indigo of 1887. If your Cape has not got the curious tinge typical of this stamp, then it simply isn't a De La Rue and must be a Perkins Bacon. Incidentally this stamp has a big gamut of shades, of which the catalogue makes no mention.

GERMAN PHILATELIC REVIEW

The **March** issue contains a long article on the "Dienstpost Forerunners of the Ukraine, 1941/42." Very little fundamental information has been published about these stamps and this well-illustrated article fills a big blank.

In the **May** issue the evidence for the existence of a British post office in Hamburg about the middle of the 19th century is carefully considered. Numerous postal markings in English were unquestionably used, but it is here mentioned that this was done in German P.O.'s and that there were no British P.O.'s in Hamburg or other North German towns.

Wants, Offers & Exchange

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

APPROVAL SELECTIONS INVITED. Top-grade copies only. Barbados, The Nigerias, St. Helena, Somaliland Protectorate. — WILLIAM REDFORD, Box 1182, Johannesburg.

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.

WANTED. Common Southern African stamps, current or obsolete, on or off paper. Any quantity. Please state quantities available and price required. A. LICHTENSTEIN, Box 1117. Bloemfontein.

STAMP COLLECTION sterling countries and few others, value £250 for £130 cash or nearest offer. Countries obtainable separately too. F. J. Visser, c/o Magistrate, Potchefstroom.

FOR SALE. Magnificent MINT Collection of Queen Elizabeth II complete to date and well written up. The Coronations are in pairs, imprint and cylinder numbers, and each coronation sheet has descriptive notes of the country. What offers to Louis Feinstein, 542b, Jules Street, Malvern, Johannesburg.

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.

Arrangements can be made to bind back-numbers at an additional charge of 2/6 per volume. On orders under 10/- please add postage. Early application is strongly recommended.—Business Manager, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

SEND 7/- mint Commemoratives or 200 mixed British Africa Commemoratives, Large Pictorials, Better values, Air Mails, Semi-Postals and New Issues; we will send your choice of the following: 140 used United States or 6 U.S. First Day Covers or 6 United Nations F.D.C.'s or 0.60 dollar Mint United States or 0.60 dollar Mint United Nations. — RICHARDS STAMP CO., P.O. Box 85, Bronx 68, N.Y., U.S.A.

RELIGIOUS STAMP RACKET

It is now reported that, following an exposure of the plan in various papers, the Panama Government has repudiated the sponsoring of the mammoth issue of "Pope" stamps, which was mentioned in our September issue.

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THE
SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST
PROPRIETORS AND PUBLISHERS:
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Business Manager: Mr. J. MICHELSON.
P.O. Box 375. Johannesburg.
Vol. 31. No. 12. DECEMBER, 1955 Whole No. 369.

UNION NOTES

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

RECENT PRINTINGS

The Publicity Officer of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs has kindly supplied the following information covering the period from 22.7.1955 to 21.10.1955. For the previous list see our September issue.

Animal Series Postage Stamps.

½d. — Job No. 129852. On an order for 75,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, 25,000 were delivered on 20.10.55. Same cylinder as before, No. 84.

1d. — Job No. 125205. On an order for 1,000,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, 46,500 sheets were supplied from Cylinder No. 12 and first date of delivery, 27.9.55. On the same order, the number of sheets supplied to date from the Double Die Cylinder No. 3 has increased to 416,502 (240 per sheet).

2d. — Job No. 103293 contd. On an order for 1,000,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet the total printed from Cylinder No. 56 is now 641,704, and from the Double Die Cylinder No. 20, 302,923 sheets.

3d. — Job No. 125209 contd. On an order for 150,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet the total delivered to date is now 113,500 sheets. Same cylinders as before, No. 16 Interior and 107 Exterior.

6d. — Job No. 103297 contd. On an order for 150,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, there is no change in the total of 114,789.

1/- — Job No. 103298 contd. On an order for 120,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet a total of 117,789 was supplied up to the final date of delivery on 22.9.55. Same cylinders as before, No. 94 Interior and 104 Exterior.

Pretoria Centenary Stamps.

3d. — Job No. 127217. On an order for 50,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, 19,007 were supplied on the first day of delivery, 8.9.55, and a total of 55,462 sheets up to the final date of delivery on the 13.9.55. Sngle Cylinder No. 74.

6d. — Job No. 127218. On an order for 30,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, 13,500 were supplied on the first day of delivery, 1.9.55, and a total of 34,911 sheets up to the final date of delivery on 6.9.55. Single Cylinder No. 119.

Pictorial Post Cards.

1½d. — Job No. 125216. On an order for 2,720,000 cards, 44,160 were supplied on the date of first delivery, 25.8.55, and a total of 807,680 to date. 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 amounts to 4,053,600. Same cylinder.

South West Africa Postage Stamps.

3d. — ob No. 306088. On an order for 36,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet 36,920 were delivered between 11.10.55 and 13.10.55. Same cylinder as before, No. 68. (See February list).

S.W.A. Air Letters.

6d. — Job No. 305542. On an order for 180,000 cards, a total of 194,400 was delivered between 28.9.55 and 4.10.55. Same cylinder as before and printed on Chambon machine.

1½d. — Job No. 305903. On an order for 900 dozen, these were supplied by the P.M.G. and overprinted SWA on a flat bed machine. Date of delivery, 6.9.55.

S.W.A. Registered Envelopes.

6d. — On an order for 1,200 dozen, these were supplied by the P.M.G. and overprinted SWA on a flat bed machine. Delivered 6.9.55.

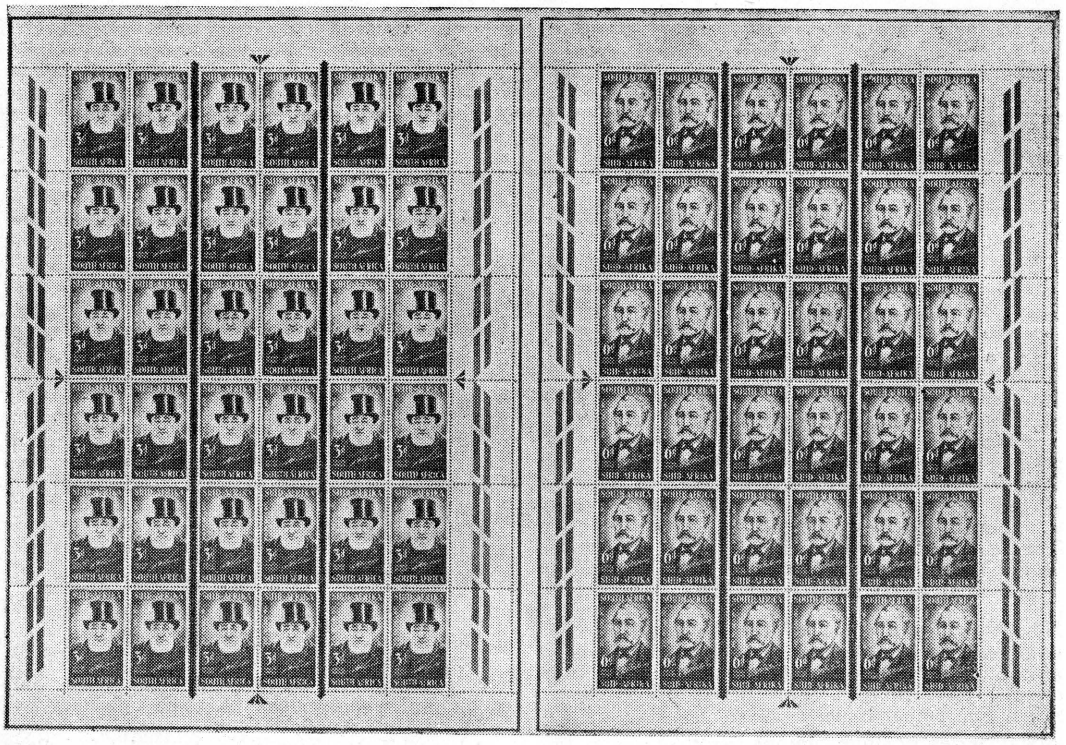
Pretoria Centenary Stamps.

The special 3d. and 6d. postage stamps issued to commemorate the Centenary of the City of Pretoria appeared on sale at all post offices in the Union on the 21st October 1955 and will remain available for a period of approximately three months.

Their designs, with bilingual inscriptions, embody the distinctive portraits of the late President S. J. P. Kruger, printed in dark green on the 3d. denomination and the late President M. W. Pretorius, printed in dark brown, on the 6d. value. The two stamps are in vertical format, 24.2 by 40.5 millimetres, and they will without doubt take an appropriate place in every Union collection as a notable issue and incidently the 21st in the series of Commemorative stamps to be issued in the Union since the first one appeared on the 4th of November 1910.

They were printed by the rotogravure process at the Government Printing Works, Pretoria, in sheets of 120 stamps — 6 rows by 20 — and unlike the Orange Free State Centenary issue of last year, there is no centre gutter dividing the stamps into two panes. Single cylinders were used for each denomination and though their numbers do not appear on the sheets, information has been circulated by the

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Publicity Officer of the G.P.O., Pretoria, to the effect that No. 74 was employed for the 3d. and No. 119 for the 6d. stamp.

The accompanying illustrations show the miniature sheets of the stamps and it will be seen, that as in the case of the recent issues of the 1d. and 2d. animal series, the perforated margins at the left and right hand ends now have wide bars printed across them, which are in the same colour as the respective stamps and like the 1d. issue, are divided into short lengths by diagonal cuts.

Both denominations are perforated 14 x 15 and in each case, the multiple Springbok Head watermark faces left, which is the upright or normal position in relation to the direction of travel of the roll of paper through the printing machine. All four margins have the usual "arrows" indicating the centre lines of the sheet and four-figure red serial numbers appear twice on the bottom margin.

The few varieties present are all of a minor nature and we give below those listed in the Special Teppex Number (October 1955) of "The O.F.S. Philatelic Magazine".

3d. Value.

Row 1/12—"Pimple" on nose bridge.
2/8 —Dot under second "R" of PRETORIA.
5/20—Heavy green blob under "9" of 1955.

6d. Value.

Row 1/3 —White spot under "8" of 1855.
2/1 —Small "earring".
3/18—White dot under "AF" of AFRICA
4/1 —White spot under "55" of 1955.
4/9 —Two Shirt buttons.
4/20—White dot under "8" of 1855.
5/6 —Small "X" under "T" of SOUTH.
5/20—White dot under "T" of SOUTH.

A list of a number of small "plating" flaws present on the stamps of the 6d. denomination, and received from Dr. Leslie Levy of Johannesburg, has been held over until next month.

Christmas Stamps.

The 1955 issue of the Union Christmas Stamps appeared on the 7th November and will remain on sale until the 24th December.



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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 pre-payment of postage.

The current design in rose red and deep green depicts Christmas Bells and Holly set out in semi-circular form below the Cross of Lorrain. The inscriptions are unilingual and following the policy of recent years, the figure of value has been omitted.

The sheets are printed in the usual format of 120 stamps (6 rows x 20) with the top three rows lying tête-bêche to the bottom three in order to facilitate making up into booklets. A four-figure red serial number appears twice on each sheet, but apart from this the margins are entirely free from any slogans or arrows.

The booklets, containing panes of six stamps, are sold at 6d., 1/-, 2/6, 5/- and 10/- and their coloured covers of soft card carry a sign similar to that on the stamp together with bilingual inscriptions. No watermark is present on the stamps in either their sheet or booklet form.



It is appropriate to note that the Union series of these stamps commenced in 1929 and writing in connection with the 1930 issue, which we illustrate herewith, Dr. J. W. Harris of Port Elizabeth has drawn attention to the fact that the Christmas scene depicted in that year actually appeared in a number of shades from slate to almost green and further, that the perforations varied from pin (sewing machine) to typical roulette.

There is no doubt but that many collectors of the Union postage stamps also find this country's series of Christmas Stamps a most interesting sideline. Their history, designs, errors and varieties throughout what is now twenty-seeven years of existence can prove a most fascinating study and for those who would like to follow up the valuable information and listing given on the subject in the Union Handbook/Catalogue we can recommend a perusal of an excellent series of articles which were written by Dr. K. Freund and published in the March, April, July and November 1952 issues of this journal.

Doctor Blade Markings.

A flaw which occasionally shows up on Union rotogravure stamps as a long thin or thick line running slightly obliquely in relation to the length of the sheet is that known as a "doctor blade" marking.



Its obliqueness indicates the to-and-fro movement of the doctor blade in its action of scraping the surplus ink off the cylinder during the printing process and its presence can be caused by a small particle of foreign matter temporarily adhering to the razor edge of the blade. Such lines or markings, though not constant, often appear on several sheets at a time and a recent case of this nature has been shown to us by Mr. A. M. Michalowsky of Observatory, Cape Provinve. His accompanying illustration shows this type of flaw on a block of the current ½d. stamps and he records finding it in various positions on six sheets with consecutive serial numbers.

FIPEX

Provisional Entries must reach New York by 15th January, 1956. Forms may be obtained from the exhibition's Commissioner for South Africa, Mr. Douglas Roth, at Fairways, Mona Crescent, Newlands, C.P.

FINLANDIA 56

Next year Finland celebrates the Centenary of its Postage Stamps and the Finnish Philateelic Society is commemorating the date by holding an International Exhibition in Helsinki, with the approval of the F.I.P. This will be held during the period 7th to 15th July, 1956.

This promises to be a very fine show; also from a tourist point of view Finland would be a most interesting country to visit.

As their Commissioner for South Africa, the Hon. Editor has received a quantity of their first brochure, together with provisional entry forms for proposed exhibits. These have to be in the hands of the Exhibition Committee before 9th January, 1956.

A brochure and entry form will gladly be sent on request by anyone interested.

It may be added that the classification of exhibits adopted by the Committee appears to be a very simple one and there is no entry fee for exhibits.

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PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

17th Annual Congress

This Congress was held in the Union Hotel, Pretoria, under the auspices of the 3 Philatelic Societies in Pretoria. There were 66 delegates present and 21 of the 25 constituent societies represented.

Following is a condensed, but fairly full, account of the proceedings of the meeting. Full minutes will be sent to all delegates and constituent societies in due course.

Congress was formally opened by His Worship the Mayor of Pretoria in a very felicitous speech. The President, Mr. F. C. Ferguson in his opening address reviewed the work and position of the Federation since the 1954 Congress in Durban, including the information that he had been able to visit a very high proportion of all the constituent societies during his term of office. This was something that he thought had helped to bring our widely separated societies into somewhat closer communion with each other and Congress showed its appreciation of his work in no uncertain manner.

In his review of the year's work he pointed out that the Federation was in a healthy state financially and that its various activities were going well; most of these are referred to a little further on.

Papers presented at Congress.

This year these were read at an early stage of the proceedings although discussion of them was postponed to a later stage, after a proposal to amend the Constitution (brought up by the Port Elizabeth Society) had been considered. This proposal, as finally decided on, provides:

(a) That papers presented to Congress shall be "vetted" beforehand by a special sub-committee of the Executive, to decide which are suitable for presentation or not.

(b) That papers considered suitable shall be printed in some fashion, and be in the hands of delegates **before** Congress is held. Allowance to be made for time to discuss such papers.

(c) That papers published in the "South African Philatelist" during the year preceding Congress may also be eligible for Congress Awards (which take the form of a Certificate). Recommendations for such awards to be made to the Executive by the sub-committee mentioned under (a).

It was agreed in principle that only papers of outstanding merit should be given Congress Awards.

The papers presented this year were:

Dr. F. Drusinsky — A Key to the Pietersburg Issues.

Dr. W. G. Hesse—The Ideal Society Meeting.

Dr. A. Kaplan—Proofs of France.

Mr. P. C. Seligmann—The Magnifying Glass.

Dr. W. P. van der Merwe—The Building Series of Western Germany.

It is hoped that these will be printed in due course in the "South African Philatelist."

The Federation to become a registered Company?

A proposal by the Natal Society to change the Federation into a limited non-profit earning company was not agreed to, on the grounds mainly that the preliminary expenses would be very heavy and that there was no certainty that the government officials concerned would agree to the proposal.

It was agreed, however, that certain modifications to the Constitution should be made with the object of limiting more precisely the possible responsibilities of constituent Societies and of their individual members as regards the assets and/or liabilities of the Federation, whilst in active operation or upon possible winding-up.

Panel of Collectors' Exhibits. The proposal by the Germiston Society to the effect that a Panel be drawn up of philatelists with outstanding collections, and who would be willing to show such collections at societies away from their home one, was agreed to. This was considered to be a very good idea, especially for the smaller societies. Details of the scheme to be thrashed out. The Executive was instructed also to consider the possibilities of a tape-recording machine for recording lectures and for possible use at Congress, etc.

Health Stamps. This hardy annual, put forward by the East London Society, received no support from either the P.O. officials present or from delegates.

Queen and Royal Family Stamps. The proposal to approach the Government for such stamps, was also turned down. It was generally felt, however much the idea might appeal, that it was too nearly approaching 'politics' to put forward.

Philatelic Publications. Two proposals were put forward from East London.

(a) That a set of rules or regulations should be drawn up governing the listing of items really worthy of catalogue status. This, although ideal, was felt to be impracticable in practice, and that decisions must be left to the Editors concerned; each individual case to be dealt with on its merits.

(b) That at some later date, smaller comprehensive handbooks be published on the various definitives and other issues of the Union of South Africa.

This was referred to the Publications Sub-Committee of the Executive for consideration, as was also the more general question of possible publications on other Southern African territories still lacking individual catalogues or handbooks.

Special mention was made of Natal and Zululand, S.W. Africa, Rhodesias and Nyasaland, and Belgian Congo.

When Finance was being considered, it was brought out that not only was the Federation in a sound condition generally, but that its publications were in the same position. Vol. II of the Handbook/Catalogue had already had a large enough sale to ensure that all future sales of it (and of Vol. I) were sheer profit. Mr. Gilbert's booklet on Basutoland was practically

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entirely sold out, with a resulting small profit for the Federation. The "South African Philatelist" now with a monthly circulation of 1,750, has, for the first time in its history we believe, shown a very small but distinct profit. The sale of back numbers, of which there are still many on hand, contributed an amount of about £85 towards this good ending of a year's work.

In discussion of the Report submitted by the "S.A. Philatelist" sub-committee it was agreed that, although that magazine was intended primarily for the publication of material dealing with Southern Africa, it was desirable that there should be some articles on wider (geographically or generally) aspects of philately, also that the practice of having "smalls" or "fill-ups" on up-to-date (more or less, the former preferably) stamp news should be continued. Such a practice was desirable for the many readers locally who do **not** take in other stamp papers, even if it were not necessary for those who only want specialized Southern African articles, or those who do not take in overseas papers also.

The question of a Cumulative Index to the "S.A. Philatelist" was referred to the Publications Sub-Committee for consideration.

Publications' profits, it should be mentioned, are ploughed back into a reserve for future publications.

Expert Committee.

Since our last report, The Expert Committee has met on five occasions, and issued 42 certificates. It may be of interest to record that these are divided as follows:

Genuine, 14.
Basically genuine, but faked, cleaned, repaired, etc., 20.
Forgeries and bogus, 8.

As has been our previous experience, we have again found that in the Cape of Good Hope Group there is a great deal of material on the market, which is unsound, often in a manner which would defy detection by the unsuspecting, and we would advise any philatelist collecting this group to avail himself of the services available. Similar remarks apply in respect of the higher denominations of Kenya, Natal and Northern Rhodesia.

It is felt that insufficient publicity has been given to the existence of this Committee as the volume of material coming forward for expertization is still not enough to warrant regular monthly meetings, which, in turn, would enable the Committee to give an even prompter service to those supporting it.

There is a note in the remarks about Teppex, on the B.P.A.'s exhibit of African Forgeries, etc. Those, at any rate, who saw this exhibition will realise the importance of having their supposedly fine stamps expertised.

Dates of Congresses. A motion from the Philatelic Society of Rhodesia that congress should take place as soon as possible after the close of the Federation's financial year (in December) although considered to be in principle sound, this motion was only agreed to with the addition of the words "if convenient." This was done because local conditions (weather, availability of meeting place, etc., etc.) govern the fixing of a date to a high degree.

A number of delegates asked that the end or beginning of a month should be avoided if possible, for business reasons.

Future Congresses. In 1956 Port Elizabeth Society will be the Host Society, the date will probably be in October or November. (Note this exception already to the proposal accepted just above!).

Provisionally. In 1957, Paarl; 1958, no invitations yet; 1959, East London; 1960, Johannesburg, with an International Exhibition to celebrate 50 years of Union.

Roll of Honour. The only nomination coming forward from the Executive was that of **Mr. J. H. H. Chamberlain** of Durban. The citation read to Congress recorded his work in connection with the founding of the Philatelic Society of Natal some 30 odd years ago, the honourable positions he had held on several occasions in that Society, his constant work for the general benefit of philately (ending up with serving on the Teppex Jury) and his presentation to his local society of a collection of the postmarks of Natal and Zululand. Mr. Chamberlain signed the Roll amid loud applause.

It was suggested for consideration that each Member Society be supplied with a photographic copy of the Roll of Honour as it now stands.

Skinner Cup. This Cup, a floating trophy to be held for a year, is awarded to the member of a constituent society considered to have done the best work in the interests of philately since the preceding Congress. This year it was awarded to **Dr. T. B. Berry.** No fewer than 5 societies sent in citations recommending him for his outstanding work on Vol. II of the Union Handbook/Catalogue. Enough said!

Election of Officers for 1956.

There was quite keen competition for some of these posts; the following were ellected after a ballot had been taken:

President: Mr. G. Bülbring, Port Elizabeth.
Vice-Presidents:
Cape: Mr. J. D. Rossouw.
Rhodesia: Mr. J. E. Creewel.
Transvaal: Mr. L. Buchan.
O.F.S.: Dr. K. Freund.
Natal: Mr. J. G. Walker.
Secretary/Treasurer: J. Michelson.

Miscellaneous.

(a) **Newspaper Publicity.** It was agreed, on a motion by Capt. M. F. Stern, to thank various newspapers for what they did for philately by running regular stamp columns.

Societies in centres where the Press did not have any such columns were advised to approach their local journals, as such publicity was considered well worth while. It was pointed out, however, that the Society, or someone belonging to it wouldd have to be prepared to send copy for the column of a nature interesting to the general public, and to supply the copy regularly.

(b) **Pretoria Centenary stamps in fugitive ink.** A delegate asked if the Kruger stamp in particular had been printed in fugitive ink, as he had found that the colour tended to run if the face were moistened. The Publicity Officer of

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the G.P.O. replied that all inks tended to be more or less fugitive but that some powder was used to prevent the colour running in water; in the case of the Kruger stamp something else (castor oil to be precise) was used instead, but it did not prove to be a success).

Entertainments. The social side of the meeting was very well catered for. There was a cocktail party given by His Worship the Mayor, at Fountains one afternoon; a visit to the Government Printing Works where those attending saw the latest (Pietermaritzburg Commemoratives) stamps in production — the party was limited to 30 and some who wished to go unfortunately could not be accommodateed. A film show one evening, with a gruesome, though excellently produced Mau-Mau picture. A party was taken round by bus to various historic spots in Pretoria, with Mrs. Pienaar acting as guide, and a most excellent one she proved to be. A game of bowls would have been included had there been any demand for it, but there wasn't. There was always Teppex to visit, of course, in all the odd times available. Finally, the winding up cocktail party and dinner, a most enjoyable affair, contributed to considerably by the complete absence of speeches. Lady visitors were also adequately catered for (separately except for the final dinner).

TEPPEX

The National Exhibition sponsored by the three Pretoria Philatelic Societies in connection with the 17th Congress of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa and the Centenary Celebrations of the City of Pretoria, was staged in a large hall of the Municipal buildings and had a very pleasing lay-out, with excellent lighting, both during the day and at night.

Visitors to it, admission being free, had a post-office available, where covers got the special postmark provided by the Postal Authorities.



This postmark was a fixed one with dates covering the week of the Exhibition. There are, therefore, no 'first-day' covers for Teppex.

Teppex was formally opened at 10.30 a.m. on 31-X-1955 by the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, The Hon. J. J. Serfontein, in a neat little speech taking 'Hope', as featured on the Cape of Good Hope stamps as the text of his theme.

Court of Honour.

In this were various non-competitive exhibits, all having a bearing on the Postal History of Southern Africa, with special emphasis on the Transvaal. A short note on these must suffice.

Department of Posts and Telegraphs. From this came a fine selection of sheets or large blocks of stamps of the South African Republic and associated territories such as Swaziland and the New Republic. Also of the latest Union issues — animal stamps and the special Kruger and Pretorius stamps.

A feature which they have not shown before was a large bronze model of the emblem of the U.P.U. monument at Berne, and a number of medals awarded them for participation in various International Philatelic Exhibitions. In the same case were a number of old date-stamps used in the Transvaal during the period 1885-1902. Two deserving special mention are the rubber stamps of the Republican Forces used in the Hoofdlaagers Kimberley and Mafeking; the very existence of marks from these stamps has only been very vaguely known about heretofore. It is hoped a fuller description of these will become available for record.

British Philatelic Association. One of the functions of this Association is to protect philatelists, and they very kindly sent for display a number of sheets from their reference collection, dealing with African Forgeries, Reprints, Etc. These should serve as a warning to collectors, and they emphasise the advisability of having many supposedly choice items expertised. If they do not do so they may find one day that they have been housing base pretenders.

Private Exhibitions. Pride of place, as befitting the occasion, must go to E. Hunt's selected pages of Z.A.R. stamps, with the pre-stamp covers and abundant rarities of the issues from 1869 to 1895.

The Cape material from the Patricia Ann Goldschmidt collection shown by Mrs. J. A. Malk had such rarities as a letter addressed to Jan van Riebeeck, a cover with 3 VOC postmarks, a block of 24 deep green 1/- of 1855 and a cover with two pairs of 1d. Woodblocks.

Mrs. G. Hunt's Natals, Mr. W. Newlands' Free States and Zululands, Mr. A. V. Jacob's Rhodesias and Dr. Harvey Pirie's Swazilands all showed representative selections plus a number of real rarities in every instance.

Competitive Entries and Awards.

Grand Prix: Mr. A. R. Kleiner, Seychelles. (A fitting climax to his high awards gained at Oslo and at Auckland).

A.P.S. Certificate for Most Distinctive Entry: Mr. L. Buchen—German South West Africa.

This Certificate was presented by the American Philatelic Society in a spirit of friendship between stamp collectors of various countries. Their wish was that it should be given to the **most distinctive exhibit,** additional to any normal award, only the exhibit gaining the Grand Prix being excluded.

Silver Gilt Medals: Mr. L. Buchen—German South West Africa; Dr. Lucas Young: Specialised collection of Norway; Capt. M. F. Stern—African Airmails.

Silver Medals: Dr. T. B. Berry—Union of South Africa; Mr. G. N. Gilbert—Postal History of Basutoland; Mr. L. Hellmann—United States of America; Mr. G. Bülbring—German States; Mr. L. Buchen—Israel; Mr. L. J. Picton—The Line Engraved Stamps of Great Britain;

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Mr. A. Assimacopoulo—Greece and Greek Occupied Territories; Mr. J. D. Rossouw—Philately of the 1899-1902 War in South Africa; Mr. I. H. C. Godfrey—African Airmails; Mr. B. Glassman—George VI and Elizabeth II; Mr. D. Slater-Kinghorn — British Empire Items, with special felicitations from the Jury; Mr. L. Feinstein—The Birth, Growth and Development of the Union of South Africa illustrated by its Postal History.

Bronze Medals: Mr. C. P. Reynolds—Cape of Good Hope; Mr. S. Hirschmann—Specialist State of Israel; Dr. W. P. van der Merwe—W. German series of Building stamps; Mr. W. Oppenheim—Austria; Mr. H. Markowitz — Local Issue of Germany 1945/46; Mr. L. Simenhoff—Postal History of the Cape of Good Hope; Mr. D. W. Sutcliffe—George VI and Elizabeth II; Mr. P. Seligmann—A Philatelic Calendar; Mr. R. Schlieben—Philatelic Herbarium; Mr. L. Simenhoff—Biology; Mr. J. Keet —Scouting on Stamps; Mr. W. H. Winde — Fraternity in Philately; Mr. A. Brash—Errors in Design.

A number of Certificates of Merit were also awarded.

JUVENILE AWARDS.

Silver: Mr. D. G. Crocker, 18 years—Transvaal 1893-1909; Master J. Hellmann, 10 years—Transport on Stamps.

Bronze: Mr. D. G. Crocker, 18 years — Great Britain 1840-1870; Miss E. Searle, 15 years — Postage Stamps and First Day Covers of the United Nations Organisation; S. Board, 14 years—General; E. van der Velde, 11 years — General; Master R. W. Legator, 10 years — Thematic Zoology.

Also a number of Certificates of Merit.

BYSKRIFTE IN AFRIKAANS.

Silwer Medalje: Dr. W. P. van der Merwe—Wes-Duitse Gebrueseerie.

Brons Medalje: Mnr. J. A. Erasmus—Offisiële seëls van Kanada; Mevr. G. M. Erasmus—Gesondhdeidsseöls van Nieu-Seeland.

Ook enige Sertifikate.

It may be noted that **Pretoria** Juveniles had a number of Special Prizes (as against Awards) allotted for them.

Thirty-six medals may not appear to be very many to have been awarded for something like 120 entries, but the Jury wish it to be known that they set the standard high and were strict in their judging.

The Awards were presented at a Cocktail and Dinner Party given by the Pretoria Societies on Friday, 4th November.

IMPRESSIONS OF "TEPPEX"
By A VISITOR.

Having been fortunate enough to visit "Teppex" on more than one occasion during the recent Pretoria Centenary Celebrations, I would like to give those not so lucky some impression of the stamps on view at the Exhibition which attracted entries from all over the Union.

My first impression was the attractiveness of the sheets displayed, in my opinion, they were of a higher quality in presentation than has been the case in the past. It is apparent that South African Collectors are paying more attention to writing-up with a consequent increase in appeal to the Philistines who do not collect stamps at all or to the "ignorami" who do not collect the stamps that we do! This trend is a good one as it becomes much easier and far more interesting to appreciate stamps of which one knows little or nothing!

With regard to the stramps themselves I propose to content myself with drawing attention to some of the more attractive items I noticed and at the same time to preserve the anonymity of the owners lest I be guilty of favouring one against another due to unappreciative eyesight!

In Southern Africa I particularly noticed an interesting study of O.F.S. Surcharge, a block of 4 Perkins Bacon 1d. Capes on blued paper on cover and a 4d. Woodblock also on cover. My attention was then drawn to a fine study of German S.W.A. postmark including a pen-cancellation from Arahoab (now Aroab) and the rare 1d. flight postcard Karibib-Windhoek. Among nice items from the Rhodesias I noticed S.G. 127 and 142 both with Certificate and a sheet of the Southern Rhodesian 2d. Small Falls. The Basutoland officials were not only all on view but there were actually two copies of the 2d.! Another interesting study concerned the K.G. V 5 cents Dhow of Kenya and last but not least there was a fine selection of mint Union Kruger's Heads and other Union treasures.

Turning to "foreign parts" I particularly liked a black penny from Plate 1B on cover "first day of issue" and some strips of 1841 1d. imperf. on blued paper from various plates together with a fine Mulready envelope used with a 1d. black. Also some fine matched pairs of 1d. blacks and reds from the same plates, also a fine pair of 1d. blacks on cover with Hythe Penny Post. A remarkable selection of Norway could not fail to catch the eye including, as it did, a fine copy of the 4 skilling "double foot" the first and rather scarce Airmails, Bouvet Oya on cover and some magnificent examples of the Drammen local issues besides much else equally fine but too numerous to mention in detail. A selection of German States was remarkable for the superb condition of the stamps shown and included a beautiful copy of Wurttemburg 18 kr. on cover and Alsace-Lorraine used with inverted network etc. Modern Germany was also represented by a very detailed study of a modern post-war issue showing that you do not have to collect rarities and classics to make an interesting philatelic study! Both the 50 frs. French Airmails of 1936 were on view together with some extremely interesting proofs and colour-trials.

I was very impressed by the fine condition of some Greek Large and Small Heads containing many scarce items such as Paris Prints mint, etc., etc. and a fine lot of the Greek locals including Mytilene overprints reading up and reading down, some on piece!

U.S.A. was also well represented by some nice copies of the early issue and all the Columbus dollar values.

A collection of 20th Century Canada was noticeable for the superb condition of these often badly off-centre stamps.

No wonder Seychelles carried off the Grand Prix. The Mauritius used in Seychelles on view must be one of the finest collections of these

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elusive items to be found anywhere in the world. The collection was studded throughout with die proofs, colour trials and "specimens", while the rare errors of surcharge simply defy description. Practically everything was there and mostly in profusion. To have seen nothing else at the Exhibition would still have made the longest journey well worth while and I foresee an International Grand Prix coming to South Africa before long.

Among other items on view there were some fine stamps from Israel and a magnificent history of the Boer War which included "Kuruman Besieged" and "Boer H.Q. Ladysmith."

In the Airmail Section I saw some very interesting Crash Covers, the Kenilworth-Muizenberg flights and the first Union Airmail on flown cover.

Before turning to Thematic Collections I must remark on some beautiful copies of British Empire Classics, which would have enhanced any specialist collections of the individual countries concerned; amongst many others were a wonderful pair of the Mauritius 1d. Greek border on cover, Nova Scotia S.G. 1, New Zealand Chalon portraits and St. Vincent 5/-.

Frankly I must admit that I was very disappointed by the Thematic collections. Although the subjects dealt with were of great interest and, on the whole, had been well treated, I thought the standard was lower than I had been led to expect. I did however, notice that a number of very fine thematic collections which I had seen at various Society meetings were conspicuous by their absence and I sincerely hope that they will be on view at future National Exhibitions. Among the themes displayed I particularly liked a novel combination of a "Hobby within a Hobby" where all the stamps incorporated an autograph in the design. Another novelty was a "Philatelic Calendar" — alas still incomplete, but perhaps the Postmaster-General can be persuaded to issue a new set of stamps to help fill in some of the missing dates! Another interesting display consisted of a botanical display — literally so as many of the plants depicted on the stamps were also present in dried form attached to the relative album sheets. My imagination boggles at the thought that some enterprising thematologist will illlustrate in similar manner a Zoology Collection!

Before concluding I must congratulate the many Juniors who entered their collections. Here the standard was exceptionally high, which augurs very well for the future of Philately — Many of the entrants were extremely young and my heartiest congratulations go out to them for the care taken in mounting and arranging their collections and the high level of knowledge shown. Well done the Juniors!

In conclusion I should like to congratulate the organizers of Teppex on a fine exhibition and the exhibitors on providing me with many pleasant hours.

REVIEWS

"Two Reigns" Catalogue 1956." Stanley Gibbons Ltd., 391 Strand, London W.C.2. Price with limp covers 5s. net, bound in Board, 6s. 6d. net, Interleaved (case bound), 10s. 6d. net.

For collectors specializing in the stamps of K.G. VI and Q.E. this catalogue is to be recommended in preference to the publisher's standard catalogue, Part I, as it contains much more information. For example, there are many more shades listed, although they have not found it possible to go back and add to the listings of the earlier K.G. VI issues. Sheet sizes, imprints and booklets are here included. There are, as usual, a number of price revisions, even on those of the Standard Catalogue, Part I, issued only a few weeks ago.

Stamp Collectors' Annual. Harris Publications Ltd., 29 Buckingham Street, Strand, London W.C.8. Price 2s. 6d.

This 104-page well illustrated booklet is always welcomed with its up-to-date reference tables of such things as Best Designs of 1955 (with Australia topping the list), Books of the Year, World Currency Guide, Events of 1955, Chronological list of stamp issuing countries, Directory of Philatelic Magazines — general and specialized from the world over, active Philatelic Societies, Study Circles and Exchange Clubs.

In addition there is an attractive inset of Royal children on stamps and as they are now. Also general articles which cover Germany, Rhodesia, Switzerland and Hungary and some special philateelic features.

Spain and Spanish Colonies.

The Casa Filatelica, of Mayo 13, 2 deta, Madrid have sent us copies of the 9th (1956) edition of their catalogues of Spain and of Spanish Colonies. In the case of Cuba and the Phillipines the listings continue right up to the present day. They are well illustrated and, though purely in Spanish, should be quite valuable to collectors of these countries. Prices: Spain, 4 pesetas; Colonies, 5 pesetas.

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Dr. Gewande's Handbook (in German), see Stephen G. Rich's review of same on p. 204 of Nov. Philatelist, a monumental work, price 21/- c.w.o. postpaid.

My entire range of S.W.A. Approval books is now being re-made, and new Approvals will be ready for sending out by the time these lines appear in print. Special attention is being given to cancellations—and the "Occupational" period, in particular.

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THE RETOUCHED TOP ROW OF THE ½D. BANTAM STAMPS

By "CAECULUS"

(Continued from page 202 of November issue)

Stamp No.	Top Line Shading Missing Printings I, II and III.	Top Line Retouched Printings IV and V.	Flaws Common to All Printings.
7.	A.B. and C. Shading completely absent from fraction bar to white dividing line. GREEN DOT 1 mm. R. of N.E. corner of "Postage" tablet and just above it.	A. N.W. corner bevelled off. LARGE WHITE VERTICAL PATCH outlining top value tablet. Swelling opp. fraction bar. B. Accurately redrawn. C. Slice out of N.E. corner which is edged by HEAVY VERTICAL STROKES. Spot still visible especially in 5th printing.	Small dot in central white patch on foremost soldier's left leg. Tiny dot in left margin opp. hem of soldier's coat. 2 x 7 spot L. margin opp. hem of soldier's tunic.
8.	A.B.C. Shading faint or missing from top of "1" round to top of postage tablet. Tiny dot in margin opp. ball of "2".	A. N.W. corner weak and ragged. Small projections into L. margin at top opp. top of "1", and larger piece just above fraction bar. B. Margin smudged along top edge. C. N.E. corner weak with slight propection into R. margin.	Tiny dot in margin opp. ball of "2", and two more lower down; one opp. top edge name tablet— 1 mm. out; the other opp. lower curve of top of "S" and close to edge.
9.	Shading completely absent from near bottom of "1" to opp. white dividing line below "Postage" tablet, except for a touch on the top edge over "T". Top of value tabl outlined in white.	A. Swelling into left margin from bottom of "1" to top corner. B. Shading slightly stronger along top edge especially over "P" and "T". Smudges in margin not so pronounced as in No. 8. C. N.E. corner cut off.	Dot in upper central water bottle.
10.	A. N.W. corner weak. B. Edge strong over "SE." Top edge ragged and missing from first "E" to N.E. corner. C. Weak, or missing above top of "Postage" tablet and corner blunted.	A. Strong patch in angle N.W. corner and swelling into left and top margins from it. B. Strong on top edge over "SE". Faint smudges top margin from N.W. end to over second "E". C. Weak from just under corner of tablet. N.E. corner blunted.	SHORT VERTICAL STROKE opp. N.W. corner 1 mm. from edge and generally in perfs. Tiny dot left margin just above brim of soldier's hot. 10 x 2 strong spot R. margin opp. soldier's shoulder.
11.	A.B. Shading completely missing. C. Shading has appearance of slope from N.E. corner tablet to R. edge just below level of white dividing line.	A. N.W. corner blunted. Swelling into left margin from below fraction bar to top tablet which is outlined white. B. Faint swelling top edge over "AG". C. Slice out of N.E. corner outlined by somewhat heavy line of colour.	Tiny dot R. margin just below top of final "A" of Africa. TWO VIOLET DOTS—one 1½mm. under tablet R. of "Revenue"; the other in the design just above and to R. of soldier's helmet. (These, being flaws of Slogan cyl. No. 7,, occur in Figs. III and IV only, and may vary in position if stamps off centre.)

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Stamp No.	Top Line Shading Missing Printings I, II and III.	Top Line Retouched Printings IV and V.	Flaws Common to All Printings.
12.	A.B.C. N.W. corner very weak and weak all along top edge.	A. Heavier blob of shading opp. bottom of "1". B. Shading extends into top margin over N.W. corner.	Dot in R. margin opp. centre of soldier's haversack. (Not in I—one dot in II—a group of light dots in III and IV and faint in V.) VIOLET SPOTS, one in fraction bar; one at end of "POSSEEL" tablet opp. bottom L. and one in margin left slightly higher up. (There are 4 of these dots between end of tablet on No. 12 and edge value tablet No. 13—see not on stamp No. 11).
13.	A.B.C. Shading completely absent from fraction bar round to white line. A faint and tiny dot just above "S" and another on top edge over "T".	A. Swelling N.W. corner, often faint. B. Similar smudging all along top margin covering wide area. SHORT HORIZONTAL LINE in margin ½ mm. above top edge and over "GE". C. N.E. corner missing.	HOR-LINE 1½ mm. close to left margin opp. top of "S". Tiny dot R. margin just above level of top edge name tablet. VIOLET SPOT in design left, opp. top of "1"; and one or two more in adjoining margin—position varies; see note on stamps 11 and 12.
14.	A.B.C. Corners weak; PROMINENT GREEN SPOT over N.W. corner; top edge weak and ragged for whole length except for strong touch over "SE".	A. SPOT N.W. CORNER as before. A bit of a mess in corner angle. B. Strong over 2nd "S" and slight swelling above it.	Dot in top margin directly over N.E. corner (often cut out by perf.). Tiny dot R. margin opp. "L" of "Posseel", close to edge.
15.	A.B. Shading completely absent. C. Rather more shading present here than in previous odd numbers.	A. Left edge strongly outlined. B. and C. Very slight swellings into top margin over value tablet. Some shading missing on right with N.E. corner sloped off so that top edge seems to slope from left to right. A patchy corner impossible to describe.	Tiny dot left margin opposite bottom line of "2". Tiny dot in bottom margin under name tablet and 1 mm. W. of S.E. corner.
16.	A. HEAVY STROKE OR "HORN" extends from corner value tablet diagonally towards top edge. N.W. corner very weak. B. Shading mostly present. Top edge ragged, but outlined over "1" and "S". C. N.E. corner blunted.	A. "Horn" STILL PROMINENT white patches L. of value tablet. B. Fully redrawn. C. N.E. corner rounded.	In 1st printing only there is a very large green blob in top slogon margin. 2 x 16 tiny dot in L. margin opp. soldier's neck.
17.	Shading completely absent from fraction bar round to white line. Tiny dot just above top edge of value tablet over "1" (as No. 3). A very tiny dot on top edge over N.E. corner "Postage" tablet.	A. B. C. HEAVY CURVED LINE OF COLOUR along top from N.W. corner to end of "Posseel" tablet; N.E. corner cut off. Smudging in top margin slopes downwards from left to right.	Dot left margin opp. bottom line of lower loop of "S" and 1 mm. from edge. (Litble to be cut out by roulette).
18.	A. Whole corner very weak. B. Top edge weak and patchy except over "1" and second "S". C. N.E. corner missing.	A. PROJECTION INTO MARGIN just under N.W. corner. Patchy below same. B. Top edge patchy and broken to left and very slight swelling over "1". C. N.E. corner cut off.	Tiny dot L. margin opp. hem of soldier's jacket. Ditto. R. margin opp. the two strong dots on soldier's haversack. 2 x 18 strong green dot in R. margin opp. point where soldier's rifle cuts edge.

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KRUGER ESSAYS.

By Dr. K. FREUND.

(Continued from page 198 of November issue)

CHAPTER 3.

KRUGER ESSAYS OF 1955.

1. The Original Photograph used for the Design of the 3d. Kruger Stamp of 1955.

(Essay item No. 16.)

In the previous two chapters we have seen how twice in the course of South African postal history, efforts to immortalize the late President Kruger on a stamp, did not succeed beyond the Essay stages. Now at last, on the new 3d. stamp issued at the occasion of the Pretoria Centenary, homage is paid to that great and colourful statesman, filling the long-felt want.

The large Kruger portrait on the new stamp shows however certain features which in the opinion of various Archive officials and Museum directors are not authentic. In particular, the modern shape of the imposing **top hat** and the severely square-cut **beard** in the stamp design are not considered to be true to type. This fact made it a particularly challenging problem to establish the original source on which the stamp portrait was based.

From the outset it was clear that there could not be an original photograph featuring exactly the same Kruger portrait with the stated inaccuracies as it appears on the 3d. stamp. The mentioned Archive and Museum authorities declared emphatically that no such photograph exists. The postal authorities themselves confirmed to us that "an original photograph . . was **redrawn** by an artist to comply with the particular requirements of the printing process." We also learned from them that "the artist was requested to draw the outline of the top hat distinctly", which fact may have accounted for the deviation from the original authentic outline of the top hat.

In trying to discover the original photograph which would form some interesting essay material by presenting a slightly different but more authentic version of the Kruger portrait than the final stamp design, we learned that an original copy was available to the postal authorities on short loan from the family of the late President for the specific purpose of preparing the stamp design. It was immediately returned to the owners on completion of the design.

Nevertheless, the officials of the Free State Archives and the Director of the Oorlogsmuseum, Bloemfontein, were kind enough to allow me to take a reproduction from a photographic copy which in their opinion appears to be the one on which the 3d. Kruger stamp has largely been based (Fig. 10).

(Essay item No. 16) (Kruger Stamp, 1955)

The postal authorities to whom a copy of this photograph, Fig. 10, was sent for confirmation, were reluctant to commit themselves too much for certain reasons, but were obliging enough to state that it is **"very** similar" to the one they used. We may judge for ourselves: Compare for instance the shaded underpart of the hat-brim in the photograph Fig. 10 and the one in the stamp design, Fig. 11: In both cases, the perspective and the shape of the hat-brim are remarkably similar in all details.



Fig. 10.



Fig. 11.

The photograph (Essay item No. 16) was taken in 1900 while President Kruger was in exile in Holland, by the photographic atelier Strauch, of Den Haag.

When comparing the original portrait with the one on the 3d. stamp, one can readily see where the designing artist has deviated from the authentic details: President Kruger's top hat, like all the other top hats he wore throughout his life, had a shape which curved outward at the top, in conformity with the mode of that time. In contrast to this, the top hat on the stamp has pronounced modern, rather straight lines.

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The mourning band covering a large portion of the hat on the original photograph (worn by the President as a token of exile) does not appear in the stamp design for obvious reasons. In fact, the top hat on the new stamp has no hat-band at all, which must be considered another historical inaccuracy, as President Kruger's top hats of earlier years were always adorned with at least a narrow band.

The original photograph, Fig. 10, shows the characteristically trimmed shape of President Kruger's beard in his later years: Although squarish at the sides, it was always slightly curved and rounded off at the bottom. There are of course numerous other portraits of the President in existence of earlier periods when his beard was either more pointed or much thinner and sparser. But the cleanly and symmetrically trimmed, absolutely four-squared shape in such pronounced form as presented in the stamp design was never worn by the late President and is not authentic.

2. Government Artist's Essays of the 1955 Kruger Stamp.

In the case of most stamp issues, the authorities retain for reference, together with various proof material, original essays which were worked out in preparation of the final stamp design. These essays are usually not recorded by philatelists as they are never released for the collecting world. In this case, for the sake of completeness, we may state that the Union postal authorities contemplated to display at the Teppex Centenary Stamp Exhibition in Pretoria, 1955, several Kruger stamp essays prepared by the Government artist in preparation of the 3d. Kruger Pretoria stamp ("oorspronklike tekenings", see Teppex catalogue, p. 21).

(With grateful acknowledgements to the following for assisting with information: Mr. D. J. Reinecke, of the Free State Archives; Mr. B. H. J. van Rensburg, of the Oorlogsmuseum, Bloemfontein; the Publicity Department, G.P.O., Pretoria; Mr. A. S. Konya, Pretoria; Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie; Mr. L. Bevis, Natal Philatelic Society; Mr. G. N. Gilbert, Westminster; Mr. J. Robertson, Johannesburg; Dr. J. H. Harris, Port Elizabeth).

SWAZILAND — Q.E. ISSUES

We are indebted to the Robertson Stamp Co. (Pty.) Ltd., of Johannesburg for the following information, taken from the Crown Agents Bulletin of 1.10.55, about the forthcoming issue whose printing has been ordered:

Printers — Messrs. Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. Ltd. Stamps in two colours, size 35½ x 26½ mm. in either horizontal or vertical format.

Designs include a portrait of Her Majesty together with the Crown and will feature the following pictorial subjects:

½d. Havelock Asbestos Mine. Black and yellow.
1d. A Highveld View. Black and green.
2d. Swazi Married Woman. Black and Brown.
3d. Swazi Courting Couple. Black and red.
4½d. Swazi Warrior. Black and Ultramarine.
6d. Kudu. Black and magenta.
1/-. As ½d. Black and Olive.
1/3. As 3d. Black and Sepia.
2/6. As 1d. Green and Red.
5/-. As 4½d. Violet and Grey.
10/-. As 2d. Black and Violet.
£1. As 6d. Black and Blue-green.

Wants, Offers & Exchange

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

APPROVAL SELECTIONS INVITED. Top-grade copies only. Barbados, The Nigerias, St. Helena, Somaliland Protectorate. — WILLIAM REDFORD, Box 1182, Johannesburg.

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.

WANTED. Common Southern African stamps, current or obsolete, on or off paper. Any quantity. Please state quantities available and price required. A. LICHTENSTEIN, Box 1117, Bloemfontein.

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.
Arrangements can be made to bind back-numbers at an additional charge of 2/6 per volume. On orders under 10/- please add postage. Early application is strongly recommended.—Business Manager, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

WANTED 1951 Booklets Nos. A5 (2), C5 in exchange for cash or other booklets. — RICHARD KUPER, P.O. Box 10340, Johannesburg.

TRADE fifty different used Australia New Zealand commemoratives for fifty different commemoratives of British Africa, Egypt.—C. WALTERS, "Loombah," Cumnock, NSW., Australia.

SMALL collections offered for sale reasonably priced. Swaziland, Bechuanaland, British Somaliland, Tanganyika, Kenya, Sudan, Cayman, St. Lucia, Bermuda, etc., perfect condition, write GROUT, 11 Argyle Street, Camps Bay, Cape Town.

WANTED ISRAEL stamps, stationery, etc. —4 Grantham Place, Umgeni Road, Durban.

HAVE available, preferably in exchange Union Mints, a large range of used active service Airmail cards. What offers P.A.L. 8 used Basutoland.—A. TABACHNICK, 311 Church Street, Pietermaritzburg.

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CORRESPONDENCE

UNION HANDBOOK/CATALOGUE VOL. II

Sir,

When the 1952 Union Handbook Catalogue was published you were kind enough to print my appreciation in the South African Philatelist, and I trust you will once again extend this courtesy in regard to the Supplement which has just appeared. I feel that my comments will be of interest not only to the Editors but also to all Union specialists.

I think that there is little doubt that the Handbook is a masterpiece, and the wealth of information now contained in the two volumes could hardly be surpassed. The editors have gone to an immense amount of trouble and spared no effort to ensure that the Handbook is completely accurate, and as far as I have been able to judge all the erroneous data in the 1952 Handbook has been corrected, and a great deal of new light has been thrown on many points which have puzzled even specialists. Thus for the first time a Union collector is able to understand that the King's Head 1d. Plates 1 and 2 appeared first with no cuts whatsoever in the bottom right hand corners, and that the same Plates then received the distinguishing cuts. This was just one of the innumerable instances where, whilst there was no actual error in the 1952 edition, the outline remained obscure.

There is too, a wealth of additional information, and furthermore a lot of material which should have had catalogue status but was for one reason or another, omitted from the handbook has now been included. The Editors are to be congratulated on the maintenance of the same high standard of printing in the new production. After a careful survey of the Handbook I can find only one noteworthy error. The Van Riebeeck stamps are illustrated in a non-existent perforation. Altogether the Handbook is a memorable achievement, this work together with the last has proved to be the cornerstone of Philatelic knowledge of the stamps of South Africa. Whilst paying tribute to the Editors may I at the same time acknowledge the immense debt of gratitude which all Union collectors owe to Mr. Simenhoff, whose earlier catalogues were the foundation for the two present volumes.

I only wish that I could echo such praises as regards the catalogue side of the handbook. The chief fault here lies in the inconsistency of the pricing. The catalogue is supposed to give collectors an idea of the price they may expect to pay for their stamps. As regards all normal and straightforward stamps it fulfills its function admirably, as far as specialist material is concerned however whilst a great deal of material is correctly priced an equal amount of material is priced at completely unrealistic levels. Many items priced at a few shillings just cannot be found for any money unless a great specialised collection comes on the market.

Space and time will not allow for more than a few examples of these inconsistencies, but the following may suffice to illustrate my premise:

Great rarities which in other countries are considered to be philatelic treasures are often dismissed as being of no account whatsoever. I refer to the major errors of missing centres and frames which have occurred in several values, and which are indisputedly genuine.

Compare a few catalogue quotations for these errors. 1d. S.G. 43b missing frames pair, Union Catalogue £12, Gibbons, £40, 2d. S.G. 44 missing frames, Union Catalogue £15, Gibbons, £60. Gibbons not professing to be a specialised catalogue has only a few such items listed but their quotations give some idea of the true value of these errors, our catalogue quite definitely does not.

Now a few comparisons between items in the catalogue. That great error 1d. typo with watermark sideways is priced at £100, but an equally rare item the ½d. centres omitted and printed on the gummed side of the stamp is priced at £8. The former can quite definitely be bought at under its quotation when it comes on the market, but where can the latter be obtained for anything like its catalogue quotation.

Even more puzzling is that items priced at a few shillings each can often be howling rarities. That excellent and popular variety the ½d. Pretoria Typo with missing fraction bar is priced at 20/- and quite rightly so, yet how can the editors reconcile this quotation with an identical one for all the arrows of the Unhyphenated 1d. which elicit sighs of envy when exhibited, so rare are the latter. One more price comparison. The listed varieties of the 2d. S.G. 58 blue and violet are now priced at between £3 and £4 each. This is a fair reflection of their value but how these prices can be reconciled with a price of 40/- for the 6d. Pretoria Typo with extreme misplacement of the Headplate illustrated on page 18 of the Supplement. This notable variety was catalogued at £5 in the 1946 Catalogue, it must be worth much more today.

There is one other aspect of the catalogue which I think merits attention. The tendency seems to be towards the inclusion of more and ever more minor varieties in the catalogue. Whilst not denying that these are of interest to the specialist surely the editors should endeavour to list the more outstanding errors and varieties. There are a very great number of major varieties and errors which have been inexplicably excluded. I say inexplicably because the editors are well aware of their existence. A few examples: ½d. King's Head Bronze Bank variety, ½d. and 1d. Typo inverted wmks. from sheet. These are catalogued in the King's Head section as distinct from booklets but not in the latter section.

I trust that the Editors will accept these remarks in the spirit in which they are given and understand that they are made in the hope that improvements will be forthcoming in the next catalogue. The Editors after all are the holders of some of the cream of Union stamps, and they themselves stand to gain a good deal by hoisting prices. Thus it is to their credit that they have restrained themselves from so doing, my only plea is that there should be more consistency of price levels as otherwise the catalogue must prove extremely misleading. It is a good and healthy thing for catalogue prices to be on the low rather than the high side, the least that the Editors can do is to apply that restraint equally.

Yours faithfully,

J. MENDELSSOHN.

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AIR MAIL NOTES.

Aerogrammes.

CENTRAL AFRICAN FEDERAATION:

The long awaited Air Letter sheets for the three territories made their appearonce at the principal Post Offices on 1st October, 1955. Being a Saturday, very few received first-day postmarks. The sheet is identical to the one described in the October Air Mail Notes but now bears an imprinted 6d. stamp of the same design as the current stamp issue. This is the drabbest sheet ever to have been used in Southern Rhodesia.

Contrary to the practice of other countries and British Colonies belonging to the U.P.U. the word "Aerogramme" is omitted from the text and the design of the sheet reverts to the original Colonial type of 1942 — i.e. Three-line enclosure warning at top left. (Acknowledgments to Major L. E. Creasy and Mr. C. D. Twynam.)

A new Aerogramme Service from the Federation to the Union of South Africa came into operation on 1st November, 1955, when a rate of twopence halfpenny was introduced. No special Air Letter forms have yet been printed and it is necessary to buy one of the unfranked sheets described in our October "Notes" for a half-penny and affix at least two stamps to defray postage, until such time as adhesive stamps of the new denomination are received (acknowledgements to Major L. E. Creasy).

ANGOLA:

Three very colourful, extremely well printed Aerogramme sheets have recently been released, printed by Lito Moia, Portugal. The coloured overlay on the reverse of these advertise the Colony's produce.

Stamp Design: 1$50: Church at Benguela. Colour: Gray. Borders: Red and Green on white. Reverse: Gray COFFEE plants.

Stamp Design: 2$50: Luanda Radio Station. Colour: Brown. Borders: Red and green on white. Reverse: Brown COTTON plants.

Stamp Design: Malanga Post Office. Colour: Green. Borders: Red and green on white. Reverse: Green MEALIE cobs.

MOCAMBIQUE:

Aerogrammes somewhat similar to the above have been placed on sale in Portuguese East Africa, printed by Lito Nasional, Porto. Only two have, however, so far been reported.

Stamp Design: 2$50: Inhambane Post Office. Colour: Gray. Borders: Red and green on white. Reverse: Gray SISAL plants.

Stamp Design: 3$50: Polana Radio station. Colour: Blue. Borders: Red and green on white. Reverse: Blue TEA plants.

I. H. C. GODFREY.

AUSTRALIA

The P.M.G. has announced that the 2/- blue issued in Dec., 1954 to draw attention to the XVIth Olympic Games is to be re-issued on 30th Nov., 1955 in green.

He has further stated that the spate of commemorations is to be stopped, as it was destroying the reputation of Australian stamps. In future, only important historical events would be so commemorated.

MULTI or MULTO-POSITIVE.

Dr. Gordon Ward writes ffrom England:—

"Many months ago—with as much modesty as I could manage—I suggested in the "The Springbok" that 'multopositive' was a horrid term unworthy of the S.A. Hondbook/Catalogue.

"In your October 1954 number an anony mous writer remarks that I am 'completely wrong' and quotes Mr. Easton's 'Postage Stamps in the Making' as good authority for MULTO. He says with justice that Mr. Easton is a great authority but I hesitate to quote Mr. Easton's own words to the effect that this authority does not extend to the photogravure process. They leave no doubt that he would not wish to be taken as the last Court of Appeal.

May I quote a much earlier and better authority — Messrs. Harrison, who print all the millions of photogravure stamps used in this country. They use MULTI.

"In fact 'Multopositive' has not, as your writer suggests, become the trade term. It remains an awkward and undignified alternative of no intrinsic merit."

Editorial Comment.

In the first place may we point out to Dr. Gordon Ward that the 'anonymous writer' was perfectly right in saying that Dr. Gordon Ward was 'completely wrong' in saying that the term 'multopositive' originated in and was used only in South Affrica.

The term was first used in Great Britain by Mr. Easton, and it was only after seeing this usage that it was adopted in South Africa, in the belief that it had become a trade technical term.

It was recommended that the matter should be fought out on British soil with Mr. Easton. Apparently Dr. Ward has adopted this suggestion; although he does not give Mr. Easton's actual words, he indicates that the latter does not claim to be 'the last word' on matters relating to photogravure.

Also, if Messrs. Harrison use the term 'multipositive' it may be accepted, we think, that 'multopositive' has **not** become a generally recognised trade technical term.

In that case, of course, the problem reverts to being a purely grammatical one and in this respect let us remember the further statement of our 'anonymous writer' that he is inclined on such grounds to agree with Dr. Gordon Ward that 'multipositive is preferable to 'multopositive'.

So far as the S.A. Handbook/Catalogue is concerned 'multopositive' must unfortunately stand for the moment, but for the future our editorial policy will be to encourage the used instead of 'multipositive'.

We are interested to see that in the July-August issue of "The Springbok" the Editor there also comes down on the side of MULTI.

ISRAEL

The Minister of Posts announces the issue in November of a tri-coloured 160 pruta stamp commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Magen David Adom in Israel.

The first of the series of the "Tribes Set" will also be issued that month. It will comprise the 10 pruta (Reuben), 30 pruta (Levi), 60 pruta (Naphthali), and 100 pruta (Asher).

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SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY (Of Great Britain)

The annual General Meeting of the above Society was held at the Cora Hotel, London, W.C.1 on Saturday, 15th October, 1955. After hearing reports from the Honorary Secretary and representatives of the London and Glasgow Groups, the existing officers were re-elected en bloc. These are as follows: Chairman, R. D. Allen, Snr.; Hon. Sec. and Hon. Editor of Springbok, C. E. Sherwood, 105 Marford Cres. Sale, Manchester.

The meeting was followed by an auction at which nearly one hundred lots were sold.

Coinciding with the meeting, the second Exhibition organised by the Society was staged.

A large turn-out of members and other collectors viewed a most interesting and varied display. Among many outstanding pieces, one noted a wide selection of Proofs and Essays including those for the Pretoria Centenary issues of 1955 with the 1949 Kruger essay for comparison.

The display included all the Commemorative and Air Mail issues as well as a selective exhibit of Postal Stationery, the latter including the 1918 1½d. with double impression (one albino).

The main feature of the Exhibition however was a composite exhibit of the Halfpenny Springbok. This included corner and arrow blocks from the many different printings as well as most of the errors and varieties listed in the Specialised Catalogue. One noted examples of all the tête-bêche pairs and stamps printed on double paper while others had double or even treble perforations.

[This Society is now in its eighth year, and its bimonthly magazine "The Springbok" is entering its fourth year. The Society has members all over the world and even if they cannot attend meetings or receive exchange packets they find it worth while at 15/- a year for the magazine alone. Write to the Hon. Sec., Mr. C. E. Sherwood (address is above). — Hon. Ed.]

COMMANDO BRIEF PRINTERS

(From the O.F.S. Philatelic Magazine)

The printers of these stamps or labels, whatever you like to call them, have hitherto been unknown.

Mr. J. Price is now able to state definitely that they were printed by Messrs. Curling & Co., of Douglas Street, Bloemfontein. This firm is well-known by name to O.F.S. collectors, as having made the V.R.I. overprints; it has long ceased to exist.

The information that they printed the "Commando Briefs" was given Mr. Price by the Secretary of the Trustees of the Curling Estate. As further proof he was given an imperf. block of the 'stamps', found among old documents of the estate.

A sketch of this block shows one row of stamps considerably out of alignment; perforating had been started, but stopped apparently because the mis-alignment was too pronounced.

The Editor of the magazine regards this block as "proof material, kept for reference" and that it represents the only "mint" labels which have not come from the general lot captured when Gen. Cronje's camp was taken early in 1900.

CENTRAL AFRICAN FEDERATION

It is reported that the basic postal rate in the Rhodesias-Nyasaland Federation has been raised from 2d. to 2½d., and, as there is no such value in the present series, it looks as if a stamp of this denomination will be required.

The 3 sets issued in the territories just prior to federation, especially the higher values, are being spotted as a fine investment. The numbers issued were small; their market price is already considerably over face value, but they are likely to go much higher.

HOMER NODS BUT IS NOT A B.F.

It may comfort the lesser lights of philately to know that the V.I.P.'s occasionally make mistakes.

In the Court of Honour at TEPPEX there was on show a fine reeconstructed complete sheet of the "Penny Blacks". The 6th stamp in the 2nd row, however, had the letters 'A' and 'F' instead of 'B and F'—it was identical with the stamp just above it in the top row.

Two remarkable features are:

(1) This reconstructed sheet had been shown at several exhibitions previously, but the mistake had never been spotted. Congratulations are due to some keen observers at Teppex for it.

(2) Above the reconstructed sheet there was one specimen of the Penny Black with the letter 'V' and 'R' in the top corners. (This was prepared for official use but was never actually issued). Believe it or not, in the lower corners of this stamp were the letters 'B' and 'F'.

WANTED

Contacts willing to supply shades, varieties, etc. from various parts of the Union. Also office lots, Bank clippings. Write to-day to:

C. E. SHERWOOD, P.T.S.,
"THE UNION SPECIALIST"
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WANTED :

S.A. and other stamps on paper in bulk, we pay at least 10/- to 15/- per lb. Small or large quantities. for cash or in exchange.

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Stamp bulk on paper (Kiloware), ask for our complete list with about thirty different items, including Brit. Empire Mix, Australia, Pictorial-Mix, Bank lots, etc.

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NETHERLANDS

We have to thank the Netherlands Embassy in Pretoria, for the following information:

Voor Het Kind series. This year these semi-postals will be on sale from 14 Nov. 1955 till 13 Jan. -956. There are 5 values ranging from 2c. to 25c., plus surcharges. They feature fine reproductions of paintings by famous artists, mostly of the 17th century. They will be printed by rotogravure in two colours, although the second colour will be related to the main colour and only applied to emphasize the latter.

New Guinea Red Cross issue. From 1.11.55 to 31.1.56 the well-known bird of paradise stamps of 5, 10 and 15c. values will be overprinted with a surcharge value plus the emblem of the Red Cross.

LAWRENCE & HEDJAZ STAMPS

The Australian "Stamp News" publishes a little-known bit of news about Lawrence of Arabia, round whose name there has been great controversy in recent months.

The first stamps of the Hedjaz were rushed into production in 1916 to counter the German propaganda claiming that the Arab revolt was a failure; the stamps were intended to show that Hedjaz existed as an independent Arab State.

The task of selecting the designs and seeing them produced was entrusted to Lawrence who was then in Cairo. They broke tradition with practically all previous postage stamps.

UNION STUDIES.

The "Stamp Magazine" for some time has been running a series of articles by Mr. N. A. Page on Union stamps, taking them systematically value by value. In the October issue he considers the 10/- (Cape Town and Table Bay and Groot Constantia designs). He states this will be last of his studies of the general issues.

EXCHANGE WANTED.

Through "The Star" we have received a letter from Mike Melega, 372 Erie St. W,, Windsor, Ontario, Canada, wishing to exchange Canadian issues for South Africans (mint blocks or singles) and to keep him posted as regards new issues here.

SOUTH AFRICA ESSAYS

from 35/-

Other Specialist Material often in stock — record your requirements.

W. L. FRESHWATER

THE OLD PARSONAGE, FRILSHAM, HERMITAGE, NEWBURY, BERKS.,
(Tel.: Yattendon 275) ENGLAND.

JAMES CHALMERS AND ROWLAND HILL

New evidence has just come to light bearing on the rivalry of the claims made as to which of these two individuals was the first to suggest adhesive postage stamps as the best method of prepaying postage under Hill's penny post plan. This rivalry continues even to-day between the descendants of these two men.

No one questions, of course, that Hill, in his famous pamphlet "Post Office Reform: its importance and practicability," published in February 1837, brought about the uniform rate of postage introduced in 1840. In this pamphlet he did actually suggest various ways in which postage could be prepaid and, amongst others, he did make reference to "a bit of paper just large enough to bear the stamp, and covered at the back with a glutinous wash, which the bringer might by applying a little moisture, attach to the back of the letter."

He does not appear, however, to have followed up this suggestion personally.

James Chalmers of Dundee did follow it up and a document, published by him in February 1938, has just come into Mr. Robson Lowe's hand and is described by him in "The Philatelist" of September, 1955. This single sheet document is headed "Remarks on various modes proposed for franking letters, under Mr. Rowland Hill's Plan of Post Office Reform."

As examples of adhesive postage stamps he printed on the sheet six designs, four of the one penny and two of the twopence, which he suggested would fill the need. One of the 1d. "stamps" was cancelled with the Dundee date-stamp of 10th February, 1838.

It looks therefore, as if Chalmers has a very strong claim to have made the first Essay of the first adhesive postage stamps, although his revised essays submitted for the Treasury competition held in 1839 were not actually accepted.

U.S.A.

A 6c. stamp with a portrait of Theodore Roosevelt, the twelfth of the new ordinary series was issued on 18th November.

The FIPEX committee vigorously denies the rumours that there will be any further delay or even cancellation of the exhibition. It **will** be held from April 28 to May 6, 1956 in the Coliseum, and the constructors of that building have signed a contract guaranteeing these dates.

The first auction by Messrs. H. R. Harmer Inc. of the Caspary collection (U.S.A. Postmasters' Provisionals was scheduled for 15th November, and the catalogue is reported to be the very last word in magnificence, and likely to be for long a valuable book of reference.

SPECIALLY WANTED — NOW!

We want to buy Air Post pioneers and rarities —Covers, Semi-officials, Unrecorded, etc., especially of Central and South America, Scandinavia, Britain, etc.

FRANCIS J. FIELD, LTD.,
SUTTON COLDFIELD, ENGLAND.

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SOCIETY NEWS

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Despite inclement weather there was quite a good attendance at the **September** meeting, when two new members were elected.

Executive Committee recommended that in future life membership should apply only to members aged 60 years and over who had completed thirty years' continuous membership. Also for meritorious service to the Society and/or Philately in general a Diploma or Fellowship should be awarded.

It was arranged that a special general meeting would take place just before the commencement of the next monthly meeting to confirm these recommendations and to amend the Constitution as necessary.

A Competition closing on the 14th October for a badge for the Society had also been arranged.

Photographs of the new Union Commemoratives were raffled and the winner was Mrs. D. Lillie.

Items of Philatelic interest were passed round and the usual auction was conducted by Mr. W. J. Gillespie.

The monthly competition display was held. There were four exhibitors who showed 1937 Coronations, U.S.A., Australian and Nyasaland. Most interesting thematic displays were given by Messrs. Thornton, Hellman, Feros and Mrs. Shingler.

Members were particularly interested in the first cover of the Pigeon Post of 1937 displayed by Mr. Geo. Feros. Of special interest was the theme of "The Message" which comprised a letter and all its travels. Mr. Thornton Jnr. had arranged this some years ago when it was shown in Durban and again at the Junior Philatelic Society Exhibition in London when a special award was granted.

After the various members had been thanked for their displays, the President wished Dr. and Mrs. Stewart a happy future in the Transvaal where they will shortly take up residence. It was noted with pleasure that Dr. Stewart would still remain a member of the Society.

Despite inclement weather there was a good attendance of members to view some real gems of Mr. C. H. Thornton's Cape of Good Hope Stamps on Friday night, **14th October, 1955.**

The President welcomed back Mr. C. P. Durkin and Mr. J. V. Jensen on their return from visits overseas, also Colonel Grey from Rhodesia, who is settling in East London.

Firstly we were shown a number of pre-stamp Covers showing various postal markiugs. These included a copy of the V.O.C. used in the 18th Century; the first British postmark of the Cape in 1806; several G.P.O. Cape Town markings; town circular postmarks with crown in the centre, and various other markings, all of which were quite fascinating to use Mr. Thornton's own words. All these were connected with the postal history of the Cape. The Cape Triangulars included many excellent singles besides pairs, strips and blocks; one special item being a block of 22 4d. stamps on one cover.

A special vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Thornton for the annual treat of his Cape Triangular Stamps which he gives so gladly to members.

One new member was elected and a resignation was received from a member who is unable to devote any further time to the hobby.

The President welcomed Major Atley Campbell and Mr. Gordon Lindstrom who had travelled down specially from Alice, a distance of 90 miles to see Mr. Thornton's display of Cape Stamps. Mr. Lindstrom brought down two displays of stamps, one of which he entered for the Competitive Display. The Competitive Display was particularly interesting. Mr. Jensen showed us a new type of hinge from Denmark which is self-sealing. These appear to be ideal for the display of Mint stamps because no hinge is affixed to the backs of stamps.

There was the usual auction and tea was served.

The monthly meeting was preceded by a special General Meeting at which 3 amendments to the Constitution were read and confirmed. The two main r solutions were firstly, Honorary Life Members— these are members aged 60 years and over who have completed 25 years' membership (not necessarily continuous) and who have been nominated by the Executive for Honorary Life Membership. Secondly, the election of members as Fellows of the Society and who will be presented with the Society's Diploma of Fellowship. Such a member would be elected a Fellow who by virtue of his or her meritorious service to the Society or the advancement of Philately has received the unanimous recommendation of the Executive Committee. The number of Fellows on the roll would not exceed 10 at any one time. J.P.S.

PAARLSE POSSEËLVERSAMELAARS-VERENIGING

13 Sept. 1955: Die Tematiese Vereniging van Kaapstad was ons gaste. Lanklaas was ons vereerd met so 'n groot verskeidenheid van so 'n hoë gehalte:

Mnr. W. Combrink: Briewe uit die Turkse Ryk van 1378, 1458 ens., meestal ontsmet weens die plae, met 'n strykyster, poeier, asyn, ens.; asook die eerste en tweede uitgawes van Roemenië.

Mnr. K. Cameron: Beiere.

Mej. Simenhoff: „Crowning Glory" — 'n temaversameling van haremodes op posseëls.

Mevr. Scott: Grenada; asook die volledige kinderwelvaart posseëls van die Nederlande.

Mnr. L. Simenhoff: 'n Versameling van Unieposseëls, insluitende inter-provinsiale seëls 1910-1913, die Darmstadt proewe, eienaardighede, ens.

Mnr. H. Savage: Die Japanese besetting van Maleia.

Mnr. D. Sinnott: Die byna volledige stel spottekenings wat die draak gesteek het met die eerste uitgawe van die Mulready-koeverte in 1840; asook 'n versameling van die eerste swart pennie-uitgawes van Engeland.

11 Oktober 1955: Kapt. M. F. Stern van Kaapstad was ons gasvertoner en spreker, en sy groot verskeidenheid het ingesluit die Franse besetting van Duitsland, Belgiese Kongo, deel van die Hitlerregime, Vietnam, Nasionale fees- en lugposseëls van Switserland, Frankryk, Tsjeggo-Slowakye, Nederland en Israel.

Dit was 'n uiters kleurvolle en interessante uitstalling en baie van die afdelings waardevol en volledig. J.G. le R.

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Our **August** meeting was a great success, we were hosts to the members from the Germiston Philatelic Society. Although our members did not turn up in force, the exhibits provided by the Germiston members was something that is not seen every day.

Mr. Peters who was unable to come over, kindly sent portion of his German Collection. This was an excellent display which is very seldom seen.

Dr. Kaplan can always be relied upon to bring along something out of the bag. This time it was a collection of Antigua stamps. This exhibit has to be seen to be appreciated.

Finally Mr. Retief's excellent collection of United States of America; also very fine exhibit, and greatly enjoyed by the East Rand members.

Mr. Legator, on behalf of the East Rand Society thanked the exhibitors for coming over and providing us with such a treat.

The **September** meeting was again a great success. We had a good attendance and although we had no exhibits for the evening, we had a general discussion on the various problems that crop up in philately.

The **October** meeting brought forward two exhibits for the Legator Trophy. Mr. Waner's collection of George VI which was practically complete, and Mr. Rigg's collection of Nyasaland. This was not a very large collection, but contained some of the high values. E.N.R.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

6th September. After welcoming two new members to the Society, the President announced that a Symposium had been arranged for the evening and hoped the goodly number present would join in the discussions, no stamp display having been arranged for the meeting.

He then called on Mr. G. Bülbring to "start the ball rolling"; he introduced as a topic "Presentation of a collection and arising therefrom its valuation." The speaker stressed that he might deliberately over-emphasise some points with the idea of arousing frank and free expressions of opinion from others.

By popular vote the meeting proved a great success. Very many members expressed their views on general, specialised and thematic collecting, arrangement, writing up, judging, etc. Contributors to the debate included Messrs. D. Berg, P. Smits, G. K. Forbes, Clements, Pearson, Baer and others. The evening proved most stimulating and thought-provoking and it is hoped to arrange something similar in future.

20th September, 1955. Older members have had the pleasure and privilege of seeing Mr. G. K. Forbes' British North American Stamp Collection on a previous occasion, but newer members of the Society were also highly delighted at the treat provided for the evening. Such beautiful classical stamps in lovely condition and great profusion can but charm everybody, as both the President, Mr. D. Berg, and Mr. G. Bülbring remarked when they thanked the exhibitor.

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The selection included a wonderful lot of stamps from Canada, with specimens and proofs, a fine selection from Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and last but by no means least the most attractive and varied issues of Newfoundland. Few of us can hope to equal Mr. Forbes' success, extending over many years of collecting in gathering in such treasure, but as usual he made light of his wonderful achievement in a humorous speech accompanying the display.

It was rather a come-down to have to return to official business after such delights and everybody was pleased when auction time arrived, during which many were able to enrich their collections from the material on sale.

18th October. This meeting was a particularly pleasant one. We were fortunate in having in our midst Mr. K. Alexander, a visitor from Cape Town. Mr. Alexander exhibited a large number of sheets, containing stamps of about 100 countries, grouped alphabetically from Abyssinia to Zululand. In addition, he also displayed a large collection of labels and others items of Philatelic Interest. Mr. Alexander spoke briefly on his exhibit.

Mr. R. W. Pearson then gave a demonstration on the use of stencils, and exhibited a number of sheets of Empire and Commonwealth stamps, all beautifully written up by this method.

When tea was served, Mr. Pearson supplied some delicious cakes, and a lively auction concluded the meeting.

1st November. There was an exceptionally good attendance for this meeting, despite the absence of four of our members attending Congress in Pretoria. Mr. W. Pavitt deputised for the President.

Mr. T. van Duyker exhibited his collection of Empire and Commonwealth stamps of the reign of King George VI. They were attractively mounted, and comprised virtually all the complete sets issued during this period in mint condition.

A very successful auction concluded the meeting.

DIE AFRIKAANSE PHILATELISTIESE VERENIGING VAN PRETORIA.

Op sy onlangse gehoue Jaarvergadering is die ou bestuur herkies met Mnr. de Swardt as Voorsitter, Mev. Pienaar, Sekretaresse en Mnr. Bernhardi, Rondsendbeampte.

Uit die Voorsitter se jaarverslag het geblyk dat die Vereniging bevredigende vordering maak en dat sy posisie wat finansies en ledetal betref gesond is hoewel bywoning van vergaderings nog ietwat te wense oorlaat.

Die rondsenddiens het in 'n groot behoefte voorsien aangesien seëls vir meer as £200 verkoop is sedert die begin van die diens en die tekens is daar dat die belangstelling gaandeweg toeneem veral van die kant van die groot aantal plattelandse lede van die Vereniging.

'n Hoogtepunt in die werksaamhede van die Vereniging was die besoek van ons President, Mnr. Ferguson, en die besonder interessante uitstalling wat hy gehou het. Etlike ander verenigings is gedurende die jaar besoek en het by ons besoek afgelê en die gesellige samesyn van hierdie genoeglike aande het bewys dat daar 'n behoefte bestaan aan die goeie gees wat deur die kuiertjies gekweek word.

R.C.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL.

A vein of sadness ran through the **October meeting.** Owing to the pending reconstruction of the building, this was the last meeting to be held in London House, 391 Smith Street.

The room had little comfort and was far from attractive, but it has been our meeting place for many years and we were used to it. So we were sad at leaving it.

The October meeting has now become established as the Union Cup night. Only three members entered this year. We know that there is plenty of good Union material in the society. Something, however, seems to scare off the members. Is it the thought of having to prepare and read that five-minute paper? Or what?

The winning exhibit was The Pretoria Typographed Pictorials from the Waterlow Plates, shown by Mr. G. Walsh.

Here was a collection that had just about everything: blocks and panes galore, joined and repaired papers, essays, tête-bêche blocks, missing and double perforations, all the listed varieties and many that are not listed; truly first-class material, well-mounted and well-displayed. It did not give the panel of judges, headed by Mr. J. H. Chamberlain any headaches to decide that this exhibit should win the Union Cup for 1955.

Mr. D. D. Black showed a general Union collection in the accepted "Black tradition," i.e. in mint blocks of four. But "D.D." had nothing to say about them, with consequent loss of marks.

Mr. Norris was right up to the minute with a display of the current animal issue. It was a first-ever display by this newly-joined member and a praiseworthy one too.

Mr. G. Milner-Palmer congratulated the three exhibitors and Mr. Walsh, the winner in particular, who had made a special air-trip from Windhoek in order to be present with his stamps at this meeting.

May we remind any intending visitors to our future meetings to make for Essex House, Smith Street, opposite Greenacres, not London House any more. The new and the old rooms are not far apart. If uncertain of the geography: London is a good starting point for Essex!

C.S.S.

GRAHAMSTOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

At the **July** meeting Dr. Calan gave a somewhat unusual display of stamps from various Islands in the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans. Maps were provided and members' interest was thus aroused in several stamp-issuing countries off the beaten track.

At the **August** meeting Mr. Drury exhibited some of his sheets of British Africa, containing some early and rare items.

As the Society has recently lost several of its faithful members of long-standing, it now has the problem of filling its depleted ranks. To attract attention to the Society an open meeting was held in **September,** at which Mr. Smith showed some of his European stamps. The stamps of Austria, Italy, France and Switzerland were shown arranged thematically, so that a very good idea was obtained of the geography, history and cultural achievements of these countries. The display was very fully written up, and was a change from the usual British Commonwealth stamps.

For the **October** meeting each member was asked to bring six sheets. This has been found an excellent way of providing an interesting evening, and also of getting members, who do not otherwise exhibit to show a few of their stamps. Quizzes, Brains Trusts, auctions and surprise items have helped to arouse interest.

The Society was very pleased recently to receive a letter from Mr. Eric Green of Bradford, England, who was a member many years ago, and had seen an account of the Society's activities in the S.A. Philatelist.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN.

7th October. The exhibitor of the evening was Mr. W. G. Combrink with his collection of Turkey. This was the prestamp covers which were complete from the 14th century and included the well known "Disinfectants" covers, and followed by his fine specialised collection of the Duloz issues. Among the covers were some interesting ones which were posted just prior to the French Revolution and another which gave the rates of exchange. Needless to say, the accompanying talk was as interesting as the exhibit, and Mr. Combrink can always make his subject appeal.

27th October. On this occasion the President, Mr. M. Jones read a paper on the Channel Islands, on which he is undoubtedly an expert. In his fine talk he gave an outline of the history of the group of Islands and also many facts pertaining to the postal history. He showed what a fine field for philatelic research this could prove. Shown also were specimens of most of the varieties referred to in the paper.

M.F.S.

CAPETOWN THEMATIC CLUB.

24th October. This was a usual popular All Members' Evening when the exhibitors were as follows: "Flowers" by Mrs. H. M. Scott, attractively set out and showing an enormous advance on when last seen: "Great Britain," by Mrs. L. Grout, consisting of stamps of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, being a full range: "Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Stamps" by Mr. H. R. Savage, these being used and again a full range from his fine collection: "Northern Rhodesia and S. Rhodesian used in N. Rhodesia" by Mr. P. Sinnot, an interesting exhibit and unusual: "Private Postcards of Great Britain" by Mr. W. G. Combrink, as usual this stalwart showed something new and well annotated: in ad dition there was shown a clever Chevrolet advertisement using stamp motifs, and illustrating how use can be made of the interest of readers in philatelic news. A large number of visitors were present and these evenings are always a draw. By invitation

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Capt. M. F. Stern was invited to show sections from his world collection on the 11th October to the Paarl Society, and these included Netherlands, Germany, France, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Indo China, Israel. M.F.S.

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

3rd October. At this meeting Mr. D. Roth, an expert on the early issues, showed his collection "Reprints". Needless to say this was much enjoyed by the members and Mr. Roth is able to give much illumination in his able talks. This was another meeting where a well chosen visitor was able to supplement the programme of the ociety. M.F.S.

O.F.S. & BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

September. The September meeting was in the form of a "Union Evening,,. The idea was to show a composite display of the stamps of the Union, with as many members as possible participating, thus showing a variety of write-up and presentation but at the same time also an excellent "team spirit."

Here are a few details about the selections shown: "Union Essays and other introductory items," by Mr. Kachelhoffer and Dr. Freund (of special note: McKenna Essays, Harrison Essays imperf. and perf., Booysen Essays); "Union King's Heads", by Dr. Freund (noteworthy: ½d. partial tête-bêche varieties, outsize blocks used of every value up to 10/-); "Union Pictorials", by Mr. A. H. Scott (a straight run, with some varieties); "Union Specialities and Rarities," by Mr. J. B. Levy (prominent were a number of "joined paper" varieties in various issues); "Jipex Stamps", by Mr. D. H. MacDonald (complete plating); "Rotogravure Stamps," by Mr. H. E. Roux (a brief selection); "Stationery Rarities", by Mr. C. E. Kachelhoffer (with "Korea Air Letters" prominent); "War Effort Stamps," by Mr. M. Sacks (all printings shown in large blocks with contrasting imprinted tablets); "Postage Dues and Officials," by Mr. H. J. Weil (practically complete with only a few odd items missing).

The Chairman's "Surprise Item" was a brief chat about his trip overseas which, alas, did not contain any philatelic experience or anecdotes but which nevertheless was received with great interest.

The monthly "News Service" was presented in three different forms: (a) "New Issues of the Month" were on display in special frames throughout the evening; (b) Dr. Freund reported some noteworthy "Tit-bits from the philatelic Press"; (c) Mr. J. B. Levy gave some details about realisations of Union items at recent stamp auctions.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

At the meeting held on **October 11th** Dr. T. B. Berry showed a magnificent collection of Coils and Booklet stamps of the Union. It was a complete collection with many rarities and varieties. There were reconstructed sheets and complete booklets included. The exhibit was carefully written up and showed a great deal of research. Mr. W. Sheffield in speaking on the exhibit referred to it as the finest collection of Booklets and Coil stamps seen in the Society.

At the meeting held on **October 24th** several members each showed a few sheets of stamps. Mr. Kupferman showed a mixed collection to show what Philatelists collect. Mr. Giezendanner showed Postal Labels issued by the Swiss Army. Dr. Kaplan showed Proofs and Essays of the 1953 1/3 Union Stamp. Mr. Markowitz showed 10 different Countries. Mr. Economides also showed a mixed collection. Dr. Von Varendorff showed Old Portugal. Mr. Kleiner showed some Seychelles of 1901. Altogether there was something to interest everybody.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

In **October** the Society was host to the five members of the Afrikaanse Filatelistiese Vereniging who had come out from Johannesburg to pay us the usual annual visit. The team was under the leadership of Mr. . Vermaak. We, in Germiston were very proud to have fourteen of our members and three visitors present to view the exhibits tabled by our visitors.

First of all we had Mr. D. W. Rossou's very well illustrated thematic collection of the current Union stamps, depicting many drawings done by himself of the various animals as shown on the stamps. Mr. Christophers thanked Mr. Rossou and congratulated him on his excellent showing.

This was followed by two exhibits by Mr. Vermaak, the first being a collection of the Cape Centenary issue with many of the flaws and errors; then a very neat show of air-mail covers used by the United Nation forces in Korea, with the various post cancellations. Dr. Kaplan spoke on the Cape Centenary exhibit and Mr. Retief on the Korean air-mail covers.

The final exhibit for the evening was provided by Mr. Lombard who had brought along his large collection of "Air-mail stamps of the World". Mr. L. Picton spoke on this collection and he wished Mr. Lombard every success with the collection which he had understood would be exhibited at the Pretoria Philatelic Congress.

On behalf of all members and visitors present Mr. Hagger thanked Mr. Vermaak and the members of his team for the excellent show that they had provided at this meeting and expressed the hope that, they in turn, had enjoyed their visit to our Society.

In opening the proceedings of the meeting on the **9th November,** the Chairman, Mr. S. J. Hagger, stated that he had no doubts in his mind that this meeting will be remembered as one of the highlights of the year. We were honoured to have along with thirteen of our own members, no less than four members of other Societies; in addition to which five local visitors attended. Mr. G. Bülbring, of Port Elizabeth, who has just been elected the President of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, found time to come out to Germiston and to provided the exhibit for the evening. Mr. G. L. Leak, with Mr. and Mrs. B. Bevis, represented the Philatelic Society of Natal and Mr. J. Burrell was from the Philatelic Society of the West Rand.

Mr. J. Burrell was to be the exhibitor at this meeting, but in view of the President of the Federation being present, he suggested that Mr. G. Bülbring take over and that he would come out again to Germiston for some future meeting.

Before tabling his exhibit, Mr. G. Bülbring thanked Mr. Burrell for giving him the opportunity of taking over the chair at the exhibit which he stated he hoped would be of interest to all present. Mr. G. Bülbring's collection consisted of a nearly complete show of the stamps of the old German States such as Baden, Bavaria, Hamburg, Hannover, Luebeck, Prussia, Saxony, etc., the main details of which were explained in full as Mr. G. Bülbring tabled each selection.

Mr. L. Picton, on behalf of all members and visitors present, thanked Mr. G. Bülbring for honouring us with his visit and for providing the exhibit. Mr. L. Picton remarked on the outstanding neatness and cleanliness of the sheets, brought about by the carefully selected copies of stamps, their attractive arrangement and the information given on each sheet.

Before handing back the chair to Mr. S. J. Hagger, Mr. G. Bülbring offered to answer, to the best of his ability, any questions which members might like to ask regarding his collection. Furthermore, he thanked all for giving him the opportunity of coming out to Germiston and spending such a most pleasant evening.

Mr. S. J. Hagger stated that he would give a full report of the Philatelic Congress at Pretoria which had just been concluded and at which he and the Secretary/Treasurer, Mr. I. S. Burniston, had attended. Mr. L. J. Picton was to be warmly congratulated on obtaining a Silver Award for his collection of the Line Engraved Stamps of Great Britain which he had exhibited at TEPPEX. The sincere thanks of the Germiston Society are conveyed to the Committee responsible for the arrangements at Congress and to the three Pretoria Philatelic Societies for the great success of TEPPEX.

I.S.B.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF THE WESTERN RAND.

The **October** meeting was held in the Krugersdorp Town Hall on Wednesday, 26th, at 8.15 p.m.

Mr. S. Vermaak presided with 13 members and 1 visitor present.

Mandates were given the Society Congress representatives with regard to certain motions that would be put forward at Congress by various ocieties.

Mr. Glover, the visitor, provided the exhibit for the evening by showing "Transport Through the Ages" and "Belgian Congo", both very good exhibits.

Mr. S. Vermaak, the Chairman, spoke on the exhibits.

After a vote of thanks to the Town Council of Krugersdorp for the room and to Mr. Bruwer for the catering, the meeting terminated at 10.10 p.m.

B.S.

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