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THE SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST

VOLUME 42 — 1966

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PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

CONSTITUENT SOCIETIES

Aerophilatelic Society of Southern Africa	P.O. Box 3654, Cape Town.
Afrikaanse Filatelistevereniging	Posbus 413, Roodepoort.
Afrikaanse Filatelistiese Vereniging van Pretoria	Posbus 706, Pretoria.
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Cape Society of Palestine-Israel Philately	P.O. Box 3573, Cape Town.
Cape Town, Royal Philatelic Society of	P.O. Box 1973, Cape Town.
Copperbelt Philatelic Society	P.O. Box 211, Kitwe, Zambia.
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Fish Hoek Philatelic Society	"Caertaff", Pearson Ave, Kenilworth, C.T.
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Grahamstown Philatelic Society	P.O. Box 175, Grahamstown.
Israel Philately, Society of	P.O. Box 11502, Johannesburg.
Johannesburg, Philatelic Society of	P.O. Box 4967, Johannesburg.
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Mafeking and Botswana Philatelic Society	P.O. Box 105, Mafeking.
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Mooi River Stamp Club	274 Kerk Street, Potchefstroom.
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Paarlse Filateliste	Posbus 60, Paarl, K.P.
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Pretoria Philatelic Society	P.O. Box 514, Pretoria.
Pretoria Railway Philatelic Society	P.O. Box 2388, Pretoria.
Rhodesia, Royal Philatelic Society of	P.O. Box 803, Bulawayo.
South African Stamp Study Circle	P.O. Box 378, Krugersdorp.
Springs and District Philatelic Society	P.O. Box 688, Springs.
Thematic Stamp Club	P.O. Box 3654, Cape Town.
University of Cape Town Philatelic Society	University of Cape Town, Rondebosch.
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Western Rand, Philatelic Society of the	20 Biddy Road, Kenmare, Krugersdorp.

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meets on the first and third Tuesday each month in the
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THE PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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THE SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

meets at 2.15 p.m. on the second Saturday of every month in the
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Benoni, at 7.45 p.m.
VISITORS ARE WELCOME.

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SOUTH AFRICAN NOTES

Hon. Associate Editor:
Dr. H. J. RAUBENHEIMER,
434 City Centre, Pretoria.

INVERTED RSA WATERMARKED PAPER

The first stamp issue on inverted RSA Watermarked paper was the Dutch Reformed Church 12½c stamp which made its appearance in October, 1965. With the exception of some sheets of the Red Cross 2½c and of the 1c S33 S13 stamps in 1963 which showed a reversed RSA watermark, all other issues on RSA have been normal, the printings have had the watermark either upright or facing right or left depending upon the format of the Sheets.

So, when stamps appear with the Watermark inverted, as these 12½c Church stamps did, the cause can generally be ascribed to one of these reasons:

(a) the watermark was inverted on the roll as received,

(b) the printing cylinders were inserted in the machine left to right, possibly by mistake,

(c) the paper had been reeled off the original roll on to another one, and that one used.

Following enquiries, we received the courtesy of the replies given below:

(a) this was not the cause, as no RSA watermarked paper has ever been received with the watermark inverted.

(b) Although this is now possible, this is also not the cause because firstly, all three cylinders would have had the same fate, a most unlikely coincidence, and, secondly, it has been established that the sheets came out normally into the receiving box, that is "head first" (the side with the cylinder numbers on the margin first).

(c) This turned out to be the case; it was inadvertently done, and what happened was this:

Smaller rolls of paper are usually kept in stock for special purposes, and they are made by reeling off larger rolls. They are used for "short runs," that is for small orders such as for these 12½c Church stamps, and special issues. In general, unwatermarked paper is reeled off in this way, but it is also done with watermarked paper to print roll stamps (which have, in any case, to be re-reeled later). To overcome the inverted watermark which would normally ensue, the cylinders can merely be inserted left to right, or the paper could be re-reeled before printing. We gather that printers always strive to have a watermark upright.

Another feature enters the picture here. Reeling off a large roll on to a smaller one is also done to provide narrower paper. The paper, as received, is wide enough to allow two panes or sheets to be printed side by side, hence the well-known A and B panes. But there are occasions when a single pane is to be printed, such as for the roll stamps, and here the paper is slit lengthwise while reeling off and so giving two separate narrower rolls.

So it came to pass that two rolls of RSA paper were reeled off on to two half length rolls and at the same time they were slit

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down the centre. The four rolls of half length, half width, inverted watermarked paper were then unfortunately placed among the other unwatermarked ones for future use.

From a philatelic point of view it was a bit of luck that at least one stamp did appear on inverted RSA paper. We are assured that only this paper was used for the 12½c D.R. Church stamp. Seeing that it was a short run we can be sure that there is quite a lot of this paper over. It would certainly be interesting to have more inverted RSA printings, but our guess is that that would be a vain hope. Another re-reeling would be quite simple. Anyway, the tip is, watch out for a single die issue with this watermark feature. The type of sheet number won't help much in identification. The numbers could be black or red or may be absent.

* * * *

NEW PERFORATORS FOR THE GOEBEL 840 MACHINE

When the 12½c Dutch Reformed Church stamps appeared in October, 1965, it was noticed that the two short sides, the top and bottom margins of the sheet, were perforated through. The stamps being tricoloured and the sheets having five-figure black sheet numbers showed that the Goebel 840 machine had been used for the printing.

It was obvious, therefore, that the sheets had not been perforated by the Grover appliance which leaves one of the short margins imperforate. (A description of this process, and the reason therefor, appear on page 234 of the November, 1965, issue of the S.A. Philatelist). Questions were put to the Government Printing Works, through the Philatelic Bureau, regarding this departure from the practice, since March 1963, of using the Grover for perforating the 840's sheets. The answers, much appreciated, threw more light upon this difficult process of perforation of stamps.

Notwithstanding the advantage of the higher speed of 840 without its perforator, there are important advantages in having an inbuilt perforator. In the first place. It is better for short runs, relatively small orders such as for this 12½c stamp; continuous web printing such as for rolls, and narrower paper than what the Grover requires can be used. In passing, this last feature will be appreciated by many philatelists; single pane issues (again as with this 12½c stamp), without the A and B designations are more likely to appear in the future—not so many twins to collect now.

Four new perforators for the 840 have recently arrived from Germany. There are two sizes, two of each, and they are of the single row comb type. The one size is for the 2½c stamp and for revenue stamps, and the other is for the 1c and special size stamps. For the special size stamps, this 12½c D.R.C. stamps is one, alternate rows of pins are removed and the stamp is twice the size of the 1c stamp. We understand that it was first used for the D.R.C. 12½c and the results are clear and excellent.

Measurements taken of the gauge show that the perforation is 14¾ x 14, horizontal x vertical, the stamps being in horizontal format.

CONGRESS

The 27th Congress of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa was held at Paarl, 12-14 October, 1965. Full minutes have been sent to Constituent Societies, only a summary being given here to deal with matters not already reported in these columns.

The **Minutes** of the 26th Congress held at Pretoria were confirmed with two small amendments, and matters arising out of the minutes, Organised School Philately and the Cancellation of stamps by the Post Office, were dealt with.

The **Executive Committee's** report comprised matters handled at its four meetings since last Congress and, in particular, stressed the fact that consideration be given to better attendance at meetings as there was a lack of liasion between the Executive and Societies.

A very lively discussion followed upon the advisability of rotating the venues for future executive meetings, no decision, however, being arrived at.

The **Expert Committee** reported a fairly quiet year and an appeal was made that more use be made of its services.

The committee was capable of dealing expeditiously with 85%-90% of the material it received, and is in the happy position to be able to look to oversea assistance concerning material which required further investigation.

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The **Philatelic Estates Committee** dealt with 14 enquiries during the year, the majority of which, unfortunately, concerned the valuation of collections which function does not fall within the province of the Committee.

It was decided that the Committee continue as an advisory body and not undertake the valuation of collections.

The **Publication Committee** had a very full and active year and its report upon its activities was adopted with acclamation, concerning which:

(1) **The Editorial Board** of the S.A. Philatelist was reconstructed due to the death of the Hon. Editor, Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie.

(2) **Libel Policy:** It was decided to reinstate the libel policy, which had lapsed, of the S.A. Philatelist as soon as possible.

(3) **Publication:** The action was confirmed and financial recognition extended to cover two publications which the Publication Committee had undertaken in connection with "The Inter-provincial Stamps Handbook" and the "Official Photographs of Union Essays ex the Archives of the Post Office."

Authority was given for the preparation and publication of a Simplified Handbook/Catalogue of South African stamps.

Recorded Lectures Committee: No report was submitted.

Finance: The Financial statements and Balance Sheets for the year ended 31/12/64, and also the Interim Financial Report for the year 1965 were presented and adopted.

It was noted with much pleasure that the finances of Federation were very healthy, and a vote of appreciation was extended to the Business Manager of the S.A. Philatelist and also to others, responsible for this happy state of affairs. Most of the publications sponsored by Federation had more than covered the expenditure on them, while a small loss on the S.A. Philatelist, due to its increased size from 20 to 24 pages, was budgeted for the current year.

Motions: Three were proposed:

(1) That "the choice of person to be nominated for President of Federation should not fall automatically on a representative of the Society acting as host to Congress that year," was withdrawn after lively discussion.

(2) That "the long and distinguished service to Federation by Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie be recognised by the establishement of an award called 'The J. H. Harvey Pirie Memorial Award,' was adopted with acclamation. The relevant and qualifying conditions for this award were determined.

(3) An amendment to the conditions for the award of the Skinner Cup, namely that "the cup shall not be awarded more than once to any one person," was adopted.

General:

(1) The acquisition and the loan to societies of Exhibition Frames by Federation were discussed and it was decided to refer the matter to the Executive Committee.

(2) The safe keeping of the Roll of Honour of Distinguished Philatelists was referred to the Executive Committee for action.

(3) The proposal that the retiring President be presented with a small facsimile of the Medallion of Office was also referred to the executive committee for consideration.

(4) The invitation to Federation to participate in the philatelic aspect of the Republican Festivities, 1966, was accepted.

Federation also agreed to support certain requests for special cancellors in connection with this function.

(5) Aspects pertaining to Congress Awards, the election of office bearers for 1966, and the arrangement for future Congresses have been reported in an earlier number.

Conclusion: Congress concluded upon a happy note by the presentation to Mrs. Combrink of a bouquet in appreciation of the excellent way she and her helpers had provided refreshments at our meetings, and also a vote of thanks to the retiring President, Mr. N. C. Combrink.

STOP PRESS

SIPEX COMMISSIONER

Mr. H. Suklje, P.O. Box 485, Benoni, has been appointed South African Commissioner to the Sixth International Philatelic Exhibition, to be held at Washington, U.S.A., during May, 1966.

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REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



A Philatelic Bureau exists in the Post Office in Pretoria to meet the special needs of stamp dealers and philatelists. Only stamps of the Republic of South Africa currently in use are on sale.

Orders for stamps should be addressed to the Philatelic Bureau, G.P.O., Pretoria, and must be accompanied by money orders, postal orders or bank drafts made payable to the Postmaster-General. Cheques are not accepted. The amount should be sufficient to cover postage and registration. Deposit accounts may be opened by overseas customers.

'n Filatelieburo bestaan in die poskantoor in Pretoria om in die spesiale behoeftes van seëlhandelaars en filateliste te voorsien. Slegs seëls van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika tans in gebruik word te koop aangebied.

Bestellings vir seëls moet geadresseer word aan die Filatelieburo, H.P.K., Pretoria, en moet vergesel gaan van poswissels, posorders of bankwissels, betaalbaar aan die Posmeester-generaal. Tjeks word nie aangeneem nie. Die bedrag moet voldoende wees om die pos- en registrasie gelde te dek. Deposito-rekenings kan deur oorsese kliënte geopen word.

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ADDRESS BY PROF. DR. G. J. J. SMIT AT OPENING OF THE NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION AT PAARL—13/10/1965

(Continued from Page 269, December, 1965, Number).

By this time **professional dealers** made their appearance. The Belgian Moens became a dealer in postage stamps by 1852. In England a young man, Stanley Gibbons, in Plymouth, began this trade in 1846, moving his thriving business to the Strand in London some twenty years later. In this connection it is interesting to relate the story of the great scoop Gibbins made in 1863 as stamp dealer for it is closely associated with South Africa. Gibbons was then a young man of twenty-three. One morning two sailors, passing by his shop, noticed the sheets of stamps for sale and inquired whether Gibbons would buy a kitbag full of used postage stamps which they had won in a raffle while ashore in Cape Town. They were delighted to accept £5 for the lot. The bag contained thousands of triangular Cape of Good Hopes, which had been designed by the Cape postmaster, Charles Bell. There were not only the penny brick-red and the four-penny deep-blue of the 1853 issue, but also copies of the 1855, 1861 and 1863 varieties. It was a fabulous treasure. By selling these stamps at prices varying between 1d. and 4s. each, Gibbons was able to make a profit of some £500. From that morning he was really in "the stamp business."

As stamp dealers appeared it was necessary also to compile **Catalogues.** The first known catalogue to appear was in Strassburg (Fr.) in 1869. This was followed by an English catalogue a year later.

It was only natural that stamp collectors should come together in order to study stamps and the best methods of arranging stamp collections. This movement originated in France where various **clubs were formed.** But it was not until 1869 (the year in which the Suez Canal was cut) that the first permanent club, **the Philatelic Society of London**, was founded. Later similar societies/bodies appeared in France, Germany and United States. By 1870 philately had been firmly established. The story of Philately is therefore a fascinating one: no wonder some speak of the **"Romance of the Postage Stamp."**

The development of philately in South Africa followed on similar lines.

(The remainder of the address is in Afrikaans which will be found under "Iets vir Almal").

TOPICAL COMMENTS

We, the present-day stamp collectors are very much in the same boat as our contemporary hitch-hikers. We want to get somewhere but we are never certain how we will get there. Despite assurances we set out waveringly, wondering whether we will reach our destinations, whether we will get there safely, unscathed. All things being fair and equal we should get home, but inevitably we face certain risks because we are apt to ignore premonitions.

Are we safe in the hands of our Samaritanian hosts? Are they sincere or are they reckless "sports?" Will we be delivered with a sincere "it's a pleasure," or will we be hijacked and dropped en route?

Far too often, we fear, the latter is the experience of the modern philatelic hitch-hiker. He is persuaded into the folds of our hobby and after enthusiastic consideration he sets off, far from confident, but prepared to give it a go with one of the "young" countries or a theme. Ere long he discovers that he had been taken for a ride and drops the issue unceremoniously, to his financial loss.

The modern trend among most stamp issuing authorities is to keep producing as long as the collector keeps apace. The lengths to which the producers are want to go certainly do not make for encouraging newcomers who strive at completion, whilst the old hands are brought to face the most difficult decision of continuing with a chosen subject, such as Olympics, Sports, Animals, etc. in the face of the ever increasing call on financial resources, or quitting and thereby possibly incurring financial loss and admitting that they fell victims to the ostentation of certain reckless "sports."

The "Black-blotting" efforts of the APS, FIP and AIJP, though well-meant and generally welcomed, were born to failure—in some quarters they even stimulated the collection of black-listed issues for they gave rise to a further "theme."

No, we do think that the present approach will not get us anywhere. There is no way out of the dilemmatics of the situation other than a heart to heart talk at a conference table. Nor will demanding insistence get the collectors anywhere. They must go to producers, cap in hand, if needs be, and state their case tactfully, diplomatically.

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Alternatively the collectors must keep to "a century of postage stamps" and be blowed to the rest!

* * * *

SOCIETY AFFAIRS

Why cannot visits to sister Societies and double or triangular meetings, be more in the nature of socials? The practice is to bring along masses of collections which leave time for nothing but the briefest scanning of the exhibits. Very often visits provide a means of meeting philatelic acquaintances once a year, but if such occasions are crammed with exhibits, "meeting" is hardly possible, particularly in small societies. The exchange of a few words with one of the hosts must under such circumstances needs be in rude undertones whilst the Chairman or some-one else does the necessary talking, or by a display of bad etiquette whilst an exhibit is on view. Both are common practice. Both are undesirable and have frequently caused embarrassment to the Chair and exhibitor alike. But have chairmen and committeemen ever given thought to the cause?

Our tryst with Germiston and Benoni at Germiston, on Wednesday last, amply proves our point. Three Societies, each to provide three exhibits; an auction, stamp news, announcements and a tea break, all for a normal two-hour meeting.

In the hope that the others would follow suit, we announced one exhibit only, namely Swiss airmails, first flights and miniature sheets by Member B. Seelig. A short paper and a very enthusiastic audience for a very good exhibit pushed the clock-hands to 9.15 p.m. Then followed a viewing rate which decidedly did the exhibitors an injustice; three good exhibits by Benoni (Mr. Botha with the first issues of the Union Animal Series and Mr. Weiner with Olympic Games and Israel). A hurried peep at one Germiston collection (Mr. Eihlers' Germany) and 10.20 p.m. called it a day for a fatigued group of stamp collectors, some of whom still had to face a long trip home. Need more be said?

For our part we prefer one nice exhibit accompanied by a short talk and for the rest of the evening free, fraternizing philately with friends whom we may not have the privilege of meeting for a whole year to come.

West Rand can take their cue from the foregoing when they return the compliment at our next meeting on Wednesday, 17th November.

POSTMARK NOTES

By D. Allison

In introducing this feature, which it is hoped will appear every quarter, I would like to say first that is not intended only for postmark collectors; I hope that many others will find it of interest. Furthermore, whatever topic I write about, my account will be incomplete, and very often downright fragmentary. I hope that readers of this column will be able to help me fill in the picture, and I shall welcome any correspondence, c/o the Editor.

"Transferred to Depot."

Very few collectors seem to be aware of the existence of the group of instructional markings I am about to describe. I know of three of them, all used in the Cape Peninsula; but probably there are many others.

To understand the first one, we must remember that the Post Office is a government department, and when a new rubber stamp is needed it takes a long time to get it. Because of this, one of the officials in the G.P.O. at Cape Town sometimes produces "home-made" rubber stamps; these may continue in use for many years. One of these, which I have on a cover posted on May 2nd, 1952, reads

T/FD
TO DEPOT

and measures 17 by 50 mm.; and, while it was reasonable to guess that this stood for "Transferred to Depot," the phrase did not convey anything to me. So I enquired about this, and as usual I found the postal officials very helpful. The story behind the mark is this: Some years ago, the delivery office in Sir Lowry Road, Cape Town, was opened, serving an area which had previously been served by the G.P.O. My cover was addressed to a firm in this area, but (perhaps because the street number was missing) the staff upstairs in the G.P.O. had sent it downstairs to the delivery office, instead of putting it in a bag for the Sir Lowry Road Depot. The delivery office had then sent my cover back upstairs, after applying the rubber stamp I have described so that the sorters would know what to do with it; the address was in the area which had been **transferred to** the Sir Lowry Road **Depot.**

I was further told that this rubber stamp had since been replaced by a "proper" one, but as I have no specimen of this I cannot describe it here.

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The third such stamp known to me is used at the Plumstead sorting office, and my specimen is on a cover with a Wynberg address. I understand that this address lies in the area transferred from the Rondebosch Depot to the Plumstead one when the latter was opened on 27th July, 1964; evidently it was soon transferred back again, for this cover carries a rubber handstamp

TRANSFERRED TO
RONDEBOSCH DEPOT.
OORGEDRA NA
RONDEBOSCH DEPOT.

in a rectangular frame, measuring 21 x 50 mm. It is backstamped Plumstead Depot II VI A 65 and Depot Rondebosch one day later.

Both my specimens are on registered envelopes; whether this is significant I do not know.

It would be interesting to hear of any other rubber stamps in this group, and especially of any used in other parts of the country.

Changes at Port Elizabeth.

When the "Get Home Safely" slogan appeared in 1962, nine towns, including Port Elizabeth, were each issued with one die bearing these words. Port Elizabeth has recently been supplied with two more. Both these new dies have much finer lettering than the original one. One of them has the English version first, and replaced the "Protect Our Wild Life" slogan between 6.00 17-X 1965 and 11.00 19-X 1965; however the latter came back into use quite soon, between 13.00 29-X 1965 and 11.00 1-XI 1965. I have only seen one specimen of the other new die, which has the Afrikaans wording first; it is on a Paid postmark dated 19-X 1965. Of course this postmark lacks the word PAID and its Afrikaans equivalent.

Developments in S.W.A.

It has previously been recorded that six offices in the territory were equipped with postmarking machines in 1961-2, the datestamps having the unilingual inscription S.W. AFRICA at the bottom; and that the last five letters of this inscription were removed from the Oranjemund datestamp in April or May, 1965, leaving only S.W.A., which of course was lopsided. (Compare "South African Philatelist," October, 1964, page 187; October, 1965, page 215). I want to add to this that the same change has occurred (in July or August, 1965) at Omaruru, and (when?) at Gobabis.

(Query: Are any handstamps still in use with this inscription, in its original form or otherwise? S.W.A. at the **centre** of the bottom is of course quite different).

Another town has been supplied with a machine: Otavi. The datestamp has the initials S.W.A. at the bottom and is used with seven interrupted wavy lines. The date is given in three lines; a typical example is 9-10 25-X 1965. The time 9-10 is the only one I have seen; it could mean ten minutes past nine, or it could (more likely?) follow an old German practice and mean the period from 9 to 10 a.m. In any case this way of expressing the time is most unusual and is without parallel, as far as I know, in S.A. and S.W.A. postmarks. The difference reflects, not the taste of the man who uses the machine, but a difference in the metal "plugs" provided from which the date is set up. Thanks to the kindness of the Postmaster at Otavi, I am able to report that the machine was first used on 14th September, 1965.

Watch Lydenburg!

As many readers will know (and I referred to it in the previous paragraph), the dates on our non-continuous machine postmarks are set up from loose plugs of type; one each for the hours, minutes, day, month, and year, with the stop before the minutes on the minutes plug and the hyphen before the month on the month plug.

In February, 1965, we had an unusual variety from Lydenburg; the -II plug was evidently lost and another one, reading FEB (the B is not clear) was used instead. The letters had serifs and looked most un-postmarklike, so much so that the thought occurred independently to two of us that the type might have been obtained from a local printer.

This variety has been recorded before; I mention it here because it will be interesting to watch and see what happens in February, 1966.

CORRECTION

(1) On Page 231, Column one, of the November Number, the word "most" above "Cylinder" should read "almost."

(2) On Page 231, Column one, line 1, the sentence of 5 lines commencing "The top and bottom margins . . . " is repeated.

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THE ½c IMPERFORATE SHEET



The Robertson Stamp Coy. (Pty.) Ltd., has drawn our attention to the existence of an imperforate complete sheet of the ½c Republic of South Africa stamps, a block of four of which is illustrated. The sheet was purchased over the counter of a Natal Post Office during the ordinary course of business in this condition, and this fact is supported by an affidavit (viewed) sworn to by the purchaser.

We understand that the sheet was unfortunately badly handled with the result that only about 30 superb blocks of four stamps could be taken from the sheet; further, that Messrs. Roberson & Coy. has also acquired a sheet of ½c stamps, the right hand margin of which was half doubly perforated, the two sets of perforations being clearly visible as the second set fell alongside the first set.

BIBLE EXHIBITION

The Cultural Department of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies intends holding a Bible Exhibition in the Duncan Hall, Johannesburg, during February, 1966, the date to be announced in Societies' News Letters.

A display of ancient manuscripts, Bible editions from the earliest times up to the present day and books on the Bible will be included among complementary exhibitions, including those, The Bible in Philately, of the late Mr. Bruwer of Krugersdorp, and Mrs. Colman of Greenside.

STOP PRESS

The Exhibition will be opened on Sunday evening, February 20th, and will last till Sunday evening, February 27th.

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DIE OOR- EN BYGEDRUKTE POSSEËLS VAN DIE KAAP DIE GOEIE HOOP

(Deur N. C. Combrink)

Vervolg van die vorige uitgawe.

Vryburg.

Op 24 November 1889 gedurende die Tweede Vryheids Oorlog, het die Boere die dorp Vryburg in besit geneem. Die volgende dag is die posverkeer in werking gestel, maar daar was geen Transvaalse posseëls beskikbaar nie. Die bevelvoerder van die Boeremagte het toe die Kaapse posseëls wat in die poskantoor nog in voorraad was, laat oordruk met die waarde van die seël plus die letters Z.A.R. Die waardes was ½d., 1d., 2d. en 2½d. met 'n totaal van 6,720 seëls so oorgedruk.

Die Republikeinse Regering in Pretoria het hierdie uitgawe nie goedgekeur nie en op 29 November, net vier dae na die seëls verskyn het, is 'n proklamasie uitgereik waarin die gebruik van hierdie seëls verbied word.

In die posseëlhandel is daar baie vervalsings van hierdie oordrukke, moontlik omdat die oordruk letters maklik bekombaar was. Versamelaars moet versigtig wees as hulle hierdie posseëls koop, die vervalsings is hoofsaaklik in die fyn besonderhede van die letters te bespeur.

Mafeking.

Die Kaapse posseëls wat tydens die beleëring van Mafeking in die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog gebruik is, het baie populêr geword. Daar was 'n groot saamtrek van Britse troepe te Mafeking en hierdie dorp was van 12 November 1899 tot 17 Mei 1900 deur die Republikeinse troepe beleër.

Om posverbinding met die buitewêreld te verkry het die Britte van naturelle gebruik gemaak om in die nag deur die Boere-linies te kruip en briewe uit te dra. Van posstukke wat versamel is word afgelei dat meeste van die pos noordwaarts na Bulawayo gegaan het. Met so 'n posdiens, was die tarief hoog, ½ oz. briewe was 11/- na Bulawayo en 6d. na Kimberley.

Behalwe posseëls van Brits Betsjoeanaland is daar ook Kaapse posseëls gebruik wat vir hierdie verhoogde postarief oorgedruk was. Die seëls was die 1893-1898 tipe, ontwerp, die staande figuur van Hoop met die anker en die volgende waardes is gebruik: 1d. op ½d. (twee tipes), 3d. op 1d., 6d. op 3d. en 1/- op 4d. Die oordruk het die nuwe waarde van die seël aangedui plus die woorde „Mafeking Besieged," en is plaaslik deur die drukkers Townsend and Son gedoen. Volgens Robson Lowe is 'n totaal van 21,240 posseëls oorgedruk.

Met die aankoop van hierdie seëls moet versamelaars ook baie versigtig wees want verskeie vervalsings is bekend. Die oordruk sowel as die stempel op gebruikte posseëls is nagemaak. Posseëls op koeverte is baie skaars en behaal hoë pryse op die posseëlmark.

Schweizer-Reneke.

Hierdie dorpie, 125 myl Suidwes van Pretoria, was vanaf 1 Augustus 1900 tot Januarie 1901 deur die Republiekeinse magte beleër.

Net na 19 Augustus het Kol. Chamier, die bevelvoerder van die Britte in die beleërde dorp, op al die posseëls wat by die twee handelaars, Stern en Tilbrook, te koop was,

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beslag gelê. Hy het ook opdrag gegee dat al die seëls met die woord „BESIEGED" oorgedruk moet word. 'n Rubber stempel is toe gemaak en Transvaalse en Kaapse posseëls is so oorgedruk. Die woord is in pers in die lengte van die seël en lees soms „op" en soms „af". Die oordrukstempel was altyd in die besit van die staf-offisier.

Net twee waardes van die Kaapse posseëls is gebruik, die ½d. en die 1d. van die 1893 uitgawe waarop Hoop met die anker staan. Die twee seëls is nogal skaarser as die Transvaalse vier waardes van ½d., 1d., 2d. en 6d.

In sy rapport van 20 Februarie 1901, sê Kol. Chamier dat 529 van die ½d. en 368 van die 1d. Kaapse seëls oorgedruk is. Hy noem ook dat vier van die ½d. waarde (die ou tipe) en vier van die 1d. (die tafelberg ontwerp) gebruik is, maar daar is geen opgawe van hulle in enige boek of katalogus nie. Saam met die Transvaalse posseëls, was daar 'n totaal van 3,996 seëls waarvan 3,500 deur die bemanning van die garnisoen opgekoop is vir pos na die buitewêreld.

Die Britte het die Republikeinse staalstempel van die poskantoor (Schweizer Reneke Z.A.R.) gebruik om al hul briewe te stempel. Die stempel was altyd in die besit en onder die toesig van Kol. Chamier. Die datums wat meeste voorkom is 11 en 13 September 1900, daarna het die posseëls begin opraak want aan die einde van September was die voorraad posseëls klaar en was daar geen ander uitgawe nie, alhoewel die beleëring tot 9 Januarie 1900 geduur het.

Die posseëls van Schweizer Reneke met die oordruk en stempel, word alleenlik in gebruikte vorm gevind.

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'N GROOT VOORRAAD
albums, katalogusse, bybehore
EN SEËLS
met die klem op Suid-Afrika en die Rhodesies.

KONGRESTOESPRAAK

Met die opening van die seëlversamelaarskonferensie te Paarl deur die Direkteur van Onderwys, Kaap, het prof. dr. G. J. J. Smit die eerste deel van sy toespraak in Engels gelewer en die tweede deel in Afrikaans. Die Engelse deel vind u elders in hierdie uitgawe. Hier volg die Afrikaanse deel:

Vandag het ons ook posseëlhandelaars en katalogusse, bestaan daar 'n **Filatelistiese Federasie van Suid-Afrika** met sy plaaslike takke, en word konferensies en uitstallings periodiek gehou soos dit die geval hier in die Paarl vandag is waar 'n **nasionale posseëltentoonstelling aangebied word.**

Hierdie keer is dit die beurt van die Paarlse Posseëlversamelaarsvereniging om as **gasheer vir die kongresgangers op te tree** en om die **uitstalling** te organiseer. Ons bring hulde aan mnr. Combrink en sy plaaslike bestuur vir die reuse taak wat hulle met soveel welslae aangepak het.

'n Kenmerk van hierdie tentoonstelling is die unieke versameling van die eerste essays van die **Unie se heel eerste posseëls** wat nou vir die eerste keer deur die posterye vertoon word. Daarbenewens vertoon die Nederlandse regering vyf panele van posseëls en die Verenigde Volke se kantoor te Geneve wel twee panele.

Dan bestaan daar ook inskrywings van alle dele van Suidelike Afrika (insluitend Rhodesië) in die **mededingende afdeling.** Nie minder as 72 inskrywings is ontvang nie. Dan is daar rame van versamelaars wat materiaal by wyse van uitnodiging tentoonstel. Om saam te vat: hierdie afdelings bevat nie minder as 4,000 blaaie met posseëls nie!

Hierdie uitstalling gee aan die gewone publiek inderdaad 'n duidelike beeld van die hoë peil wat seëlversameling werklik as 'n sistematiese wetenskap bereik het—ook in ons eie land.

Uit die prospektus merk ek op dat in die uitstalling daar ook 'n plek vir 'n **jeugafdeling ingeruim is.** Vir my is dit baie prysenswaardig en 'n bron van vreugde. Ek kan die versameling van posseëls by ons jeug nie sterk genoeg aanbeveel nie. Dit doen ek in die besonder om twee redes, nl. (a) vanweë sy **opvoedkundige** waarde, en (b) omrede sy **nut as 'n stokperdjie.** Graag sou ek op hierdie gedagtes verder wil uitgaan.

(Vervolg op bls. 15)

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Posseëlversameling as 'n aktiwiteit besit sonderlinge **opvoedkundige betekenis.** Vir diegene wet hul besig hou met die behoorlike rangskiking en klassifisering van seëls in 'n album gee die aktiwiteit deeglike oefening in presiesheid en netheid. Verder gee dit aan die kind die geleentheid om 'n verskeidenheid van seëls met fyn waarneming te betrag en daarvan meer te wete te kom na behoorlike raadpleging van die katalogus. Dit is gevolglik 'n aktiwiteit wat die kind se insig deeglik toets. Dit is navorsing op 'n betreklike hoë vlak. Hierdie soort werk stem ooreen met die behendige hantering van die woordeboek of 'n naslaanboek om spesifieke gegewens byeen te bring vir 'n bepaalde skooltaak. Hierdie soort werk toets ook selfbeheer, want dit stel hoë eise aan die kind se volharding en uithouvermoë.

Daarbenewens dien die versameling van posseëls as 'n besondere middel om die kind se belangstelling in geskiedenis en aardrykskunde te prikkel en om sy kennis op hierdie terreine uit te brei. Deur die hantering van posseëls bou hy 'n beeld op van die **politieke geskiedenis** van lande binne 'n besondere tydvak, want die afbeeldings van hul regeerders en volkshelde dui die hoogtepunte aan. 'n Versameling van posseëls kan ook aan die kind die staatkundige ontwikkeling van 'n land aantoon. Neem Suider-Afrika as voorbeeld. Die seëls vir die tydperk voor Unie vertel aan hom die verhaal van vier afsonderlike kolonies en state; die tydvak van 1910 weer die ontwikkelingsgang van Unie na republiekwording. Dit dui ook die verloop van sake in Suidwes-Afrika en Rhodesië aan. Die seëls dui ook spesiale feesvierings van historiese betekenis aan. Ek verwys hier in die besonder na die twee uitgifte op 21 Oktober ter ere van die N.G. Kerk se derde eeufees in Suid-Afrika.

Ten opsigte van die verbreding van aardrykskundige kennis sal die inplak van posseëls aan die kind 'n aanduiding gee van die bepaalde vasteland waarin die onderskeie lande geleë is. Verder sal die natuurtonele aandui besonderhede van 'n land ten opsigte van sy produkte, nywerhede, volketipes, besondere landvorme, e.s.m.

Ek weet persoonlik van etlike leerlinge wie se belangstelling dermate deur posseëls aangewakker is, dat hul lateraan aan die Universiteit in hierdie vakke uitgeblink het.

Posseël versameling kan tewens mens se algemene kennis verryk. Hier verwys ek in die besonder na die tematiese versamelings aangesien sulke seëls deesdae 'n wye terrein in oënskou neem soos bv. die kuns, argitektuur, godsdiens, lugvaart, sport, die dierelewe en die plantegroei van 'n bepaalde land. Die klagte bestaan vandag dat ons jeug se algemene kennis veel te wense oorlaat. Seëlversameling is egter 'n aantreklike middel om hierdie kennis voortdurend te bevorder. Dit is onteenseglik waar dat die versameling van posseëls veel van opvoedkundige waarde inhou.

Ons lewe in 'n tydperk waarin die jeug en ons volwassenes ook oor veel vrye tyd beskik. Hoe word hierdie tyd nuttig aangewend. Ek laat die klem op die woord „nuttig" val. Vryetydbesteding kan gewis nie net op sport en bioskoopvertonings toegespits word nie. Daar moet ook tyd beskikbaar gestel word vir geestesverryking. Naas die lees van die Goeie Boek is ek van oordeel dat die versameling van seëls 'n nuttige tydverdryf en interessante stokperdjie kan wees. Dit is die geheime weg tot vermaak want dit verskaf voldoening en plesier aan diegene wat hulle daarmee besig hou. Menige stille uurtjie smiddags of saans kan op so 'n wyse nuttig bestee word. Mag ons skole, vakonderwysers en ouerhuise hierdie stokperdjie met doelgerigtheid propageer.

Daarom stem ek heelhartig saam met die doelstelling van die Filatelistiese Vereniging by hierdie uitstalling wat soos volg gestel word: ‚Om aan die algemene publiek te toon wat wel versamel word en om meer belangstelling by diegene aan te moedig wat nie met hierdie stokperdjie bekend is nie."

Dit is met genoeë dat ek nou hierdie Nasionale Posseëluitstalling oop verklaar.

AFRIKAANSE FILATELISTEVERENIGING
Posbus 2272 — Johannesburg

Gereelde maandvergaderings uitstallings. veilings.
EEN VAN DIE BESTE RONDSENDINGS IN DIE LAND.
STERK LEDETAL.
BELANGSTELLENDES VERWELKOM.

DIE AFRIKAANSE PHILATELISTIESE VERENIGING VAN PRETORIA
Posbus 706

Vergaderings: Elke 4e Woensdag van die maand in kamer 48, Tegniese Kollege, Pretoria.
RONDSENDDIENS. NUUSBRIEF
Seëlverkope met elke vergadering.

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REVIEWS AND SHORT NOTICES

The Commonwealth Catalogue of Queen Elizabeth Stamps, published by The Commonwealth Stamp Coy., 7, Leather Lane, Liverpool, England. Price 12/6 (postage 1/- extra).

This 1966 edition, issued on 15th October, 1965, is 60 pages larger than the previous one, there being so much new material added. The whole work has been extremely well prepared, and whilst the greatest care has been taken to avoid the inclusion of the mere fly-speck type of variety, the work as a whole reveals how Commonwealth stamps of the present reign, have something for every type of collector.

"South Africa" is included under an introductory remark to the effect that although South Africa became a Republic, leaving the Commonwealth on 31st May, 1961, listing is continued for the convenience of collectors. These issues are grouped under four headings, Definitive, Special Issues (Commemorative), Official and Postage Due Stamps. Varieties are included, some being clearly illustrated by miniature sketches, and prices are realistic, three of which are of special interest.

No. 109, 10c Sepia brown and Emerald green, 1/9d. mint, 6d. used.

No. S 77b, "Red Cross" omitted, £175 mint.

No. S 78b, The Transkei Stamp, Green omitted, £120 mint.

All other countries have also been carefully edited, and all round a tremendous amount of study has gone into this new edition, resulting in a publication worthy of the attention of all collectors of the postage stamps of the Queen Elizabeth period.

ISRAEL TO STAGE AN INTERNATIONAL

An International Philatelic Exhibition is to be held in Israel in 1968, either in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem. Precise dates have not yet been fixed, but the most likely month is May.

The Exhibition will be organised by the Fédération des Sociétés Philatéliques d'Israel, of which the present chairman is Dr. M. Vigodski. We understand it is to be accorded the patronage of the F.I.P.—(Acknowledgment to The Philatelic Trader).

NEW ISSUES



A special issue of Silver Postage Stamps was made on the 20th November, 1965, by the Post Office at Umm Al Qiwain in commemoration of the Arabian Gul Area Monetary Conference.

The series consists of six round stamps, one of which is illustrated, and they are heavy die-embossed replicas in silver foil, with special security backing. The portrait of His Excellency, the Ruler of Umm Al Qiwain appears on the obverse, an inscription in decorative Arabic lettering on the reverse, and the borders of the stamps are in two brilliant colours.

The total face value of the complete series of six denominations is the equivalent of 17s. sterling.

* * * *

Burundi made an airmail issue depicting gold coins on the 15th November, 1965. The series consists of eight postage stamps, one of which is illustrated, and each stamp is a heavy die-embossed replica of the actual coins which show His Majesy, the King of Burundi and the Coat of Arms of Burundi, encircled by a decorative multi-coloured border showing animals of Burundi which are also die-embossed in gold.

I AM EXTENDING

my field of activities to include the Cape, Natal, O.F.S., O.R.C., Transvaal, Z.A.R., German South West Africa, besides Union/Republic and S.W.A.

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and hope to sell such material and to hold postal auctions for which lots are now welcomed.

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(V) P.T.S.,

"The South African Specialist"

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AUSTRALIAN DECIMAL CURRENCY STAMPS

Twenty-two denominations of decimal currency postage stamps will be on sale at all post offices in Australia on "C" Day—14th February, 1966.

The complete range of denominations will be 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c, 6c, 7c, 8c, 9c, 10c, 13c, 15c, 20c, 24c, 25c, 30c, 40c, 50c, 75c, $1, $2 and $4.

Eight new designs will be introduced, and existing designs will be continued for some stamps where the decimal currency value is the same as the present value. In accordance with the decimal concept, all engraved stamps will be in sheets of 100 (10 x 10); photogravure stamps will be in sheets of 50 initially, but will eventually appear in sheets of 100 also.

Booklets of decimal stamps will contain fifteen 4c stamps and will sell at 60c each.

Collectors and dealers are advised that the Australian Post Office will withdraw from sale all postage stamps and postal stationery with values in £.s.d. currency immediately prior to the introduction of decimal currency stamps on 14th February, 1966. The stamps to be withdrawn will comprise not only the Australian £.s.d. series but also the similar series of Australian Antarctic Territory, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Nauru, Norfolk Island and Papua and New Guinea.

Orders for stamps of any of the £.s.d. series received after 12th February, 1966, cannot be met, and orders should preferably be lodged well before that date.

The forthcoming currency change in Australia is: The new Australian dollar will be equivalent to ten shillings, thus 10/-=$1, £1=$2, 1/-=10c, 2/-=20c and so on. However, as 1c=1.2d., there will not be exact decimal equivalents for some amounts expressed in pence.—(Acknowledgment to the Australian Bulletin).

* * * *

The Australian Postmaster-General's Department has announced:—

(1) The details—design, format, shades, the artists and the printing process—of the new decimal currency postage stamps; also the particulars of the relevant postal stationery.

(2) Details of the 5d. Christmas Stamp, to be issued on October 20, which will remain on sale for about nine weeks, and also those of the 10d. Christmas Aerogramme, to be issued on November 24, which will be on sale for about four weeks.

THE ADLAI STEVENSON POSTAGE STAMP

The 5c Adlai Stevenson memorial stamp was issued on October 23 with ceremonies in Bloomington, Illnois, where the ambassador to the UN grew up and is buried.

The vertical format stamp is prepared by lithography and intaglio printing and is composed of two interlockive triangles—one blue, one black—against a white background. Inset in the blue rectangle to the left is the UN wreath, in white. The black rectangle contains a Stevenson portrait and beneath the portrait are red, white and blue bars.

The stamp is designed by George Samerjan, New York artist, who in 1959 designed the Arctic Exploration Commemorative stamp.

THE UNITED POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

A brochure has been received from the above named society which states that the Society is the largest world-wide organisation for collectors of Post Cards, Aerogrammes, stamped envelopes, wrappers and material of that nature, and offers its membership to those similarly interested. Many side benefits available such as a directory of members, bimonthly magazines, sales department, philatelic library, exhibition awards and study units.

The annual membership fee is $4.00, and application may be made to Gordon C. Morrison, 120 Klink Road, Rochester, New York 14625.

RUN ON BRITAIN'S CHURCHILL STAMPS

London.—Income from the 159-million stamps issued by the British General Post Office in commemoration of Sir Winston Churchill, is expected to establish a record owing to the large number of collectors buying them for purely philatelic reasons.

A Japanese philatelist flew to Britain spe-

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cially to buy R60,000 worth of the Churchill stamps.

The Post Office has established a special philatelic bureau which in the last 18 months has increased its staff to 100.—(SAPA).

THE AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH

(Paper read by W. Kriste to the Pretoria Society, June, 1965).

On 1st January, 1901, the States of New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia, combined to make a Commonwealth of Australia, and from that date onwards, the Commonwealth of Australia can be considered as being a separate country as far as philatelists are concerned.

At the date of the proclamation each of the above mentioned States was a separate stamp issuing country and each continued to issue their own stamps until early in 1913, that is over twelve years later, when the Kangaroo issues of the Commonwealth appeared and the separate issues of each State ceased. This lengthy period, between the Federation of the States and the issue of a definite issue, was due in the first instance to a clause in the Commonwealth Post and Telegraph Act, which provided that for a period of ten years the Post Office Department of each individual State continued to keep its own accounts, returning to the Federal Government, three quarters only of its annual revenue. Delays subsequent to the expiration of this period were due in the main to political causes, resulting in changes in the Ministry.

It has been contended, not without reason, that all stamps which appeared in the Australian States between the date when the Commonwealth Post and Telegraph Act came into force (i.e. 1st November, 1902) and the first definitive Commonwealth issue in 1913, should come under the category of Australian issues. The chief argument in favour of this theory is, that from this date, the denominations of postage stamps, current in the various States, were standardised; postage stamps were no longer put to fiscal use; and the various issues were thenceforth all to be produced in Australia itself. Had these issues been overprinted at the time of Federation with the word "Australia" or the letters "C.A." as was suggested at the time, there is no doubt that they would have been listed under the heading of Australia in all catalogues. So they were not overprinted, but the fact that they were recognised and made available for postage throughout the Commonwealth surely does give them the same status. However, since each State retained its own distinctive designs, all catalogues definitely consider these transitional issues under their respective States. Maybe this was done by the Editors of Stamp Catalogues as a matter of convenience and in order to save philatelists from the confusion which must arise in their minds if they find stamps inscribed Queensland listed under both Queensland and Australia.

But to get back to the point. Let us consider that Commonwealth Stamp issues commenced at the time of Federation and that they should now be added to the beginning of each Australian collection, those States' issues that were on issue at the date of Federation and those that were issued since then up to the time of the first definitive issue, it will be found that this will add over 400 stamps to the 250 odd Australians listed by Gibbons. This then would make a true representative collection of the Commonwealth of Australia.

(To be continued)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,—May I, through the columns of your magazine, say thank you to the many who have written to me saying that they found my recent story in your magazine was to their enjoyment.

Yours faithfully,

C. E. SHERWOOD.

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(3½c per word per insertion with a minimum of 40c per insertion)

WANTED: NATAL: Pairs, strips and blocks of the 1869 issue. Also 1902 £5, £10 and £20 mint. Also RHODESIA 1898—£20 mint. Douglas Roth, Mona Crescent, Newlands, Cape.

IF STAMPS OF.—Germany, Austria and other Western European countries are wanted, first try us.—S.A. STAMP CENTRE P.O. Box 6891, Johannesburg. Telephone 22-1391. (Want lists invited).

ANGLO-BOER WAR PHILATELIC SOCIETY, quarterly magazine with exchange packet in U K. Subscription R1.00 (10/-) yearly. Secretary, J. H. Rathbone, "Allways", Rudheath, Northwich, Cheshire, U.K.

FOR WORLD STAMP NEWS, market commentary, new issues, postmark studies, book reviews, etc., etc. Read the "PHILATELIC MAGAZINE," published every two weeks by Harris Publications Ltd., of London. Annual sub. R2-25 (£1.2.6). Agent in South Africa: D. C. D. Castle, 174 Cooper Street, Greytown, Natal.

COLLECTIONS WANTED for immediate cash settlement: Large or small, specialised or general. Top prices paid for popular sets and rare issues in fine condition.—ELIEZER BLUM, P.O. Box 1669, Cape Town. (Established in Cape Town since 1930).

TRISTAN DA CUNHA, GOUGH ISLAND, PAQUEBOT covers a speciality; S.A.N.A.E. and Marion Island multiple postmark covers. BOK PHILATELISTS, P.O. Box 3321, Cape Town.

WE SUPPLY.—Printed albums of all popular countries; various makes of stock books and philatelic accessories.—S. A. STAMP CENTRE, P.O. Box 6891, Johannesburg. Telephone 22-1391.

1840-1900.—If you want good stamps of this period, then write to DOUGLAS ROTH, Mona Crescent, Newlands, Cape.

ARE YOU SURE you have all the back numbers of the South African Philatelist you should have? Ask for a schedule of the numbers still obtainable. 10c each. P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg

GERMAN SOUTH WEST AFRICA: Wanted early forerunners on cover or on piece, or any other items of interest. Top prices paid. L. ABRAMS, P.O. Box 7875, Johannesburg. Telephone: Office 22-1630; home 45-4075.

WANTED FOR CASH ! ! ! Southern African T.P.O.'s, Sea Post and Paquetbot markings on cover or on piece. Offers to J. M. Weinstein, P.O. Box 419, Pretoria.

MICHEL CATALOGUES: Germany 1966 R1-05 (from August 1965); Europe 1966 R4-20 (from October 1965); Übersee (non-European countries) volume I and II, R5-60 each ex stock; volume III R5-60 (from September 1965). All prices excluding postage.—S.A. Stamp Centre. P.O. Box 6891, Johannesburg. Phone 22-1391.

ZULULAND also BANGKOK. Wanted for cash — everything and anything. M. M. Wood, P.O. Box 210, Johannesburg.

ROUMANIA: 1965 Reptiles; 10 colourful, large stamps, complete 45c. Sydney's Stamp Service, P.O. Box 5046, Benoni South.

South African Collectors' Society for the Union Collector—magazine, exchange packet. Subscription 15/- ($2) year. Write Hon. Secretary, W. A. Page, 138 Chastilian Road Dartford, Kent, England.

LATVIA (Lettland; Lettonie) out of the way items and bulk common stamps wanted.—J. Michelson, P.O. Box 9314, Johannesburg.

UNIONS WANTED. — Anything unusual in hyphenated Rotos.—E. Walker, P.O. Box 2388, Pretoria.

WANTED.—Accumulations, Collections, Office Lots on and off paper. Turn those odd boxes of philatelic "junk" into cash, or exchange it with us for stamps, albums or accessories that you need.—ROBEMARK PHILATELISTS (PTY.) LTD., 21 Joubert Street, Johannesburg, Box 11419.

SIMENHOFF BOOKLET.—The Occupational Postmarks of the Mandated Territory of South West Africa by Capt. L. Simenhoff; the series as run in The South African Philatelist, in booklet form (24 pages). Price 30c post free.—Philatelic Federation, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

U.S.A. SPECIALIST requires singles, blocks covers, cancellations. A. R. Kleiner, 23 Cadogan Gardens, London S.W. 3, England.

LISTS of general interest free on request. —UNION STAMP CO., Barbican Building, President and Rissik, Johannesburg. (P.O. Box 10225), Telephone 838-5879.

THEMATIC CENTRE.—Nice range of thematics decimal overprints, air mails, Sputniks, British and Foreign stamps. Write for approvals. (Collections wanted for cash).—CROCKETT'S STAMP SHOP, 5 Glencairn Buildings, Joubert Street, (opposite Oppenheimer Gardens), Johannesburg.

MOZAMBIQUE Pre-stamp Covers urgently wanted. Varieties also required.—B. Glassman, P.O. Box 10, Johannesburg.

URGENTLY DESIRED! ! Four regular one-eighth page advertisers. Apply to Business Manager, South African Philatelist, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

U.S.A.: I will Buy U.S.A. Collections, Sets, Accumulations, etc. Everything up to 1935. — SUKLJE, BENONI STAMP SHOP, P.O. Box 485, Benoni.

WANTED: Cape, Natal, O.F.S., O.R.C., Transvaal Z.A.R. Union/Republic, S.W.A., German S.W. Africa, preferably postal history. —C. E. SHERWOOD (V), P.T.S., 105 Marford Crescent, Sale, Cheshire, U.K.

IRAQ, JORDAN, LEBANON, SYRIA: Fine used recent issues wanted.—W. Lambert, P.O. Box 1138, Johannesburg.

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50 G.B. 40c; 50 U.S.A. 60; 100 MIXED STAMPS R1. Try our 14 Day Approvals Service. — E. F. C. Townsend, 92 Tenby Road, Edgeware, Middelsex, England.

WANTED: South African aeroplane photo's from 1911 onwards, to date; also some old photo's of historic flights and famous pilots. J. Hammond, 66b High Road, East Finchley, London N. 2, England.

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SOCIETY NEWS

CAPE TOWN PALESTINE-ISRAEL PHILATELY

September: Mrs. H. Jeidel exhibited an interesting display of the 1948 Festival Issue and based her talk on the "Flying Scroll." The display was highly praised and greatly appreciated by those present.

October: A display and talk was provided by Adv. Sam Aaron on the Pictorial Issues of the Palestine Mandate. As usual he unearthed some interesting facts and possibilities.

At the request of members the exhibitor then showed his recent prize winning display of a "Study of the Panes and Printings of the Stamps of Israel."

A most enjoyable evening.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL

The **October meeting** was very well attended, there being 42 members and visitors present. The highlight of the evening was the exhibits produced for "Beginners Night." Three entries were received, namely Germany by Mr. Braun, Sierra Leone by Mr. Goote and Belgian Congo by Mrs. Reinecke. All members present were given judging slips, and eventually voted Mr. Braun's Germany into first place. Your exhibit was a worthy winner, Mr. Braun, and I am sure that once the collection has grown a bit, we will be seeing it again, competing for the Winde Cup.

AEROPHILATELIC SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

The 6th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at the Town Hall, Paarl, Cape, on the **12th October, 1965,** there being seven members present out of a total of 22.

Bulletins: As usual these, together with FISA publications and notices, were issued periodically. Due to increase in new overseas members, a separate overseas listing is now sent. Circulation is being made more rapidly by members.

Covers: This has been a fruitful period in that it was possible to get the pictorial aerogrammes of Rhodesia, and the new aerogramme of S.W.A., as well as covers of the first direct mail by S.A.A. to Madrid, demonstration flight over Cape Town by S.A.A. Boeing 727 (your secretary was passenger), first flights of the S.A.A. Boeing 727 and Round the World Boeing 727 Flight for distribution.

Subscriptions: The increase in annual subscription agreed to last year has resulted in a reduction of deficit as shown in the Balance Sheet. The Society is giving a very full value to members in covers, etc. An expense of R10 was for advertising in the S.A. Philatelist, which is not being renewed.

Society Badge: Permission was given to the Hon. Secretary/Treasurer to proceed with obtaining a badge for the Society. The rough design was tabled by Capt. M. F. Stern and his design approved.

Publications: After being told that Federation would publish Capt. Stern's "The Airmails of South Africa and S.W.A.," this was withdrawn but representation is being made to get Federation to publish the continuation of Wyndham's book to bring it up-to-date. However, The American Airmail Society is publishing in instalments a concise record in their Journal. During the year, a pigeon message sent during the Boer War was discovered by Mr. Burrell and created quite a stir.

General: Your Hon. Secretary has been invited to act on the Advisory Board for AEROPEX 66—the International Aerophilatelic Exhibition to be held in New York under the auspices of FISA. Brochures will be sent to members and it is hoped S.A. Airmails will be exhibited. Thanks again to Mr. I. H. C. Godfrey for attending the Federation Executive regularly during the year.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

September: We were treated to a slide show given by Mr. Jack Burrell, complete with a tape recorded lecture, on the printing of South African stamps. This consisted of a photographic tour of the Government Printing Works in Pretoria and one was taken all the way from the actual preparing of the paper rolls, to all the photographic processes used to make up the printing cylinders. Then on to the various printing machines and the actual stages in the printing of the stamps themselves and, of course, their perforating with what seemed to be endless rolls of stamps. A fascinating and well laid out photographic lecture.

Mr. Burrell followed this up with a small exhibit of some of the stamps that should not have been released in the normal course of events. Among these were joined papers, partial printings of one or all colours, fade out of colours, interrupted printings, and partial printings caused by foreign particles falling on the paper at the time of printing and receiving the inking intended for the stamp surface beneath it—this being shown on examples of the 20c and 50c values. A really fascinating display which must have made all South African collectors very envious indeed!

October: The first meeting this month started once again with Oppie reiterating his advice to climb into the European coun-

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tries and stressing the great catalogue mark-ups evident in this field. He also showed a couple of first day covers to the meeting. After this the meeting broke up into the now familiar pattern of little clumps of people busily buying and selling—a definite "bargain price" atmosphere prevailed, a session enjoyed by all.

THE O.F.S. PHILATELIC SOCIETY

September: There was a fair turn-out to see Dr. S. W. Nolte's exhibit consisting of covers of Union and the Republic. There was an excellent selection which included many rare and interesting items. There was an early flight cover autographed by A. Miller and a F.D.C. with a pair of the 6d. London prints. F.D.C.'s of all the commemoratives (except the K.G. V Jubilee) were displayed, as well as exceptional selection of cancellations. Here the 1938 Voortrekker cancellations were very extensive.

Mr. A. H. Scott displayed yet another portion of his French collection, mounted in the special French album—the period 1849-1950. This selection had not been shown before because of gaps in the earlier issues. Members enjoyed this fine showing of a popular European country, which included many fine items, both mint and used.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

Oct. 13th: The members met at the Paarl exhibition and an enjoyable evening was had by all. Our congratulations are extended to those members who received awards. The senior of whom were:—

Unipex Award and Gold: Mr. R. Jeidel—"Egypt."

Silver-Gilt: Mrs. R. Jeidel—"Belgian Congo;" Mr. S. Kaganson—"Switzerland."

Thematic:

A.T.A. Award and Silver-Gilt: Mrs. V. R. Coe—"The Horse Show."

Silver-Gilt: Mr. H. Beinart — "Olympic Games."

Oct. 28th. For this evening two of our lady members tabled exhibits. Mrs. R. Jeidel her "Israel" collection that had previously been shown at Paarl, Mrs. Jeidel read a most interesting paper on her subject.

Another Paarl exhibit was shown when Mrs. J. Wannerton tabled her collection of "Greece." Mr. R. Putzel proposed and Dr. H. Gottschalk seconded the votes of thanks.

AFRIKAANSE FILATELISTEVERENIGING

Oktober: Ons is nie so seker of ons lede heeltemal tevrede is met ons proefnemende driehoekige vergadering met Benoni en Germiston op Germiston op Woensdag 20 deser nie.

'n Stelling wat ons al dikwels gemaak het is weer eens bewys en dit is dat 'n byeenkoms nie met seëlvertoon oorskadu moet word nie. Die gasvereniging (Germiston) het ons en Benoni gevra om elk drie versamelings te vertoon terwyl hulle ook drie sou voorsien. Die gedagte is skynbaar om mekaar te probeer oortref. Dit is nie nodig om te sê dat nege uitstallings in die bestek van twee uur, plus roetine sake nie moontlik is nie. Ons het verseg om met drie uitstallings te gaan spog. Pleks daarvan het ons slegs 'n groterige versameling, lid B. Seelig se Switserse lugpos, eerstevlug en blokvelletjies, saamgeneem. Lid Seelig is eerste aan die beurt gestel en teen die tyd dat sy uitstalling deur die aanwesiges bewonder is, was dit kwart oor nege. Daarna het Benoni aan die beurt gekom met drie groterige versamelings (mnr. Botha met die eerste uitgawes van die Unie se dierereeks, mnr. Weiner met Olimpiese Spele gevolg deur sy Israel—almal oulike versamelings wat weens tydgebrek nie tot hulle reg kon kom nie). Toe Germiston se eerste versameling uitkom was almal al lusteloos en is die vergadering om 10.20 nm. afgesluit (20 minute later as gewoonlik), sonder dat die ander versamelings gewys is. Sprake van „kuier" was daar nie en het die oormaat van seëls die hele doel van die byeenkoms verydel.

Ons was tien en die ander twee verenigings ook omtrent soveel elk. Ons tien het bestaan uit sewe bestuurslede, twee lede en 'n besoekster. Die ander lede het blykbaar die geleentheid gebruik om vakansie te hou met die gevolg dat ons beskikbare vervoer te veel was en twee leë motors op ons terugkeer by die Biblioteekgebou vir ons moes wag.

Intussen is ons bevoorreg om die volgende ses persone mee te deel dat hulle nou volwaardige lede is: mev. L. du Plessis, mej. T. Geerling, mev. T. Haar, mev. P. J. Teunissen-Van Manen, mnr. J. A. Bakker en mnr. C. Matull. Hartlik welkom aan hulle almal. Die drie dames uit Johannesburg kan gerus gereeld vergaderings toe kom—geen gevaar dat hulle ingespan sal word om tee te maak nie, want die goeie mense van die biblioteek sorg reeds daarvoor.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF RHODESIA

October: Mrs. Wallace is always certain to provide something interesting and entertaining. Her collection of New Zealand, Q.E. II, a very comprehensive collection with nearly all the known varieties (and some that were not known) was worthy of the attention it invoked. Modern New Zealand stamps, with the exception of the Arms type of 1948-53, are colourful and attractive to collect, and not difficult to obtain.

At the Committee Meeting held recently, a very pleasant, yet sorrowful little ceremony took place—a presentation was made

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to Mr. "Ted" Finch, who leaves at the end of this month on promotion to Salisbury. I am sure the sentiments of all members were expressed when, as a token of sincere appreciation for his interest in the Society and its members and the work he has done for all, he was handed a silver salver, suitably inscribed, and wished God Speed and every success in the future. We look forward to seeing him again if and when he visits Bulawayo.

Our Chairman, Mr. Strong, is at present visiting the U.K. Apart from his official business, we understand that he has a very full philatelic programme, visiting the "Royal," the Rhodesian Study Circle and so on. Prior to his departure, he attended Congress, about which we shall hear more in due course. We understand that his collection of Rhodesia, and Mr. Creewel's "Danish Locals,' both won high awards at the Paarl Exhibition.

May 2nd, 1966—"D" day for RHOPEX, is only six months hence. The organisation is proceeding apace (there is no call yet for your services) but in the meantime you can help to swell the coffers. There is never enough time for that, and invariably never sufficient in the kitty. If you can do so, and despite what has been said, bring any surplus material to the Auction—and above all, bid freely.

Seeing is believing! We have often read of these "finds" of missing colours, etc., but now we have seen one. The 1/- Rhodesian current issue, recently reported in the Press after its sale in London, was on view at our August Meeting. Incredible, but there it was —question asked: "How did it happen" and "How did it get out?"

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

October 12: The display on the evening of 12th October, 1965, was by Mr. John Aldis, the first part of which was of the stamps of Great Britain which have been issued during the last few months, commencing with the Churchill issue.

This was followed by some of the more recent issues of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland and a selection from a number of different countries forming part of the British Commonwealth.

Before displaying the stamps, Mr. Aldis gave us an illuminating talk on the items he was going to show us. The stamps were well arranged, all being in excellent condition. The used copies were lightly cancelled and many of the items shown were in blocks of four.

October 26: The meeting held on 26th October, 1965, commenced with a report by the President on the proceedings at the recent Congress and Exhibition at Paarl.

Master S. Bergman then gave us a display of the stamps of South Africa, followed by a small number of sheets of items from the British Commonwealth.

The South African section commenced with the Queen Elizabeth Coronation stamp and continued right up to the latest issues. Many of these were plate blocks and included a number of varieties, while there were also some most interesting covers.

The stamps of the British Commonwealth consisted mainly of the latest issues and a few of the obsolete definitive sets. The display was very fine and it is most encouraging to be shown such an excellent exhibit by one of our junior members.

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY

November: The members paid a visit to the Bellville Society. Exhibits shown were: Mrs. H. Rozwadowski — "Flowers", Mrs. J. Wannerton—"S.A. Postmarks", Mr. M. Rozwadowski — "Poland", Mr. A. Singels — "Netherlands", Mr. C. B. Rowe—"New Zealand", Mr. J. Wannerton—"Newfoundland."

SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELY

October: Mr. S. Wachenheimer presented his magnificent display of Olympic Games 1964, and read a paper bearing on the exhibit. He was thanked, on behalf of those present, by Mr. Daniels.

The interesting factor that emerged from the display was the multifarious issues that found the light of day. Countries that did not even participate in either the Winter or Summer Games saw the opportunity of using the Olympic Games as a Philatelic money spinner. No less than 80 countries issued Olympic stamps. The varieties of mint sheets, rouletted, perforated, large or small, stamps and covers must place any serious thematic collector of Olympics in a quandary. Surely it seems reasonable that only countries that actively participate in the Games should issue stamps?

A Warning to Philatelists: Great care should be exercised when purchasing early issues of Israel. Due to the fact that large quantities of early issues were not properly housed, they went "rusty." Unscrupulous persons are now "regumming" them and selling them at fabulous prices. In cases of the Doar Ivri stamps without tabs are being "doctored" and having tabs attached.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

October: The Society acted as host at its Annual Triangular Meeting to the Afrikaans Society of Johannesburg and the East Rand Philatelic Society of Benoni, there being 35 members and visitors present.

Displays: The exhibits which went on view were as follows: Mr. Seelig (Afrikaans Society)—Switzerland, Mr. Wainer (East Rand Society)—Olympics, Mr. Botha (East Rand

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Society)—1st Printing of the 3rd Definitive Issue of the Union, Mr. Wainer (East Rand Society)—Israel, Mr. Eilers (Germiston Society)—Germany.

A composite vote of thanks was put forward by the Vice-Chairman who presided, to all those who exhibited.

November: Sixteen members of the Germiston Philatelic Society were present at the meeting held on the 17th November, 1965, at the new venue for all future Society meetings, in the N.C.P. Tennis Clubhouse at Delville. Two collections were on display that evening, the first, an extensive collection of the stamps of Japan, including a number of First Flight covers and Commemorative covers, very well displayed by Mr. J. Bogner. Thanks to the exhibitor were given by the Vice-President of the Society, Mr. F. E. Drake. The second exhibit was provided by Mr. S. J. Hagger; an un-used collection of the Postage-Dues of South Africa, commonly called "Labels." There were 42 pages in all, divided up into groups with the three varieties shown in each group, such as, varieties in the figures, varieties in the frames and lastly non-recurring varieties. Thanks to Mr. S. J. Hagger for displaying this collection which had very recently been on show at the Paarl Stamp Exhibition, were conveyed by Mr. H. J. Suklje. The President, Mr. R. G. L. Mephius, asked that all members do their best to attend the December meeting of the Society as this meeting would be more in the line of a social, to which all members' wives were cordially invited to be present.

THEMATIC STAMP CLUB

October 25: There was no meeting on October 11 but members went over to the Paarl Stamp Exhibition to see the exhibits there. On October 25 however at the usual meeting, Mr. H. M. Scott showed her pleasing collection, "Birds of the World." This has been added to since last shown and rewritten. —(M.F.S.).

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

November: Thirty-six members and visitors attended the meeting at which the Lecky Watson Trophy competition was held. The competing exhibits were: Nyasaland Postal History and Stamps, 1891-1963, Mr. Reynders; The First Three Issues of the Netherlands, 1832-1862, Mr. J. Slagt; Old German States, 1849-1923, Mr. Schliben; and Historic Philatelic Documents of the Vatican City 1965, Miss van Heerde.

The three judges had by no means an easy task in selecting the winner and after much consideration awarded the trophy to Mr. Reynders for his collection of Nyasaland, this being the second occasion that Mr. Reynders has had the honour of winning this outstanding award.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

November: At a well attended meeting Dr. J. Sherel exhibited his Thematic Collection of "Man's Conquest of Space" which included, among other items, miniature sheets, stamps and photographs and stamps and sheets both perforated and imperforate. Issues covering the subject were mainly from the Communist countries while all famous astronauts, both Russian and American, were also honoured on the stamps. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the exhibitor for a very interesting evening's entertainment.

Members of the Society paid an official visit to the East Rand Philatelic Society earlier this month taking over with them four collections consisting of Dr. Sherel's Space collection, John van Eyk's Ghana, Manfred Weinstein's Aden postmarks and Cas' collection of surcharges and overprints. An excellent evening was spent by all.

The Society regrets to record the deaths of Mr. Ray Dickson and Mr. L. B. McLachlan, the latter a foundation member of the Society, the first Exchange Superintendent and a one-time chairman.

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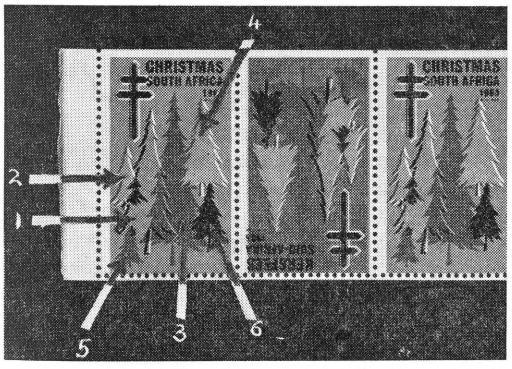
SOUTH AFRICAN NOTES

Hon. Associate Editor:
Dr. H. J. RAUBENHEIMER,
434 City Centre, Pretoria.

THE 1965 CHRISTMAS SEALS

Design.

Six "Christmas trees" with the Cross of Lorraine in the top left corner and the inscription in the top right corner, unilingual, either "CHRISTMAS SOUTH AFRICA 1965" or "KERSFEES SUID-AFRIKA 1965."



Colours.

Background panels: Yellow for the English and orange for the Afrikaans seals; inscription in black; trees, as numbered in our illustration: 1 and 4 blue, 2 magenta, 3 and 5 green, 6 vermilion; the cross vermilion.

Format.

In booklets only of 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, R1 and R2, the seals being 1c each. The pages consist of a horizontal strip of 5 seals in tête-bêche arrangement Afrikaans and English alternately. The seals, in vertical format, measure 24.2 x 40.5 mm. and were printed by the Albertina machine from four cylinders, Y9 yellow, Y10 magenta, Y25 blue and Y24 black in that order, the black being only for the inscriptions. Perforated by the Grover perforator.

Paper.

R.S.A. watermarked paper, facing left on the Afrikaans and right on the English, due to the tête-bêche arrangement.

Booklet Covers.

Each booklet has two covers, English on the one and Afrikaans on the other and were printed by the Goebel 840 Machine. The covers and pages are gummed together along the left edge.

The seals were "process coloured;" the colours do not merge into each other, their edges are sharply defined (except where there is an unintentional misalignment of cylinders). The result is pleasing and striking. The simple design goes well with the bold colours. The colours are by far the most striking feature of these seals. The four basic colours, one of them being black, have produced ten sharply defined separate colours, including a dull black, produced by three layers of ink, yellow below, magenta in the centre and blue on top.

We venture the opinion that this most satisfactory product of the Albertina printing machine could with advantage be emulated in the printing of postage stamps. We are persuaded that we have the apparatus to do it.

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AN INTERESTING EXAMPLE OF PRINTING AND BINDING

The stamp printing section of the Government Printing Works, Pretoria, produced for us a splendid specimen of process coloured printing, and booklets of stamps, or rather seals, in tête-bêche arrangement. They happened to be Christmas Seals, commonly known as "Christmas Stamps," in booklets, but they showed what could be done when applied some day to booklet stamps.

This is not the first time that the "process colour" has been used for South African stamps. It first appeared on the Kirstenbosch stamp in 1963 and the method is described in our Catalogue as "used to obtain a variety of colour tints . . . and in this issue the colouring is superimposed to varying degrees, thus producing gradations of colouring from the three 'primary' colours, red, blue and yellow."

An important difference, however, makes its appearance in these seals. There are no gradations of colours, one colour does not flow into another, but the edges of the colours are sharply defined (except where there is an unintentional cylinder misalignment in the printing). A close examination reveals that there are no less than ten separate and distinct colours present on the two seals, English and Afrikaans. The colours of the two seals are identical in all respects, except in one—the background of the English seal is yellow while that of the Afrikaans is orange. And these all come from three colours, red (magenta), yellow and blue as well as black, and the black is only used for the inscriptions.

So something unusual must have happened as far as stamp printing is concerned. And to find that out, a long visit to the Printing Works brought out the following facts. But appreciation must be expressed of the courtesy and patience of Messrs. Booysen and Wolhuter who, by showing the essential features such as the multipositives and a complete sheet of the four panes, enabled a layman, and a very puzzled layman at that, to follow the various steps of the process.

A very brief description of the seals and their colours must necessarily be given. Background panel of the English stamp is yellow, of the Afrikaans is orange, otherwise all the colours are identical. The inscriptions are black, the cross is vermilion, the four trees above, from left to right, are blue, magenta, green and blue; the small trees are, below left, green and below right, vermilion.

Without going into too much detail, or describing the appearance of the multipositives (where one constantly has to remember that the picture shows left to right), it will be simplest to describe what each printing cylinder does and to describe them in their order of operation.

1st Cylinder No. Y9 Yellow:

Prints a solid panel for both languages. It leaves four white spaces, one for the outline of the cross, one for the tree to be magenta later and two for the trees to be blue later.

2nd Cylinder No. Y10 Magenta:

Prints a solid panel over the yellow of the Afrikaans giving it an orange colour.

On all the seals it prints the magenta of the second tree above.

By deeper etching of the cylinder it prints over the yellow of the cross and the small tree bottom right corner, making them vermilion.

3rd Cylinder Y25 Blue:

On all the seals it prints the blue of the two trees. It also prints on the yellow to give the two green trees.

4th Cylinder Y24 Black:

It only prints the inscriptions on all the seals.

We have now arrived at seven colours, namely yellow, orange, magenta, blue, black, vermilion and green; but there are still three more resulting from the trees partly superimposed on each other. They are:—

Blue over magenta—indigo.
Green over magenta—violet.
Green over vermilion—dull black.

The ultimate effect is that ten colours, separate and distinct, have come from the original four. It is certainly a fine effort and now we look forward to something similar in our postage stamps.

There still remained further points to be explained; why the seals were printed in tête-bêche arrangement, that is, upside down in relation to one another, and secondly how they ended up in the booklets as they did.

The tête-bêche arrangement arose from the fact that the seals were unilingual and it obviates booklets with only one language or with a row of seals all upside down. Fur-

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thermore, the booklets appear uniform throughout the series, the collating of sheets is simplified, the stepping up of the multi-positives is also simplified, and last, but not least, there is an appreciable saving of paper as there are less gutters and margins.

Coming now to the next query, how the seals ended up in booklets, let us take it that the sheets are printed and are emerging from the Albertina machine. The paper is 470 mm. wide, roughly 18½ inches and there are two panels of seals next to each other, across the paper. Each panel consists of 50 seals, 10 rows of 5 seals each. The top row consists of English and the second of Afrikaans seals and so on, alternately with the bottom row Afrikaans. The seals are lying on their sides, the English facing right and the Afrikaans left. We notice also that the RSA watermark is upright. The paper is cut into 42 inch lengths, so each sheet contains four pairs of panels which are divided by horizontal and vertical white margins.

The next step is to perforate them. The Grover Perforator accommodates four panels at a time, so the large sheets are taken to a guillotining machine called the Krause Machine which cuts them across into two smaller sheets, 21 inches long. The Grover perforates the sheets down their length but leaves the top and side margins imperforate. When this is done the sheets are placed in stacks of about 1,000, about five inches thick, go back to the Krause which divides them into four panes by cutting through the central gutters or margins, vertical and horizontal. The margins are trimmed to shape.

Now comes the most interesting step. The panes are collated in a press and stacked up to about 4 feet high. The collation is so done that the covers are inserted between the pages, two for each value of booklet, and the number of pages according to the values printed on the covers. One side of the press is open and there show the edges of the pages, the pages of the seals having a narrow white margin. The edges are now painted with gum and when the gum has dried the stack is reversed and the opposite similar edges are gummed.

Finally, the panes go back to the Krause which cuts through the centre of the pane along the perforations between rows 5 and 6 and also vertically through the margin and through the perforations making pages of 5 seals each. And that is the whole story.

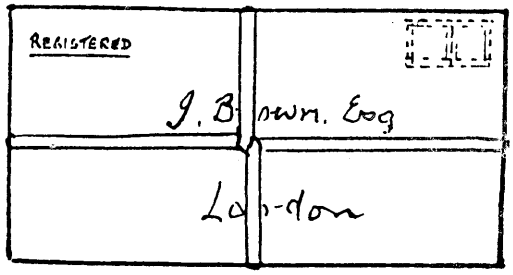
THE REGISTERED ENVELOPE

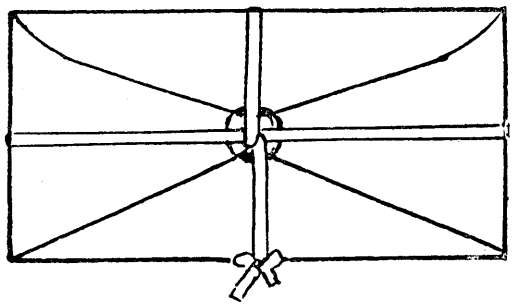
A dissertation upon "The Registered Envelope," appearing in our December South African Notes, contains an enquiry concerning the origin of the blue cross-lines employed to indicate a registered item.

An excellent article, "Extracts from a Diary of the Manchester Post Office—Registered Letters," by Charles Calvert, appears in the November number of "The Stamp Lover" and leads us a step further to the solution of this problem by indicating the adoption and use of "The Registration Green Tape" by the British post office in the development of the principle of Registration. It reads:

"Rules for Head Postmasters: 1860. Registration Green Tape.

Registered Letters must be distinguished from ordinary correspondence by being tied with green tape; as must also all letters marked 'Registered' but dropped into the Letter Box as well as all official money letters.





The tape must be tied over the ends and round the middle of the letter, and after being looped wherever it crosses, must be tied in a fast knot at the back of the letter. When a letter which ought to be tied with green tape is observed to be without tape, it must at once be properly tied, and the report of the omission must state that this

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Orders for stamps should be addressed to the Philatelic Bureau, G.P.O., Pretoria, and must be accompanied by money orders, postal orders or bank drafts made payable to the Postmaster-General. Cheques are not accepted. The amount should be sufficient to cover postage and registration. Deposit accounts may be opened by overseas customers.

'n Filatelieburo bestaan in die poskantoor in Pretoria om in die spesiale behoeftes van seëlhandelaars en filateliste te voorsien. Slegs seëls van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika tans in gebruik word te koop aangebied.

Bestellings vir seëls moet geadresseer word aan die Filatelieburo, H.P.K., Pretoria, en moet vergesel gaan van poswissels, posorders of bankwissels, betaalbaar aan die Posmeester-generaal. Tjeks word nie aangeneem nie. Die bedrag moet voldoende wees om die pos- en registrasie gelde te dek. Deposito-rekenings kan deur oorsese kliënte geopen word.

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has been done. Registered Letters are not liable to be surcharged on account of deficient postage; the officer who receives them being responsible that the proper amount of postage and fee is prepaid.

A fine of one shilling is imposed for each of the following irregularities committed at a Head Office . . . .

. . . . for omitting to tie with green tape a registered letter . . . . "

The details of the experiments conducted to determine the acceptance and practicability of distinguishing Registered Letters by Green Tapes, being tied and sealed to them, are interesting:

"Total number of letters tied and sealed 2,150.

Average number of letters tied with one piece of tape 25½.

Note: Each piece of tape contains 9 yds: the number of inches to each letter would therefore average of the total number experimented on, 2,150, be about 13 inches.

Average number of letters sealed with one stick of wax 48¾.

Average of time occupied by one person in both tying and sealing 50 letters, 29½ min.

Average time occupied two persons, one employed in folding and tying and the other in sealing 50 letters: Folding and tying, 12 min.; sealing, 17½ min."

We now await evidence of the next step in the process of conversion from Green Tape to Blue Lines.

THE GREAT BRITAIN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The meeting of the Society on the 20th October was devoted to exerpts from members' exhibits at the Vienna Exhibition.

The Chairman, Mr. J. Selkin, opened the proceedings with about 40 sheets from his Gold/Silver winning entry. This showed stamps from Queen Victoria to King George VI.

Mr. C. W. Neale followed with 20 sheets from his Silver/Bronze winning display. This dealt mainly with the 1d. Red and showed a lot of material from the MacKinnal collection.

A pleasant evening closed with a surprise. One of our members from Rhodesia, Mr. J. R. Strong, visited us, and put forward an interesting theory on the Square Footed "J" on the 1d. Reds.

TOPICAL COMMENTS

We welcome the news that steps are on the way to speed up delivery of local mail matter. Actually a slight change of heart is all that is required—a little integration instead of apartheid in postal approach may go a long way towards eliminating delivery delays.

The bother appears to centre around "foreign" mail. A letter from far afield always seems to get V.I.P. treatment whilst the local meets with an apathetic "tomorrow-is-another-day" attitude.

Two tests recently carried out leave no doubt about the contention here made: A letter posted at the Discovery Post Office at 6.30 a.m. to an address less than half a mile away, was delivered four days later. Yet a letter posted at the Jeppe Street Post Office at 8.00 a.m. on the same day, to the same address twelve miles away, was delivered the following day! If you think this funny, try it yourself. It is believed that sorting-office facilities (or the lack of them) have something to do with it. But what do you say of the result of the second test?

Two letters posted simultaneously at Jeppe Street to an address in Pretoria North, the one direct and the other enclosed in an air mail cover and reposted in London, with the "foreign" beating the "local" by one day! You don't believe it? Well, try it. The Post Office won't mind. It's money for jam.

A STRAW WILL SHOW WHICH WAY THE WIND BLOWS

However seriously Republic philatelists and the Postal Authorities regard the bits of straw which were carried into the Republic's post offices by a wind which originated in Port Elizabeth, it is feared that there is not much anybody can do to combat the resulting contamination.

The motive which inspired the stamp company in question to circularize post offices in quest of freaks and other varieties, is not quite as tactless as some of the gullibles among us would have us believe. The official counter circulars can but minimise the harm done, if, in fact they do not serve to emphasise the possibilities feared. It must be borne in mind that postal clerks are human and that they too have a right to buy stamps from the offices of their employ.

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We cannot for a moment believe that the master mind behind the particular drive did not anticipate counter action by the authorities. Perhaps that was exactly what was wanted because it is inherent in the human race to challenge that which is put out of reach. No matter how the subject is approached, one cannot help thinking that further development is inevitble.

Although collectors believe that the earth in which the seeds have been sown is unfertile, it is wishful thinking to say that a few seeds will not land in nice, rich soil.

CONGRESS — 1966

The words "The Show Must Go On" are not generally associated with philately. Notwithstanding the rather dramatic events of the past month, and that the immediate future may be somewhat obscure, planning for "RHOPEX" is going ahead. For Commerce and Industry it may be "Business as Usual" but for the Royal Philatelic Society of Rhodesia—THE SHOW MUST GO ON.

To begin with "RHOPEX" (Rhodesian Philatelic Exhibition) is scheduled to run from Monday 2nd to Saturday 7th May, 1966, concurrently with the Central African Trade Fair. Originally it was hoped that a suitable venue for Rhopex might be found within the Fair Grounds; as no satisfactory hall exists, arrangements have now been made for it to be staged in the Small City Hall—nothing could be more central nor could better all round facilities be found elsewhere in Bulawayo.

By way of a change, in place of the usual "Court of Honour" a "Royal Court" has been planned for the Exhibition. Invitations have been sent to all the "Royal" Societies to display representative collections—all but one have promised their support and the one that has declined did so as the dates coincide with their own National Convention.

Naturally, emphasis will be on the Stamps of Rhodesia, from the B.S.A. Company onwards, with postal history Airmails etc. all included. Supporting this will be displays of varying interest — Southern Africa, Commonwealth and Foreign countries, Thematics, etc., etc., and the Rhodesian Post Office will provide the "Official" Exhibit.

"Quality" has been the keyword—and exhibits have been invited from leading philatelists in Rhodesia, South Africa and overseas. A competitive section for Junior Collectors is to be organized.

Congress will open on Tuesday, May 3rd, and sessions will be arranged to meet the needs of the Agenda. For Congress, the Auditorium of the newly completed National Museum in Bulawayo's Central Park, has been made available to us. History, as well as philately, will therefore be available to delegates.

Hotel accommodation will be arranged by this Society and details will shortly be circulated to all Societies. Because of the influx of visitors to Bulawayo at Trade Fair time, the co-operation of all intending delegates in advising us of these requirements as early as possible, is earnestly requested.

For relaxation and interest for delegates and their wives and families, visits to places of interest in and around Bulawayo—the Matopas, the Game Park, Khami Ruins etc., etc. will be arranged and with the co-operation of Rhodesia Railways, it is hoped to be able to provide a special excursion to the Victoria Falls.

The Postmaster-General has kindly consented to open the Exhibition. Likewise, the Mayor of Bulawayo, will officate at Congress and has indicated that he will be glad to meet all delegates at a Civic Sundowner. Prominent personalities will be Guests of Honour at the traditional Congress Banquet.

A set of three stamps for "RHOPEX" has been promised by the Postal Authorities and a Post Office with special cancellation will be set up in the Exhibition Hall.

Congress in Bulawayo 1953 was a very happy event—we hope to do better this time!

* * * *

(SAPA reports that an issue is to be made on June 1 to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Central African Airways Corporation.—Ed.).

F.R.P.S.L.

News has just been received that Mr. A. Leslie Leon, of Durban, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of London.

We extend our sincere congratulations for the honour bestowed on him.

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PHILATELISTS' RENDEZVOUS

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month in
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THE THEMATIC STAMP CLUB

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THE PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meets on the second and fourth Tuesday every month in the
Staff Recreation Room, Mutual Buildings, Main Street,
at 8 p.m.
Visitors cordially welcome.
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THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL

Meetings 1st and 3rd Wednesdays monthly at 7.30 p.m. in the
Geo Cato Room, City Hall, Durban (Entrance West Street...door nearest Beach)
VISITORS CORDIALLY WELCOMED
P.O. Box 588, Durban. Secretary's Telephone 838-682 (Evenings).

THE PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meets on the first Monday of every month in the
Council Chamber of the Technical College Church Street East, Pretoria
at 7.45p .m.
VISITORS CORDIALLY WELCOMED.
P.O. Box 514, Pretoria.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

meets Twice a Month: Second Tuesday and Fourth Monday
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Meetings are not held, but Members get covers, etc. of special South African flights and other interesting items—more than covered by the small annual subscription.
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THE PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meet on the second Wednesday of every month in the
Railway Recreation Club, Berea Park, Pretoria
at 8.00 p.m.
P.O. Box 2388 — Pretoria
ALL PHILATELISTS ARE WELCOME.

SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELY

Meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 8.15 p.m.
Burlington House Boardroom (2nd Floor) c/r. Rissik & Marshall Streets, Johannesburg.
ALL WELCOME.
Secretary: P.O. Box 11502, Johannesburg

THE SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

meets at 2.15 p.m. on the second Saturday of every month in the
Staff Tea Lounge, Basement, Corner House.
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THE EDWARD MOSELEY COLLECTION IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM

By A. LESLIE LEON, F.R.P.S.L.

Dr. Edward Mosely was well-known to an earlier generation of philatelists in South Africa. Although he ceased collecting before the last War, he lived to a great age and died only a few years ago in Cape Town. In 1946, his daughter, Mrs. K. Cunningham presented his collection to the British Museum in London and also provided funds for a magnificent case in which to house the stamps. This case now stands adjacent to that containing the famous Tapling collection presented to the Museum in 1891 and with its contents provides a worthy adjunct to that collection.

The collection consists of stamps of the British Empire in Africa up to the date of the Silver Jubilee of King George V, that is May, 1935, but certain colonies and territories are not included. Dr. Mosely exercised the prerogative of every collector to collect what he pleases, and did not include certain issues. For example, owing to the difficulty of obtaining really fine copies, he did not have in his collection any of the embossed first issue of Natal. As Sir John Wilson said in his introduction to the British Africa section of The Catalogue of the Royal Philatelic Collection: "The Mosely Collection is very weak in Transvaal. Transvaal is much the most difficult country on this continent to collect. Possibly Natal is the second most difficult group to specialise because of the absence of material."

However, the Natal portion of the collection, together with that of Zululand, is remarkably good and the "Postage" overprints particularly so; it includes the curved overprint on the 1/- value in all three colours of overprint.

Dr. Mosely believed in having essays, proofs, specimens, varieties and stamps on cover wherever possible and these make a fine showing. In the colonies of Gambia, Gold Coast, Lagos, Kenya, Tanganyika and Uganda the coverage is practically complete, whilst in St. Helena, Seychelles and Sierra Leone many of the rarest stamps are in evidence. It is in the sections devoted to Cape of Good Hope, Mauritius and Orange Free State that the collection is seen at its best.

The Cape of Good Hope triangulars are magnificent and among them is one of the seven known copies of the 4d. black; in the 67 "Woodblocks" are two copies of each of the famous errors of colour. Unfortunately, there is no copy of the Mauritius "Post Paid" but there are pulls in black and in colour from the original plate, and later issues are extremely well represented. The Orange Free State stamps are outstanding.

In spite of the remarks of Sir John Wilson quoted above, the Transvaal section is not to be despised and in the issues after 1890 it is strong. Of particular interest are essays with President Kruger's portrait prepared for an issue that did not eventuate owing to the outbreak of war in 1899. In fact, the possession of the Tapling and Mosely collections gives the British Museum the right to be considered the home of one of the three finest collections of Transvaal in existence, the other two being the Royal Collection and the Curle collection in Johannesburg.

Those readers who visit London would be well advised to set aside an afternoon to spend in the King's Library in the British Museum and see some of the treasures that I have been describing, the value of which today cannot be less than one hundred thousand Rand.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

An Unrecorded Zululand Variety.

For some time I have had in my Zululand collection a copy of the 4d. Green and Brown stamp of the 1888/1893 issue—the contemporary issue of Great Britain overprinted ZULULAND by De La Rue & Co. Ltd. This has a break of 1 mm. in length at the lower extremity of the vertical stroke of the D.

On submitting this stamp to the Expert Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, I have been informed that the stamp is genuine but the variety of overprint is not constant and does not appear to have been chronicled before.

This should be of interest to collectors of Zululand, and I shall be glad to know if any of them have come across this or similar varieties.

Yours faithfully,

A. LESLIE LEON.

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THE AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH

By W. Kriste

(Continued from page 18, January, 1966, Number).

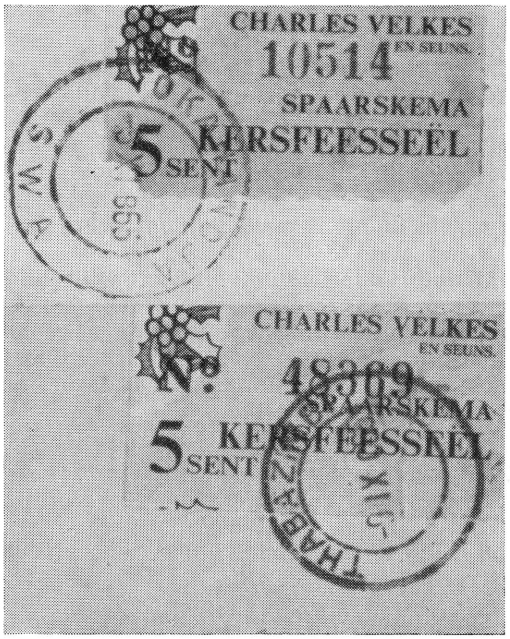
To further the argument, on 14th October 1910, the stamps of all the States became interchangeable and could be used equally for payment of postage in any part of the Commonwealth and this indicates that these stamps were intended by the authorities to be **Australian** issues pending the design and printing of a definite Commonwealth issue. Before this, however, in 1903 a common design for all States was mooted, but only one value was actually issued, which was a 9d. value and was used by New South Wales and Queensland only, the whole project being dropped later.

An important step towards uniformity in the production of Australian postage stamps was made early in 1905 by the introduction of paper, watermarked with a Crown A device in place of the several different watermarks peculiar to the various States. Owing, however to the paper making contracts for each State being held by different firms in England, complete uniformity in the style and shape of the watermark could not even then be attained, with the result that the watermark of New South Wales stamps consisted of a small Royal Crown above a single lined A, while that used for the stamps of Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia took the form of a large Crown and a double lined A. (this type was finally adopted by N.S.W. in 1906), while South Australia claimed yet a third type, namely a Tudor Crown and a small single lined A.

Early in 1911, competitive designs for National postage stamps were called for, but none of those submitted were deemed suitable, so the Society of Victoria Artists was therefore invited to nominate one of its members to prepare a design. The familiar design of the Kangaroo upon the map of the Island continent was therefore submitted by Mr. Blamire Young, and adopted, with certain modifications for the entire series of postage stamps which came into being on 2nd January 1913. The dies were engraved and the stamps surface printed at the Federal Printing Office, Melbourne, upon imported papers, having a new type of single lined Tudor Crown A watermark, and perforated 11½ x 12.

Six months later, in July, 1913, it was decided to replace the Kangaroo design by one bearing the likeness of King George V on the postal denominations in most common use. A design which had actually gained the highest award in the competition of 1911 was accordingly selected and a die for a 1d. stamp was engraved by Mr. T. Harrison, the Commonwealth Bank Note printer, who supervised the recess printing of the stamps at the Treasury, Melbourne. This 1d. stamp was issued to the public on 9th December 1913 on paper devoid of watermark and perforated 11. To this was added, on 2nd September, 1914, a 6d. value, also engraved and printed at the Treasury from a design by Mr. Blamire Young, representing a "Kookaburra bird," the Australian "Laughing Jackass."

WHAT SOME PEOPLE DO AND GET AWAY WITH!

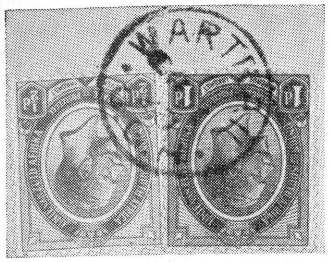


We are indebted to Mr. J. W. Hodgson, of Fish Hoek, for calling our attention to three covers on each of which the postage was prepared by means of a "buy aid" coupon, sponsored commercially in support of a Savings Scheme, no surcharge having been applied as a postage penalty.

Their usage is not an isolated case as the "coupons" were posted at distant areas, in South West Africa and the Transvaal.

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A MYSTERY PLACE NAME



Referring to previous correspondence published in the S.A. Philatelist, June 1965 etc., concerning the single-circle plate-date stamp "WARTRAIL, C.G.H.," we illustrate an impression of this date-stamp, dated '1 SEP. 29,' and are indebted to Mr. C. R. Reynolds, of Grahamstown, for the following extract he made from a Cape Gazette: **"Postal Notice.**

It is hereby notified for General Information that the Government has been pleased to approve of the establishment of a Post Office Agency at WARTRAIL, in the Division of Barkly East; and the appointment of A. W. SEPHTON as Post Office Agent there, to take effect from the 15th June, 1890."

It will be observed that the spelling of WARTRAIL is one word.

H. R. HARMER'S SALES

The following extract from Messrs. H. R. Harmer's, New York, press release for November 1965 throws an interesting side light on a philatelic "step-child."

Revenues Cause Keen Competition.

On November 4th, Mr. Bernard Harmer offered 100 lots of Revenue Plate Proofs on India paper or cards in strips or blocks bearing Imprint and Plate Numbers. Their extreme rarity was borne out by very keen bidding by several parties and the group averaged 20% over catalogue value. In the issued stamps rarer items sold extremely well.

On November 5th, the "Watson" Match and Medicine Collection caused some keen interest and the buyers in this group met with even greater competition than previously.

REVIEW

THIAUDE CATALOGUE 51ST EDITION 1966

The latest edition of the Thiaude catalongue 1966 has just appeared. The very spectacular increases which it records seem to be a highly accurate reflection of the French philately market. The stamps called "Stars" increasing from 20% to 50% seem from now on to be carrying the "average" stamps (between 15% and 100%).

Stamps of former French colonies, issued before 1900, also show distinctly higher values; so they would appear to have begun a movement which can only expand. Because of its specialised and national character, the quotations of this catalogue serve as the basis for all transactions in France. And it should be borne in mind that this catalogue is also a current price list. Going through the pages at the beginning we note that Thiaude sells really everything which might be of interest to collectors, both as regards philatelic accessories of which they offer the fullest choice we have ever seen, and as regards every category of stamp.

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DIE OPVOEDKUNDIGE WAARDE VAN POSSEËLS

('n Voorlesing deur mnr. N. C. Combrink met die Seëlversamelaarskonferensie te Paarl in Oktober 1965)

Die versamel van posseëls word die koning van stokperdjies en die stokperdjie van konings genoem. Regeerders en Staatshoofde van baie lande stel belang in hierdie stokperdjie, vernaamlik in die posseëls van hul betrokke land of lande.

Koningin Elizabeth besit 'n waardevolle versameling wat deur haar vader, Koning George die sesde, en ook haar grootvader, Koning George die vyfde, vir haar nagelaat is. Haar versameling word in drie kamers in Buckingham Paleis gehuisves, maar weens die omvang van die versameling en die veeleisende studie wat dit meebring het sy enige jare gelede sir John Wilson as bewaarder en Kurator van haar versameling aangestel; 'n amp wat hy met waardigheid beklee.

Ten spyte van die feit dat hierdie stokperdjie hom in hoë kringe bevind en 'n tydverdryf vir welgesteldes onder alle volke geword het, is dit nogtans ook die stokperdjie van die kind. Dit is so veelsydig en mees liberaal in sy aantreklikheid; dit bevat iets vir almal wat dit met intelligensie benader, dit bekoor selfs die kind wat in baie gevalle nie sy belangstelling kan weerhou nie.

Dit was immers die kind wat eers met hierdie stokperdjie begin het, ver terug in 1840 toe die eerste posseëls in Brittanje verskyn het. Die gekleurde stukkies papier het aandag gelok en kinders het hulle versamel; later het volwassenes begin belangstel en geleidelik het die stokperdjie ontwikkel totdat dit vandag nie alleen 'n stokperdjie is nie maar 'n bedryf waardeur handelaars goeie winste insamel en regerings van baie lande hul inkomste aansienlik aanvul.

Die posseël het in die eerste plek 'n intrinsieke waarde wat bepaal word deur faktore soos ouderdom, skaarsheid, egtheid, drukfoute, kleur, ensovoorts. Gevolglik het hierdie papiertjie 'n voorwerp van studie geword en gaan die stokperdjie onder die naam van Filatelie.

In hierdie rubriek wil daar geen klem op die geldelike waarde van posseëls gelê word nie, alhoewel dit weer die kind was wat die skaarste en duurste posseël in die wêreld eens besit het. Die een-sent Brits Guianaposseël van 1856 is deur 'n skoolseun gevind wat hy in 1873 vir sestig sent verkoop het; 'n paar jaar later is dit vir 750 dollar in Amerika verkoop en in 1922 het dit in Parys R14,600 behaal. In 1940 is die posseël weer na Amerika vir R90,000 en vandag is dit in besit van 'n onbekende Amerikaner teen 'n skattingswaarde van R400,000.

Die geesdrif van posseëlversamelaars is vir die gewone man in die straat wat geen belang in posseëls stel nie, waarlik 'n raaisel. Vir hom het die posseël net 'n offisiële funksie, verder as dit sien hy nie. Tog vir die ware versamelaar besit hierdie stokperdjie 'n groot verskeidenheid van belange soos byvoorbeeld: die kuns van die ontwerper, die vaardigheid van die graveur of kunstenaar en die bekwaamheid van die drukker, tesame met die hoeveelheid van onderwerpe wat op posseëls afgebeeld word. Vir die wat oë het om te sien het elke posseël 'n boodskap.

Sedert die laaste wêreldoorlog het regerings van baie lande die posseël as 'n mid-

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del vir propaganda en reklame-doeleindes gebruik. Vandag word hierdie metode sodanig beoefen dat die posseël 'n belangrie faktor in die politieke en handelslewe van elke land geword het.

Vroeë jare het die ontwerp van die posseël net uit die kop van die regeerde van die land en die postarief daarby bestaan, soms was daar net 'n nommer op die posseël. Vandag egter word daar die aller mooiste beelde of voorwerpe op posseëls vertoon. Die omvang van die moderne posseëlontwerper of kunstenaar is onbeperk, met die gevolg dat feitlik alle ontwerpe waaraan 'n mens kan dink op posseëls verskyn. In die wedstryd vir die mooiste posseëls is daar twee honderd lande wat meeding.

Die ontwerp op die posseël besit 'n bekoring wat die verbeelding aanroer en 'n reagerende snaar vind in die persoon wat belangstel. Dit het gelei tot die ontstaan van 'n metode van versameling wat beeld- of temaversameling genoem word. Die aantreklikheid van temaversameling lê nie sodanig in die tegniese kennis aangaande die posseël nie maar in die onderwerp wat deur die posseël afgebeeld word.

Die opvoedkundige waarde van posseëls en die praktiese toepassing deur middel van 'n tema word nog nie ten volle deur alle opvoedkundiges besef nie.

Posseëls is dokumentêre bewyse in miniatuur van wat in alle lande plaasvind; middels waardeur lande of regerings aan hul ideale, geloof, behoeftes en verwagtings uiting gee.

Die posseël weerspieël die verlede, hede en toekoms van volke, hul kulturele ontwikkeling, industriële werke, hul huishoudelike, burgerlike en sosiale lewe; feitlik alle aktiwiteite van die menslike geslag verskyn in beeld op posseëls. Selfs diere en plante word deesdae oorvloedig op posseëls geïllustreer.

Soos alle ondernemings moet temaversameling sistematies benader word. Hierdie tipe van versameling bied vir die versamelaar 'n baie wye veld van 'n paar honderd onderwerpe aan, soos: Aardrykskunde, Argitektuur, Biologie, Beroemde Mense, Geskiedenis, Godsdiens, Landbou, Kuns, Musiek, Opvoedkunde, Oliebedryf, Vervoer, Wetenskap, ensovoorts.

Posseëls is kulturele produkte en as sulks egte bronmateriaal vir die studie van temaonderwerpe. In die onderwys kan posseëls, op 'n baie praktiese wyse gebruik word om een of ander onderwerp te illustreer. Dit maak die onderwerp meer realisties, meer persoonlik, soos alreeds met illustrasies in onderwys ondervind is. Posseëls kan ook doeltreffend gebruik word in plaas van prente, wat soms uit mooi boeke gesny word deur kinders wat met 'n stuk werk of tema besig is. Dit is nie nodig dat al die kinders in die klas posseëls moet gebruik nie, maar die gebruik daarvan kan aangemoedig word.

Godsdiens op posseëls is 'n goeie voorbeeld van hoe om 'n tema saam te stel. Die onderwerp is so wyd dat aparte temas uitgebou kan word met die volgende opskrifte: Die Lewe van Christus, Die Ou Testament, Die Nuwe Testament, Die Reise van Paulus, Plekke van Aanbidding, Blomme en Diere van die Bybel, Die Christendom, Die Heidendom, Die Geskiedenis van Israel, Die Geskiedenis van die Christelike Kerk. Al hierdie onderwerpe kan met posseëls geïllustreer word. Die historiese en geestelike waardes van Godsdiens word nie alleen vir ons in boeke of werke van kuns bewaar nie, maar verskyn nou op posseëls.

(Word vervolg).

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PRETBEDERWERS

Ten einde te verseker dat sy versameling tot datum bly, teken die ywerige versamelaar in by een of ander „nuwe-uitgawesdiens" wat verskeie seëlhandelaars aanbied. Dit kom daarop neer dat die versamelaar 'n deposito betaal, na gelang van sy besondere benodigdhede, en dat die handelaar hom dan van tyd tot tyd van die nuutste uitreikings voorsien.

Om sy verpligtings te kan nakom plaas so 'n handelaar staande bestellingsc met verskeie seëluitreikende owerhede en agente. Dit bring mee dat seëluitreikers nie alleen weet presies hoeveel van wat hulle suiwer vir versamelingdoeleindes moet laat druk nie maar bowenal, dat hulle van 'n afset van alles wat hulle binne sekere perke maar wil uitgee, verseker is.

Dit alles bring mee dat die seëldrukkerye van baie lande dag en nag loop om, soos Kuba dit op 'n slag gestel het, „aan die wense van seëlversamelaars te voldoen," aanhoudend onnodige seëls uit te reik, dikwels tesame met frats-bykomstighede soos ongetande seëls en blokvelletjies.

Uitgewers wat so optree bederf die stokperdjie vir baie. Hulle optrede bring verydeling en vervreemding mee want dit word só dik aangesmeer dat die grootste gros nie kan bybly nie. Maar daar is 'n tweede soort pretbederwer: Elke af en toe, wanneer die klimaat reg is, kom een of ander onbekende bedrieër na vore, laat 'n stel seëls druk, besorg dit aan een van die baie agente en na ons die seëls trots in ons versameling het, hoor ons dat dit of dat 'n valse uitgawe is.

Die versamelaar is in die jongste jare dikwels op dié manier gevang: met die dood van president Kennedy, die olimpiese spele in Italië en in Japan en nou weer met die dood van sir Winston Churchill, om maar net 'n paar van die gewilde seëluitreikings te noem.

In Desember j.l. het 'n Churchill-stel (kos 55c) die versamelaar bereik. Die „posstempel" is klaarblyklik opgedruk en nie opgestempel nie. Dit het reeds verdag voorgekom. Maar, nouja, sulke „stempels" het al voorheen amptelik so geskied. Ongelukkig kom ontkenning in sulke gevalle altyd te laat, soos nou weer met 'n Wêreldposuniekennisgewing wat namens Jemen, in wie se naam die seëls uitgereik is, dat die seëls onwettiglik uitgereik is en nie deur die Posunie erken word nie.

Ons is die niksvermoedende versamelaar raat verskuldig maar weet nie hoe om dit te stel nie. Sal ons maar sê: beskerm u teen useIf? Moet nie dat u ywerigheid met u weghol nie. Bly liewers weg van „lande" wat vir u vreemd voorkom. Jemen is een van hulle.

UNITED NATIONS PHILATELIC MUSEUM

The official inauguration of the United Nations Philatelic Museum took place at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on United Nations Day, 24 October, 1962.

There were originally 1,140 League of Nations stamps and 388 official postal documents, such as first day covers, etc., issued between 1922 and 1947, and 2,212 stamps and 262 documents relating to the International Labour Organization. The United Nations stamps and documents issued by the United Nations Postal Administration in New York and by member Governments, totalled 1,949 and 858 respectively by the end of December 1963. To these must be added 849 World Health Organization stamps, and 216 stamps issued for UNESCO, etc. These collections have now been increased by the addition of stamps issued in connexion with worldwide campaigns, such as World Refugee Year (UNHCR), the Anti-Malaria Campaign (WHO), the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign (FAO), etc. Appeals for co-operation have been addressed to the specialized agencies and to all the postal administrations of the States Members of the United Nations, with a view to keeping the collection up to date, and the response has been most encouraging. The number of exhibits is increasing steadily.

There is every reason to hope, therefore, that, with the good will of all the authorities concerned and, no doubt, also of some private well-wishers, the collections of the United Nations Philatelic Museum will become increasingly rich and complete, for the pleasure and instruction of the many visitors to the Palais des Nations. Surely, there is no more agreeable way of learning about the activities of the international organizations and of reliving international history than through the medium of stamps, the hobby of countless millions in the world today.

The United Nations Philatelic Museum is open to members of the public visiting the Palais des Nations. Philatelists may purchase the Museum Guide, at the price of Sw. Fr. 0.50 for adults and Sw. Fr. 0.20 for children up to the age of sixteen.

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THE DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH IN SOUTH AFRICA

By Capt. M. F. STERN

In 1500 A.D. the Portuguese captain Pedro d'Ataide landed at Mossel Bay and erected a stone hermitage there near the fresh water spring and left his historic letter in a shoe, the first post office box in the world. However, the first settled and oldest Christian community had its tercentary in 1965. When Johan van Riebeeck landed at Cape Town in 1652 to found the settlement at the Cape, one of his first tasks was to build a fort. A carpenter's shed was the first meeting place to hold worship in 1665, and being frail in structure, was once blown down and the roof being badly damaged, services were held in the hall of the Fort. This old Fort was later replaced by the present Castle. The shed was demolished in 1677 and it was decided to build a proper church, a piece of ground being acquired at the top of the old Heerengracht (now Adderley Street). On April 9, 1678, the first sod for the foundations was turned and the corner stone laid on December 28, 1700, by Governor Willem Adriaan van der Stel.

Under Van Riebeeck heavy penalties were inflicted on those who did not attend church —the Dutch Reformed Church. The first church was consecrated on January 6, 1704, and used until 1836, when it was demolished and the construction of the present "Groote Kerk" commenced. Its pulpit is the finest feature and this is portrayed on the stamp. The sculptor, Anton Anreith, was responsible for this, as also that in the old Lutheran Church, and the famous plaster bediment to the Wine Cellar at Groot Constantia. It rests on the shoulders of two lions, each with one claw holding a chaplet of leaves aloft and the other resting on a parchment scroll.

Anreith was born in Reigel near Freiburg on June 11, 1754, his elder brother later achieving a certain fame as an architect in the Austrian Empire. Having served as an apprentice to a rococo master's studio, Anton Anreith for unknown reasons left Germany when only 22 years of age and joined the service of the Dutch East India Company as a common soldier. He was employed as a workman at the Cape for a year and after that as a house-carpenter working on the construction of the new hospital. From 1783 to 1792 he was engaged in a private capacity on the organ loft and reconstruction of the Lutheran Church in Strand Street. In 1786 he was given the newly created post of Master-Sculptor in the Company's service. He was probably responsible for the Kat balcony and a number of gateways and stucco reliefs in the Castle. In 1791 he obtained his release from service and thereafter depended on commissions for his living. He died in February 1822. He was closely allied to the architect, Thibault, who was responsible for many fine buildings.

Under the floor of the old church were buried many hundreds of people but when the rebuilding took place in 1836 these tombs were filled in. The building is outstanding as it has the largest single wood span in the world, consisting of yellow-wood beams, thus having the biggest unsupported dome in the world.

The second stamp issued on October 21, 1965, shows the emblem of the Dutch Reformed Church. This is Calvinistic and arises out of the Reformation under Jean Calvin (1509-1564), born in Picardy. He fled to Geneva and while spending a short period of his life in Strassburg, married Ida de Bure, a member of an old Liege family (1505-1549). Calvin appears on a stamp of South Africa and South West Africa and also is depicted on a stamp issued by Belgium in 1964.

WAR ON UNNECESSARY AND SPECULATIVE ISSUES

The "American Philatelist," August issue, has given **Black Blots** to the issues:

Albania: the so-called imperforated "Man in Space" souvenir sheets recently issued.

Hungary: the imperforated stamp and souvenir sheet "Anniversaries—Event 1965" issue. This does not include the regular perforated stamps.

Jordan: the imperforated item included with their recent "Kennedy death anniversary" issue.

Tonga: the revalued "Gold Coin" gouge.

Republican Yemen: the 11-stamp imperforated "birds" issue.

Royalist Yemen: the imperforated set of five Kennedy memorial stamps.

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THE EARLY UNION ESSAYS IN THE POST OFFICE ARCHIVES

(Paper read at Congress, Paarl 1965, by Dr. H. J. Raubenheimer).

When the last century drew to its end stirring events were taking place in this country. There were two colonies, the Cape of Good Hope and Natal, and two republics, the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. Each had its own stamps, and when the two republics became colonies they had new stamps, and the four colonies had each its own stamps valid only in its own territory.

In 1910 the four colonies united to form the Union of South Africa and, until Union stamps would be available, the existing stamps became valid throughout the Union. This is known as the Interprovincial Period. To commemorate the Union a special stamp was printed by De La Rue of England, and it is now number one of all Union catalogues.

The following year a start was made ,to have definitive stamps for the Union but it was two years later before they were ready for sale. They were the Kings Head Series, all denominations having the same design, the Mackennal Head of King George the Fifth. The feeling slowly grew that stamps of a more characteristically South African character were necessary, and in 1923 a start was made. This time it took three years before the first of the London Pictorials made their bow. The stamps were to be printed in England and there were no airmails to expedite matters. Stamp printing companies were invited to submit designs and many designs were forthcoming. From 1910 they kept on turning up in Pretoria and after they had served their purpose, were put aside to seeming oblivion.

In 1964 The London Philatelist, the Journal of the Royal Philatelic Society, published the report of the researches into the De La Rue archives by Arnold M. Strange and G. Leslie Newman. This was incorporated in Volume II of our Golden Jubilee Handbook Catalogue the same year. Interest was re-awakened by this new mine of information, and heightened by the news that the Post Office was preparing an exhibit of the essays for the Philatelic Exhibition at Pretoria in October, 1964. And what an exhibit it was. For the first time the public was permitted to see not only these essays but others, both commemorative and definitive, of more recent issues up to the present time.

But the early Union gems stole the show. People were seen standing on chairs or bending low down closely examining them. Notebooks and magnifying lenses were in evidence. Astonishment and awe were expressed at the beauty of these delicate works of art and surprise that the archives had this wealth all these years, hidden and unknown.

> "Full many a gem of purest ray serene
> The dark unfathom'd caves of ocean bear."

There was no descriptive matter accompanying them, indeed it is doubtful whether much exists. The items were arranged roughly in order of denomination. Under the circumstances it was so the best; to have waited until every item had been properly classified would have meant years of study. Now anyone with the information can help towards the final arrangement.

Efforts were immediately made to have them photographed for study purposes, for owing to their nature the items could never go on permanent open display even in a museum or library. The authorities later permitted this to be done. It was also felt that, by publishing the photographs, with a description of the make up, colours and size of the essays, as well as the details of the cards on which they were mounted, with their inscriptions and directions, the philatelic world will help in the preparation of the final compendium of knowledge of these essays; why, where and when they originated, how they developed, what led to their ultimate fate, of either blossoming forth into a printing or being relegated to the sad rejecteds. (For indeed, when I think of three beautiful essays from De La Rue that our Government bought but never used, I am perplexed).

The Post Office also agreed that they be studied and described, and this took many months. The cards were removed from the pages of the official album, measured, and everything inscribed or printed on the front and the back recorded in detail. The essays themselves—and that includes specimens, trials, mock-ups and colour trials—proved difficult. By these means all but a score or so of the 200 odd items have had their origin determined. The Post Office, again, in their kindness agreed to rearrange them on lines suggested for the exhibition here at Paarl. But, of course, the final arrangement will only be possible much later.

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NOTES ON THE ESSAYS

General remarks. (Full details are given later with each item).

Size. With the exception of the P.W.D. drawings and a few drawing, vignettes, etc., all are the actual size of the intended stamp. There is a slight variation in size with many items; considering that so many are hand drawn, it never exceeds ½ mm. The astonishing feature is that such perfection could have been achieved. Our photographs of them, many of more than quadruple enlargement, demonstrate this.

When we realize that our rotogravure process of printing permits essays of say 4″ x 8″ to be used, and then photographically "shrunk," we appreciate more the artistry.

The finish. This takes many forms, some are entirely hand drawn in coloured inks or water colours. Others have had their outlines drawn in pencil and then coloured, others are printed in a colour or colours and then touched up in other colours, others are printed in their final colour or colours like the issued stamp. In fact there are some duplicates, so obviously any number more can exist of these printed ones. There are a number of photographs of the essays and there is a group of 4 or 5, origin unknown, of a particularly beautiful form of coloured photograph. It must be added that many of the cards have been extensively handled and have become quite soiled. One splendid essay of the 1st Union Commemorative is creased, together with its card, right across the centre.

Mock ups. A close examination of a number of essays (as well as our photographs) shows the progress made during their presentations. At first glance one essay would seem identical to another, but then it will be noticed that it is either a mock up or it has been touched up by hand to accentuate highlights or colours or shadows, or there are instructions on the card for alterations. And the next one is the "finished article" with the instructions incorporated.

The mock ups are exceedingly interesting. Some are so crudely done that one is surprised that they were ever let out, or else they were done later by someone certainly not an artist. At the other end of the scale are some so skilfully done that it requires the use of a powerful glass to detect the edges of the parts. And even then some edges have been covered with thick ink but which with the passage of so many years has become crazed and cracked and the join shows.

The mock ups are in general of two types. They were presumably to test the effects of different combinations of frames and vignettes, although some involve value tablets. The most common type is where the vignette, in its round, oval or otherwise shaped background, is pasted on the frame. (I could never determine what is under the vignette, having a feeling that the suggestion of floating one off would not be welcome). The other type is where the frame is pasted on the vignette, the aperture in the frame exactly matching the shape of the vignette. These ones are particularly attractive.

The mounting on the cards. Some are pasted on the cards, some are inset with the card framing them. In no case is there any sign of loosening of the essay from the card.

Design. Many of the designs are based on large drawings which were prepared by the Department of Public Works, of South African scenes. Done in colour on this buff coloured tracing paper, initialled and dated "F.W.M." (Mr. F. W. Mullins later Chief Architect) March and June 1923, and sent to London for information.

Many other designs were submitted, some even including the Victoria Falls in the Union, another lists Rhodesia among the provinces of the Union. Some animals take strange forms. One ostritch could have been a Le Vaillant effort, a springbok could be a piteously bleating sheep ram—another one has horns like corkscrews. Some of the buildings have been difficult to identify and the help of publicity bodies is acknowledged.

Colours. The determining of colours presented about the greatest problem. It was decided to use Stanley Gibbons' Colour Guide as a standard. It was difficult enough to decide upon the colours of an untouched printed stamp, but where drawing inks and watercolours were used or added, simple descriptions were impossible. It was also agreed that some portion of the essay, frame or vignette, with the basic solid colour clearly showing would give the colour mentioned. In fact, some colours were so confused that borders or spandrels had to be the deciding factors.

It was fortunate that two artists, Walter Battiss and Barbara Raubenheimer, agreed to decide upon the colours. The only request made to them was that they use the names in Gibbons' Guide. One good result was that

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words like Eau de Nil and Marina Green were ruled out. A task like that could have been a thankless one, but thanks and appreciation are due to them.

Many essays, cards and paper show signs of fading or darkening after all these years. Doubtless efforts will be made to minimise this danger in the future.

Perforations. Of all the companies whose essays are definitely identified as theirs, De La Rue's, Bradbury Wilkinson's and Harrison's are imperforate. Waterlow's are all imperforate but about 5 have "perforations;" half circles are drawn by hand along the margins. Perkins Bacon's are also imperforate, but some, possibly of theirs, have also the drawn in half circles.

The 4 or 5 beautiful coloured photographs, previously mentioned, show quite a different picture of perforations. The essay itself, hard and glazed, has smooth edges but is pasted on soft white paper that is perforated normally; the perforations show that this was torn from adjacent specimens; like normally torn off stamps.

The Mounting Cards. Of the cards that give the name of the printers, Waterlow's have a round embossed imprint with the word "Specimen" and their name on the front of the card in the bottom corner. Bradbury Wilkinson's cards have a printed label "Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. Ltd., New Malden, Surrey" along the bottom of the front of the card. Harrison has a rubber stamp below the essay; De La Rue has an oval rubber stamp "Thos. De La Due London" on the back, Perkins Bacon prints the name also on the back.

On the back of many cards appear a rectangular rubber stamp "Office of the High Commissioner, Union of South Africa, Trafalgar Square, London W.C. 2." A number have an odd feature: in a round hand, in ink, on the back of the card, is written what appears to be a key or code word. For example, one series of essays from De La Rue have a word "Fortunate" or "Fortuitous" or "Fortified" or "Forward" or "Forum." Another card has boldly on the front "Galloway" and "Galvanise." Other printers have similar series of words.

It is unfortunate that, with the exception of De La Rue's which are all dated, very few cards give any dates.

Numbering of the Cards. The essays were photographed in sequence in the order that they appeared in Pretoria. They have now been rearranged for Paarl, but the old numbers remain, being on the negatives. This explains why the present order is irregular, De La Rue's for instance, being 1, 2, 19, 4, 18, 3, 97, 98 and so on.

They are now arranged in the following order: All items from each company together, starting with De La Rue—because we know more about theirs—and ending with the anonymous ones, each set chronologically, where dates are given, and, where undated, then in accordance with other information given on the cards, front and back, then from deducable information such as twins with the 2 languages and finish, and then from the type and texture of the cards. If all else fails to be obvious or possible, the size of the cards count. Where the origin is doubtful the essay goes into the anonymous group, there following the same order as with the others.

The De La Rue archives' researchers have considerably simplified the identification of their essays. Nevertheless, our collection includes a group, dated, not mentioned in the researches. There are also minor discrepancies affecting dates, colours and language settings. Would it be possible to get more information from the records of other companies?

Among the anonymous essays will be found four whose printers, in this case, are unknown: two Mackay essays, ½d. and 1d. sepia, both touched up by hand with white ink, the 1d. one appearing to be a mock up, and two 1 penny Cape of Good Hope essays, both being mock ups. These two, of course, are out of place, but they are there.

All the information given above is elaborated upon in the detailed description that follows.

It must be stressed that no attempt is being made to identify the essays with any of the stamps which have since been printed, issued and catalogued. And for good reasons too: it would have been futile to have attempted this with any certainty, at this stage, although there are many we can be fairly sure of. One mere instance will suffice to prove this. Two essays are identical in every respect but the cards show that they come from different sources. Only further investigation will change a reasonable conjecture to an acceptable fact.

There remains but to say something about the photographs that were taken of the essays. The postal authorities made it very

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clear that there was to be no commercial exploitation of them. It permitted only the Philatelic Federation to have them photographed and to be responsible for the distribution of complete sets of photographs for study purposes. The negatives will be the property of Federation and will remain in the custody of the Post Office. Only complete sets will be available and only philatelic societies and students of South African philately will be entitled to one set each.

Federation readily accepted these conditions and appointed a committee to decide which essays were to be photographed. Of the 200 odd essays and drawings it was found that 186 should be photographed in black and white, and they would be sufficient to illustrate the whole range. Each one of the remainder although possibly markedly different in colour or size, would appear photographically identical to another one taken.

The photographing and printing was done by the National Film Board, a Government body. The prints, roughtly 2″ x 2½″ show up the details remarkably well. They are copyright, may not be reproduced, and will have an official stamp on the back to authenticate them.

In giving permission for the study and writing up of the essays the Post Office does not regard the description as a departmental document. Use may be made of it to enable the full story to be written some time in the future.

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AIR MAIL NOTES

First Direct Flight: Windhoek-Frankfurt By S.A.A. Boeing 707.

The above flight took place on November 6, 1965, and approximately 600 special covers were arranged for the Aerophilatelic Society of Southern Africa members and also for the I.A.P.C. members. The latest 5c aerogrammes of S.W.A. were utilised and postmarked Windhoek 6.XI.65. A special purple cachet was applied on arrival of the air-letter sheets by South African Airways on arrival at Frankfurt. This has the S.A.A. Emblem and wording in five lines: First Direct Flight/Windhoek-Frankfurt/Boeing 707 Stratojet / South African Airways / 6-11-1965 SA 228. —(M. F. Stern).

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF MONTSERRAT

[With acknowledgment to Crown Agents]

One of Britian's smallest colonial possessions, the island of Montserrat forms part of the Leeward Islands archipelago, being 27 miles south-west of Antigua and 35 miles west of Nevis. It has been dubbed "the Emerald Isle of the West", partly because of its verdant nature, a contrast of citrus and cotton plantations in the low-lying areas with the rich green forests which clothe its mountains, and partly on account of the Irish brogue of its inhabitants (now predominantly Negro), a legacy from the seventeenth century colonists who were almost entirely Irish.

Montserrat was discovered in 1493 by Columbus during his second voyage and named after Montserrado, the saw-toothed mountain near Barcelona where Ignatius Loyola conceived the idea of founding the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). The analogy is apt since Montserrat's three mountain ranges traverse the island from north to south and add to the picturesque scenery. The highest mountain is the volcanic Soufriere or Chance Hill (3,002 feet) in the south. A detached peak on the south-west coast, St. George's Hill, overlooks Plymouth, the island's capital.

The island has a fairly cool and healthy climate with an average rainfall of 70 inches —comparable to many parts of Britian. The soil is fertile and the lower slopes of the mountains are cultivated up to 1,500 feet. Sea island cotton is the principal crop but lime cultivation, introduced by a Mr. Burke in 1852, has for many years been conducted by the Birmingham family of Sturge, trading under the name of the Montserrat Company. Tomatoes, paw-paws and other fruits and vegetables are grown both for home consumption and export and form the subject of the new definitive series.

(To be continued).

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SOCIETY NEWS

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF RHODESIA

The **November** Meeting in the recently renovated and improved Hall of the Women's Institute was highly satisfactory.

The attendance was a shade above average; Mr. Muskett's display of Thematics was most unusual and a welcome change from the orthodox country collection, and the Auction, which was the feature of the evening, resulted in swelling the Society's coffers to the extent of almost £20. Bidding was slow to start with, but after tea, members rose to the occasion, and bid heartily.

AFRIKAANSE FILATELISTEVERENIGING

November. Met die Wesranders se besoek op Woensdag 17 deser het ons twee „versamelings" te sien gekry. Die een was 'n deeltjie (Papua en Nieu-Guinea) uit die vyftigvolumes versameling van hulle ou staatmaker, mnr. Digger Sharpe—'n versameling wat deur almal terdeë waardeer is ten spyte van die klompie gapings daarin.

Die tweede is nie eintlik wat 'n mens 'n versameling kan noem nie want dit is om die waarheid te sê, 'n samestelling van verskeie drukfoute wat mnr. J. T. Burrell uit sy Republiek-versameling gepluk en afsonderlik gemonteer het om met die onlangs gehoue uitstalling te Paarl, mee te ding. Hy het dan ook 'n silwer-toekenning verower en daarvan kan u aflei dat sy versameling van „Republiekse druk-abnormaliteite" (soos hy dit noem), iets besonders is. Al die snaakse goed wat ons ou kleintjies gemeen het net in handboeke bestaan, is daar. Wat veral die oog gevang het was al die verskeie stukke op gelaste papier en 'n verteenwoordiging van byna al die bekende drukonderbrekings. Daar was ook 'n stukkie wat nie op Paarl ten toon gestel was nie omdat dit pas 'n dag of wat tevore by die versameling gevoeg was. Dit is 'n heerlike viertal met balkies aan die kantruimte, van die ongetande ½c wat 'n rukkie terug op Durban ontdek was en nou te koop aangebied word—sonder twyfel die belangrikste en grootste van alle Republiekse afwykings.

Dankie Wesrand, dat u mnr. Burrell gestuur het. Nou weet ons almal wat ons sal moet uithaal om 'n silwermedalje met 'n nasionale seëluitstalling te kry.

'n Aansoek om lidmaatskap is ontvang van mev. A. Barenbrug, Denningtonlaan 6, Winston-heuwel, Johannesburg (versamel Nederland, Suid-Afrika, Afrika en Groot-Brittanje en gebiede).

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL

There was the usual large attendance at our **November** meeting, and those present were very fortunate in seeing three outstanding collections of South Africa which were entered for the Union Cup competition. Mr. Slater-Kinghorn's entry was entitled "The Development of the Airmail in South Africa." The exhibit covered the period up to World War II. In the paper accompanying the exhibit, Mr. Slater-Kinghorn gave us the fascinating history of this phase of our development in a most interesting way. Both Mr. Coombes' and Mr. Ahlers' exhibits were of the Republican issues. These two exhibits did certainly not clash. In fact, they were complimentary to one another, and the papers which were read by the exhibitors were both interesting and informative. The judges did not have an easy task, but eventually pronounced Mr. Slater-Kinghorn as the holder of the Cup for the ensuing year. Our congratulations go to the winner. Incidentally, Mr. Sheffield who was to have been a judge, has not been in the best of health, and we sincerely hope he will soon be fit again.

Mr. Walker who was one of our delegates at Congress gave us a resume of the social side of Congress, and this was much appreciated by those present. Mr. Milner-Palmer was to have told us all about the business side of Congress, but unfortunately on his way to the meeting, he was caught in a flash storm, and was all but washed away. However, we will be hearing from him at the next meeting. Our thanks are due to all our delegates for representing this Society at Congress, and from all accounts, they enjoyed the experience.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

On **November 11th** Mr. Hunt and Mrs. H. Scott entertained us. Mr. Hunt showed his collection of the various stamps issued during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II from the Coronation to date as near as it was possible.

Mrs. Hilda Scott showed us Denmark, not a specialised collection but a very interesting one and her talk telling us about the different designs used on the stamps most interesting. Included in this exhibit were various covers, Charity Stamps and Christmas stamps.

On **November 25th**, Mr. Picton and Mr. Beunderman were the exhibitors. Mr. Picton showed us a selection of his ordinary Great Britain collection commencing with the 1d. Black through the years including covers of some special interest, the Charity issue of 1897 which was not available for postal use, George V airmail (first) and Coronation etc., etc., also perforation and paper varieties.

Mr. Beunderman's exhibit—Scouting on Stamps—was equally interesting. It showed

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the growth of the Scout movement throughout the world by the number of stamps there were. His talk gave the history of the movement and of its founder, Lord Baden-Powell.

THEMATIC STAMP CLUB

November 8: The Club was able to see Mr. D. F. Shevelew's "Thematic News Reel" for the first time. This collection has an interesting theme in giving news of the world as portrayed on stamps. Europe was covered and proved of interest, being a new idea. The balance of the evening was spent in answering questions from the floor, also an inovation.

November 22: Mrs. M. Bergman showed her charming collection, "Children." This covered every aspect from birth onwards and all aspects of the teaching and play of children. The collection was well set out, stamps well selected to illustrate each section, with minimum of write-up and illustrations, these being handdone and subdued.

December 13: The last meeting of the year proved outstanding as Mr. R. Jeidel showed his fine collection of "Leichtenstein," a country not often shown. This comprised precovers, stamps of Austria used before issue of Leichtenstein stamps, and a complete coverage of that country's stamps, miniature sheets, postage dues, airmail covers, postal stationery and use of Swiss stamps. —(M.F.S.).

THE MASHONALAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

An encouraging number of members and visitors were present at the **November** meeting and after the Chairman opened the meeting Mr. Ellenberger gave an interesting talk on current philatelic matters, with emphasis on the stamps of Rhodesia and the former Central African Federation. Price appreciation on the former Federal stamps in the new Stanley Gibbons Part I catalogue and the recent find of the current definitive 1/- value of Southern Rhodesia was touched upon by Mr. Ellenberger. In addition it was mentioned that the country's 4d. definitive value had been sold out over the Post Office counters and that the possibility existed of a reprint appearing before the new definitive issue is put on sale in the new year. Members are doubtless aware that the Rhodesian Independence Commemorative Stamp (2/6d.) will be on sale shortly for a period of two months. World has filtered through that Dealers in the United Kingdom have been requested by a British Government Departmental Authority not to have any dealings with this issue, but confirmation of this has yet to be received. This stamp will doubtless prove to be a good investment in due course.

Three members exhibited a portion of their Nyasaland collection, the material displayed covering a wide range of the country's issues and was of interest to all present.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

December. As this meeting was the Society's Christmas event, all usual business matters were deleted from the agenda and except for a short discussion on Rhodesia's Independence issue of a 2/6d. postage stamp, the whole of the meeting was taken up with a film show. Three films were shown; the first being "The Story of the Letter Post," going back a matter of 500 years.

The second film was "Our Story in Stamps;" the issue of the stamps of Malaya, from the first drawings to the final printings. The final film was on "Machines to move the Mails;" showing how in Great Britain the General Post Office has now installed machines to do the sorting of letters and parcels.

The film show was enjoyed by all present as the three films were most interesting even to non-philatelists. The films were obtained on loan from the British Information Services, Johannesburg, and Mr. Kelly of Burmeisters very kindly came out to act as projectionist for the evening. A hearty vote of thanks was given to Mr. Kelly by all and in due course a letter of appreciation would be directed to the British Information Services.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

December. The annual "get together" social evening organised by the President for the December meeting resulted in a very disappointing attendance, but the members and visitors who were present spent a most enjoyable evening. The film show, organised for the evening, was, as expressed by our President, "out of this world." Only one full length film was shown, but the title will be an indication of the type of show we enjoyed. Called "The Golden Age of Comedy," the film gave cuts of many of the old silent picture comedies and included such great actors and actresses as Will Rogers, Ben Turpin, Chester Conklin, Laurel and Hardy, Jean Harlow and Carole Lombard. The action in the film and the antics of the comedians made us all literally split our sides and the evening's hilarious entertainment seemed altogether to be too short. Our special and sincere thanks to Mr. Jimmy Barnard and his assistant who came all the way from the West Rand to put on the show for us. The picture was undoubtedly selected for our special benefit as philatelists, because one of the actors, Will Rogers, the famous American comedian has had a commemorative stamp issued in his honour.

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PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

December. The meeting was "President's Night" when four excellent exhibits were staged and deeply appreciated by the members.

Mr. K. E. Oleson, as a result of a recent press article on the diamond jubilee of Christmas stamps, tabled a few pages of these stamps issued by Denmark where they originated sixty years ago.

Cmdr. Cyril Enoch divided his exhibit into three sections. The first was a selection of line engraved issues of Great Britain printed from the black plates, both mint and used on entires with the highlight Plate 5 P.B. in all three states. The second section consisted of Number Ones of British African countries, and the third covered Number Ones of the British Empire all over one hundred years old.

Mr. J. Slagt showed his collection of the Netherlands Indies which was awarded the Grand Prix at Paarl.

The final exhibit was one sent up by Mr. Rex Reynolds of Grahamston. It is a very fine study of the numeral bar postmarks of the Cape and must surely be one of the finest collections of this type in the Republic.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

The second meeting of **October** opened with Mr. Oppenheimer giving a talk on current philatelic events, after which Capt. M. F. Stern exhibited his "Pioneer Jet Era Flights" collection.

At the first meeting in **November,** after Mr. Mephius had been welcomed back from his oversea trip, he gave a short resume of his travels, dwelling particularly on the stamp world in Denmark and Britain. This was followed by Mr. Oppenheimer's usual chat after which Dr. Levy showed his collection of New Zealand Health stamps and read a paper sketching the history of these items.

The second exhibitor was Dr. Bartolucci who staged her collection of 10 years of Italian Administration of Somaliland. The third exhibit was Mr. Mann's collection of the stamps of Italy, accompanied by a talk covering all the issues from the first on 17 March 1861 to the present Republican ones.

At the second meeting, Mr. Busser who is the Senior Electronics Technician at Hartebeesthoek Deep Space Station at Krugersdorp, gave a most interesting "space" lecture, accompanied by slides, after which Mr. Vermaak staged his collection of "Space" (space on stamps) which covered the vast majortiy of stamps issued commemorating space achievements.

O.F.S. PHILATELIC SOCIETY

October. In the absence of both the President and the Vice-President (attending Congress at Paarl), the chair was taken by Mr. J. B. Levy.

New Issues and New Acquisitions were tabled by Messrs. Weil, Mountfort and Roux.

Twelve exhibit entries for the "Society Cup" competition were then tabled, these being:

"United Nations Human Rights Issues" by Mr. H. E. Roux; "Stamps on Stamps" by Dr. K. Freund; "Brussels Fair" by Mr. A. L. Meyburgh; "Orange Free State" by Mr. J. Price; "Basutoland Q.E. II Commemoratives" by Mr. A. H. Scott; "Sports" by Mr. J. Price; "Shakespeare" by Mr. N. Mountfort; "Scouts" by Mr. J. Price; "Tuscany" by Mr. S. Marus; "Oil Industry" by Mr. H. E. Roux; "Postal Services of France" by Mr. S. Marus; "Mail Transport" by Mr. S. Marus.

Whilst the judges were busy, members partook of refreshments. Mr. Marcus's "Postal Services" was judged the best on show and the decision of the judges was received with acclaim.

SIPEX NAMES 30 FOREIGN COMMISSIONERS

Thirty stamp collectors in nearly as many nations have been named foreign commissioners for the Sixth International Philatelic Exhibition (SIPEX) to be held in the United States, May 21-30, 1966, at Washington, D.C.

Mr. H. Suklje, P.O. Box 485, Benoni, Transvaal, and Mr. I. A. Miller, P.O. Box 11479, Johannesburg, have been nominated for South Africa.

Each commissioner will be responsible for contacts with exhibitors and other collectors in his area interested in the non-profit show, the first International to be held in the United States since 1956.

SIPEX, which will take place in Washington's Shoreham Hotel, will feature 2,200 frames of top collections from all over the world. Other attractions will include the first-day sales of the U.S. postage stamp and souvenir sheet to be issued in the show's honour, lounges of many stamp societies, 80 dealers' booths, a full programme of lectures and seminars, tours of government agencies, social events and sightseeing.

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REVIEW

The Postage Stamps of Griqualand West, by H. R. Holmes, F.R.P.S.L.

This little monograph is an almost perfect example of what is required in philately. The author is a renowned philatelist, a former President of the Royal Philatelic Society of London, and a well-known editor and writer. The fourteen pages contain all that is known about the stamps of this little territory, set out in a simple and informative style, embellished with a full page of photographs of the eighteen types of "G" overprinted on the stamps of the Cape of Good Hope and with a number of diagrams and tables.

The contents originally appeared in three numbers of the "London Philatelist" and the introduction sets out a short history of the Territory and details of collections of its postage stamps that have been notable in the past. We learn that the last authoritative work of any substance published on the stamps appeared in 1903 and that remarkably little fresh knowledge has come to light in the intervening period. Whatever is known, is now in print and available for the collector, and as many in South Africa must have some sort of collection of Griqualand West, this little brochure should be extremely valuable and should find its way into many a philatelic library.

"CAPE TYPE" NUMERAL POSTMARKS

Mr. J. M. Weinstein, of Pretoria, reports that he is able to record the "Cape Type" Numeral No. 457, and that it was used at BOWDEN, listed in the 1912 Post Office Guide as a Postal Order Agency, situated about 16 miles from Carlisle Bridge, Cape Province, but not included in the 1962 P.O. Guide.

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(Established 1923)

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The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

Editorial Board: Dr. T. B. BERRY (Chairman), Mr. S. L. CROZET, Dr. H. J. RAUBENHEIMER, Mr. S. J. VERMAAK.

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SOUTH AFRICAN NOTES

Hon. Associate Editor:
Dr. H. J. RAUBENHEIMER,
434 City Centre, Pretoria.

Recent Printings.

We are indebted to the Publicity Officer of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs for the following information concerning the period 1st July to 30th September, 1965. The relevant information for the previous three months appeared in our November, 1965, notes.

Note:—Each sheet of the ½c, 1c and 1½c values, postage stamps, contains 200 stamps; there are 100 stamps per sheet of the other values. A sheet of postcards contains 40 cards.

Postage Stamps.

½c—Job No. 62934.11 continued. On the order for 72,000 sheets, 45,300 sheets have been delivered to date. Same Cylinders G7 G9 Interior, G16 Exterior.

1c—Job No. 60937.34 continued. On the order for 2,000,000 sheets, a total delivery of 754,100 sheets has been made to date. Same Cylinders S23 Interior, S25 Exterior.

1½c—Job No. 62935.12 continued. On the order for 75,000 sheets, 48,500 sheets have been delivered to date. Same Cylinders S24 Interior, S19 Exterior.

2c—Job No. 52942.18 continued. On the order for 100,000 sheets, total delivery to date is 98,500 sheets. Same Cylinders G2 Interior, G1 Exterior.

2½c—Job No. 41288.80 continued. On the order for 2,000,000 sheets, 1,683,038 sheets have been delivered to date. Same Cylinders 12 Interior, 11 Exterior.

2½c—(I.T.U.). Job No. 59940.47 continued. A total of 504,701 sheets has been delivered on the order for 500,000 sheets. Same Cylinders S28 Interior, S29 Exterior.

2½c—(Church Stamps). Job No. 66219.64. On an order for 500,000 sheets, 4,000 sheets were delivered on 16/9/65 with a total delivery of 158,404 sheets to date. New Cylinders S28 Interior, S29 Exterior. Double pane multipositives stepped up on step and repeat camera, from new original master negatives. Printed and perforated on M/C 830 RSA paper.

3c—Job No. 62936.13 continued. A total of 116,700 sheets on an order of 300,000 sheets has been made to date. Same Cylinders G15 Interior, G8 Exterior.

5c—Job No. 62937.14. On a new order for 150,000 sheets, 7,400 were delivered on 3/8/65 with a total delivery of 64,300 sheets to date. Same cylinders 31 Interior, S1 Exterior.

7½c—Job No. 58799.17 continued. On the order for 150,000 sheets 8,700 sheets were delivered on 28/1/65 with a total delivery of 112,000 sheets to date. Same Cylinders S20 Interior, S21 Exterior.

12½c—(Church Stamps). Job No. 66220.65. On an order for 15,000 sheets, 2,000 were delivered on 16/9/65 and a total delivery of 17,504 sheets has been made to date. New Cylinders 74, 117 Interior, 12 Exterior. Single pane multipositives stepped up on step and repeat camera. Printed and perforated on M/C 840

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using new single comb perforator. Printed on 370 mm. RSA watermarked paper cut and rewound to 185 m.m. resulting in reversed (sic) watermark on stamp. (Inverted watermark surely.—Ed.).

20c—Job No. 53129.03. On an order for 75,000 sheets a first delivery of 11,100 sheets was made on 14/7/64 and a final delivery of 75,500 on 20/7/65. Same Cylinders 27, 60 Interior, 6 Exterior.

Post Cards.

1½c—Job No. 59797.05 continued. On the order for 50,000 sheets a total of 52,143 sheets (2,085,720 post cards) has been made up to the final date of delivery 6/7/65. Same Cylinders Z17 Interior, Z14 Exterior.

Job No. 67607.38. On a new order for 50,000 sheets, 850 were delivered on 8/7/65 with a total delivery of 32,890 sheets (1,315,600 post cards) to date. Same Cylinders Z17 Interior, Z14 Exterior.

Air Letters.

2½c—Job No. 58806.24 continued. On the order for 2,250,000 cards a total of 1,413,000 cards have been delivered to date. Old Cylinders.

5c—Job No. 54925.82 continued. On the order for 5,400,000 cards a final delivery of 5,726,000 cards was made on 1/7/65. Old cylinders 68 Blue, 31 Orange, 28 Gum. Job No. 65198.53. On a new order for 5,400,000 cards a first delivery of 9,000 was made on 6/7/65 with a total delivery of 1,554,000 cards to date. Same cylinders.

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

Four Commemorative Stamps, 1c, 2½c, 3c and 7½c in value, will be issued to mark the 5th Anniversary of the Republic in May. The designs are now being determined from those submitted in the recent competition. There will also be an Official First Day Cover and a special Date Stamp.

We hope to be able to give further details in our next number.

THE ½c IMPERFORATE SHEET

Messrs. Robertson Stamp Co. (Pty.) Ltd. has written to say that of the lesser of the two items, the ½c doubly perforated, reported in our January number, "the entire right-hand half of the sheet is doubly perforated, the left-hand half being normal."

THE "SQUARE J" FLAW

(Paper read at Congress, Paarl 1965, by Mr. J. R. Strong)

It is doubtful whether any issue of stamps in the world has been so intensively studied and written about, as the first line-engraved stamps of Great Britain—the 1d. Black and the imperforated 1d. Red. And understandably so, for apart from the intrinsic merits of its design, and the fact that 125 years after its first appearance, it can still be regarded as the world standard for its purpose, the very nature of its production resulted in a multitude of minor variations, flaws and repairs.

These stamps were printed from plates which soon wore out and broke down—11 for the 1d. Black and 164 for the imperforate 1d. Red, in addition to the 7 black plates from which 1d. Reds were also printed.

So that, although at first sight it would appear to be presumptous for a novice in the science of philately, to walk in fields that have been thoroughly explored long ago by the "Greats," yet, in the philatelic brotherhood everyone is more than welcome to contribute whatever he can to the game, and should he stumble on something of importance or interest, then "Good Luck" to him, is what they say.

Accordingly, I make no apology for reading this very brief note about an insignificant little mark to be found on many of the earlier 1d. Red imperforate stamps of Great Britain.

You must all be fully aware that the original Die was used for 1d. Blacks and 1d. Reds, and the design had blank squares at the lower corners ready for insertion of the check letters. When the plates were finally laid down, each with 240 impressions thereon, the check letters, which had been cut on wrought steel punches then hardened, were impressed onto the plates. The punch fitted into a holder by which the workman held the letter over the corner square, impressing it by a sharp hammer blow.

Defects on the punches were normally corrected by hand.

Imperfect stampings were repunched, and if perfect coincidence was not achieved, double impressions often resulted. These could be very marked, or quite insignificant, in many cases amounting to no more than a dot or faint line.

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These punches would give many thousand impressions and so were probably used on many plates before being discarded. Being hand cut, replacements would not be quite identical, and occasionally would be quite different from their predecessors. Many of these letters had specific peculiarities enabling their identification to be easily made —for example, there were the Broad D and the Narrow D, the Round O and the oval O, the squat T and the tall T etc. On plate 29 there was a peculiarly deformed S which was never used again. And there were two distinctive types J. The one with a round foot; the other with a square foot; known as the square footed J.

The square footed J was used on the 1d. Black Plates 10 and 11 from which 1d. Reds were subsequently printed. It was also used on 1d. Red Plates, 12, 13, 15, 18-28, 32 and 34-77. All other J's used were round footed.

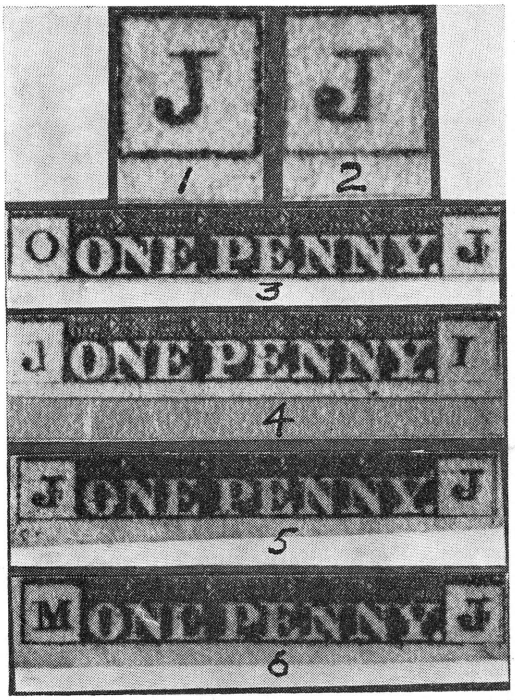
It is this square footed J that I will talk about today.

For many years I have noticed an unimpressive little flaw to be found just to the right of the middle of the vertical limb of the square footed J, on many of the earlier plates of the imperforate 1d. Red. At first, I thought it merely a sign of a double impression, and indeed in Seymour's "Postage Stamps of Great Britain" several times it appears, but always as illustrating Double Letters. Nowhere have I found it specifically alluded to.

It repeatedly cropped up, but always on square footed J's, never on the round footed J. When I found I had twenty times as many "Double" square footed J's as of any other double letter, I thought again. And then I was convinced that this indicated an actual flaw in the punch which had not been burnished off, and was not an indication of a double impression.

I have named it the "Square J Flaw."

The Flaw in question is a short vertical stroke, less than 1 mm. in length just outside the vertical limb of the square footed J. I have only seen it on the imperforate 1d. Red. As may be expected, it varies greatly in intensity from stamp to stamp, and from plate to plate. I have found it on Plates 12, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 26, 27, 28, 32, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 41, 42, 43 and possible traces only on Plate 44.



ILLUSTRATIONS 1-6

1. The Round-footed J.
2. The Square-footed J.
3. O J from Plate 27, showing "Square J" Flaw.
4. The Defective J form of the horizontal row on Plate 26.
5. Both J's with the Flaw on J J. of Plate 27.
6. A pronounced Flaw on M J of Plate 27.

I could find no trace of it on Plate 10 and 11, nor on Plates 13, 23 and 25. Having been unable to investigate Plate 40, I cannot say whether or not it occurs here.

On Plate 12: it is more clearly seen in the vertical J Row, than in the horizontal row, being most obvious on NJ and JJ, but showing only traces on the other J's.

On Plate 15: it is rather more evident on both rows.

On Plate 18: it is very infrequent and faint.

On Plate 19: nearly every J in the vertical row shows it clearly.

On Plate 20: it is infrequent.

On Plate 21: the vertical row shows many examples. And it is common in both rows on **Plate 22.**

On Plate 24: a few faint examples are to be found.

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Plate 26: Shows quite a number in the vertical row, but none in the horizontal row, in which the defective J occurs.

Plate 27: is the most affected of all the plates, showing the flaw clearly next to almost every J.

Plate 28: Shows it on many stamps; but from now on it becomes less and less apparent, and on subsequent plates it is only found occasionally, and then is very ill defined.

I have not been able to identify even a trace of it after Plate 44, on which a few faint examples are found.

I have a mint block of 12 LJ - OL, Plate 42 from the Seymour Collection, on LJ of which the flaw shows very clearly but from the other stamps of which it is absent. It is present on several other stamps on this plate.

Some conclusions may be drawn from this study.

(1) The same punch was used for a spell of three years, from February 1841 until early in 1844, during which time plates 12 to 44 were laid down.

(2) Almost certainly more than one punch with the square J were in use simultaneously. On Plate 25, for example, a very distinctive J with a defective top is found on many stamps in the vertical row, while those in the horizontal row appear to be quite normal, without the J Flaw and with normal crosspiece at the top.

And on Plate 26 all the stamps in my possession from the horizontal row have the same defect as that on Plate 25, while all J's in the vertical row have normal tops and many show the J Flaw.

The foregoing conclusions are in conformity with the statements made by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Company, that two punches should serve 32 plates.

(3) The extreme variability of the strength of this Flaw, even on contiguous stamps on the same plate, may be explained by variations of the angle at which the punch was applied to the letter square. This angle would vary considerably according to which hand the operator used when holding the punch.

(4) Letter CJ on Plate 13 in my collection shows a double Flaw, one immediately outside the other, without duplication of the letter J.

FJ and JJ Plate 21 show reduplication of the letter J but no obvious duplication of the Flaw. In view of such anomalies, it is understandable that the Flaw, though often seen and even illustrated, has been construed as being just a manifestation of a duplicated J.

(5) On the other hand on JJ of Plates 15, 19, 21, 27 and 28, the Flaw is clearly seen on both J's of each plate. It is most unlikely that both J's of each of these plates would have been duplicated. It would seem that this Flaw is an undoubted reality, and deserves to be accepted as such.

Furthermore, its recognition should be of considerable help to platers, particularly when coping with Plates 35 - 44, on which numeral cancellations are very frequently found.

Therefore I commend this insignificant little mark to all students of the 1d. Red and would like to see it acquire a mantle of dignity in its own rights, if not as impressive as that of the famous flaws of the 1d. Black, yet at least worthy of being chronicled and named.

And if this incomplete study will stimulate others to pursue the matter, then its main purpose will have been served.

Addendum: 22nd November, 1965:

Since writing this paper Mr. R. A. G. Lee, the well-known Great Britain Collector, in a personal communication to me has identified the flaw on a considerable number of stamps of Plates 18, 22 and 36, in his own collection, and infrequently on stamps from Plates 15, 23, 32, 34 and 40. He has also noticed its occurrence on FJ, JI and JJ of Plate 52. Its appearance on this latter plate is surprising since there is every indication that the affected punch had been discarded after its use on Plate 44.

TRANSVAAL STUDY CIRCLE

This Study Group was formally inaugurated on 13th November, 1965, with Major H. M. Criddle, 15 Randall Road, Leatherhead, Surry, England, as Secretary and Treasurer, among other elected office bearers.

Membership already includes residents in South Africa, Holland and Britain but more will be welcomed upon application.

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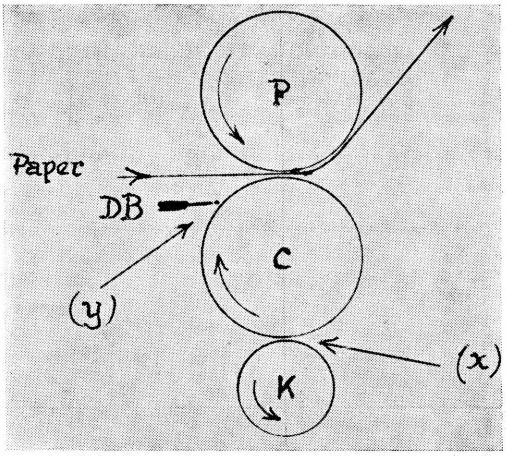
By R. McDougall

The flaws are small un-inked areas, triangular in shape, which occur in the same vertical plane at irregular intervals, but not oftener than once per sheet, and have been reported on only two values of the Unhyphenated Rotos:—

UHC 41 6d. Int. Cyl. 4th vertical row. Issued May 1931.

UHC 42 1/- Ext. Cyl. 4th vertical row. Issued Sept. 1932.

Put very simply, they are caused by some irregularity in putting ink on the paper, so, in trying to explain why they occur, it is necessary to consider the four parts of the printing machine which perform the operation.



The Inking Roller (K) dips into a trough of ink and, as it rotates, brings a layer of ink into contact with the etched Cylinder (C). The contact pressure is firm, ink is forced into the etched grooves, and there is excess ink over the whole surface of the Cylinder. The Doctor Blade (D.B.) removes the excess ink but leaves the etched grooves full. As the Cylinder rotates further it brings the ink-full grooves into contact with the paper under the Impression Roller (P) which applies considerable pressure because mere contact is not sufficient for the paper to pick up the ink.

It has been suggested that the flaws were caused by a hole in the Inking Roller which did not apply any ink to the Cylinder at that point, but there are several reasons for disagreeing with this idea:—

(1) At the point (x) there must be a considerable excess of ink being squeezed out between the Inking Roller and the Cylinder, enough to fill up any hole.

(2) At point (y) the D.B. carries an excess of ink which it is busy removing from the cylinder surface. This excess also would help to fill any un-inked grooves.

(3) We know that the Inking Roller is one-sixth less in diameter than the Cylinder to which it is geared. Therefore, some error of the Roller would produce more than one flaw per sheet, but Mr. J. B. Levy was most definite in saying that they occurred only once per sheet (see S.A.P., February 1959, page 18). Because of the mechanical linkage, it is most unlikely that different sizes of Inking Roller were ever used.

Any malfunction of the Doctor Blade may be discounted because the flaws do not wander in their vertical alignment. Similarly, their wandering nature precludes anything on the Cylinder, so there is nothing left to investigate but the Impression Roller.

In the S.A.P. of June 1935, discussing various flaws and varieties of Rotogravure stamps, Mr. G. N. Gilbert said:—

> "Then there are the partially printed stamps, due to faulty pressure rollers. These rollers are composed of some hard rubber composition which do occasionally swell or get out of true, and when that happens the paper passing between the roller and cylinder does not get the necessary pressure to pick up the "detail" of the printing, with the result that only the deeper recessed outlines show.
>
> "A variety of this sort was recently noted in the 1/- denomination, the outline of the Gnus only being printed and the background of the mountains almost entirely non-existent. The writer also has a similar variety in the 1d. and 2d. denominations."

While it would be true to say that the variety described by Mr. Gilbert could have been an "interrupted printing" of the type discussed and explained by the Study Circle in recent months, it is equally true to say that his explanation has never been investigated with any thoroughness. In fact, his explanation is very similar to one given, in the daily Press, to explain the missing colour on a current British stamp.

On a small scale, the "wandering flaws" present a similar appearance to Mr. Gil-

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bert's variety. Deeply-etched grooves have applied a little ink which breaks up the triangular outline and there are occasional spots within the area.

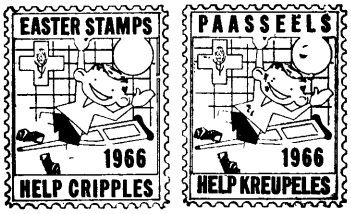
Therefore, the "wandering flaws" are caused by a small triangular dent in the Impression Roller which failed to apply the necessary pressure at that point.

Because the lateral positions of the flaws are not the same on the 6d. and the 1/-, even allowing for a reversed roller, and because Mr. R. J. Lawrence has shown (see Springbok May/June 1964, page 47) that they occur on the 4th vertical row of the 1/- as well as on the 6th row, it seems likely that there were three different dents on Impression Rollers at different times. No similar flaws have been reported on stamps printed between May 1931 and September 1932.

One obvious question remains to be answered, "What is the diameter of the Impression Roller?"

For illustrations of these flaws, see:—
Jubilee Handbook, pages 126 and 128.
S.A.P., October 1958 page 146 and February 1959, page 18.
Springbok May/June 1964, page 47.

EASTER STAMPS FOR CRIPPLE CARE



The National Council for the Care of Cripples will once again be making their annual appeal to the generosity of the public of South Africa to buy Easter Stamps while they are on sale during the month of March.

The Easter Stamp Fund provides the money which the Council uses to advance all facets of cripple cure work and your support of the Fund will assist in this gigantic undertaking to help cripples to held themselves.

PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

The **Expert Committee** was established in 1951 and has met regularly since then. It consists of five members including the Chairman and the Hon. Secretary.

Consultants, in the form of eminent philatelists resident in South Africa and also the Expert Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, are available to the committee for reference purposes.

The items are closely scrutinised by each member after which the opinion of the committee is recorded in the form of a certificate. Material should be submitted in the first instance to the Hon Secretary, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg, and is accepted for determination upon the following abbreviated terms and conditions:

1.—All material submitted is at sender's risk throughout.

2.—Senders are required to state precisely what information is sought, and the Committee's fee will have regard to the value of the material and the time spent upon it.

3.—Scale of fees for members of affiliated societies only.

For an opinion as to identity and genuineness, including the Committee's Certificate and a photograph:—

5/- where the latest Gibbons quotation does not exceed £25;

7/6 where it exceeds £25 but does not exceed £50;

10/- where it exceeds £50 or is an unquoted item.

Where the opinion given is that the item is not genuine, no photograph will be provided and the charge will be from 2/6 to 7/6 depending on the time spent.

These fees are increased 50 per cent where there is an overprint or surcharge.

Where the Committee are not prepared to formulate an opinion, no photograph will be provided and the charge will be 1/-.

The above charges do not include return postage.

4.—Scale of fees for non-members of affiliated societies.

For all classes the charge will be as in paragraph 3 above, but increased 50 per cent. This does not include return postage.

5.—Any Certificate given by the Expert

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Committee is only a record of their OPINION and does not convey any guarantee or warranty. No responsibility is accepted for any consequence of the issue of these Opinions.

The next meeting of the Expert Committee will be held on Saturday 19th April, 1966.

POST CHRISTMAS MAIL EARLY

For the fourth year in succession, this slogan was used on postmarking machines at a number of South African Post Offices in the period preceding Christmas 1965. A list of offices from which this slogan has been seen in this period is given below; the towns are exactly the same as in 1962, when the slogan was first used.

The dates of introduction and withdrawal of this slogan at different offices suggest that an instruction was issued to use it from November 15th to December 15th. Some offices continued to use it later; but I have seen no specimens dated after Christmas, in contrast to 1962 when at least six offices continued using it after December 25th.



A new die, illustrated, was used at Pretoria; at least, it is one I personally had not seen before. It is easily distinguished from the old one by the fact that the P's of POS and POST are vertically above one another on the new one. The old one was also used this year, concurrently with the new.

The following is a list of offices known to have used this slogan in 1965. In most cases the dies used were the ones originally supplied in 1962. A few offices, however, used replacements supplied in 1963 or 1964, and these I have distinguished by the letter R; the new die at Pretoria has been mentioned already.

(a) English version first: Cape Town, Durban, East London (R), Johannesburg (R), Kimberley, Pietermaritzburg, Port Elizabeth, Springs, Welkom.

(b) Afrikaans version first: Bloemfontein, Germiston, Johannesburg (R), Klerksdorp, Kroonstad, Pietersburg, Potchefstroom, Pretoria, Vereeniging (R).

I would be very glad to hear of any further towns using this slogan. I would also be grateful for any evidence as to whether this slogan was used in 1963 at Bloemfontein, Johannesburg (with English first), Kroonstad and Welkom, and whether Klerksdorp, Potchefstroom, Springs and Welkom used it in 1964.

—(D. ALLISON).

TOPICAL COMMENTS

A number of stamp magazines run features emphasising stamps which they consider to be "good" or "good buy's." Whilst such features may be good subscriber catchers, we wonder whether it has ever dawned on editors of the magazines in point that their very deeds are causing the hobby much harm, that they are actually doing the bona fide collector a big disservice.

In these days of "investment in stamps," speculators are causing stamp prices to rocket sky-high, out of all proportion to real values. We know of a number of vultures who subscribe to various stamp magazines merely to get at A's "Tip of the month" and Z's "Tip number one," so that they can climb in immediately. Such "philatelists" usually buy big and thereby create an artificial demand, inevitably at the expense of the collector. Of course they go completely off the rails at times, to find themselves with a handful of well burnt fingers, but that's another matter. For instance, one of our foremost statesmen recently bought himself a twenty thousand rand (!) pig in a poke. Such misfortunes do not seem to deter them, so no one can blame the real collector if he exhibits a spot of malicious joy when hearing of their ill-luck.

If, however, they are wise enough to heed the advice of an idiot (and they include collectors who harbour hidden aims) they might give thought to this "Tip of the year": If you have ideas about making money out of stamps, drop them. You are only spoiling the stamp collector's fun whilst there are many safe investment opportunities open to you.

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THE REGISTERED LETTER

A dissertation on "The Registered Letter," appearing in our December number, stated that . . . . "no authority can be found which would bestow official recognition upon the Blue Lines which we are in the habit of inscribing upon an article for registration."

This statement was made in all good faith upon information obtained from an authentic source, but, recently Mr. M. S. Weitzmann, of Vereeniging, has drawn our attention to the "Post Office Manuel of Instructions to Postmasters," Vol. 2, Page 199, paragraph 636(c) which reads: "every registered article must be marked on all sides with blue lines crossing each other at right angles."

We are pleased to make the amendment, and, further are grateful to Mr. Weitzmann for this information which furnishes the "missing link" between the previous usage of "Green Tape" (recorded in our February issue) and that of the present day "Blue Lines," and so gives a complete recording of this interesting Post Office procedure.

THE ANGLO-BOER WAR PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The moving tribute paid to the late Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie by Mr. Ernest Hunt (S.A.P., December 1965), will be echoed by many of your readers. It may not be well-known that Dr. Pirie was President and Hon. Life Member of the above Society for a number of years. During his period of office he presented to the Society "The Dr. J. H. Pirie Award" in the form of Diplomas. These are awarded to members for published articles of merit on Anglo-Boer War Philately deemed, by the Committee, to be worthy of such Award. A number of these have now been presented. Such articles have been a contributory factor towards the Society's being able to publish a revision of portions of S. G. Rich's book, "Philately of the Anglo-Boer War." It was Dr. Pirie's oft-expressed hope that such revision would be undertaken by this Society. We hope to be able to publish (as much as possible) in 1967.

The recently elected President, in succession to Dr. Pirie, is Lt. Col. H. Poulter of Marple, Cheshire, England, who has been the Society's Chairman for a number of years. Col. Poulter—a keen philatelist since his young days—has a wide knowledge of "Boer War" (and, also, an excellent collection of such!). He was the President of Manchester Philatelic Society in 1959.

The A.B.W.P. Society Annual Convention will be held at the Crown Hotel, Warwick, on the 7th May, 1966. Many items of "Boer War" will be shown in displays. (Incidentally, Warwick is very near to Stratford-upon-Avon, Kenilworth Castle and Leamington Spa).

Interested non-members should communicate with the Hon Secretary—Mr. J. H. Rathbone, "Allways," Rudheath, Northwich, Cheshire, England.

COLLECTORS ARE SPENDING £590,000 WITH THE POST OFFICE

"Stamp Collecting" reports that the British Postmaster-General "stated that the production costs of all stamp issues since October, 1964, together with an estimate for the first two issues of 1966, amounted to £114,000. In addition, designers' fees amounted to £10,000, including the normal fee of 250 guineas for each design used. Twenty-eight commemorative stamps had been or would be issued in all, bringing in an estimated philatelic revenue of £590,000.

"In a further reply the P.G.M. stated that there had been nine special issues since October 1964, one stamp celebrating the 700th anniversary of Simon de Montfort's Parliament was treble size, the others double size, and the total extra cost was about £87,000. The estimated philatelic revenue for these issues wts £480,000."

It would be interesting to obtain the comparative figures of other stamp-issuing countries.

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DIE OPVOEDKUNDIGE WAARDE VAN POSSEËLS

(Die slotdeel van mnr. N. C. Combrink se voorlesing)

Landbou op posseëls kan weer soos volg onderverdeel word: Grondbewaring, Saaityd, Oestyd, Graan, Wynbou, Verskillende Produkte, Vee, Plaaswonings, Plaasgereedskap, Besproeiing, ensovoorts. Die hele ontwikkelingsgeskiedenis van landbou word op posseëls afgebeeld.

Posseëls van Egipte toon hoedat daar vroeg in sy geskiedenis met primitiewe gereedskap geploeg en geoes is. Die ontwikkeling van die ploeg word op posseëls van verskillende lande uitgebeeld. Dit is ook interessant om te sien watter verskillende trekdiere vir ploegdoeleindes gebruik word. Hier is nou nie die ruimte om oor hierdie tema uit te wy en die verskillende posseëls wat landbou aandui te lys nie. Elke land egter, selfs minder beskaafde lande, toon landbou in een of ander vorm op hul posseëls aan. Die tema is besonders vir demonstrasiedoeleindes geskik.

Die temaversamelaar moet natuurlik baie naslaanwerk doen ten einde die nodige byskrif teenoor of naasaan die posseëls in sy versameling aan te bring. Op so 'n wyse word sy tema vir hom 'n middel tot vermeerdering van sy kennis en word hy ook in staat gestel om die kennis aan andere mee te deel.

Temaversameling bied vir die versamelaar 'n wonderlike geleentheid vir studie en navorsing aan. Dit vermeerder nie sy kennis alleen nie, maar dien ook as 'n middel waardeur hy in die opstel van sy versameling, aan sy vernuf, skeppingsvermoë en oorspronklikheid uiting kan gee.

By die kind is dit opvallend dat, wanneer hy 'n aantal posseëls besit, die besit daarvan vir hom 'n uitdaging is om hulle op een of ander manier in 'n boek of album te plak; dit verskaf hom ook 'n groot mate van vreugde.

Elke ware versamelaar wat sy versameling met die regte mate van intelligensie benader, verheug hom oor sy produk met die vreugde van 'n kind. Soos 'n kind hom verbly oor 'n nuwe speelding of posseël, is daardie kindervreugde altyd by 'n posseëlversamelaar te bespeur al is hy tagtig jaar oud of meer.

Dit is tog opmerklik dat wanneer 'n kind in posseëls belangstel, sy belangstelling ook in ander rigtings uitvloei. Sy posseëls word vir hom van lewenskragtige waarde wat mettertyd sy kennis en uitkyk op die lewe verryk. Sy intelligensie word aangewakker en aan die gang gehou deur die verskillende eienskappe soos kleur, verskeidenheid en beeld wat posseëls aanbied.

Daar is genoeg kinders in ons land wat in posseëls belangstel en daar is genoeg posseëls vir almal, maar dit ontbreek aan leiding en onderrig.

Talle kinders sowel as volwassenes gaar posseëls op, maar weet nie hoe om die beste gebruik van die materiaal te maak nie. In Europese lande soos Duitsland en Nederland en ook in Engeland word kinders in skole ingelig en gehelp, soms deur buiteskoolse klasse en klubs sodat hulle reg kan versamel.

In Engeland en Amerika word daar deur filatelisteverenigings spesiale kursusse vir

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onderwysers aangebied. So 'n kursus is nog nie in Suid-Afrika beskikbaar nie, maar as die aanvraag daar is, sal die inligting wel beskikbaar gestel word.

By geleentheid van die 26e kongres van die Federasie van Filatelistieverenigings van Suidelike Afrika laaste Oktober te Pretoria gehou, het die Posmeester-generaal, mnr. Botes, die hoop uitgespreek dat posseëlversameling in die nabye toekoms, ook in ons onderwysstelsel ingeskakel sal word.

Daar word wel besef dat die onderwysleerplan alreeds oorlaai is, maar hierdie stokperdjie is 'n afleiding, 'n ware stokperdjie maar wat deur temas in filatelie kennis deur posseëls aanbied.

Hierdie rubriek is geskryf namens die Federasie van Filatelistieverenigings van Suidelike Afrika, Posbus 375, Johannesburg. Indien enige verdere inligting verlang word, rig u brief aan die Ere-sekretaris van hierdie liggaam.

PRETBEDERWERS



Vier van die stel van ses Churchill-seëls van Jemen waarna ons in die laaste uitgawe van hierdie blad verwys het, is bo afgebeeld om versamelaars des te beter te laat sien hoe die drogseëls lyk wat deur 'n onbekende bedrieër versprei is.

UIT DIE BRIEWEBUS

Die onderstaande brief is 'n geruime tyd gelede deur ons ontvang, maar omdat ons ruimte bra beperk is kon ons dit nie vroeër plaas nie. Dit kom van mej. M. Evans op Otjiwarongo:

Geagte Meneer,—Ek het vandag toevallig by 'n vriend van my u tydskrif "The South African Philatelist" gesien. Ek was aangenaam verras met die inhoud van hierdie tydskrif. Ek is seker dat baie beginners van seëlversamelaars, waarvan ek self een is, nie bewus is van hierdie tydskrif nie. Die artikel oor "Iets vir Almal" in hierdie Oktoberuitgawe het my regtig getref. Veral die vraag: Watter standerd is u? Dit het my regtig laat dink, en ek moet nou tot die besef kom dat ek nog net die standerd VI-sertifikaat het. Daarom sal ek nou iets moet doen, om verder my posseëlkunde op te knap.

Hiermee wens ek dan aansoek te doen as intekenares op hierdie tydskrif. Die subskripsiegeld van R1.20 word hierby aangeheg.

Graag verneem ek of u nog van vorige uitgawes beskikbaar het, indien wel watter

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maande? Ek sal later die verlangende bedrag aan u stuur.

Mag 'n intekenaar enige informasie by u kry? Ten opsigte van seëls, albums en seëlsverkope?

(Nouja, nie „enige informasie" nie, maar vra maar, ons sal probeer).

AFRICANA MUSEUM

By ANNA H. SMITH

Although gold was discovered on the Witwatersrand only in 1886 and Johannesburg was not established until the last quarter of that year, there was sufficient interest in stamp collecting for M. Z. Booleman of Pritchard Street to be listed as a fancy goods importer and dealer in foreign stamps by the end of 1893. In the Johannesburg collection of the Africana Museum is not only a business card informing "The Philatelists of Johannesburg" of the removal of the firm to more central premises to be opened on 3 October, 1894, but also a photograph showing the exterior of the shop with Mr. Booleman standing in the doorway of "Philately House."

The oldest society of stamp collectors in Johannesburg dates from April 1894, and early in the twentieth century a philatelic library was in existence. In July 1938 the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg placed its collection in the Johannesburg Public Library, where it has been cared for ever since. The Society hands over any exchanges it may receive, and the Library adds to the collection by purchase and by gift.

In 1947 part of the philatelic library of the veteran Transvaal collector, Emil Tamsen was acquired, and every effort is made to maintain an up-to-date and complete collection. The emphasis is on works in the English language, but publications, particularly catalogues and journals, in the better-known languages of Western Europe, are included. Although various sets of journals date back to the late nineteenth century, there is not much of the period 1860-1880, the cradle days of philatelic publishing. "Stamp Collectors' Magazine" issued in London by E. Marlborough is represented by a run from 1863 to 1874 (missing 1870) and there is a full set of the "Philatelic Record" dating from February 1879, with "Le Timbre-poste," issued by Moens in Brussels, starts in 1863, and lacks only two volumes up to 1900. The earliest catalogue dates from 1868 (one issued by Gibbons in Plymouth) and there are various catalogues of the 1880's. From 1890 onwards catalogues tend to be complete. Most of Fred Melville's publications are present, and extensive holdings of auction catalogues include those issued by H. R. Harmer and by Robson Lowe.

Although all fields of philately, including stamps of many countries, are represented, the collections of Western European countries and particularly of Southern Africa are the most comprehensive. The collection is, as is to be expected, particularly strong as far as South African publications are concerned. It is believed that in a number of cases the Johannesburg Public Library owns the only surviving copies of early stamp journals issued in South Africa.

The periodical collection in general is kept up-to-date as far as it is possible by purchase and exchange with other libraries in many parts of the world.

From time to time lists of the publications in the collection have been distributed. The most ambitious was the stencilled catalogue issued in 1960 for free distribution to mark UNIPEX, the second international philatelic exhibition to be held in Johannesburg. It listed nearly 2,000 different titles. Today the collection exceeds 4,000 volumes. This figure excludes the large number of pamphlets with less than 50 pages, and no unbound periodical parts have been considered in this figure.

In the same building as the Public Library is housed the Africana Museum, which received the magnificent J. H. Curle collection of Transvaal stamps as a bequest in 1948 after it had remained in London throughout the blitz. Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie presented a collection illustrating South African philately in World War II, and the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg presented a general collection of the stamps of Southern Africa. Descriptive brochures on the Curle and the Harvey Pirie collections written by Dr. Harvey Pirie are available, and to mark a special thematic exhibition of philatelic terms the writer prepared a stencilled list of definitions entitled "The Language of Stamp Collecting" for free distribution in 1959. Requests for this list were received from all over the world, and as it includes Afrikaans terms and definitions, even philologists expressed interest!

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Two Johannesburg philatelic societies hold their regular meetings in the building, which houses the Library and the Museum, and members make use of the philatelic literature. It is hoped that the Library and the Museum will take part in the celebrations being planned to mark the centenary of the first Transvaal postage stamp in a few years' time.—(Acknowledgment to "The Stamp Magazine").

CHANGES IN CERTAIN POSTAL REGULATIONS

The Post Office BULLETIN, issued by the Publicity Branch, G.P.O., Pretoria, on the 3rd January, 1966, states that as a result of decisions taken at the Congress of the Universal Postal Union held in Vienna in 1964, certain changes in the existing postal regulations have been made with effect from the 1st January, 1966.

The following is a summary of some of the most important changes:

Addressing of Correspondence.

Letters.—The space on the front of a letter necessary for the name and address of the addressee, the postage and the service instructions or labels must be left completely clear.

Other items.—The righthand half of the address side of postal items other than letters must be reserved exclusively for the name and address of the addressee and for the postage and the service instructions or labels. Items of which the whole or part of the address side has been marked off into several divisions to provide for successive addresses are not admissible.

Bulky items.—If the wrapping or contents are not suitable for the writing of the address and service indications, or for affixing the postage stamps or postage franking machine impressions, the sender should securely attach to the item an address label of cardboard or parchment measuring not less than 3.9 inches by 2.7 inches. This should also be done if date-stamping is likely to cause damage to the item.

Items Posted in Open Envelopes: Holding of Loose Flaps of Envelopes in Position.

Use of adhesive tape.—Adhesive tape may be used for this purpose, provided—

(a) it is affixed to a smooth base which will allow of it being lifted and re-affixed easily;

(b) the postal item on which it is used cannot be confused with a closed item; to prevent this, the following words must appear next to the tape:

(i) "Item not sealed—contents may be examined;" and

(ii) "To open, lift tongue of the adhesive tape. To close, re-affix the adhesive tape to its base."

Use of metal paper fasteners.—The use of metal paper fasteners is not recommended as they can injure the hands of the Post Office staff, damage other postal items and hamper the mechanised treatment of postal items.

Printed Papers.

The definition of "printed papers" has been changed to read as follows:—

"Reproductions on paper, cardboard or other materials commonly used by printers and produced in several identical copies by means of a mechanical or photographic process involving the use of a block, stencil or negative, are regarded as printed papers."

STAMP COLLECTORS ARE MAD—BUT WONDERFUL

By PATRICK RYAN

Philatelists are funny. Funny droll and funny daunting. At first sight, quaint, documentary squirrels compulsively hoarding, in the words of Rowland Hill, "small, stamped, detached labels about an inch square prepared on the back with a glutinous wash."

Less cuddly, though, at harder look, Traitors to their species in the long march of evolution. While mankind strives towards perfection, the philatelist pursues imperfection.

The errors of his fellowmen are his one true delight. While they aim for the better, he hopes for the worst. Society decries poor workmanship, but the stampcollector applauds the flaw, esteems the blemish and rejoices to see the nose of the Queen struck on the wrong way round.

Philatelists are crazy, mixed-up people. Heaven has lately been bombarded with their confused prayers for the disfigurement of Sir Winston Churchill . . . . "Dear Lord, who made heaven and earth and the British Guiana One Cent of 1856 now worth

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£200,000, please arrange that the Churchill Commemorative stamps I buy on the day of issue be spoilt by every possible error of printing, watermark, gumming and perforation.

"May the printer who runs off my sheet be inefficient, three-fingered, drunk, colour-blind and afflicted by ague. On the other hand, O Lord, may the postman who date-stamps my first-day cover be the soul of efficiency, diligent, meticulous and so devoted to his duty that the awful botchery of my stamps shall receive a date-stamp of transcendent clarity" . . . .

Her Majesty is, of course, the regular target for such invocations, and it is not widely enough known that she maintains her printed beauty against the deformities wished upon her by philatelic malediction only at considerable expense in voodoo retainers and white cockerels.

Money Obsessed.

Philatelists are base materialists. They are as obsessed with money as Midas and place a price on everything they possess. It is a frightening experience for one uninfected by philately to sit, trapped by ponderous albums across his knees, and watch the ice-light of avarice creep into the eyes of his best friend as he quotes the catalogue price, profit to date, and mercenary expectations of each portion of gummed paper in his collection.

Philatelists are filled with Freudian death-wish. What else could drive a man to devote his precious days here below to the contemplation of such minutiae of human failing as recently exemplified in the Philatelic Magazine:

> Globe Stamp Co. Ltd. (London) have shown us a part sheet of the Great Britain Fourth Bridge 3d. value with a colour smear which obliterates the value down the right-hand side. The variety occurs in the third vertical row and appears on each of the last twelve stamps.

Can a man be legally sane and yet pay out hard-earned money to possess a Curious Smear? People have been put in strait-jackets for less.

Self-hypnotic.

Philatelists are self-hypnotic. Otherwise, how could they get themselves conned into believing that because a sheet of 2d. stamps —worth £2 in postal services or about 1½d. in paper, ink and gum—came to miss the perforating machine in 1957, it forthwith achieved a value of £12,000? Particularly, mark you, when, until 1854, all stamps lacked perforation anyway.

And can we be in the same world as income tax, dustbins and South Vietnam when we read in Gibbons Stamp Monthly:

> Just before going to press I was handed a complete newly discovered variety of British Honduras, with a completely missing colour which results in albino legs to the Jacana Bird . . . . I can now take bookings for individual stamps at £35 a piece . . . .

The Jacama Bird stamp, complete with fully coloured legs, retails in British Honduras post offices at three cents a piece.

Gullible.

Philatelists are gullible. With victims eager to pay folding money for imperforates, curious smears and legless Jacana birds it is not unsurprising that philately has ever been a happy hunting-ground for forgers. It is estimated that the number of spurious Speratis displayed proudly in stamp collections is rivalled only by the number of fake Corots revered in American art galleries.

Philatelists are masochists. They do not want to be cured of their sad addiction. Lately, in the United States, a printer's gremlin contrived to omit a complete bridge from 50 copies of the four cent stamp, which then became saleable for a total of £3,500.

The Post Office kindly proposed to release the victims from the dealers' thrall by printing another 770,000 bridgeless items, but the self-inflicting philatelists rallied in protest and the department was forbidden to do so by a Federal judge in Washington.

Philatelists are unscrupulous. Stamps bring out man's inherent amorality. Specimens stolen in planned burglaries vanish into secret albums and never re-appear on the market.

One enthusiast will never leave his collection alone in the presence of another. Two rabid collectors negotiating a swop provide a spectacle of chicanery and double dealing.

The British Museum have the stamp squirrels weighed up. If you take a head count, you'll find that there are more attendants to the acre in the Stamp Room than in any other part of the building. It would be easier to knock off Nefertiti's mother-in-law than to whip a few penny blacks up your jumper.

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Wife Second.

Philatelists are fanatics. To a victim of severe philatelic neurosis, everything else in life—career, marriage or getting the coal in—are badly also-rans to his glutinous obsession. At the last census, there were more stamp-widows than golf-widows.

A brave, but now divorced, philatelic neighbour had to fight his way through the flames twice when his house caught fire. On the first heroic dash he collected only his British Colonial Overprints and clean forgot his wife.

But, in the final count, philatelists are wonderful. Unwavering philanthropists ever ready to pour their savings into new issues, no matter how obvious may be their own exploitation nor how blantly commercial the design.

They have ever been the gallant supporters of tottering South American economies, providers of cream on stamp-dealers' cakes, and God's gift to the treasuries of emergent African nations. But perhaps their finest hour is yet to come.

My most mercenary philatelic acquintance assures me that in the field of really long-term investment, the laying-down of mint sheets of British high-value stamp issues is surpassed in profitability only by the laying down of port.

A full sheet of the 1s. 3d. Churchill Commemorative costs £7 10s. 0d. It's not a really high value but well worth salting away. If each of the thirty-two million working adults in the country bought a sheet each for long-term storage, the Post Office would be out of the red overnight with about two hundred millions to spare.

And if they'd all come again on June 14 and buy a sheet each of the 2s. 6d. 700th Anniversary of Parliament issue at £10 a time, George Brown would be able to settle the British Balance of Payments problem and pay the Post War Credits as well. Vive les Philatelistes Genereux . . . . Long Live the Saviours of the Pound.—(Acknowledgment, "The Sunday Times," Johannesburg).

PORTUGAL'S FIRST NATIONAL PHILATELIC CONGRESS

This event will not be an exhibition but a congress upon somewhat similar lines to those of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa.

It will be held from 12 May to 15 May, 1966, in Aveiro, a beautiful city of Metropolitan Portugal under the auspices of the local Philatelic Club (Seccão Filatélica e Numismatica do Clube dos Galitos).

Prof. Dr. Carlos Pinto Trincao, R.D.P., will preside over the Congress; papers/theses on various philatelic aspects are expected from eminent philatelists, and every endeavour is being made by a representative committee to warrant the success of the undertaking.

Those interested may obtain additional information from Mr. Julio Almeida Santos, President of "Clube Filatélico de Moçambique, P.O. Box 720, Lourenco Marques.

MONACO'S LONG COLOURFUL HISTORY

The long colourful history of the tiny Principality of Monaco as recorded on their attractively designed postal emissions provides some outstanding reading in the September Journal of The American Philatelic Society.

A tiny, hilly wedge driven into the French Mediterranean coast just east of Nice, the sovereign Principality of Monaco is a little wonderland of pleasure that attracts more than a million and a half visitors each year. Occupying only six tenths square miles or 375 acres and bounded on three sides by France, Monaco is noted for its mild climate as well as for its magnificent scenery.

The total population of this quaint country is about 21,000, the language and monetary unit is French although the Principality has been independent for 800 years.

Author of this serial on Monaco is Col. R. C. Williams of Columbus, Ga., an A.P.S. member, who was fascinated by Monaco's history. Long hours of research and considerable correspondence followed as he delved back through the pages of time, made even more difficult as much of Monaco's early history has been recorded in languages other than English.

Col. Williams states that he settled upon Monaco for two primary reasons: "First, from time-to-time I had asked myself how such a tiny fascinating country was born; and, more importantly, how did it manage to survive to this day? Second, was the desire to be in a field that was not being plowed by everyone else in the stamp collecting world."—(The A.P. Society's News Letter).

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OLYMPIC GAMES, 1964

(Paper read in conjunction with a display by Mr. S. Wachenheimer at the October meeting of the Society of Israel Philately)

Before displaying to you my collection of Olympic stamps of 1964, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about the games and the stamps which I am about to show.

The Olympic Games when first known of was not an International event. It was a religious event in Honour of Zeus, and can be dated back as far as 1463 B.C., but the first verifiable games were held in 776 B.C. at the foot of Mt. Olympus.

The ancient Olympic Games reached their peak of pomp and ceremony in the 6th Century, when they were held every four years, and the Greek historians recorded time by the olympics. These games continued for 1,100 years until the year 392 A.D. when they were banned by the Roman Emperor Theodosius because of their pagan and religious origin.

The Games were then once more revived after 1,500 years by the Greeks but only the freeborn were allowed to participate. Also the games were for men only, and women were not even allowed as spectators. The competitiors all underwent extensive training programmes at special camps set up for this purposes. The games themselves lasted for five days, made up as follows:

The first day was devoted to religious rites.

The second day was devoted for the contest of young boys. The events consisted of foot racing, wrestling, boxing, horseracing and the pentathelon, which consisted of broad jump with weights in hand, the discus, the javelin and the two hundred yards spring and the wrestling.

The third day was devoted to men's jumping, running and wrestling competition.

The fourth day was for the men's pentathelon and horseracing and chariot racing.

The fifth day was devoted to Garlanding and additional ritual. The Garlanding was done with wild olives from the sacred grove of Altis.

Besides sporting events the Olympics included oration, poetry, recitation and dramatic presentation. After returning home the victors were given a hero's welcome and large sums of money as rewards for their victories.

The first modern Olympics was held in Athens in 1896 due to the efforts of Mr. Pierre de Coubertin of France who is looked upon as the father of the modern Olympics and it was mostly due to his outstanding work in this field that the Olympics of today exist.

After 1896 the Olympics were held every four years with the exception of 1916 due to World War 1 and those of 1940 and 1944 due to World War II.

Women were first allowed to compete in 1912 and Winter Sports was first introduced in 1924 and thus we have the Olympics to the present day.

The first set of stamps issued to commemorate the Games were issued in 1896 by Greece which depicted the various sports which were held at the Games. This set is very rare and very sought-after. This set the seal on more countries issuing stamps until the present day and an idea of the growth of the popularity of these stamps can be gauged by the fact that in 1960, 46 countries issued commemorative stamps and by the next Games in 1964, no fewer than 80 countries had followed suit.

In the earlier years the stamps consisted of one issue of perforated postage stamps whereas in 1960 we saw the first appearance of imperforated stamps and miniature sheets.

In 1964 this trend continued, but to a greater extent with the addition of one more item. Certain countries now also issued a series of stamps and miniature sheets commemorating the Gold Medal Winners. As a result of this the 1964 Olympics collection has become a mammoth affair. Some newly-born countries not having facilities for stamp printing have had it done for them by the founder of the original colony and this has now become a lucrative source of revenue for the countries concerned.

This collection which I am about to show you is purely a thematic one and must be treated as such. The stamps do not tell a story as do those of stamps issued by single countries. I thank you for listening to these few words and without much further ado, I present to you the stamps and the miniature sheets of the 1964 Olympic Games.

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THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF MONTSERRAT

[With acknowledgment to Crown Agents]

(Continued from page 43, Feb. 1966 Number)

The first European settlement of Montserrat took place in 1632 when Sir Thomas Warner established a colony in the Plymouth district. In 1664, however, the island was captured by the French but restored to England four years later. It remained in British hands until the French again seized it, in 1782, during the American War of Independence, but by the Treaty of Versailles it reverted to British control once more. Since 1784 it has remained in the undisputed possession of the United Kingdom. In 1871 it became one of the four presidencies of the British Leeward Islands colony but on the 1st July 1956, on the dissolution of the Leeward Islands, was reconstituted as a crown colony, with Executive and Legislative Councils, the latter including members elected (since 1952) by adult suffrage. The population of the island is now almost 13,000.

Communications between Montserrat and the outside world have improved greatly since 1960, the year in which the **Federal Maple** and the **Federal Palm**, gift ships from the Canadian Government to the former West Indies Federation, were brought into use between the Leeward Islands, Dominica, Barbados and British Guiana. Aviation has developed since 1956 and airport facilities have been improved thus linking Montserrat by air with the other West Indian islands. Aircraft of Leeward Islands Air Transport connect Montserrat by a 15-minute flight to Antigua, and American airlines, operating from Miami, Florida, bring tourists to Montserrat in three hours, via St. Christopher.

In the past, however Montserrat was one of Britian's more isolated colonies in the Caribbean, being largely dependent on communication by small sailing ships from St. Christopher. The island was specifically mentioned in a Royal Warrant of the 4th December 1702 when the postal rates were fixed between London and the "Western Plantations" at 9d. a single sheet. A regular Packet Service was introduced two years later and the postal rates inevitably increased. In July 1705 a post office was established and Colonel Anthony Hodges was appointed Deputy Postmaster of Montserrat. He was allegedly sent from London two handstamps with instructions for their use but it is unlikely that he ever received them as these postmarks have never been recorded in use. The packet service, organized by Edmund Dummer, came to an end in 1711 and the Montserrat post office appears to have closed down. Whether it was re-opened when the Government Packet was inaugurated in 1755 is not known; no record of the posts in Montserrat exists prior to 1787 and the earliest recorded handstruck postage stamp of the island dates from 1796.

On the 17th April 1788 Richard Symons was appointed Deputy Postmaster and his emoluments took the unusual form of a percentage of the revenue on the letters, a practice which was continued for several years. During this period the English Packets did not call directly at Montserrat but left mail intended for the island at Antigua whence it was picked up by inter-island sloops. By the early years of the nineteenth century, however, the Packets were calling at Montserrat twice a month. This continued after the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company was established in 1842, but ten years later the steamships ceased calling at the island and communications were maintained thereafter by sailing boat from St. Christopher. This service was often erratic and unsatisfactory and repeated attempts were made by the Sturges and other families of the island to persuade the Government to alter the packet routes to include Montserrat. In 1880 a modified service, by which the packet called at Plymouth once a month, was introduced and continued for a number of years, interspersed with the former sailing ship from St. Christopher. The early twentieth century witnessed the extension of steamship services to Montserrat from England and Canada direct, as well as by steamers from the United States and the other Caribbean islands.

Montserrat was visited by Anthony Trollope in 1858, in his official capacity as a Post Office Surveyor, and as a result of his recommendations control of postal matters was transferred from the General Post Office in London to the local authorities in 1860. From 1858 to 1860 British stamps in denominations of 1d., 4d., 6d., and 1/- were used in Montserrat and may be recognised off cover by the barred oval obliterator "A 08" which was used to cancel them. Follow-

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ing the reorganization of the postal system in 1860, however, Montserrat reverted to the old practice of indicating pre-paid mail by hand-struck markings. It was not until September 1876 that the island again enjoyed the use of adhesive stamps and then these consisted of the contemporary 1d. and 6d. denominations of Antigua overprinted MONTSERRAT in san-serif capitals. These stamps were recess-printed earlier that year by Messrs. Thomas De La Rue & Co. Ltd. on paper watermarked Crown CC. A variety showing the "S" inverted occurs in both denominations. The 6d. value was bisected in 1879 to serve as a 2½d. denomination. The 1d. was likewise bisected, in 1883, to meet demand for ½d stamps. This bisect is known with a small "½" surcharging it but this was completely unauthorized. A small quantity of the 6d. in the blue-green shade used in Antigua was also overprinted for use in Montserrat but these stamps in this colour are very rare and are unknown in used condition. These overprinted stamps remained in use till the separate issues of Montserrat were superseded by the general issue for the Leeward Islands in 1890—an astonishingly long life of fourteen years and a record for any provisional issue.

Montserrat joined the Universal Postal Union in 1879 and new denominations became necessary to conform with the international rate laid down by the union. Stamps in denominations of 2½d. and 4d. were issued in January 1880. Unlike the 1d. and 6d. stamps the new values were distinctive to Montserrat. The De La Rue duty plate Die I was modified in inscription and was typographed on paper watermarked Crown CC. In 1884 the watermark of these stamps was changed to Crown CA and a ½d. value, to meet the printed paper rate, was also added. The following year the colours of the 2½d. and 4d. stamps were altered from red-brown and blue to ultramarine and mauve respectively. The overprinted Antiguan 1d. stamp appeared on Crown CA watermarked paper in 1884 and exists in several shades of red or rose as well as perforations gauging 12 or 14.

In 1890 the separate issues of the presidencies of the Leeward Islands were discontinued and for thirteen years Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Christopher and the British Virgin Islands used the unimaginative keyplate designs of De La Rue, featuring medallion portraits of Queen Victoria or King Edward VII. These stamps, and particularly the overprinted issue of 1897 commemorating the "sexagenary" (Diamond Jubilee) of Queen Victoria, bearing the postmark of Montserrat are keenly sought after by collectors. Montserrat continued to use the keyplate issues provided for general use in the Leeward Islands until the colony was dissolved in 1956. From 1903 onwards, however, Montserrat and the other territories in this group issued their own stamps and these could be used in conjunction with the Leewards' issues on the same cover.

Unlike all the previous stamps used in Montserrat the issue of 1903 was wholly distinctive to the island, the design bearing the emblem of the colony. This depicted a female figure embracing a cross, with her left hand resting on a "clarsach" or Celtic harp —an allusion to Montserrat's Irish connections. Stamps in denominations of ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 6d., 1/-, 2/- and 2/6 were surface-printed in two colours by De La Rue on Crown CA paper. At the same time a 5/- denomination in larger format was released. Depicting the profile of King Edward VII designed by Emil Fuchs it was printed in black and scarlet on paper watermarked Crown CC.

Later in the same year the new Multiple Crown CA paper came into use and subsequent supplies of the ½d., 2d., 3d. and 6d. denominations were printed on it. In 1907 the 5/- was printed on Multiple Crown CA paper and the following year the remaining values. All the later printings of this issue were made on the security chalk-coated paper. Towards the end of 1908 the colours of all denominations were altered and in 1913 the 3d. value was re-issued on yellow-toned paper with a white back. The higher denominations, from 3d. upwards, were printed on chalk-surfaced paper.

(To be continued).

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SOCIETY NEWS

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The display on the evening of **9th November, 1965**, was by Mr. F. W. A. Knight who showed us the stamps of the United States of America. Mr. Knight in his introductory talk mentioned that he had become interested in the stamps of this country as a result of discussions he had had with the late Mr. G. K. Forbes. The collection was almost complete and, as the stamps were mounted on printed sheets, each sheet gave ful details of the actual stamps exhibited. Mr. Knight is no longer a regular attender at our meetings and it was a real pleasure to have him with us again and to see such a fine display.

December. This being the President's Evening, Mr. T. J. Strachan entertained the members with an exhibit of the West Indies, which began with some early issues, including examples of the stamps of Great Britain used in St. Vincent prior to the first definitive issue of the island, followed by a nice assortment of Postal Stationery items, and terminated with a few bits and pieces from Leeward Island which included a number of rare varieties not catalogued by Gibbons and a study of the printings, papers and ink used for the issue of 1938-1951.

Next followed a small study of the printings of the Provisional Issue of 1902 which was brought about by the death of Queen Victoria. The supply of 1d. stamps had not arrived before the Queen died and in order to overcome the shortage, those stamps for which there was the least demand, were overprinted locally. The interesting display concluded with a selection of the flaws and printings of the issues of 1938 to 1951.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF RHODESIA

At the **December meeting, which was** "Chairman's Night," our Chairman displayed a number of sheets illustrating some of the oddities of the early Arms issued of Rhodesia. He set out the sheets on the tables and took us round informally and chatted about the various oddities, some unique, that he had to show, including two covers, the like of which cannot exist anywhere else. It was a most interesting evening and we are grateful to him for letting us see these treasures and also for the facile way in which he explained the oddities of each stamp.

Back to the old, old story! Our own Congress is drawing near and contributions in cash or kind will still be welcome.

THE O.F.S. PHILATELIC SOCIETY

November. An average attendance enjoyed viewing Mr. L. Buchen's Coin Issues of Israel exhibit which included, among other items, major and minor varieties of various printings, perforated and rouletted stamps, Postage Due issues, especially the rare T overprinted provisionals and the overprinted DME DOAR coin stamps.

Mr. H. E. Roux followed with an interesting United Nations exhibit which covered all regular, airmail and commemorative issues. In support, maximum cards, the scarce miniature sheets and Postal stationery were displayed.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

January. The attendance wasn't up to standard but those present enjoyed viewing Mr. W. Kriste's exhibit of the United States. It is a straight collection, reasonably complete from the 1936 issues, both mint and used, the item of outstanding interest being four corner blocks of the deliberate Dag Hammarskjold inverted colour.

The Been Cup Competition will be held in August. Timely notice is thus given to competitors to prepare their exhibits.

A new printing of the current Republican 10c stamp has made its appearance. Printed from the same cylinders as the previous issue, there is a marked difference in the green colour of the stamp.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

January. As this was the last ordinary meeting of the Society before the Annual General, the Executive Committee members had offered to display short collections of interest. Five exhibits were on view. Malta by Mr. N. S. Hesselbarth; Norfolk Island by Mr. T. J. B. Curle; "This and That"—an odd collection of the British Commonwealth by Mr. F. E. Drake; the 2½c ordinary issue of the South African Republic, in mint condition with blocks and strips, by Mr. J. J. Smit and Northern Rhodesia by Mr. I. S. Burniston. Mr. S. J. Hagger, on behalf of all members present, thanked the exhibitors for their most interesting displays. He stated that it was pleasing to know that Committee members did find the time to collect stamps and that on their evenings off from meetings or committee affairs, they were able to mount and arrange collections, not only for their own interest, but also for the benefit of the members of their Society.

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CAPE SOCIETY OF PALESTINE—ISRAEL PHILATELY

November. It was pleasing to have such an excellent attendance for the Annual competition of the Eliezir Blum Cup.

Messrs. Galp, Lewak, Groenewald, Lurie and Schiff competed. All the exhibits were well presented and the cup was awarded to Mr. L. Lurie.

Mr. Solly Rechtman, Secretary of the W.P. Zionist Council, announced their intention to start a Junior Philatelic Stamp Club and have asked CASPIP for assistance to encourage the youngsters.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL

The **December** meeting was one of the most successful meetings of the year, and was thoroughly enjoyed by 40 members and visitors. The main contribution to the success of the evening was Mr. Leon's exhibit of a portion of his Natal collection. Members who were not present at the meeting missed something which is not often seen, and our thanks are due to Mr. Leon for giving us this opportunity of widening our knowledge of Natal stamps.

Advance notice is given that as the first Wednesday in April is a public holiday, there will be no meeting on that evening. As this is normally the evening for the Winde Cup competition, this competition will be held on the third Wednesday of April. The "swop" night will therefore be regarded as the ordinary meeting for April.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

January. The first meeting of the year brought an excellent attendance and the "mixed grill" fare provided by the members of the committee was very well received by the members who attended. Our Secretary, Mr. Castignani, was the first to table his efforts in which he selected pages of various British Empire definitive issues as a comparison between earlier printing methods and the new multi-coloured sets. He made comparisons, for instance, between the Ascension issues of 1956 and 1963, the Bahamas of 1954 and 1965, the Solomon Islands of 1956 and 1965 and probably the most glaring example, the sets of 1961 and 1964 of Zanzibar.

Mr. Eric Walker then tabled a collection of South African hyphenated definitive stamps with their many printings. The method of presentation is an excellent example for our younger members to copy and it is hoped that they made a note of this. A small section of Mr. W. Kriste's German East Africa—Tanganyika collection, including some postal stationery was then tabled to be followed by Mr. Gerke who showed his collection of South African animals issue, which included a number of very interesting items.

Our Treasurer, Mr. Beyers, then showed his worth by exhibiting a number of pages of Canadian commemorative issues tastefully mounted and written up and the final exhibit of the evening was a few pages of our worthy Chairman's collection of Austrian post offices in Palestine. Many thanks to our committee members for the very fine evening's entertainment.

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FOR WORLD STAMP NEWS, market commentary, new issues, postmark studies, book reviews, etc., etc. Read the "PHILATELIC MAGAZINE," published every two weeks by Harris Publications Ltd., of London. Annual sub. R2-25 (£1.2.6). Agent in South Africa: D. C. D. Castle, 174 Cooper Street, Greytown, Natal.

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ARE YOU SURE you have all the back numbers of the South African Philatelist you should have? Ask for a schedule of the numbers still obtainable. 10c each. P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg

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MICHEL CATALOGUES: Germany 1966 R1-05 (from August 1965); Europe 1966 R4-20 (from October 1965); Übersee (non-European countries) volume I and II, R5-60 each ex stock; volume III R5-60 (from September 1965). All prices excluding postage.—S.A. Stamp Centre, P.O. Box 6891, Johannesburg. Phone 22-1391.

ZULULAND also BANGKOK. Wanted for cash — everything and anything. M. M. Wood, P.O. Box 210, Johannesburg.

South African Collectors' Society for the Union Collector—magazine, exchange packet. Subscription 15/- ($2) year. Write Hon. Secretary, W. A. Page, 138 Chastilian Road Dartford, Kent, England.

LATVIA (Lettland; Lettonie) out of the way items and bulk common stamps wanted.—J. Michelson, P.O. Box 9314, Johannesburg.

UNIONS WANTED. — Anything unusual in hyphenated Rotos.—E. Walker, P.O. Box 2388, Pretoria.

WANTED.—Accumulations, Collections, Office Lots on and off paper. Turn those odd boxes of philatelic "junk" into cash, or exchange it with us for stamps, albums or accessories that you need.—ROBEMARK PHILATELISTS (PTY.) LTD., 21 Joubert Street, Johannesburg, Box 11419.

SIMENHOFF BOOKLET.—The Occupational Postmarks of the Mandated Territory of South West Africa by Capt. L. Simenhoff; the series as run in The South African Philatelist, in booklet form (24 pages). Price 30c post free.—Philatelic Federation, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

U.S.A. SPECIALIST requires singles, blocks covers, cancellations. A. R. Kleiner, 23 Cadogan Gardens, London S.W. 3, England.

LISTS of general interest free on request. —UNION STAMP CO., Barbican Building, President and Rissik, Johannesburg. (P.O. Box 10225), Telephone 838-5879.

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RHODESIA

In the philatelic field, this territory is also drawing world-wide attention. Here are some snippets of news which indicate philatelic developments there:—

(1) The 2/6 Independence stamp issued on December 8 was the first to be printed in Rhodesia. It is attractively produced and augers well for future issues which it is anticipated will all be printed locally. These first Independence stamps are not recognised in Britain but some are slipping through unnoticed. Such covers are fetching high prices there, and even FDC's are realising good prices.

(2) Rhodesia had an order on a London printing firm and this was almost completed at the time of Independence. This issue, comprising 14 values from 1d. to £1, has now been paid for (R36,000) and despatched to Rhodesia and were due for release on February 9. The ½d. stamp has been discontinued and a 1/6 stamp added to the series.

(3) The Rhodesian Government has announced that a large proportion of existing stocks and some previous commemoratives are to be overprinted "Independence 11th November 1965" to meet "a demand from philatelists." These were due to go on sale on January 15.

(4) For the 28th Congress of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, three stamps will be issued in May. The set will comprise three values—2d. (Rowland Hill), 3d. (First South African-Rhodesia Mail Coach, circa 1893 and which is now preserved in the National Museum, Bulawayo), and 1/6 (Penny Black, Plate 1).

(5) It is still on the cards that the 20th anniversary of the Central African Airways will be marked by a stamp issue later in the year.—(Acknowledgment "The O.F.S. Philatelic Magazine").

REVIEW

STANLEY GIBBONS SIMPLIFIED CATALOGUE—1966

In this edition, the publishers state that 5,358 new stamps have been listed to bring the total to 123,875. Illustrations number 21,400, an increase of almost 1,300 over the previous edition, and the names of nine new countries appear for the first time.

By its name, one does not expect the catalogue to cater for the specialist, but if it has a fault, it is due occasionally to some drastic over simplification. As an example, most of the South African pictorials of 1926 remained on issue without major alteration in design till 1954. One feels that the catalogue should take cognisance at least of the "hyphenated" and "unhyphenated" series, a difference which will be of significance to the general collector.

We are in a period when commemoratives are the fashion and here the catalogue performs an admirable service by listing the many thousands of these without reference to varieties. This is what the general collector wants.

Because of its compactness and reasonable price, one is not surprised that it finds its place amongst the best-selling books of the year.

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The
South African Philatelist
(Established 1923)
Proprietors and Publishers:
The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa
Editorial Board: Dr. T. B. BERRY (Chairman), Mr. S. L. CROZET,
Dr. H. J. RAUBENHEIMER, Mr. S. J. VERMAAK.
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SOUTH AFRICAN NOTES

Hon. Associate Editor:
Dr. H. J. RAUBENHEIMER,
434 City Centre, Pretoria.

COLOUR CHANGELINGS

It would appear that some of our Republican Stamps are considerably affected by certain chemicals and change their colour strikingly when subjected to their influence. A colour can be completely changed, a deep mauve can become a dull pink for example.

Every now and then stamps with unusual colours are shown to the Stamp Study Circle, they are placed in the episcope and their images on the screen are studied and discussed by all. Some members, such as Mr. J. Wyndham, reported that they had experimented with various well-known substances with varying results. The question usually boiled down to whether these stamps were originally issued in that colour or whether someone had deliberately engineered the change. On several occasions their owners were emphatic that their stamps turned out like that after having been floated off in cold tap water—(it is noteworthy that the specimens seen were used stamps).

We quote verbatim the report in the Circle's Newsletter of January 1966, under "Items of Interest": "Once again 'colour changelings' of the 1c and 2½c 'Constantia' were exhibited. It was decided that these 'colour' stamps were the possible result of bleaches, detergents or cleaning fluids. Members were again warned to be wary of very light or unusual coloured stamps, particularly the two values viewed as there appears to be a spate of these 'freaks' doing the rounds."

Following on this, the stamp printing section of the Govt. Printing Works was consulted and a few of these pink "Constantias" were shown. The important fact emerged that at no time has a stamp of that colour been issued by the Printing Works. The colour change is so marked that it would have been spotted immediately; in fact, colour deviations are the most easily noticed of all changes.

The study of printing inks is an involved one and just at present it would not be right to be too dogmatic in one's diagnosis of an abnormality. However, it could be a fruitful field for some enthusiast to explore. The starting point could be to investigate which solvents are used for the inks in stamp printing. The first two that come to mind are zylol and toluol but are there any others, and why is it that the bars or rings or anything else of the cancellers on the stamps are not affected. Indeed an interesting subject.

STAMP SUBSTITUTION

Reports arrive now and then from different centres of the substitution of stamps in exchange booklets. The following notice was found in a packet of booklets, and it speaks for itself.

"Irregularities in connection with the exchange packets have occurred recently

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and it has been found that cases of substitution have occurred.

"Someone has removed stamps from booklets and substituted cheaper stamps. Such action amounts to nothing less than theft and if the person responsible is identified he will be reported to the authorities with a view to prosecution. Moreover he will unhesitatingly be expelled from the Society and his name will be reported to the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa for such action as they may deem fit.

"It would be appreciated if anyone who receives a packet in which any irregularities are noticed would return the packet to the Hon. Exchange Superintendent immediately with full details in a confidential covering letter.

By order of the Executive Committee."

* * * *

NEW ISSUE

A new issue of the Republic 12½c stamp, King Protea, was delivered to the Philatelic Bureau on the 2nd of February, 1966. Its features are:

Sheet format Double die, two panes A and B. A having been on the right of B. 100 stamps per pane (5 rows x 20).

Paper RSA watermarked, the mark facing right.

Cylinders: Three. Solid (as shown by the prefix G), 13 yellow and 12 light red, Interior, and 10 Green, Exterior. The cylinders were prepared from new multipositives from the master negative of the previous issue 3.1.6. The sheets were printed on the Goebel 840 machine.

Sheet numbers: Five-figure black on pane A below stamps 1 and 2 and again 12 and 13.

Arrows: Green, premanufactured, on top and bottom margins, centrally placed, on both panes.

Marginal bars, green, broken single line with an extended central gap, on the left and right margins.

Printer's register mark, on the top margin of pane B above stamps 9 and 10. In the form of a cross, the lines being closely superimposed, in the contributing colours. The red and the green are unevenly broken lines, while the yellow is merely a short single vertical line.

Marginal punched out holes, in the bottom margin of Pane A below stamps 7 and 8, and on the top margin of Pane B above stamps 7 and 8. Both holes are surrounded by green concentric rings with a bisecting vertical line.

Perforations, by the Grover two row appliance, gauge 14 (or more exactly, 14 x 13¾). The right margin is perforated through, the left being imperforate. The top and bottom margins are imperforate except for the extra hole at each end of the vertical lines of perforations.

All the sheets of pane A examined show an unusual feature. In the horizontal row of perforations between rows 3 and 4, starting at stamp No. 1 and repeated at every second stamp, holes Nos. 2 and 3 are much closer together, most of the two holes being joined together.

The offsets, in the form of arcs of circles, in colour, on the gummed sides of the margins, are also present. They differ from those of the previous 3.1.6. issue in several respects: In tabular form they are:—

	3.1.6	G13.12.10
Position	A pane—below Stamp 8.	A pane—below prong of arrow.
	B pane—above Stamps 7.8.9.	B pane—above prong of arrow.
Colour	In the three colours	Both panes—green. Some show through on the printed side of the paper.
Number	Multiple, on both panes.	Single, on those seen.

In general, the stamps are lighter and brighter in colour than the previous 3.1.6; the yellow is less prominent, the leaves and the stems are greener, with less yellow and the red of the flowers is lighter. Otherwise, in appearance and size the two stamps are identical.

Varieties.

A PANE.

Row:—

1-1 Cluster of small white dots left of top green petal.
1-2 Tiny white dot above U of REPUBLIC.
1-12 Tiny white dot right of E of REPUBLIC.
3-3 White dot below A of AFRICA.
5-4 Tiny white dot left of T of SOUTH.

B PANE.

1-1 White dot above foot of 2 of 12.

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1-3 Prominent white dot at left margin below S of SOUTH.
3-11 Feint white smudge below CA of AFRICA.
3-17 Broad green curved streak through bottom petal and through LIE of REPUBLIEK.
4-3 Prominent white dot near centre of left frame line.

* * * *

POSTAGE DUES

A new printing of the 4c value, on Arms Watermarked paper appeared in December, 1965. It is only the second issue of this value since May, 1961, and its style, format and printing details are similar to its first counterpart. It has, however, sheet numbers, four-figure red, on the right margin opposite rows 8 and 9 and again 19 and 20.

The two cylinders used were S22 Interior and 66 Exterior, the interior cylinder bore a new redrawn design, the 4c being identical in size and shape to the previous one. The exterior cylinder, 66, is the old one, the one that was used for the current 1c value.

There is a distinct change in shade, the green of the frame is lighter, although the very dark green of the value remains the same.

* * * *

THE REPUBLICAN FESTIVAL STAMPS

At the time of writing there have been no further developments in the choice of designs of the new Festival stamps. All that is known of that issue is that there will be a special datestamp and that official envelopes will be issued, most likely of the foolscap size, 9″ x 4″ and that there will be a stiffener inside probably with descriptive material on it.

TOPICAL COMMENTS

THE REGISTERED LETTER

Apropos the reference to the above subject in the December and February issues of the South African Philatelist—how long must stamp collectors continue to suffer the damage to stamps and First Day Covers brought about by the diligently applied, outdated postal regulation requiring "every registered article to be marked on all sides with blue lines crossing each other at right angles?" In other words: When can it be expected that the Republic's postal administration will drop the purposeless English practice in favour of the more sensible and more economical Continental system?

It is beyond all understanding that the blue lines should be insisted on when a registered article is normally provided with an identifying registration label. An air mail label does not require supporting coloured lines, so why the blue lines for a registered article!

Has our postal chiefs ever stopped to think of the time wasted and the money thrown away on this unnecessary adjunct? Let their O. and M. machine go into action to establish how much time is wasted sharpening blue pencils and applying the blue lines—what amount is expended annually on blue pencils. It is a safe bet that they will find that the game is not worth the candle. Truly, the relative "Instruction to Postmasters" should be blue-pencilled forthwith!

All this by the way.

If the Postmaster-General could but hear what stamp collectors say about him and his staff everytime the overseas mail arrives, he would scrap that irritating regulation without further to do.

First Day Cover correspondents outside the Republic and particularly on the Continent, go to no end of trouble to provide their local counterparts with immaculately serviced covers, with stamps neatly arranged and philatelically correctly postmarked, only to have their F.D.C.'s and the stamps, completely ruined through the exaggerated zeal of most South African postal officials who will have their blue lines. Occasionally some tolerance and understanding are evinced but for the most part the heavy blue pencil lines testify to a malicious attitude towards stamp collectors. At times pen and ink take the place of the blue pencil, with a total disregard for the stamps and the service.

Stamp collectors really do not ask over much but they do expect a little consideration for the fee they pay for a given service and for the clear profit (easy money) they shower on postal administrations. This accepted courtesy is acknowledged throughout the world but the Republic's regulation bound postal heads remain aloof.

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Whilst Postmaster-General, Mr. A. J. Botes invited collectors to submit philatelic mail damaged in the manner described, direct to him for corrective measures. It is a known fact, and Mr. Botes cannot be thanked sufficiently for his endeavours, that much was done by him to eradicate an evil. It is, however, quite evident that much more requires to be done. And it is a matter of pressing urgency. One that Mr. Botes' successor might consider tackling. It is humbly suggested that he kicks off with a thorough investigation of the whole question of registration blue lines and post office damage to philatelic mail. Spero meliora!

OBITUARIES

V. C. CROCKETT

We regret to learn of the sudden death of Mr. V. C. B. Crockett who passed away in his sleep, after a two day indisposition, on Thursday, 17th February, 1966, aged middle seventy years.

He was a member of the Pretoria Philatelic Society, his membership dating back to 18th August, 1930, the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg (1959) and the Afrikaanse Filatelistevereniging.

Mr. Crockett was a Railway Auditor who, upon retirement, was re-employed in a temporary capacity. After hours, he conducted, during the past ten years, his Crockett's Stamp Shop which was supervised by his widow to whom, and his relatives, we extend our sympathy.

* * * *

W. N. SHEFFIELD

We have learnt as we go to press of the death on 23rd February, 1966, at Scottburgh, Natal, of Mr. W. N. Sheffield, an Hon. Associate Editor of the South African Philatelist for many years and an eminent philatelist.

A memorial note will appear in a later issue, and meanwhile we extend our sympathy to his widow and family.

F.R.P.S.L.

It has come to our notice that Mr L. Abrams, of Johannesburg, and Mr. A. G. Versino, of Cape Town, were elected Fellows of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, in January.

We extend our hearty congratulations to our colleagues for the honour so bestowed upon them.

THE EINSTEIN STAMP

A portrait of Albert Einstein by the noted photographer, Philippe Halsman, is the basis for a new postage stamp honouring the physicist, Postmaster-General Lawrence F. O'Brien announced.

The 8-cent stamp was issued with ceremonies on March 14 at Princeton, New Jersey, where Einstein spent the last years of his life.

It is the fourth in the "Prominent Americans" series of 18 new regular stamps to be issued in the next several years.

—("Information Service").

Fisher-Hill Stamp Co.

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POSTMARK NOTES

By D. ALLISON

Book Review.

In 1962 the British Postmark Society published an illustrated catalogue of British postmark slogans. The second edition of this work has now appeared, and it should be in the hands of all who are interested in these postmarks.

Introductory sections deal with the types of machine used, the means of distinguishing them, and other matters of interest; these sections considerably increase the usefulness of the book. By far the larger part of the volume is naturally devoted to the lists of slogans, and the variety of these would come as a surprise to anybody unfamiliar with the field. The authors complain in their foreword about the unimaginative designs of many slogans—and if one compares British efforts in this field with, say, French or Danish, their complaint is justified; still, there is far more variety in the appearance of British slogans than there is in American ones, and the less that is said about our own in this connection the better.

Two important developments took place between the publication of the first and second editions of this catalogue. The first is a relaxation of Post Office policy regarding Local Publicity slogans. For many years slogans had been issued for local events, e.g. the Bath Festival in May, 1960; now they are also in use to publicise the towns themselves, apart from special occasions, e.g. Bath is described as "The Gayest Floral City," with a suitable border of flowers round the slogan. Slogans in this new category are listed separately and they are quite numerous, 167 designs being included. The flood of new local publicity slogans is, however, showing signs of abating somewhat.

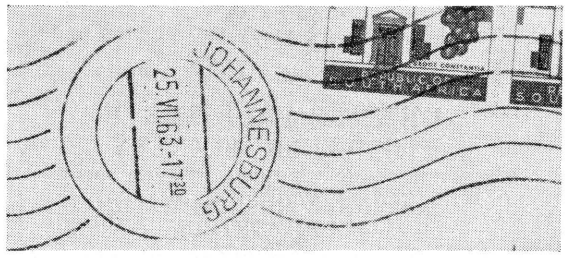
The second change is that the British Post Office has now agreed to interchange the positions of datestamp and slogan. Most British machines, like most of ours, are of the non-continuous or single impression type and normally each postmark they produce has one impression of the datestamp and, to the right of this, the slogan or wavy lines. Since 1963 this has been reversed on some machines, and the slogan appears to the left of the datestamp. The slogan shows up to much better advantage in this transposed position, but of course the date now generally falls on the postage stamp, where it is not always so easy to read it.

Market values are given for each of the slogans, except for a few of the scarcest, and the level of these quotations indicates the amount of interest taken in these postmarks now-a-days.

The catalogue covers the period up to April, 1965. The authors hope to issue supplements from time to time, and a card for ordering them is included with the book. It is not intended to issue another edition till 1968.

In conclusion, "Slogan Postmarks of the United Kingdom," by C. R. H. Parsons and G. R. Pearson, is warmly recommended. It may be obtained from Mr. Pearson, 42, Corrance Road, London S.W.2, at 16/6, including postage.

S.A. Hand Rollers.



Hand rollers form a very small minority of S.A. postmarks, but in some countries, like Germany and the U.S.A., they are much more widely used. Incidentally one is shown in use on a Luxembourg postage stamp—Type 87 in Gibbons' Catalogue. This shows clearly the sort of thing I am writing about now.

As far as I know, we have two current types, both evidently of German manufacture. My earliest date for the first type is April 1961, and I have noted it from Bloemfontein, Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg, Port Elizabeth and Pretoria. One is illustrated; on longer specimens the datestamp is repeated at intervals of about 8½ cms.

Of the other type I have seen two specimens, both with dates in December 1965. This type has the datestamps so placed that the date is parallel to the general direction of the wavy lines. My specimens come from Johannesburg and Uitenhage; they have numbers at the bottom of the datestamp and the time is shown by means of a letter, e.g. 11 XII A 65.

There must be others in use; but these hand rollers are used mainly on bulky en-

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PHILATELISTS' RENDEZVOUS

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meets on the second and fourth Tuesday every month in the
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meets on the first Monday of every month in the
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P.O. Box 514, Pretoria.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

meets Twice a Month: Second Tuesday and Fourth Monday
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meet on the second Wednesday of every month in the
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ALL PHILATELISTS ARE WELCOME.

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Meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 8.15 p.m.
Burlington House Boardroom (2nd Floor) c/r. Rissik & Marshall Streets, Johannesburg.
ALL WELCOME.
Secretary: P.O. Box 11502, Johannesburg

THE SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

meets at 2.15 p.m. on the second Saturday of every month in the
Staff Tea Lounge, Basement, Corner House.
Corner Sauer and Commissioner Streets, Johannesburg (Commissioner St. Entrance).
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velopes and—in my own experience at least —are not very common. Any further information would be very welcome.

Rhodesian Notes.

Towards the end of last year a slogan which I had not seen before made its appearance—Start your holidays in Bulawayo. It was used at that city.

The removal of the S of S. RHODESIA at the bottom of some postmarks was reported last year in the "S.A. Philatelist." (March, 1965, p. 58). At first, as far as I known, this was confined to handstamps, but by October the change had been made on the Gwelo machine cancellation. Other towns followed suit, and on Bulawayo and Salisbury machines the change took place early in February this year. The story of the changes in Rhodesian meter marks is much more complicated and would make a fascinating study.

Current Rhodesian handstamps with simply RHODESIA at the bottom may fall into any of three groups. Most of them are the ones mentioned already, with the S deleted. This group should be distinguishable by the slight lopsidedness of the inscription. Then there are the relatively few new ones, which never had the "S." The final group—if it exists—consists of any old handstamps still surviving from the days before the S was needed. One such handstamp was in use at Bulawayo in 1963 to cancel stamps which the machine had missed; I wonder if any are in use now?

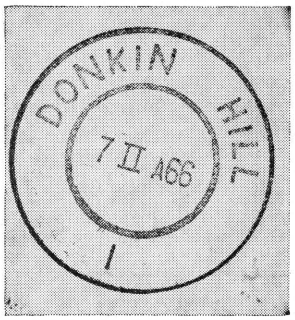
S.A. Machine Postmarks.

In my January Notes I mentioned a new die of the "Get Home Safely" slogan, with English first, used at Port Elizabeth, in black, in October 1965. This re-appeared about the beginning of January. A similar die, with Afrikaans first, came into use at East London about the same time. Both are still current at the time of writing these notes in mid-February.

The list of places using machines continues to grow. Evander and Phalaborwa (non-continuous) and Scottburgh (continuous) are the three latest I have seen; and Aliwal North has changed to a non-continuous machine.

I am grateful to Dr. Fick for the three items with which I close these notes. Butterworth is still using "Post Early for Quick Delivery" (see "S.A. Philatelist," October 1965, p. 214); and Nigel, like Elandsfontein ("S.A. Philatelist," June 1964, p. 111) continues to show the value 1d. on its machine paid postmarks. And then there is an interesting postmark from Springs. It is a Paid, with the "Post Christmas Mail Early" slogan instead of wavy lines and PAID, and the date is 10.30 6-1 1965. This is the first reported use of this slogan on a Paid postmark; it is also the first reported late use in the Christmas 1964 period; and finally it answers a question I asked in the "S.A. Philatelist" last month, as to whether this slogan had been used at Springs at that time.

New Type of Temporary Handstamp.



From time to time it happens that a handstamp is needed at short notice, or for a limited period; for instance, if one normally in use becomes damaged. For this reason, the P.O. Supplies Dept. has a stock of temporary handstamps, also known as relief or skeleton datestamps. There are various types, but they all have one feature in common, namely that the name of the office is set up from loose type. For many years the usual S.A. kind was a single circle, about one inch in diameter, and I had been wondering recently why none were coming my way these days in the office mail I regularly sort for postmarks.

The answer appears to be provided by the Donkin Hill specimen illustrated. It was sent to the Editor by Mr. T. J. Strachan of Port Elizabeth, who states that it is an impression of a temporary canceller which came into use on Feb. 5th, while the normal one was sent to Cape Town for repair. This is a great improvement on the old kind of temporary handstamp, and, as will be seen at once, it could well be taken for a permanent handstamp — in fact I would have thought it was one had Mr. Strachan not made this discovery. This is an important piece of news for handstamp collectors, and perhaps we will soon be able to record other instances of this new type. We should also try to find out when it was first used.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FISCAL CANCELLATION

Sir,—A collector of the revenue stamps of the Transvaal will soon come across copies of the early issues perforated with a small circular hole, 2½ mm. diameter. This single hole cancel is found on the ZAR issue of 1876, the overprinted issue of 1877 and the 1878 issue with the head of Queen Victoria.

The ZAR stamps of 1886 to 1898, known as the numeral Series, are found with a cancel in the shape of a five-pointed star, the diameter being 4 mm. The same star cancel is found on these numeral stamps which bear VRI overprint, issued in 1900, and the use was continued on the 1902 stamps with the head of KE VII.

For some time it has been thought that these cancels were a safety measure to defeat a possible illicit re-use of fiscal stamps, adopted in the Office of the Registrar of Deeds. It will be appreciated that with high face values and normal cancels being in ink only, the cleaning was not a difficult matter and could be quite profitable.

The finding of a Customs Permit stamp of 1890 with the star perforation seemed to point to the fact that it was not only for use in the Deeds Office.

Fiscal stamps of the Union are found with the same star, but now, generally accompanied by an oval rubber cancellation reading SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE / TRANSVAAL. These Union stamps are from the Issues of 1913 to 1945. Series 1 to 4. Later Union issues from 1947 have only the oval rubber cancel reading OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR GENERAL / TRANSVAAL or the Afrikaans equivalent, and no longer perforated.

A variety of the star perforation has been seen on a small number of the 1913 Union issue, measuring 6.25 mm. across, with the points wider and blunter. These have an oval cancel reading RAND TOWNSHIPS REGISTRAR.

It has been suggested also that the perforation was done in the Surveyor General's Office when title deeds were sent in for the certification of a diagram.

The other use of perforated cancels on fiscals is the large "R D" found on the stamps of Natal on the Q. Victoria issues,

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and also the stamps with the head of KE VII, these last however have the "R D" with much smaller holes.

It is hoped that someone amongst your readers may be able to supply some details about the use and object of the perforation of these revenue stamps. —(L. J. DODD).

* * * *

ANOTHER "CUP," BUT WHAT FOR?

Sir,—These few notes are written in the hope that other smaller societies may be able to organise something on possibly similar lines. Having had a cup presented to the Society some years ago, our second proved to be something of a "problem child."

The donor wished it to be for "The Furthering of Philatelic Knowledge in the Society" and open to all members. This quite naturally did away with the customary "Thematic" or "Ladies" Cup. Looking for something a bit different we have, however, formulated a competition whereby each member may submit at each monthly meeting a study of a stamp which is decided upon by the donor at the previous meeting. This of course entails the evergreen "Pulling one out of the hat" method. At present we have confined ourselves to the S.A. Republican issues only, mint, used or on cover, leaving out the values 20c and above. As most of the values are still available at the Post Office this gives members a chance of doing at least something.

Briefly then, the rules and reasons for them are: Paid up members only; the competition starts January and extends through to the December meeting. Points accrued are carried forward each month. A maximum of five sheets which gives a chance to pack the items in, or respectability with one sheet only. In an effort to boost attendance figures, members must be present to put up their own sheets. This does not mean that a member missing a meeting or two is debarred from the overall competition, however, he might find himself well behind on points. A maximum of twenty-five points can be awarded each month by the Jury, which consists of the donor, to give equilibrium to each monthly contest, and two others selected from the meeting; this gives everyone a chance to take some active part in the proceedings.

No originality is claimed as we believe something akin to the above has been tried successfully in the Netherlands.

We have already had our first competition night and it proved most interesting. Possibly some other Societies might like to try the above as well.—(J. WANNERTON, Hon. Sec., F.H.P.S.).

LOOKING BACK

The rediscovery of my battered first Stamp Album took me back to the early 1930's when as an impressionable child aged some seven years I first made the acquaintance of Mr. Popadopolous.

Mr. Popadopolous was the well loved tea room proprietor, who was, amongst other things, the fresh produce supplier, the grocer, the bookshop owner and the local philatelic dealer in our remote country dorp.

I well remember my first purchase from his "Enormous" stock of over fifty assorted packets of intriguing philatelic material which were crudely suspended with wash pegs from two strung lines well beyond the reach of little hands.

With an allowance of "two bob" per month it was not always possible to make substantial purchases, but his assorted packets of 20—"all different"—for sixpence was always a popular attraction.

From the recesses of those packets emerged a host of mysteries—stamps entitled "Polzta Polska," "Magyar," or "Lietuva," often bearing the portraits of elderly bards all staring with a fixed and solemn gaze. Some stamps bore damsels holding tridents well aloft while others featured birds or beasts or depicted scenes from far-off lands.

One of the most exciting moments in my philatelic career occurred just after my 8th birthday, when armed with a little extra cash I was able to purchase "THE WORLD" for half a crown!

My philatelic exploits became more than just a thrill packed adventure into new and intriguing vistas of collecting, it also became my great educator, for many of the subjects depicted on those postage stamps eventually resulted in my learning of events from history or mythology which were far more exciting than the boys' stories which I had hitherto read.

As an educator, philately also taught me many of the hard lessons of life.

There was the time that I lent my collection to a "well trusted friend," only to dis-

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cover upon its return, that a few of my choice stamps had been calmly and callously removed.

There was also the occasion when a fatherly old gentleman invited me to spend a philatelic afternoon with him which ended in a dubious trading episode. Very engagingly and full of affability he very generously agreed to exchange some of my "ugly" stamps for several of his "beautiful" coloured stamps. Little did I realise at the time that he was exchanging extremely interesting philatelic material for a handful of valueless articles.

However, not all the lessons were sad ones, I also learned of great kindness and generosity from fellow members of the human race.

On one occasion I proudly displayed my collection to a stranger in our neighbour's home, little realising that I had made any particular impression upon him but a few weeks later I was overwhelmed to discover that the Italian Consul in South Africa had personally taken the trouble to send a large package of postage stamps to an unknown young schoolboy in an insignificant country village.

I also well remember the kindly old gentleman who removed several stamps from his own treasured albums in order to complete the gaps in my own small collection.

Once again I recalled those days of "School-boy trading" when we haggled and wrangled with each other until the final bargain was struck.

And so, with feelings of nostalgia, I removed the insignificant little stamp album from its position of isolation to give it pride of place amongst the large battery of new and elaborate specialist albums which number my collection today.

—PHIL. A. TELIC.

HALF-CENT CURRENT SOUTH AFRICA COMPLETELY IMPERFORATE

Messrs. Robertson Stamp Co. (Pty.) Ltd. reports that the companion sheet of the ½c imperforate one, printed in double-die format, has been determined but unfortunately it has been lost to philately.

A customer has supplied the information that when he was travelling in the Postmasburg area he called in at a small post office and the Postmaster there said some uncomplimentary things about the people in Pretoria who had included a complete sheet of the half-cent value completely imperforate in a supply of stamps which they had sent to him and he had to cut the stamps up with scissors to sell them to the public. At the time the customer called at his post office he had only eight copies left.

The above will now reassure collectors in general that this variety was genuinely issued over a post office counter and that both sheets have been accounted for.

RECENT ISSUES

SIERRA LEONE'S INNOVATION

The first postage stamps to carry advertisements went on sale recently. The stamps were issued by Sierra Leone (West Africa) and are the most expensive and elaborate ever made.

But the Sierra Leone Government has offset the high productive costs by selling full-colour advertising space on each stamp.

A firm of New York diamond dealers, Harry Winston Inc., has had an advertisement showing a R120,000 diamond necklace incorporated in the front design of one of the stamps. Two Sierra Leone companies and a British firm, Walsall Lithographic, who designed and printed the issue, have advertisements on the backs of the other stamps.

The new issues are also the first self-adhesive stamps made for normal use, although Sierra Leone produced a self-adhesive commemorative issue last year.

* * * *

AUSTRALIA

A new Australian series of postage stamps recently released has taken a leaf out of South Africa's book. It featured the head of past and present Prime Ministers.

One difference from the South Africa series is a time limit to qualify for the series, the prime ministers must have been in office for at least six months.

This will eliminate four of the 16 who have served since Australia became a federation in 1961.

The present Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, has currently served for 12 years.

—("London Daily News")

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THE POSTAL CANCELLATIONS OF NATAL

By A. Leslie Leon, F.R.P.S.L.

In his introductory remarks to the Catalogue of the Royal Philatelic Collection, Sir John Wilson stated that "possibly Natal is the second most difficult group to specialise because of the absence of material." These words are equally true when it comes to describing the postmarks of the Colony; in addition to the absence of material one also suffers from absence of information, and the absence of material refers particularly to the fact that there are so few covers extant which can solve the problems of date and place that beset the specialist collector of Natal. A certain amount of information has appeared in print, but the time appears to be ripe for a survey of what we know about these postmarks. What is set down below does not cliam to be exhaustive, and any further facts—or corrections—will be most welcome.

As far as possible, references to published works are given, and abbreviations used are as follows:

Mann.—The Victorian Postage Stamps of Natal, by Eric W. Mann, F.R.P.S.L.

R.L.—The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps, Volume 2, published by Robson Lowe Ltd.

S.A.P.—South African Philatelist.

It should be noted that the cancellations used during the South African War of 1899 to 1902 have not been dealt with as these are fully described by Stephen G. Rich in "Philately of the Anglo-Boer War."

Owing to paucity of information, it is often difficult to assign a date for the coming into use of any particular canceller, but the descriptions herein will be, as far as possible, in chronological order. Here again, information from philatelists based on their own collections will be of great assistance. Prior to the introduction of postages stamps in 1857, postmarks were in use in the Colony and two varieties were carried over into the period of the adhesives and will be described under their proper headings. A third postmark did not survive; this was the word PRE PAID in capital letters and boxed in a single-lined frame (R.L.'s H.S. 2) and it is of course correctly described as a Hand-struck Postage Stamp. R.L.'s H.S. 3 which consisted of 6d. in a circle and was used during the ZULU War does not in my opinion, come in the same category, as it would appear to be more of a Postage Due marking (although it is doubtful if the amount was collected from the addressee when the sender was a member of the armed forces).

The various types of postmark will be characterised by letters of the alphabet, and sub-types by numbers. This is not the same method of division that has been adopted previously, but will enable me to include in the sub-types the observations of others such as the late Dr. Harvey Pirie whose interest and research was in the field of the numerical cancellers and Messrs. Chamberlain and Walker who have done so much to further our knowledge of the whereabouts of the various Post Office Agencies.

Postmarks that have been illustrated elsewhere have not been included.

TYPE A.

Pietermaritzburg—"an ellipse with the words POST OFFICE almost exactly covering the upper inside half of the circumference, an ornamental line between the tip of the 'P' and the end of the bottom stroke of the 'E' with P M BURG in the same block letters curved at the bottom. It should be particularly noted that the central line is always in this exact position." (Mann) (Illustrated R.L. 1).

Ladysmith—a similar postmark, but this is rare, "The central line in this postmark runs from the top point of the 'L' in Ladysmith to a point just above the 'H'." (Mann).

Size: Usually 35 mm. horizontally and 23 mm. vertically.

Dates of Use: R.L. says 1852 to 1857, but the latter date should be extended at least until the arrival of the Perkins Bacon stamps in 1859.

TYPE B.

Durban. A circular postmark with a crown at the top, the date in large letters (without the year) in the centre and the word NATAL at the bottom, all enclosed within a single circle. This mark appears in blue, black and green. (Illustrated R.L. P. 1).

Size: Circle with diameter of 21 mm.

Dates of Use: From 1852 at least until 1859.

(Continued on Page 90).

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Ons het seker almal gehoor van die interprovinsiale seëls van die Unie van Suid-Afrika—die ou koloniale seëls wat in die Unie gebruik was gedurende die posseëllose tydvak tussen uniewording en die uitreiking van die Unie se eerste seëls, meer as drie jaar later. Die les wat daaruit te leer is, is dat posstempels op vroeë seëls nooit versmaai moet word nie, al is die afstempeling ietwat swaar.

Dwarsdeur die geskiedenis het die totstandkoming van nuwe state die posseël altyd vooruitgeloop met die gevolg dat die posstempel dikwels 'n beslissende faktor geword het. Ons het dit in ons eie omgewing met die Unie gehad, met Suidwes-Afrika, met Basoetoland en met Swazieland. Onlangs het dit gebeur met Rhodesië wat op 11 November onafhanklik geword het maar nog nie posseëls in die naam van die nuwe staat gehad het nie. Alle seëls van Suid-Rhodesië en Rhodesië met duidelike posstempels van 11 November 1965 tot 16 Januarie 1966 kan met reg as voorlopers van Onafhanklike Rhodesië versamel word.

Die seëls van Suidwes-Afrika geniet tans 'n groot gewildheid onder versamelaars en meeste van hulle wat ernstig en oordeelkundig te werk gaan, begin hulle versamelings met die tyd van die inval van die Suid-Afrikaanse troepe op 19 September 1914, want van toe af is Unieseëls daar gebruik, weliswaar aanvanklik in beperkte hoeveelhede omdat die meeste pos toentertyd militêr en gevolglik posvry was. Maar met die oorgawe van die Duitsers in Julie 1915, het Suidwes onder Suid-Afrikaanse administrasie gekom en is Unieseëls van toe af op groot skaal daar gebruik, tot dié gebied op 2 Februarie 1923 sy eie seëls gekry het. (Die eerste Suidwes-seëls is oordrukke van die Unie se koningskopreeks, naamlik die oordruk „Zuid-West Afrika" in twee lyne met 'n soortgelyke oordruk om die beurt in Engels, „South West Africa." Latere uitgawes het die woord „Zuidwest" sonder die koppelteken gehad).

Benewens stempels wat spesiaal vervaardig was, is veel gebruik gemaak van ovaalvormige stempels wat van die Duitsers gebuit was, na die woorde „Deutsch Südwest-Afrika" of „Deutsch Südwest" verwyder was.

Versamelaars wat hulle slegs by die seëls van een of 'n paar lande bepaal bereik eerlank 'n stadium waar hulle voor 'n doodloop te staan kom deurdat hulle hulle eerste doel bereik het, naamlik om al die basiese seëls van hulle gekose land of lande te bekom. Wanneer hulle daardie punt bereik verveel die onledigheid hulle en stuur hulle dan gewoonlik byna onwillekeurig op uitbreiding af. Dit volg een van twee vorme, of altwee, te wete spesialisering of geskiedenis.

Eersgemelde behels 'n studie van die seëlkunde van die land wat hy versamel en die versameling van stukke wat daarop betrekking het. Dit kan 'n duur spulletjie word. Die uitbeelding van die geskiedenis van 'n land deur middel van posseëls kan 'n boeiend, interessant en leersame versamelmetode wees. Posstempels is die begin van so 'n versameling. Militêre posstempels vertel ook dikwels 'n bekorende verhaal.

Onthou dus om altyd eers te lees wat op ou seëls staan. 'n Suid-Afrikaanse 4d. Koningskop is nie veel meer as 'n paar sente werd nie. Met 'n algemene Suidwes-stempel sal hy miskien 30c haal, maar as die afstempeling „Luderitzbaai 19.9.14" sou lees en u het die stempel versmaai, is u minstens R10 kwyt.

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ROBERT BURNS

Eindelik het die Skotte hulle sin gekry toe Engeland op 25 Januarie 'n stelletjie van twee seëls uitgereik het (4d. en 1/3) ter ere van die alombekende Skotse digter Robert Burns (1759-1796). Dit het die Skotte 20 jaar se spook gekos om, soos hulle dit gestel het, „die halsstarrige Sassenachs van Dowingstraat," te beweeg om goedkeuring aan hulle „redelike versoeke" te verleen. Met die uitgee van Shakespeare-gedenkseëls kon Engeland die verdere Skotse aanslae nie langer afweer nie.

Die „Bobby Burns Society" op Glasgow het die Engelse posowerheid solang gelede as 1945 vir 'n Robert Burns-gedenkseël vir 1946 gevra vir die 150e gedenkjaar van die Skotse digter se afsterwe. Die antwoord was 'n besliste „nee." Daarna het die Burnsvereniging byna jaarliks om 'n seël aangedring maar steeds sonder sukses, ja, soms selfs sonder antwoord. In 1959 het hulle 'n sterk saak probeer uitmaak vir 'n seël om die tweede eeu van die digter se geboortejaar te herdenk.

Die konsekwente weiering van Londen het nie bygedra om die eeueoue wonde te genees nie. Dit het eintlik lelike wedersydse verwyte tot gevolg gehad. Wat die Skotte veral woedend gemaak het is die skimpe dat Burns nie Engels geskryf het nie. Alhoewel hy Engels volkome magtig was, het hy al sy belangrike werke in die Skotse dialek van die boeremense, sy mense, gelewer. Dit word gesê dat Robert Burns se gedigte in alle Europese tale vertaal is—behalwe Engels. Daarvan kan afgelei word dat die Engelse nooit eintlik Robert Burns wou erken nie.

DIE LAASTE POSSEËLS VAN DIE ZUID-AFRIKAANSE REPUBLIEK

Deur N. C. Combrink.

Dit was aan die begin van Junie 1900 tydens die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog. Lord Roberts se troepe was besig om Pretoria in te neem, die Republikeinse magte het alreeds die stad verlaat. In hul haas het hulle vergeet om 'n voorraad posseëls saam te neem, met die gevolg dat die klein voorraad posseëls wat nog by die orige poskantore beskikbaar was, nie voldoende was om die posdiens lank te voorsien nie. Aan die einde van daardie jaar was daar geen posseëls meer beskikbaar nie en het die Republikeinse regering die posdiens sonder posseëls toegelaat.

Reeds van Oktober 1900 was alle verbindings met die buitewêreld, selfs deur Delagoabaai afgesny. Daar was in daardie stadium van die oorlog nog een van vyftig poskantore wat in volle werking was. Sonder posseëls was daar egter geen kontrole oor postariewe nie en is daar in Januarie 1901 besluit om posseëls so gou as moontlik te laat druk.

Die regering het hom in die distrik van Middelburg gevestig en die naaste drukpers was in Pietersburg omtrent 200 myl noord van Middelburg. Oor die druk van hierdie posseëls skryf Emil Tamsen in 'n tydskrif wat in 1901 verskyn het:

Die enigste Hollandse koerant wat toe nog bestaan het was die „Zoutpansberg Wachter" en dié was in Pietersburg gedruk. Die

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Posbus 706
Vergaderings: Elke 4e Woensdag van die maand in kamer 48, Tegniese Kollege, Pretoria.
RONDSENDDIENS. NUUSBRIEF
Seëlverkope met elke vergadering.

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STOP PRESS

RHOPEX COMMEM. ISSUE: 3d. Zeederberg Coach; 9d. Sir Rowland Hill; 1/6 1d. Black; 2/6 depicting £5 1890 issue of B.S.A. Co. Printers: Mardon Printers (Pty.) Ltd., Salisbury.

C.A.A. 20th Anniv. Commem.: 4 vals.: 6d., 1/3, 2/6 and 5/-; designs—aircraft used by C.A.A.

drukkery het ook vroeër staatsdrukwerk gedoen. Vir die druk van die posseëls is die drukkery toe 'n staatsdrukkery verklaar, met die eienaar as direkteur.

Die personeel van die drukkery het uit die direkteur, 'n boekhouer en een drukker bestaan. Die twee eersgenoemdes het geen aandeel aan die drukwerk self gehad nie. Net een man was dus vir die opstel en druk van die posseëls verantwoordelik. Dit is 'n wonder dat daar nie meer foute met die druk van die posseëls plaasgevind het nie.

Die bestelling vir die posseëls word soos volg aangegee: ½d. 4,800, 1d. 24,000, 2d. 15,600, 4d. 4,800, 6d. 2,400 en 1/- 2,400.

'n Totaal van 54,000 posseëls met 'n gesigswaarde van R1,000.

Om die uitreiking van die posseëls te kontroleer, is mnr. I. T. de V. Smit as kontroleur aangestel. Die Staatskennisgewing het min of meer soos volg gelees: „Met betrekking tot die nuwe posseëls wat die Regering besluit het om uit te reik, word hiermee vir algemene informasie kennis gegee dat hierdie posseëls nie geldig of wettige munt sal wees nie tensy hulle deur die voorletters van mnr. I. T. de V. Smit, wat as kontroleur benoem is, geparafeer is nie." Die kennisgewing is deur die Staats-sekretaris, mnr. F. W. Reitz, geteken: „Staatskantoor te velde, Distrik van Middelburg, 8 Februarie 1901."

Mnr. Smit was 'n baie bedrywige man—hy het 'n hele paar regeringsposte beklee, onder andere was hy waarnemende landdros, eerste klerk van die landdros, publieke aanklaer, waarnemende staatsprokureur. kontroleur van papier, ens., ens. Daarby moes hy nog sy voorletters op 54,000 posseëls in swart ink, met die hand skryf. Hy het blykbaar die werk in sy vrye tyd gedoen; hy het dit ook baie goed gedoen want daar is op al die posseëls byna geen vormafwyking te bespeur nie. Al afwyking wat wel te bespeur is, is dat die voorletters op sommige van die ½d. seëls in rooi is in plaas van swart. Die verklaring hiervoor is dat mnr. Smit, nadat hy heelwat ½d. en 1d. seëls in swart geparafeer het, na rooi ink op die ½d. oorgeslaan het. Hy het dit so goed gevind dat hy maar aangehou het met die gedagte om ook die 4d. en 6d. seëls so te behandel, maar voordat hy met die ½d. klaar was, was die rooi ink op en moes hy maar weer van swart ink gebruik maak.

Emil Tamsen vertel dat die regering graag die wapen van die Republiek op die posseëls wou gehad het, maar daar was net een blok van die wapen by die drukkery en geen middele waarmee meer blokke vervaardig kon word nie. Hierdie ontwerp is toe prysgegee en 'n meer eenvoudige ontwerp goedgekeur.

(Word vervolg).

THE POSTAGE STAMP OF MONTSERRAT

(Continued from p. 68, March 1966 Number)

The first stamp portraying King George V appeared in 1914 when the 5/- denomination was released with that monarch's portrait substituted. A further two years elapsed before any changes were made in the lower values of the definitive series. Like many other colonies which used their emblem or coat of arms alone on their stamps during the reign of King Edward VII, Montserrat adopted a combined emblem and portrait design in the reign of George V. This series was typographed by De La Rue, on paper watermarked Multiple Crown CA, with chalk-surfacing for the higher values as before. Montserrat levied a tax of ½d. on correspondence during the First World War and in October 1917 issued the ½d. value overprinted WAR STAMP in red. The following year the stamp appeared with the overprint in black; a deep green shade exists of this war tax stamp. A special 1½d. stamp was issued in 1919 in the definitive design but with the value and the inscription WAR STAMP applied at one printing.

From 1922 onwards paper watermarked Multiple Script CA was brought into use. A number of other denominations were added to the series at this time, ¼d., 1½d., 4d., 5d., 3/- and 4/-. Curiously enough a printing of the 4d. denomination on the obsolete Crown CA paper made a belated appearance in 1923. A number of colour changes took place in this series in the 1920's. The 1½d. and 2½d. values, subject to fluctuations in the Imperial and foreign letter rates, changed their colour in 1926 and 1929 and

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the 3d. value was reintroduced in 1923. The 3d. itself changed from blue to its original colours of purple on yellow in 1927 while the 1d. stamp was altered from violet to red on account of a reduction in the letter rate in 1929.

The tercentenary of the colony founded by Sir Thomas Warner was celebrated by a long series of stamps issued on the 18th April 1932. Recess-printed by De La Rue on Multiple Script CA paper they featured a panoramic view of Plymouth roadstead with the twin peaks of St. George's Hill in the background. The stamps were in denominations of ½d., 1d., 1½d., 2d., 2½d., 6d., 1/-, 2/6 and 5/-.

In common with the other colonies Montserrat issued a set of four stamps on the 6th May 1935 to mark the Silver Jubilee of King George V. These stamps, in the colonial omnibus design, were recess-printed by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons Ltd. On the 12th May 1937 three stamps in the colonial omnibus design were issued to celebrate the Coronation of King George VI.

A pictorial definitive series bearing a portrait of King George VI and the colonial emblem inset was issued on the 2nd August 1938. The ½d., 3d., 1/- denominations featured the rugged scenery of Carr's Bay on the north-west coast of Montserrat, a favourite tourist attraction. The 1d., 1½d. and 2½d. values depicted a plantation of sea island cotton, the principal cash crop of the island. The remaining denominations, 2d., 6d. and 2/6 showed a group of palm trees at the Botanic Station on the outskirts of Plymouth.

The stamps were originally perforated 13 but in 1942 a new machine with perforations gauging 14 was introduced and used on all denominations. In 1948 10/- (Botanic Station and £1 (Carr's Bay) denominations were added to the series.

Montserrat participated in the postwar omnibus issues commemorating Victory (November 1946), the Royal Silver Wedding (January 1949) and the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Postal Union (October 1949). On the 16th February 1951 Montserrat issued two stamps in the design common to the other West Indian territories for the inauguration of the British West Indies University College. These stamps were inscribed in the British West Indian dollar currency introduced in 1950.

A new definitive series, incorporating the postwar portrait of the King by Dorothy Wilding, was released on the 17th September 1951. The 1c and $2.40 stamps depicted Government House, the official residence of the Governor, a few minutes' walk from Plymouth. It is a modern three-storied building in pleasant surroundings on the site of the original Government House built in 1750. The 2c and $1.50 denominations showed sea island cotton terraces under cultivation. The 3c stamp featured a map of Montserrat with its more prominent landmarks indicated. The 4c and 24c values bore a representation of tomato picking, a task essentially performed by the womenfolk. Tomatoes are sorted, packed and exported, mainly to Canada, Bermuda and Barbados, by the Government Marketing and Cold Storage Depot.

The 5c and 12c stamps depicted St. Anthony's Church which stands just outside Plymouth. The original structure dates from 1730 with later additions in 1893. It was severely damaged in the great hurricane of 1899 and restored the following year. It is built in the shape of a cross orientated on the four cardinal points of the compass. Among the interesting antiquities which it contains are two large silver chalices inscribed "This Chalice was presented by the Free Labourers of this Island as a Thankoffering to God for the Blessing of Freedom vouchsafed to them on the 1st August 1838."

The badge of the presidency was featured in striking simplicity on the 6c and $4.80 denominations. A modern cotton gin processing the raw sea island cotton appeared on the 8c and 60c values. Practically the whole of the island's crop is exported to Manchester in the form of clean lint. The seed cotton is all ginned and baled on the island in seven ginneries. The seed is converted into edible oil, while the residue is made into cotton seed cake for animal consumption. The series was recess-printed by Messrs. Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. Ltd. on paper watermarked Multiple Script CA.

The same designs, with a portrait of Queen Elizabeth by Dorothy Wilding substituted, were used for the definitive series issued between the 15th October 1953 and the 3rd July 1956. Denominations of ½c and 2c were included in this series. Following the dissolution of the Leewards Island colony in 1956 and the elevation of Montserrat from a presidency to a colony in its own right the inscriptions on the ½c, 3c, 6c and $4.80 denominations were

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altered accordingly on the 1st September 1958. The 2c value, which depicted sea island cotton under cultivation, was re-issued on the 29th October 1964 printed on the Block CA paper.

Montserrat has issued stamps in the colonial omnibus designs for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth (June 1953), Freedom from Hunger (July 1963), the centenary of the International Red Cross (September 1963), the International Telecommunications Union (May 1965) and now International Co-operation Year. In addition stamps have also been released, in April 1958 and April 1964 respectively, for the more limited omnibus issues marking the inauguration of the Caribbean Federation and the Quatercentenary of William Shakespeare.

As befits the agricultural economy of Montserrat the new definitive series, released on the 16th August, is entirely devoted to fruits and vegetables grown on the island. Many of them, such as the tomato, banana, lime, orange, onion and cabbage, need no introduction but others are perhaps less familiar. The 2 cents stamp features the Avocado or Alligator Pear ("Persea americana"), a native of South and Central America which is now grown widely in the United States and the West Indies. The plant has a single-seeded, pear-shaped fruit which is used in salads. The oil is extracted and used in the manufacture of soap and cosmetics. Like the tomato and the potato the Egg Plant (featured on the $4.80) is a member of the nightshade family and is an important food plant not unlike a melon. The Guava ("Psidium quajava") shown on the 8c belongs to the myrtle family and has a fruit slightly larger than a hen's egg, containing aromatic sweet pulp full of bony seeds.

The 5c depicts the Mango ("Mangifera indica"), a native of India which was introduced into Jamaica in 1782 along with other Eastern plants seized from a French ship bound for Haiti. Since then it has spread to the other islands of the West Indies. It is preserved, pickled or eaten raw and the grey wood of the mango tree is used in house and boat building. Ochro or Gumbo ("Hibiscus esculentus"), which appears on the 10c stamp, is a member of the mallow family and a native of Africa. It has white flowers not unlike the cotton plant and long pods which are used in stews and soups.

The $1.20 denomination shows a variety of Pumpkin ("Cucurbita") chiefly used in pies. There are many types of pumpkin rejoicing under such names as Sweet Cheese, Japanese Pie, Kentucky Field and Winter Crookneck. Peppers ("Capsicum") are commonly used in salads (4c) while the Sweet Potato ("Ipomae a batatas) is a tuberous vine of the convolvulus family which is extensively cultivated in the southern United States, Central America and the Caribbean ($2.40). A contrast in name and flavour is the Soursop ("Annona muricata") which appears on the 3c value. This small many-branched ornamental tree bears a large pear-shaped fruit covered with soft prickles. The white pulp is succulent, with a smell similar to black-currants and a peculiar, but very pleasant, acid taste.

The series was designed by Sylvia Goaman and printed by Harrison & Sons Ltd. on Block CA paper. It was illustrated in the February issue of the "Stamp Bulletin."

JEWISH NATIONAL STAMP FUND AND LABELS

(A paper read by Dr. Max Wulfsohn at the September meeting of the Society of Israel Philately).

Theodor Herzl was the founder of the World Zionist Organisation in 1897 and at the first Zionist Congress in 1902 the Jewish National Fund was formed by Prof. Zvi H. Schapira in order to provide voluntary efforts of the Jewish people all over the world and collect money towards the redemption of the land of Israel as the inalienable heritage of the Jewish people. Its activities included the restoration of waste land, afforestation, youth education activities in most parts of the world and fund-raising with the ideals and aspirations of Jewish lives. At the first meeting they planned to print a label to be affixed beside the actual stamps used on letters sent by all Zionist organisations and institutions of leagues connected with the movement. These are now called J.N.F. (Jewish National Fund) or K.K.L. (Keren Kayemeth Le'Israel) Stamps. A large number of varieties of these stamps exist today. Well over 1,000 different kinds have been issued since 1902. The subject is therefore a very vast one and only a small section can be shown in one sitting. J.N.F. Stamps are of great interest to many philatelists and particularly to Israel collectors

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who consider it part of their Israel collection as they help to complete the thematic history of Israel.

Historically they represent the very beginning of Jewish stamps anywhere. They were supplied by the head office to other parts of the Diaspora and were distributed or sold through the J.N.F. Offices in the large cities such as Jerusalem, London, New York, Vienna, Cologne, The Hague, Johannesburg, etc. They were welcomed by many Jewish organisations as an additional educational means for Jewish youth and has provided the marking of important events in Zionist history, the reconstruction of the Jewish land in Palestine and illustrated some of the important men who helped in different spheres the promotion of the Zionist cause.

Of course the more recent issues feature more of the work done in the progress of building Israel. Until 1940 nearly all the labels were printed without value and the most recent stamps are printed with face value. All the stamps with the exception of the first four bear the name Keren Kayemeth Le'Israel on them. Most of the early issues were printed typographically and nearly all the recent issues by photo-litho-offset. You of course know that some of the labels were used postally. The Petah Tikva label was used by the Austrian Post Office in Palestine during 1908-1909. When the Jewish authorities, the "Vaad Leumi," took over the postal administration after the departure of the British postal authorities earlier than expected during April, 1948, they over-printed some of the J.N.F. labels with rubber stamps and with the "DOAR" in Hebrew meaning "post." This is of course another large facet of an Israel Stamp collection.

J.N.F. labels can be divided into two main sections:

(a) Issues of Head Offices,

(b) General issues by various J.N.F. organisations abroad.

They can further be classified into the following categories:

(1) Famous Jewish Personalities: People who paved the way for the renaissance of the Jewish people and the return to Zion, including political leaders, fathers of Jewish colonisation, thinkers, teachers, writers, artists, defenders, fighters against Nazism and the fallen heroes;

(2) Landscapes, historic sites, cities and settlements;

(3) Public and religious institutions.

(4) Great events and achievements in Zionism and K.K.L.

(5) Schemes from the life of the Diaspora. A series of forty rare stamps.

The first Zion stamp was issued and printed in Vienna in 1902 after the Zionist Congress in Basle. This tiny stamp bore a Magen David in which the word ZION in Hebrew was inscribed. Thirty million copies of this stamp were printed and circulated throughout the Diaspora, serving as the first popular fund-raising means for the redemption of the soil of Israel. The national and educational influence of that stamp was enormous and it was re-issued in 1905 and 1908. I am tonight displaying eight of these sheets which are now quite scarce in spite of the millions issued. You will notice the reference numbers and letters on the side tabs of each sheet represent the respective countries they were issued for—altogether 18 countries—I do not possess more than eight.

Every Zionist considered it his sacred duty to affix these stamps to his letters and cherish them as collector's items. It is interesting to know that when the Zionists of South Africa wished to show Theodor Herzl a token of their esteem and appreciation they found no more suitable method than to acquire a complete sheet of Zion stamps, 300 in number, bind it in a suitable album and present it to their leader. This album forms part of the exhibit in the Herzl Room, until recently located in the K.K.L. head office in Jerusalem.

Secondly, I am showing you a few of the older issues and just a few of the older personalities. My main display however is that of J.N.F. stamps and labels which were issued in New York for the United States of America and for Canada. I was lucky to obtain these during my recent visit to the U.S.A. and meeting charming and friendly philatelists, as a result of my association with the American Society of Israel Philatelists. You of course know that enormous sums of money have been collected by the people of the U.S.A. in this way—mainly for the redemption of land in Palestine. The sale of the first stamps by the J.N.F. office in new York for the United States was inaugurated in 1926. The stamps are issued mainly during Jewish Festivals, New Year, Purim, etc.

There are also Tel Hai issues as well as

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numerous charity labels. You will notice that the face value of some are as much as 25 dollars. I will not go into more detail regarding what I am showing as I have tried from information I have been able to gather to tell you as much as I can about each item on each sheet. There are however a few items which I am unable to explain but I am sure you will help me to do so.

In conclusion may I quote Franklin Delano Roosevelt about the art of Stamp Collecting: "It dispels boredom, enlarges our vision, broadens our knowledge and in every way enriches our life." Every group of stamps I am showing has something to offer in enrichment in: The Bible, Jewish History, Hebrew and current events. Everyone of these tiny pieces of paper tells a story and illustrates dramatic pages of history. They tell a great deal about patience, perseverence and fortitude that resulted in a renaissance of Jewish Statehood and Judaism throughout the world. K.K.L. stamps have the capability to enliven Jewish studies, tying up Diaspora life with ancient lore, with striving Israel and our common problems and needs as well. I do hope you will enjoy for a change stamps that are not postage stamps. I thank you.

I AM EXTENDING

my field of activities to include the Cape, Natal, O.F.S., O.R.C., Transvaal, Z.A.R., German South West Africa, besides Union/Republic and S.W.A.

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THE POSTAL CANCELLATIONS OF NATAL

(Continued from page 83)

TYPE C.

Pen Cancellations. Post Offices other than Pietermaritzburg, Durban and Ladysmith cancelled the embossed issues of 1857 to 1895 in manuscript (R.L.). The best known example is UMHLALI whose Postmaster used a very characteristic flowing handwriting in black ink; once seen, this cancellation is unmistakable. TOONGAAT is also known with pen cancellation bearing the name of the town, but other post offices used a cross or merely a pen-drawn line. This practice continued until at least as late a date as 1863.

TYPE D.

"A grille obliterator consisting of a number of small lozenge-shaped spots. This was apparently used at Pietermaritzburg. It is said to have been a trial obliterator, which was sent out from England and which was apparently found not satisfactory, as it was very little used and early discarded." (Mann).

I have several copies of 1882 One Penny Red cancelled with a similar grille, and the use of this cancellation may not have been discarded at an early date as suggested by Mann. This cancellation is, however, principally found on the embossed stamps.

TYPE E.

"A circular unframed type with G.P.O. at the top, NATAL at the foot and the date in the centre." (R.L.).

Size: 25 mm. in diameter.

Date of Use: The only date known to me is Sep. 3, 1859.

TYPE F

Numeral cancellers. "In 1859 a series of numeral cancellations were sent out with the Perkins Bacon stamps comprising Nos. 1 to 74." (R.L.).

Mann is not quite so definite, and says "the marking stamps may quite easily have been depatched at the same time as the postage stamps."

"The obliterators consisted of a series with numerals in the centre and bars surrounding such numerals. They are in the form of an ellipse, three bars of varying and graded length being at the top and bottom with two more shorter bars at the sides." (Mann).

(To be continued).

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SOCIETY NEWS

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The 57th Annual General Meeting of this Society was held on **21st January,** and was attended by 22 members and six visitors.

The following were the 1966 elections: President, Mr. L. Hellmann; Vice-President, Mr. J. Shingler; Hon. Secretary, Mr. R. Ehrlich; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. E. Williams.

Our meetings are held on 2nd Friday of each month, but in April we will meet on 1st.

There were some outstanding competition displays at our 1965 meetings, and winners were presented with cups and medals.

Following the A.G.M., we held our monthly meeting. Six applications for membership were received in 1965, and a few members resigned. Sincerely regretted was the passing away of three members, who had been with us for many years.

Sales packets have become increasingly popular, and our 1965 figures were the highest on record. Invitations for membership are extended to all, including beginners—application forms are obtainable from the Secretary, P.O. Box 925, East London. Visitors are warmly welcomed at all meetings.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

February 1966. There was a good attendance at the Annual General Meeting held this month, when the reports of the different office-bearers were submitted and adopted. Pleasure was expressed at the very satisfactory state of the affairs of the Society.

The Committee for 1966 was elected as follows: Chairman, Mr. E. Walker; Vice-Chairman, Mr. W. Howie; Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. Kriste; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. G. Kriste; Exchange Superintendent, Mr. F. Fouche; Exchange Treasurer, Mr. C. van Rensburg; Stamp Superintendent, Mr. Z. J. van Eyk; Librarian, Mr. F. Fouche; Curator, Mr. G. Kriste; Committee Member, Mr. S. Smith; Delegates to Federation: Messrs. W. Kriste, J. P. Roux and Z. J. van Eyk.

The future of the Cecil Trophy was discussed and it was agreed to give the following proposal a trial for 12 months:

"In order to encourage the reading of papers at Society meetings, the Cecil Trophy be presented to the member who is judged by the committee to have read the best paper during the calendar year. This will not debar Country Members as they can submit papers to be read. Papers must be handed in to the committee for adjudication after having been read."

THEMATIC STAMP CLUB

January 10: 1966 opened with an All Members Evening and the following was shown: "Turkey" by W. G. Combrink, being selected pages and specimen sets and the Suffragette set of 1935; "Egypt" by R. Jeidel, which included the early posts (chiefly French); "Butterflies" by Miss G. Hoffman, a colourful exhibit and well set out; "The Sport Stamps of Egypt" by H. Beinart, a very complete, instructive and delightful showing; "Miniature Sheets and other items" by Dr. P. L.Vautire; "Christmas and Health Stamps" of Australia and New Zealand" by Mrs. L. Coe.

January 24: Capt. M. F. Stern put on his usual showing of the stamps of the world for the previous year. This drew a large crowd of members and visitors. Owing to the mass of issues only A to M was shown and will be followed by the balance at the next meeting. Members are thus able to check any item they may have missed.—(M.F.S.).

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY

February 2nd. President's Evening. Members exhibiting: Mrs. A. E. Wannerton—Greece, large Hermes head; J. W. Rodgson—British Royal Visits; C. B. Rowe—New Zealand—Chalon Heads; W. A. Sharwood—G.B. Commemoratives; J. Wannerton—Canada, Large Queen.

By vote of the members present Mr. J. Wannerton's collection of Canada was awarded the Cup for 1966.

The "A. Singels" cup competition was continued, another two members having joined the fun. The Log positions at present are: Dr. H. Gottschalk 41, J. Wannerton 26, Mrs. A. Wannerton 25, E. R. Bouwer 15, J. W. Hodgson 14, W. A. Sharfwood 12.

AFRIKAANSE FILATELISTEVERENIGING

Desember. 'n Onverwagte groot skare entoesiaste het die vergadering op 15 Desember bygewoon. Onder die aanwesiges, beter beskryf as 'n versamelde menigte, wat met reg kosmopolities genoem kan word, is opgemerk die oprigter van die vereniging, die redakteur, veilingmeester, die bekende skrywer wat onder pseudoniem S.J.V. sy werke die lig laat sien, asook die voorsitter natuurlik. Hy is altyd daar.

Agter in die saal het die penningmeester met groot belangstelling die verwikkelings gevolg, aangesien hy nie kon deurkom na die tafel waar ons bestuur altyd sit en ons bestuur.

Die sekretaresse het geskitter deur afwe-

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sigheid. Dis nou jammer, die verslae wat sy elke maand in hierdie Nuusbrief skryf is deurgaans van beter gehalte as hierdie een wat niks gehalte het nie.

Die Rondsendbeheerbeampte (dis 'n beampte wat jou 'n brief skryf as jy te min geld in die koevert insluit en miskien maak hy ook so as jy te veel insluit), is alweer met vakansie. Sake gaan seker maar goed. Ek wil ook 'n sakeman wees. Raai hoekom. Maar ons dwaal af: die hele aand is net finansiële sake bespreek en nou word dit eers interessant. So het 'n lewendige bespreking ontwikkel oor 'n bonusstelsel waarby die bestuurslede gelde sal ontvang vir elke lid wat nie 'n vergadering bywoon nie. Dit lyk nou of dit gevaarlik gaan word om die saal te betree.

Die rondsendbeheerbeampte (nog steeds met vakansie) is nie hierby ingesluit nie, aangesien vir hom 'n ander stelsel gevind is om sy sosiale posisie te verbeter. Hy sal die reg hê om twee seëls uit elke boekie te haal vir rekening van die insender. Die aanwesige lede het toe ook aangedring op finansiële bystand, maar die saak sal beslis word as . . . . op hierdie punt het die bestuur ingegryp en sensuur ingestel. Dis ook jammer. Almal wil weet wat aangaan. En mosies van wantroue is ook gesensuur.

Daar is egter ook baie goeie nuus: DIE TAALKWESSIE is opgelos deur hierdie vergadering, vir eens en vir altyd, dit sal Esperanto wees. Op hierdie tydstip het meneer Kuiper voorgestel om die benoude saal te verlaat en maar te vergeet van die tee. Ons moet hom in ere hou, so voorstelle hou jou aan die lewe. Hy het ook voorgestel om 'n groter saal te huur vir ons byeenkomste, maar alle ses ander aanwesiges het daar teengestem. Nou sal u sê daar was nie 'n kworum vir die vergadering nie. sewe is nie genoeg nie. U is heeltemal reg. Daar was nie een nie.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

Ladies' Evening in **December.** The exhibits, were really excellent and filled out the evening. The first was that of Miss Anna Smith who showed "Bits and Pieces," which included selections of the first and oldest issues of Holland, the O.F.S. (started by her father) and from there on to stamps defining philatelic terms.

The second exhibit was Mrs. Bergman's collection "Within our shores," this being an amusing portrayal of our history through the stamps which have been issued. The writing-up, in addition to being very witty, was also excellently done and the water-colour pictures and cartoons were very good indeed.

The third exhibit was the the collection of Western Germany shown by Mrs. Hodgkin. This was a very attractive and straightforward exhibit shown in mint condition mounted in the specially printed album leaves. The last exhibitor was Mrs. Koralek, who showed her well-known collection of Kristkindl stamps on cover. In addition, Mrs. Koralek also showed her collection of "The Madonna on stamps," a beautiful collection which is constantly being added to and improved, but she still says that it is not quite complete.

The first meeting this year saw a really excellent attendance. There were two exhibitors, the first being Mr. M. J. Nethersole, a "first-timer," who tabled an exhibit of India. The collection consisted of used copies of the majority of Indian stamps issued and, while the condition of some of the items was not too good, he can be congratulated on a really excellent write-up and arrangement.

The second exhibitor (in absentia) was Mr. Seelig, who showed his collection of "Foreign U.P.U.—1949." It was an extremely interesting exhibit with writing-up kept to a bare minimum, which is most desirable in a collection of this type. The majority of the stamps were shown in mint condition and made a very atractive display.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

January 13th: Research Evening when enjoyable and varied exhibits were shown.

We were pleased to see part of Mr. G. H. Immelman's collection of Cape Postal History, Early Maps, Commander and early Governor's letters, also a Cape woodblock error of colour among many other interesting items.

Mr. F. L. Archer showed early Persia. This member makes a habit of becoming involved in forgeries, reprints etc. and good material. Dr. P. Keller—Poland 1921-23 Issues, showed some of the many colour variations, types of paper and maze of perforation varieties ranging from 9 to 14, prevalent in the issue.

Mr. R. Jeidel showed some of his latest Egypt acquisitions; Mrs. H. Jeidel, Belgian Congo, a display of the various types of the 1909 "Congo Belge" overprints, also a selection of the "Taxes" overprints.

The evening closed with Mr. J. Clarke Bruce's selection of G. Britain Imperf 1d. Reds.

January 27th: "Jacob Cup" evening. This Cup is awarded annually for the best exhibit of the year.

The Committee selected four exhibits: Mrs. H. Jeidel—Israel, Mr. R. Jeidel—Egypt, Mr. S. Kaganson—Switzerland, and Mr. J. Wannerton—Canada.

By vote of the members present at the meeting the cup for 1965 was awarded to Mr. J. Wannerton's collection of Canada.

Our congratulations are extended to Capt. A. G. Versino on his election as a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

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GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

February. Sixteen members were present at the 13th Annual General Meeting of the Germiston Philatelic Society to hear the reports of the President, the Hon. Secretary and the Exchange Packet Superintendent. A financial statement from the Hon. Treasurer was distributed to members at the meeting.

The following Office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Mr. F. E. Drake; Vice-President, Mr. R. G. L. Mephius; Hon. Secretary, Mr. L. S. Burniston; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. A. C. Rix; Hon. Auctioneer, Mr. N. S. Hesselbarth; Hon. Librarian, Mr. H. Hay; Hon. Exchange Packet Superintendent, Mr. R. G. L. Mephius; Committee Members: Mr. J. J. Hamman, Mr. T. J. B. Curle and Mr. J. Laing; Hon. Auditor, Mr. Theo Ross; Delegate to Federation, Mr. S. J. Hagger.

Five awards were made for the year 1965. The South African Airways Cup for Aero-Philately was not awarded as no entry for this award had been received. The Robertson Stamp Company Cup went to Mr. B. Eilers for his display of Norway. The Leonard Ward Cup to Mr. A. C. Rix for his collection of British Commonwealth Stamps. The R. H. Fisher-Hill Cup to Mr. J. J. Hamman for Stamps of Israel. The S. L. Crozet Cup to Mr. H. Suklje for his Pre-stamp covers of Holland, and lastly the Executive Committee Cup to Mr. J. H. van Loggerenberg for his K.G.V. Silver Jubilees.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

February. There was an excellent attendance at the Annual General Meeting at which the reports of the different office-holders were submitted and approved with acclamation, particular emphasis being accorded to that of the Honorary Exchange Superintendent.

The President in submitting the Executive Committee's report covered the activities of the Society during the past year, emphasised the increasing attendances at the meetings as well as the increased use being made of the Exchanges Section by all members. He also expressed the Society's thanks to the various officers for their enthusiasm and interest taken in their different duties.

The Hawke Memorial Award for 1965 was made to Mr. W. Impey in recognition of his unique services to the Society, particularly since he took over the Exchange Section.

Mr. J. Manfred Weinstein was elected as an Honorary Life Member of the Society in respect of his keen interest in Society affairs and the valuable service he has rendered to the Society in various capacities during almost twenty years.

Office bearers and committee members for 1966 were elected as follows: President, Mr. J. M. Weinstein; Vice-president, Cmdr. C. E. D. Enoch; Hon. Secretary, Mr. R. N. Castignani; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. D. O. N. Beyers; Joint Hon. Exchange Superintendents, Mr. K. E. Olesen and E. A. Gerke; Hon. Librarian, Mr. A. F. Reynard; Hon. Curator, Cmdr. C. E. D. Enoch; Committee Members, Messrs. W. Impey and W. Kriste; Hon. Correspondent, Mr. W. Kriste; Delegates to Federation, Messrs. J. M. Weinstein and R. N. Castignani.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL

Our **February** meeting was a great success, there being 42 members and visitors present. Our special thanks to Mr. Appleby for his entertaining quiz, in which incidentally nobody could get 100%. It just goes to show that we can always learn something. Our thanks also due to our secretary for his interesting display of Great Britain.

For those of you who may be interested, I list hereunder the numbers of Rhodesian Stamps overprinted Independence, which appeared last month: ½d. 648720, 1d. 839360, 2d. 1013680, 3d. 938880, 4d. 959280, 6d. 238740, 9d. 236880, 1/- 238500, 1/3 239800, 2/- 64680, 2/6 237180, 5/- 39300, 10/- 58920, £1 83700, Churchill 5/- on 1/3d. 20,000.

THE O.F.S. PHILATELIC SOCIETY

January. The Annual General Meeting was attended by some 25 members—this being one of the best attended A.G.M.'s for years.

The following office-bearers were elected: President, Mr. A. L. Meyburgh; Vice-President, Mr. A. H. Scott; Secretary, Mr. H. E. Roux; Treasurer, Mr. A. Bleedon; Exchange Supt., Mrs. S. Scott! Committee, Mr. M. Marincowitz, Mr. C. A. van Ee, Mr. S. Marus, Dr. K. Freund; Hon. Auditor, Mr. H. Weil; Editor, Mr. J. W. Hodgson.

After the A.G.M., the following members tabled New Issues: Mesdames Gray, Marincowitz and Scott, Messrs. Weil, van Ee and Roux.

Exhibits (1) "Union King's Heads"—used; all values except the £1 were shown in blocks, which is most unusual, especially the 2½d. value which was shown in a block of 32—unique? The £1 value was however there, but in singles. The long-arm "U" and the missing "Z" were amongst the varieties shown, as were also numerous shades. (2) "The History of Tennis on Stamps" covered just that from the 13th Century; all the different strokes used in the game; Royal players in action, and some of the more recent stars such as Maria Bueno (together with her autograph); an Egyptian postmark consisting of a tennis racquet. The last ten pages of the exhibit covered Table Tennis. Both these exhibits weres tabled by Dr. K. Freund, and were of the high standard usually associated with this exhibitor.

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THE SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

February. The annual general meeting preceded the monthly meeting and the following office-bearers for the ensuing year were elected: President, Mr. K. E. W. Lydall; Vice-President, Mr. G. H. H. Legge; Secretary/Treasurer, Mr. E. J. Sharpe; Committee Members, Mrs. J. M. Milford, Dr. T. B. Berry, Messrs. E. Walker and M. Gough-Palmer; Executive members to Federation, Mrs. J. M. Milford, Dr. H. J. Raubenheimer and Mr. M. Gough-Palmer; Exchange Superintendent, Mr. E. J. Sharpe; Hon. Examiner, Mr. B. Glassman.

The J. H. Harvey Pirie Plaque, which is awarded annually for meritorius service to South African philately, was presented to Mr. K. E. W. Lydall for the work he had done during the year in drawing attention to the collectability of cancellations, postmarks and meter franks.

Mr. G. H. H. Legge gave a talk on a subject of his own choice namely, "South African stamps used abroad—the South West African campaign, 1914/1915" which forms an interesting and little known phase of South African philately. Approximately ten pages from Mr. Legge's collection were exhibited, covering the various aspects of philately in the campaign. Members were able to see postcards used by the South African forces during the campaign, the original dies used as postmarks on German South West African stamps prior to the commencement of the campaign, the altered dies occasioned by the change of Government as postmarked on South African stamps and finally, the new dies which provided more permanent postmarks in that territory.

MOOI RIVER STAMP CLUB

At our Annual General Meeting held on the **2nd February, 1966**, the following office bearers were elected: Chairman, Mr. T. Kramer; Vice-Chairman, Dr. W. P. van der Merwe;Treasurer, Prof. A. J. Sorgdrager; Secretary, Mr. J. Keet.

After the business of the evening was completed, Dr. van der Merwe tabled an outstanding collection of the South African Republic, complete with many interesting varieties.

On behalf of the society Mr. Kramer thanked Dr. van der Merwe for his feast in Philately. Meetings held on the first Wednesday of each month, in the Potchefstroom Library at 8 p.m.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa will take place on the 21st May, 1966.



Complete British set of 2 stamps, 4d. and 1/3d, both UNUSED AND USED (4 stamps in all) honouring Sir Winston Churchill. Sent ABSOLUTELY FREE to all collectors who ask to see our wonderful Bonanza Stamp Parcels containing 1,000 Pictorials for you to pick where you like at a cent a stamp (or 125 for 1 Rand).

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JANUARY 17th

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SHORT SETS TO 2/6 (11 values) **R 3.00**

SHORT SETS TO 2/6 (10 values no 2/-) ... ... **R 1.25**

SHORT SETS TO 1/- (8 values) **R 0.80**

ERRORS: CLEAR OFFSET ON GUM SIDE.

9d. IN PAIR WITH NORMAL ... **R8.50**
SINGLE **R7.50**

9d. IN PAIR WITH NORMAL ... **R8.50**
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IF STAMPS OF.—Germany, Austria and other Western European countries are wanted, first try us.—S.A. STAMP CENTRE P.O. Box 6891, Johannesburg. Telephone 22-1391. (Want lists invited).

ANGLO-BOER WAR PHILATELIC SOCIETY, quarterly magazine with exchange packet in U.K. Subscription R1.00 (10/-) yearly. Secretary, J. H. Rathbone, "Allways", Rudheath, Northwich, Cheshire, U.K.

FOR WORLD STAMP NEWS, market commentary, new issues, postmark studies, book reviews, etc., etc. Read the "PHILATELIC MAGAZINE," published every two weeks by Harris Publications Ltd., of London. Annual sub. R2-25 (£1.2.6). Agent in South Africa: D. C. D. Castle, 174 Cooper Street, Greytown, Natal.

COLLECTIONS WANTED for immediate cash settlement: Large or small, specialised or general. Top prices paid for popular sets and rare issues in fine condition.—ELIEZER BLUM, P.O. Box 1669, Cape Town. (Established in Cape Town since 1930).

TRISTAN DA CUNHA, GOUGH ISLAND, PAQUEBOT covers a speciality; S.A.N.A.E. and Marion Island multiple postmark covers. BOK PHILATELISTS, P.O. Box 3321, Cape Town.

1840-1900.—If you want good stamps of this period, then write to DOUGLAS ROTH, Mona Crescent, Newlands, Cape.

ARE YOU SURE you have all the back numbers of the South African Philatelist you should have? Ask for a schedule of the numbers still obtainable. 10c each. P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg

GERMAN SOUTH WEST AFRICA: Wanted early forerunners on cover or on piece, or any other items of interest. Top prices paid. L. ABRAMS, P.O. Box 7875, Johannesburg. Telephone: Office 22-1630; home 45-4075.

WANTED FOR CASH ! ! ! Southern African T.P.O.'s, Sea Post and Paquetbot markings on cover or on piece. Offers to J. M. Weinstein, P.O. Box 419, Pretoria.

MICHEL CATALOGUES: Germany 1966 R1-05 (from August 1965); Europe 1966 R4-20 (from October 1965); Übersee (non-European countries) volume I and II, R5-60 each ex stock; volume III R5-60 (from September 1965). All prices excluding postage.—S.A. Stamp Centre. P.O. Box 6891, Johannesburg. Phone 22-1391.

ZULULAND also BANGKOK. Wanted for cash — everything and anything. M. M. Wood, P.O. Box 210, Johannesburg.

South African Collectors' Society for the Union Collector—magazine, exchange packet. Subscription 15/- ($2) year. Write Hon. Secretary, W. A. Page, 138 Chastilian Road Dartford, Kent, England.

LATVIA (Lettland; Lettonie) out of the way items and bulk common stamps wanted.—J. Michelson, P.O. Box 9314, Johannesburg.

UNIONS WANTED. — Anything unusual in hyphenated Rotos.—E. Walker, P.O. Box 2388, Pretoria.

WANTED.—Accumulations, Collections, Office Lots on and off paper. Turn those odd boxes of philatelic "junk" into cash, or exchange it with us for stamps, albums or accessories that you need.—ROBEMARK PHILATELISTS (PTY.) LTD., 21 Joubert Street, Johannesburg, Box 11419.

SIMENHOFF BOOKLET.—The Occupational Postmarks of the Mandated Territory of South West Africa by Capt. L. Simenhoff; the series as run in The South African Philatelist, in booklet form (24 pages). Price 30c post free.—Philatelic Federation, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

U.S.A. SPECIALIST requires singles, blocks covers, cancellations. A. R. Kleiner, 23 Cadogan Gardens, London S.W. 3, England.

LISTS of general interest free on request. —UNION STAMP CO., Barbican Building. President and Rissik, Johannesburg. (P.O. Box 10225), Telephone 838-5879.

S.A. PHILATELIST BACK NUMBERS OFFERED AS A LOT: October 1939 (Vol. 15) to December 1964 (Vol. 41) with the following numbers missing: Vol. 27 No. 3; vol. 29 No. 1; vol. 35 No. 2; vol. 40 Nos. 6 to 12 and vol. 41 No. 5. What offers.—J. G. Richards, PO. Box 152, Kimberley.

MOZAMBIQUE Pre-stamp Covers urgently wanted. Varieties also required.—B. Glassman, P.O. Box 10, Johannesburg.

URGENTLY DESIRED! ! Four regular one-eighth page advertisers. Apply to Business Manager, South African Philatelist, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

I BUY collections of Netherlands and Colonies as well as Western Europe.— M. V. MIOCH, 12 Cadoza Street, Melville Extension, Johannesburg.

WANTED: Cape, Natal, O.F.S., O.R.C., Transvaal Z.A.R. Union/Republic, S.W.A., German S.W. Africa, preferably postal history —C. E. SHERWOOD (V), P.T.S., 105 Marford Crescent, Sale, Cheshire, U.K.

IRAQ, JORDAN, LEBANON, SYRIA: Fine used recent issues wanted.—W. Lambert, P.O. Box 1138, Johannesburg.

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NEEDED! Commemorative covers, special and commemorative cancellations, Mobile Post Offices, T.P.O. etc. I. A. Miller, P.O. Box 11479, Johannesburg.

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S P A C E ! A collection of Space Stamps containinp many good items for sale. Inquiries invited.—S. J. VERMAAK, P.O. Box 2272, Johannesburg.

RHODESIAN INDEPENDENCE OVERPRINTS ½d. to £1, R18 per mint set.—KYLANDER, P.O. Box 37, Luipaardsvlei, Transvaal.

RHODESIA: Current issues m. or u., for as little as 5% above face, plus postage. Send for details. ("Rhopex" F.D.C. — "Rhopex" cancellation 65c, 4 values — 3d., 9d., 1/6 & 2/6). RHODESIA STAMP AGENT, P.O. Box 694, Gwelo.

THE 1966 STAMPEX TROPHY COMPETITION

The 1966 STAMPEX Trophy Competition will again be on the basis of individual competition as distinct from the society entry system in vogue up to the 1964 exhibition.

The F.I.P. rules have been adopted and there are, therefore, five classes of competition: A—Stamps issued up to 1900; B—Stamps issued after 1900; C—Collections necessarily not limited to a period; D—Thematics; E—Junior (up to 17 years on December 31st, 1965). Each entry consists of nine pages.

The awards include the STAMPEX Silver Mail Coach Trophy, the Stanley Gibbons Silver Cup, the William Ferris Memorial Trophy (for juniors), silver-gilt, silver and bronze medals.

Details are obtainable from the Secretary, Philatelic Traders' Society, 27 John Adam Street, London, W.C.2.—("Stamp Collecting").

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The South African Philatelist

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Business Manager: Mr. S. J. VERMAAK, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

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SOUTH AFRICAN NOTES

Hon. Associate Editor:
Dr. H. J. RAUBENHEIMER,
434 City Centre, Pretoria.

Recent Printings.

Through the courtesy of the Chief Publicity Officer of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs we give the following information concerning the period 1 October to 31st December 1965. The relevant information for the previous three months appeared in our March, 1966, notes.

Postage Stamps.

½c—Job No. 62394.11 continued. On the order for 72,000 sheets, 59,200 sheets have been delivered to date. Same Cylinders G7, G9 Interior, G16 Exterior.

1c—Job No. 60937.34 continued. On the order for 2,000,000 sheets, a total delivery of 1,003,400 sheets has been made to date. Same Cylinders S23 Interior, S25 Exterior.

2c—Job No. 52942.18 continued. On the order for 100,000 sheets a total delivery of 98,500 sheets has been made up to the final date 29/7/65. Same Cylinders G2 Interior, G1 Exterior.

2½c—Job No. 41288.80 continued. On the order for 2,000,000 sheets, 1,743,538 sheets have been delivered to date. Same Cylinders, 12 Interior, 11 Exterior.

1965 Christmas Stamps—Job No. 66333.77. On the order for 86,300 sheets of 100 stamps per sheet, the total of 87,900 sheets was delivered by the 9th November 1965. From new Cylinders Y9 Yellow, Y10 Red, Y25 Blue, Y24 Black. Stepped up multipositive single pane. English and Afrikaans stamps "Tête-Bêche." Multipositive stepped up twice on carbon tissue on Bouzard M/C. Tissue transferred twice to make cylinder of four panes Printed on Albert M/C and register cut to lay sheets gummed on one side and register holes drilled in Binders Dept. Grover Perforator fitted with larger lugs to fit drilled holes. RSA watermarked paper used.

2½c—(Church Stamps). Job No. 66219.64. On the order for 500,000 sheets a total delivery of 514,304 sheets was made by 21/12/65. Cylinders S28 Interior, S29 Exterior.

3c—Job No. 62936.13 continued. On the order for 300,000 sheets a total delivery of 172,000 sheets has been made to date. Same cylinders G15 Interior, G8 Exterior.

5c—Job No. 62937.14 continued. On an order for 150,000 sheets a total delivery of 72,500 sheets has been made to date. Same cylinders 31 Interior, S1 Exterior.

7½c—Job No. 58799.17 continued. On the order for 150,000 sheets a total of 131,700 sheets has been made to date. Same cylinders S20 Interior, S21 Exterior.

10c—Job No. 68690.10. On a new order for 140,000 sheets a first delivery of 1,000 sheets was made on 29/11/65, the total delivery to date being 33,200 sheets. (No further details given).

12½c—(Church Stamps). Job No. 66220.65 continued. On the order for 15,000 sheets a total delivery of 17,504 sheets was made by the final date of delivery

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21/9/65. Cylinders 74.117 Interior, 12 Exterior.

20c—Job No. 68689.09. On a new order for 75,000 sheets, 11,200 sheets were delivered on 5/10/65, the total delivery to date being 11,200 sheets. (No further details given).

Post Cards.

1½c—Job No. 67607.38 continued. On a new order for 50,000 sheets of 40 cards per sheet, a total of 66,140 sheets has been delivered to date, making a total of 2,645,600 single cards. Same cylinders Z17 Interior, Z14 Exterior.

Air Letters.

2½c—Job No. 58806.24. On a new order for 2,250,000 cards, a first delivery of 27,000 cards was made on 29/12/64, the total delivery to date being 190,200 cards. Old cylinder.

5c—Job No. 65198.53 continued. On the order for 5,400,000 cards, the total delivery to date is 3,267,00 cards. Same cylinders.

5c—(Greetings). Job No. 65197.52. On an order for 144,000 cards, a first delivery of 3,000 cards was made on 12/11/65, the total delivery to date being 66,000 cards.

* * * *

FESTIVAL ISSUES

Further to the information appearing in our March Number, p. 50, the Publicity Branch, G.P.O., has made the following available:

Commemorative Postage Stamps: Republic Festival. The Postmaster General announces that special 1c, 2½c, 3c and 7½c postage stamps will be issued on 31st May, 1966, to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the Republic of South Africa. The Postage stamps will be on sale at all post offices.

First Day Covers. Covers for datestamping on the first day of issue of the stamps may be handed in at large post offices in the cities or at the local post office in other places on the 31st May, 1966. Senders must address the covers and affix the necessary stamps to the envelopes before handing them in at the counter.

Special First-Day Souvenir Covers. On this occasion OFFICIAL first-day souvenir covers will be available at the Philatelic Bureau, Publicity Branch, G.P.O., Pretoria.

Philatelic Bulletin. Detailed information regarding the postage stamps, the souvenir envelope and the special commemorative datestamp will be made known through the medium of a Philatelic Bulletin which will be issued as soon as possible. Persons who wish to obtain a copy of it as well as copies of future bulletins relating to the issue of new stamps, etc. should request the Chief Publicity Officer, G.P.O., Pretoria, to place their names on the distribution list.

No. 1 Field Post Office. During the period 18 May to 4 June, 1966, on the occasion of the Republic festival celebrations a post office military unit will provide postal facilities to the troops from all parts of the country who will be concentrated at camps in the Pretoria area. The Postal Agency will be known as No. 1 Field Post Office. A specially designed datestamp on which the emblem of the Defence Force will appear, will be in use at the agency for the datestamping of postal articles. Persons who wish to obtain impressions of the datestamp should timeously forward addressed envelopes on which sufficient postage stamps have been affixed to the Philatelic Bureau, G.P.O., Pretoria.

* * * *

THE POST OFFICE EXHIBIT FOR THE REPUBLIC FESTIVAL

A Post Office Bulletin dated 1 April 1966 reads: "A Festival to commemorate the 5th Anniversary of the Republic of South Africa will take place in Pretoria during the period 20th-31st May 1966. The Rautenbach Hall at the University of Pretoria has been allotted to the General Post Office. Apart from the Departmental Exhibition which will be on view during the week 23-28 May 1966, limited post office facilities such as the sale of postage stamps, acceptance of registered letters will also be provided in the Hall."

Further information from the Publicity Bureau is as follows: there will be a large engineering exhibit which will include a micro-wave tower, but, what will be, we feel, of particular interest to philatelists, will be the postal section dealing largely with stamps. The post office in the Hall will have a stamp postmarking machine with a special postmark reading "Republiekfees 20-31 . 5 . 1966 Republic Festival." This will also have a Pretoria die which will give the actual date of posting; there will also be two sorting presses.

On view, too, will be a number of historical items, such as the original plates of the 1d. Ship of the London Pictorials, and which

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later were passed to the Union in 1927; the plate of the 4d. Airmail, the first Commemorative Stamp printed by the Government Printing Works, Pretoria, the date given being given as 1926. It is possible also that the master negatives, the multipositives and the three cylinders of one of the denominations of the new Festival Stamps still to be issued will be on view. There will be, however, no working stamp producing machine.

The Post Office's exhibition of stamps will depict historical events in South Africa by means of essays, proofs and trials of Commemorative issues as well as those of the present Republican Definitive issues. The early Union Essays will again be on display accompanied by a general write-up. There will also be a display of early postal stationery. No doubt there will be a brochure on the exhibit.

The Rautenbach Hall is situated in a large building on the beautiful compus of the University of Pretoria in an eastern suburb of Pretoria. The building houses a section of the cultural activities of the University, and contains the large Aula and the smaller Musaion theatres as well as an open air theatre. There is also a fully equipped cafeteria attached.

* * * *

NEW PRINTINGS

½c. Cylinder Numbers G7.9.16 A/B. RSA Watermark.

Resumption of printing with 5-figure black sheet numbers on the bottom margin of pane A below stamps 1 and 2 and again 12 and 13. Certain features distinguish this printing from the previous one; they are: the bottom margin of pane A is very much narrower, the sheet numbers are much nearer the stamps — a number of sheets show the bottom perforations through the top of the sheet numbers—and there is a marked difference between the gums of the two printings, the later being colourless while the earlier is cream coloured.

The previous issue had sheet numbers only in the 68 to 70 thousands, this one, of the sheet examined, the numbers are in the 11 and 12 thousands.

7½c. Cylinder Numbers S21 S20. No Watermark.

A delivery was made on the 30th November 1965 with the same printing characteristics of the previous printing delivered on the 17th June, 1964, both having large holes with the "drunken perforations" and with the comb join between stamps 9 and 10 and again on the right of stamps No. 20. However, the second delivery showed two marked changes from the first, the paper is thinner and less glossy and the colours are much lighter or paler.

Another delivery was made on the 23rd February 1966 showing still more changes. For the first time the sheets have small hole perforations without the "drunken perfs" characteristic. The comb join reverts to the normal position, namely between stamps 10 and 11, at the arrow, and again on the right of the margin. The paper is also appreciably heavier and more glossy and the colours are deeper than the previous printing.

* * * *

SOME SERVICES OF THE PHILATELIC BUREAU, PRETORIA

It is not a particularly difficult problem to keep up to date with the new issues of the stamps of this country. We do not have too many commemoratives, in fact we have only had eleven issues in the Republican period since May 1961. There have also not been many changes in the definitive issues. The greatest number of cylinder changes in this period have naturally been for the more popular stamps, those that are sold in the greatest numbers, many millions of sheets; they are the 1c and 2½c values and yet each has had but five changes of cylinders.

But when we come to the various printings of the same stamp, and from even the same cylinders, startling changes can make their appearance. Many factors come into the picture; changes can come in the paper with its watermark, texture and gum, in the type and gauge of perforations, and particularly in the shades of the printings, that they can be a continuous source of study, and that is the great fascination that holds the student of our stamps.

There is an excellent practice followed by the Philatelic Bureau at Pretoria and the Government Printing Works that prints the stamps. A packet of 100 sheets of each pane of any new printing of the definitives is automatically sent by the Printing Works to the Bureau. The sheets are not specially chosen — an important point — but the packets are taken at random from the many others. The printing could have been from new cylinders or it could have been the resumption of a previous printing months

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before—so often showing a change in colour or shade. A packet is also sent if there has been any significant change in, for instance, the paper used, or another printing or perforating machine has been used. Many more packets of commemorative stamps are sent initially because of the great number of postal orders for them. The Bureau then orders further supplies of any stamps from Post Office stocks as required.

It can thus be seen that any issue or printing bought anywhere else could have been had first at the Bureau. At the same time we can see that the chances of getting any of the other much sought after flawed stamps such as paper intrusions, interrupted printings, folded over paper and perforation irregularities are no greater at the Bureau than at any other individual large post office.

The Bureau has promised to let the S.A. Philatelist know immediately of the arrival of a new packet; we appreciate the courtesy and will publish a full description at the earliest opportunity.

Our readers must please accept, however, that there is a fly in the ointment, and we can do nothing about it. We can never tell what the life of an issue will be—commemoratives excepted, and too often we cannot say whether the issue will be a scarce one or not. A new issue appears in the normal way but can stay only for a short while and is replaced by another, or is changed in some way. In no time it becomes much sought after, its price incidentally skyrocketting. And that is what happened to the 1c from cylinders 110/86 in November 1964. A cylinder soon broke, the issue life was one month; the stamp was catalogued soon after with the value of the cylinder block of four given as twenty-five cents. It changes hands now at a Rand at least.

Some other examples of "ships that passed in the night" are the two stamps printed on reversed RSA watermark, namely the 1c cylinders S33 S13 and the Red Cross 2½c; then there was the Nurse's 2½c with the old gold colour. But these are exceptions. Anyone who wishes to have all the new issues and printings can arrange with the Philatelic Bureau to have what he wants sent to him. It would be unreasonable to expect to get any particular item long after it has been replaced by another. So in general we can take it that the Bureau keeps the latest issues and printings.

STOP PRESS

SUPPLEMENTARY PAGES

The distribution of the first part of the Third Series of Supplementary Pages of the Republic Catalogue has been held over so as to include details of the Commemorative Issues.

THE COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES

Postal Arrangements for the 31st May, 1966, for the sale of the Commemorative Stamps, of unilingual design, and date stamping of firstday covers:—

All main and country branch post offices will be open from 8.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. Ordinary office datestamp will be used.

The Philatelic Bureau will be closed but services will be transferred to the Main Office, Church Square, Pretoria, open as long as necessary. A special datestamp will be used.

A temporary Office will be opened at Voortrekker Monument, Pretoria, during ordinary office hours. A special datestamp will be used.

Unserviced Covers, 10c each, will be sold from the Philatelic Bureau and main post offices in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth from 10th May, 1966. Reduction for 100 or more at the Bureau, and remittances to include return postage, where necessary.

Orders for **Fully Serviced Covers** (service fee 5c each) bearing EITHER two stamps of each denomination, at 43c each, OR one stamp, either English or Afrikaans, at 29c each, may be sent with a list of addresses and remittance to the Philatelic Bureau, G.P.O., Pretoria—to be received not later than 30 May, 1966.

Self Addressed Covers, recommended size 4″ x 9″, together with remittance for the stamps required, may be sent to the Philatelic Bureau for first day cancellation—to be received not later than 30 May, 1966.

Remittances to be in the form of postal order, money order or bank draft payable to the Postmaster-General.

"CAPE TYPE" NUMERAL POSTMARKS

Mr. A. G. M. Batten, of London, reports that he has acquired a cover, dated Oc 2 85 which clearly ascribes No. 457 (not included in the prevously published list) as BOWDEN.

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PHILATELISTS' RENDEZVOUS

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month in
The Club Room of the Friends of Italy of South Africa, First Floor, Radio City Blds. Tulbach Square, Foreshore, Cape Town
at 8 p.m.
VISITORS CORDIALLY WELCOMED.
P.O. BOX 1973, CAPE TOWN.

THE THEMATIC STAMP CLUB

Meetings 2nd and 4th Mondays monthly at 8 p.m., in
St. John's Hall, Waterkant Street, Cape Town.
All interested in Thematics welcome.
Chapter No. 1 A.T.A. and Africa Section, F.I.P.C.O.
Issues a Magazine every two months and circulates sales packets.
P.O. BOX 752, CAPE TOWN.

ORANGE FREE STATE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets on the fourth Friday of every month in the
NATIONAL MUSEUM HALL, BLOEMFONTEIN
at 7.30 p.m.
Issues a monthly magazine and circulates sales packets to members.
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THE PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meets on the second and fourth Tuesday every month in the
Staff Recreation Room, Mutual Buildings, Main Street,
at 8 p.m.
Visitors cordially welcome.
P.O. BOX 3 - PORT ELIZABETH

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL

Meetings 1st and 3rd Wednesdays monthly at 7.30 p.m. in the
Geo Cato Room, City Hall, Durban (Entrance West Street...door nearest Beach)
VISITORS CORDIALLY WELCOMED
P.O. Box 588, Durban. Secretary's Telephone 838-682 (Evenings).

THE PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meets on the first Monday of every month in the
Council Chamber of the Technical College Church Street East, Pretoria
at 7.45p .m.
VISITORS CORDIALLY WELCOMED.
P.O. Box 514, Pretoria.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

meets Twice a Month: Second Tuesday and Fourth Monday
at
Room 97, Public Library, Johannesburg
at 8 p.m.
VISITORS ARE WELCOME.
HON. SECRETARY,
P.O. BOX 4967 - JOHANNESBURG.

THE AEROPHILATELIC SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

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THE PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meet on the second Wednesday of every month in the
Railway Recreation Club, Berea Park, Pretoria
at 8.00 p.m.
P.O. Box 2388 — Pretoria
ALL PHILATELISTS ARE WELCOME.

SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELY

Meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 8.15 p.m.
Burlington House Boardroom (2nd Floor) c/r. Rissik & Marshall Streets, Johannesburg.
ALL WELCOME.
Secretary: P.O. Box 11502, Johannesburg

THE SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

meets at 2.15 p.m. on the second Saturday of every month in the
Staff Tea Lounge, Basement, Corner House.
Corner Sauer and Commissioner Streets, Johannesburg (Commissioner St. Entrance).
ALL INTERESTED IN SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELY ARE WELCOME.
P.O. Box 378, Krugersdorp (Secretary's Telephone: Business 660-7511; Home 660-3461.

THE EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

P.O. Box 483, Benoni. (Hon. Secretary).
Meetings every 2nd Monday in the month at the
Benoni Tennis Club House
Benoni, at 7.45 p.m.
VISITORS ARE WELCOME.

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THE POSTAL CANCELLATIONS OF NATAL

By A. Leslie Leon, F.R.P.S.L.

(Continued from p. 90, April, 1966, Number)

The late Dr. Harvey Pirie, who did a great deal of research into the numeral postmarks does not agree with Mann that the type described above was the first to make its appearance and gives that distinction to the "mushroom" type of mark (Illustrated S.A.P. for June 1965, page 113). I have had the benefit of being able to consult the late Doctor's notes on these cancellations and curiously enough, he does not label this as Type No. 1—that number he gives to the Cape-type vertical oval grid with boxed numeral, which did not make its appearance at the Cape, I believe, until 1864. Mann's first type is relegated by Pirie to fourth place.

I now set out Pirie's order and descriptions:

Type 1. A non-Natal type. Cape-type vertical oval grid with boxed numeral.

Type 1 (a). Similar to Type 1 but with no box enclosing numeral.

Type 2. Numeral inside a horizontal oval grid with 3 bars above and below and 2 either side. Numerals ca. 7 mm. high. (This, of course, is Mann's first type). (Numerous examples illustrated on same page of S.A.P. quoted above).

Type 3. Numeral enclosed in an approximately circular grid—bars fairly thick and normally 3 above and below numeral, with or without side bars.

Type 4. Unboxed numerals in vertical oval grid. Three bars above and below and single curved bars on either side. Numerals ca. 10 mm. high.

Type 5. Vertical oval grid as Type 4 but with no side bars.

I have, however, come across covers of 1886 with four thin bars above and below instead of the three bars described in Type 3.

The illustrations referred to above will show that a wide variety of types of numeral exists; it must be remembered that this type of canceller was in use for about forty years and as the faces wore out and were replaced, no uniformity was observed in this respect. Paucity of information makes it impossible to date many of the types with any certainty but I possess two covers cancelled with Type 4 numerals. The first is from Pietermaritzburg with No. "1" and is backstamped "10 De 90," and the other is from Durban with numeral "2" and is backstamped at Barberton "Fe 8 88".

Pirie possessed a number of copies of Type 1; with those in my collection 1 can record the following numbers as having been used: 1, 16, 29, 45, 46, 47, 48, 51, 66, 67, 69, 70, 72.

Similarly, Type 1a exists with the following numbers: 54, 55, 60, 64, 65.

Mr. J. H. Chamberlain of Durban was instrumental in eliciting the names of the Post Offices to which the numbers refer; an incomplete list was given in Mann's book and the complete inventory appeared in the Handbook of the Durban Civic Centenary Exhibition held in June, 1954.

TYPE G

A double circle enclosing the name of the town and NATAL between the circles, and the date in the centre (probably also distributed in 1859). (R.L.). Robson Lowe failed to mention that there was an imperial crown above the date—altogether an attractive cancellation.

A distinctive feature of this postmark was the fact that the towns of PIETERMARITZBURG and LADY-SMITH were spelled with a hyphen. Also known for DURBAN, ESTCOURT and GREYTOWN. The use of this mark continued until well into the 1870's.

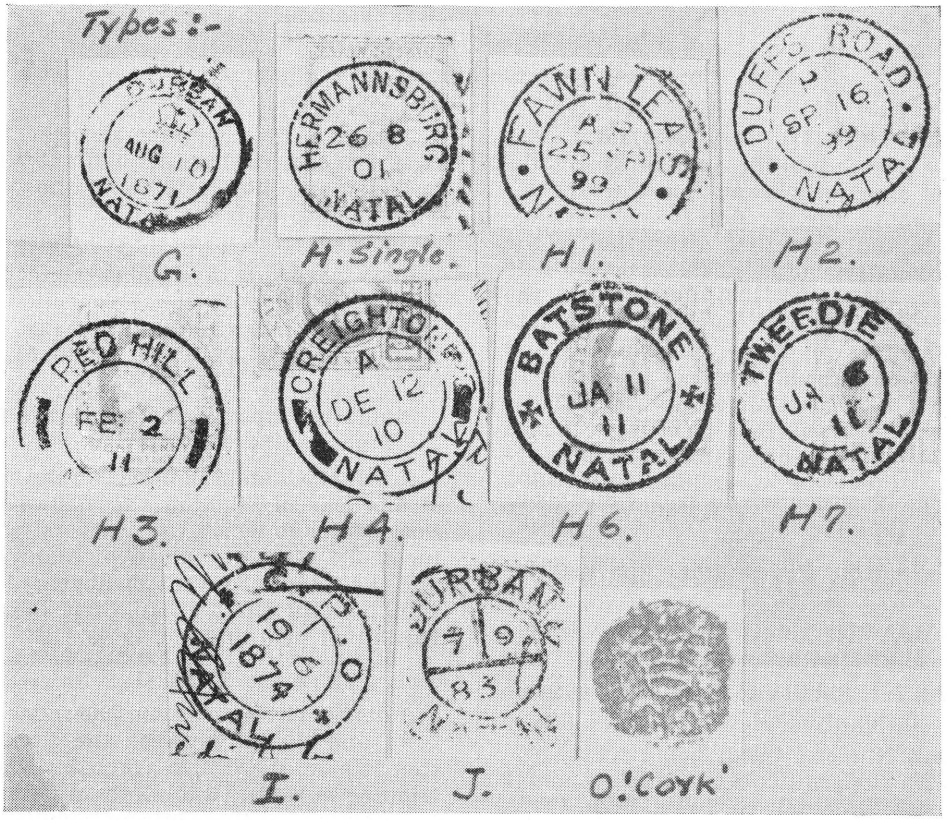
Size: Outer circle 22 mm. diameter, inner circle 15½ mm.

Dates of use: 1859 to early 1870's.

TYPE H.

Single and double circles with town names. These were a natural development of the previous type with the excision of the crown. The type-faces used were of many kinds and sizes, none as neat as those described under Type "G". the double circle would appear to have been in use earlier than the single circle; some post offices used both, at times simultaneously, others always used one type. These cancellations continued in use until the advent of Union and thereafter.

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The date was inserted in the centre of the circle and above it was sometimes a letter of the alphabet. So many types of this cancellation were in existence that it would be difficult to give a complete description of every one. There follows a list of certain clearly defined types.

H.1. With round dots between place-name and NATAL.

H.2. With square dots of various sizes between place-name and NATAL.

H.3. With short curved bars instead of dots.

H.4. With longer curved bars almost filling the gaps, the bars being rather broad.

H.5. With long thin curved bars between place-name and NATAL.

H.6. With paté crosses between place-name and NATAL.

H.7. Without dots, bars or crosses.

There was an exceptional use of the double canceller at Melmoth, which had the word ZULULAND at the base instead of NATAL. This usage had, of course, been discarded in the case of other Zululand post offices when the territory was incorporated.

The single circle cancellers were issued to comparatively few offices but the size of the letters used differs from place to place whilst in some cases there are single dots separating the place-name from the word NATAL, and in other cases not.

Size: Double circle cancellers, outer circle diameter 25 mm. and upwards. Single circle cancellers, circle diameter 23 mm. and upwards.

It should be noted that at Pietermaritzburg, cancellers were used bearing the name of the town and also others with G.P.O. at the top. Both there and at Durban, a large number of hand cancellers were in use, one being distinguished from another by a different letter above the date, so that one can collect practically the whole alphabet in respect of each of these towns. In Durban, during the years 1904 and 1905 in certain instances the year has been replaced by a letter and the number 4 or 5, e.g. B4, F5. This may have been a "private frolic" on the part of Post Office employees of the time.

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TYPE I.

In the 1870's a new type of cancellation was introduced in Pietermaritzburg, this consisting of a double circle with G.P.O. at the top, NATAL at the bottom with a cross in the circle at either side separating the above words. The date is in the centre in a new form—the day and the month in figures above the year. The curious point observable in this cancellation is that in all the copies I have seen, from the centre of the inner circle at the top and pointing downwards between the figures of the date and the month without actually reaching those figures is a line 4 mm. in length, and at the right centre a similar but shorter line (2 mm.) separating the date and month from the year.

This was a postmark used on the cover whilst the stamp was obliterated with the numeral (1) canceller.

Size: Outer circle diameter 25 mm., inner circle 15½ mm.

Verified dates of use: 1872 to 1879.

TYPE J.

Durban in the 1880's was provided with a rather similar mark. This was a double circle with DURBAN at the top and NATAL at the bottom with a short line at either side between the words (1½ mm. to 3½ mm.). The date was in the centre with the figures of the day and the month at the top and the last two figures of the year below. The central circular space was divided laterally by a straight line across the centre, and this was joined by a vertical line from the top separating the day from the month. This vertical line did not descend below the lateral dividing line and the last two digits of the year, therefore, occupied a semi-circle in the bottom half.

Size: Outer Circle diameter 26 mm.; inner circle 16 mm.

Dates known to me range from 1882 to 1887.

TYPE K.

We now come to one of the rarest types of Natal postmark; this appeared in the 1870's but was issued to few of the Post Offices in the Colony. The mark is a double circle with NATAL at the bottom between the circles, the sides being left blank. The inner circle is broken at the top to admit the introduction of an oval segment containing the number of the Post Office, with the ltters NO. on the left of the segment and P.O. on the right of it, both being between the circles.

The date is recorded in manner similar to TYPE "J" but the full number of the year is given and the vertical line separates the first two digits from the last two, so that the inner central space is divided quadrilaterally. (Illustrated S.A.P. for June 1965, page 115).

The numbers of the Post Offices so far recorded which had the use of this canceller were:

7—Umzinto,	40—Queen's Bridge,
11—Greytown,	46—Hermannsburg,
20—Newcastle,	53—Curry's,
26—New Hanover,	60—Sydenham.

Dates of Use: From 1875 to 1879.

TYPE L.

Post Office Agency cancellations were introduced in 1891 and continued in use until 1910. Numbers from 1 to 122 have been recorded, but the place of use of each canceller varied from time to time and those interested should consult the chart compiled by Messrs. Chamberlain and Walker and published as a supplement to the S.A. Philatelist of August, 1963. The cancellers consist of the letters P.O.A. with a number beneath in an oval with two thick graduated bars at the top and the bottom and a single curved bar at each side. There is little variation in the type-face used for the letters or the numbers, but occasionally the same number will appear with different types of figures. (Illustrated S.A.P. August 1963, page 148).

(To be continued).

TRANSVAAL STUDY CIRCLE

Within three months of being launched on 13 Nov., 1965, TSC has enrolled 26 members in U.K., South Africa, Holland and U.S.A. This compares quite well with the early experience of both the O.F.S. Study Circle and the Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society, both of which have members in one or other, or both, of the other Societies.

The Study Circle would welcome additional members and anyone interested is invited to write to the Hon Sec., Major H. M. Criddle, 23 Longcroft Avenue, Banstead, Surrey, U.K. The annual subscription is 15s. and the first issue of the quarterly journal "THE TRANSVAAL PHILATELIST," free to members, has already been published.

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THE PHILATELIC HIGHLIGHTS OF MY 1966 VISIT TO EUROPE

Mrs. H. Jeidel

Stamp collecting affords a flourishing business in Europe. Most shops in the large towns sell catalogues and mainly new issues, and customers assemble at the counters, patiently waiting to be attended to.

In contrast to South Africa, I found that in Switzerland, Swiss stamps are given an overwhelming preference; in France, one collects French stamps; in England, British stamps predominate, including those of Commonwealth countries, irrespective of the fact whether a member or not.

Apart from the stamps of the country, thematic collecting is extremely popular. Themes, such as birds, flowers, maps and sputniks, are mostly favoured by the younger collector, while the "Unification of Europe" seems to be one of the most popular subjects chosen on the Continent and is given prominence in the Newspapers.

Philatelic prices are still rising. I paid 5 Sfrs at the Post Office for a miniature sheet of the Juventute Set in Bern in 1962 (now blacklisted). I find it now catalogued and saw it being sold for 15 and 16 Sfrs. The situation is more or less the same in Paris and London. In the stamps shops, in contrast to auction sales, there is little demand for the older material, even though it is more difficult to get than before. Dealers do not appear to be interested and prefer supplying new issues over the counter. The prosperity of the country, coupled with full employment, makes ready cash available, even for issues of countries which do not exist except for the collector!

I went to the home of the Royal Philatelic Society of London in Devonshire Place. Miss Brown, the assistant to the secretary, showed me over the old building and the library on a lower floor, full of philatelic wisdom. Upstairs, a stewart was busy preparing for a meeting which takes place twice a month on alternate Thursdays. About 40 to 50 members generally attend—a small number in contrast to the large membership.

The stamps are displayed in locked frames, hinged together and put on tables arranged in a horse-shoe pattern. About 50 frames, holding 18 sheets each, are available for a display. While a paper is read, interesting items are placed in plastic covers belonging to the Society, and handed round. This arrangement is not very satisfactory as the last person to view the item may do so after the speaker has concluded his discussion. There were burn-marks on the mahogany tables and I was told that a lot of heavy smoking, including cigars, was indulged in during the evening. I found books in the library for which I have been searching for years and now that I know their titles, it may be easier to obtain them although I have not been successful thus far on my trip. I also found it difficult to locate stockists of philatelic literature.

On a Sunday afternoon I went to Buckingham Palace to view the Queen's exhibit of "The Creation and Development of the British Postage Stamps up to 1888." It was a great experience, even to one who does not collect British stamps. First and foremost I was impressed by the security measures. Two men in Police uniform walked up and down each row of the exhibit while Sir John Wilson leaned over the balcony and took stock of everybody entering. As collectors of Great Britain should possess the Catalogue, I will describe a few items which are not included in it.

There was an abundance of imprimatures on view, practically one for each stamp, not in singles but parts of sheets. Two letters in Rowland Hill's handwriting were present, and these, along with similar items, interested me greatly. There was one addressed to Queen Adelaide and bore in the left hand bottom corner, the impressive handwritten words "The Queen." Victoria was the sender and did not make use of her royal prerogative of free postage but attached some stamps. Another, also written by Queen Victoria, was addressed to her German daughter in French, the language of diplomats, and reads "Son Altesse Princesse Royale Frederik de Prusse." I found a letter written on the 5th May, 1840, most interesting, and it reads: "To make you stare, I send you a Queen's head, the day before it is in penny circulation. Tomorrow, it will be obliterated by a post-office stamp. What a pity that they should make Victoria gummy like an old woman without teeth or spectacles." The letter was paid for in coin, the stamps were uncancelled with a hand-struck "paid" on the envelope. On the next floor and in glass virtrine under the watchfull eye of Sir John Wilson, was a letter written by King George to Mr. Tillard, the then Keeper of the Royal Collection. A part

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of it reads: "I wish to have **the** best, no one of the best, stamp collection and if you think there are a few more stamps required to make it so, do not hesitate to get them now that you have the chance." The letter referred to the early stamps of Barbados and if you were to look at the first 80 stamps in your catalogue, you will realise that the King was correct in his anticipation.

I made the acquaintance of some pleasant and interesting individuals. At the exhibition, a charming lady, after the exchange of odd comments, introduced herself as Kay Horowicz, the philatelic authoress whose books "Fun with stamps" and "More fun with stamps" are on sale in South Africa. At present she writes a Beginner's Column for "Stamp Magazine" as a sideline, and is working for Robson Lowe on the 5th Volume of their philatelic encyclopaedia dealing with the postal history of Canada and the U.S.A.

I met Dr. Paul Wolff, in Vienna, the organiser of last year's International Exhibition "Wipa." His wife proudly showed me the philatelic "Oscar" Dr. Wolff had won for his work for the Exhibition. It is a table bronze statue and well made. The Post Office of Austria also showed their appreciation to Dr. Wolff by giving him a complete collection of Austrian stamps in a presentation booklet, an item which is usually presented to Ministers of the State or distinguished visitors to the Head of the State.

Dr. Wermer Hoexter, another international figure in philately, came from Haifa to Tel Aviv when we discussed Palestine overprints. He is visiting Washington this year, by invitation to assist in the judging of the exhibits.

The large number of philatelic burglaries taking place in Europe from time to time is a disturbing factor. It will be recalled that Bridger and Kay, of London, sustained a large burglary about two years ago. Since then there have been others and the most recent appears to be an incident in Bern. A stamp dealer left his office at 12.50 p.m. and returned at 2 o'clock. During the 70 minutes of his absence, an accumulation of 35 years' hard work, a good stock of stamps, had been stolen. Neighbours observed several suitcases being removed but no one suspected a robbery. The thieves evidently had inside information for they knew the best stock and that the dealer left his books out of the safe during the lunch hour. Nothwithstanding an offered award of 10,000 Sfrs (£800-0-0), no recovery has been made.

The dealers consider that less reputable individuals are in on the "racket," otherwise it would be impossible to explain that none of these large burglaries, and they are universal over Europe and frequent, are ever discovered. No stamp is found, no person convicted, which means the proceeds of the theft can easily be disposed of to someone who is ready to accept them.

S.I.P.E.X.

A recent Philatelic Release of the Washington D.C. Post Office Department gives the design of the 5c postage stamp, commemorating S.I.P.E.X., in the form of an envelope addressed to "Sixth International Philatelic Exhibition, Washington, D.C. 20008." This miniature envelope-stamp carries four simulated postage stamps in as many colours along with the figure of value and "US Postage."

* * * *

SIPEX News Bureau states that the famed Thatcher Ferry Bridge error sheet, owned by H. E. Harris, will be exhibited publicly for the first time in the Court of Honour at the Exhibition; the stamp is illustrated in the May, 1965, number of the S.A.P., page 91.

Mr. Harris is the holder of the only privately-owned sheet of the Canal Zone Stamp which he found among 60 sheets he had ordered from the Canal Zone Philatelic Agency. Only three other sheets of 50 stamps of the error were found. One will be presented to the Smithsonian Institute, another to the Canal Zone Museum and one destroyed.

After a court battle lasting nearly three years, the U.S. Department of Justice conceded defeat in its effort to reprint the error, a step that would have destroyed the value of this Harris sheet, which is insured for $100,000.

BRITAIN'S VIEW STAMPS

Outstanding views of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland featured on four pictorial stamps which were put on sale on May 2nd. The values are 4d., 6d., 1/3d. and 1/6d.

The British Postmaster General announced that the denominations of the World Football Cup stamps would be 4d., 6d. and 1/3d.

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DIE LAASTE POSSEËLS VAN DIE ZUID-AFRIKAANSE REPUBLIEK

Deur N. C. Combrink

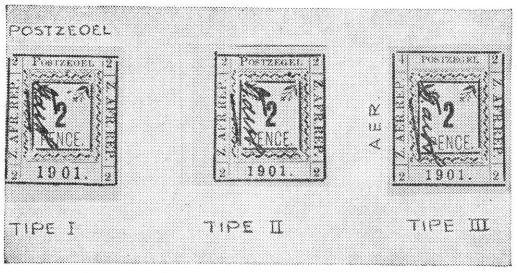
(Vervolg van die vorige uitgawe)

Die posseëls is op gekleurde gompapier gedruk. Die gekleurde papier het ook 'n probleem geskep. Die bestelling was vir ses verskillende posseëlwaardes, maar daar was net vyf verskillende kleure van papier beskikbaar. Daar is toe besluit om die volgende kleure vir die seëls te gebruik: ½d. en 6d. groen, 1d. rooi, 2d. oranje, 4d. blou en 1/- geel. Die 1d., 4d. en 6d. sou eerste in gebruik kom.

Omdat die drukpers maar klein was, kon die standaard van sestig seëls per vel nie gedruk word nie. Die direkteur het verduidelik dat hy nie genoeg letters het om meer as twaalf seëls in een slag te druk nie. Die bestelling is toe gewysig na velle van twaalf seëls per vel. Toe die drukker sy eerste blok van twaalf klaar geset het, vind hy dat hy nog letters oor het en het toe op sy eie houtjie 'n blok van vier-en-twintig seëls vir die drukpers gereed gemaak. Na die druk van die seëls sou hy die velle in die middel deursny, om volgens bestelling twaalf seëls per vel te kry.

Met die opstel van die blok van vier-en-twintig seëls het die drukker tog 'n paar letters kortgekom en hulle so bes moontlik aangevul. Toe die velle seëls klaar gedruk was, het die ontwerp op almal dieselfde voorgekom, min mense het seker opgelet dat die datum „1901" in die laaste twee rye kleiner was as in die eerste twee rye, ook dat die woord „Postzegel" in die laaste ry nie dieselfde was as in die ander drie rye nie. Dit is die rede waarom daar drie tipes van afwykings in hierdie posseëls te vinde is.

Dit is nie die bedoeling om 'n volle beskrywing van al die foute hier te gee nie. 'n Paar voorbeelde moet egter gegee word. Soos reeds gemeld is daar drie hoofafwykings in die ontwerp van die posseëls.



(I) Die woord „Postzegel," bo aan die seël het 'n grootletter „P"; die lengte van die woord is 14½ mm.; daarby is die datum 1901 met groot syfers gedruk en meet 9½ mm. van 1 tot 1.

(II) „Postzegel" dieselfde as (I) maar die datum 1901 is met kleiner syfers gedruk en meet 8 mm. van 1 tot 1.

(III) Die woord „Postzegel" het al die letters in klein hoofletters, die woord is 13 mm. lank. Die datum 1901 is dieselfde as (II).

Baie van die foute is dadelik te bespeur soos 'n onderstebo waardenommer van die 2d. of 6d. Ook die onderstebo plasing van die blomtakkie in die boonste hoek van die binneraam van die ontwerp.

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Wat die letters betref, vind 'n mens „REB" in plaas van „REP", „AER" in plaas van „AFR," „Postzeoel" in plaas van „Postzegel," en so meer.

Die posseëls was in stapels van vyftig velle van vier-en-twintig seëls per vel na die kontroleur gestuur. Mnr. Smit het die seëls nagesien, geparafeer en weer na die drukker teruggestuur. Hierna is die tanding aangebring en die velle in die middel deurgesny om bondels van 100 velle van twaalf seëls per vel volgens bestelling te verkry. Die posseëls is toe weer na die kontroleur gestuur wat hulle toe aan die verskillende poskantore uitgereik het.

Sommige versamelaars besit vandag velle van hierdie seëls sonder die voorletters van die kontroleur en sonder tanding, en met uitstaande foute soos die onderstebo 2d. Die seëls kan alleenlik as proewe beskou word wat op een of ander manier in iemand se hande gekom het, miskien deur Britse troepe wat hulle gevind het.

Daar was twee drukke van die ½d. en 1d. Die eerste druk van hierdie waardes het baie foute gehad. Soos die drukker kans gekry het, het hy sommige van die foute reggemaak sodat die tweede druk minder foute gehad het.

Die 1/- waarde is laaste gedruk. Daar was geen veranderings aan die blok by hierdie druk aangebring nie. Toe die hele bestelling seëls klaar gedruk was, is die blok wat al die seëls gedruk het, in die teenwoordigheid van die direkteur en die kontroleur vernietig sodat 'n herdruk van die seëls nie moontlik sou wees nie.

Die tanding van 11½ was baie onreëlmatig. Sommige velle was net gedeeltelik getand en ander weer het dubbele tanding ontvang. Van die ½d. seëls met rooi voorletters en 1d. waarde van die eerste druk, is daar velle met geen tanding nie (hierdie is moontlik foute wat deurgeglip het). Die laaste druk van al die waardes behalwe die ½d., was nie getand nie.

Die Britse troepe het onverwags op Pietersburg afgekom, Regeringsbeamptes sowel as mnr. Smit het die dorp verlaat. Die drukwerk van die seëls was klaar maar die velle was nog sonder tanding. Die kontroleur het hulle net so aan poskantore uitgereik. Meeste velle met seëls wat nie sy voorletters op gehad het nie het hy verbrand. Die getal velle wat verbrand is word soos volg aangegee: 140 velle 1d., 350 velle 2d en 50 velle 4d.

Die eerste posseëls sou oorspronklik op 1 Maart 1901 verskyn het, maar volgens latere kennisgewings is hulle soos volg uitgereik: 1d. op 20 Maart 1901 en ½d, 2d., 4d., 6d. en 1/-, op 3 April 1901.

Op 9 April 1901 het generaal Plumer en sy troepe Pietersburg binne getrek en alle pos en telegrafiese verbinding in Noord-Transvaal oorgeneem. Dit was die einde van die sogenaamde Pietersburg-posseëls. Die 1d. waarde het net twintig dae diens gedoen. Die ander vyf waardes net ses dae. Dit is te verstaan dat die 1d. seël verder as Pietersburg in gebruik gekom het, maar die ander vyf waardes, as hulle met 'n posstempel te vind is, is dit maar die van Pietersburg.

Die huidige waarde van Pietersburg-posseëls styg geleidelik en het in die afgelope tien jaar in waarde verdubbel. In 1927 het die firma Stanley Gibbons se Britse katalogus nr. 1 'n volledige lys van al die foute en afwykings met afsonderlike pryse daarby aangegee. Sedertdien word daar net een prys vir elke waarde, ½d. tot 1/- aangedui,

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RONDSENDDIENS. NUUSBRIEF
Seëlverkope met elke vergadering.

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sonder afsonderlike pryse vir die verskeie foute. Dit is nodig dat versamelaars 'n volledige gids of lys van al die foute moet hê sodat hulle die eerste en tweede druk kan onderskei en die seëls reg kan klassifiseer.

Soos met die eerste posseëls van die Zuid-Afrikaanse Republiek van 1869, is die posseëls van Pietersburg nie juis aantreklik nie. Daar was 'n tyd toe versamelaars nie baie belang in hierdie posseëls gestel het nie, nou vorm hierdie seëls 'n belangrike deel van 'n versameling van posstukke van die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog, en is die aanvraag groter as die voorraad met gepaardgaande prysstygings.

'N INTERESSANTE UITREIKING

Malta het onlangs 'n kleurvolle stel van sewe seëls uitgegee (2d., 3d., 6d., 8d., 1/-, 1/6 en 2/6) met die 400e jaarlikse herdenking van die groot beleg van dié eiland in 1565 en daarmee 'n interessante hoofstuk in sy veelbewoë geskiedenis in beeld vasgelê.

In daardie dae, vier eeue gelede, het die Ottoman in die Ooste, koning gekraai en kon die sultan maar nié rus voor hy nie ook meester van Europa word nie. In die jaar 1529 is die Turke op die drumpel van Weenen verslaan en kon hulle daarna nie rus vir hulle siel kry voor daardie neerlaag nie gewreek is nie.

In 1565 is 'n ander taktiek toegepas: Malta wat in die pad gestaan het moes eers onskadelik gestel word. Daarna sou dit net 'n hanetreetjie na Sisilië en Italië wees en dan 'n betreklik maklike tog oor die Hongaarse vlaktes na die hartjie van Europa. Gevolglik het die Turkse armada van sowat 200 groot- en 'n aantal klein skepe, op 18 Mei 1565 die eiland omsingel en begin inval. Dit het Koningin Elizabeth I van Engeland genoop om uit te roep: As die Turke die oorhand in die eiland Malta sou kry, kan die verdere gevare wat op die res van die Christendom wag nie voorsien word nie. Dit het die ridders van St. John en die Maltesers skouer aan skouer teen die heidense invallers te staan gebring.

Ten spyte van die groot Turkse oormag het die Christene met hardkoppige heldemoed weerstand gebied en hulle op die ou end verplig om vier maande later die aftog te blaas. Die held van die slag was die opperheer Jean Parisot de la Valletta, na wie die hoofstad van die eiland later genoem is.

Die Turke het nooit van die slag wat hulle toegedien was herstel nie. Inderdaad het dit die begin van die verval van die Ottomaanse ryk veroorsaak, want ses jaar later is die Turke finaal die nekslag toegedien met die slag van Lepanto. Daarmee het die mite van die onoorwinlikheid van die Turke dan ook verdwyn.

Dit is 'n treffende stel seëls, goed ontwerp en pragtig uitgevoer. By die 2d., 3d., 6d. en 2/6 is die kleure in skakerings van olyfgroen en swart, rooi en wit. Die 6d., 8d. en 1/- het elk 'n tikkie goud in. Op die 2d. is die Turkse invallers afgebeeld terwyl die 3d. en 8d. botsings tussen die strydmagte toon. Die Turkse armada in aantog verskyn op die 6d., wat in 'n grysagtige swart, rooi, goud en wit is. Met swaard omhoog staan de la Valletta seëvierend oor sy neergevelde Turkse teenstanders op die 1/6 wat in 'n innemende nuanse van geelbruin, swart, rooi en wit is. Op die 2/6 verskyn die twee kante van die de la Valletta-penning. Kieskeurige versamelaars sal seker die meeste van die aantreklike 1/- hou want die Malteser-wapen se staalblou-afronding verleen 'n besondere relief aan die seël.

Hierdie uitreiking is vol moontlikhede vir die temaversamelaar: geskiedenis, heraldiek, medaljes/munte, oorlogvoering, Malteserkruise, skepe, wapens, die perd en metaalink. Daar skyn 'n taamlike sterk stormloop vir die stelletjie te wees en reeds kos dit R1, teenoor die nominale waarde van 66c.

A MARITIME AUCTION

For the first time, a fully-fledged stamp auction is to be held in mid-Atlantic. As a large number of Collectors and dealers in Britain and on the Continent have already booked to sail in the "Queen Mary" from Southampton and Cherbourg on May 12th on their way to SIPEX in Washington, the Pall Mall firm of Robson Lowe Ltd. has hit on the novel idea of holding a 100-lot sale on board during the voyage.

Shore-bound potential bidders, however, will not be deprived of an opportunity to compete, even up to the last minute, as the office in Pall Mall will maintain a radio telephone link with the "Queen Mary" auction team throughout. It will be possible to make "eleventh hour" bids from New York by similar means.

Such is philatelic and maritime history seen in the making! — (Acknowledgment "Philatelic Magazine").

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OBITUARIES

Henry Revell Harmer, founder and President of H. R. Harmer Ltd. died on March 13 at the advanced age of 96.

He collected stamps as a youth and after leaving school whilst training as an analytical chemist commenced dealing in stamps. He probably travelled more miles prior to the first War than any other professional philatelist.

His memories went back to the early days of philately when stamps now worth pounds were available in bundles of a hundred.

In 1918 he founded the auctioneering firm of H. R. Harmer in London, opening in New York in 1940 and Sydney in 1948. He was elected to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1948 and retired from active work in 1958.

MR. W. N. SHEFFIELD

IN MEMORIAM

His numerous friends were deeply distressed when they learnt of the sudden death of Bill Sheffield. Although he had been ill some years ago he had recovered and was in his retirement at Margate, Natal, apparently enjoying good health.

Bill was a philatelist of the finest kind. Although he reached the highest honours of the hobby, he was always ready to lend a hand to the junior collector. For many years he was a member of the Executive Committee of the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg, and his fellow members on the committee knew they could always rely on him for sound advice and kindly guidance. The Society showed its appreciation of him by making him an honorary life member and by naming one of its rewards for competitions with his name. The William N. Sheffield award is awarded for the best Union collection shown during the preceeding year, an aptly named award as Bill had got together one of the finest Union collections in the country. He gave his knowledge of the stamps of South Africa to the world when he acted as joint editor of the First and Second editions of the catalogue of the Union stamps. (The Van Riebeeck and the Golden Jubilee Edition).

Besides his work for the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg, Bill was for many years on the Executive Committee of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, and served on many of its sub-committees. He was on the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa.

But although his reputation as a philatelist will keep his memory green amongst his fellow members of the hobby, he will be remembered chiefly amongst them and his wider circle of friends as a kindly unassuming gentleman and a reliable friend.

Vale Bill, Requiesent in Pace.

—(I. ISAACS).

A REQUEST

The set of the "Philatelic Journal of Great Britain" at the Johannesburg Public Library lacks one number, Vol. 72, No. 845, March 1962, for completion. An attempt to obtain it overseas has been unsuccessful.

The City Librarian appeals for assistance from readers of the South African Philatelist in that the Library would be most grateful to receive the above-named copy, or if the owner is not able to part with it, to borrow the copy with the view to having a photocopy made for the Library.

If a reader is able to assist, please contact Mrs. A. Clifton, The Public Library, City of Johannesburg, or 'phone 836-3787.

A "PAARL 1965" AWARD

Arising out of correspondence he has had with Mr. R. D. Allen, of London, Mr. N. C. Combrinck, a member of the Paarl '65 Exhibition Committee, requests that an amendment to their Exhibition Awards be published in the South African Philatelist.

Mr. Combrink writes that as the Jury were in doubt as to whether Mr. R. D. Allen, of London, was a member of a Society affiliated to the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, his exhibit "Shipping Postmarks of Cape Town" was assessed as NOT FOR COMPETITION, and was ticketted accordingly on the exhibition boards.

Subsequently, "this matter was cleared up and Mr. Allen received a Bronze Award for his collection. Unfortunately the note 'NOT FOR COMPETITION' was not removed from the Exhibit in time."

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REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



A Philatelic Bureau exists in the Post Office in Pretoria to meet the special needs of stamp dealers and philatelists. Only stamps of the Republic of South Africa currently in use are on sale.

Orders for stamps should be addressed to the Philatelic Bureau, G.P.O., Pretoria, and must be accompanied by money orders, postal orders or bank drafts made payable to the Postmaster-General. Cheques are not accepted. The amount should be sufficient to cover postage and registration. Deposit accounts may be opened by overseas customers.

'n Filatelieburo bestaan in die poskantoor in Pretoria om in die spesiale behoeftes van seëlhandelaars en filateliste te voorsien. Slegs seëls van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika tans in gebruik word te koop aangebied.

Bestellings vir seëls moet geadresseer word aan die Filatelieburo, H.P.K., Pretoria, en moet vergesel gaan van poswissels, posorders of bankwissels, betaalbaar aan die Posmeester-generaal. Tjeks word nie aangeneem nie. Die bedrag moet voldoende wees om die pos- en registrasie gelde te dek. Deposito-rekenings kan deur oorsese kliënte geopen word.

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AN OFFICE-BEARER OFF DUTY

"So that's why there's no Newsletter this month! What are you doing here?"

What a rude greeting to a fellow trying to escape organisational philately for once in two decades! And thát at a spot as far removed from civilisation as Paraguay is from philatelic stability. Hluhluwe, of all places. A small world indeed.

"What are you collecting these days?" "Petrol thanks. I'm just refueling then I'm on my way to St. Lucia."

As you can gather dear member (and no doubt felt from the tone of the last Newsletter), your scribe was tired of everything associated with philately and had no wish to dwell on the subject. Bent on a complete break, he wished only to be isolated with his first chosen past-time—fishing. The nearest he wished to be to philately was the thought of Douglas Roth who we all know as a grand philatelist but who very few of us know to be a serious and successful angler.

St. Lucia. The fishermen's paradise (sic). Tell you a secret? On returning I caught more and bigger fish at the Brakpan municipal lake, 37 miles away, in one night than I did in twelve days at St. Lucia. Still it was fun and excitement—to get your daily roll call to confirm that the sharks did not get away with one of the family whilst you were fishing.

Back to philately we find that a number of other anglers have baited up for firm hauls. There's quite a horde of them but those we fancy to make good catches are Norway and Sweden who go after skate on 18 February. (World Championship for Mens (Speed Skating). Sweden has devised a rather attractive lure of ten traces enclosed in a handy booklet 2 x 40ö, 4 x 25ö and 4 x 5ö, in blue, green and red respectively, arranged in vertical pairs; one type of brand for all the different baits—a skater in action). Norways's boat will be stocked with four different sized hooks (40, 55, 60 and 90ö).

Netherlands and her two eastern dependencies started to entertain European refugees on 31 January and, with a decidedly smelly bait, Netherlands and Surinam are bound to have a successful outing with rod and line, using anchor hooks (se-tenant trips of 2 x 40c plus 20c surcharge each and 1 x 18+7c for Netherlands and 1 x 25+ 10c and 2 x 10=5c for Surinam). The Antilles are more modest with but a single hook (35 x 15c). A common bait is used by all.

Denmark takes to the banks with light tackle (25ö) on 24 February, when most Danes will have the day off to celebrate the centenary of their Health Society. Two types of bait will be used, standard and fluorescently tagged, the latter never failing to do the expected.

On 31 January, Cyprus made a short cast, using lures 3, 10, 30 and 250m. This is causing quite a stir among anglers who feel that a longer cast would have given all an equal drag. (Occasion: U.N. Resolution on Cyprus). Canada has had some good bags lately with floral flies and it is therefore small wonder that a 5c Alberta Wild Rose and a similarly priced Prairie Lily common to Saskatchewan, were tested out on 19 January.

The Swiss are to propogate two new types of bait on 21 February, whilst East Germany is bobbing with three different types of float (10, 20 and 25 pf: 25.1.66).

Between us we can participate in the foregoing without fear of an overwind. But what about angler Stanley Boss and his fellow bass runners. The French world is a-teem with them at the moment, particularly black bass. They will have difficulty in deciding where first to make a cast.

Lest we tread on Israel's corns, we might as well publicise her latest excursions to the various fishing spots in ten different cities where a particular bait is being used at each. (City Emblems: 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 37, 50 and 70 ag). —(S.J.V.).

LONDON'S STAMP CENTRE

This new Centre, occupying premises in the Strand, opposite Gibbons, will open its doors at the beginning of April. Collectors will find it a welcome novelty to be able to reach for their wants among the wares of some seventeen to twenty of London's best known dealers housed permanently under one roof.

SPECIAL STAMP ISSUES FOR 1966

Special stamps will be issued on June 1st for the World Cup Football Championships and on October 14th for the 900th Anniversary of the Battle of Hastings. Details to be announced later.

—("British G.P.O. Bulletin").

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THE "LOBDEL SIXPENCE" CHANGE HANDS

This famous block of 30 of the King George V Sixpenny value, which is illustrated on page 44 of H. E. Lobdell's "The De La Rue Georgians of South Africa" found a new owner in February of this year at the disposal of Mr. A. Oliver Braby's collection by Wicks Stamp Agency in Durban. Some two or three years ago the piece was acquired for R200 but after spirited bidding, on this occasion it fetched R355 and the new owner was heard to declare that it would not be sold again during his lifetime.

Other interesting pieces and prices were as follows (all being from the first definitive issue of the Union):

1d.	Plate 1a, top right corner strip 6 x 2	R100.00
1d.	Plate 2, bottom right corner block 4 x 3	R200.00
6d.	Inverted watermark, miniature sheet of corner blocks	R 30.00
2/6.	Miniature sheet of 4 corner pairs	R 60.00
5/-.	Vertical pair with missing Jubilee line	R 30.00
10/-.	Vertical pair with missing Jubilee line	R 40.00
£1.	Horizontal pair with gutter and missing Jubilee line with very brown gum (S.G. 24a)	R 85.00
£1.	Horizontal pair with right and bottom gutter margins from centre of sheet (S.G. 24a)	R105.00

In addition to local and postal buyers, collectors from both the Cape and the Transvaal had come to Durban especially for the sale and over 200 choice lots were disposed of during the course of a morning.

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

The 1966 Programme of United Nations stamp issues has now been set as follows:

25 March: $1.00 Regular (To replace the original stamp issued in 1951) ... $1.00.

26 May: World Health Organization Headquarters Building (In honour of the new WHO Headquarters Building which was recently completed in Geneva) ... 5c, 11c.

9 June: 11c Airmail Postal Card ... ... 11c.

SOCIETY NEWS

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

January. A near record attendance greeted the first meeting of the year which took the form of an exhibit of "Ten sheets of your choice." The following were staged: Old British Covers, South African Commemoratives, British Colonials, Congo Stamps, Conquest of space items, and Israel emissions.

The interesting meeting concluded with the usual auction.

February. The meeting was at the disposal of Mr. G. Bülbring who entertained members to an instructive and interesting display of stamps. Among others, there were the 1859-1860 issue of Natal, early Capes from 1864 onwards, a page of Griqualand West and another of Stellaland, a number of sheets of the Orange Free State, and Postal Stationery, comprising picture post cards of early Port Elizabeth and a number of ½d. post cards of the four provinces.

The display was an excellent one and was prefaced by a most interesting talk.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

March. The President drew attention to the President's report for the year ended 1964 when the then president, Mr. J. T. Burrell suggested that members should form small informal groups in their own areas so that a more active part in Study Circle affairs would be taken. Mr. Lydall indicated that this idea should be encouraged and proposed that groups initially be formed on the East and West Rand, in Johannesburg and Pretoria. This proposal was discussed and it was then left to members to arrange themselves into study groups.

Under items for discussion, Mr. S. P. Naylor gave an instructive talk on the co-extensive Jubilee lines which appeared in the King's Head series of the Union's first definitive issue and displayed magnificent examples from his collection of full panes of these early stamps, depicting the "unbroken" first stage and subsequent patterns which can only be recognised as such if forming part of a corner piece with the control number on the attached margin. Several new theories were advanced as to the reason for the broken Jubilee line.

Mr. D. Kransdorff read a paper on the extra marginal perforation varieties of the ½ cent and 2½ cent of the recent Republican issues which were suitably illustrated with excellent material from his own collection.

To conclude a very interesting afternoon, members saw two fine examples of interrupted printings—the 1½d. gold mine headgear and the 3 cent shrike.

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AFRIKAANSE FILATELISTEVERENIGING

Februarie. Die byeenkoms op Saterdag 5 Februarie is bygewoon deur 'n groot aantal lede wat baie bedrywig was. 'n Paar van hulle het nie eens tyd afgeneem om tee te drink, tot teleurstelling van ons penningmeester wat altyd probeer om nog geldjies bymekaar te maak vir ons verenigingkas. En dan is daar ons rondsendbeheerbeampte duisend, mnr. Bakker, wat onvermoeid besig is om die groot getal rondsendings vlot te laat verloop. Gaan asseblief so aan, terwyl ons 'n bietjie rondkyk of daar nog mense is wat lid wil word; of sal ons dan 'n assistentrondsendbeheerbeampte (mooi woord) moet aanstel?

Nuwe Lid: As sodanig verwelkom ons mnr. A. P. Swanepoel, Posbus 12, Riversdal, in ons midde. Die hoop word uitgespreek dat hy tuis sal voel in ons gesellige vereniging.

Aansoek: Mnr. M. P. Vorster, Jubileerylaan 273, Northcliff View, Johannesburg. Versamel Suid-Afrika en verteenwoordigend. Hy klassifiseer homself as 'n nuwe versamelaar en verwag dat hy hiermee lekker besig sal wees. Volgende maand sal hy seker weer in die „Nuusbrief" vermeld word.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

February. At the 13th Annual General Meeting the following office-bearers were elected for the year 1966/67: President, Mr. F. E. Drake; Vice-President, Mr. R. G. L. Mephius; Hon. Secretary, Mr. I. S. Burniston; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. A. C. Rix; Hon. Auctioneer, Mr. N. S. Hesselbarth; Hon. Librarian, Mr. H. S. Hay; Hon. Sales Packet Superintendent, Mr. R. G. L. Mephius; Members of the Executive Committee: Mr. T. J. B. Curle, Mr. J. J. Hamman and Mr. J. Laing; Delegate: Mr. S. J. Hagger was re-elected as our Representative on the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa.

Society Funds: Your Society is indebted to Mr. and Mrs. I. S. Burniston who have donated a pair of reading lamps with a Philatelic design. Also to Mr. J. Laing who has given a painting in aid of Society funds.

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

February. The meeting was quite well attended. There was unusual alertness shown; consequently there was active participation by members in the matters arising.

New issues and acquisitions, which were circulated to members, included two covers from Korea; A Rhodesian cover—Independence overprint with all the values; Basutoland and Bechuanaland—Churchill. Tabled were pages by Mr. Hellmann, our President, showing Poland (sport), and other foreign issues.

The "Stop Press News" featured a gathering of philatelic articles from numerous magazines. Following on, we were given "Stamp Designs," J. A. Restall, and his 72 ideas for the Battle of Britain stamps; the Netherlands children, who gave 65,000 designs for stamps, of which five were finally chosen; the embargo on Rhodesian stamps in Britain, also those of previous years, which were rigidly enforced, making it an offence to show or sell the banned stamps.

Mr. Radue's display of Jugoslavia, this time almost complete, was an opportunity for members to become better acquainted with this country. His talk described the welding of the separate peoples into the Jugoslav nation, and this gave us a further insight into the display. But, irrespective of one's knowledge of any country, one can always enjoy varieties, such as misplaced overprints (diagonally across a sheet), and many others as good.

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY

March. This was a double show. The first half was given over to the A.G.M. which as is normal, proved to be a most amicable affair. The following were elected to serve for 1966: President, E. R. Bouwer; Vice-President, A. Singels; Hon. Secreary/Treasurer/Exchange Superintendent, J. W. T. Wannerton; Committee: M. M. Cobern, J. W. Hodgson, W. A. Sharwood.

For the second half of the evening Mr. N. C. Combrink, of Paarl, exhibited a portion of his Boer War collection. The section shown included among others. items from both sides, Pietersburg issues, various of the P.O.W. camps, and British Field P.O. cancellations. In the talk which accompanied the display Mr. Combrink gave a very lucid account of the events during the period shown.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

February 24th. There was a fairly good attendance at the Annual General Meeting. After the Annual Reports had been read and adopted, the following Society trophies were awarded: Jacob Cup—Mr. J. Wannerton; Kaganson Cup—Mr. J. Wannerton; Simenhof Cup—Mrs. M. A. Bergman.

The new office-bearers who were elected for the year 1966/1967 are as follows: President, Mr. R. Jeidel; Vice-President, Mr. W. G. Combrinck; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. M. A. Bergman; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. H. N. Beinart; Hon. Exchange Superintendent, Mr. C. V. R. Solomon; Hon. Librarian, Mr. F. Wheeler; Committee: Messrs. A. Versino, R. Putzel, R. Champman, Dr. P. Keller, Dr. H. R. Ackermann (ex-off.).

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THE MASHONALAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

February. The Chairman opened the meeting by introducing to those present two visitors, Messrs. Breingan and Pilling. Each of these gentleman informed the audience of their individual stamp collecting inclinations and it is to be hoped that they will shortly apply for membership of the Society.

The turnout at the meeting, in spite of petrol rationing, was excellent and no less than 52 people were present—40 members and 12 visitors.

Mr. Ellenberger was regretably unable to give the meeting his monthly talk on current philatelic matters.

In response to a request that members should put forward fastbound albums for display, only a handful came forward to do so and what was seen was of exceptional interest. Some of the material exhibited was of a very high standard indeed.

Now that the dust is settling as regards the face-value sales of the Rhodesian Independence Overprints, interest has shifted to the individual prices being asked for, for these stamps. Prominence has been given in Britain to the Independence Overprints and the rising prices are phenomenal.

THE EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

February. The Society's Annual General Meeting was well attended at which the following office-bearers were elected for 1966: President, Mr. H. L. Godwin; Vice-President, Mr. E. Sequeira; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. P. Fidler.

The Sam Legator Trophy was awarded for the 3rd time, to Mr. C. Waner for his exhibit "Olympic Collection."

The Society recorded the passing over of Mr. W. N. Sheffield and passed a vote of condolence to his widow and family.

THE SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELY

February. This Annual General Meeting was well attended at which the following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year and awards made: Chairman, Mr. Dave Wacks; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Jonas Michelson; Hon. Secretary/Treasurer, Mr. Boris Glassman; Publicity Officer, Mr. Aubrey Miller; Committee: Dr. Max Wulfsohn, Messrs. Leo Buchen and Max Stanger; Philatelic Federation Executives: Messrs. Leo Buchen and Lou Abrams.

Awards:

Novices Cup: Mr. E. J. J. Hamman for the best display of the year being his selection of Israel.

H. L. Kaplan Memorial Trophy: Mr. Dave Wacks for services rendered to the Society and Israel Philately.

Leo Buchen Award, for most deserving paper read at a meeting, to Mr. Boris Glassman for "Tour of Israel" and Mr. Aubrey Miller for "Herzl and Jabotinsky."

Mr. I. A. Miller then submitted his display entitled "Holocaust and Resistance" and read a supporting paper, both of which were well received.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

February. There was a record attendance at the Annual General Meeting at which the following awards were made: F. J. Lang Cup—C. H. Cilliers, Robertson Cup—Marcel Jecks, G. R. Koralek Bowl—Mrs. J. Hodgkin, Charles Cilliers Cup—Dr. S. Bartolucci, Society Award—I. A. Miller, William Redford Award—C. S. Rosenberg, J. H. Harvey Pirie Award—R. H. L. Mephius, W. N. Sheffield Award—J. D. MacLaren.

And the office-bearers for 1966/67 were elected: President, W. F. Tilney; Vice-President, S. M. Boss; Secretary, C. H. Cilliers; Treasurer, I. A. Miller; Honorary Exchange Superintendents, T. Meyer, M. M. Weiner, J. Collie; Ex Officio Member, J. Michelson; Ordinary Committee Members: K. Wedderburn-Maxwell, K. E. W. Lydall, Dr. J. Von Varendorff, N. A. L. Ford and C. S. Rosenberg.

The meeting discussed at some length the role of Junior members in the Society. It has been suggested that a meeting be held specially for members and friends up to the age of 18 years of age and that they be provided with a newsletter of their own.

March. The first meeting this month was the occasion of the annual visit of the Pretoria Philatelic Society. We were treated to a really excellent fare, the exhibits were well selected and complimented one another. They were as follows: Mrs. Reynard, East Africa and Uganda; Mr. Castignani, "Italian Airs;" Mr. Slagt, Netherland Indies; Comd. Enoch, "No. 1's."

CAPE SOCIETY OF PALESTINE—ISRAEL PHILATELY

January. The meeting was devoted to a discussion of Philatelic Terms and differences of the various printing methods used. Numerous queries were answered by the panel, headed by Dr. M. Peisach, and a successful evening was terminated after a keen swop session.

February. The Annual General Meeting was well attended at which the following office-bearers were elected for 1966: President, Dr. M. Peisach; Vice-President, Dr. H. Gottschalk; Secretary, Mr. X. Piat; Treasurer and Exchange Superintendent, Mr. M. Lewak; Committee members: Mrs. H. Jeidel, Adv. S. Aaron, Messrs. J. Galloon, H. Schiff and M. Calp.

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Two resolutions were adopted. The first was a tribute to Mr. X. Piatt for his high standard and excellent presentation of the monthly bulletins, and the second, that the Society accepts financial responsibility for the Study Circle Bulletin. It was announced that the circle will shortly publish their findings and the "Halbanon" Issue.

Mrs. H. Jeidel related some interesting highlights of her recent trip to Israel and Mr. J. Galloon staged a commendable exhibit of errors, misprints and other curious items of the First Issue of Israel. A film about the stamps of Israel concluded an enjoyable and instructive evening.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

March. There was an excellent attendance and members were entertained to a most interesting exhibit by Mr. Castignani. He staged a collection of Italian Commemorative Stamps, complete from the nineteen thirties and included many earlier issues. The exhibit was most attractive and well received.

More and more members are making use of the Society's service for the supply of stamps of the Republic and of the neighbouring territories of S.W.A., Basutoland, Bechuanaland, Swaziland and Rhodesia. All issues cannot, of course be guaranteed, as for instance, the last Rhodesian overprints of which we received only part of our requirements, but normally we obtain all new issues of the countries mentioned. We can also arrange for new issues from other countries, but in this respect, these will be obtained from a dealer and will naturally cost a little more.

Requests for these facilities should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

March. Despite the inclement weather there was a good attendance at the meeting at which three excellent exhibits were tabled.

Mr. Castignani showed his collection of Italian Colonial Air Services; Cmdr. Enoch followed with his well-known Number one Collection and Mr. E. Walker concluded a most enjoyable and instructive evening, staging a section of his Union of South Africa official stamps.

A large contingent paid a visit to the Johannesburg Society on Tuesday evening, March 8th, taking over four collections with them. We have to thank Cmdr. Enoch who took a section of his No. 1's, Mrs. Reynard for her Kenya, Mr. Slagt for his Netherlands Indies and Mr. Castignani who took a portion of his Italian Air Mail collection for entertaining the members of the Johannesburg Society.

MOOI RIVER STAMP CLUB

March. A well attended meeting enjoyed two exhibits: Mr. Kramer's collection of the Union of South Africa from 1941 and Junior Member Allen Bortz's general collection of about 40 pages mostly British Empire. Both exhibitors were suitably thanked, the latter by another Junior Member, Master G. van der Walt.

Two cups, as floating trophies, have been kindly donated to the Club, one being for competition by Juniors.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa will take place on the 18th June, 1966.

HARMER (NEW YORK) AIR POST SALE

Among other items, a common Newfoundland stamp of 1919 with "Aerial Atlantic Mail" written across it and the initials of the Postmaster General sold for $7,250.

Prepared for mail on one of the planes competing in the London Daily Mail £10,000 Competition for the first successful trans-Atlantic flight, the stamp was affixed to a letter. The plane "Raynor" made two attempts to take off, each of which ended in mishaps; the flight was abandoned, and the letter was taken back to England by ship by one of the aviators, who promptly forgot all about it until the following year.

The unique set of large die proofs of the Zeppelin issue presented to Dr. Hugo Eckener by the Post Office Department sold at $4,600 to Siegel. It is believed that this is the highest price ever paid for a set of proofs at auction. Of interest was the realization of $3,150 for the set of Plate Blocks of the same issue. It is estimated that over 1,000 such blocks exists, emphasizing the exceptional demand for the Zeppelin issue.

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WANTED FOR CASH ! ! ! Southern African T.P.O.'s. Sea Post and Paquetbot markings on cover or on piece. Offers to J. M. Weinstein, P.O. Box 419, Pretoria.

MICHEL CATALOGUES: Germany 1966 R1-05 (from August 1965); Europe 1966 R4-20 (from October 1965); Übersee (non-European countries) volume I and II, R5-60 each ex stock; volume III R5-60 (from September 1965). All prices excluding postage.—S.A. Stamp Centre. P.O. Box 6891, Johannesburg. Phone 22-1391.

ZULULAND also BANGKOK. Wanted for cash — everything and anything. M. M. Wood. P.O. Box 210, Johannesburg.

South African Collectors' Society for the Union Collector—magazine, exchange packet. Subscription 15/- ($2) year. Write Hon. Secretary, W. A. Page, 138 Chastilian Road Dartford, Kent, England.

LATVIA (Lettland; Lettonie) out of the way items and bulk common stamps wanted.—J. Michelson, P.O. Box 9314, Johannesburg.

UNIONS WANTED. — Anything unusual in hyphenated Rotos.—E. Walker, P.O. Box 2388, Pretoria.

WANTED.—Accumulations, Collections, Office Lots on and off paper. Turn those odd boxes of philatelic "junk" into cash, or exchange it with us for stamps, albums or accessories that you need.—ROBEMARK PHILATELISTS (PTY.) LTD., 21 Joubert Street, Johannesburg, Box 11419.

SIMENHOFF BOOKLET.—The Occupational Postmarks of the Mandated Territory of South West Africa by Capt. L. Simenhoff; the series as run in The South African Philatelist, in booklet form (24 pages). Price 30c post free.—Philatelic Federation, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

U.S.A. SPECIALIST requires singles, blocks covers, cancellations. A. R. Kleiner, 23 Cadogan Gardens, London S.W. 3, England.

LISTS of general interest free on request. —UNION STAMP CO., Barbican Building, President and Rissik, Johannesburg. (P.O. Box 10225), Telephone 838-5879.

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MOZAMBIQUE Pre-stamp Covers urgently wanted. Varieties also required.—B. Glassman, P.O. Box 10, Johannesburg.

URGENTLY DESIRED! ! Four regular one-eighth page advertisers. Apply to Business Manager, South African Philatelist, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

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WANTED: Cape, Natal, O.F.S., O.R.C., Transvaal Z.A.R. Union/Republic, S.W.A., German S.W. Africa, preferably postal history. —C. E. SHERWOOD (V), P.T.S., 105 Marford Crescent, Sale, Cheshire, U.K.

IRAQ, JORDAN, LEBANON, SYRIA: Fine used recent issues wanted.—W. Lambert, P.O. Box 1138, Johannesburg.

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In the event of two equal bids, the first received will be successful. (The inserted values are the approximate cost prices).

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SOUTH AFRICAN NOTES

Hon. Associate Editor:
Dr. H. J. RAUBENHEIMER,
434 City Centre, Pretoria.

Lighter RSA Watermark.

When a new printing of the Republic 2½c stamp from cylinders 12-11 was delivered to the Philatelic Bureau at the end of March this year, it was thought that a new consignment of unwatermarked paper had been used. Also the paper was whiter and had more body than the previously used unwatermarked paper as we knew it. In fact it seemed even better than the ordinary RSA paper.

When the sheets were held up to the light no trace of a watermark showed, but when the gummed side was examined by reflected light, sundry dots and marks showed which excited further interest. More sheets were examined, particularly their margins, and then, here and there the familiar triangles were seen, but the letters RSA nowhere appeared. Further tests confirmed that the paper is RSA watermarked, so it will be accepted and catalogued as such. That the great majority of these stamps show no watermark is undoubtedly a complicating factor and will have to be discussed soon.

The Government Printing Works was consulted—through the Philatelic Bureau—and it was learned that by reducing the intensity of a watermark a smoother paper can be obtained and which has a better printing quality. It appears to be a tendency elsewhere in the world for the watermark to be lighter for the sake of "better printability." The change had been fully discussed, samples of the new paper had been submitted, and the Printing Works had started using it towards the end of 1965. The first stamp to have been printed on it was the 7½c, S21 S20, which appeared early in January this year. (We then described the paper as unwatermarked and of an improved quality; no trace of watermark showed on any sheet examined). Then followed this 2½c, 12-11, and it was used for the new Republic fifth anniversary commemorative stamps.

It is understood that there is not much more of the older RSA paper in stock, so now we must expect to see our new stamps appearing more and more with the lighter RSA watermark.

CORRECTION

The picture to illustrate the article on the Christmas Seals in our issue of February last has a mistake; trees numbered 2 and 1 should be numbered 1 and 2 respectively.

POST OFFICE BULLETIN

The April, 1966, Bulletin, comprising 24 pages, announces certain new postal conditions and also contains amendments to the current "Post Office Guide." Some of these which may interest readers, are reported.

Postal Orders: Payment in the Republic of Zambia.—The Postmaster General of the Republic of Zambia has given notice that it is his intention to discontinue the payment

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of South African postal orders in Zambia with effect from the 1st June, 1966. British postal orders and South African money orders will, however, still be payable in that country.

Second Class Air-Mail Service.—A service for second class air-mail items (i.e. newspapers, printed papers, commercial papers and samples) posted in the Republic for destinations in the Republic and in South West Africa was introduced on the 1st March, 1966, at a postage tariff of **2c per 2 ounces.**

The conditions of acceptance are the same as those for ordinary inland surface second class postal items, except that a blue air-mail label must be affixed immediately above and to the left of the address or above each address if the item is addressed in more than one place. The cover must bear in the upper left-hand corner an indication of the nature of the contents, namely, Printed Papers, Newspapers, Commercial Papers or Samples, as the case may be.

Post Office Savings Bank: Swaziland.—It is announced for general information that as from 1st January, 1966, the Swaziland Administration will no longer participate in the existing South African Post Office Savings Bank.

Holders of existing accounts formerly opened at post offices in the Swaziland territory and which, in fact, form part of the Post Office Savings Bank of the Republic, will be permitted to retain such accounts, but will be able to operate thereon **only** at post offices within the Republic and South West Africa. No transactions in these accounts or in any accounts opened at any post office in the Republic and South West Africa, shall be permitted at any post office within Swaziland.

Foreign Parcel Post Tariffs.—The surface parcel post tariffs to most countries have been revised. Particulars and details are given.

Express Delivery Service: Posting and Marking.—Express items must be handed in over a post office counter and must bear an "Express" label. In the absence of a label, the word "Express" must be written boldly above and to the left of the address. In addition, a thick red line must be drawn from top to bottom on the front and on the back of the item.

GENERAL

Universal Postal Union.—The Universal Postal Union has been established with a view to securing, as far as possible, uniform procedure and rates of postage between the various countries of the world. All countries and colonies are now members of the Union and it is, therefore, unnecessary to particularise them.

African Postal Union.—This Union has been formed to organise and improve the postal services between the postal administrations concerned. It comprises the following Administrations: The Republic of South Africa (including South West Africa); Angola; Basutoland; Bechuanaland Protectorate; Burundi; Congo (Leopoldville); Malawi; Mozambique; Southern Rhodesia; Swaziland; Zambia.

ARTIST HITS BACK AT CRITICISM OF REPUBLIC FESTIVAL DESIGNS

SKOTNES UNRUFFLED BY FLARE-UP OVER STAMPS

By David Pincus

Mr. Cecil Skotnes, top Johannesburg artist, was completely unperturbed yesterday after a week-long flare-up over his designs for the Republic Festival series of stamps.

"I have been a professional too long to be concerned over criticism which is not constructive or which comes from people who do not deal in design," he told me.

Mr. Skotnes was referring to the controversy in the Afrikaans Press which was sparked off last Sunday.

A week-end newspaper said it could not understand the symbolism of some of the stamps.

"Even the publicity department of the Post Office is slightly in the dark," it said, and advised its readers to "remain courageous," because an explanation was expected from the Postmaster-General later in the week.

The newspaper asked: "With which ravine or pair of spacepliers is the poor little dove on the two-and-a-half cent stamp due to collide?

"What pennant or ribbon is draped around the rounding of the seven-and-a-half cent stamp and is the drawing in the

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background of Table Mountain, Karookop, or of a mine dump?

"And, excuse me, but is that a diamond or a carrot on the one cent stamp?"

It conceded that "there was complete clarity at the moment only over the mealie plant on the three cent stamp."

Not even that concession prevented Afrikaans daily papers from attacking these views.

In his home at Observatory an unruffled Mr. Skotnes told me: "I am prepared to take criticism which is of value to me, and naturally from people who commission me. I am trying to interpret their ideas."

Premature.

He thought it was a bit premature for newspapers to express criticism of his stamps. "How can they, or even philatelists, criticise stamps before they have seen them in full colour? All they have seen so far are black and white impressions."

Mr. Skotnes was not prepared to discuss the contention that people were left in the dark over the symbolism of the stamps. "The symbolism of the stamps is so patently obvious that even a child could interpret them," he said.

"The three cent stamp which has two maize plants on it symbolises agriculture and a young and growing nation.

"The design for the diamond stamp was inspired by Mr. Harold Macmillan's statement when South Africa became a Republic. He said that South Africa and its peoples had as many facets as its diamonds. The Cabinet requested this design.

Vast Spaces.

"The seven-and-a-half cent stamp was inspired by the first few lines of our national anthem and depicts the country's age-old mountains, the depths of its seas, and its vast spaces.

"The mountain is not supposed to be Table Mountain or any other mountain, it is merely a typical flat-topped South African mountain.

"The bird on the two-and-a-half cent stamp represents restrained freedom, and its thrust upward represents South Africa's endeavours to achieve nationhood."

Replying to veiled criticism that the designs for the stamps were slightly old-fashioned, Mr. Skotnes said: "At a certain stage in the design it was thought that they were not abstract enough, and a series was designed which was completely abstract. They were not stamps, they were miniature paintings.

"In this series too abstract a design is not called for. One does not want to obliterate certain traditional elements altogether.

Anthem.

"Take the seven-and-a-half cent stamp as an example. It depicts the first few lines of the National Anthem, which, in turn, talks of sea, air and mountains.

"Can you conceive a simpler or better shape, or, for that matter, a more abstract shape, than a simple flat-topped mountain?

"The design of stamps does not only dedend on the artist. It depends on the authorities and the themes they want to put across. One accepts this, as well as the fact that there will be many discussions and rejections, before one starts."

Mr. Skotnes was commissioned to design the stamps after a competition last year apparently failed to produce any promising designs for the stamps.

Mr. Skotnes's designs have received favourable comment from, among others, Professor F. G. E. Nilant, head of the Department of History of Art at Pretoria University, and Mr. Ernst de Jong, a noted South African artist.—(Acknowledgment "Sunday Times").

CONTROVERSIAL FESTIVAL DESIGNS

Immediate public reaction towards the new Republican Festival designs register sharp disappointment and indignation so it is as well that the artist, Mr. Cecil Skotnes, is unperturbed by press controversy and public criticism of his works.

The severe censure with which these stamps have been received was readily predictable and does not come as any surprise. After being conditioned to expect conservative art on our postage stamps, it was certainly a shock to most to suddenly discover abstract patterns of symbolism.

We, as a people, are conservative in our approach to life. We are conservative in our religious beliefs. We are conservative in our sense of morals and fashion. We are conservative in our business methods and we are conservative in our appreciation of "the arts." It is therefore not surprising that the general reaction is unfavourable. The fault

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PHILATELISTS' RENDEZVOUS

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month in
The Club Room of the Friends of Italy of South Africa, First Floor, Radio City Blds. Tulbach Square, Foreshore, Cape Town
at 8 p.m.
VISITORS CORDIALLY WELCOMED.
P.O. BOX 1973, CAPE TOWN.

THE THEMATIC STAMP CLUB

Meetings 2nd and 4th Mondays monthly at 8 p.m., in
St. John's Hall, Waterkant Street, Cape Town.
All interested in Thematics welcome.
Chapter No. 1 A.T.A. and Africa Section, F.I.P.C.O.
Issues a Magazine every two months and circulates sales packets.
P.O. BOX 752, CAPE TOWN.

ORANGE FREE STATE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets on the fourth Friday of every month in the
NATIONAL MUSEUM HALL, BLOEMFONTEIN
at 7.30 p.m.
Issues a monthly magazine and circulates sales packets to members.
P.O. BOX 702 — BLOEMFONTEIN

THE PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meets on the first and third Tuesday each month in the
B.C.E.S.L. Hall, St. Andrews Streets,
at 8.00 p.m.
Visitors cordially welcome.
P.O. BOX 3 - PORT ELIZABETH

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL

Meetings 1st and 3rd Wednesdays monthly at 7.30 p.m. in the
Geo Cato Room, City Hall, Durban (Entrance West Street...door nearest Beach)
VISITORS CORDIALLY WELCOMED
P.O. Box 588, Durban. Secretary's Telephone 838-682 (Evenings).

THE PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meets on the first Monday of every month in the
Council Chamber of the Technical College Church Street East, Pretoria
at 7.45p .m.
VISITORS CORDIALLY WELCOMED.
P.O. Box 514, Pretoria.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

meets Twice a Month: Second Tuesday and Fourth Monday
at
Room 97, Public Library, Johannesburg
at 8 p.m.
VISITORS ARE WELCOME.
HON. SECRETARY,
P.O. BOX 4967 - JOHANNESBURG.

THE AEROPHILATELIC SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Meetings are not held, but Members get covers, etc. of special South African flights and other interesting items—more than covered by the small annual subscription.
News letters sent. Affiliated to F.I.S.A.
P.O. BOX 3654, CAPE TOWN.

THE PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meet on the second Wednesday of every month in the
Railway Recreation Club, Berea Park, Pretoria
at 8.00 p.m.
P.O. Box 2388 — Pretoria
ALL PHILATELISTS ARE WELCOME.

SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELY

Meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 8.15 p.m.
Burlington House Boardroom (2nd Floor) c/r. Rissik & Marshall Streets, Johannesburg.
ALL WELCOME.
Secretary: P.O. Box 11502, Johannesburg

THE SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

meets at 2.15 p.m. on the second Saturday of every month in the
Staff Tea Lounge, Basement, Corner House.
Corner Sauer and Commissioner Streets, Johannesburg (Commissioner St. Entrance).
ALL INTERESTED IN SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELY ARE WELCOME.
P.O. Box 378, Krugersdorp (Secretary's Telephone: Business 660-7511; Home 660-3461.

THE EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

P.O. Box 483, Benoni. (Hon. Secretary).
Meetings every 2nd Monday in the month at the
Benoni Tennis Club House
Benoni, at 7.45 p.m.
VISITORS ARE WELCOME.

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lies not in inadequate design but rather in the inability to interpret a medium which is peculiar or foreign to our conditioned trend of thought.

To begin with, one cannot view symbolic art with the old yardstick. Because the medium of expression is different the approach of the viewer must adjust.

The 1c stamp was designed to symbolise Mr. Harold Macmillan's statement that, "South Africa and it's peoples had as many facets as its diamonds." In this respect the "One Carrot" diamond succeeds admirably. The many facets of the South African character are plain for all to see, ranging from our sparkling qualities to the inevitable dark and perplexed problems which tend to heap up on the surface from time to time. Searching world interest in our problems is well portrayed emanating from both left and right while we as a nation draw inspiration and courage from that Greater Central Force which comes from faith and prayer. We are a nation of tenacious and determined people ever ready to draw from our unfathomed depths in order to meet the challenges of the future.

Perhaps the most controversial of the series will be the 2½c stamp which was designed to convey, "Freedom and the Future." Is there a better symbol of freedom than to be free as a bird to fly?

As the Spirit of Freedom glides ever upwards towards the ideals of perfect nationhood the obstructive forces restraining freedom diminish revealing a limitless future which is symbolised by the endless sky above. Here is a message of hope and faith.

The 3c stamp depicts two maize plants which are intended to symbolise, "Agriculture and the growth of the nation." The allusion to agriculture is evident while the plants are intended to suggest life or growth. However, at a first glance one is very inclined to associate the two twisted maize plants with our recent drought and its attendant crop failure and the choice of the colour yellow for the plants is very unfortunate. Green would have been a better symbol of life and healthy growth. John Citizen could not be blamed if he regarded this stamp as symbolic of the year when only "yellow" mealie meal was available! The "Maize" symbol was a poor choice considering the fact that we already have a current definitive maize stamp in competition.

In conclusion, this stamp does not inspire. It lacks origionality in design and the vitality and imagination present in the rest of the series is strongly absent here.

The 7½c stamp was inspired by the opening lines of the National Anthem and the symbolical transposition of this theme is not an enviable task. The Anthem is stirring, it is dynamic and it is emotional and its inspiration is brought to us through the medium of **sound** which can be further analysed into verse and melody. The immediate task of the artist is to delicately portray the sentiments of the Anthem through the medium of **sight** which is a matter of design and colour harmony. He has achieved a sensitive creation depicting the heavens, the seas, the mountains and the canyons with which we associate our homeland and in addition has captured a sense of spaciousness and depth which lends strong dimension to the design. The pattern radiates a sense of tranquility and permanence.

Whatever one feels about the merits of this issue, it should be readily conceded that a change from the traditional to something more contemporary has long been overdue and this breakthrough into the symbolic field is certainly to be welcomed

One aspect of this Commemorative Issue which certainly deserves high praise concerns the excellent design of the special datestamp which in essence depicts two hands supporting a torch which radiates a circular aura. Where the designer of postage stamps can sometimes camouflage the weakness of his design by resorting to startling colour combinations the creator of datestamps is limited to the effect that he can create in black and white and this datestamp is to be commended for its simplicity yet good impact upon the viewer. The joined hands—similar to the symbol of the Town of Vereeniging—are the hands of co-operation and goodwill.

The Torch depicts enlightenment, freedom, courage and honour.

The radiations of light form a wagon wheel linking us to our heritage from the past.

The message of the datestamp may be interpreted thus:

"With malice towards none and goodwill towards all, let us face the future with courage, wisdom and honour, ever mindful of our heritage and responsibilities, to blaze a new chapter in the struggle for perfect nationhood and freedom."

—(PHIL. A. TELIC).

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EARLY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

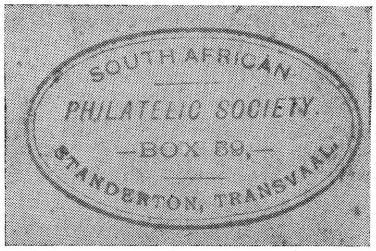
The following is extracted from the S.A. Philatelist of June, 1951, p. 96.

"Mr. John Lewis of Bloemfontein has just brought to light some postcards bearing the rubber stamp mark of the 'South African Philatelic Society / Box 59 / Standerton, Transvaal,' also similar marks of 'J. A. van Rooy / Teleg. Inspector / Box 59 / Standerton.' They are all dated in 1898.

"Does any reader know if this was a Philatelic Society in the sense that we understand the term today, or was it, perhaps, something more in the nature of an Exchange Club?"

Search through subsequent numbers of the Journal indicates that no reply to this enquiry had apparently been received.





While sorting through an accumulation of old correspondence, two ZUID-AFRIKA REPUBLIEK BRIEFKAARTEN were discovered, bearing the rubber stamp marks in question.

The marks are illustrated and a renewed request is made for information concerning the origin and status of this "Philatelic Society," which may be one of the oldest in South Africa, but now defunct.

GIBBONS NEW CATALOGUE EDITOR

"Philately" announces that Mr. Rex Phillips, a grandson of the great "C.J.," the man who really first made the Stanley Gibbons' name world famous, has become the new Gibbons Catalogue Editor.

RECENT ISSUES

The East African Posts and Telecommunications Services recently issued stamps to commemorate the tourist industry. Each stamp emphasizes an aspect of appeal to visitors.

The 30-cent stamp shows the National Game Park Lodge in Tanzania, with elephants in the background. The 50-cent stamp illustrates the Murchison Falls in Uganda.

The stamps were designed by a local artist, Mrs. Rena Fennessy, and were printed in Britain.

* * * *

Hungary is to commemorate the World Soccer Cup with a new issue of stamps in nine denominations. The stamp at the top left shows a portrait of Jules Rimet, after whom the famous cup, which was recently found in a London garden by the now famous little mongrel dog Pickles, is named. The other eight stamps commemorate the different venues of the championship, culminating with the final, which will be played in London.

—("The Star," Johannesburg).

* * * *

The Norfolk Island Post Office will issue 7c and 9c stamps on 27th June, 1966. The designs will show island scenes, and the stamps are being printed by multicolour photogravure by Harrison and Sons, London.

* * * *

The Territory of Papua and New Guinea will issue four new stamps on 8th June, 1966. The designs feature myths of the Gulf District, Papua, and denominations are 2c, 7c, 30c and 60c.

The Territory will also issue 5c, 10c and 20c stamps to mark the Second South Pacific Games to be held in Noumea, New Caledonia, and the date of issue of this commemorative series will be announced later.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa will take place on the 16th July, 1966.

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THE POSTAL CANCELLATIONS OF NATAL

By A. Leslie Leon, F.R.P.S.L.

(Continued from p. 105, May, 1966, Number)

TYPE M.

In March 1895, owing to a shortage of ½d. stamps in Durban (and the letter rate for local delivery was ½d.) the Postmaster was authorised to accept envelopes endorsed in script "One halfpenny received in money, J. W. Coleman" followed by a rubber stamp reading POSTMASTER of DURBAN. The dates on which these were used were March 18th to 23rd, 1895, and they were authorised by telegram from the Postmaster-General to the Postmaster, Durban. I would imagine that the envelopes were prepared beforehand and handed over the counter to the purchasers against payment of the ½d.

A similar course was pursued by the Postmaster at Howick Rail as I have a part of a front with similar inscription signed "J. C. Pratt, P.M." The year in this cancellation, "95", appears inverted.

TYPE N.

HIGHLANDS in manuscript. This is a curiosity which was perpetrated owing to the date-stamps at this Rail Post Office having been packed because of the advance of the Boer forces into Natal in December 1899.

Date of use: December 4th 1899.

TYPE O.

Miscellaneous Postmarks. Over the years the Natal postal authorities made many experiments with other types of cancellers about which we have no reliable information. One can only record the types and hope that further investigation will add to our stock of knowledge.

One has come across numerous copies of the 1882 One Penny cancelled by what looks like the bottom of a cork from a wine bottle, slightly roughened! These are always more or less circular, and the only indication as to place of usage that I have seen is a copy bearing also part of a c.d.s. of MOOI RIVER. To add to the mystery of this mark, I have a number of copies where the centre of the design consists of a well-defined imperial crown.

Another cancellation on the same type of stamp consists of an oval of nine or ten bars each approximately 1 mm. thick, the oval measuring at its widest point approximately 20 mm. Owing to the strike being incomplete, it is not possible to give the height of the oval but it is in excess of 20 mm.

As previously mentioned, the grille of lozenge-shaped dots crops up again with the 1882 issue with Crown C.A. watermark.

Railway Post Offices on the whole appear to have been issued with single circle cancellers with the name round the upper rim inside the circle and ending with the word "RAIL." But this was not invariably so as in some cases they used the usual double circle mark with the name ending in "RAIL." An unusual example of the latter type was used in Pietermaritzburg in 1897. In this case, the name of the office is given as MARITSBURG RAIL, with an "S" instead of a "Z" in the name of the town.

UTRECHT became part of Natal after the 1899-1902 War, and the early cancellers used there were dissimilar from others used in the Colony. I have a single circle type of an early date, struck in purple with the date in 3 lines in the centre—2/Sep/1902 with an X on either side of the date and set between the month and the year.

The same remarks apply to PAULPIETERSBURG which began its existence as a part of Natal with a similar c.d.s. struck in purple.

After the annexation of ZULULAND by Natal at the end of 1897, double circle cancellers were issued to a number of post offices in the territory with the words "PROVINCE OF ZULULAND" at the bottom in place of the usual "NATAL." This did not apply to MELMOTH, which retained the word "ZULULAND," as did NKANDHLA.

Natal ceased to exist as a separate stamp issuing country on May 31st, 1910, and at that date the cancellers in use were the double and single circle date-stamps. It is interesting to note that the word "NATAL" was retained throughout the Province, with rare exceptions, during the whole of the Inter-Provincial period. I can record UMKOMAAS in 1912 and 1913 and POINT in 1913 with NATAL replaced by "S.AFRICA" but have come across no other instances of ordinary postal use of such replacement. However, by May 1913 DURBAN was using a canceller for registered post on which the legend in the lower half of the circle read DURBAN, S.AFRICA. During this period, in certain places, cancellers with single and

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double circles were in use at the same time. I have NEW HANOVER RAIL cancellations of February and March 1911 and similarly VERULAM dated in February and July 1911, one being single circle and the other double, in each case. There are rare instances of numeral cancellers being used in the Inter-Provincial period, but of course this can only be established by cancellations on cover.

This article has dealt solely with cancellations used in connection with letters, postcards and newspapers; there still remains much to be done with cancellations used for parcels, registered articles, returned letters, bulk postings, money order offices, ships letters and other "fringes" of the postal world. This leaves plenty of scope for the enthusiast, who in any event ,will undoubtedly be able to supplement or even contradict in some cases, the information contained herein.

MATERIAL DISAPPEARS IN SOUTHAMPTON

"A substantial reward," reports "The Philatelic Trader," is offered for information leading to the recovery of the following (specified) material, recently found to be missing from the stock of J. Sanders (Philatelists) Ltd., Southampton. It is believed to have been stolen."

Another philatelic robbery!

"CAPE TYPE" NUMERAL POSTMARKS

Mr. J. M. Weinstein, of Pretoria, writes that further to the announcement appearing in our February Number, p. 48, he is able to add the following Cape barred-numeral cancellers: Nos. 302, Witmos Station; 486, Ruigte Poort (in 1898); 656 or 658, Sir Lowry Road; 1105, Witteklei Bosch (near Humansdorp), all these offices being situated in Cape Colony.

Stamp Valuations
undertaken by
JOHN P. SHINGLER, B.P.A.
ESTATE AGENT (MIEAA)
VALUATOR (S.A.I.V.)
SWORN APPRAISER.
Colosseum Building, 15 Caxton Street, EAST LONDON, C.P.
Phone 6906 - After Hours 81973.

SIPEX

SIPEX News Bureau Release provides an interesting summary about the foremost philatelic event in the world this year.

America's capital was the stamp collecting capital of the world for 10 days in May, when Washington, D.C. was host to the year's outstanding philatelic event.

Known formally as the Sixth International Philatelic Exhibition, but generally called SIPEX, it was the only international stamp show in the world this year, and the first in the United States since 1956. A non-profit event, SIPEX also was the first international in this country ever held outside of New York City.

It brought together 2,400 display frames of top collections—valued at millions of dollars—from all over the globe, and tens of thousands of philatelists from throughout the United States and dozens of other nations.

The show took place May 21-30 in Washington's Shoreham Hotel and was honoured by three special U.S. postal issues. They were a 5-cent stamp, 5-cent souvenir sheet, and an 11-cent international airmail postal card, the first ever released by the U.S. Post Office. Two United Nations stamps also were placed on first-day sale at SIPEX.

The bourse, with 75 booths of leading stamp dealers from throughout the world, enabled philatelists to increase their collections with items ranging from the most common stamps to classic issues.

Every visitor also was welcomed at gatherings held at SIPEX by philatelic societies and clubs from the United States and throughout the world. The seminars, lectures, meetings and other events enabled the collector to learn more about his hobby and to meet fellow philatelists from many lands. The participating groups also greeted thousands of their own members, generally at lounges adjacent to the exhibition area.

The Court of Honour displayed some of the world's most famous stamps, including the collections of Prince Rainier of Monaco and Cardinal Spellman. Among other attractions were the most valuable philatelic item originating in North America, an 1851 Canadian postmaster's provisional, and the only privately owned sheet of the Canal Zone Thatcher Ferry Bridge error stamp, which was displayed publicly for the first time.

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Exhibits in the competitive class were judged by 30 distinguished collectors from 15 nations. They awarded several grand prizes, and gold, silver and bronze hexagonal-shaped medals prepared for SIPEX by members of the staff of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. A special section displayed exhibits by junior collectors—between the ages of 12 and 18.

A number of foreign postal administrations presented seldom-seen philatelic displays, as also the U.S. Post Office and the United Nations Postal Administration. The U.S. and U.N. postal agencies had counters at which extensive stocks of their stamps were available at face value. First-day covers of the U.S. and U.N. stamps issued at SIPEX were serviced at the show, or ordered in advance by mail through the postal administrations.

Of particular interest to stamp collectors visiting Washington were the Smithsonian Institution's Hall of Philately and Postal History, which opened new displays in connection with SIPEX, and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Special tours were conducted at the Bureau, where all U.S. stamps are printed.

Sight-seeing tours were available to such attractions as the Capitol, White House, Library of Congress, Arlington National Cemetery and President Kennedy's grave, National Gallery of Art, U.S. Post Office Headquarters, Embassy Row, Pan American Union, Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial. Admission to most such places was free, and reservations generally were not required. Special busses shuttled between the Shoreham and key tourist and shopping spots in the downtown area.

Other events included several theatre parties at performances of "Barefoot in the Park," concerts at the National Gallery, Washington Senator baseball games against Los Angeles, Kansas City, Boston and the New York Yankees, a ladies' fashion show and luncheon at Garfinkel's, and People-to-People parties at local homes, with foreign visitors as guests of American collectors. In addition to these, a separate programme of entertainments and events was drawn up for each day.

Unlike similar exhibitions abroad, SIPEX operated without financial help from the government. Support was provided by a guarantee fund, exceeding $78,000, subscribed by 297 collectors, stamp organizations, dealers and publishers. The show was endorsed by the world-wide stamp group, the Federation Internationale de Philatelie, and the Association for Stamp Exhibitions, which authorizes U.S. shows.

RECENT PRICES

The Collectors Mail Auction Reports the following figures realised at recent sales for major Southern Africa material:

Auction 5:

Kenilw./Muizenberg Fight Cover ... R25
Mafeking large Baden-Powell 3d. fine used on piece R51

Auction 6:

½d. margin. corn. blk. of 24 (Pret. Prtg. from Ldn. Plates), showing distinct double prtg. on several stamps R30
5/- Ldn. Prtg. mint inscript. pair (Group I) R22
1942 Bantam 2d. Corn. Blk. of 4, joined paper variety, mint R25
SWA 1923 £1 mint horiz. pair w/ thin ovpt. (SG27) R21
Basutoland: Decim. Ovpt. ½d mint marg. strip of 5 w/Variety: double ovpt. on 4 stps and trace of double "c" on 5th stp R300

Auction 7:

1913 Geo V 4d. 1st Prtg. in mint Plate Blk. of 4 w/Co-Ext. Jub. Lines R35
1932: Imperial Airways Cover autogr. by Gen. Hertzog, Smuts and Lord Clarendon (Inaug. Flight to London) R29
1942 1d. Bantam: Triplet mint w/ Roulette omitted betw. 3 stps. ... R23
Boer War Cover from Natal to POW Pretoria via US Consul with "Gezien" Censor and triang censor ... R21
Nieuwe Republiek Post Card fr. Vryheid to Cape Town 1886 ... ... R45
SWA 1923 1d. horiz. pr. mint w/inverted ovpt. R25
1/3 mint vert. pair w/inverted ovpt. R27
£1 (SG27) mint horiz. pair R21
£1 (SG40a) mint blk of 4 ... ... R28
Basutoland: Geo. V compl. set perfor. SPECIMEN R32
1934: First letter carried by air in Basutoland R40

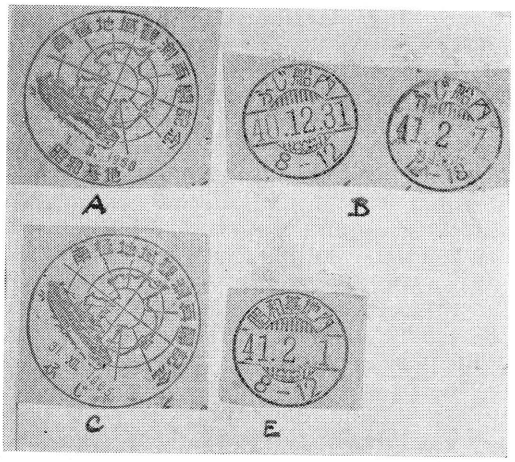
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THE RE-OPENING OF THE JAPANESE ANTARCTIC BASE (SHOWA) AND FIRST TRIP OF ICEBREAKER "FUJI" TO ANTARCTIC

By Capt. M. F. Stern.

The latest and finest Japanese icebreaker "Fuji" made the trip to the Antarctic to re-open the Japanese Station (Showa) there. The keel was laid August 28, 1964, launched March 18, 1965, and delivered July 15, 1965. Length 100,000m.; breadth maximum 22,000m; depth 11,800; displacement 77,600 tons; number of shaft 2; shaft horsepower 12,000 p.s.; speed 16 knots; number of crew 200; special equipment helicopter (3) loading equipment; atmospheric and marine research apparatus; antirolling device; propulsion motor D.C. 2,250 KW, 4 sets; diesel driven generator 4 sets; machinery, Yohama MAN 8V 30/42 AL; Builder, Tsurumi Shipyard, Nippon Kokan Kabushiki Kaisha.

A special postage stamp was issued for the first voyage, and re-opening of the Base, 10 yen, showing the ship, map of the Antarctic, date 1965 and aurora borealis. This was applied to covers posted at the Japanese Base. Date of issue November 20, 1965, when the ship left Tokyo. The ship has capacity to break ice 6 metres thick.



The ship left the Base on February 8, 1966, after two months in the ice. The engines are German designed, erected in Japan. While off the Showa Base, 400 tons of cargo was delivered, 11 huts erected and party of 18 landed. On the outward trip a call was made at Fremantle and the ice entered on December 20, 1965. The ship arrived in Cape Town February 24, 1966, where a few days were spent.

Two types of covers were issued. These bear the special postage stamp and the following cancellations:—

On the front—

A. In red, commemorative cancellation of SHOWA Post Office.

B. In black, antarctic arrival and departure dates of the Expedition ship's post office canceller.

On the reverse—

C. In red, Postal commemorative cancellation of the ship.

D. In purple, commemorative canceller of the Expedition.

E. In black, canceller of SHOWA BASE.

The black cancellations are small, while the red and violet ones are large and bear at centre the ship and map of the Antarctic.

T.P.O. AND H.P.O.

Do you ever look at the postmarks on your letters and stamps? If so, I expect you know that the letters "TPO" in a datestamp stand for "Travelling Post Office" and that these are used on the railways of Britain and the Commonwealth, but I came across the letters "H.P.O." a short while ago, on a datestamp from the U.S.A. and this stumped me! Someone suggested it stood for "Head Post Office"—it doesn't! It stands for "Highway Post Office" and one reason for its use is when a railway in the U.S. has to withdraw a T.P.O. for some reason and substitute a bus or road vehicle to replace the service. This vehicle, or H.P.O., then uses a circular datestamp containing the name of the railway terminals such as "Suff & Raleigh" (Suffolk), H.P.O., Trip 1 (or 2) in the centre with the date and, of course, the normal "P.T.S." mark (with bars) alongside. "P.T.S." stands for Postal Transport Service. The "R.M.S." formerly used, stood for Railway Mail Service. The U.S. Post Office sometimes provides First Trip cachets for the newly established Highway Post Offices. These often show a map of the route to be taken. It's fun looking at your letters and finding out these things.—("The Stamp Magazine").

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"A SALE OF PARIS BALLOON POST ITEMS

By A. Leslie Leon, F.R.P.S.L.

For the December, 1965, number of the "South African Philatelist" I wrote an article entitled "Paris Balloon Posts of 1870 and 1871." As it happens, on the 23rd and 24th of November, Messrs. Harmer, Rooke & Co. Inc. held a sale in New York of the George W. Angers collection of Balloons Montés. The American magazine, "Stamps," has reported this sale with the prices realised for certain of the items and these prices may be of interest to those who have read the December story. I have changed the figures into Rands to facilitate matters for South African collectors.

There were 226 lots on sale and the average price realised was R59.50 each whilst the one letter journal "Le Moniteur No. 2" brought R490.00.

The first manned balloon to leave Paris was the "Neptune" on September 23rd, 1870, and a cover carried by this flight realised R245.00, this cover evidently having been posted on September 21st which is the rarest date of the five known. A folded letter from balloon "Le Jacquard" fetched R350.00. This balloon went down in the sea near Plymouth, England, but one mail sack was recovered, most of the contents having lost their stamps during the immersion. The letters extant bear a Plymouth postmark and a few have been seen with Falmouth postmark.

The balloon "General Chanzy" landed in Bavaria and the mail was naturally confiscated by the Germans—it can be identified if it is without receiving postmarks. A folded letter carried and seized was bought at this sale for R350.00.

The penultimate balloon to be despatched was the "Richard Wallace" which ascended on January 21st, 1871, but this also was lost at sea, although a few covers were salvaged but they are nearly always found to be stained and torn. A folded letter of this type, without stamps owing to immersion, fetched R252.00.

Two copies of the newspaper "Less Nouvelles du Matin" were contained in this collection and each brought in R420.00, the first having been carried on the "Neptune" (the first flight referred to above) and the other on the "General Renault" which ascended on December 11th, 1870.

Finally, according to the report, a handwritten message from the Siege of Paris pigeon post was sold for R189.00 and an enlarged transcript of a pellicule message, possible unique, brought R154.00. The story of these pellicule messages is fascinating as they were produced by a new process known as photomicography and the work was done by a gentleman who himself arrived in Paris by balloon. The pellicules of films were affixed by means of waxed silk threads to the larger feathers on a pigeon's tail. One pigeon actually carried 40,400 messages by this manner.

RHODESIA

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Die mense van die Ryukyu-eilande (op die landkaart slegs 'n paar stippeltjies tussen Oshima en Okinawa ten suide van Kagoshima, Japan) moet 'n vriendelike volkie wees want hulle stuur jaarliks sowat vyf miljoen nuwejaarswense die wêreld in. Helfte daarvan is in die vorm van 'n posseël en helfte 'n poskaart.

Uit die aard van die saak is beide die seël en die ingedrukte seël op die poskaart netjies gedruk en baie aantreklik. Altwee is gewoonlik in die waarde van 1½c, Amerikaans (die eilande is sedert 1945 onder Amerikaanse administrasie).

Vanjaar se uitreikings het op 10 Desember verskyn en staan in die teken van „die perd" aangesien die jaar 1966 die jaar van die perd in die tradisionele oosterse diereriem is. Die perde op die seëls is getooi in 'n besondere gekleurde weefstof wat as bingata bekend is en sedert vier eeue gelede eie aan die Ryukyuane is.

* * * *

Sedert 1961 kom Swede gereeld in Desember van elke jaar met twee of drie seëls ter herdenking van persone wat met 'n Nobelprys bekroon was. Die uitreiking vir 1966 het op 10 Desember verskyn en bestaan uit 'n 30 öre (blou) en 'n 40 öre (rooi). Soos gebruiklik is die seëls slegs in rolle en in boekies beskikbaar en word albei soorte versamel. Die rolseëls is aan die kante en die boekieseëls aan die buitekante van die boekvelletjie, ongetand.

Beelde van P. E. A. van Lenard (1862-1947), die Duitse natuurkundige, en J. F. W. A. von Baeyer (1853-1917), 'n Duitse skeikundige, is op die 30 ö aangebring, terwyl nog 'n Duitser, die medikus Robert Koch (1843-1910) en die Poolse skrywer Henryk Sienkiewicz (1846-1916) op die 40 ö verskyn.

Die Sweedse posseëlstelsel kan gerus deur die Republiek se posowerhede ondersoek word aangesien die verligting van die personeeltekorte moontlik in daardie rigting lê. Swede is die enigste land ter wêreld wat nie seëls in velformaat uitgee nie. Met spesiale- en gedenkuitgawes is die seëls gewoonlik in rolle van 100 vir gebruik in seëlmasjiene en in boekies van 20. Vastereekse word in 'n verskeidenheid van boekies en in rolle van 100, 500 en 1,000 verkoop. Selfs seëlboekies word deur seëloutamate bedien. Waar sulke masjiene nie beskikbaar is nie word die rolle en die boekies oor die toonbank verkoop. Hierdie stelsel skakel die tel- en skeurprosesse uit en bring gevolglik 'n aansienlike besparing van tyd en mannekrag mee.

POSSTUKKE VAN DIE TWEEDE VRYHEIDSOORLOG 1899-1902

Deur N. C. Combrink

Oor hierdie onderwerp is daar deur die jare al heelwat geskryf. So vroeg as 1906 het daar artikels oor die Anglo-Boereoorlog in die maandblad van die firma Stanley Gibbons verskyn. Toe was dit nog nie Filatelie of Posgeskiedenis genoem nie, maar net posseëls en posstukke van die tydperk 1899-1902.

Toe Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie in 1934 redakteur van „The South African Philatelist" geword het, het hy 'n reeks artikels oor hierdie onderwerp geskryf. In 1940 het sy bekende reeks „Stamps used abroad in South

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Africa," in die „Philatelic Journal of Great Britain" verskyn.

In 1943 het Stephen Rich 'n handboek oor die Anglo-Boereoorlog opgestel en dit in Amerika gepubliseer. Die handboek dien vandag as 'n basis vir 'n versameling van materiaal van daardie tyd. Gedurende die laaste tien jaar het ander skrywers soos J. D. Rossouw en andere die onderwerp verder ontplooi en heelwat nuuts te voorskyn gebring.

In 1958 is „The Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society" in Engeland gestig. Dié vereniging het sedertdien gegroei en dra vandag baie by tot die ontdekking van materiaal wat tot nog toe onbekend was. Hul twee-maandelikse nuusblad is 'n bron van informasie op die gebied van die Filatelie van die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog. Die benaming Tweede Vryheidsoorlog is meer reg in Afrikaans as Anglo-Boereoorlog en sal voortaan so gebruik word.

Die posgeskiedenis van die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog is baie interessant want dit is nog altyd besig om te ontvou, dit gaan wel stadig maar wek heelwat belangstelling omdat die veld op hierdie gebied nog nie heeltemal gedek is nie. Weliswaar is meeste van die ou solders en koffers alreeds deursniffel. Tog is dit verbasend hoeveel mense materiaal van hierdie aard, ter wille van sentimentele waarde wegsteek of bêre.

Ongelukkig het die Boere of Burgers destyds, ten minste meeste van hulle, nie die versamelingswaarde van die posstukke besef nie. Die Engelse daarteenoor het wel, want hulle het al van 1864 die posseël van Koningin Victoria versamel. Dit is een van die redes waarom baie van die Suid-Afrikaanse materiaal, soos koeverte en posstempels verlore gegaan het.

Soos alle posseëlversamelings het 'n Tweede Vryheidsoorlog-versameling ook sy verskillende afdelings. Met Rich se boek as basis, word die volgende aan die hand gegee:

1. Burger-besettingsuitgawes en -stempels.
2. Beleëringsuitgawes en posstukke soos (1) Kuruman, (2) Ladysmith, (3) Mafeking, (4) Schweizer Reineke en (5) Rustenburg.
3. Terugtog-uitgawes, soos Machadodorp en Pietersburg.
4. Britse beleëringsuitgawes.
5. Britse koeverte, veldposstukke, stempels en bewysstukke van ander magte wat by die Britte aangesluit het.
6. Sensorseëls van die Burgers en Britte.
7. Sensormerke op koeverte.
8. Burger- en -konsentrasiekampe.
9. Gevangeniskampe in en buite Suid-Afrika.
10. Allerlei materiaal insluitende propagandakaarte en -seëls.

(Word vervolg).

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EEN VAN DIE BESTE RONDSENDINGS IN DIE LAND.
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BELANGSTELLENDES VERWELKOM.

RHODESIË

Mardon Printers (Pvt.) Ltd. op Salisbury, wat vir die Onafhanklikheids-uitgawe en die opgedrukte uitreiking van laas Januarie verantwoordelik was en na verneem word alle toekomstige Rhodesiese seëls sal druk, voorlopig altans, het hulle baie goed van hulle taak gekwyt vir sover dit die RHOPEX-uitgawe (Rhodesian Philatelic Exhibition) betref.

Die seëls is deur middel van die fotolitografiese metode gedruk en hoef nie vir die beste hedendaagse seëls terug te staan nie. Ons verstaan dat genoemde druksaak 'n moderne rolpers wat vir seëlwerk gebruik sal word, aangeskaf het.

Met die Rhopex-uitgawe het die Rhodesiers almal in die Suide in die skande gesteek want vir die eerste keer in dertig jaar is 'n stel seëls uitgegee ter herdenking van filatelie in Suidelike Afrika. Benewens die onderwerp, 'n portretjie van koningin Eliza-

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zabeth II, die landsnaam en waardesyfer bevat elke seël ook die woorde: RHOPEX 28th Congress Southern African Philatelic Federation. Die onderwerpe is: 3d. — die Zeederberg-koets (wat ons die voorreg gehad het om in die uitstekende museum op Bulawayo te sien), Sir Rowland Hill vir die 9d., die Engelse Swart Pennie vir die 1/6 en 'n afbeelding van die £5-seël van die ou B.S.A.-kompanie vir die 2/6.

Oorspronklik sou daar net drie seëls gewees het maar toe is ook op 'n blokvelletjie besluit en moes 'n vierde bygevoeg word. Gevra waarom dan juis 'n halfkroon, het die posmeester-generaal, Lt.-Kol. C. R. Dickenson met 'n veelseggende gebaar aan skrywer gesê: nouja—dit kon natuurlik 'n pennie gewees het, maar . . . .

Op 'n verdere vraag het die PMG geantwoord dat Rhopex 'n beperkte uitreiking is omdat genoeg geskikte papier nie betyds bekom kon word nie. Hoe dit sy, die 100,000 stelle plus 25,000 blokvelletjies het die Rhodesiese posmense behoorlik in die knyp gehad omdat posbestellings vooruit die ganse oplaag velletjies en byna al die stelletjies ingesluk het. Daar was naarstig na meer papier gesoek en hulp „uit die Suide" het net betyds aangekom vir die drukker om op die uitreikingsdag (2 Mei) aan die werk te spring met 'n herhaling van die oorspronklike bestelling. ('n Beperkte oplaag lok gewoonlik baie meer belangstelling want dan steek die nie-versamelaar-spekulant dadelik baie vinnig sy lang neus diep daarin).

Dáár het u dit dan: 200,000 stelle en 50,000 blokvelletjies, elk met vier seëls. Die papier van die tweede oplaag is ietwat witter en meer suiwer en dit bring 'n effense skerper kleur mee. Dit is egter so gering dat die verskil slegs deur vergelyking uitgemaak kan word. Ook verskil die kleur van party seëls van die velletjies van dié van die stelle.

Die velletjies kom uit 'n groot vel van 12 velletjies en spesialiste staan lelik bont om al twaalf posisies te kry.

* * * *

Stories al sou die huidige vastereeks ook in beperkte getalle uitgereik is, is deur die PMG die nek ingeslaan. Die seëls is deur die Londense seëldrukkers Harrison & Sons, gedruk en hulle beskik oor 'n taamlike voorraad wat wag om afgelewer te word. Mardon Printers is egter opgedra om die seëls ook te druk en voorbeelde was op Rhopex uitgestal (hulle toon tegniese verskille) maar die PMG het ons verseker dat die Mardon-druk nie voor September, op die vroegste, sal verskyn nie.

MEET OUR ADVERTISERS

FRANCIS J. FIELD, LTD.

"Second to none for airposts" was the motto of Francis J. Field, Ltd., on their printed stationery and in advertisements for many years between the two world wars: while they feel that this still holds good, they also feel that they have now proved it, which is the reason why you do not see it nowadays.

Francis J. Field began his business in the following way: After service in the First World War, he began to study aviation history and to collect souvenirs, and in 1921 he set himself up as a full-time professional in aerophilately and air post history. A few years later, in 1925, he published the first of what was to be a long series of specialist publications: "Commercial and Historical Atlas of the World's Airways." Since then his firm has published a number of air post history studies of which over 100 are currently available, and the list is added to each year.

The first of the original series of "The Aero Field" (the firm's magazine with news and articles of special interest to airmailers) appeared in 1926 under the editorship of Norman C. Baldwin who still functions in that sphere and is, of course, the author of many well-known articles and pamphlets on aerophilately.

A number of awards in exhibitions had been received by the firm over a period of 35 years for their publications, but they decided to cease competing in the literature classes after 1962 owing to the fact that they were taking a more active part in international organised aerophilately. It is possible, however, that with the advent of the International Association of Philatelic Journalists and the improvement in the literature classes in international events for which they are pressing, Francis J. Field, Ltd., may again begin to submit their titles for adjudication.

Two of the members of the firm have received individual awards. The first was in 1960 when Mr. Baldwin was honoured with the **Dr. Robert Paganini** Diploma that is awarded annually by the Dutch aerophilatelic society de Vliegende Hollander to the person whom it considers has contributed most to the enhancement of the airmail literature of the world.

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The second was in 1964 when Mr. Field was presented with the **Richard S. Bohn** Award, which is made annually by Aero Philatelists, Inc., of New York to the person who in the opinion of the Board of Directors, has rendered distinguished service to aerophilately.

Mr. Field is a Companion of the Royal Aeronautical Society a Senior Member of the British Interplanetary Society, and is a Vice-President of the British Air Mail Society, a Life Member of the American Air Mail Society; he is also a member of a number of air, non-air and trade societies and federations throughout the world.

His principal hobby is graphology—that is, the study of a person's character as shown through the handwriting. It is a subject which first took his attention when he was in hospital in 1916 recovering from a war wound. He puts his knowledge to practical use principally by lecturing to charitable bodies and so helping them raise funds. His other interests were with the Sutton Coldfield Literary and Debating Society, and he has been Chairman of the Sutton Arts Theatre for a few years.

During his career as an aerophilatelic dealer, the usual runs of luck, headaches and ups-and-downs have "smoothed his path." In the early days, of course, lack of capital was a nuisance: for example, after the 1919 trans-Atlantic flights he met in London one of the entrants. This gentleman casually put his hand in his pocket and pulled out a rather battered envelope and a loose corner from another envelope. Both these items bore the manuscript overprint on the Newfoundland stamps (San. 2). The one on the piece was uncancelled and was one of only two known in this condition. Francis J. Field bought them from the airman but, in order to escape having his cheque bouncing off his bank account, he had to realise quickly. This he did within the hour. The re-sale price was £75. The current catalogue valuation for this stamp on cover is $6,000 (over £2,320), while the unused state is worth £4,000!

Round about 1926-28 Mr. Field was happily acting as an intermediary by buying flown covers from a balloonist living in a flat in Copenhagen—and re-selling them to a collector in another flat in the same building. Neither Dane knew of the existence of the other, and the profitable business might well have lasted much longer had not our intermediary inadvertently sent to the collector a cover carrying the other man's name and address.

The **first** International Air Post Exhibition was held in Paris in 1930, in the organisation of which Francis J. Field took part, and it was during his visit to the exhibition venue that he received a mysterious invitation to a flat in the Montmartre district. There he was shown a thick wad of the Colombian 1920-21 air stamps (San. 12-16) in complete original mint sheet (68 or 72 stamps per sheet, depending upon the setting). Many of these were somewhat delapidated at the sheet edges, but today these stamps in mint condition are catalogued from $60 each.

A notable discovery was made by Mr. Field when he tracked down in Austria the U.S.A. "Buffalo" balloon stamps (San. S1) which were unrecorded at that time. The "find" consisted of a few mint singles and a tête-bêche pair. They catalogue today $1,000 and $3.000 respectively.

Nowadays, of course, the firm of Francis J. Field, Ltd., is well established in the world of aerophilately and philately. Some years ago his son, John C. W. Field, joined in who, by acting as the firm's representative to committees, international congresses and exhibitions within and outside Great Britain, is enabling them to take a much more active part in "organized" aerophilately as distinct from the "commercial" aspects. He has, for example, acted as British Commissioner for the international air mail exhibition held in Bruxelles in 1963 (when the biggest British air mail participation in an international since the London APEX of 1934 was seen) and he has recently been appointed the British Commissioner for AEROFILA 67 to be held next year in Budapest.

South African collectors may like to be reminded that, when Capt. Milton F. Stern (who is well known to readers of this journal) was awarded the F.I.S.A. Medal in 1964 for his services to aerophilately and was unable to travel to England in person, Mr. John Field was honoured by being asked by Capt. Stern to receive it on his behalf.

John C. W. Field is an Associate of the Institute of Company Accountants, and his interest and principal concern in the business lies in the administrative and publishing activities. He dabbles in collecting (always bearing in mind that a dealer's first loyalty is to his clients—and to not his own collection) concentrating on the Queen Eli-

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zabeth issues of G.B., the postal history of Warwickshire (his home county) and the postal history and stamp issues of Spain—omitting the 1936-39 Civil War period.

He also has two thematic collections aligned with his natural history interests, and belongs to or supports air and non-air philatelic societies, study groups and federations. Although not a true pioneer in the collecting of aerial propaganda leaflets dropped by aeroplane, he had the distinction of being the author of the first book on this subject written for air post history collectors.

John Field's hobbies are best summed up by giving him the general description of having the approach of the dilettante (although the present cost of living precludes his following such a course in the glorious fashion of the great dilettantes of yesteryear); from an active point-of-view he is Vice-Chairman of the Sutton Coldfield Natural History Society (after having been its secretary for some years), he enjoys studying languages, listening to music (preferably "classical" as opposd to "pop"), and is interested in photography.

He is married, and he and his wife Betty have three children: two boys and a girl. The elder boy has already put in one appearance at a local stamp show, and is showing interest in stamp issues . . . . perhaps this indicates an eventual third generation of Field's in philately and aerophilately?

WORLD FOOTBALL CUP STOLEN FROM STAMPEX

The "Philatelic Trader and Stationer" gives the following interesting account of the theft of the Cup.

"Barely had London's STAMPEX—1966 at the Central Hall, Westminster, got off to a flying start—with attendance figures the highest yet—than half of the world was set agog by the staggering news that the World Football Cup, of solid gold and valued at no less than £30,000, had been stolen during the week-end from Stanly Gibbons' stand where it had been on display as the centrepiece of this year's Stampex theme—Sport and Stamps.

"At the time of going to press, the circumstances in which so daring a robbery became possible remain a mystery. Security staff state that the cup was checked as in position in its locked glass cabinet at 10 a.m. on Sunday (March 20th). At midday it was found to be missing. The lock on the cabinet had been forced. A call to Scotland Yard brought top C.I.D. men to the Central Hall within minutes. A look-out order was flashed to all airports.

"The main entrance lobby of Central Hall is open during part of the day on Sundays to allow access to Methodist Church services and children's Sunday School meetings which are held in other parts of the building. The floors occupied by STAMPEX, however, are self-contained and the entrance doors to the Exhibition were locked at the close of business on Saturday. A back door was found to have been forced."

It is now known that the cup has fortunately been recovered, none the worse for its theft, from a London suburban garden, by the help of a dog.

ROLL OF DISTINGUISHED PHILATELISTS

The journal "Philately" reports that Britain's unique Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, first signed by King George V in 1921 and now carrying the signatures of 173 internationally-famous collectors from all over the world, is to be shown at SIPEX. The Roll is being taken to Washington on behalf of its sponsors, the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, by Mr. R. F. W. Sheraton, a Hove accountant, who is Custodian of the Roll, where General Charles W. Wickersham will add his signature at a ceremony at SIPEX on 29 May.

Aspects of South Africa's Roll of Distinguished Philatelists make an interesting comparison. The Roll was instituted, under the auspices of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa in 1932 and, at present, comprises 42 members, 27 of whom have passed on.

Members are elected by Congress, but not more than two at any one meeting, except when the Roll was instituted when the first ten were elected and may be termed Foundation Members. The rule was suspended once in 1948, the first post-war Congress.

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BOOK REVIEW

Bridger and Kay Commonwealth Catalogue of King George VI Postage Stamps. 1966-67, 11th Edition. Published by Bridger and Kay Ltd. Price 12/6.

The publishers introduce their first catalogue apologetically with a request if there are any omissions, would collectors be mindful of the fact that they have not had any previous number to work upon nor price-lists to consult. They need not have had any misgivings for the catalogue qualifies as a desirable handbook and affords a wealth of information to collectors of King George VI stamps. It is indexed for ready reference and is presented in an easily read manner with copious, clear illustrations.

Re-printing many of the stamps has established their values upon more realistic bases and attention has been drawn to the fact that many of the rarer King George VI stamps have been overlooked for a number of years. The effect which the thematic collector has had on the market has also been taken into account.

Several new ideas have been incorporated in the Catalogue. Complete sets have been added and specimen sets which are of particular interest to King George VI specialists have been included.

Booklet panes figure throughout the catalogue and are in comparison to complete booklets which are bulky to accommodate on a page. Particular attention has been paid to the listing of the Bermuda and New Zealand sections, the scroll flaws of the former and the coil joins of the latter being included.

I AM EXTENDING

my field of activities to include the Cape, Natal, O.F.S., O.R.C., Transvaal, Z.A.R., German South West Africa, besides Union/Republic and S.W.A.

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and hope to sell such material and to hold postal auctions for which lots are now welcomed.

SOUTH AFRICAN "GNUS"

3/1 per annum (or 4/6 by air).

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(V) P.T.S.,

"The South African Specialist"

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PAPER READ, IN SUPPORT OF HER EXHIBIT, AT THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN MEETING, BY MRS. H. ZEIDEL

Monaco is the smallest country in Europe. The inhabitants have the choicest blessings of modern man—no income tax—no military service. Monaco has been ruled without a break for 700 years by the Grimaldis who trace their family tree back to 1133.

According to a chronicler of the period, Francis Grimaldi, known as Malizia was expelled with his family from Genoa as a member of the Guelph faction. He decided to seize the fortress of Monaco then held by the Genoese of the opposing party. By trickery he entered the fortifications on the night of the 8th January, 1297, with some of his men dressed as Franciscan monks with their arms hidden beneath their robes. It is for this reason that the Grimaldi coat of arms is supported by two friars wielding swords which can be seen on the stamps of 1954.

Monaco is situated on the cote d'azur between Nice and Menton, between Cap Farrat and Cap Martin. Between Monaco and Monte Carlo lies a harbour and commercial quarter called La Condamine. Many a cancellation reads Monaco Condamine. There is a map at the beginning which gives an idea of the Principality facing the Mediterranean seafront with the Alpes rising steeply in the North.

The first means of communication was the "Roman Road." In the 2nd century B.C. the "Aurelian Way" left Rome to reach the Alpes Maritimes—(also often found on cancellations)—a province of the Roman Empire, originally via Ventemiglia crossing the territory where later Menton was to be constructed. Afterwards it followed the coastline to what is now Monte Carlo Beach. Many barbarian invasions during the middle of the 5th Century caused the partial depopulation of the region. The "Aurelian Way," for lack of upkeep, was reduced to a footpath and mail had to be transported along this route on foot. So it remained until Napoleon started his 2nd Italian campaign. He found a link from Nice to Genoa, really from Paris to Rome absolutely imperative and ordered the building of the Grand Corniche. The road was designed by the engineer Siqaud and constructed under

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his supervision from 1806 to 1813. However, mail coaches found the new road too steep and Monaco was still isolated but for the mailmen called "pedon." The Monangasques had to wait until the building of the lower Corniche to find their country easily accessible and linked with their neighbours. The railroad completed in 1868 brought the Principality within a day's reach from Paris.

The postal history of Monaco can be divided into five different periods: First, before 1792; second, from Sept. 1792 to May 1814; third, from May 1814 to June 1860; fourth, from June 1860 to July 1885; fifth, from July 1885 to present day.

The first, second and half of the third period belong to the pre-stamp era.

First period: The earliest record of a post office in Monaco dates back to 1643. In the Museum of the postage stamps of Monaco, in the Palace of the Prince, there is a letter dated the 9th May 1643. This letter was delivered by Prince Honoré II to Antoine Lambert Fatigue, courier of the King—who ran the service between Aix and Monaco. The conclusion can be drawn from this letter that this was a regular service with an office for distribution and collection of postage charges on the Hill in Monaco. The Revolution of 1789 in France dispensed with all previous services. A new system was introduced, departments — the equivalent of our provinces—were created, each receiving a number. The Country of Nice and the Principality received the number "78." There are four letters shown belonging to this first period. The "de Monaco" manuscript is the oldest concellation, followed by "Monaco" on its own in manuscript and then Monaco handstamped. There is no cancellation "78 Monaco" yet. It was in use for only 22 months and is therefore hard to find.

In 1792, a reorganisation of the departments took place. The new province was called "Alpes Maritimes" and received the postal number "85." With this event the **second period** starts. It is at this point that I have to divert your thoughts from Monaco to France. The two countries were linked together and it is not surprising that French reforms took place in Monaco as well. The French Revolution introduced a new calender in order to strike a blow against the clergy and to divorce calculations from christian associations. Promulgated by Pierre Sylvain Marechal (1750-1803) in "Almanach des Honneztes Gents" (1788), he divided the year into 12 months of 30 days, each month into three periods of 10 days each (decades). This calendar became law on October 5, 1793, but started in retrospect from the day of Proclamation of the Revolusion, September 22, 1792, the day of autumnal equinox. The poet Fabre d'Eglantine named the months and they sound very attractively. It starts with Vendemaire (vintage 22/9/92, year 1, Brumaire (fog) 22/10/92, Frimaire (frost) 21/11/92, Nivose (snowy month) 21/12/92, Pluviose (rainy month) 20/1/93, Ventose (windy month) 19/2/93, Germinal (buds) 21/3/93, Floreal (flowers) 20/4/93, Prairial (meadows) 20/5/93, Messidor (reaping) 19/6/93, Thermidor (heat) 19/7/93, Fructidor (fruit) 18/8/93, year 2, 1793/1794 etc. It ends with year 14 in 1805 on the 31st Dec., equivalent to Nivose the 10th. On the boards you will find on the 4th page a letter, dated 13th Floreal, a "3" which represents the early part of this epoch, and the next one, dated 8th Frimaire, a "13" which was written nearer the end. Both have the handstruck "85 Monaco."

The **third period** starts with the renewed Independance of the Principality and the Sovereinty of the Princes through the Treaty of Paris on the 27th May, 1814. But the cession of Savoyen and the County of Nice to Sardinia cramped the style of the Principality. The Post became Sardinian, although post offices in Monaco and Menton remained in use. This period is represented by the red C.S.1 R and the black handstruck "Monaco" which stands for: **C**orrenpondence **S**arde premier **R**ayon (Sardinian correspondence first region). The next item of the Sardinian mail shows another peculiarity. Covers have a double ringed cancellation with Monaco and the date and a separate single line giving date and month. In both cancellations the months are in Italian but they differ in colour. From 1857 until 1860 Sardinian stamps had to be used in Monaco. The period of three years is very short and there are hardly any genuine covers to be found. This is another item I am still looking for.

(To be continued).

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MAPS AND EXPORATION (AFRICA)

By Capt. M. F. Stern, F.R.G.S.

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Not only maps can be of interest to the cartophilatelist, but also the discovery and development of areas. I shall deal in this first article with African exploration and development, which forms part of my collection "Maps and Exploration." Although much has been written about the Portuguese; in Northern Africa there were two famous men. The first Al Idrissi (1100-1166 A.D.), who headed the Moslem geographers, travelled extensively, unhestitantly though critically, and after taking over the old picture of the earth that they have inherited from Ptolemy, Hipparchus and others, supplemented this with astronomical teachings from Indian sources and applied it to their own world-wide observations. It was not until the 12th century that their doctrines began to infiltrate into Europe by way of Toledo and Sicily, where translations from Arabic were undertaken.

The second great traveller was Ibn Batuta (1304-1378 A.D.) who visited the Niger and Timbuktu in 1324, Tangier, Egypt, Damascus, Asis Minor, Iraq, Baghdad, Hindu Kush and northwest India, Delhi, Bengal, the Ganges Delta, Ceylon, Sumata and Peking and crossed the Sahara to Timbuktu and sailed on the Niger 1325-1349, visited Spain in 1350, when he went to the Moorish outposts including Andalusia, and in 1352 travelled in the western Sahara, setting out from Tangier, visiting Fez, Marrakesh, Timbuktu, Gao, Agadez, the Air Massif Ahaggar and back to Tangier. At his death Batutua had travelled about 75,000 miles. Unlike Marco Polo's chronicles, Batuta's memoirs soon fell into undeserved oblivion. Both these Moslems appear on 0.29 "Famous Men" stamps issued by Morocco.

Perhaps the better known story is that of the Sea Route to India. Hanno was sent to the Land of Punt (Somalia) by sea in 1750 B.C. In 1492/93 B.C. Queen Hatsheput (seen on Egyptian stamps) sent another expedition to establish trade relations with the Somalis (her two ships together with men carrying frankisense is on a 1.20 So. stamp recently issued by Somalia, while ancient Egyptian ships of the 15th century B.C. are shown on a stamp of Egypt, of Poland and of San Marino). The Egyptians, owing to their superior naval forces, held undisputed control of Indian products. Happalus abandoned the slow coastal route and sailed direct across the Indian Ocean to Cranagore (Cochim, India). Under Ptolemy Philadelphus a project was made to build a canal at Arsinoe (near Suez) but was never completed. Later of course the Suez Canal was built (stamps of Egypt illustrate the Suez Canal).

The Phoenicians were the first to pass through the Pillars of Hercules (Straits of Gibraltar) and visited Britain and Friesland. The Pillars of Hercules are to be seen on stamps of Spain and Spanish Sahara, while the prow of a Phoenician ship is seen on a stamp of Libia, and a full ship of the 15th century on a Polish stamp, while Gibraltar has issued many stamps showing views of Gibraltar. Herodotus wrote about a Phoenician ship (600 B.C.), which in the employ of Pharaoh Necho, had sailed through the Pillars of Hercules and returned after three years, having sailed around the continent of Africa. The West Coast of Africa was visited in 470 B.C. by the Carthaginians.

At the dawn of History, the Indo-European trade was carried by the Arabs in the Red Sea, Persian Gulf, and Indian Ocean, use being made of picturesque dhows, which are still in use today. They sailed as far as Sofala and the shape of the African continent was probably known (Dhows seen on a stamp of Zanzibar, while Dhow buildings is illustrated on a stamp of Aden, and Aden shows a map of the area where the dhows operated).

Alexander the Great (seen on a stamp of Greece) founded Alexandria, which became the port for Eastern trade passing up the Red Sea from India. The Greek ships can be seen on stamps (San Marino, Greek ship of the 2nd Cent. A.D.; Greek Galley, 5th Cent. B.C. Poland; Greek vessel of the 6th Cent. B.C., Greece; "Argo" Greek ship, 5th Cent. B.C., Greece; Byzantine Galley, Greeze).

(To be continued).

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SOCIETY NEWS

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

March. Fourteen members, under the chairmanship of the Vice-President, Mr. R. G. L. Mephius, as the President, Mr. F. E. Drake, was away on holiday, were present to view the two exhibits on display. The first tabled was that of Mr. H. J. Suklje, a fabulous collection of prestamp covers of Belgium; several covers were of the date 1715, and, considering their age, in a remarkable state of preservation. There were also a number of covers from the year 1829, showing the first circular Post-Marks used, giving the month, day and year of posting. The thanks of the Society were given to Mr. H. J. Suklje by the Vice-President. Mr. R. G. L. Mephius, who stated that seldom had such a fine collection been shown before. The second exhibit was tabled by Mr. B. Eilers, who always seem to come up with a new exhibit. This time it was Saarland from the year 1920 to 1957, a collection of mint and used stamps. Mr. H. J. Suklje congratulated Mr. B. Eilers on his fine display, which was, as per usual, very well

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF RHODESIA

March. At the Annual General Meeting the following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year: Chairman, Mr. J. R. Strong; Vice-Chairman, Mr. D. A. Mitchell; Secretary, Mr. W. H. Turnbull; Treasurer and Exchange Superintendent, Mr. J. Lazarus; Committee Members: Mr. F. C. O'Molony, Mr. K. H. Perry, Dr. A. Hawarth.

Mr. J. E. Creewel remains Chairman of the Exhibition Committee and Mr. A. S. Annett continues as Publicity Officer.

This year's awards. We congratulate Mrs. Wallace on winning the Porter Cup for her New Zealand exhibit. The Society cup went, most deservedly, to Mr. J. Lazarus for "meritorius services."

Six new members were elected and Mr. Fitzstephens will exhibit a portion of his Australian collection at the April meeting.

There is one point in the statement of our accounts (circulated last month) which needs a little clarification. The last item on the credit side of the Income and Expenditure account reads: "Exhibition Fund— £4-10-6d." This may have startled some members who themselves have subscribed more than this. The figure shown is, of course, the balance in the account, being donations to date less expenses to date. So if you have made a substantial subscription to the Exhibition Fund, don't be alarmed, it has all been accounted for. If any members have not yet subscribed, the Treasurer is still open to receive your contributions.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

February. There was an excellent attendance at the 54th Annual General Meeting at which the following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Mr. T. J. Strachan; First Vice-President, Mr. A. S. Aldis; Second Vice-President, Mr. G. Bulbring; Secretary, Mr. A. F. W. Pavitt; Treasurer, Mr. W. F. Berrington; Exchange Superintendent, Mr. A. S. Aldis; Auctioneer, Mr. G. Bulbring; Assistant Auctioneer, Mr. A. G. du Thoit; Librarian, Mr. T. J. Strachan; Auditor, Mr. G. Monaghan; Press Correspondent, E. Baer.

In his report the President stated that the past year had been one of progress in many directions. He mentioned that we are hoping to hold a National Philatelic Exhibition in 1970 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the landing of the 1820 Settlers.

The Gustav Bulbring Floating Trophy for the best display was awarded to Mr. G. Bulbring for his exhibit of South West Africa. The T. J. Strachan Floating Bowl went to Mrs. Fourie for her display of Great Britain while the Dave Berg Floating Trophy was won by Mr. Sam Charles for his exhibit of "Space."

The **March 1st** meeting was well attended when Mr. W. H. Berrington exhibited part of his New Zealand collection. He limited himself to the George VI and Elizabeth II issues which were displayed in profusion, mainly in mint condition.

Amongst the exhibit, the health stamps made a particularly pleasing showing as they were displayed in singles and blocks of four, as well as beautifully mounted miniature sheets for the period 1947-1965.

March 15. Well over forty members and visitors thoroughly enjoyed an excellent exhibit by our old highly respected life member, Mr. W. Harmer. Entitled "Pot-pourri" the pages displayed covered mostly stamps of the British Commonwealth but other interesting stamps came from the U.S.A., Hungary as also Postal Stationery, Great Britain was well represented with many 1d. Reds and 2d. Blues, inverted watermarks etc., but additional attractive pages contained selected issues for Barbados, Ceylon, Australia, New Zealand, Straits Settlements, Egypt, Mauritius, Palestine, etc.

THE O.F.S. PHILATELIC SOCIETY

February. The meeting was well attended. New issues were tabled by Messrs. Scott, Weil and Roux.

The composite exhibit of Covers proved very popular, with Messrs. Perez, Scott, Marus and Meyburgh each showing a very fine selection. The following items were tabled: Mr. Perez: Spanish Town Coat-of-Arms. There has been one issued per month for the past four years with more to follow. Mr. Scott: Both Netherlands and French covers. These were both most interesting and colourful. Mr. Marus: A selection of San

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Marino covers, which surprised the viewers for their attractiveness. Mr. Meyburgh: Swiss covers, also covers (hand-drawn) covering the first of the S.A. decimal issue in which the subject of the stamp was enlarged on the cover.

The announced Great Britain collection of Dr. Mellet was not available due to the absence of the Doctor on duty. But the meeting was entertained to Dr. Mellet's German collection, in which were some most interesting items, including the 2 Schilling Schleswig Holstein stamp. There were also some fine items from Baden and Holstein. The collection covered Germany right up to the end of the Nazi regime. It was most comprehensive and of great interest to members.

March. A large attendance was treated to a collection of "Great Britain" by Dr. J. R. Mellet. It has been many years since a collection of Britain has been seen at our meetings. The exhibit covered only a portion of the collection, but included many exceptional items. Commencing with some early pre-stamp covers, we saw the 1d. Blacks, 2d. Blues and a most comprehensive study of the 1d. Reds. Among the more recent items was a copy of the 1929 UPU £1 Black and the prize item of all—the missing Queen's Head on the N.P.Y. issue.

The second exhibit, Malta, by Mr. H. E. Roux, covered a complete collection from the King George VI period. This was just a straight collection being complete in unused items and with not very many gaps amongst the used items.

New Issues were tabled by Mr. A. H. Scott, Mr. A. Perez and Mr. H. E. Roux.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

April. The meeting was the occasion of the Allan Cup Competition when two exhibits were entered. Mr. K. E. Olesen tabled his collection of used stamps of Denmark covering the period 1912-1947. This included a cover from Thorshaon with a handstamped local surcharge covering an increase in postal rates and pending the arrival of supplies of the new value. Also shown was a Royal envelope addressed by hand by the King of Denmark.

The second entry, by Mr. M. Lucchesi, one of our younger members, was a mint collection of the Vatican City, mounted on printed album pages. It was an attractive display but unfortunately still contained a number of gaps. The cup was awarded to Mr. Olesen with acclamation.

Cmdr. Enoch concluded an interesting evening by displaying his collection of "Number Ones" which will be exhibited at Ropex.

A very successful visit was paid to the Johannesburg Society last month, a large party travelling over for the occasion.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

March 10th. Three excellent collections were the fare this evening. Mr. D. Roth showed his fine collection of Zululand, including rare covers dating back to the Zulu War, specimen stamps, provisionals and forgeries. Mr. P. Hunt's collection was in contrast, the first decimal stamps of the Republic of South Africa and included a variety of "spots and dots," also the staggered perforation. Dr. H. Gottschalk's collection of the Sudan, which ends with the Independence, includes a wide variety of material dating from 1867, when the first Post Office was established. Items of interest were Egyptian overprints, early airmails, postal stationery, T.P.O.'s and stamps of two world wars. Altogether a most rewarding meeting.

March 24th. On this occasion Mrs. Hilda Jeidel was the sole exhibitor, and as usual, Mrs. Jeidel produced an exhibition of Monaco that was superb in quality, almost endless in quantity and of the same high standard that we have come to expect from this collector. There were covers dating from the French Revolution, attention was drawn to datestamps and cancellations, rare die-proofs, essays, epreuvres de luxe and colour trials. Thematic collectors were given new ideas, and we saw pre-cancelled stamps, airmails, postage-dues and postal stationery.

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

March 15. Meeting was devoted to Thematics. The following were shown: Dr. P. Hotz, "Famous Men;" Dr. A. Keller, "Space;" Capt. M. F. Stern, "Egyptian Architecture." The meeting was well attended. —M.F.S.

THEMATIC STAMP CLUB

February 14. The second part of the exhibit of the stamps of the world was shown by Capt. M. F. Stern.

February 28. This was devoted to Postal History. The exhibitors were as follows: Mrs. H. Jeidel, "Belgian Congo" 1886 to 1927; Mr. R. Jeidel, "Liechtenstein and U.N.O. 1918 to 1943;" Mr. W. G. Combrink, "Hungary 1871 to 1919;" Dr. P. L. Vautier, "Switzerland 1876 to 1939, including Military Posts" and items of France, U.S.A. and Russia. This proved a more than interesting evening.

March 14. This was President's Night and Dr. P. L. Vautier filled the boards with interesting thematic sheets covering almost every theme. These were well laid out and there was something to interest every member. It was quite one of the best exhibits shown for many months.

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March 28. In addition to being the A.G.M., sections from the Club's Thematic collection was shown. The following were elected: President, Mr. W. G. Combrink; Vice-President, Mr. D. G. Shaw; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. R. Clacker; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. R. Shevelew; Hon. Librarian, Mr. R. F. Chapman; Hon. Exchange Superintendent, Mr. R. Clacker; Committee, Messrs. G. P. Felmore, R. Jeidel and P. Fortune, and Dr. P. L. Vautier (ex officio). —M.F.S.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

April. There was a satisfactory attendance at our April meeting which was held immediately after the long Easter week-end. A number of our regulars were still away from Pretoria but those members who attended were privileged to see a very fine collection of the stamps of Denmark covering the reign of King Christian X, 1912-1947. This collection of used stamps was exhibited by Mr. K. E. Olesen, a member of the Pretoria Society and it included such items as both perfs and watermarks of the 5 Kroner stamp issued early in the reign, and blocks of four of the 300th Anniversary of the Danish post commemorative issue, each stamp in the block different—not very easy to obtain as such. Also shown were local surcharges from the Faroe Islands and Thorshaven, the latter being used for a period of only 12 days pending the arrival of normal supplies.

SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELY

March. The exhibit "My selection at random" by Sam Legator was a real treat. The display commenced with Haganah Issues, Minhelet Haam, Call Up Notices, P.O.W. Mail of the War of Liberation and Sinai Campaign, Doar Ivri followed by a selection of Russian, Turkish, German and Austrian Post Offices in Palestine. We saw for the first time the complete 80 postmarks of Minhelet Haam. The display also included some items of Judaica and Propoganda. This naturally gave rise to some discussion as to authenticity. Included in the display was a cover dated 17/3/1948 with a cancellation similar to the Haganah but instead of the sword with a laurel was a Magen David with what looked like a rifle through the centre. Anybody with knowledge of this item please let us know.

Recent issues: The Independence Day Stamps have made their appearance as also a new stamp "Memorial Day" commemorating the fallen in the War of Liberation.

The I.L. 3.00 of the Emblems has appeared as also tete beche strips of the 0.08 and 0.12 values and the booklets containing 6 x 0.08 and 12 x 0.12. These booklets also differ from previous issues.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

March 28. Mr. Oppenheimer entertained the meeting with three excellent exhibits. Firstly, a fascinating collection covering the "Anschlus" (1938 take over of Austria by the Germans) period. His second choice was an exhibit of Waterlow issues of the Belgian Congo, and finally he showed an exhibit of miniature sheets of Switzerland.

April 12. The meeting was the occasion of a welcome visit from the Afrikaanse Filatelistevereniging when three very worthwhile exhibits were shown. Mr. Mioch's excellent collection of used Netherland stamps was followed by Mr. Thamm's thematic collection of birds and Mr. Baker's almost complete collection of Switzerland concluded a very enjoyable evening.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

April. A disappointingly low attendance probably occasioned by a change in the date of the meeting but, nevertheless, a highly successful and thoroughly instructive afternoon was spent by those who were present.

The only formal discussion set down for this meeting was "The 1965 Christmas seals" on which subject Dr. H. J. Raubenheimer read a most interesting paper. This issue was fully covered in the February, 1966, edition of "The South African Philatelist" but it is worthy of note that the seals were "process coloured" which was used for the first time in the 1963 issue of the Kirstenbosch commemorative stamp with one distinct difference in that the colours of the Christmas seals did not merge into each other as the printed edges were sharply defined. Another significant feature was that from the four basic colours, one being black, ten sharply defined separate colours were produced, including a dull black caused by three layers of different inks, yellow, magenta and blue. The paper embraced much diligent research and study revealing a great deal of interesting material.

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

March. There was a good attendance at the meeting at which Mr. Botha exhibited his collection of Czechoslovakia in the competition for the Sam Legator Trophy.

Mr. Theunissen followed with a non-competitive exhibit consisting of Union Postage Dues, Early Natal, Mauritius and Ethopia among others.

The exhibitors spoke on their material and a very enjoyable evening was afforded members.

MOOI RIVER STAMP CLUB

April. After the disposal of the usual business, members joined in buying, selling or exchanging of stamps. A very pleasant evening was spent and particularly enjoyed by the nine juniors.

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REPUBLICAN PRINTING ABNORMALITIES!!! Offers wanted by J. Burrell, P.O. Box 397, Krugersdorp.

South African Collectors' Society for the Union Collector—magazine, exchange packet. Subscription 15/- ($2) year. Write Hon. Secretary, W. A. Page, 138 Chastilian Road Dartford, Kent, England.

LATVIA (Lettland; Lettonie) out of the way items and bulk common stamps wanted.—J. Michelson, P.O. Box 9314, Johannesburg.

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SIMENHOFF BOOKLET.—The Occupational Postmarks of the Mandated Territory of South West Africa by Capt. L. Simenhoff; the series as run in The South African Philatelist, in booklet form (24 pages). Price 30c post free.—Philatelic Federation, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

U.S.A. SPECIALIST requires singles, blocks covers, cancellations. A. R. Kleiner, 23 Cadogan Gardens, London S.W. 3, England.

LISTS of general interest free on request. —UNION STAMP CO., Barbican Building, President and Rissik, Johannesburg. (P.O. Box 10225), Telephone 838-5879.

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The South African Philatelist

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SOUTH AFRICAN NOTES

Hon. Associate Editor:
Dr. H. J. RAUBENHEIMER,
434 City Centre, Pretoria.

NEW ISSUE

The 2½c, Cyls. 60, S27, Constantia Stamp.

A new issue of the Republican 2½c stamp was delivered to the Philatelic Bureau on the 20th April, 1966, with the previous design, Groot Constantia; it was printed by the Goebel 830 machine. Its features are:

Sheet format. Single die, one pane only, horizontal. 100 stamps per sheet (5 rows x 20).

Stamp format. Vertical, identical to the previous issue from cylinders 12-11.

Paper. RSA watermark which is very faint and which faces right on some sheets and left on others. In general it is difficult to identify the watermark.

Cylinders. Two, new, S27 green, internal and 60 bright mauve, external. Prepared from the same multipositives used for panes A and C of the previous printing from cylinders 12, 11. These numbers, in their respective colours, are shown on the left margin opposite row 3.

Sheet numbers: Four figure red, twice per sheet, on the bottom margin below stamps 1 and 2 and again 12 and 13.

Arrows: Premanufactured, mauve, in the centre of the top and bottom margins.

Marginal bars: Mauve, single line, broken, with an extended central gap, on the left and right margins.

Printer's register mark: In the form of a small cross, in the two colours closely superimposed, on the bottom margin below stamps 12 and 13. Can be touching, or over, a digit of the sheet number.

Perforations: Internally perforated by the eleven row appliance, large holes (1 mm.) with the drunken perforations feature. The left and right margins are perforated through, the top and bottom margins are imperforate except for the single hole at the end of each vertical row of perforations. There are numerous blind perforations, particularly in the two lower rows, and their positions appear constant on the many sheets examined. The comb join, normally found between stamps 10 and 11, is also found between 11 and 12, with the result that the horizontal line of "drunken perforations" between rows 1 and 2 can be found on the left and the right margins, or the right margin alone.

Note: Certain information has been obtained about this printing, and we pass it on for what it is worth. It appears that an order for 2½c stamps came in and there was a hold up with the four pane 12-11 sheets. New cylinders were prepared, 60, S27, to fulfil the order. It cannot be assumed that cylinders 12-11 will be discarded.

VARIETIES.

MULTIPOSITIVE: Common to panes A and C of cylinders 12, 11 and 60, S27 (but V5 is missing from 60-S27).

CYLINDER:

Row/No.—

1-1. Mauve smudges below grapes and mauve smudge in top gable.

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1-7. Large whitish cloud below AF of AFRIKA.
1-13. Mauve "comet" in top gutter above K of AFRIKA.
2-6. Faint "clouds" in the top right quarter of stamp.
2-10. Thin mauve hairline "C" at right of top shutter.
3-3. Large whitish cloud left of top gable.
3-15. Mauve dot right of door.
3-16 to 19. Mauve dots on the walls, progressively more numerous, with white specks on the sky of No. 19.
4-8. White diagonal hairline across door and frame.
5-1. White dot below large 2 of 2½c.
5-20. Two vertical mauve lines in top gutter above first E of REPUBLIEK.

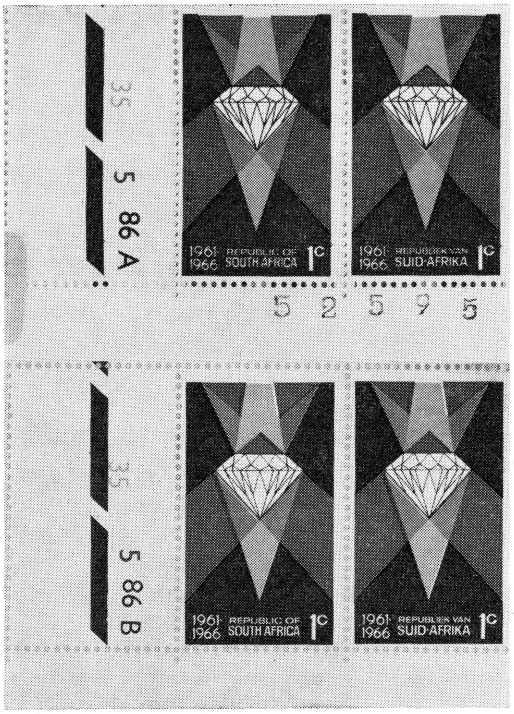
THE REPUBLIC FESTIVAL COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

Four special postage stamps, of the denominations of 1c, 2½c, 3c and 7½c, were issued in South Africa on the 31st of May, 1966, to commemorate the Fifth Anniversary of the Republic of South Africa. They were to be on sale at all post offices in the Republic for a period of approximately three months.

As the first day of issue, May 31st, was a public holiday, all main post offices and country branch offices were open from 8.30 to 9.30 a.m. on that day for the sale of these stamps and for the servicing of first day covers. The main post office at Pretoria, the temporary post office at the Voortrekker Monument, Pretoria, and the No. 1 Field Post Office for the military unit in camps in the vicinity of Pretoria were open all day for that purpose too.

The stamps were designed by Cecil E. F. Skotnes and were printed by the Government Printer, Pretoria, by means of the rotogravure printing process, and all on the Goebel 840 machine. The stamps are printed unilingually, English and Afrikaans alternately, horizontally and vertically.

The designs of the stamps are striking, the black and white photographic reproduction does not do justice to the stamps. They are a marked departure from our stamps of the past, for, with the exception of the 3c stamp, the colours run right across the stamps from centre to margin with no clear demarcation of interior and exterior. The presence of such deep and dark colours must affect the legibility of postmarks.



THE 1c DENOMINATION

Design: A diamond in white on a background of colours. The motif symbolises the many facets of the South African economy and the beginning of industrial development.

Sheet format: Double die, two panes A and B. A having been on the right of B. The panes have each 100 stamps (5 rows x 20). The top left corner stamp (Row 1/1) is English. The cylinder numbers, with their pane designation letter A or B, and in their respective colours, are shown on the left margin opposite row No. 5.

Stamp format: Vertical, measuring 24.2 x 40.5 mm. between the lines of perforations.

Paper: RSA watermarked, the mark facing right and is distinct.

Cylinders: Cross lined screened, from a common master negative. Stepped up for the complete double pane multipositive; there are thus no common multipositive varieties on the two panes. The cylinders are 35 light yellow, 5 grey-green and 86 black. Due to the design it cannot be said that there are interior or exterior cylinders. The inscriptions are in white.

Sheet numbers: On pane A only, on the bottom margin, five figure black, twice, below stamps 1 and 2 and again 12 and 13.

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Arrows: Black, premanufactured, centrally placed on the top and bottom margins only.

Marginal bars: Black, on left and right margins. Single line broken bars with an extended central gap.

Printer's register marks: In the form of an elongated cross in the three colours superimposed, on the bottom margin of pane A only, below stamps 8, 9 and 10. Many sheets have only a portion of the mark showing due to trimming of the sheets.

Marginal punched out holes: On the top margin of pane B and the bottom margin of pane A, respectively above and below stamps 13 and 14. They have concentric rings around them and a bisecting vertical line, in the colours superimposed. There are partial offsets of the rings on the gummed sides of the margins about three stamps to the right of the holes. They also show degrees of trimming off.

Perforations: Performed externally by the Grover two row perforator. The right margin is imperforate, the left being perforated through. The top and bottom margins are imperforate except for the single hole at each end of the vertical lines of perforations.

General. The stamps in the top left corner of the pane B show what appears to be a marked misalignment. The yellow figure in the top centre is displaced downwards and to the left leaving a white corner. The displacement diminishes towards the bottom right of the sheet.

There are few prominent varieties, the majority of those listed below range from small to tiny.

VARIETIES—PANE A.

Row/No.—

1-4. Two black dots in left lower side of diamond.
1-10. Black dot in right lower side of diamond.
1-18. Black dot in left corner of diamond.
2-13. Black dot in left side of lower yellow figure.
2-15. Tiny black line in lower gutter below first A of AFRIKA.
2-19. Black dot in second top facet of diamond.
3-3. Green dot below top frame line near left corner.
3-5. White dot just below centre of right frame line.
3-19. Whitish dot in left corner of green figure on right.
4-8. White dot in left corner of black figure on top right.
4-16. White dot above O of OF.
5-9. Green dot at apex of green triangle above diamond.

PANE B.

1-3. White dot at right frame line just below centre.
1-12. Large whitish "cloud" at right frame line three-quarters down.
1-18. Large whitish "balloon" above 61 of 1961.
2-11. Tiny black hairline in top gutter near right corner.
3-3. Short green hairline at centre of left side of top yellow figure.
3-4. Black dot near centre of bottom yellow figure.
3-12. Long horizontal faint line from left margin ¾ up.
4-18. Horizontal row of large whitish dots below and to the left of the bottom point of the diamond.
5-1. Whitish line just above and to the left of the bottom point of the diamond.
5-8. Thin black vertical line in the right lower prong of the top yellow figure.

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THE 2½c DENOMINATION

Design: A white bird against a background of elliptically shaped bands in colours; symbol of freedom and the future as depicted in the upward thrust of the motif.

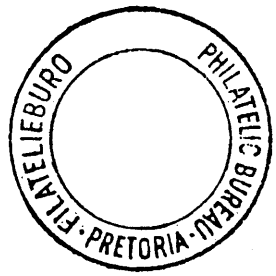
Sheet format: Double die, two panes A and B, A having been on the right of B. There are 100 stamps per pane (20 rows x 5). The top left corner stamp (Row 1/1) is Afrikaans. The cylinder numbers, with their pane designation letter A or B, and in their

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REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



A Philatelic Bureau exists in the Post Office in Pretoria to meet the special needs of stamp dealers and philatelists. Only stamps of the Republic of South Africa currently in use are on sale.

Orders for stamps should be addressed to the Philatelic Bureau, G.P.O., Pretoria, and must be accompanied by money orders, postal orders or bank drafts made payable to the Postmaster-General. Cheques are not accepted. The amount should be sufficient to cover postage and registration. Deposit accounts may be opened by overseas customers.

'n Filatelieburo bestaan in die poskantoor in Pretoria om in die spesiale behoeftes van seëlhandelaars en filateliste te voorsien. Slegs seëls van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika tans in gebruik word te koop aangebied.

Bestellings vir seëls moet geadresseer word aan die Filatelieburo, H.P.K., Pretoria, en moet vergesel gaan van poswissels, posorders of bankwissels, betaalbaar aan die Posmeester-generaal. Tjeks word nie aangeneem nie. Die bedrag moet voldoende wees om die pos- en registrasie gelde te dek. Deposito-rekenings kan deur oorsese kliënte geopen word.

RHODESIA—UNMOUNTED MINT

1965 — I.T.U. CENTENARY	@	6/3
1965 — WATER CONSERVATION	@	5/6
1965 — U.D.I. 2/6d.	@	4/-
1965 — POSTAGE DUES	@	2/3
1965 — INDEPENDENCE OVERPRINTS, 14 values	@	£7
1965 — INDEPENDENCE OVERPRINTS, sets to 1/-	@	6/-
1965 — INDEPENDENCE OVERPRNTS, CHURCHILL 5/- on 1/3	@	£6
1966 — DEFINITIVES, COMPLETE SETS, 14 values	@	55/-

RHODESIA & NYASALAND—UNMOUNTED MINT

1954—1956 — SG I — 10, 11 values	@	5/-
1954—1956 — SG I, ½d.	@ per dozen	1/-
1954—1956 — SG 6, 4½d.	@ per dozen	9/-
1955 — SG 16—17	@	2/6
1962 — SG 40—42	@	10/-
1963 — SG 43—46	@	10/-
1954 — BOOKLETS, 5/-, SG B.I.,	@	20/-
1961 — POSTAGE DUES, D1—D4	@	3/-
1954—1956 — SG 1—15, 16 values, USED	@	45/-

CASH WITH ORDER. SUBJECT UNSOLD. POSTAGE EXTRA (AIR MAIL)

T. McMICKING, P.T.S.

c/o. DROMORE HOUSE, DROMORE, CO. DOWN, NORTHERN IRELAND.

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respective colours are shown on the bottom margin below stamp No. 5.

Stamp format: Horizontal, measuring 40.5 x 24.2 mm. between the lines of perforations.

Paper: RSA watermarked, the mark being upright and is distinct.

Cylinders: Cross lined, screened; from a common master negative. Stepped up for the complete double pane multipositive; there being no common multipositive varieties for the two panes. The cylinders, not differentiated into interior or exterior, are Nos. 93 green, 88 ultramarine blue and 84 blue-black. The inscriptions are in white.

Sheet numbers: On pane A only, on the right margin, five figure black, twice per sheet, opposite rows 8 and 9 and again 19 and 20.

Arrows: Blue-black, premanufactured, centrally placed on the left and right margins only. There is a short line to the left of the upper prong of the left arrow of pane A only; the top arrow of pane B is surrounded by a blue "cloud."

Marginal bars: Blue-black, single line, broken, but with no extended central gap; on the top and bottom margins. They are not clearly or evenly printed, the top bars of pane B having particularly ragged edges.

Printer's register marks: In the form of an elongated cross in the three colours superimposed on the right margin of pane A opposite rows 13 and 14.

Marginal punched out holes: On the left margin of pane B opposite stamps 7 and 8, partially or wholly trimmed off, and with no concentric rings or bisecting line. On the right margin of pane A opposite stamps 7 and 8, also, partially trimmed off, but have the concentric rings around the holes with their bisecting line and in the colours superimposed. Only pane A has the partial offsets of the rings on the gummed side of the margin and also affected by the trimming. They are about 3 stamps above the holes.

Perforations: Externally perforated by the Grover two row appliance; the bottom margin is perforated through, the top margin being imperforate. The left and right margins are imperforate except for the single hole at each end of the horizontal rows of perforations.

General: A particularly well printed stamp with good alignment of cylinders. The few varieties are mostly of the minute size.

VARIETIES—PANE A

Row/No.—

3-5. Whitish dot right of bird's tail.
8-1. Tiny blue dot in top gutter ¼ from left.
9-5. Blue dot in top gutter ⅓ from left.
10-5. Blue dot in centre of bird's tail.
12-1. Tiny white dot at tip of left wing of bird.
14-4. Two blue dots on bird's shoulder, left and right.
19-5. Tiny white dot above tip of bird's beak.
20-3. Three tiny blue dots along bird's left wing.

PANE B.

5-1. Two tiny blue dots in top gutter above 96 of 1966.
5-4. Whitish line through base of left green band.
6-1. Blue dot in right green band below wing.
6-3. Blue dot on bird's neck, left.
7-2. Broken second 1 of 1961.
9-5. Whitish ring in the blue below 19 of 1966.
13-3. Black dot on right margin of green band just below right wing.
16-1. Black dot on bird's tail.
17-3. Tiny black dot in right gutter opposite 1966.

* * * *



THE 3c DENOMINATION

Design and colours: Two maize plants depicting agriculture and the growth of the nation. The plants are in yellow on a background of red brown with the centre of vermilion.

Sheet format: Single die, there being only one pane, horizontal, and the sheets have 100 stamps of 5 rows x 20. The top left corner stamp (Row 1/1) is English. The cylinder numbers, in their respective colours are shown in the left margin opposite row 5.

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Stamp format. Vertical, measuring 24.2 x 40.5 mm. between the lines of perforations.

Paper: RSA watermarked, the mark facing right, most sheets show no watermark, the rest being faint.

Cylinders: Cross lined screened, 110, vermilion and 124 yellow, Interior, and 125 red-brown Exterior. The words of the inscription are in white, the figures in yellow.

Sheet numbers: Five figure black, twice, on the bottom margin, below stamps 1 and 2 and again 12 and 13.

Arrows: Red-brown, premanufactured, centrally placed, on the top and bottom margins.

Marginal bars: Red-brown, on the left and right margins; single line, broken bars with an extended central gap. The bars on the left margin are lighter than those on the right.

Printer's guide marks: In the form of a cross, in the three colours superimposed, on the bottom margin below stamps 11 and 12.

Perforations: Internally perforated by a new single row comb appliance. The left and right margins are perforated through, the top and bottom margins are imperforate except for the extra hole at each end of the vertical lines of perforations.

This is a clean printing, the registration is good and the few varieties are of a very small size.

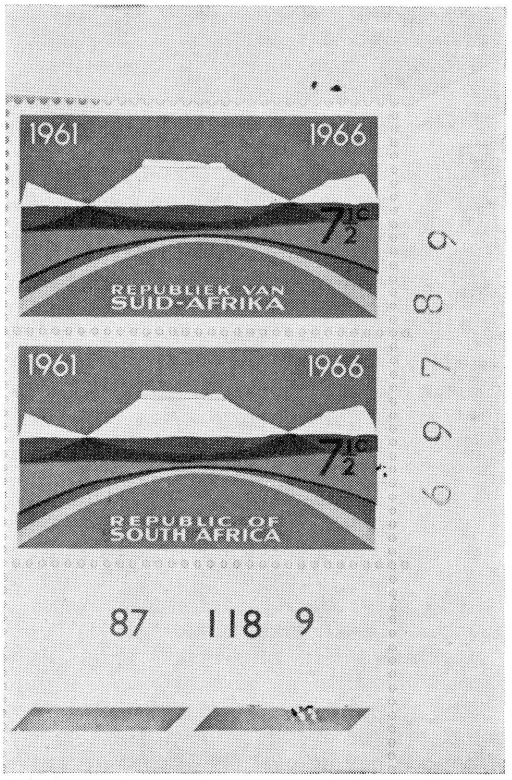
VARIETIES

Row/No.—

1-19. Small yellow dot below top frame line centre.
2-17. Brown dot above central bottom leaf.
2-20. Small yellow dot below bottom left leaf.
3-19. Yellow dash between the two top central leaves.
5-1. White splashes in centre left vermilion space.
5-13. Small brown dot in stem of left plant at the bottom.
5-14. Tiny brown dot in top central leaf.
5-17. Tiny white dot right of tip of top right leaf.

* * * *

THE 7½c DENOMINATION



Design and colours: A silhouette of the typical flat topped South African mountain with the sea in the foreground; the sky, the sea and the mountains depict the first three lines of the National Anthem. The mountains and the inscriptions are in white, the value in blue-black, the sky and the sea in blue and the horizontal curved bands are blue-black and ochre.

Sheet format: Vertical, single die, there being only one pane containing 100 stamps (20 rows x 5). The top left corner stamp (Row 1/1) is Afrikaans. The cylinder numbers, in their respective colours, are shown on the bottom margin below stamp No. 5.

Stamp format: Horizontal, measuring 40.5 x 24.2 mm. between the lines of perforations.

Paper: RSA watermarked paper, the mark being upright and, if not entirely absent, is barely discernible.

Cylinders: Cross lined screened, are 87 blue-black, 119 ochre, and 9 ultramarine blue. The design does not permit them to be described as Interior or Exterior.

Sheet numbers: Five figure black, twice, on the right margin opposite rows 8 and 9 and again 19 and 20.

Arrows: Ultramarine blue, premanufactured, centrally placed on the left and right margins.

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Marginal bars: Ultramarine blue, on top and bottom margins. Single line broken bars with an extended central gap. The right segment of the lower bar is broken.

Printer's guide mark: On the right margin in the form of a cross in the three colours superimposed, opposite rows 8 and 9.

Perforations: Internally perforated by the Goebel 840 machine by a new single row comb appliance. The top and bottom margins are perforated through and the left and right margins are imperforate except for the single extra hole at each end of the horizontal lines of perforations.

VARIETIES

Row/No.—

1-1. Brown dots lower left of 7 of 7½c.
2-1. Brown smudge at foot of 7 of 7½c.
4-1. White dot left of centre mountain.
8-1. Whitish ring at top right of centre mountain.
10-1. Blue dot on right slope of centre mountain and white dot above P of REPUBLIC.
11-2. Black dot in gutter at top right corner.
13-1. White dot above P of REPUBLIEK.

ROPEX

Address at the 28th Congress of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa by Lt.-Col. C. R. Dickenson, C.M.G., the Rhodesian Postmaster General.

Mr. Deputy Mayor, Mrs. Kinleyside, Mr. President, Mrs. Strong, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I am sure that by now you must be getting tired of my voice. However, your President felt that this might be a suitable opportunity to provide a factual record of recent Rhodesian issues of stamps which, for various reasons quite outside the control of my Ministry, have led to criticism sometimes alternated with, and often simultaneously with, praise. Had I not already appreciated the fact that one can only please some philatelists some of the time, and none all of the time, this hard fact would have been very forcibly impressed on me during these last few months.

To get a complete picture, it is necessary to go back to the dissolution of the Federal Ministry of Posts (which administered Nyasaland, Northern Rhodesia and Southern Rhodesia), of which I was also Postmaster-General. Briefly, this involved the unscrambling of one large service and the re-creation of three separate services. The break-up was a messy operation as Nyasaland hived off one month before the two Rhodesias parted company. The dates of these breaks were 1st November and 1st December, 1963, respectively. Abolition of office terms were available for those who wished to retire on the demise of the Federal Service. These were so attractive that over 700 officers, including many in senior posts, elected to retire. The bulk of these were from Southern Rhodesia, by far the largest of the three services. The new Southern Rhodesian service started, therefore, with many problems.

Turning to stamps, and in passing, tenders were received from Bradbury Wilkinson's, Harrison's and Thomas de la Rue's, in March/April, 1963, for a symbolic issue to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of Federation. The designs were the best of those submitted in a world-wide competition, and would have made excellent stamps. Before any tender was accepted, it became obvious that although the Federation would just last ten years, its break-up was inevitable. This appreciation was confirmed at the Falls Conference in July, 1963, and the planned Commemorative was cancelled.

It was after that that I found myself in the odd position of being Federal Postmaster-General, Chairman of the Committee charged with the break-up of my own "Empire"—the Federal Ministry of Posts, and P.M.G. designate for Southern Rhodesia (the latter in suspense or sub rosa pending the discharge of my duties as chairman). I started immediately on the design of a definitive issue related to natural resources for Southern Rhodesia. It was appreciated that the printing of such an issue might not be completed by the break-up date of 1st December, 1963, although Harrison's, who were awarded the tender, stated, on first being approached, that delivery could be effected in time. Harrison's could hardly be blamed for failure to deliver in time as although a letter was addressed to our High Commissioner in London on 31st July, 1963, the High Commissioner's firm order on Harrison's was not placed until 14th November. The reason for this delay has not emerged from the welter of problems associated with the break-up. No objection was seen in Southern Rhodesia to the use of Federal stamps after the break-up, until such time as a new Southern Rhodesia Definitive Issue could be made available.

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There were objections, however, in Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia to the continued use of Federal stamps. To avoid this, Northern Rhodesia decided on a simple design featuring the Queen's Head in varying colours for their first Definitive issue, and Zambia overprinted Revenue Stamps. With the other two Territories not using the Federal stamps, consideration was given to overprinting these "Southern Rhodesia.". Available supplies were, however, inadequate.

The first post-Federation Southern Rhodesian Definitive issue (consignments of which were received in Rhodesia by air on 25/1/64, 28/1/64 and 10/2/64, and by sea and rail in seven further consignments between 7/2/64 and 12/10/64) went on sale on 19th February, 1964. (The last Federal issue was withdrawn from sale in Southern Rhodesia the previous day, and demonetized on 1st September, 1964).

A reprint of the 3d. denomination of the new issue was ordered via the High Commissioner on 21st December, 1964, and received on 14th June, 1965. A decision was taken early in 1965 to increase our basic second class mail rate to 2d. as from 1st April that year. A reprint of the 2d. denomination (2½ million stamps) was placed on 18th January, 1965. This was increased to 9 million stamps by telegrapth on 23rd April, 1965. These stamps were received in two consignments on 14/6/65 and 17/8/65. By August, 1965, it was clear that a new second Definitive issue ordered on 24th March, 1965, using much the same designs but omitting "Southern" from "Southern Rhodesia," with a promised delivery date of August, 1965, would not in fact be available by then. This was the commencement of our post Independence problems.

The situation was then precarious as supplies of the 2d., 3d., 4d., 1/3d. and 2/- values of the first Definitive issue then on sale were fast running out. Further supplies of these values were ordered on 26th August, 1965. A first consignment of these reprints arrived by air on 9th November, 1965, and was still being distributed to Post Offices when Independence was assumed on 11th November, 1965. It was not until the balance of the order arrived by sea and rail on 3rd January, 1966, that there were sufficient stamps of this issue available to even contemplate an Independence Overprint exercise. To commit such an exercise still required an assured and early date for the delivery of the second Definitive issue.

Receipt of the balance of reprints was delayed considerably by a strike at Southampton and instead of coming by mail boat from there, it was routed on a slower boat from London. At one stage, we thought the consignment had been lost. Could we have anticipated this delay, and that on the second Definitive issue in August last, the order for reprints of certain values of the first Definitive issue would have been made much larger. By the end of November, 1965, we had grave doubts as to whether the British would allow the new second Definitive issue to be shipped. I decided, therefore, as the prospects of an overprint exercise were dwindling, to approach the Prime Minister for his approval to the issue of a single stamp to commemorate the assumption of Independence. It was suggested that this should bear the inscription "Independence 11th November, 1965," the Coat of Arms, and the Dorothy Wilding portrait of the Queen. He agreed within 24 hours, and the stamp was printed and on sale by 8th December, 1965. Quite a speed-up after the delays with overseas orders.

We have been berated for printing far too many of the Independence stamp. In mitigation, I would say that when the order for 750,000 was placed, it seemed likely that this would be the only stamp commemorating Independence, and it was essential that there be no shortage. For the record, the stamp was printed by Mardon Printers (Pvt.) Ltd., on a four-colour Roland machine, using the offset litho process. (Incidentally, this is not the machine used for the Rhopex issue). It was also the first stamp to be printed in Rhodesia. After a lot of James Bond activities, and very great difficulties, which I regret I cannot yet disclose, we were able to get 20% of the new second Definitive issue flown to Rhodesia by 1st January, 1966, and the balance arrived by sea and rail on 4th February.

With the arrival by air of the 20%, it was decided to undertake the overprinting exercise we had had in mind since 11th November. It could not be done earlier for fear of running out of stamps. With the continued delay in delivery of the second Definitive issue, however, the stocks of the 5/- value of the first Definitive issue were then at a low ebb. Foreign currency was an urgent requirement if Rhodesia was to survive the battle of sanctions, and it was hoped that the overprint exercise would produce some of this badly needed commodity.

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To provide a reasonable number of full sets, the Churchill Commemorative stamp was overprinted and the value changed to 5/-. We were sufficiently naive to hope that collectors would accept either the overprinted current 5/- value or the Churchill overprint. In the event, everyone wanted both and we were then taken to task for having too few stamps.

The Independence overprints went on sale on 17th January, 1966. The local market had, with regret, to be starved in the pursuit of foreign currency. Some Rhodesian dealers and philatelists have argued that given a larger supply of the overprints, they could have sold these overseas at above face value, and earned more foreign currency than the Ministry. This I question, as there was ample evidence of our stamps being sent overseas not to earn foreign currency, but on a barter basis to ensure future supplies of other countrys' stamps, to pay bills, and to purchase items not available here. All items for which currency would not be authorized by the Reserve Bank.

Our post-Independence activities to date with the Independence Stamp, the Overprints, the Second Definitive issue, and part of the Rhopex sales (which suggest that this issue will be a popular one) have produced approximately half a million pounds, much of which is in the needed foreign currencies.

Prior to Independence, philatelic sales were handled comfortably from Post Office counters. Since Independence, it has been necessary to establish a Philatelic Bureau, which has had to be staffed by borrowing from other departments in the Ministry, and, at one stage, by employing as assistants University students on vacation. The staff has risen to 40 at times, and even this number has been hard pressed and has worked long hours weekdays and Sundays. Mail orders have peaked to a thousand in a day, and for weeks on end have averaged over three hundred daily. Overseas telephone calls, and cables from dealers have been numerous. With sanctions, the currency problems have been innumerable. In the early stages, curriencies acceptable to the Reserve Bank varied from day to day, as, of course, do rates of exchange. From the points of view of Administration and Accounting, I would welcome a break for reorganisation. After the overprint issue, we said "It will never happen again at this level." We were wrong, it's happening again with the Rhopex issue. Maybe after the Central African Airways Commemorative, the last for this year, there will be a breathing space.

A VISITOR AT RHOPEX

Although by modern standards RHOPEX must have been one of the smallest National Exhibitions ever staged, no one who saw it can deny that its excellence far exceeded any previous National Exhibition held in Southern Africa.

By standing firm on the question of holding a Competitive Exhibition and sticking to their original intention of staging a sponsored Exhibition of invited entries only, the Exhibition Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society of Rhodesia succeeded beyond their wildest dreams in producing an exhibition of such outstanding quality that it will live long in the memory of all visitors to it.

RHOPEX proved conclusively that no competitive exhibition can be of such preeminince. One must remember that every competitor has an inalienable right to participate in the exhibition to the extent of at least one frame in respect of each entry and this must inevitably lead to a considerable amount of poor quality material being displayed and to a lowering of the general standard of the exhibition. Mind you, I do not wish to imply that, in future, there should be no competitive exhibitions—indeed these are essential in order to encourage stamp-collectors of today to improve their own standards and become the serious philatelists of tomorrow, but I do stress the importance of non-competitive exhibitions, whose naturally higher standard must have a greater appeal both to the public, whose support contributes generally to the financial success of an exhibition, and to the Philatelic World who are enabled to see a finer selection of exhibits than would otherwise be the case. This is borne out by RHOPEX where I saw collections on display which have not been seen at exhibitions for many years and, indeed, some had not previously been shown outside local Society meetings to the greater loss of the philatelic world.

Before turning to the details of the stamps themselves which I had the privilege of seeing throughout the run of the exhibition, I should like to make a point of the strength of Southern African Philately. Despite the excellence of the invited ex-

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hibits from "Royal" societies overseas and the eminince of the philatelists who contributed to these exhibits, I have no hesitation in stating that these exhibits did not come up to the very high standard of the majority of the locally invited displays.

Turning at long last to the actual exhibits themselves—what a Philatelic Feast it was! From Classic Rarities to the latest Rhodesian Issue, placed on sale at the opening of the exhibition, the choice was wide and very satisfying, no matter what the individual taste!

As the exhibition was staged in Bulawayo, it is only right to discuss the Rhodesian Exhibits first. These ranged from the stamps issued by the British South Africa Company through the individual issues of Northern and Southern Rhodesia and Nyasaland to the post Independence Issues of Rhodesia. The entire field was very well covered by eight exhibitors together with an official exhibit by the Ministry of Posts and a display by the printers, Mardon and Co. (Pvt.) Ltd., showing the entire process followed in the production of the special "RHOPEX" issue. Amid such a galaxy of wonderful treasures it was difficult to select particular items for special mention, but I was reduced almost to incoherence by the magnificent range of essays, proofs and pulls from the different printing stages of the post-Independence issues of Rhodesia displayed by the Ministry of Posts which ended with complete sheets of the high values of the Harrison definitive issue printed locally by Mardon's as a reserve against the continued impossibility of obtaining further supplies from Great Britain. This will almost prove a serious loss to Harrison's as the local product is, in my humble opinion, a better printing job than the overseas one, although supplies of suitable paper are, I understand, precarious, and, as a consequence, future printings may be distinguishable by differences in the paper used until conditions return to normal when I imagine Mardon's will deservedly get the contract for printing future definitive issues instead of Harrison's. Incidentally, a little bird has whispered in my ear that the experiences of producing the RHOPEX issue have resulted in two eminent personages joining the ranks of stamp-collectors, to whit the Minister of Finance and Posts and the Postmaster-General!

Among the B.S.A. Company stamps, particular mention should be made of the 1890 £5 Colour Trial in Blue and the 1890 plate proofs **with trial cancellations,** the latter probably unique and, of course, the famous error "COMPANY" omitted from the overprinted Cape 4d. There was such a wealth of proofs, imperf. varieties and other rarities on display that it is impossible to signal out any one item without being unfair to the many others precluded from mention by consideration of space alone, however mention must be made of the highly specialised study of the "Double-Heads" which contained all the recognised rarities even to shades of the errors of colour!

Turning to the Federation Countries individually, the first Southern Rhodesia ½d. imperf. between was shown in all its combinations while the most interesting item from Northern Rhodesia was a pair of the K.G. V 6d. printed on the gummed side. Many rarities from Nyasaland were on show, including the 1891 £10 postally used, the 1895 2d. bisects, the £25 mint and best of all the extremely rare 2d. and 4d. of 1907 with MCA watermark. A remarkable display of the Postal History of Rhodesia followed and included such rarities as "GUBULAWAYO BECHUANALAND" and "RULAWAYO" postmarks and a series of Railway and Travelling Post Offices, while this section of the Exhibition was brought to finality by a display showing the gradual development of Airmails in the Rhodesias culminating with the latest Central African Airways flights whose 20th anniversary is being celebrated at the end of May. In this the highlights were probably the "Concession Labels" used from December 10th to 25th, 1937, waiving the payment of Postage Due on understamped air mails and the very rare "CHIRUNDU S.R." postmark on flown cover which was only in use for one day (May 24th, 1939). This is understood to be the only commercial cover in existence, the balance of the mail carried having consisted entirely of official mail.

Turning to the other countries whose stamps were exhibited for our delectation, the remaining representatives from Southern Africa were ably represented by really fine exhibits of the Provinces making the Union, and now the Republic, together with displays of all the Protectorates, S.W.A. and Mocambique. Space alone prevents me from doing full justice to these treasures, but I was completely enthralled at the sight of an amazing display of Die and Plate Proofs etc of the Edwardian period which included such items as Natal £5, £10 and £20 Die

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Proofs and "specimens," Transvaal E VII £5 "specimen" and Cape of Good Hope Plate Proof pairs in the issued colours. Natal Embossed stamps used on covers and a lovely 1d. on part newspaper and a very fine used copy of the 1/- (S.G. 58) vied with such other rarities as Transvaal S.G. 2a used and the 1d. with error of watermark. Mount Currie vertical strip of four and a marvellous display of Cape Triangulars including a block of four of the 4d. on blued paper and a lovely 4d. woodblock on cover, while the Protectorates competed for attention with a magnificent show of Cape, O.F.S. and Orange River Colony stamps used in Basutoland; the G.B. unappropriated Dies were well represented in Bechuanaland up to the £1 mint and "specimen" and a selection of the scarce Military Telegraphs while Swaziland included such items as the 1889 ½d. and 2d. with inverted overprint, 2d. with "SWAZIELAN" error and a good display of the "Decimal" surcharges closing with a fine study of the forgeries of the first issue.

South West Africa was also strongly represented from the earliest days of the German occupation (MS Cancellation "CAPE CROSS" on Germany 20 pf "Wanderstempel," Herero and other Campaign Covers, etc., etc.) to a selection of all issues under the aegis of South Africa, while Mocambique constituted a fine range of proofs, colour trials and "specimen" overprints. This section was rounded off with a fine display of Union K.G. V Heads and a selection of Republician "abnormals" including a mint block of four of the current ½c Kingfisher completely imperf.

(To be continued).

BOOKS ON FORGERIES

The "Philatelic Literature Review" draws attention to the following publications:

Album Weeds, by Reverend R. B. Earee. Reprinted Paperbound Editions, published in eight volumes, illustrated and bound in attractive matching colours, comprising: Afghanistan to British Columbia; British East Africa to Denmark; Dominica to Iceland; India to Luxembourg; Madeira to North Borneo; Norway to St. Kitts; St. Helena to Switzerland; Tasmania to Zululand.

The Early Philatelic Forgeries of all Countries, by Moens, et al. The book of 224 pages, describes some 750 old-time fakes before 1870 found in many collections.

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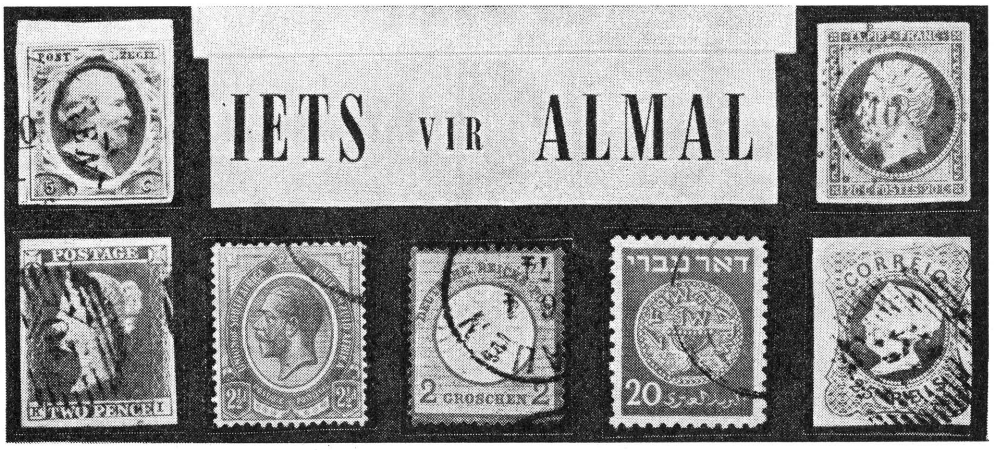
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POSSTUKKE VAN DIE TWEEDE VRYHEIDSOORLOG 1899-1902

Deur N. C. Combrink

(Vervolg van die vorige uitgawe)

Die oorlog het op 11 Oktober 1899 'n aanvang geneem. Die Transvaalse Republikeinse magte het Natal binne geval en na 'n paar dae is verskeie plekke ingeneem. Posstempels van hierdie plekke is baie interessant. Die troepe van die Transvaal het hul eie posseëls saam geneem en met stempels van die Natalse poskantore gefrankeer. Die volgende plekke kom op die Filatelistiese kaart voor: Newcastle, Glenco, Elandslaagte, Ladysmith, Colenso, Hattingspruit, Dundee, Charlestown, Ingogo Rail, Dannhauser, Waschbank, Modderspruit, Keerstation, Mount Prospect, van Reenen en Nqutu in Zululand. In sommige gevalle is 'n rubber stempel gebruik en die woorde „Hoofdlager," „Z.A.R.," „Ingange," „Veld-Post," of die voorletters „P.K." bygevoeg.

NEWCASTLE: In die geval van Newcastle, is daar dertien verskillende tipes van stempels gevind. Die stempels was van rubber en die afdrukke oor die posseëls op die koeverte het uit twee tot vier horisontale lyne bestaan. Een van drie lyne lees bv. „P.K. Newcastle, Z.A.R., 21-Nov.-1899." Hierdie datum is die vroegste bekende datum na die intog van die Republiekeinse magte in Natal, alhoewel generaal Erasmus en sy troepe reeds die 15de Oktober Newcastle ingeneem en dit sy hoofkwartiere gemaak het. Die volgende dag was generaal Joubert ook in Newcastle.

Dit was maar onlangs dat meer verskillende stempels van Newcastle aan die lig gekom het; eers was daar net sewe bekend. Van die wat later ontdek is, is daar een met vier lyne, „P.K., Newcastle, Z.A.R., Dec. 189--." Nog 'n ander, „Wd. Resident Vrederechter, Kantoor Newcastle 2 Dec. 1899." Dit is met twee lyne.

In die geval van die Newcastle-stempels is die voorletter „P.K." of soms die woord „Ingange" met die wood „Newcastle" gebruik. Die laaste datum van die Newcastle-stempels is skynbaar so ver bekend dit van 8 Maart 1900.

ANDER RUBBER STEMPELS: Nog in Natal was daar plekke waar rubber stempels gebruik is. Modderspruit stempel was groot, in twee lyne die naam en die datum daaronder. Een koevert is bekend met die stempel oor die posseël, met nog 'n dubbel sirkel-stempel, „Hooflager Z.A.R. 14 Feb. 1900." Modderspruit het ook 'n ovaal rubberstempel gehad met die datum „23 Dec. 1899."

Ander plekke waar ovaal stempels gebruik was, is Charlestown, Ingogo, Mount Prospect, Elandslaagte en Keerstation.

Die metaal, enkel- en dubbel-sirkelstempel van die poskantoor was ook gebruik soos in die geval van Dundee, waar altwee gebruik was.

Burgermagte van die Oranje-Vrystaat het Natal oor die van Reenenpas binne getrek en Vrystaatse posseëls in Natal gebruik. So is daar seëls met stempels van Newcastle, Elandslaagte, Dundee, van Reenen en Hoofdlager. Daar is nie meer bekend nie en die hoeveelheid Vrystaatse posseëls in Natal gebruik is nie veel nie. Ook in die geval van hierdie seëls is die stempel van Newcastle van rubber, die ander is die enkel- of dubbel-sirkel-stempel soos reeds genoem.

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DIE COMMANDO BRIEF: Oor hierdie stukkie papier het verskeie kenners van posseëls al geskrywe. Die volgende is 'n kort oorsig oor hierdie onderwerp:

In die begin van Oktober 1899 het burgermagte van die Oranje-Vrystaat die Kaapkolonie binne getrek. Die eerste briewe van die burgers het geen posseëls gedra nie en alle koeverte moes deur die Kommandant of offisiere geparafeer word, maar soos die leër uitgebrei het, het hierdie taak te groot geword. A. E. Geldhof skryf in „Stamps of the Orange Free State," hoedat 'n sekere mnr. A. F. Hochapfel, 'n apteker, wat ook op kommando was, opdrag gekry het om 'n posseël vir die doel te ontwerp en te laat druk. Hochapfel het onder generaal De la Rey gedien in die kommando waarvan kommandant Wessels blykbaar aan bevel was.

Uit 'n artikel deur J. H. Rathbone in „The Anglo-Boer War Philatelist," blyk dit volgens 'n geskrif deur Hochapfel self, dat hy, Hochapfel, op 14 Oktober 1899 as veldpos-meester te Scholy's Nek naby Kimberley aangestel is en dat generaal Barend Greyling vir hom opdrag gegee het om die posseël te voorsien.

Die sogenaamde Commando Brief-seël deur Hochapfel ontwerp het toe verskyn, 'n klein stukkie geel gompapier met swart drukwerk daarop en die woorde „Commando Brief, O.V.S., Franko." Hierdie seël of bewysstuk het geen geldelike waarde gehad nie maar het alleenlik as bewysstuk gedien om die burgerlike poskantoorbeamptes 'n aanduiding te gee dat die briewe van burgers op kommando afkomstig was en dus posgeld en boetevry was.

Die Commando Brief-seëls was in velle van 20 gedruk met tanding 12. Elke seël het 34 x 25 mm. gemeet en terwyl hulle haastig gedruk was, het daar 'n aantal klein drukfoutjies soos weglating van punte en swak enkele letters voorgekom.

Die vroegste datumstempel op 'n Commando Brief tot dusver gevind is die van 20 Oktober 1899. Vyf dae na die Vrystaatse burgers die grens oorgesteek het, die naam van die plek was Modder River.

Verskillende datumstempels dui aan dat die Commando Brief op baie plekke in die Vrystaat, Kaapkolonie en Natal gebruik was; plekke soos Bloemfontein, Heilbron, Kroonstad, Springfontein, Spytfontein, Barkly West, Aliwal North, Jacobsdal, Colenso, Dundee en so meer. Die laaste datum sover bekend is Maart 1900.

Soos dit met baie posseëls gaan was die Commando Brief ook aan vervalsings onderhewig. Twee tipes is bekend.

'n Aantal jare gelede het die Commando Brief maar min waarde gehad. Versamelaars was selfs onder die indruk dat hierdie seël oorspronklik net vir spekulasie-doeleindes gedruk was en nie enige besondere poswaarde gehad het nie. Met die tyd egter, soos hierdie materiaal aan die lig gekom het en groeiende bewyse gelewer het, van waar orals die Commando Brief gebruik was, het die waarde van hierdie posstuk gestyg, vernaamlik waar dit op koeverte of met 'n duidelike posstempel voorkom.

ORANJE-VRYSTAAT SE POSSEËLS IN KAAPKOLONIE GEBRUIK: Volgens Rich se boek, kom dit voor dat Vrystaatse burgermagte vroeg in November 1899 die Kaapkolonie binne getrek het en Vrystaatse posseëls in daardie gebied gebruik het. 'n Mens vind pleknaamstempels op die seëls soos, Palmietfontein, Aliwal North, Colesberg, Lady Grey, Barkly East, Burghersdorp en Gelegenfontein. Die laasgenoemde was so agt myl van Burghersdorp af. Dié poskantoor bestaan nie meer nie. In meeste gevalle was die stempels tweeledig, soos destyds in gebruik, d.w.s. die klein ovaal nommerstempel op die posseël, plus die stempel met sirkel of sirkel binne 'n vierkant. Die laasgenoemde twee tipes het die naam van die plek aangegee met „C.G.H." daarby en die datum in die middel van die stempel. Daar is stempels sonder die „C.G.H." Dit is waar die letters van die handstempel verwyder is of latere stempels wat nie hierdie letters bevat het nie. Vrystaatse posseëls was nog tot Maart 1900 in die Kaapkolonie gebruik.

(Word vervolg).

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SUIDWES-AFRIKA

Twee seëls, 3c en 15c, is op 4 Julie uitgereik ter viering van die 90e verjaardag van dr. H. H. Vedder.

Dr. Vedder is op 3 Julie 1876 in Westerenger, Ravensbergerland, Duitsland, gebore. Kort na sy geboorte verhuis sy ouers na Lenzinghausen waar hy later skoolgaan en opleiding as Sendeling ontvang in die Sendelingskool te Barmen. Hy studeer 4 jaar in teologie aan die Rynse Sendingstasie Barmen en na sy eindeksamen studeer hy in Engels en Hollands in Brittanje.

In Januarie 1904 kom hy met die skip „Helene Woermann" in Swakopmund aan. Na sy aankoms werk hy as Sendeling in Swakopmund tot 1910 en bestudeer hy die inheemse Bantoetale. In 1911 neem hy die beheer van die sendingskool oor op die plaas Gaub naby Tsumeb.

In 1919 na die eerste Wêreldoorlog, word hy teruggestuur na Duitsland maar in 1922 word hy toegelaat om terug te keer na Suidwes-Afrika waar hy die beheer van die Augustineum Opleidingskollege te Okahandja oorneem en Bantoe-Onderwysers begin oplei. In 1923 word hy vereer deur die toekenning aan hom van 'n ere doktorsgraad in filosofie deur die Universiteit Tübingen in Duitsland. In 1937 word hy aangestel in die amp van „Präses der Rheinischen Mission in Südwest" en behou die amp tot 1947. In 1943 neem die Administrasie van Suidwes-Afrika die opleiding van Bantoe-Onderwysers oor en tree dr. Vedder af met pensioen. In 1948 word hy verder vereer deur die toekenning aan hom van 'n ere doktorsgraad deur die Universiteit van Stellenbosch.

Gedurende 1950 word hy deur die Regering van die Unie van Suid-Afrika gekies as Senator vir Suidwes-Afrika maar in 1958 na 'n motorongeluk tree hy uit die politiek en lewe sedertdien in sy huis op Okahandja.

Dr. Vedder het 'n deeglike kennis van al die Bantoetale van die Gebied en het leesboeke opgestel in Nama en Herero; hy het ook dele van die Bybel in hierdie tale vertaal.

Op versoek van die Administrasie van Suidwes-Afrika skryf hy die geskiedkundige werk „Das alle Südwest-Afrika" wat later in Afrikaans en Engels vertaal is. Vir die Afdeling Onderwys van die Administrasie stel hy die letterkundige boek „Einführung in die Geschichte Südwesafrikas" op.

Behalwe etlike kerklike werke het hy ook verhale geskryf oor die mense en diere van Suidwes-Afrika—die land wat hy liefhet en gedien het vir 'n leeftyd—in belang van Suidwes-Afrika en tot opheffing van alle rasse.

REPUBLIEK VAN BOTSWANA

Op 30 September verskyn die eerste uitgawe van die nuwe republiek Botswana (Betsjoeanaland) en wel die huidige vastereeks met die opdruk „Republic of Botswana." Terselfdertyd word 'n stel van vier seëls uitgereik om die bereiking van onafhanklikheid te herdenk: 2½, 5, 15 en 35c. Amptelike eerstedagkoeverte teen 67½c stuk kan verkry word van: Philatelic Service, P.O. Box 100, Lobatsi, Botswana.

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TOPICAL COMMENTS

AN UNEXPLAINED DIFFICULTY

Has anyone got round to finding the reasons why our postal officials go to the bother of preparing special commemorative cancellers (quite an expensive business) and relevant philatelic bulletins when it is quite clear that they do not wish us to have the news in time for first day impressions?

What a great pity the Republic's postal representation was absent from the 28th Congress of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa which took place in a most convivial spirit and pleasant atmosphere at Bulawayo (sorry to disappoint, Hal old Pal), during the first week last month, for they could have taken back with them, for the edification of their bosses, a glowing picture of clear-cut public confidence as demonstrated by the Rhodesian P.M.G., Lt.-Col. C. R. Dickenson, C.M.G., when, in a thirty minute address to Congress he divulged more of those things which our people regard as top secret, than we have had in the

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fifty-odd years since 1910. And more Colonel Dickenson unflinchingly gave straight from the shoulder answers to some very delicate questions put to him—questions which our P.M.G. would have deigned to reply to.

But, to return to the first paragraph above—

On Thursday, 12 May, we received the latest bulletin dated "May 1966" which does no more than tell you, dear collector, that a number of special things had been prepared for you, but regretably you may not have them. Irish you say? Let us detail what we mean:

(1) Republic Festival Post Office Exhibition—special canceller with fixed date 20-31.5.1966;

(2) Philatelic Exhibition at Cape Town, 16 to 21 May 1966—special canceller with fixed date;

(3) No. 1 Field Post Office (Republic Festival Celebrations — military camp, Pretoria vicinity)—18 May to 4 June —first day postmark 18.5.66;

(4) Golden Gate—a new postal agency opened 1 June—special canceller; and

(5) Bontebok Park — newly established postal agency—first day 1.6.66.

Quite a few, and to many of us quite important. Ironically the bulletin advises us under the heading, "First Day Souvenir Envelopes," that we may not have any because we were too late, for "requests for impressions of all the abovementioned datestamps timeously to the Philatelic Bureau, G.P.O., Pretoria."

Now! We plead with you. How can we; how can any other Society, above all, how can the South African Philatelist be of service to members and readers when we have the post office people against us?

We do know that the Philatelic Federation took up this matter before and that the reply and reason given were somewhat vague if crudely final. And that's that. When you're up against officialdom you may as well say "ours not to wonder why" and retire.

Well, there you are. We in the inner circle could get all the F.D.C.'s we required but, so sorry, we could not let you know in time.

A COMEDY OF ERRORS

It is our bet that the Republican Festival issue on order for the 31st May, will turn out to be South Africa's most controversial stamp issue. You know why?

1c—We have always understood a "cut diamond" to mean a cunning fellow. Just what do we understand from this design?

2½c—A white bird claved in black. How ironic. And it is said to signify "freedom."

3c—Beautifully portrays a South African agricultural product of severe drought-parched plants (yellow), cultivated under desert conditions (vermillion and red-brown).

Just how this is supposed to symbolise (healthy) South African agriculture conditions and the growth of a nation, is most inconceivable. It is enough to scare away any intending immigrant, particularly if he has an eye to farming. Certainly it would keep us away.

7½c—A comical distortion which brings to mind a controversial statue in Cape Town and which requires a very, very wide flight of fancy to bring it into association with the beautifull opening lines of our National Anthem.

Without committing anybody, we are most unhappy with the choice of designs and colours. Most certainly the 3c should be scrapped, if not the entire set.

* * * *

(So far it is on record that two professors are very pleased with the above mentioned issue, the trouble is most probably that we are not all professors, only philatelists.—Editor).—("Afrikaanse Filatelistevereniging Newsletter").

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P.O. BOX 702 — BLOEMFONTEIN

THE PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meets on the first and third Tuesday each month in the
B.C.E.S.L. Hall, St. Andrews Streets,
at 8.00 p.m.
Visitors cordially welcome.
P.O. BOX 3 - PORT ELIZABETH

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL

Meetings 1st and 3rd Wednesdays monthly at 7.30 p.m. in the
Geo Cato Room, City Hall, Durban (Entrance West Street...door nearest Beach)
VISITORS CORDIALLY WELCOMED
P.O. Box 588, Durban. Secretary's Telephone 838-682 (Evenings).

THE PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meets on the first Monday of every month in the
Council Chamber of the Technical College Church Street East, Pretoria
at 7.45p .m.
VISITORS CORDIALLY WELCOMED.
P.O. Box 514, Pretoria.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

meets Twice a Month: Second Tuesday and Fourth Monday
at
Room 97, Public Library, Johannesburg
at 8 p.m.
VISITORS ARE WELCOME.
HON. SECRETARY,
P.O. BOX 4967 - JOHANNESBURG.

THE AEROPHILATELIC SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Meetings are not held, but Members get covers, etc. of special South African flights and other interesting items—more than covered by the small annual subscription.
News letters sent. Affiliated to F.I.S.A.
P.O. BOX 3654, CAPE TOWN.

THE PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meet on the second Wednesday of every month in the
Railway Recreation Club, Berea Park, Pretoria
at 8.00 p.m.
P.O. Box 2388 — Pretoria
ALL PHILATELISTS ARE WELCOME.

SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELY

Meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 8.15 p.m.
Burlington House Boardroom (2nd Floor) c/r. Rissik & Marshall Streets, Johannesburg.
ALL WELCOME.
Secretary: P.O. Box 11502, Johannesburg

THE SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

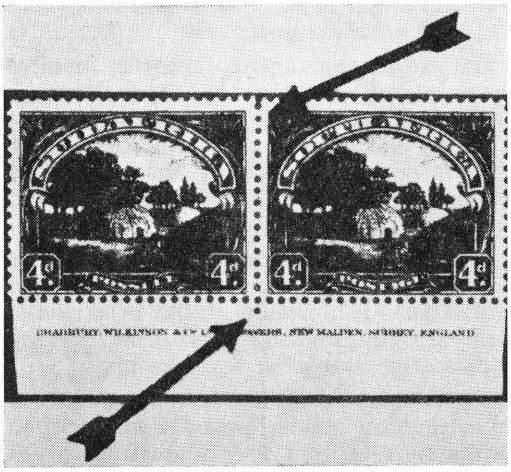
meets at 2.15 p.m. on the second Saturday of every month in the
Staff Tea Lounge, Basement, Corner House.
Corner Sauer and Commissioner Streets, Johannesburg (Commissioner St. Entrance).
ALL INTERESTED IN SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELY ARE WELCOME.
P.O. Box 378, Krugersdorp (Secretary's Telephone: Business 660-7511; Home 660-3461.

THE EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

P.O. Box 483, Benoni. (Hon. Secretary).
Meetings every 2nd Monday in the month at the
Benoni Tennis Club House
Benoni, at 7.45 p.m.
VISITORS ARE WELCOME.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Sir,—I enclose a photograph of a pair of 4d. brown Bradbury Wilkinson printing of the Union of South Africa. These stamps are recognisably from Plate 2 as the value tablet in the Afrikaans stamp is damaged. The perforation is that of Group 3 in accordance with the Union Handbook grouping—in other words, the comb perforator moved upwards.

What, however, is the explanation of the additional perforation hole in the margin above the inscription? This extra perforation did occur in Group 1 perforation, but should appear in the side margin in Group 3.

Measurement will show that it is not the same perforation as that at the top of the stamps merging with the middle hole in the horizontal line of perforation; nor is it identical with the hole immediately below that—this can also be verified by measurement.

It is difficult to know how the perforator worked in this instance. Perhaps one of your readers has the answer?

—A. LESLIE LEON.

CURRENT COMMENTS

Messrs. Robertson Stamp Coy (Pty.) Ltd., of Johannesburg, draws attention to the following interesting aspects of certain current issues and market conditions:

One sheet of sixty stamps of the current 5/- Rhodesia issue shows the shading of the cows to the left, giving the effect of two additional white cows.

A sheet of the 1/- S. Rhodesia stamps overprinted "Independence 11th November 1965" shows the normal overprint on each stamp of the first horizontal row of the sheet; on the second horizontal row the overprint was very weak, while on the remaining four horizontal rows there were no overprints at all on the stamps. Thus there were two vertical rows showing two stamps with overprints and four without, and as only ten strips exist, the condition may be considered as a major printing error.

There are also several interesting minor varieties of this overprint issue, among which the 9d. value appears to be a double overprint. On some stamps of the sheet the second overprint is very clear but on other stamps it is not quite so clear and appears to be a "kiss" printing. Offsets of the overprints have been found on the backs of various values and, judging by the high prices asked for them, overseas dealers seem to have a good opinion of them.

Owing to sanctions against Rhodesia further printings of the current issue are not available from the London printers and the stamps will be duplicated as closely as possible in Salisbury. Some values have already been printed and will be issued when needed. Ultimately the entire current set from 1d. to £1 will probably be printed in Rhodesia.

The demand for the Ropex issue of Southern Rhodesia, in both ordinary and miniature sheets, was so great that the original printing orders had to be increased. We compliment Rhodesia on the printing of these stamps which were well done, although there are some minor varieties of special interest.

Reverting to conditions further afield, the latest advices from overseas show substantial rises in the prices of comparatively recent British commemorative stamps as the numbers printed of the top values were not very large for a country like Great Britain. The phosphor stamps particularly are rising very considerably in price; dealers are advertising to buy them at prices which make one open one's eyes. A similar trend is noticeable in a number of commemoratives that have lain dormant for some time and whose value is now being appreciated. For instance the latest price for the Great Britain £1 Postal Union Congress is £60, against the current catalogue value of £13, while many other Commonwealth commemoratives that are currently catalogued at

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a few shillings are now costing almost as many pounds per set! We recently sold to a London dealer a low value Norfolk Island commemorative for which we could not find a demand at 27c each for £3 per copy. Such is the boom on overseas that no one knows which will be the next set to suddenly soar in price but the numbers printed of British Commonwealth commemoratives of the past couple of years are very low in comparison with the quantities printed of sets issued three and more years ago and the overseas market and particularly speculators are not slow in realising that these stamps have a future.

ORANGE FREE STATE STUDY CIRCLE

The above Philatelic Study Circle was formed in August 1953, and consists of advanced Philatelists of many countries, mainly the U.K., the Republic of South Africa, and the United States, to make a detailed study of the Postage Stamps, Postal Stationery, Postal Markings, and Postal History of the Orange Free State 1854-1900 and Orange River Colony 1900-1910.

Its principal aim has been the publication of a comprehensive handbook collating and editing the research and discoveries made and recorded by the Circle.

Volume I will consist of a detailed study of the Postal History, the various issues of Postage Stamps and Postal Stationery of the O.F.S. 1854-1900, will be fully illustrated octavo, bound hard covers, and is anticipated by early 1966.

It is considered that the price will not exceed £3-3-0 (R6.30), postage and packing a small extra, and as the publication will be a limited one, those interested in securing a copy of this commendable handbook, will be well advised to make early application to the Handbook Production Manager, 76, Second Cross Road, Twickenham, Middlesex, England.

AUCTIONEER PUTS BAN ON LIPSTICK

London Stamp auctioneer Robson ("Robbie") Lowe has been getting world-wide news headlines in recent months.

Cause of the uproar is his staff ban on lipstick and cosmetics. He pays the girls on his staff a third over the award wage but insists they wear no make-up at work.

"It mucks up a young girl's magical charms," he explained, adding that a mathemetician had worked out for him the startling fact that between the ages of 15 and 75 a woman spends four years, 14 weeks and six days applying make-up to her face.

Mr. Lowe claimed that since he imposed the ban his annual turnover had increased by $200,000—achieved he thinks because the girls are not wasting their time making trips to the washroom to make-up.

When Mr. Lowe's controversial stand was revealed to a somewhat startled world in February, reception to his ideas was very mixed. Some males cheered Mr. Lowe on, but the majority of newspaper readers seemed to think that Mr. Lowe was slightly crackers and should stick to stamps and leave lipstick alone.

Sydney radio personality Dita Cobb summed up the views of a lot of women on the subject when she wrote in her column in the "Sun": "I don't know how young the girls in his office are, but going by the magical charms of most of the girls I know, they are vastly enhanced, to say the least, by a good lashing of goo.

"I have nothing against short, short skirts revealing pretty legs, or even topless dresses revealing pretty bossoms, but heaven preserve me from a naked face on anything but a teenager!"—("Stamp News").

STAMP SALE ON HIGH SEAS COMES UNSTUCK

An attempt to auction a fortune in rare stamps on the high seas, with buyers bidding by land-ship radio telephone came unstuck today.

The floating auction started briskly enough aboard the liner Queen Mary, 800 miles out from New York, carrying British and European philatelists to the international stamp exhibition in Washington on Saturday.

But bad reception prevented prospective buyers in London, Basle, Paris, Milan and New York from getting through to the ship. Worst of all, eager experts on land could

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hear the rare stamps being put up for sale —but could not get their own bids in. "They've lost the Queen Mary," an engineer at the New York radio transmitter wailed.

Then a helpful London exchange voice came through offering help. But asked to relay bids to the liner, London said: "I'm a post office engineer, not a stamp auctioneer."

A desperate New York bidder shot off a 12,000-dollar offer (R8,600) for a block of rare blue stamps bearing George Washington's portrait—but he never knew if it reached the Queen Mary.

Bidding in London reached £19,000 (R38,000) but in the end the block went for a record price of £20,000 (R40,000) to a happy bidder tucked away on board the ship.

The auction closed with neither New York, Paris, nor London able to bid successfully for any of the £200,000 (R400,000) worth of stamps.—Sapa-Reuter. —(Johannesburg "Star").

REVIEW

The Australian Dependencies Stamp Catalogue, 1966 Edition, published by Review Publications (Pty.) Ltd., Dubbo. N.S.W. Australia. Price 50c.

The new edition of this reference catalogue differs materially from the original edition published in 1964. The new catalogue covers only the current Australian Dependencies of Australian Antarctica Territory, Christmas Island, Cocos Island, Norfolk Island, Nauru and the Territory of Papua/New Guinea (from 1952 on). The pre-war listings of the North West Pacific Islands, New Britain, Papua and New Guinea have been dropped as they are now covered in a separate publication — The Papua/New Guinea Stamp Catalogue.

The catalogue has been brought right up to date to include all issues up to and including the February 1966 decimal stamps. Every stamp is illustrated and priced both mint and used.

There has been a tremendous upward revision of prices since the previous edition, highlighting the current popularity of dependencies stamp with collectors in Australia and overseas.

The catalogue now appears in a four colour cover which illustrates Dependencies stamps.

GREAT BRITAIN'S NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM

Work is progressing well at King Edward Building, the home of London's Chief Post Office, on the National Postal Museum which will be opened there this summer. Exhibits from the R. M. Phillips collection, which the Postmaster-General accepted last year, will be displayed.

Mr. F. Marcus Arman will be in charge of the Museum.

A philatelic sales counter will also be opened in the late autumn at one end of the Chief Office. This will take over the work of the public counter at the present Philatelic Bureau in the old Central Telegraph Office, St. Martin's-le-Grand, E.C.1.

The amenities of the Chief Office are also being improved.

NEW ISSUES

Austria. A series of five special postage stamps with motifs of the Alpine flora will be issued the second half of 1966.

A S3,000 stamp, illustrative of Gothic Art in Austria, to be issued in May 1967.

Great Britain. A set of Christmas stamps will be issued for the first time on December 1st.

A block of four different 4d. stamps, depicting British wild birds, will be on sale on July 15th, and a set of four stamps (4d., 6d., 1/3d., and 1/6d.) showing British technology, will be available on September 12th.

The denominations of the stamps to be issued on October 14th, commemorating the 900th Anniversary of the Battle of Hastings, will be 4d., 6d. and 1/3d.

South West Africa. On 4th July South West Africa will issue 3c and 15c stamps commemorating the 9th birthday of Dr. H. H. Vedder, a missionary pioneer, an honoured individual and for some years a Senator for South West Africa.

OBITUARY

As we go to press, we learn with regret of the passing over of Mr. A. Brasch, of Amersfoort, on 5th June, 1966.

Mr. Brasch was a member of the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg, the Afrikaanse Filatelistevereniging and the Society of Israel Philately. He was inter alia, an able collector of the stamps of Israel.

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SOCIETY NEWS

SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELY

April. We were treated to an excellent display of Jewish National Fund Labels by Mrs. Hilda Jeidel. A truly excellent display which could have been improved on by not crowding the sheets. There were many items which most of us would have liked to have in our own collections. She was suitably thanked by Dr. Max Wulfsohn. Mrs. Jeidel advises that she has duplicates and those interested in enlarging their collections can do themselves good by writing to her.

In response to the query in our last newsletter Mr. M. Weinstein of Pretoria advises that the item in question appeared to be that of the Haganah Command of Haifa.

MOOI RIVER STAMP CLUB

May. At a well attended meeting, Mr. O. Botha displayed a Thematic Collection comprising Royal Visit, War Effort and Victory stamps which were in mint condition. The exhibit was well presented and enjoyed by all.

Master Selwijn Block followed with an exhibit of thirty pages of South Africa and United States of America stamps. This was his first effort and a surprisingly good one which we trust will be an inspiration to his contemporaries.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF RHODESIA

April. Mr. A. Fitzstephens was our exhibitor at the meeting. He had no comments to make about his exhibit, presumably on the understanding that his display of Australia spoke for itself. In thanking him, the chairman expressed a wish that there had been more of the £2 Kangeroos to see. The exhibitor endorsed this remark, but commented that the extent of his collection was governed by the depth of his pocket! Catalogue value is something like £30 to £50 each.

Membership continues to grow apace. We welcomed six members last month, and it would seem that we shall be doing much the same at our June meeting.

There will be no meeting of the Society next month.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

April. Seventeen members were présent to act as hosts to four members of the Pretoria Railway Society who had travelled over to Germiston on a social visit. The Pretoria party was under the leadership of Mr. E. Walker.

Three exhibits were tabled by the Pretorians, the first being a collection of mint and used stamps of Ghana from the first overprinted Gold Coast stamps up to the latest Commemorative issue of Ghana. This display was tabled by Mr. L. van Eyk. The second exhibitor, Mr. D. J. C. Reynders, stated that his display would consist of an extensive collection of Nyasaland stamps from the year 1891.

The last display was tabled by Mr. E. Walker, on behalf of Mr. Castignani who had not been able to come over to Germiston. This was a mint collection of Italian issues. Mr. F. E. Drake, the President of the Germiston Society, conveyed the thanks of the members to Mr. E. Walker and his other two exhibitors.

May. The attendance was not up to the usual due to the impending public holiday, the occasion being a visit from the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg. The meeting was most enjoyable and the four exhibits tabled by the Johannesburg Philatelists most entertaining and interesting. The first being a collection of pre-Union labels, newspaper stamps and Z.A.R. issues including forgeries, all being, what the exhibitor, Mr. C. Rosenberg stated in his description of the collection as being the fore-runners of Union. This was followed by Mr. K. Lydall's collection of covers, letters and single postmarks of South Africa, showing the work being done by the Post Offices in dealing with material posted on land, at sea and at airports. Mr. C. Cilliers displayed a very fine collection of First Day Covers of Japan, each and every cover being most colourful and the stamps of fine design depicting scenes of great interest in the majority of cases. A credit to the Japanese Post Office.

Last, but not least, was on display a collection of First Day Covers of Austria. This collection belonged to Mrs. Korelek and was tabled by Mr. O. Tilney on her behalf; again another collection of most interesting covers, very well produced. The President of the Germiston Society, Mr. F. E. Drake, conveyed the thanks of the members to Mr. C. Tilney and his team for coming out to Germiston and showing such fine collections.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

May. This month's meeting resulted in a very pleasant and interesting evening with two collections being exhibited. A satisfactory attendance saw Graham Kriste show his collection of Basutoland and Sam Smith his Israel collection. Prior to exhibiting the stamps Graham read a paper covering his collection which consists, in the main, of the decimal overprints of 1961. This portion,

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a most comprehensive one, is complete with one exception, and also includes a number of unlisted surcharge varieties of which only a few exist.

Sam Smith exhibited his collection of Israel which included many of the early Palestine issues and a most comprehensive collection of covers and stamps of the 1950-60 period, many of the special cancellations used being of great interest to those members present. Included in the exhibit were a large number of airmail letter cards. It may be added that this collection recently won the Allan Cup at the Pretoria Society.

The two exhibitors were heartily thanked for their efforts by Messrs. Reynders and Brown respectively.

Last month members of the Society paid a visit to the Germiston Society but unfortunately lost their way in that city eventually arriving at the venue of the meeting just before nine o'clock. However, the three collections shown soon put the Germiston members in a good mood and our thanks are due to Messrs. van Eijk, Reynders and Castignani who tabled their Ghana, Nyasaland and Italian Commemoratives respectively.

On the second of this month our Society also paid a visit to the Pretoria Society which resulted in one of the biggest "get togethers" in many years, approximately 50 enthusiasts attending. In this instance Railway members also exhibited three collections and we must thank Dr. Goldberg for showing some of his Australian stamps, Mr. van Eijk for his Ghana collection and your secretary who sent along his collection of German East Africa—Tanganyika.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

April 14th. This was the evening set aside for the thematic collectors to show their worth, and six fine exhibits were entered for the Kaganson Cup. These were: Mrs. Coe—Dogs, Mrs. Wannerton—Saints and Madonnas, Mr. Wannerton—Kruger National Park, Dr. Keller—Birds, Dr. Gottschalk—The Voortrekkers, Mrs. Bergman—Within Our Shores.

The winner of the cup for 1966 was Dr. Gottschalk for his collection of "The Voortrekkers." Congratulations are extended to Dr. Gottschalk for an excellent exhibit.

April 28th. The collections shown on this evening were all from Europe, in the 50 years between 1875 and 1925. Mr. R. Putzel's varied selection from Germany comprised covers from German Warships and soldiers participating in the Boxer Rebellion in China; out of the ordinary Bavarian Commemorative covers and German flight covers. From her collection of Belgium, Mrs. Jeidel presented a complete selection of the Belgian stamps over the 50 year period. She pointed out that the value appears in both the official languages of the country, franc, francs and franken alternating on the different issues. Official stamps and postal stationery were also shown.

Mr. Jeidel exhibited stamps of infinite interest and variety from Liechtenstein. Essays of the 1912 set, imperforates, tête-bêche, 1914 Red - Label - Mail, colour trials and proofs of the first Liechtenstein-designed stamps were all shown in this fine selection.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

May. One of the best attended meetings in many years welcomed the Pretoria Railway Society on the occasion of their reciprocal visit and they were certainly not disappointed at the fare supplied by the visitors. Three excellent exhibits were tabled, the first, by Dr. W. Goldberg, comprised the complete George VI issues of the Australian Commonwealth.

This was followed by Mr. Kriste's collection of German East Africa and Tanganyika which included a few of the Mafia stamps, the G.E.A. overprinted issues, the giraffe sets and many items of postal stationery and censored covers. Last but not least Mr. van Eijk tabled his collection of Gold Coast and Ghana covering the period 1937-1965, i.e. from the Coronation of George VI to the decimalisation of their currency. This collection is complete with the exception of a number of the miniature sheets which were issued in conjunction with many of the commemorative issues.

Our congratulations are due to Commander Cyril Enoch who, at Congress, was elected Vice-President for Rhodesia.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

May. Our delegates to the Rhopex congress in Bulawayo, reported back at this meeting and from all accounts it was a happy and most enjoyable affair, with much business successfully accomplished. The exhibits displayed in conjunction with congress were by invitation and were of a very high standard and much appreciated by those delegates who were fortunate enough to see the material on display. Our congratulations to Mr. S. J. Hagger, one of our members, who was elected to the office of vice-President of the Transvaal at this congress.

Amongst the items of interest shown at the meeting, were examples of additional perforations and doctor blade flaws which helped to pass an enjoyable and instructive afternoon.

THE O.F.S. PHILATELIC SOCIETY

April. The meeting was well attended and the fare offered was good. New Issues were shown by various members, and a lively auction added materially to Congress Funds.

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Mr. A. H. Scott displayed yet another portion of his ever-growing Basutoland collection, viz. Cape, Natal, Transvaal and Union stamps used in the territory; K.G. V issues complete, including imprint blocks etc.

Mr. H. E. Roux followed with his complete West Indies (Q.E. II) collection, interspiced with used stamps. Both exhibits were greatly appreciated by those present.

The Society organised a 1,000-page exhibit in the Raadzaal as its contribution to the Republic Festivities and is indebted to a number of its members for their contributions and assistance.

Congratulations are extended to Mr. A. L. Meyburgh, our President, and Mr. H. E. Roux upon their respective election as President and O.F.S. Vice-President of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa at the 1966 Bulawayo Congress.

CAPE PALESTINE ISRAEL PHILATELIC SOCIETY

March. Although Mr. Lewak was absent, his display of airmail covers and various postmarks, including covers with slogans and post office openings, proved very interesting and most absorbing. It initiated various discussions and thoroughly enjoyed by all those present.

April. This meeting was devoted to "Personalities" on Israeli stamps. Messrs. Xavier Piat and Morris Galp were the two exhibitors. As usual Mr. Galp's sheets were greatly admired for the excellence of their presentation. Mr. Piat then delivered a most interesting talk on the History and the story attached to the "personalities" on the stamps.

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

April 5. This was a Swop evening and a good exchange of stamps took place.

May 10. Members were asked to bring along ten sheets that they liked and the following were shown: Dr. Keller—"Austria," Prof. A. Sloan—"Rhodesia and Nyasaland Independence Overprints," Dr. Peisach —"Cayman Islands — uncatalogued colour varieties," C. J. Murray—"Various issues."

—M.F.S.

THEMATIC STAMP CLUB

April 25: Mr. J. Silvie showed his fine Pre-adhesive Postal History of the Cape of Good Hope. This collection always attracts members and is well set out. The exhibit was also shown at the Festival Stamp Exhibition held in Cape Town.

May 9: Mrs. L. Coe showed her thematic exhibit "Dogs" which is really well laid out and interesting. Mr. W. G. Combrink spoke of his impressions of the Rhodesian Congress.

May 23. Mr. W. G. Combrink gave members an insight into Printing Processes. The Government photos of the printing of the Republican Fifth Anniversary stamps was shown, as well as illustrations of the line engraved stamps, and other processes.

—M.F.S.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa will take place on 20th August, 1966.

TRANSVAAL TRIANGULAR NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS

Major H. M. Criddle, of Surrey, has requested the deletion of the final sentence of para. 1 of his article appearing on p. 52 of the March 1965 issue as it was not included in his copy and was probably transposed from elsewhere.

Referring to the article "Transvaal Numeral Cancellations" by C. S. Rosenberg and J. H. Harvey Pirie, appearing in our November 1965, p. 205, number, Major Criddle is able to add No. 24 to those already listed.

He writes that he has seen this mark in conjunction with a VRIJHEID squared octagon dated 13 JUL 89. It was on a registered cover to Baden franked with the 1885 Enschede issue (totalling 1s., 1½d. and a 2½d. ship mark) bearing three strikes of the canceller. The other markings incidentally were Johannesburg 18 JUL 89, Cape Town 24 JUL 89 and Lahr (Baden) 13 AUG 89.

"CAPE TYPE" NUMERAL POSTMARKS

Referring to the list of these postmarks appearing on p. 32, February 1964, issue of the S.A. Philatelist, Major Criddle points out that Nos. 39 and 241 are given as pertaining to Paarl and Grootfontein respectively, but he has recently obtained:

No. 39—accompanied by CDS 'Cape Town/ Cape Colony/B/Sp 29/68.' A local post cover within Cape Town.

No. 241— accompanied by CDS 'Hermanus/Petrus/???/Au 3 97.' Cover to the United States of America.

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WANTS, OFFERS & EXCHANGE

(3½c per word per insertion with a minimum of 40c per insertion)

BOLD TYPE AT DOUBLE THE ABOVE RATE.

GERMAN COLONIALS. Am breaking up a nice collection. Enquiries to Douglas Roth, Mona Crescent, Newlands, Cape.

GEVRA: Posstempels, koeverte (geen EDK's) en filateliestukke van Tristan da Cunha, veral van voor 1952.—N. Dekker, Mofinhof 14, Troyestraat, Sunnyside, Pretoria.

IF STAMPS OF.—Germany, Austria and other Western European countries are wanted, first try us.—S.A. STAMP CENTRE P.O. Box 6891, Johannesburg. Telephone 22-1391. (Want lists invited).

ANGLO-BOER WAR PHILATELIC SOCIETY, quarterly magazine with exchange packet in U.K. Subscription R1.00 (10/-) yearly. Secretary, J. H. Rathbone, "Allways", Rudheath, Northwich, Cheshire, U.K.

FOR WORLD STAMP NEWS, market commentary, new issues, postmark studies, book reviews, etc., etc. Read the "PHILATELIC MAGAZINE," published every two weeks by Harris Publications Ltd., of London. Annual sub. R2-25 (£1.2.6). Agent in South Africa: D. C. D. Castle, 174 Cooper Street, Greytown, Natal.

COLLECTIONS WANTED for immediate cash settlement: Large or small, specialised or general. Top prices paid for popular sets and rare issues in fine condition.—ELIEZER BLUM, P.O. Box 1669, Cape Town. (Established in Cape Town since 1930).

TRISTAN DA CUNHA, GOUGH ISLAND, PAQUEBOT covers a speciality; S.A.N.A.E. and Marion Island multiple postmark covers. BOK PHILATELISTS, P.O. Box 3321, Cape Town.

1840-1900.—If you want good stamps of this period, then write to DOUGLAS ROTH, Mona Crescent, Newlands, Cape.

ARE YOU SURE you have all the back numbers of the South African Philatelist you should have? Ask for a schedule of the numbers still obtainable. P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

GERMAN SOUTH WEST AFRICA: Wanted early forerunners on cover or on piece, or any other items of interest. Top prices paid. L. ABRAMS, P.O. Box 7875, Johannesburg. Telephone: Office 22-1630; home 45-4075.

WANTED FOR CASH ! ! ! Southern African T.P.O.'s, Sea Post and Paquetbot markings on cover or on piece. Offers to J. M. Weinstein, P.O. Box 419, Pretoria.

MICHEL CATALOGUES: Germany 1966 R1-05 (from August 1965); Europe 1966 R4-20 (from October 1965); Übersee (non-European countries) volume I and II, R5-60 each ex stock; volume III R5-60 (from September 1965). All prices excluding postage.—S.A. Stamp Centre. P.O. Box 6891, Johannesburg. Phone 22-1391.

REPUBLICAN PRINTING ABNORMALITIES!!! Offers wanted by J. Burrell, P.O. Box 397, Krugersdorp.

South African Collectors' Society for the Union Collector—magazine, exchange packet. Subscription 15/- ($2) year. Write Hon. Secretary, W. A. Page, 138 Chastilian Road Dartford, Kent, England.

LATVIA (Lettland; Lettonie) out of the way items and bulk common stamps wanted.—J. Michelson, P.O. Box 9314, Johannesburg.

UNIONS WANTED. — Anything unusual in hyphenated Rotos.—E. Walker, P.O. Box 2388, Pretoria.

WANTED.—Accumulations, Collections, Office Lots on and off paper. Turn those odd boxes of philatelic "junk" into cash, or exchange it with us for stamps, albums or accessories that you need.—ROBEMARK PHILATELISTS (PTY.) LTD., 21 Joubert Street, Johannesburg, Box 11419.

SIMENHOFF BOOKLET.—The Occupational Postmarks of the Mandated Territory of South West Africa by Capt. L. Simenhoff; the series as run in The South African Philatelist, in booklet form (24 pages). Price 30c post free.—Philatelic Federation, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

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SOUTH AFRICAN NOTES

Hon. Associate Editor:
Dr. H. J. RAUBENHEIMER,
434 City Centre, Pretoria.

NEWS FLASHES

2½c Constantia. Cylinders 60 S27. It was stated in our July issue that these sheets were perforated by the "large hole" appliance with the "drunken perforations." Just recently, since then, sheets with "Small hole" perforations have made their appearance and with the watermark facing left. An enquiry at the Bureau gave the following information. The printing was started on the narrow paper (190 mm.) with the faint watermark upright (it thus faces right on the sheets). That paper ran out, so the wider paper was reeled off into two widths which were then used to continue the printing. The result was that the watermark was inverted, and showed facing left. After some time the perforator die with the large holes was replaced by one with small holes—a perfectly normal proceeding very often caused by new pins being necessary, and the printing continued. Up to now no exact figures of the number of sheets are available, but so far the numbers are small.

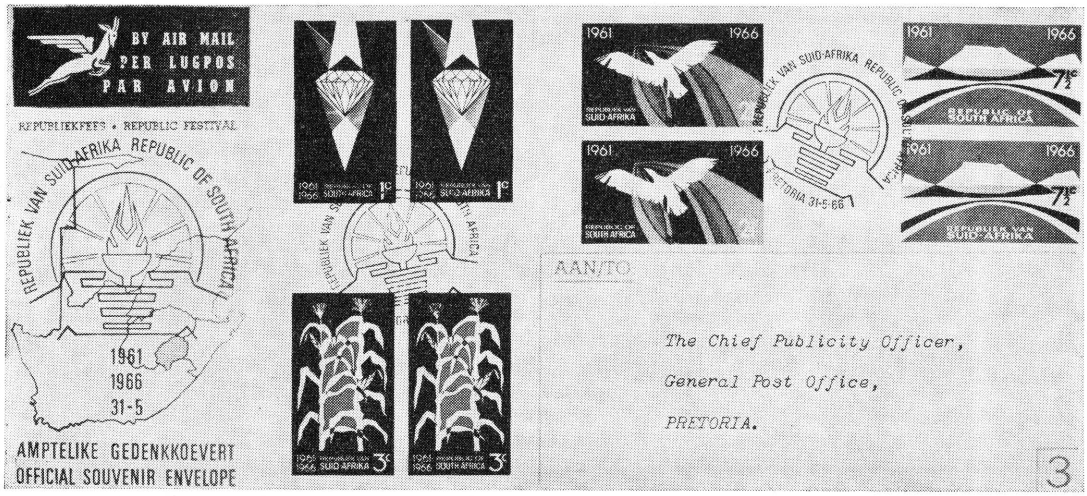
Partial Screening. 2½c Festival Stamp A Pane. It will be noticed that the marginal bar at the bottom of Pane A has an odd appearance. When viewed through a powerful magnifying glass, the top part shows a meshed appearance; it is screened, the bottom is blotchy; not screened. The explanation given was that when the carbon tissue was exposed to the screen, the "safe edge" (the black masking) moved in, cutting off part of the screen. Being only on the margin it is of no consequence—on a stamp it would be very different—but it provides us with a splendid example of the efficacy of screening.

Luminous ink. Interest has been aroused by reports in the Press that stamps in other countries are printed on either specially treated paper or with treated ink to enable automatic sorting or alignment of letters for franking. Those stamps have been tested in various ways and it has been reported by several persons that they react to various lights such as ultra violet rays. For good measure, our Republican stamps have also been put through the tests and the interesting report is that some glow under ultra violet rays and others do not.

It can be stated with authority that neither the paper nor the ink used here have been specially treated, with phosphorus or anything else for that purpose. The glowing paper is certainly very interesting; indeed, all such manifestations excite our interest. Would someone care to make more experiments and let us know?

(A comment on the "fluorescent" condition of the R.S.A. watermarked paper has been received and is included in this Number.—Editor).

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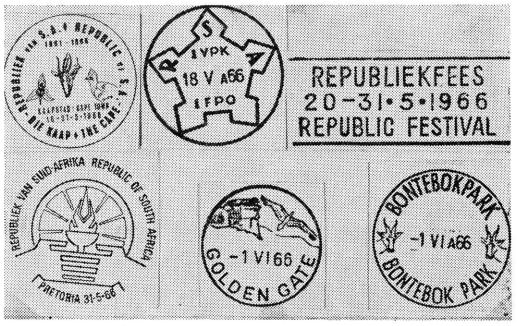
OFFICIAL FIRST DAY SOUVENIR ENVELOPES

The Post Office issued a special first day cover which went on sale at the Philatelic Bureau, Pretoria, and at the philatelic counters of the main post offices at Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth on the 10th of May, 1966. They were also seen to be on sale at dealers. Unserviced covers were sold at 10c, and fully serviced covers, by the Bureau, were provided bearing complete sets of either one or both languages at 29c or 43c each respectively. These serviced covers, posted individually, were inserted in special polythene covers.

The covers, white in horizontal format, measure 9″ x 4″, this large size being necessary for the eight stamps which they may require. In the top left corner is the Airmail etiquette, below it REPUBLIEKFEES—REPUBLIC FESTIVAL. Below that is the special first day postmark in black with the outline of the map of the Republic, in blue, superimposed on it, and, below, AMPTELIKE GEDENKKOEVERT OFFICIAL SOUVENIR ENVELOPE. In the right bottom corner is the number 3, denoting the third of the official covers or cards issued by the Post Office. There also is a space, about 4½ x 2 inches for the address, enclosed by black lines.

The stiffener within the envelope, has a brief outline of the history of the Republic on the one side, and the other side is decorated in colour with the country's flag, the Coat of Arms and a symbolic flight of steps in green. The dates 1961-1966 and "Republiek van Suid-Afrika, Republic of South Africa" in red.

THE SPECIAL POSTMARKS



Three special postmarks were used on the occasion of the Republic Festival.

(1) Used at Pretoria and the Voortrekker Monument on the 31st May for datestamping any first day covers. Circular in shape, it depicts a symbolic torch within a wagon wheel; along the circumference appears REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA with PRETORIA 31-5-66 below. The design was by Heinz L. Burchardt.

(2) No. 1 Field Post Office. Circular in shape with the emblem of the Defence Force within a ring. The letters RSA are in the three top bastions and in the centre appears 1 VPK 18 V A66 IFPO.

"During the period 18th May to 4th June, 1966, on the occasion of the Republic Festival celebrations, a Post Office Military Unit will provide postal facilities for the troops from all parts of the country who will be concentrated in Camps in the vicinity of Pretoria. The Postal Agency will be

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known as No. 1 Field Post Office and a specially designed datestamp will be provided for this office. The design is the emblem of the Defence Force.

"The importance of this office lies in its being the first and only one of its sort in the Republic of South Africa."—(From the Post Office's Philatelic Bulletin No. 58. April 1966).

(3) For the Philatelic Exhibition Cape Town. Circular in shape; within the ring REPUBLIEK VAN S.A. REPUBLIC OF S.A. and, below, DIE KAAP THE CAPE. In the centre are a flower, an antelope and a bird (a red disa—Disa uniflora, a bontebok—Damaliscus dorcas dorcas, and the Knysna loerie—Turacus corythaix corythaix) which are all peculiar to the Cape.

The Exhibition was held from the 16th to the 21st May, 1966, to coincide with the Republic Festival celebrations at that centre.

* * * *

SPECIAL SLEEVE FOR THE POST OFFICE EXHIBITION

(SEE ILLUSTRATIONS)

There was also a special sleeve or slogan used at the Republic Festival Post Office Exhibition in the Rautenbach Hall of the Pretoria University. It was used from Monday the 23rd to Saturday the 28th May and on Monday the 30th May, 1966.

A stamp cancelling machine was operating there and it was fitted with this sleeve as well as an ordinary Pretoria die with the daily dates. The sleeve had a fixed date, simple in design, rectangular in shape with straight lines above and below, and reading REPUBLIEKFEES above, 20-31.5.1966 in the centre, and REPUBLIC FESTIVAL below. The die is on the left of the sleeve.

It will be noted that the Exhibition closes before the date of issue of the special Festival Stamps.

We hope to present a description of this Exhibition shortly in the Philatelist.

* * * *

NEW DATESTAMPS

Golden Gate. A new postal agency was opened in the Golden Gate Highlands National Park on the 1st June, 1966, and a specially designed datestamp was provided for this office.

This park is situated in typical highveld grasslands in the north eastern corner of the Orange Free State and its main characteristics are the multicoloured assortment

(SEE ILLUSTRATIONS)

of shrub and bulbous plants, and the peculiar geological formations. The rare black eagle has been prominently incorporated into the design of the datestamp, with one of the unique rock formations in the background.

Bontebok Park. A postal agency has now been opened in the Park and a datestamp was brought into use on the 1st June, 1966. It will be used for souvenir envelopes and postcards. Previously a special datestamp was used at the Swellendam Post Office for that purpose but now datestamping will be done in the Park using the same datestamp but with the inscription "Swellendam" removed.

* * * *

NEW PRINTING

50c Cylinder Numbers 70 54. R.S.A. Watermark.

A new printing of the 50c, Table Bay Harbour, was delivered to the Philatelic Bureau on April 13th, 1966. The new RSA watermarked paper was used, the mark being upright and also very faint.

Four-figure red sheet numbers are on the right margin opposite rows 8 and 9 and again 19 and 20. The perforations are large holes (1 mm.) and the "drunken perforations" feature is present. The comb join, on all the sheets examined is between horizontal rows 9 and 10 and also between row 20 and the bottom margin. The effect is that the rows of "drunken perforations" are present one row higher up the sheet than is usually the case.

There is a marked change from the previous printing; the blue is much deeper in shade and the paper is whiter and of a heavier texture.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa will be held on Saturday, 17th September, 1966.

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BELGIUM, SG. 656/658, 3 values, 1960	@ 3/-
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HUNGARY, 1965, 9 values	@ 7/6d.
IRAN, 1965, 2 values	@ 6d.
KOREA, S, IV, 1965, 1 value	@ 3d.
KOREA, S, V, 1965 1 value	@ 3d.
LUXEMBOURG, SG. 656/658, 3 values	@ 3/-
MOROCCO, 11, 1965, 2 values	@ 2/-
POLAND, 1965, 12 values	@ 6/6d.
TURKEY, 1965, 3 values	@ 4/-
RUSSIA, 1965, 5 values	@ 2/9d.
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THE 28TH CONGRESS OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

The 28th Congress of Federation was held in Bulawayo on 3rd and 4th May, 1966. Mr. J. R. Strong, the President, presided and some 20 Societies were represented directly or indirectly.

Official Opening.

Congress was opened officially by the Deputy Mayor of Bulawayo, Clr. Kinleyside, who recalled that Congress had only once before been held in Rhodesia; that was in 1953, also in Bulawayo, at the time of the Rhodes Centenary Exhibition. He congratulated Mr. Strong on being the first Rhodesian to have had the honour of presiding at Congress.

Address by the Postmaster-General.

Lt.-Col. C. R. Dickenson, Rhodesian Postmaster-General, was present as a distinguished visitor, and gave Congress a most interesting address about the various problems which had arisen over stamp printing, due to the dissolution of the Federation, and as assumption of Independence for Rhodesia which had followed. Orders and enquiries for Rhodesian stamps reached more than 1,000 a day at one stage and averaged over 300 a day for weeks on end. A philatelic Bureau was established with 40 temporary (mostly borrowed) staff to cope with the correspondence, telephone calls etc. He also explained how the Churchill stamp came to be surcharged 5/- and overprinted as part of the Independence isue. It is hoped to publish Col. Dickenson's address in full in the S.A. Philatelist.

Reports of Committees.

A most encouraging and satisfactory report was presented by the Publications Committee which has been responsible for the S.A. Philatelist, handbook/catalogues and other publications about South African stamps over the years. The Editorial Board of the Philatelist, under the chairmanship of Dr. T. B. Berry; the Business Manager of the Philatelist, Mr. S. J. Vermaak, and the Publications Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. J. Michelson, were congratulated on their achievements. Federation hopes to publish a simplified catalogue of South African stamps in the not too distant future. It will also continue to issue supplementary pages for the Republican Catalogue.

The Expert Committee reported a steady flow of items received for expertising, and appealed for even more material which could be expeditiously handled at the monthly meetings of the Committee.

Requests for advice on the disposal of collections in deceased estates were still being received and, whenever possible, assistance was being given.

Philately and Schools.

Congress intends that more shall be done to interest schools in philately. So far, through the work of Mr. N. C. Combrink, articles on stamp collecting have been published in the journals of the different Teachers' Associations, drawing attention not only to the interest which the hobby can engender but also the value of the hobby as part of education in the wider sense. It is hoped to publish a booklet in both official languages for issue to schools so as to make teachers and scholars more "philatelic conscious."

Transposition of Slogans and Postmarks.

A further approach to the Post Office about the possibility of transposing the postmark and slogan machine cancellers so as not to render so many stamps valueless, philatelically, was unsuccessful.

Liaison between Societies and Federation.

Methods of improving the liaison between the various Societies and Federation were discussed, particularly in so far as representation at the Executive Committee meetings were concerned.

Roll of Honour of Distinguished Philatelists.

It is proposed to present a photographic miniature of the Roll to each signatory of the Roll still living.

Presidential Address.

The President, in his address, referred to the way politics had begun to intrude into the field of philately. Some countries used their stamps to convey political ideas. He mentioned the fate of the 2/6d. Independence stamp on mail posted to Great Britain and the varying rates of "postage due" collected.

He was pleased that relations between organised philately and the Ministries of Posts had remained beneficial and cordial, both in Rhodesia and South Africa.

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Orders for stamps should be addressed to the Philatelic Bureau, G.P.O., Pretoria, and must be accompanied by money orders, postal orders or bank drafts made payable to the Postmaster-General. Cheques are not accepted. The amount should be sufficient to cover postage and registration. Deposit accounts may be opened by overseas customers.

'n Filatelieburo bestaan in die poskantoor in Pretoria om in die spesiale behoeftes van seëlhandelaars en filateliste te voorsien. Slegs seëls van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika tans in gebruik word te koop aangebied.

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Papers.

It was disappointing that no papers were presented for reading at Congress.

Finance.

The financial report showed that Federation was in a sound position, which was largely attributable to the success of the various publications over the years.

Awards.

Roll of Honour of Distinguished Philatelists: Dr. Max Peisach was elected for his long and distinguished services to philately in a number of fields.

The Harvey Pirie Memorial Award: The first award was made to Mr. H. R. Holmes, F.R.P.S.L., for his work "The Postage Stamps of Griqualand West."

The Skinner Cup: Awarded to Mr. J. E. Frankland, F.R.P.S.L., for his services to the Expert Committee.

The "Bill Lea" Trophy: Awarded to Mr. V. R. Ellenberger, C.B.E., I.S.O., for his contribution towards the publication of "A Guide to the Stamps of Rhodesia and Nyasaland."

Future Congresses:

Congress and an Exhibition will be held in Bloemfontein in October, 1967. No offers were made for holding Congress in 1968 so it was suggested that perhaps two or three of the smaller Societies might combine to act as host to Congress. Another proposal was that Congress might be held on board ship between Durban and Cape Town.

Both East London and Johannesburg would like Congress in their areas during 1969. No decision was taken.

Port Elizabeth offered to hold Congress there in 1970.

Election of Office Bearers.

The following Office Bearers were elected: President: Mr. A. L. Meyburgh; Vice-Presidents: Mr. W. G. Combrink (Cape), Mr. G. Milner Palmer (Natal), Mr. H. E. Roux (O.F.S.), Cmdr. C. E. D. Enoch (Rhodesia), Mr. S. J. Hagger (Transvaal); Hon. Secretary: Mr. K. E. W. Lydall; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. J. Michelson; Business Manager (S.A. Philatelist): Mr. S. J. Vermaak.

Other Matters.

Members expressed concern over the reversion to unilingual stamps for the Republican Festival series. Not only would these have to be collected in pairs, but much larger envelopes would have to be used for sets on cover.

Another matter which was raised was that the official cover for the Festival stamps would be available at Pretoria only. Members felt that these covers should be put on sale at all the larger post offices.

ROPEX

Address at the opening of the Stamp Exhibition by Lt.-Col. C. R. Dickenson, C.M.G., the Rhodesian Postmaster-General.

Your Worship Mr. Mayor, Madam Mayoress, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Strong, Delegates to Congress, Ladies and Gentlemen,—Firstly, may I express my gratitude to the Chairman and Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society of Rhodesia for the honour they have paid me by inviting me to open this Exhibition, and I must congratulate them on its quality. My wife and I are very happy to be here. With the pressures of late, my visits to Bulawayo have, in any case, been all too infrequent.

It is interesting to note that the first Honorary President of the Royal Society, which was established in 1910, was the then Postmaster-General, Mr. Eyre. I am glad that after so many years, a close association between the Society and Postmaster-General has been resumed, as each can contribute so much to help the other.

Whenever exhibitions are mentioned, we in Rhodesia tend to think of Bulawayo and our thoughts go back in particular to the Rhodes Centenary Exhibition held here in 1953, and the first philatelic exhibition of this quality which was held in Bulawayo at the same time.

Exhibitions associated with Congress are staged by the host Society, and are normally competitive in character, although there may be a Court of Honour, comprising exhibits of a high standard which have already been awarded and are thus ineligible for further awards. In 1953, the Philatelic Exhibition was non-competitive, and proved to be such a success that the same procedure is being followed here today. Those of you who have had a preview will, I think, agree that the exhibits here well merit "Court of Honour" treatment.

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On two previous occasions in Southern Africa, Philatelic Exhibitions have been commemorated by the suitable overprinting of current stamps. I think this is the first occasion on which special commemorative stamps have been printed, and I can only hope that they will be liked. It is a little embarrassing to discuss one's own wares, but a very brief history of the Rhopex issue may be of interest.

I was approached in January, 1965, by your President and asked to make a special issue to mark this Exhibition and Congress. My reply was the lazy one of asking him to provide suitable designs. In due course, symbolic designs for four stamps were received (one was an alternative, as at that stage three stamps only were envisaged).

Rightly or wrongly, I feel that a symbolic design has to be quite outstanding if it is to compete with even an average quality pictorial stamp. Although the symbolic designs submitted were of a reasonable standard, I was convinced that a more attractive issue, and one with wider appeal, was possible.

At a meeting in Salisbury on 2nd February, 1965, I suggested to Mr. Strong that we should try stamps featuring Sir Rowland Hill—who started it all, the "Penny Black" —still one of the finest stamps issued, and the Zeederberg Coach—which conveyed the first mails in Rhodesia. The three stamps to bear suitable inscriptions, and the Dorothy Wilding portrait of the Queen.

These suggestions were accepted with alacrity. The stamps were to have been printed in photogravure by Harrisons in England, and the limited art work inherent in such designs had already been completed in that country when Independence was assumed. We were able to "rescue" the art work, and arrangements were made to have the stamps printed in Rhodesia by Mardon Printers (Pvt.) Ltd., using the offset litho process.

Shortly before printing, it was decided to print miniature as well as the normal sheets. This necessitated a fourth design. The choice was more or less automatic, we already had the first stamp in the world in the Penny Black, so why not a reproduction of one of the first Rhodesian B.S.A. Co. stamps issued in 1892. Miniature sheets have been rather overdone, but after consultation with Stanley Gibbons, it was felt that the nature of the event being commemorated justified one venture into this field. It is not my intention, however, to have miniature sheets for any subsequent issues.

The joint Post Office/Mardon exhibit will give those not acquainted with the litho-offset process an excellent idea of the progressive stages towards the finished stamp. I am still amazed at the fantastic registration which permits the accurate successive applications of colours. That very briefly is the history of the Rhopex issue. The rest of the Post Office exhibit comprises the art work, colour die proofs, and finished stamps, in relation to issues subsequent to Independencs. I hope I have not over-emphasised the Post Office exhibit, as it is only one exhibit amongst many outstanding ones.

In lighter vein, some years ago, Harpo Marx visited the Cafe de la Paix in Paris. He was observed by the Head Waiter who descended rapidly on the table and asked "What is your pleasure Monsieur?" Harpo replied "Girls." If asked the same question today, I would undoubtedly reply "Philatelists." Who else would buy mint stamps in quantity, stick them in albums, and require no services in exchange?

In conclusion, may I express the hope that this Exhibition will be seen and enjoyed by many, and not least by the very welcome visitors, the delegates to Congress.

A VISITOR AT RHOPEX

(Continued from page 155, July, 1966)

After having had so much philatelic fare from our own Southern African Countries, I found that I had still enough material to keep me busy goggling at for yet more days to come.

Pride of place in commenting on these exhibits should go, I think, to Great Britain who was, after all, responsible for the whole hobby! Here were no less than three fine exhibits, the first consisting of some 60 sheets illustrating the Postal History of Great Britain from the Dockwra period to the early 1860's; the second being part of a magnificent collection of Line-Engraved and the third, the study of the newly described "SQUARE J FLAW" which was the subject of a paper read at Congress at Paarl in 1965. Among the wonderful items displayed in this group I particularly liked a Black 1d., Plate IA, on First Day Cover, a cover with a pair of Black Pennys used with a block of four of the 1840 2d., a truly priceless item! Other very pleasing tit-bits

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in this section were plated blocks from, among others, Die I Plates 18, 24 and 30 and a mint block of twenty Die II from Reserve Plate 15.

Among other tit-bits from the British Empire, mention must be made of the earliest known pre-stamp cover from Gambia with local postmark dated August 17th, 1868, and a very fine array of the various "CAMEO" head issues, including mint sheets of the 1880 perf. issue. A detailed study of the B.M.A. overprints of Malaya and another study of the flaws and varieties of various modern New Zealand stamps were notable contributions to this section which was completed by some fine specimens of early varieties among which I particularly noticed Bangkox S.G.I. mint, New Zealand S.G.I. fine used and a plating study of the 1d. Sydney Views, which included a single cover and some early impressions on laid paper.

I can well imagine that, by now, the increasing number of local collectors who are only interested in the Green or Blue Catalogues will be wondering when, if ever, their turn is coming! Anyway, at long last, here it comes. Admittedly there was less of this type of material on show, but their quality more than made up for the lack of quantity.

I feel that pride of place should go to an amazing study of the 1901-02 Issue of Greece. It was a refreshing change to find as much study and research made into a modern issue as is usually devoted to the Classical Issues and the result certainly proved well worth while. This exhibit included a fine array of die and plate proofs and colour trials while the Postal Stationery was not neglected. Among the stamps included in this study, many of which are scarcer than the catalogue price would suggest, quite the most outstanding, in my opinion, were the postally used specimens of the imperforate varieties and the die proofs of unissued values and of unadopted designs. This collection has never before, to my knowledge, been shown in public and goes to help prove the great value of non-competitive exhibitions.

Competing with this exhibit for interest was a collection of the forebears of the Greeks, i.e. of Denmark, which included a study of the fascinating 1870-1898 issues. These stamps have almost limitless interest for the Philatelist with two different currencies and various papers, watermarks and perforations, not to mention inverted frames, some of which are commoner than the normal while others are like the proverbial "hen's teeth." As this general design was also used in the Danish West Indies, I must wonder whether the owner of this collection will eventually spread his activities into this equally fascinating field which has as much interest to offer as the parent issues. Among the other issues of Denmark included in this display, mention must be made of that very elusive item the Thiele printing of the 1852 2 skilling banco with foot of 2 nearly disjointed (S.G. 3a).

I was much taken with some fine stamps from the old German states. Here both the quality and the quantity were fully up to standard, there being some fine classics on view from two different collections. With so much to chose from it is not easy to single out special items but the following certainly cannot be ignored—Bavaria I Kr. S.G. 1, Baden S.G. 1 in singles, a pair on piece and a lovely strip of three, Hamburg S.G. 1 ½ Sch very fine used, Bremen 3 Grote, mint copies showing two of the three different types, a number of superb covers from Heligoland, the Lubeck error (S.G. 8) in a mint strip of ten with full margins, Schleswig—Holstein S.G. 1 used, Oldenburg 1/30 P.Thaler a pair showing types A and C se-tenant and many other lovely items.

Other European treasures included such rarities as 1849 France tête-bêche pair, 1856 Finland 5 Kopecks, Roumania Bulls Head 27 paras on piece, Sicily ½ gr. plated including two retouches, Sweden 3 SK while last but not least some magnificent items of Latvia among which I particularly noticed a fine study of the various "Bermondt Avaloff" overprints, some Elija provisional overprints on Fiscal stamps issued in October, 1919, and a range of the Provisional Cancellations of 1918/19 on the first issues. Among the older "pre-Latvian" items was a fine specimen of the 1907 Riga Station postmark on part of a post card.

The rest of the world was only touched upon, but even in this rather neglected (at Bulawayo) group, some remarkable sheets were displayed. Amongst these I particularly liked a plating study of the first 1 Candarin stamps of China and one of the very few known complete mint sheets of Tibet 1/6 t printed in shiny enamel paint. Also included in this group were some very rarely seen stamps from Guadalajara (Mexico), an unused New York Postmaster and an unused 5c Postmaster Providence,

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Rhode Island, besides many other equally attractive items of which space alone forbids mention.

I am aware that I have omitted mention of many other equally noteworthy items, but I fear that I have already encroached too much on the Editor's generosity in the matter of space, and indeed, this is the first time that I have been allowed to spread myself over two issues of the Magazine and I am very conscious of this exceptional favour, but I claim that the very high standard of ROPEX must be my (and the Editor's) justification.

In conclusion I would once again congratulate the Royal Philatelic Society of Rhodesia on an outstanding Exhibition which will long remain in the memory of those who were lucky enough to see it.

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TOPICAL COMMENTS

We can but rue the very colour of developments in the Republic's philatelic field of late. Whilst we had hoped that the overseas pressurised super interest in stamp investments would be spared us, we have now had that hope shattered by the widespread local circulation of a coloured circular singing the virtues of stamp investing.

Organisers of the hobby of stamp collecting throughout the world, have always striven to keep the hobby clean, uncontaminated by lucre-mad meddlers. Of recent years they have mushroomed the European and American philatelic scene to the extent of collecting untenability. Taking advantage of the prosperity obtaining in post-war West Germany, Switzerland, America, etc., and mindful of the tax dodging antics of the more opulen among them, the pothunting financiers have turned their praises to stamps in such a convincing manner that big-time investors have dropped diamonds like hot bricks, in favour of stamps. The result is—to name but one of a thousand and one examples — that the British U.P.U. £1, the "Black Beauty," which stood unchanged at less than twenty Rand for a few decades, has of recent months jumped at consecutive auctions to R72, R80, R90, R100, R120 and R130, with the R200 goal in sight!

This all sounds very exciting for the hobbyist who happens to have had the Black Beauty all along, but it certainly draws an obfuscating curtain in front of the collector who had secretly cherished hopes of some day filling his gap at something below catalogue.

To say the least, investors who are concentrating on stamps and the agents who egg them on, have created a world of frustration for the bona fide philatelist. Now we are faced with their intrusion into our midst, with such catch-phrases as, "There is money in stamps," "Stamps are a good investment," "Stamp values rise by as much as 100% in a year," "Stamps are safer than gold, diamonds or shares because they have an international demand," "Send us R100 or more and we guarantee you 30% profit within six months," and so on, ad nauseam.

To us, this latest development looks very much like the beginnings of a yellow scourge. To the collector-investors among us we would warn!

CAPE BARRED-NUMERAL POSTMARKS

Mr. J. M. Weinstein, of Pretoria, draws attention to an interesting item which was put up for auction at Bournemouth in May, 1966.

It is a British Bechuanaland 1½d. postcard with a superb strike of the unrecorded numeral "478" from a place named "GROOT CHWAING" with that office's postmark dated "JA 15 94." The last numeral in the year may be a "5," not a "4".

He has checked Jurgen's "Bechuanaland" and can find no mention of this office; nor do the available Post Office Guides give any assistance.

Mr. Weinstein would be grateful for any information or assistance in establishing the origin or locality of this office.

* * * *

Mr. Philip A. C. Cattell, of Great Britain, reports that he has a registered letter from PALLA to CAPE TOWN with the boxed canceller "758," bearing the single-line Palla c.d.s. dated July 11 1895. This confirms the previous recording of 758 as used in Bechuanaland and gives the place.

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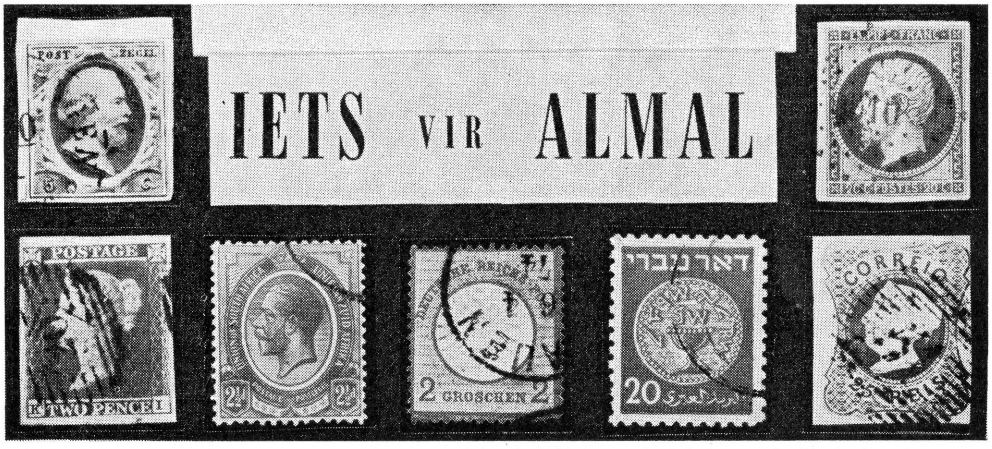
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POSSTUKKE VAN DIE TWEEDE VRYHEIDSOORLOG 1899-1902

Deur N. C. Combrink.

(Vervolg van die vorige uitgawe)

VRYBURG. Die dorp Vryburg in Wes-Griekwaland, is omtrent halfpad tussen Kimberley en Mafeking geleë en aan die spoorlyn wat Betsjoeanaland en Rhodesië bedien. Vroeër was hierdie landstreek waarin Vryburg lê, as Brits-Betsjoeanaland bekend; in 1885-86 is posseëls van die Kaap die Goeie Hoop met oordrukke „British Bechuanaland" daar gebruik. In 1887 het Betsjoeanaland sy eie Britse seëls in gebruik geneem, maar die oorgedrukte seëls van die Kaap die Goeie Hoop het nog tot 1897 in gebruik gebly ten spyte van die feit dat die gebied op 16 November 1895 by die Kaap Kolonie ingelyf is.

Reeds vroeg in die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog, op 24 November 1899 het Transvaalse magte die Kaap Kolonie binnegedring en Vryburg was een van die eerste dorpe wat ingeneem is.

Die Republikeine het blykbaar geen seëls met hulle saamgebring nie, want hulle het die Kaap die Goeie Hoop se seëls wat daar in gebruik was, plaaslik laat oordruk. Hierdie uitgawe was maar kort van duur want die Transvaalse seëls het binne 'n paar dae gevolg asook 'n proklamasie dat die oorgedrukte seëls nie verder gebruik mag word nie. Van 30 November 1899 tot die middel van Mei 1900, is Transvaalse seëls gebruik. Daarna was die Britte in beheer van Vryburg.

Alhoewel die uitgawe van die bygedrukte seëls maar kort van duur was, vorm hierdie seëls 'n belangrike deel in die posgeskiedenis van die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog. Die seëls het uit vier waardes bestaan, die ½d., 1d., 2d. en 6d., maar die bygedrukte waardes was ½d., 1d., 2d. en 2½d. met die 2d. op die 6d. seël. Die bydruk was in Skots-Romeinse letters 10 mm. hoog met die woord „PENCE" op al vier seëls, plus die letters Z.A.R. onder die waarde.

Van die ½d. en 1d. was daar 2,400 elk gedruk; van die 2d., 1,440 en die 2½d., 480.

Die letters wat vir die bydruk gebruik is was van 'n standaard tipe met die gevolg dat vervalsing nie moeilik was nie en ook voorgekom het. Nie alleen is die oordruk vervals nie, maar ook die stempel van die poskantoor is nagemaak en op die vervalste bydrukke gebruik. Sover bekend is daar geen vervalsing van die seëls self nie, net die bydruk en die stempel is vervals.

Die vervalsing van die bydruk word deur die dik en dun letters en die krulletters, wat nie presies soos die egte is nie, uitgeken. Wat die stempel betref moet onthou word dat die stempel van Brits-Betsjoeanaland nog in die poskantoor beskikbaar en moontlik in gebruik was. Die stempel was 'n 22½ mm. enkel-sirkel met die woord VRYBURG in die halfrond en die letters B.B. daaronder; die datum was in die middel. Die Republikeine het dieselfde stempel gebruik nadat hulle die letters B.B. uitgekap het, maar drie klein merkies van die letters het agter gebly. Die vervalste stempel is duidelik

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kenbaar deurdat die letters VRYBURG 'n bietjie dunner as die egte letters is. Ook is die woord een mm. verder van die buiterand van die stempel af. Daarby is die drie merkies wat van die B.B. oorgebly het ook nie sigbaar nie. Die letters van die datum verskil ook van die egte. Twee datums word in die vervalsings gevind, DC 17 99 en DC 20 99. „DC" staan vir „December."

Van 30 November 1899 is die seëls van die Transvaal met waardes ½d. tot 1/- in Vryburg gebruik. Die datumstempel was dieselfde behalwe dat die jaar 1900 in die stempel van daardie jaar, van kleiner formaat was.

In die middel van Mei, 1900, het die Britte Vryburg ingeneem en Transvaalse seëls in die poskantoor gevind. Hierdie seëls het hulle met 'n rubberstempel, die woorde „V.R. SPECIAL POST" oorgedruk en vir die pos gebruik; alleen die ½d. en 1d. waardes is bekend. Volgens Rich se boek, het mnr. Poole, 'n gesaghebbende op hierdie gebied, verklaar dat een honderd ½d. en sestig 1d. waardes so oorgedruk is. Daar is ook 'n nuwe stempel „VRYBURG B.B." gemaak waarvan die letters heelwat van die oorspronklike stempel verskil. Die spesiale uitgawe was ook kort van duur. Net een datum, die van 16 Mei 1900, is bekend. Hierna het die gewone seëls van die Kaap die Goeie Hoop weer in gebruik gekom.

Daar is nog 'n ander Vryburg-stempel wat baie skaars en interessant is. Toe die Britte Vryburg inneem het hulle 'n sekere Clifford St. Quintin, 'n inligtingsoffisier, in beheer van die poskantoor geplaas. Hy het nog 'n aantal Kaap die Goeie Hoop seëls daar gevind. Sommige sê die seëls is by burgers in die dorp gevind. In die poskantoor was daar ook die ou stempel van Vryburg met die letters C.G.H. daarin. Die middel van die stempel waar die datum moet wees was egter verwyder, moontlik het die Republikeine dit vernietig. Met die eerste pos wat toe moes uitgaan het St. Quintin die stempel van die Kaap die Goeie Hoop gebruik en waar die datum moes wees het hy op die seël sy voorletters met ink geparafeer. 'n Klein strepie aan die „S" van die paraaf is veronderstel om die „t" van „St." te wees. Soms is die strepie nie duidelik sigbaar nie. Die seëls wat in hierdie geval gebruik was, was die ½d. en 1d. van die Kaap die Goeie Hoop van 1893, waar Hoop by die anker staan.

Hierdie tipe stempel, met die datum in die middel, was vir die daaropvolgende tien jaar nog gebruik, selfs tot na Unie in 1910.

DE FILATELISTE

Postzegels verzamelen is
binnenskamers en bij lamplicht
een eeuw trekvogels in
mozaïek opzetten
weten dat men nooit eenzaam is
maar altijd omgeven door
almaar van kleur en prijs
veranderde koninginnen
tropische dieren
zeldsame bloemen
fraaie kastelen
martelaars en diktators.

Het is een beetje tandarts spelen
radioloog en makelaar
ordeschepper in dynastieën
grafschenner van afgeschreven schimmen.

Tussen postzegels dwalen is
dichter blijven al nuchter zijn
zijn spaargeld in beelden vereren
het ongerepte naast het bezoedelde schikken
de schepping in snippers hanteren
het volle betrachten in reeksverband.

Dit vervoerde en volwassen kind
vermag het mij telkens te ontroeren.
Veel groter papieren heb ik
gelezen geschreven
met minder dromen bewoond.

—(Karel Jonckheere).

(Ingestuur deur mej. Anna H. Smith, uit Jos de Haes en Hubert van Herreweghen se bloemlesing, „Gedichten 1965").

SONDE MET DIE BURE

Die Rhodesiese onafhanklikheidsverklaring het nie alleen politieke struweling in Engeland veroorsaak nie maar ook ontsteltenis en 'n knaende kopseer onder Engelse posseëlhandelaars omdat hulle belet word om regstreeks Rhodesiese seëls vir hulle duisend klante aan te koop en daardeur 'n vinnige en gewiste profyt ontsê word.

Die vraag na die 2/6 onafhanklikheidseël van 11 November was so groot dat die poskantore binne 'n uur uitverkoop was en versamelaars (en die alewige spekulante) oor mekaar geval het. Die gevolg was dat daardie seël dadelik agt keer sy nominale waarde op die Engelse seëlbeurse gehaal het. Vandag is hy beskikbaar teen minder as tweemaal gesigswaarde. Hoeveel haastige honde was daar nie!

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Politieke stompsinnigheid daar oorkant het 'n swartmark in die Rhodesiese onafhanklikheidseël en latere Rhodesiese seëls tot gevolg gehad en daarmee 'n groter vraag geskep, 'n vraag wat waarskynlik kwalik bevredig kan word. Dit maak die versamelaar van Rhodesiese seëls bra kriewelrig, veral omdat 'n lang reeks van 1d. tot £ met die woorde „Independence. 11 November 1965," onverwags opgedruk was en op 17 Januarie uitgereik is en 'n nuwe stel van 1d. tot £1 (in totaal R4.53) ewe skielik op 9 Februarie die daglig gesien het. (Ons voel saam met neef Ian, maar hy moet darem stadig oor ons klippertjies, of hoe sê ons?). Soos sake staan kan ons die seëls taamlik maklik aan die hande kry maar die seëlbroers daar oorkant het lelik moes bontstaan en hulle beursies wyd moes oopmaak.

EEN EN ANDER

Goeie nuus? Ons lees in die Mei-uitgawe van Gibbons Stamp Monthly dat hulle besluit het om voortaan alle blokvelletjies (miniatuurvelletjies) in hulle verskeie katalogusse op te neem. 'n Begin word met die 1967-uitgawes van dele I en II gemaak terwyl die deel III van 1968 die beleid sal voortsit.

Rhodesië. Ten spyte van wat die Posmeester-generaal tydens Rhopex gesê het, het die eerste uitgawes van die Mardondrukke van die tweede vastereeks begin verskyn, toe die 1d. aan die begin van Junie uitgereik is en die 5/- later daardie maand. Saam met genoemde 1d. is die 1d.-rolseël van Harrison & Sons beskikbaar gestel.

Khor Fakkan. Stanley Gibbons het aangekondig dat hy verneem het dat daar skaars 'n posdiens in hierdie klein staatjie bestaan en dat dit duidelik geword het dat al die seëls wat Khor Fakkan uitreik net vir versamelaars bedoel is en dat dié saak gevolglik nie meer genoemde land se seëls sal katalogiseer nie. (Ons skat dat 'n paar ander lande niks minder verdien nie).

Vuilspel! Propagandiste het nie lank op hulle laat wag om Rhodesië oneer aan te doen nie. 'n Redelike goeie boekdruk weergawe van die 2/6 onafhanklikheidseël met toegevoegde woorde het verskyn en een eksemplaar is nogal op 1 Februarie op Salisbury gepos. Vertaal lees die bewoording van die propagandaseël soos volg: „Onwettige Onafhanklikheid, 11 November 1965. Posgeld verskuldig 2/6." (Die woorde „Illegal" en „Due" is bygevoeg). Rhodesiese poswese glo dat die gemenespel sy oorsprong in Engeland het.

Universiteit van Zambië. Op 12 Julie het Zambië twee seëls uitgereik (3d. en 1/3) om die inwyding van die Universiteit van Zambië te herdenk. Die universiteit is in 1965 begin en is 'n 15-verdieping gebou van ultramoderne ontwerp. Dit het in Maart geopen, met 300 studente. Na verwag word sal 3,000 studente aan die begin van 1970 ingeskryf wees met 'n moontlike 5,000 aan die end van daardie jaar.

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POSTMARK NOTES

By D. Allison

Nebuloso Mañana.

Sixty odd years ago, when it was the custom in most countries to backstamp mail on arrival at the office from which it would be delivered, the machine postmarks used for this purpose at Mexico City had a feature which is decidedly unusual—they included the weather forecast. The heading of these notes provides a sample, meaning "Cloudy To-morrow."

I came across this a few weeks ago in a copy of the magazine of the Flag Cancel Society. Flag Cancels are postmarks which have the wavy lines or slogan (or weather forecast!) in the form of a flag, and to judge by this magazine they form a most

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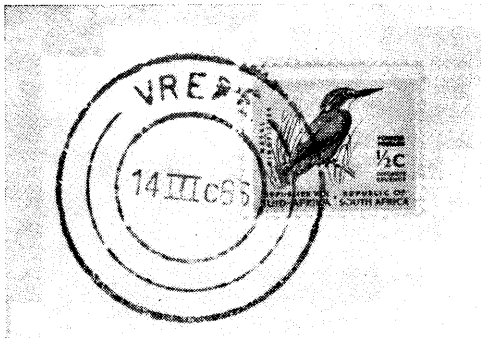
interesting field. Their period of use in the U.S.A. was from 1894 to 1941, and they may be found from some other countries as well. Incidentally, if you are interested in this subject, you can obtain a sample copy of this magazine, and other information, by sending a self-addressed 9″ x 4″ envelope and a reply coupon to Mr. D. Swit, 13012-H Valleywood Drive, Silver Spring, Maryland 20906, U.S.A.

Central African Trade Fair.

The slogan "Visit Central African Trade Fair Bulawayo" has been used again, this time to publicize the seventh of these annual fairs, which took place from April 28th to May 7th this year. This seems a suitable occasion to review the postmarks used in connection with the earlier fairs.

The slogan die already mentioned was in fact made for the 1960 fair, and included the year, 1960, which has since been deleted. A different die was used the following year, including the date MAY 1961. I have no 1962 specimens. Late in 1963, however (and publicizing the 1964 Fair, I imagine), two postmarks were used; one was the 1960 one, with the year 1960 chipped out, and the other was a new one, undated but with the emblem of the Fair. The first of these, at least, continued in use in the earlier part of 1964; while the one with the emblem was used in March and April 1965, to advertise the sixth Fair. This year the modified 1960 one has been used again, but I have not seen the one with the emblem.





All the postmarks mentioned are from Bulawayo. My list, of course, may not be complete—as always I would welcome any additional information.

Relief Handstamps.

In the April "South African Philatelist" a new type of temporary (or relief) handstamp was discussed and illustrated. Another specimen, from Vrede, is shown here, together with one of the old kind, from Hillcrest. (The Vrede handstamp was reported by Mr. S. L. Crozet, and the Hillcrest one by Mr. P. G. Awcock, of Haywards Heath, in England). The new type seems to have largely replaced the old. Mr. Walker tells me the old kind was used in Durban in March 1964, and, apart from the Hillcrest one in March and April 1966, that is the latest use I know of; while in front of me as I write I have specimens of the new type from nine offices in the first five months of 1966.

Both old and new types have the name of the office set up from loose type. The old type has a single circle, about an inch in diameter, and the date is set up from metal plugs. The new type is a double circle handstamp (about 34 mm and 19 mm. diameters) and the date is on rollers, as in the case of our ordinary handstamps. To distinguish the new relief handstamps from ordinary ones, note that permanent handstamps with lettering as large as that of the Vrede one illustrated generally have the circles closer to the lettering; also the alignment of the letters tends to be a bit uneven.

The Donkin Hill postmark reported by Mr. T. J. Strachan was the first of the new type to be recorded. Not long afterwards, a similar handstamp from Haenertsburg came my way, with an arc like that of the Vrede handstamp but shorter. The postmistress at Haenertsburg, in reply to my query, confirmed that it was a temporary handstamp. ("The date stamp at present is a relieving one, mine went out of order, though I prefer this one to the old one, much clearer datestamp").

Perhaps it is worthwhile recording some of the places which have used this new type of temporary handstamp. In the following list the letter A indicates that there is an **arc** of a third circle, as in the case of the Vrede handstamp shown; B indicates that the lower part of the handstamp is left **blank;** N indicates a numeral (1 in the case

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at 8 p.m.
VISITORS CORDIALLY WELCOMED.
P.O. BOX 1973, CAPE TOWN.

THE THEMATIC STAMP CLUB

Meetings 2nd and 4th Mondays monthly at 8 p.m., in
St. John's Hall, Waterkant Street, Cape Town.
All interested in Thematics welcome.
Chapter No. 1 A.T.A. and Africa Section, F.I.P.C.O.
Issues a Magazine every two months and circulates sales packets.
P.O. BOX 752, CAPE TOWN.

ORANGE FREE STATE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets on the fourth Friday of every month in the
NATIONAL MUSEUM HALL, BLOEMFONTEIN
at 7.30 p.m.
Issues a monthly magazine and circulates sales packets to members.
P.O. BOX 702 — BLOEMFONTEIN

THE PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meets on the first and third Tuesday each month in the
B.C.E.S.L. Hall, St. Andrews Streets,
at 8.00 p.m.
Visitors cordially welcome.
P.O. BOX 3 - PORT ELIZABETH

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL

Meetings 1st and 3rd Wednesdays monthly at 7.30 p.m. in the
Geo Cato Room, City Hall, Durban (Entrance West Street...door nearest Beach)
VISITORS CORDIALLY WELCOMED
P.O. Box 588, Durban. Secretary's Telephone 838-682 (Evenings).

THE PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meets on the first Monday of every month in the
Council Chamber of the Technical College Church Street East, Pretoria
at 7.45p .m.
VISITORS CORDIALLY WELCOMED.
P.O. Box 514, Pretoria.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

meets Twice a Month: Second Tuesday and Fourth Monday
at
Room 97, Public Library, Johannesburg
at 8 p.m.
VISITORS ARE WELCOME.
HON. SECRETARY,
P.O. BOX 4967 - JOHANNESBURG.

THE AEROPHILATELIC SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Meetings are not held, but Members get covers, etc. of special South African flights and other interesting items—more than covered by the small annual subscription.
News letters sent. Affiliated to F.I.S.A.
P.O. BOX 3654, CAPE TOWN.

THE PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meet on the second Wednesday of every month in the
Railway Recreation Club, Berea Park, Pretoria
at 8.00 p.m.
P.O. Box 2388 — Pretoria
ALL PHILATELISTS ARE WELCOME.

SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELY

Meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 8.15 p.m.
Burlington House Boardroom (2nd Floor) c/r. Rissik & Marshall Streets, Johannesburg.
ALL WELCOME.
Secretary: P.O. Box 11502, Johannesburg

THE SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

meets at 2.15 p.m. on the second Saturday of every month in the
Staff Tea Lounge, Basement, Corner House.
Corner Sauer and Commissioner Streets, Johannesburg (Commissioner St. Entrance).
ALL INTERESTED IN SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELY ARE WELCOME.
P.O. Box 378, Krugersdorp (Secretary's Telephone: Business 660-7511; Home 660-3461.

THE EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

P.O. Box 483, Benoni. (Hon. Secretary).
Meetings every 2nd Monday in the month at the
Benoni Tennis Club House
Benoni, at 7.45 p.m.
VISITORS ARE WELCOME.

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of Donkin Hill, 29 on the Bloemfontein specimens, presumably the same as on the permanent handstamp for which the relief one was doing duty; L indicates date as 13 MAY A 66, R date as 13 V A 66. Months of use which I have seen are also indicated.

Bloemfontein NR 4, 5/66; Ceres AL 1, 5/66; Clanwilliam AR 7/65; Donkin Hill NR 2/66; Eikenhof (?) AL 3/66; Groot Brakrivier BR 3, 4, 5/66; Kakamas AL 5/66; Haenertsburg AR 2, 3/66; Malmesbury AL 7/65; Port Nolloth AL 3, 4/66; Somerset West AR 8/65; Vrede AR 3, 4/66.

S.A. Machine Postmarks.

In the April Notes, new dies of the **Get Home Safely** slogan were reported from East London and Port Elizabeth. Similar dies have since appeared at Bloemfontein, Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg. Kimberley, Pietermartizburg, and Pretoria, completing the list of nine towns to which the original ones were supplied in 1962. Some of these new dies are already badly worn, and, perhaps because of this, at Cape Town and Johannesburg they appear to be no longer in use.

The photographs of the **Post Christmas Mail Early** slogan on page 58 of the March "South African Philatelist" were merely intended to show the relative positions of the P's of POS and POST. Both the Pretoria dies have the Afrikaans wording first and in fact neither of the photographs shows a Pretoria postmark.

Pietersburg has a minutes plug reading "00.", with the stop after the figures instead of before. This error of course occurred when the plug was made and it has previously been reported only from S.W.A.

Simonstown now has a machine. It is one of the old continuous type with SIMONSTAD on both datestamps which rather surprisingly are single-circle.

Postscript.

What appears to be a "New Relief Handstamp" used in 1962 has turned up. More details in the October Notes.

"COMING EVENTS CAST THEIR SHADOWS"

"FACT OR FANCY"

A Peep into the Future by Jack (brother of James) B.

The scene is M. 7's (Dr. R's) sub Editor of S.A.P. office at his editorial desk in Pretoria.

"Miss Penny Black, show Jack B. into my office and cut all 'bugging' units off."

"Well, J.B., here is your next assignment; enquiry has come in for a report on the condition of Fluorescence in some of the issues of the stamps of South Africa."

"So, using all my 007 equipment, tweezers, hinges, crystal mounts exhibition covers, magnifying glass, colour comparators, perf guages, benzine watermark detectors, surcharge calipers, perf calibre micrometers and finishing with M. 7's last super-toy, the 'Black Light.' The pursuit was on; only one important 007 accessory, 'The blond,' was missing. Shame! Voice from the battle axe—'Walter Mitty back to your stamps.' So aroused out of my dreams of voluptuous blonds, warm sands and hotter femmes, switch on the power of the N.D. lights, cut the brights down to zero, and what do we find: Wait—let your tired eyes settle to the subdued rays of the new gun. There they are—some dull, drab, dingy specimens; the other beautiful in their snowy white fluoresence. These are the breed of the philatelic world to come, the days of Machine-minding-man. Off stage voice, "Walter Mitty, back to earth." "Yes, my dear."

This is my theory. The new paper for stamp printing has all been callendered coated, fluoresced, phospher banded, heliconed, tagged, etc., call it what you like, but it all is for one purpose: The modern automatic "facing up" of posted articles. South Africa's machines are on order and will eventually be in operation in all the major centres where this reactive condition will be a pre-requisite. So with the ray gun at the ready to identify our co-operators we could identify the following as sympathetic to our signals and here is my report, M. 7.

All papers, prior to the R.S.A. type, now in use do NOT show any brilliant whiteness when under the "Black" or high pressure mercury Ultra-Violet lamp, whereas all stamps printed on the R.S.A. watermark paper show this fluorescent condition. It is noted that on some sheets it is extremely difficult to see the watermark, but nevertheless it is of the same type. Up to the present date, June, 1966, the only values of the definitive series still to be issued on R.S.A. paper are the 1½ cent and the 5 cent stamps. All commemorative issues, from the Red Cross Centenary of 1963 to date, are on this new paper. Finally, this nonsensical

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start and the final report are in answer to your enquiry that you assigned for my investigation.

JUVENILE PHILATELY

School choldren, up to the age of 15, have been invited by the Postmaster to design Britain's first Christmas postage stamps to be issued on December 1st.

The entries have to be accompanied by a certificate from a Head Teacher saying that the designs, which have to conform to certain prescribed data, are the child's unaided work, and were to be received by the 20th June, 1966.

The prize of £20 is offered for the successful design and prizes of presentation packs of special stamp issues are for other designs commended by the Stamp Advisory Committee.

NEW ISSUES

Bechuanaland will issue a set of four postage stamps on the 30th September, 1966, to commemorate the Achievement of Independence. The values will be 2½c, 5c, 15c and 35c, and the stamps will contain the words "Independence 1966" and the new territorial name "Botswana."

Official prestamped First Day Covers will be available at 67½c each, orders for which may be addressed to Philatelic Service, P.O. Box 100 Lobatsi.

On the same date the existing definitives will be on sale overprinted "Republic of Botswana."

New Zealand. "Stamp News" reports that a leading New Zealand dealer has produced a four page leaflet strongly criticising the New Zealand post office for its decision to retain the designs of the current pictorial series when the country changes to decimal currency in July, 1967.

VRYPEX

Preliminary arrangements have already been started in order to ensure the success of the next National Competitive Philatelic Exhibition to be held under the auspices of the Orange Free State Philatelic Society in the City Hall, Bloemfontein, from 10 to 13 October, 1967.

A comprehensive schedule is being prepared. Entry forms will be available in good time for Provisional Entries to be received by the 1st June, 1967, and the Final ones by the 1st July, 1967. The awards will comprise the usual special and competitive ones.

These dates may appear to be a long way off but now is the time to see to your material. You have been warned!

ONCE AGAIN

The "Ceylon Philatelist" was started for the first time a few years ago. Due to the cyclone, all records were destroyed and the publication ceased.

With the ever-increasing number of persons taking up stamp collecting day by day, the necessity for a publication devoted to the hobby was greatly felt and it was decided to resume publication.

The first number, under the Editorship of Mr. K. D. J. Jayasckera, 99 North Coast Road, Trincomala, Ceylon, appeared in January 1966 and included an informatory insertion. A free copy will be sent to any of our readers who may be interested, plus postage at 3c.

The Journal of which we gratefully acknowledge the first two complimentary copies, comprises six typed pages of local and general matter.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

TRIANGULARS.
RECTANGULARS. POSTMARKS

Extensive selections of the above are always available, as well as interesting covers and Postal History material.

References from new customers please.

F. W. COLLINS
STOBOROUGH CROFT
WINCHESTER, ENGLAND.

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MAPS AND EXPLORATIONS (AFRICA)

By Capt. M. F. Stern, F.R.G.S.

(Continued from p. 139, June 1966, Number)

Alexandria became closed to European trade and trade carried after the Crathaginians, by the Romans from Constantinople (Istambul). (Roman trireme 1st Cent. A.D. on stamps of San Marino, and Ialian Galleys on stamp of Italy). The Roman power waned and at the close of the 10th century Venice, at the mouth of the Brenta, was founded and became a commercial state, establishing commerce with Alexandria and conveying the Eastern goods in the Mediterranean (Lion of St. Mark on stamp of Italy and view of Constantinople—map—with the Dardenelles, on stamp of Turkey).

As far as Africa was concerned directly the next on the list were the Catalans (Spaniards) who had gone down the West African coast certainly beyond Cape Bojador and discovered the Madieras. Portugal was part of Spain in those early years and in the 12th century Dom Alfonso Enriques freed it from the Moors and by 1297 A.D. Portugal was an established separate kingdom. A stamp of Spanish Sahara shows a helmet and ship in miniature in background of these early explorers, together with their shields.

Dom Diniz of Portugal (on stamp of Portugal value 1.40) (1261-1325 A.D.) was the founder of the Portuguese Navy. The early ships were called "Barcas" (seen on stamp of Mozambique and on one of Portugal). Later the "Caravela" was developed (Portugal has a beautiful stamp and Mozambique shows one of 1436 and one of 1460).

King Joao I, with the aid of the British, defeated the Castilians. His wife was Queen Philippa, daighter of the Duke of Lancaster. Both are shown on two beautiful stamps issued by Portugal.

On March 4, 1394, at Oporto, their son Dom Henrique (called Prince Henry the Navigator) was born. His aim at first was the exploration of the African coast and the conquest of Guinea. The first voyages were devoted to rediscovery rather than pioneering. Cape Verde shows his portrait on one stamp, while another shows him together with Prince Fernando. Early stamps of Por-

(Continued on page 192).

SOCIETY NEWS

THE SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

June. The members present at this meeting constituted a record attendance which was most gratifying and once again a most pleasant and instructive afternoon was spent.

The outstanding item on the programme was undoubtedly the paper prepared by Mr. D. W. Suttcliffe on the ½d. unhyphenated roto-gravure covering all six printings of Issues 1, 2 and 3. His subsequent display of these stamps from his collection was an eye-opener to beginners and brought forth favourable comment from our senior collectors—a very excellent show!

On the subject of the co-extensive Jubilee lines in the King's Head series, Mr. S. J. Hagger read an extract from the "Springbok" of March/April, 1964, and several members drew attention to various other publications on the subject, giving the reasons for the broken Jubilee line.

Under "new issues," Dr. H. J. Raubenheimer gave an interesting talk on the four special stamps issued to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the Republic and on the single pane printing of the Groot Constantia 2½ cent corner numbers 60/S27.

Finally, members viewed some interesting varieties including a perfect example of a "fold-over" corner in the current 1 cent Festival stamp.

MOOI RIVER STAMP CLUB

June. The meeting was well attended, members coming from the surrounding areas.

Master J. Singer tabled about thirty pages of South African used stamps. Mr. J. Keet followed with his collection based on the theme "Tuberculosis" and consisting of seals and stamps which have been issued universally as a fund-raising effort.

The exhibitors were suitably thanked by Mr. Kramer for affording members an enjoyable evening's entertainment.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

May 12th. Capt. M. F. Stern exhibited firstly a portion of his World Airmail Collection, which included German Zeppelin, Catapult, Dornier and First Flights of South and Central America, and traced, in great detail, the development of the various types of Balloons and Airships.

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The second half of the exhibit comprised a fantastic tour through 40 years of aviation history of South and Central America, terminating a most interesting evening.

May 26th. "Classics of the World before 1880" was the subject for the meeting. The attendance was a record and the fare a rare treat.

Mr. W. Bergman, a numismatist and not a philatelist, showed an assembly of gold, silver and copper coins of Imperial Rome, arranged as a thematic collection. Mr. Berneaud exhibited a choice selection of First Issues while Mrs. Jeidel selected a number of pages from her excellent collection of Belgium.

Mr. Picton's exhibit of the First Issues of Great Britain was accompanied by an interesting talk on the preparation of the steel plates for the Penny Black, while Mr. Neumann followed with the early issues of the United States of America.

As Mr. Archer was unable to be present, Mr. Wannerton exhibited Mr. Archer's fine collection of Old Roman states, showing the first stamps of 1852 and numerous cancellations. Turkey and Austrian Italy No. Ones were exhibited by Mr. W. G. Combrink, who also showed the first stamp of Serbia showing plating. From his vast collection of Germany, Mr. Putzel selected a few items of each of the Old German States. Interesting was a Field P.O. Cover of the Franco-Prussian War. Mr. Roth exhibited a copy of the head of Queen Victoria painting from which the Chalon Head stamps were adapted.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

June. Eighteen members, under the chairmanship of the President, Mr. F. E. Drake, were present, when, for the first time for many a year, the usual displays by members were replaced by a "Swop and Sell" item on the agenda, the meeting thus being taken up by members getting together and discussing, examining and exchanging stamps. The occasion was highly successful and thoroughly enjoyed, a suggestion being made that the Executive Committee stage a similar meeting in about three months' time.

Mr. S. J. Hagger was congratulated upon his election as a Vice-President for the Transvaal to the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa and Mr. J. J. Smit was elected as the Society's delegate of Federation.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

June. The Annual Vice-President's Evening was staged this year by Cmdr. Cyril Enoch who arranged four very fine and interesting exhibits.

The President, Mr. M. Weinstein, set the ball rolling by tabling a selection of his Aden postmarks. Next, were Mr. and Mrs. Reynard who showed various stamps which were issued during recent years by East Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Ghana etc. A selection from Mr. L. Dodd's famous Revenue Stamp Collection, comprising items from the Union and Republic, and the four provinces, followed, while Cmdr. Enoch closed a very enjoyable evening by putting up 36 pages of his Siamese Stamps, each stamp showing some form of error.

AFRIKAANSE FILATELISTEVERENIGING

April. Op 20 April het ons die Jaarvergadering gehou, wat deur 17 lede en 'n besoekster bygewoon is. In aanmerking geneem dat ons laaste vergaderings deurgaans deur die helfte besoek is, beteken dit 'n 100% vooruitgang. So, nou kan ons tevrede wees. Maar ons is nie. Dis beskamend dat 'n vereniging, ons vereniging, met omtrent 200 lede, sy bestaan eintlik alleen regverdig deur 'n rondsenddiens, 'n ruilmiddag en 'n nuusbrief-nuus.

Dis ook treurig dat ons voorsitter, wat sy plek al jare lank volstaan as die onbetwiste leier, eenvoudig nie die kans gegee word nie, om 'n bietjie van sy werk oor te dra aan 'n ander. Ons behoort te besef dat sy besliste weiering om nog langer as voorsitter op te tree, alleen maar veroorsaak is deur sy verlange om in die toekoms 'n bietjie meer tyd te hê vir sy gesin. Nogtans is ons hardvogtig genoeg om hom nie blaaskans te gee nie en het hom eintlik gedwing om met die werk aan te gaan, al is dit dan ook in 'n tydelike hoedanigheid. Maarrrrr . . . , die nuwe sekretaris sien die nuwe verenigingsjaar met vertroue in die gesig, omdat hy weet dat niemand beter in staat is as S.J.V. om hom met die werk te help wat voorlê.

Dit het egter duidelik geword dat ons moet probeer o m'n waardige vervanger vir ons Fanie te vind, en ons sal waarskynlik alleen kan slaag as ons bereid is om die standaard te verlaag.

Die regte spangees is gedemonstreer deur lid Kramer, wat aangebied het om nog 'n rondsending onder sy beheer te plaas en sodoende lid Bakker se werk 'n bietjie te verlig. Baie dankie, meneer Kramer.

Toe die voorsitter bekend gemaak het, dat die Woensdagaand in die toekoms sal verval vir formele byeenkomste, het die bestuur opposisie verwag teen die besluit, maar dis as kennisgewing aanvaar, dus sal ons van nou af alleen op die eerste Saterdag van die maand ontmoet. 'n Stap agteruit ongetwyfeld, dis nou aan u om weer vorentoe te beweeg.

Mei. Die byeenkoms op 7 Mei was die eerste een wat ons gehou het volgens die nuwe reëling, waarby ons slegs eenmaal per maand ontmoet. Daar was 15 lede en vier besoekers aanwesig.

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Formele sake is eers afgehandel en die voorsitter het weer eens die aangename taak gehad om drie nuwe lede aan ons bekend te stel.

Na die bekendstellings het die voorsitter vervolg met 'n verslag oor die Kongres in Bulawayo en kortliks melding gemaak van die werk wat mnr. Combrink van die Paarl verrig in verband met georganiseerde skoolfilatelie. Op hierdie stadium kan gemeld word dat 'n leidraad geskryf word vir die onderwyspersoneel, aangesien hulle eerste ingelig moet word. Mnr. Combrink is in noue kontak met Amerika en Holland en die ontwikkeling in verband met hierdie saak word met belangstelling dopgehou.

S.J.V. het vervolgens melding gemaak van 'n verkorte katalogus vir Suid-Afrika se seëls en as die verkrybaar is, sal dit seker goeie propaganda wees vir ons seëls om hulle nog meer populêr te maak.

Nadat die formele sake afgehandel is, het mnr. Mioch ons aandag opgeëis vir sy versameling van Nederland (gebruik), wat uitroepe van verbasing by die aanwesiges veroorsaak het. Die ryk verskeidenheid van Nederland se eerste seëls was dan ook beslis uitstaande en die beoordelaars het vir mnr. Mioch 'n puntewaardering gegee waarmee hy kan spog.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF RHODESIA

May. The triumph that was RHOPEX is now only a memory—a very happy memory for members of this Society. It really is not for us to blow our own trumpets, but we can do so with justifiable pride, basing our claims on the tributes paid to us by delegates and visitors prior to their departure, and reiterated in letters we have since received.

The outstanding success of RHOPEX was only possible through the willing and helpful co-operation of a host of members reinforced from outside, and a sincere and hearty expression of thanks is extended to one and all who so willingly and ably assisted in many ways.

Statistics are always of interest, and it is regretted that a full tabulation is not available for publication. But the few details which are to hand may suffice pro tem:

RHOPEX (i) There were in excess of 1,800 sheets in the frames.

(ii) Of the 39 individual exhibits, 9 were from Rhodesia, one each from Great Britain, New Zealand, Australia and Bechuanaland — two. Johannesburg — 12; Cape Town — 3; Durban and Bloemfontein — 2 each; P.E., Germiston and Krugersdorp—1 each; Juniors—3.

(iii) The full value of the stamps on show is not known as some exhibitors carried their own insurance; excluding the Post Office exhibit, the most valuable collection insured by us was for £6,500.

(iv) More than 1,800 people paid to visit the exhibition.

RHOPEX STAMPS — there were 50,000 miniature sheets, and 100,000 of each denomination. Bulawayo Post Offices, including the RHOPEX post office, were sold out of the Miniature sheets on the second day. It is understood that the 3d. value has now been sold out.

The official Covers were also sold out on the second day.

Regarding the Rhodesia current definitive stamps, Mr. V. Ellenberger reports that the 1d. Coil stamps, printed by Harrison's, are now on sale as well as the Mardon Printer's printing of the same stamp in sheet form.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

April. The second meeting was the evening of Mr. Frankland's exhibit "As easy as A.B.C." This collection consisted of three parts, the first, stamps of Antigua in which most issues were represented in fine mint condition. The second part was the issues of Batum mainly in blocks of four and larger—surely a unique collection in a field where even singles are very hard to come by. The trio was completed with a complete collection of the Edwardian postal stationery of Ceylon.

May. The first meeting was the occasion of the exhibit of the stamps of Germany by yet another stalwart of the Society, Dr. von Varendorf. He started off with selected sheets of the early German States and then worked steadily down the years, the majority of the stamps being shown in fine used condition. There was also a good selection of miniature sheets. A very nice exhibit.

The second was opened by the Chairman reporting on the Society's recent visit to Germiston, and Mr. Oppenheim commenting upon current philatelic events.

The evening was a South African one, with a number of collectors combining to present a selection of the stamps of South Africa. The total exhibit was very impressive, with each exhibitor complementing the other. The real credit for the arranging of this most successful evening was due to Mr. Lydall for his efforts in getting the exhibitors to come along. The "exhibit" was as follows: The Kings' Heads (G. Naylor), Airmails (J. Burrell), Officials (M. Wulfson), Covers (T. Meyer), Republic of South Africa (D. Hall). Our most sincere thanks to the exhibitors for a very pleasant evening.

June. The first meeting was a rather interesting, partly impromtu affair. The first exhibitor was Mr. Leo Buchen, who presented his very fine collection of the German Post Offices in China and the Lease Territory of Kiautschou. As is usual with a collector of Mr. Buchen's calibre we were treated to a really first class exhibit with

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rarities a plenty. The best way to do the collection justice and to give you an idea of what you missed is to give you his paper in full with the next newsletter.

The second was Mr. Giesenow who staged a most interesting exhibit of "Petrol and Petroleum Products," accompanied by a talk. He exhibited, inter alia, the first car on a stamp, being on the stamps issued to commemorate the Buffalo Exhibition in the U.S. in 1901. He also mentioned the origin of the tank—the term used by the British to hide the real nature of the new weapon they had devised until they were ready to use it (in 1915). He also told the Jules Verne story of a metal steam-driven elephant in India, which preceded the tank by many years. The exhibit itself, while a bit short of write-up, was well balanced and arranged, making a very colourful display.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

April 5th. The display at our meeting was by Mr. G. Monti who showed us the stamps of the Belgian Congo. The exhibit commenced with the first issues and was almost complete right up to date. The stamps of Katanga which were used during the period that Katanga seceded from the Congo were also included in the display and these are of great historical interest. It was obvious that a great deal of care had gone into the collection, which was tastefully arranged and every example was in pristine condition.

April 19th. At our meeting Mr. B. Bothma showed us the stamps of the decimal overprint issues of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland. Many of these were in plate blocks—the used ones being beautifully cancelled. The display was well put together and annotated to show up the errors.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

June. This month members of the Society were entertained by Mr. D. Reynders who tabled two collections, the first his South African Republic issues and the second of Rhodesia. His Republic collection was very well received and although there are many gaps it is well on the road to being a good specialised collection. Most of the different printings and a lot of the known varieties of the various denominations, both of definitive and of commemorative issues were shown. His second exhibit, a selection of Rhodesian stamps covered the period prior to 1924 and from 1965 up to the present, the period in between these dates when the country was known as Southern Rhodesia, not being shown. In a paper read before displaying his collection Mr. Reynders traced the history of Rhodesia from the time Rhodes made his famous treaty with Lobengula in 1888. On August 21st of that year the first official post was sent from Gubuluwayo and the following year a Royal Charter was granted the B.S.A. Company who was to administer the territory.

THE O.F.S. PHILATELIC SOCIETY

May. There was a gratifying bumper attendance of 35 members and visitors and juniors present. The biggest attendance for many months—and this in mid-winter! Those present were entertained to two interesting exhibits by—

(1) Mr. C. van Ee who tabled a collection entitled "Soil Conservation"—something unusual in the field of philately. It consisted of all labels (including varieties) issued in South Africa covering this subject. The collection was well written-up and viewers were surprised at the scope of this exhibit.

(2) Mr. A. L. Meyburgh's collection "Sport Stamps." This was one of the finest seen at a meeting on this subject and the exhibitor is to be congratulated on the progress he has made in the few months that he has persued this theme. The various sports were well represented and illustrated—almost to a point of completion and perfection. Our thanks are extended to these two exhibitors.

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FOR WORLD STAMP NEWS, market commentary, new issues, postmark studies, book reviews, etc., etc. Read the "PHILATELIC MAGAZINE," published every two weeks by Harris Publications Ltd., of London. Annual sub. R2-25 (£1.2.6). Agent in South Africa: D. C. D. Castle, 174 Cooper Street, Greytown, Natal.

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South African Collectors' Society for the Union Collector—magazine, exchange packet. Subscription 15/- ($2) year. Write Hon. Secretary, W. A. Page, 138 Chastilian Road Dartford, Kent, England.

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tugal show portrait of Prince Henry, while a fine stamp was issued later. A set issued in 1894 show him on a ship and another viewing his fleet.

Prince Henry took up his abode at Sagres in the Algarve (map issued by Portugal and Colonial issue showing Prince Henry at Sagres, while his coat-of-arms appears on a Portuguese stamp) and sent every year two **or three ships to examine the coast of** Africa beyond Cape Non, then limit of Spanish exploration. He hoped finally to find the sea route to India.

His brother, Pedro, visited many lands and brought back one of Ptolemy's maps and a copy of Marco Polo's famous travel narrative to China (Marco Polo with map is to be seen on two stamps issued by Italy). In 1418 Joao Gonsalves Zarco (seen on stamp of Portugal) rediscovered the Madieras, which were settled, and in 1431 Velho Cabral discovered the easternmost Azores and in 1432 Santa Maria (Azores) (portrait on Mariners set of Portugal).

Gill Eannes after Cape Non was passed, doubled Cape Bojador in 1434 (he is also on the Mariner's series). Other captains reached the Rio do Oure. Here the Portuguese encountered the first natives south of Morocco. In 1441 Antao Gonzalves (seen with Diniz Dias on a stamp of Cape Verde, which also issued two fine map stamps, circa 1471 A.D. and 1500 A.D. of Cape Verde) had swept past Cape Branco, discovering Arguim Island and Arguim Gulf. A fort was built on the island of Arguim.

In 1445 Diniz Dias discovered Cape Verde and the slave trade started in earnest. Spain was granted the Canaries in 1479, conquered in 1402 by the Normans, Gadifer de la Salle and Jean de Bethencourt, for Juan III of Castile. Gonzalo de Cintra in 1444 went to Africa (seen with Vincente Diaz on stamp of Cape Verde) with Nuno Tristao and in 1445 to Rio do Auro (Guinea), where a bay was named after him.

Lanzarote (seen with Soeria Costa on stamp of Cape Verde) sailed with Alvaro Fernandes in 1446 to Senegal and Cape Verde. Alvaro Fernandes, a nephew of Zarco, (seen with Diogo Afonzo on stamp of Cape Verde), rediscovered Porto Santo and Madiera in 1446. Diogo Gomez (1440-1482) is seen by himself on a stamp of Cape Verde and on another together with Antonio da Nola.

(To be continued).

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The South African Philatelist

(Established 1923)

Proprietors and Publishers:

The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

Editorial Board: Dr. T. B. BERRY (Chairman), Mr. S. L. CROZET, Dr. H. J. RAUBENHEIMER, Mr. S. J. VERMAAK.

Business Manager: Mr. S. J. VERMAAK, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

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SOUTH AFRICAN NOTES

Hon. Associate Editor:
Dr. H. J. RAUBENHEIMER,
434 City Centre, Pretoria.

RECENT PRINTINGS

Through the courtesy of the Chief Publicity Officer of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, we give the following information as at the 31st of March, 1966. The relevant information for the previous three months appeared in our May, 1966, issue.

Of the definitives there are 200 stamps per sheet of the ½c, 1c and 1½c values. The rest are 100 stamps per sheet.

Postage Stamps:

½c—Job No. 62934.11 continued. On the order for 72,000 sheets a total of 71,100 sheets has been delivered up to the final date 8/2/66. Same cylinders G7 G9 Interior, G16 Exterior.

Job No. 73774.14. On a new order for 120,000 sheets, 24,600 sheets were delivered on 3/3/66 with a total delivery of 39,400 sheets to date. Same Cylinders G7 G9 Interior, G16 Exterior.

1c—Job No. 60937.34 continued. On the order for 2,000,000 sheets, 1,439,400 sheets have been delivered to date. Same cylinders S23 Interior, S25 Exterior.

1½c—Job No. 62935.12. On the order for 75,000 sheets, a total delivery of 77,300 sheets has been made up to the final date 24/2/66. Same Cylinders S24 Interior, S19 Exterior.

2c—Job No. 70812.11. On an order for 100,000 sheets a total of 68,300 sheets has been delivered to date. Same Cylinders G2 Interior, G1 Exterior.

2½c—Job No. 41288.80 continued. On the order for 2,000,000 sheets a total delivery of 1,833,738 sheets was made up to the final date 1/2/66. Same Cylinders 12 Interior, 11 Exterior.

Job No. 69808.17. On a new order for 1,500,000 sheets a first delivery of 5,100 sheets was made on 11/2/66, the total delivery to date being 314,300 sheets. Same cylinders 12 Interior, 11 Exterior.

3c—Job No. 62936.13 continued. On the order for 300,000 sheets, a total delivery of 307,400 sheets was made up to the final date of delivery 29/3/66. Same Cylinders G15 Interior, G8 Exterior.

5c—Job No. 62937.14 continued. On the order for 150,000 sheets a total of 124,000 sheets has been delivered to date. Same Cylinders 31 Interior, S1 Exterior.

7½c—Job No. 58799.17 continued. On the order for 150,000 sheets a total delivery of 147,300 sheets has been made up to the final date 18/1/66. Same Cylinders S20 Interior, S21 Exterior. Unwatermarked paper.

Job No. 74033.27. On a new order for 160,000 sheets a first delivery of 14,600 sheets was made on 24/2/66, the total delivery to date being 21,600 sheets. Same Cylinders S20 Interior, S21 Exterior.

10c—Job No. 68690.10 continued. On the order for 140,000 sheets a total delivery of 74,300 sheets has been made to date. Same Cylinders S1 Interior, 121 Exterior

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12½c—Job No. 62938.15. On an order for 60,000 sheets a first delivery of 2,600 sheets was made on 27/1/66 with a total delivery of 37,900 to date. New Cylinders 12 and 13 Interior, 10 Exterior. Same double die multipositives used. RSA watermarked paper.

20c—Job No. 68689.09 continued. On the order for 75,000 sheets a total delivery of 37,000 sheets has been made to date. Same Cylinders 27 and 60 Interior, 6 Exterior.

Post Cards.

1½c—Job No. 67607.38 continued. On the order for 50,000 sheets a total of 80,496 sheets has been delivered up to the final date 15/2/66. (3,219,840 single cards). Same Cylinders Z17 Interior, Z14 Exterior.

Job No. 71657.48. On a new order for 50,000 sheets a first delivery of 1,200 sheets was made on 24/2/66, the total delivery to date being 12,650 sheets (506,000 single cards). Same Cylinders Z17 Interior, Z14 Exterior.

Air Letters.

2½c—Job No. 58806.24 continued. On the order for 2,250,000 cards a total delivery of 2,230,000 cards was made up to the final date of delivery 15/2/66. Same Cylinders 10 Interior, 89 Exterior.

Job No. 73773.43. On a new order for 2,250,000 cards a first delivery of 27,000 cards was made on 3/3/66, the total delivery to date being 313,500 cards. Same Cylinders 10 Interior, 89 Exterior.

5c—Job No. 65198.53 continued. On the order for 5,400,000 cards a total of 5,297,000 cards has been delivered to date. Same Cylinders 104 Interior, D2 Exterior.

5c—(Greetings). Job No. 65197.52 continued. On the order for 144,000 cards a total delivery of 157,000 cards has been made up, to the final date of delivery 3/2/66. Same Cylinders.

* * * *

THE REPUBLIC FESTIVAL 7½c STAMP. SECOND ISSUE

Early in July the Bureau in Pretoria suddenly ran out of stocks of the 7½c stamp of this series. Post offices in Pretoria also ran short, a visit to five of them produced one cylinder block. The next week new stocks arrived, seemingly identical to the early ones but with new cylinder numbers. The No. 9, ultramarine-blue of the first was replaced by No. 4 of the second. The Bureau kindly gave us the following information: The order was for 40,000 sheets; when 22,000 had been printed, cylinder 9 developed a flaw so another one, No. 4, was prepared from the original multipositive. Then another 21,400 sheets were printed.

With the exception of these two numbers, the printing details are similar. The catalogued varieties of the first issue are all present on the second; they are thus multipositive varieties. The second issue has, in addition, its Cylinder varieties. They are:—

Row 1/4 and 5. Blue line in top gutter above vertical gutter between stamps.

Row 3/5. Blue dot on top frame line above 66 of 1966.

It is interesting to note, too, that the irregularities in the segments of the bottom marginal bar on the right are absent from second issue.

* * * *

CYLINDER 60

One of the cylinders used for the recent 2½c, Groot Constantia, stamp printing was given as number 60, but Cylinder 60 was one of those used for the 20c stamp. A reference to the Government Printing Works' job sheet showed that there is still an uncompleted order for these 20c stamps. On referring this to the authorities we learned that the 20c Cylinder 60 still exists and can be used again. The 2½c "Cylinder No. 60" is not 60 after all, but has another number, and was used in error.

* * * *

MAUVE OR VIOLET

Some months ago a new printing of the 2½c stamp from cylinders 12-11 appeared. Its most striking feature was marked change of colour of Cylinder 12. It was described then as "bright mauve" because it was much brighter than the preceding stamps. The next issue, from cylinders 60 S27 had also this bright colour. Now the question of the names of colours is a controversial one—it is due to be discussed by the Stamp Study Circle soon—and the same stamp has been described as mauve in one catalogue and violet in another.

Furthermore, criticism has been levelled at our Republican catalogue that it is not enough to give the colour of a stamp as, say "Red-Shades," there is a world of difference between the reds and a marked difference in printings should be recorded.

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The early 2½c stamp was shown to a couple of professional artists and they agreed that it was more of a violet than a mauve and the later one was a light violet. They based their opinion on Stanley Gibbons Colour Guide. The next step was to consult the Printing works that prepared the colours, and their opinion was, in simple words, a light violet! The colour will now be catalogued as "light violet."

* * * *

HORIZONTAL OR VERTICAL

Quote—from the Golden Jubilee Handbook-Catalogue page 13:

"PAIRS. Although in theory, there should be no difference between the price of a horizontal or a vertical pair, most collectors insist on having the former, consequently they are worth much more and in this Catalogue, where the price is for a pair, unless otherwise stated, a horizontal pair of stamps is referred to."

This is in particular reference to unilingual stamps, English or Afrikaans. The last unilingual stamp issued in South Africa, according to the above Catalogue, was a one penny in April, 1954. Now that we have the unilingual Republic Festival stamps with us again, the question of how to collect pairs arises once more. A canvass of opinions brought forth most emphatic views. At the one end was a dealer who, forthrightedly brooking no contradiction, averred that vertical pairs should be catalogued at half the price of horizontal ones. An illustrated album was shown with these stamps all horizontal and that is how they should be, said he. At the other end was a specialist collector, a leader of philatelic thought, who held two pairs of the 2½c stamp aloft, the horizontal pair being a long narrow strip and the vertical pair nearly a square. "They speak for themselves," he said. The matter was then animatedly discussed by the Stamp Study Circle; it was a conflict between the traditionalists quoting the Catalogue as their incontrovertible proof, and the "moderns" who were not impressed by what they regarded as bygone views.

The general impression gained was that you can collect pairs as you please, vertical or horizontal, so we discretely omit any reference to the words horizontal or vertical.

Then we went to the Publicity Bureau of the Post Office to ascertain why the 1c and 3c stamps of vertical format were placed horizontally and the 2½c and 7½c stamps of horizontal format were placed vertically on the serviced covers of the Republic Festival issue. We quote the interview without comment: "Because they look better that way and are more convenient for date stamping." Asked how stamps were supplied on orders of which there were many thousands, the reply was that, where pairs were required, the 1c and 3c stamps were supplied in horizontal pairs and the 2½c and 7½c's in vertical pairs. "That way made sense to us." Were there any requests for horizontal pairs only? "Yes, perhaps five." Were there any complaints? "No."

So, collectors all, if you perhaps feel grieved that you have any vertical pairs, be comforted by the knowledge that you are in the company of thousands, and numbers do count.

* * * *

OFFICIAL SOUVENIR COVERS AND THE CATALOGUE

When the Post Office issued a special Official Souvenir firstday postcard for the International Telecommunication Union stamp issue in 1965 it was, up to a point, somewhat of a venture. Their reasons for doing so were good; experience had shown that many collectors, particularly from overseas, could not get their own covers in time for the special first day date stamps. There had been complaints that the first day of issue followed too closely upon the announcement of an issue. The experiment was a resounding success. A first printing was sold out very shortly and a second was necessary.

The issue of a souvenir envelope for the Dutch Reformed Church's issue the same year, and in the same circumstances, was also most successful. So when the Republic Festival issue was in the offing, the Post Office was well prepared. Scores of thousands of envelopes were printed and sold. The envelopes bore the number 3, the third issue of Souvenir stationery of that sort, and signifying that the practice would continue.

Enquiry at the Bureau brought the information that that was indeed the purpose. It was pointed out that there had been complaints that the covers were only obtainable at a few places. It would not be enough

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that future ones could be bought at the various philatelic counters in large centres, the ideal would be that they become as freely available as other stationery such as post cards and registration envelopes. An excellent thing for philately. The Post Office promised to do something along those lines.

The question for us then to decide was whether these were to be catalogued, and if so, how. A questionaire was sent to a number of experts for their opinion. There were obvious difficulties as one of the experts mentioned, but the others' replies were short and to the point. They must be included in the Postal Stationery section of the Catalogue under a new heading such as "Official Souvenir Cards and Envelopes." This opinion was unanimously endorsed by a meeting of the Stamp Study Circle.

When the new Supplementary pages of the Republic Catalogue appear early in September, these cards and covers will be in the Postal Stationery section and listed OC 1, 2 and 3. O.C. means Official Cards/ Covers. The official special first day date-stamp will also be featured.

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A UNIQUE EXHIBITION

by Leslie Leon, F.R.P.S.L.

Have you any old exhibition catalogues. If you were at the British Empire Exhibition held at Johannesburg in 1936, you may sometimes pull out the catalogue of the Philatelic exhibits (possibly with a cancelled Jipex sheet on the cover) and browse through the list of collectors famous in those days—wonder if they are still alive and whether they are collecting the same countries as in the past. If you are younger, the same remarks may apply to the Unipex catalogue of 1960. They should all provide their points of interest and can often become a subject for discussion when philatelists meet.

I have recently acquired one of the most fascinating and unusual of them all. When King George V celebrated his Silver Jubilee in 1935 he had been Patron of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, for 25 years after having been President for the 14 years previous to his accession to the throne. The Society "took part in the varied celebrations by holding an exhibition of stamps which in its own way is unique" to quote from the Introduction to the catalogue, which goes on to say "there has never been assembled a display of the issue of Queen Victoria's reign at all approaching this, alike in rarity and fineness of condition." There were no awards and the entries were anonymous and a single sheet in a frame may have consisted of the pooled stamps of four or five owners, selected not by them but by the Committee, with the sole object of getting as near as possible to the ideal presentation of the respective varieties, and nearly all the exhibits were exceptional.

How well the Committee succeeded in its task may be judged by giving a short list of some of the more outstanding stamps that were on view on May 6, 1935.

Mauritius: No fewer than nine copies of the 1d and 2d "Post Office" stamps were displayed, including the cover carrying both values.

Trinidad: Four separate copies of Lady McLeod (4c. blue) each on cover.

Cape of Good Hope: Both the Woodblock errors of colour, there being seven copies of the 1d and five of the fourpenny.

Gambia: The highlight here was surely a complete sheet of 15 of the 1874 4d brown imperforate issue.

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Orders for stamps should be addressed to the Philatelic Bureau, G.P.O., Pretoria, and must be accompanied by money orders, postal orders or bank drafts made payable to the Postmaster-General. Cheques are not accepted. The amount should be sufficient to cover postage and registration.

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Deposito-rekenings kan geopen word.

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Natal: A splendid selection of the embossed issue, including the 3d rose tete-beche pair, and 1/- buff in a block of four with 1d blue on entire.

Ceylon: This section started with 12 sheets of the imperforate stamps, these sheets containing over 100 copies mint and used.

India: The Scinde Dawks in all three colours, including a block of 14 of the ½ anna white.

Ionian Islands: The three values all used on cover.

Quite enough to make your philatelic mouth water, I expect! Many of the exhibits were photographed and numerous plates accompany the Catalogue which also contains a list of the Fellows and Members contributing to the Exhibition although of course, their contributions were not specified. The King's own collection was not represented as the idea was that other collectors, members of the Society, should offer the display as a tribute. The King on one occasion had written to the Keeper of his collection that he "wished it to be the best, and not one of the best, collections" of the stamps of the British Empire; the lack of his stamps meant that the Exhibition fell considerably short of what it might have been.

Many of my old catalogues contain much more information that the one we are discussing; many of them contain advertisements of interest—it is remarkable how cheap our favourite stamps were in days gone by! It would, however, be impossible to find a catalogue more packed with treasures than that of the "Royal Jubilee Exhibition of British Empire Stamps of the Victorian Era, May 6th to May 11th, 1935.'

AMPHILEX '67

The next International stamp exhibition to be known as "Amphilex '67" will be held in the Europa Hall of the R.A.I. building in Amsterdam, Holland, from the 11th to the 21st May 1967.

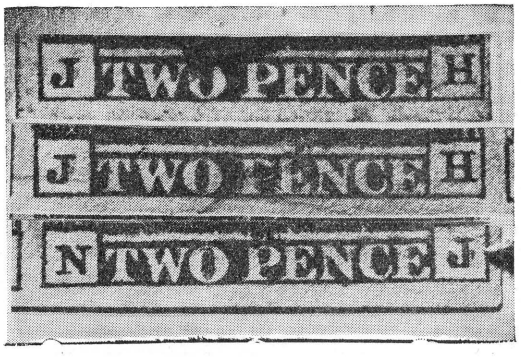
Mr. Douglas Roth, Fairways, Mona Crescent, Newlands, Cape, has been appointed Commissioner for South Africa and those who are interested in exhibiting should approach him for particulars, application forms and brochures.

THE "SQUARE J" FLAW

A paper published under the above title in the March, 1966 issue of the South African Philatelist concluded with the diffident suggestion that the subject might be worth pursuing further. It is early yet to know whether others have done so, but taking the hint to apply to myself as well, additional investigations have been undertaken with interesting results, which will be chronicled here.

Studies of this nature are liable to be incomplete for a variety of reasons, and certainly my original paper was no exception. I ask for no condonation of a grievous omission, of which I became aware when reflecting on the dates on which the affected Plates were registered.

The Square-footed J was used on Plate 3 of the 1841, 2d Blue but I had ignored it because the few Js at that time in my possession, failed to show any Flaw. This Plate was registered on February 10th. 1841, and finished on February 25th. 1841. The 1d Red Plate 12 was registered on February 25th. 1841 and was the first Red Plate to show the Flaw. It occurred to me that the same punches used on the 2d Blue Plate 3 might have been used on the 1d Reds which followed. The subsequent acquisition of all the Js on that Plate revealed that indeed this was so.



For on all of several stamps lettered NJ there was a splended example of the Flaw.

Further scrutiny of this Plate showed the Flaw to be quite clear on KJ, LJ, MJ, OJ, PJ, QJ, RJ, and on JG, JH, and JI. It is faintly discernible on DJ, GJ, HJ, JJ, SJ, TJ, and on JE, JF and JL.

There is no sign of it on my copies of AJ, BJ, CJ, EJ, FJ, IJ, or on JA, JB, JC, JD and JK.

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The Square J used on Plate 9 is quite different from those subsequently used, and it only appears on some of the Js on this Plate, the remainder being round-footed. It seems to have been discarded or mislaid.

That used on Plates 10 and 11 is quite similar to that found on the 2d Plate and Plates 12-44, but no sign of the Flaw can be detected. Either a third was used on the Plates which followed, or alternatively this second punch was damaged prior to its use on the 2d Plate.

Be that as it may, the same punch was then used for the 2d Blue Plate 3 and those 1d Red Plates previously described.

Once again it is hoped that other students of the Line Engraved Stamps of Great Britain will give attention to this fascinating little mark.

References: South African Philatelist: March 1966.

The "Square J" Flaw. —by J. R. Strong.

PHILATELY
The Educator

Over the last decade it has been both my habit and my pleasure to periodically purchase modest quantities of Childrens Stamp Albums which can be obtained for a very reasonable outlay from philatelic dealers or local bazaars. Then, with care and patience, a limited amount of specially selected material is introduced into the specified sections of each album.

Each stamp chosen for inclusion serves a special purpose. Some are incorporated to encourage an interest in History, others serve as teachers of Geography; many open the doors to a world of Nature, featuring both Bird and Animal life, while others again foster a sense of Good Colour Balance and Design. Several of the topics depicted encourage imagination and the children revel in the many issues reflecting the achievements of mankind from the Dawn of History up to the Modern Age of Space Technology.

Eventually these partially completed albums are dispersed amongst the children in the neighbourhood who, imbued with a fresh sense of interest, continue to collect with enthusiasm and discretion.

Apart from the new vistas which Philately can open to the child, the "Tools" of Philately can also play their part. The folding and handling of stamps hinges, the cutting of Hawid Strips and the use of "Tweezers" are early lessons in manipulation which could eventually become a factor in producing a surgeon capable of great dexterity with "knife" and "foreceps." The humble "Magnifying Glass" can kindle that spark of interest which eventually opens the path to a career in Watchmaking, Diamond Cutting or Astromony.

As for the habit of Orderly Classification this could well lead to an eventual career in Accounting, Costing or Scientific Research!

Philately is more than a humble diversion, it is a "MAKER OF MEN."

PHIL-A-TELIC.

FIRST UNION AIRWAYS FLIGHT
DURBAN-CAPE TOWN VIA UITENHAGE

A cover was received from Mr. E. P. Sloan, of Ottawa, Canada, addressed to Leonard Wyndham, Uitenhage, postmarked Durban January 5, 1934 and backstamped Uitenhage 5.Jan.34, with enclosed note by Mr. Wyndham, reading as follows: "The License for the Port Elizabeth aerodrome was cancelled at the end of 1933, necessitating Union Airways landing at Uitenhage. The first Durban-Cape Town flight via the new route was made on Thursday and Friday 4th and 5th January, 1934. No alteration, however, was made in the mailing arrangements consequent upon this change of route. In other words, although the planes land at Uitenhage, mail on that centre is still included in the Port Elizabeth bag and mail from Uitenhage is first sent to Port Elizabeth and then back to be placed on the plane." Covers exist Durban-Uitenhage and Uitenhage-Cape Town. —M. F. STERN.

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STOP PRESS

The Postmaster General announces that individuals resident in the Republic who desire to obtain first day impressions on the 3rd October, 1966 of the Tsitsikamma Forest and Costal Natural Park, and also of the Cape Point Nature Reserve special date stamps, should send their selfaddressed and postally franked envelopes, enclosed in strong covers, to the Postmaster Humansdorp and Simonstown respectively, to arrive before the 1st October, 1966.

OBITUARIES

As we go to press we learn of the death of two stalwarts of South African Philately.

Mr. F. Mattei, a one-time member of the Johannesburg Philatelic Society and owner of an ouutstanding collection of S.W. Africa which secured a first award at the Pretoria National Exhibition in 1934, passed away on Friday, 19 August, 1966, at the grand age of 93 years.

Mr. W. Newlands passed over on Saturday, 20th August, 1966, after a prolonged period of ill-health, at Southport, England, aged 58 years. He was a prominent member of the Pretoria Philatelic Society, a research worker, and was elected to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1956.

We extend our sincere sympathy and kind thoughts to the relatives of our departed colleague.

THE COLLECTOR WHO SPENT . . . £2,000 A WEEK ON STAMPS

By Brenda Gourgey

In the later years of the last century and the early years of this, a shabbily-dressed man in a greasy beret and cheap fibre-soled shoes was a familiar figure in the philatelic world. He had one passion in life, and one only—to acquire stamps. He never drank, never smoked, had no social life, but spent his days in an unending search for stamp rarities.

To this end, he travelled Europe, bought up some of the largest collections of his time, employed the leading dealers of several European capitals, and set aside £2,000 a week for his purchases.

For, despite his squalid appearance and hermit-like existence, Philipp, Count di Ferrary, Baron de la Renotière, Duke of Galliera, was one of the richest men in Europe, perhaps in the world.

Ferrary was the illegitimate son of the Sardinian Countess Brognolesale. She later married a Genoese railway contractor, whose vast fortune she inherited and passed on to her son. At her death in 1888, Ferrary received some $35 million and, in the years that followed, he spent nearly all of it on stamps.

Ferrary had started collecting around 1865 when he was 15, and acquired whilst still under 20 such prizes as four of the 12 existing 2d. "Post Office" Mauritius and more than 50 copies of the Saxony 1851 3 pfennig stamps, now worth some £20,000.

As time passed, Ferrary bought one rarity after another: the 2 cents Hawaii blue, 1851; several "Strubelis"—the imperforate Sitting Helvetia issue, 1854-62; the only tête-bêche pair in existence of the French 15 centimes, 1849; and the best-known stamp in the world, the unique British Guiana 1 cent magenta, which he purchased in 1878 from a Liverpool dealer, Thomas Ridpath, for £150.

Ridpath made a large profit from the deal, for the collection—that of N. R. McKinnon —which included the stamp had cost him only £120. McKinnon had originally purchased the stamp for 6s. from a schoolboy who wanted "something prettier." When Ferrary's collection was sold after his death, the 1c. magenta fetched some £7,343, then a record price for a single stamp. Now, it is thought to be worth about £20,000.

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Ferrary also owned severel American "Postmaster" stamps, amongst them the "Boscawen" of 1865. Produced privately by the Postmaster of Boscawen, U.S.A., the stamp's authenticity was in doubt for several years until it was bought by a New York dealer who had seen another of its kind. The "Boscawen" came into Ferrary's possession in 1912, when he exchanged it for a 2d. Post Office Mauritius. Ferrary never sold or exchanged the "Boscawen," and it was only after he died that the multi-millionaire Arthur Hind acquired it for some £2,750.

Ferrary, in fact, never sold any of his stamps, or indeed, any of his duplicates either. He had many, for he was also a great collector of collections. He bought two well-known British collections: Judge Philbrick's for £7,000 in 1880, and that of Sir Daniel Cooper, first President of the Philatelic Society, London (now "the Royal") for £3,000. Ferrary also purchased the collection of Baron de Rothschild and the Thornhill collection of Australians.

Ferrary's own collection was so vast that he needed two rooms in his Paris mansion to house it. Charles Phillips, one of the few allowed to see the collection, described it:

> In the stamp room, three sides were lined with cupboards . . . the stamps all mounted on strips of stout paper. These loose sheets were wrapped in two paper covers, the name of the country and issue written on the outside and then the bundles were arranged in order on the shelves. On the top shelves were large bundles, each labelled with the name of a country. In these . . . were what Ferrary termed his "duplicates" . . . —the remains of the numerous collections he had purchased.

Occupied as he was in a constant search for fresh acquisitions, Ferrary left the arrangement and care of his collection to Pierre Mahé, a leading Paris stamp dealer. Mahé was one of three prominent dealers who purchased stamps for Ferrary. The collector was one of the best customers of Moens, of Brussels, and of Rudolph Friedl, the Viennese expert. It was Friedl who sold Ferrary the Swedish 3 skilling-banco error of colour.

Not all those from whom Ferrary bought were so reputable. His collection contained many forgeries, some of which, at least, he purchased from the London Gang, notorious stamp forgers of the 1890's.

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Two members of the gang, Benjamin and Sarpy, exhibited in their grimy shop a notice which could rarely have been matched for audacity, stating in suitably small print that they were not responsible for the genuineness of their stamps. There is even some evidence that they produced rarities especially for Ferrary.

Such forgeries, often called "Ferrarities," threw some doubt on the extent of Ferrary's knowledge. In his early years he had written several articles for stamp journals which revealed a genuine understanding of philately, and he had, on one occasion, boiled the 15 centimes of 1849 to prove that they were not fakes.

However, some forgeries may have been acquired deliberately, for there was a philanthropic side to Ferrary's strange nature. He once paid an impoverished Berlin dealer £100 for stamps which, as was later pointed out to him, were forgeries. "The man wanted the money badly, and had nothing else," Ferrary replied. "So I had to take the forgeries."

The outbreak of war in 1914 ended Ferrary's wanderings between capitals in search of stamps. He left Paris for Switzerland, taking the Greek part of his collection with him. The rest he entrusted to the Austro-Hungarian Embassy in Paris.

Three years later Ferrary died in Lausanne. In 1916 he had made a will leaving his collection to the Reichspost Museum in Berlin, but his wish was never realised. The French Government confiscated the collection and ordered it to be sold, the proceeds to be set against the German reparations account.

Between 1921 and 1925, 14 auctions took place, during which the Ferrary collection realised £402,965.

The sale of the British Guiana 1 cent magenta on April 6th, 1922, saw a veritable duel between Maurice Burrus, the Alsatian tobacco magnate, and Hugo Griebert (the London dealer), bidding on behalf of Arthur Hind, the American millionaire plush manufacturer, the eventual purchaser. Burrus consoled himself with the purchase, for £556, of a "Perot" Postmaster Provisional of Hamilton, Bermuda, bought originally by Ferrary in 1899.

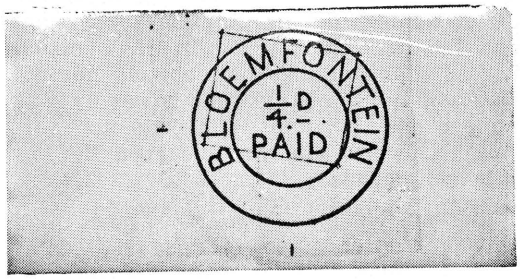
Another rarity, the purplish-blue 2d. "Post Paid" Mauritius, which Pierre Mahé, of Paris, bought for Ferrary from a Calcutta dealer, was sold for nearly £2,000. An even larger sum was paid for a pair of the 1851 Spanish 2 reales blue, error of colour.

The auctions revealed just how great a collector Ferrary was. He possessed more rarities than any one person had done at any one time. He spent 50 years of his life, and most of his money, on philately. Little is known of his character, for Ferrary's desire for anonymity was almost as intense as his mania for stamps. He would seem to have been a vagabond, an eccentric. He was certainly a recluse. Yet he was accounted, by the few who knew him, a happy man, and this may well have been true. For, as President Roosevelt said: "Philately . . . in innumerable ways enriches life and adds to its joys."

—(Acknowledgment to "Stamp Collecting).

BLOEMFONTEIN CANCELLATION

Mr. A. G. M. Batten, of Great Britain writes that the above is a reproduction of



a cancellation "the circles measuring 32 and 19 mm" found recently on a 1d Transvaal Edward VII stamp. The position of the stamp is shown in the drawing.

It is not known what appeared in the lower part of the double circle but presumably the letters "O.R.C." in some form or other.

It would be interesting to know whether there is any information available as to whether this was in fact used for postage or whether it was a Revenue cancellation.

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VERVALSINGS VAN TRANSVAAL

Een van ons lesers sê dat hy nog altyd trots op sy versameling van die seëls van die ou Suid-Afrikaanse Republiek was maar dat hy nou onrustig begin raak omdat iemand hom onlangs half oortuig het dat baie van sy beste stukke nie is wat hy dink hulle is nie. „Ek kan dit nie glo nie" vervolg hy „want baie van die goed het my baie geld gekos."

Hier wil ons dadelik waarsku: moet nooit baie geld vir 'n posseël gee nie—enige posseël—tensy u 'n sertifikaat van egtheid saamkry nie. Natuurlik is dit 'n ander saak as u absoluut meester van die situasie is. Dis veiligste is egter om maar altyd op so 'n sertifikaat aan te dring. Nie alleen word u daardeur beskerm nie maar besit van 'n sertifikaat van egtheid vergemaklik sake indien u ooit eendag sou besluit om self te verkoop, want sien, verstandige seëlkopers maak deesdae almal so. Die rede is dat te veel versamelaars te dikwels in die verlede „gevang" is, nie noodwendig doelbewus nie. Heel onskuldig kan 'n eerlike versamelaar in sy onkunde 'n mede- (onkundige) versamelaar 'n stel of twee laat aftrap. Die sertifikaat-reël geld veral seëls van lande wat die aandag van namakers gehad het. Die Z.A.R. het in dié opsig meer sodanige aandag getrek as baie ander lande en gevolglik is die grootste omsigtigheid nodig. Hierdie groep seëls is wyd en syd vervals en nagedruk.

Voor u ernstig met die seëls van die Z.A.R. raak behoort u so 'n bietjie op die geskiedenis van dié republiek se seëls in te gaan. Doen u dit sal u agterkom waarom dié seëls, sommige waarvan onder die seldsaamste in die wêreld is, in so 'n groot onguns verval het dat hulle in katalogusse betreklik goedkoop aangedui is. Dit is paradoksaal maar die verduideliking is tog heel eenvoudig verstaanbaar as ons in gedagte hou dat vraag en aanbod die „waarde" van 'n posseël bepaal en dat die vraag na Transvaalse seëls vandag byna morsdood is omdat almal wat bereid is om geld, groot geld, aan posseëls te bestee, bang vir hulle is omdat daar meer vervalsings, namaaksels, of wat ons hulle ook al wil noem, bestaan, as wat daar egtes is.

Vroeë dae het elke tweede groot versamelaar 'n uitgebreide versameling van Z.A.R. gehad tot een van hulle lont gebruik het en 'n grootskeepse streep bedrogspeletjies deur verskeie „meesters" op daardie gebied, ontbloot het. Dit was sestig-sewentig jaar gelede en dit was ook die einde van die Z.A.R. se gewildheid. So vinnig as wat hulle kon, het daardie versamelaars van hulle Republikeinse seëls ontslae geraak en vandag „gee ons baie geld" vir daardie einste versamelings en nadrukke.

'n A-tot-Z beskrywing van die Z.A.R. vervalsings, nadrukke of herdrukke en ander namaaksels van die vroegste uitgawes tot dié van 1902 (met inbegrip van daardie lieflike £5 van 1892 waarop ons almal so trots is, salig daarvan onbewus dat dit honderd-teen-een nie die ware Jakob is nie), kan gerieflik in 'n boekdeel saamgevat word.

Die grootste sondaar was Adolph Otto op Gustrou, Mecklinburg-Schwerin wat die oorspronklike kontrak vir die druk van die Republiek se eerste seëls gehad het en daarna vir jare vir eie gewin skelmpies aanhou seëls druk het. Ander bekendes op die gebied van vervalsing was Goldner, Enter-

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lein en die grootste meester-vervalser van almal, Francois Fournier. Ons volstaan voorlopig met neef Otto.

Voer gou 'n eenvoudige toetsie uit ('n vergrootglas is nie nodig as u oë nie sleg is nie): by die Otto-seëls, waar die arend met uitgestrekte vlerke staan (1869), 1d. rooiagtig bruin en oranjerooi, 6d. helder- en diep-ultramaryn en 1/- diepgroen en die 3d. van 1871 met arend met vlerke half toegevou en in 'n rooiagtige lila-kleur, moet u na drie kenmerkies van egtheid soek:

(1) die „D" van „EENDRAGT" raak die boonste kant van die lint;

(2) die vlagstok raak nie die lintkant onder die „G" van „MAGT" nie; en

(3) die arend se gesig is sonder kleur, met 'n gekleurde kolletjie vir die oog.

Waar die seëls 'n bietjie baie ink ontvang het kan die „gesig" en die „vlagstok"- eienskappe bedrieglik wees, maar die „D" is altyd deurslaggewend. Hierdie drie „foutjies" saam met die regte kleure soos hierbo vermeld is u waarborg van egtheid. Genoemde seëls is óf getand óf met steektanding.

Sodra die „EENDRAGT" heeltemal vry van die lintkant staan, die vlagstok aan die lint raak en die oog en kroon van die arend inmekaar vloei, met ander woorde—sodra dit lyk of die seël volmaak gedruk is, het u een van Otto se skelmstukke voor u.

Die Goldner- en Enterlein-fopseëls kom baie ooreen met Otto sin, behalwe dat hulle nie so netjies afgerond is nie, asof te veel ink gebruik was.

Otto het hom in hoofsaak aan drie oordrywe skuldig gemaak . . . (1) hy het vir sy eie gewin seëls nagedruk van drukplate wat hy volgens ooreenkoms na die Republiek moes terugstuur maar wat hy in plaas daarvan terug gehou het; (2) toe voornoemde drukplate uitgedien geraak het, het hy doodeenvoudig sy eie gemaak (was hy dan nie die Meester nie?) en aldus die reeks vervals; en (3) toe dit duidelik geword het dat daar 'n groot vraag na die gebruikte seëls van die Republiek was, het hy net gedoen wat vir 'n vervalser alledaags sou wees en die posstempels nagemaak. (Ook op dié gebied was Otto nie die alleensondaar nie).

Otto se nadrukke (of herdrukke): Ten spyte daarvan dat hulle deur die aangestelde drukker met een en dieselfde drukplate en ander apparaat vervaardig was, is hulle vals omdat hulle na verstryking van kontrak skelmpies gedruk en wederregtelik versprei was. Hulle toon gewoonlik die tekens van egtheid maar kan aan hulle kleure en papiersoorte uitgeken word. By die 1d. het ons 'n verskeidenheid van rooi kleure. Net die rooierige bruin (brown lake) en oranjebruin is eg. (Otto het ook latere uitgawes van verskeie ander drukkers nagemaak. Met 'n latere geleentheid kan ons miskien oor hulle ook gesels). Die 3d. van 1871 behoort so 'n dowwerige rooilila te wees en alleenlik ongetand. Daar is 'n dosyn of wat Otto-tiekies in omloop. Van hulle sê Curle en Basden moet ons net twee hou en die ander weggooi. Een is die een hier genoem en die ander is 'n helder lilakleur met **steektanding** en met 'n kenmerkende letseltjie ('n „spoor") aan die linker been van die arend. Al die ander kleure—verskeie perse, pienke en bloues, is niks anders as Otto se speelgoed nie en moet as sulks in versamelings aangedui word. Die 6d. behoort slegs helder- en diep-ultramaryn te wees. Al die afwykende kleure soos blou, skakerings van blou en die leikleuriges, is nadrukke. Hulle sluit ook die kopstaande 6d. en 1/- in. Die nagedrukte 1/-'s is genadiglik minder en nie maklik uitkenbaar nie.

Vervalsings: Afgesien van die aanduiding hierbo gegee (die „D", die „vlagstok" en die „gesig"), het Otto 'n pragtige 1d. voortgebring wat vandag 'n gesogte stuk onder versamelaars van vervalsings as sulks is. Dit is naamlik een waar die waardevakkies met dubbele omlystings is. Hierdie gedrog het in 1872 verskyn en is eintlik 'n namaaksel van die Borrius (Potchefstroom) 1d. in rooi en in swart. (As u hierdie stukkie(s) besit, kan u met vrymoedigheid die volgende byskrif aanbring: „Hierdie is 'n seldsame Otto-vervalsing en is eintlik meer werd as die egte seël." Dit sal vir u teleurstelling vergoed!). Sonder om die oormag van vervalsings te gering te skat, wil ons net een ander meesterstuk van neef Otto noem. Presies hoeveel eensjielingstukke hy van die gesteelde drukplaat gemaak en verkoop het, sal net hy geweet het. Een ding is seker en dit is dat hy dié plaat gebruik het tot normale slytasie sekere letsels begin toon het en lank daarna, sodat daar vandag baie sulke seëls is wat die volgende getuienis van die Otto-skelmsjieling dra: 'n duidelike kol tussen „EEN" en „SHILLING" aan die linkerkant, 'n breuk aan die ankerblad en 'n breuk van die lint tussen die „D" en „R" van „EENDRAGT." Omdat hierdie seël in haas elke versameling is, kan ons

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nie anders as om teen sy karakter te waarsku nie.

Posstempels: Hier wil ons alleen maar maan dat 'n posstempel wat baie mooi, netjies en skoon is, op sy beste een in elke vyftig of sestig, eg is. Dit geld veral die stempel van vier gelykmiddelpuntige ringetjies. Normaalweg is die egte afstempelings effens gesmeer. (Neef Otto was 'n presiese kêrel en ons vind dat al sy skelmprodukte altyd beter as die regte ding was).

* * * *

Laat ons nou maar weet of ons u verder moet teleurstel (toelig) en of ons u naam maar kan noem. Dit is immers geen skande nie. Die uwe het juis op hierdie manier veel van die pos- en politieke geskiedenis van ons eerste republiek geleer. (Terloops, het u miskien 'n koevert van die Z.A.R. gestempel circa 1868/1870, met of sonder posseël? Ja? Mooi! Wat wil u daarvoor hê?).

IN DIE VOORUITSIG

Of versamelaars van die seëls van Britse gebiede, die komende maande se program gaan geniet of met teensin gaan bejeën sal afhang van hulle gesindheid teenoor 'n seëlvloed.

So seker as nog iets gaan diegene wat op nuwe-uitgawes-dienste ingeteken is, dringende oproepe vir viervoudige aanvulling van hulle intekengelde ontvang want 'n dik stroom nuwe uitreikings staan hulle voor die deur.

Om mee te begin is lang, nuwe vastereekse aangekondig vir Antigua, Bahamas, Gibraltar, Gilbert- en Ellice-eilande, Mauritius ('n opdrukstel), Pitcairn-eilande en die Turk- en Caicos-eilande. Hierbenewens kry Nieu-Hibrede bykomstige waardesoorte en Bermuda en Singapoer een ekstra seël elk.

Etlike gedenkreekse is aangekondig, soos Ascension met 'n stel van vier (4d., 8d., 1/3 en 2/6) met die inwyding van die nuwe Apollo-satellietstasie op die eiland. Op 30 September kom Botswana (die ou Betsjoeanaland) met sy onafhanklikheidstel van vier seëls (2½, 5, 15 en 35c) plus opdrukke van die bestaande vastereeks. 'n Dag later verskyn Brits-Honduras se poseeufeesuitreiking van 5, 10, 22 en 25c.

Hongkong het 'n gedenkstel met die legging van sy see-verbindingskabel belowe en Jamaika en Oos-Afrika elk 'n stel om die Rykspele te herdenk. Dan kom Mauritius met 'n stel vir selfregering. Oos-Afrika reik ook 'n stel uit vir die twintigste jaar van 'n VVO-liggaam.

Middelerwyl het Singapoer reeds op 9 Augustus drie seëls (15, 20 en 30c) uitgegee met die viering van sy eerste onafhanklikheidsjaar en het ons in Julie 'n omnibusreeks van veertig seëls van twintig seëluitreikende Britse gebiede gehad, sowel as herdenkingsuitgawes van Wes-Samoa (3d., 4d., 6d. en 1/-) vir die nuwe kwartiere van die Wêreldgesondheidsorganisasie, Malawi (4d., 9d., 1/6 en 3/-) om sy republiekwording te herdenk en Zambia (3d. en 1/3) met die inwyding van sy universiteit.

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EEN VAN DIE BESTE RONDSENDINGS IN DIE LAND.
STERK LEDETAAL DEUR DIE HELE LAND
BELANGSTELLENDES VERWELKOM.

Papua en Nieu-Guinea het 'n stel aangekondig vir die Tweede Spele van die Suider Stille Oseaan, Tristan da Cunha een vir die ingebruikneming van die Calshot-hawe en Zambia vir die inwyding van sy volksraadgebou.

Twee-en-twintig „lande" kom op 20 September tevoorskyn met deelname aan nog 'n omnibusuitgawe waarby daar 44 seëls betrokke sal wees, en wel ter verheerliking van die Wêreldgesondheids-organisasie.

Ag ja, amper vergeet ons: die Turk- en Caicos-eilande herinnner ook nog aan die tweede eeu van hulle bande met Groot-Brittanje en Wes-Samoa soek fondse vir die heropbou van sy klapper-, kakao- en piesangbedryf wat op 29 Januarie met 'n vernietigende orkaan platgeslaan is; die 8d. van die vastereeks is met die woorde „Hur-

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ricane Relief 6d." opgedruk en die heffing van 5c per seël is sekerlik nie onvanpas nie.

Op 22 Augustus het Fidji 'n stel van drie seëls laat verskyn om die ontdekking 175 jaar gelede, van die eilandjie Rotuma te herdenk. Dit is miskien goed so anders sou ons nooit van die bestaan van dié molshoop in die see en sy mense geweet het nie.

THE RHODESIAN MARDON VS. HARRISON PRINTINGS

Mr. David Allison, of Rosebank Cape, suggests that the following characteristics may be taken to distinguish the Mardon from the Harrison Printing of the current 1d Rhodesian stamps.

Of the local printing

(i) the oval frame around the portrait is thicker.

(ii) the crown is less clear,

(iii) the Queen's necklace is more noticeable,

(iv) the screening is much coarser.

PROGRESS OF BRITISH POST-WAR STAMP DESIGN

Stamp Development on Display.

To mark the opening of new premises at Drury House, Stanley Gibbons Auctions propose to stage an Exhibition illustrating the progress of Postage Stamp Design since the end of the Second World War. This is a particularly interesting period commencing with very formal symbolism and developing into the "action" designs of today.

By kind permission of H.M. Postmaster-General and co-operation by senior Postal Officials they are privileged to show for the first time in public many of the rejected designs for the earlier commemorative issues together with a glimpse into the possible future with a specially prepared album of experimental designs by David Gentleman. These include several startling innovations.

The Exhibition will be open to the General Public on September 6th and 7th 1966.

PAPER READ, IN SUPPORT OF HER EXHIBIT, AT THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN MEETING, BY MRS. H. ZEIDEL

(Continued from p. 138, June 1966, Number)

The **fourth period** starts with the Treaty of Turin on 24th March 1860 in which the counties of Nice and Savoyen revert back to France. French stamps were used in Monaco and for two years they were cancelled by a numeral "4222" in dotted lozenges. One rather weak cancellation is shown. In 1862, the numbering of the French postal division was changed again and Monaco received the new number "2387," examples of which are on display. Cancellations changed from numerals to double ring circular date stamps on French stamps.

On the 1st July, 1885, with the introduction of Monaco's own postage stamps the **fifth period** starts. The first issue bears the portrait of Prince Charles III. Notwithstanding Monaco's independance, this first and all subsequent stamps were printed in France by the same printing works which produced French stamps in Paris. Prince Charles III was not only the instigator of the first postage stamp for his country but in the 33 years of his reign, prosperity came to his subjects. His courage, his energy and his farsighted views changed the structure of his country. Pines, orange and olive trees disappeared and made room for the construction of hotels and light industries. The big Casino, an enterprise by Francois Blanc, and the introduction of grand fetes attracted tourists from all parts of Europe, whose spending money furthered the development of the country. The first issue is very artistic, of a rare beauty and has become one of the classics of the world.

Unfortunately, like most classics, these stamps have been forged in France, Italy and Switzerland, and facsimilies by Francois Fournier are known. Only the latter are, by now, all overstamped "faux" and do not create a problem any longer.

Until I started my forgery study I thought I had the 5fr of 1885 in mint **and** used. To my dismay I discovered that my used copy is not genuine and with this knowledge I have paid for my experience. After this happened to me I can only suggest to anybody collecting classics to study the forgeries of his country first.

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PHILATELISTS' RENDEZVOUS

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month in
The Club Room of the Friends of Italy of South Africa, First Floor, Radio City Blds. Tulbach Square, Foreshore, Cape Town
at 8 p.m.
VISITORS CORDIALLY WELCOMED.
P.O. BOX 1973, CAPE TOWN.

THE THEMATIC STAMP CLUB

Meetings 2nd and 4th Mondays monthly at 8 p.m., in
St. John's Hall, Waterkant Street, Cape Town.
All interested in Thematics welcome
Chapter No. 1 A.T.A. and Africa Section, F.I.P.C.O.
Issues a Magazine every two months and circulates sales packets.
P.O. BOX 752, CAPE TOWN.

ORANGE FREE STATE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets on the fourth Friday of every month in the
NATIONAL MUSEUM HALL, BLOEMFONTEIN
at 7.30 p.m.
Issues a monthly magazine and circulates sales packets to members.
P.O. BOX 702 — BLOEMFONTEIN

THE PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meets on the first and third Tuesday each month in the
B.C.E.S.L. Hall, St. Andrews Streets,
at 8.00 p.m.
Visitors cordially welcome.
P.O. BOX 3 - PORT ELIZABETH

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL

Meetings 1st and 3rd Wednesdays monthly at 7.30 p.m. in the
Geo Cato Room, City Hall, Durban (Entrance West Street...door nearest Beach)
VISITORS CORDIALLY WELCOMED
P.O. Box 588, Durban. Secretary's Telephone 838-682 (Evenings).

THE PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meets on the first Monday of every month in the
Council Chamber of the Technical College Church Street East, Pretoria
at 7.45p .m.
VISITORS CORDIALLY WELCOMED.
P.O. Box 514, Pretoria.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

meets Twice a Month: Second Tuesday and Fourth Monday
at
Room 97, Public Library, Johannesburg
at 8 p.m.
VISITORS ARE WELCOME.
HON. SECRETARY,
P.O. BOX 4967 - JOHANNESBURG.

THE AEROPHILATELIC SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Meetings are not held, but Members get covers, etc. of special South African flights and other interesting items—more than covered by the small annual subscription.
News letters sent. Affiliated to F.I.S.A.
P.O. BOX 3654, CAPE TOWN.

THE PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meet on the second Wednesday of every month in the
Railway Recreation Club, Berea Park, Pretoria
at 8.00 p.m.
P.O. Box 2388 — Pretoria
ALL PHILATELISTS ARE WELCOME.

SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELY

Meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 8.15 p.m.
Burlington House Boardroom (2nd Floor) c/r. Rissik & Marshall Streets, Johannesburg.
ALL WELCOME.
Secretary: P.O. Box 11502, Johannesburg

THE SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

meets at 2.15 p.m. on the second Saturday of every month in the
Staff Tea Lounge, Basement, Corner House.
Corner Sauer and Commissioner Streets, Johannesburg (Commissioner St. Entrance).
ALL INTERESTED IN SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELY ARE WELCOME.
P.O. Box 378, Krugersdorp (Secretary's Telephone: Business 660-7511; Home 660-3461.

THE EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

P.O. Box 483, Benoni. (Hon. Secretary).
Meetings every 2nd Monday in the month at the
Benoni Tennis Club House
Benoni, at 7.45 p.m.
VISITORS ARE WELCOME.

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The second issue shows the portrait of Prince Albert I. The stamps were printed in sheets of 150, each with a vertical gutter down the center. A numeral in the second row of this gutter, called "millesime," appears for the first time. This numeral indicates the last figure of the year in which the stamp was printed. As an example, the figure "2" in the gutter indicates the printing years as 1892 or 1902 or 1912, depending on the paper used and the print itself which deteriorated as time went on. Especially the lower values have been reprinted a few times as they were in use for long periods. All in all, the 1 cent had 17 different printings and the 2 cent even more, namely 20. It is for this purpose that I collect millesimes in order to be eventually able to establish the correct printing date for each.

There are cancellations other than circular datestamps. They look like the outline of a flower and are the railway cancellations. There was a letter box in the mail carrying van of the train and people posted their mail directly in order to save time. The cancellations are Marseille-Ventimiglia, Nice-Ventimiglia and vice versa. In this issue, a card is shown with a strike "OL" which stands for "originie locale." This is a control applied to letters posted in Monte Carlo Superieur which was French territory. By arrangement Monaco postal authorities handled all correspondence from this district until 1904.

Have you noticed a card addressed to Monaco in France?

As we proceed with the years we come to 1920, the marriage of Princess Charlotte. The highest value in this set is the most valuable stamp shown tonight, a pink little view of Monaco showing the Palace on the Hill overprinted 20 March 1920.

For years I have been seeking this stamp. What ever price I offered at an auction sale, it just fetched a little more. As this stamp is seldom found I missed the few chances I had, and time marched on. It was on my last trip that my husband encouraged another "chase" of the stamp. I was lucky and succeeded in getting it. There it was, a little piece of paper with gum on the one side and so small I was dead scared to lose it in transit. But nothing of the kind happened and as the proud owner I produced it to show my husband on arrival. He looked at it, never touched it, and I put it back into its container where it rested for two days until I was ready to put it into the album. It was in the evening, I opened the envelope and the stamp was missing. Can you imagine the search? Look at the size of it. I was desperate and had to go to bed eventually with the thought of having lost it. There was not a place where I had not looked, not once but a few times, in vain, the stamp was lost. Our household help is accustomed to pick up stamps when finding them on the floor. When I came home the next day she had found the stamp on the floor next to the dogs, peacefully lying, almost the pattern of the carpet. And here it is in its full glory, and the laugh is on me!

There were no more millesimes printed after 1933. They only appear after that date on older issues overprinted to make use of surplus stock. Coin or printing dates appear instead on the bottom right hand corner of the sheet usually printed in black, although there are a few red printing dates known in Monaco. Just as in France, it is popular to collect printing dates in blocks of four. This enables again the study of the different printings.

From now on you will see a number of die proofs, some are signed by the designer, some by the engraver, some by both and some are not signed at all. It is interesting to look at Charlotte de Grammont (1939). Here the incomplete die proof is in black followed by the complete one in blue, but not in the correct shade. A little later you will see the first essay. While the die proof is made of the accepted design, the essay shows one which was not adopted. Strange to say in most cases, and in most countries the essays usually appeal to many of us just as much, as if not more than, the adopted design. This goes for South African stamps as well.

Now a word about epreuves de luxe. These are white pieces of thin cardboard, ungummed, with a single stamp in the centre in the original colour or in black. At the bottom of each of these sheets are three control perforations consisting of a half-moon and two pointed squares and the inscription: "Atelier de Fabrication des Timbres Poste Paris."

As there are always exceptions to the rule the epreuves de luxe of the wedding of Prince Rainier and Grace, and U:P:U. do not show one stamp only but are collective epreuves showing five and three stamps of one set on one proof. Just as in France, millesimes, cions date, epreuves de luxe and

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imperfs are printed of many issues, so in Monaco as well, and I am showing various sets, perf. and imperf.

In 1947 Prince Louis II celebrated his 25th Jubilee. A special cancellation and a miniature sheet with his portrait on white paper were issued in his honour on this day. An additional printing of a comparatively small number on blue paper was put at the disposal of the Prince. In contrast to those on white paper, the blue ones bear the same imprint as the epreuves de luxe, i.e. "Atelier de Fabrication des Timbres Poste, Paris." Both papers are shown on the boards.

And now a word about the Rallies. In a truly European Spirit, Monte Carlo Car Rallies date back to 1911. Prompted by Mr. Noghés, then President of the Car and Bicycle Club of Monaco (Sports Automobile et Velocipedique de Monaco) the first contests were organized. Twenty-three competitors left from Paris, Boulogne, Brussels, Berlin, Vienna and Geneva in order to rejoin at Monte Carlo at the required average speed of 6 miles per hour! The winner was Henri Rougier, the celebrated aviator of his generation.

Later taking into account the progress in automobile technics, itineraries were more varied, distances greater and average speed parture cities symbolized on the stamp (1955, 25th Monte Carlo Car Rally) by eight monuments which characterize them: Monte Carlo, Glasgow, Athens, Palermo, Lisbon, Munich, Stockholm and Oslo. Each itenarary covers an average of about 2,000 miles and the average speed imposed is 30 miles per hour.

The second half of my display begins with colour trials which I show for different issues from now on. Colour trials are printed, similar to issues of French Colonies in sheets of 25 consisting of three horizontal rows of five, each having a different colour, the 4th horizontal row of five usually having the same colour as the first row and the 5th row at the bottom usually having all stamps multicolour in different combinations of three colours each. The bottom row, like the bottom row with the tab on the Israeli sheet, is the one to look for, the scarcer one by at least four times the unicolour.

There are two bottom rows in the Jules Verne set. At one time colour trials of popular issues in Monaco, like Fipex and the Wedding, were available through the post office at prices in no relation to their face value. This procedure provoked sharp criticism. As a result, the Prince of Monaco restricted printing of trial colours to the minimum necessary for the Postal Museum. Special control was introduced, all stamps have an oval handstamp on the back "Musee de Timbres Poste Palais de Monaco." Presentation copies to High Government officials, Heads of States, Ministers of Posts or Postmaster-Generals were given away resulting in examples eventually landing in the collector's album.

There is quite some variety in Monaco stamps. There are classics, pictorials and a few eminently suitable for thematic collections. The story of Lourdes can be told with stamps of Monaco. Veteran Cars open another subject and the different planes of the 50th Anniversary of the First Aerial Rally of Monte Carlo are sure to find their admirers. It is for this reason that I have asked to be given a full evening. To the best of my knowledge the majority of the stamps of Monaco have never been shown in the Society since I became a member. In this collection every stamp issued is shown.

Monaco is issuing stamps in honour of the unification of Europe since 1962 although it became a member of C.E.P.T. (Conference Europeenne de la Poste et de la Telecommunication) only in 1963. The first set appeared in an individual design; the last three years the accepted concept was chosen.

There is a small section of precancelled stamps. They are issued for bulkmail of printed matter only which is accepted at a reduced price. Only five issues were put on sale.

The airmail section starts with the first aerial Rally in April, 1914. The various starting points appear on the semi-official card. There are covers flown to South America on the 7th, 8th and 9th and the 50th Atlantic crossing of the Zeppelin. All those letters went to Friedrichshafen first but were actually flown as shown by the special cachets in red or blue. Monaco has issued her airmail stamps in two ways, either by adding a few high values to a set of postage stamps or by issuing separate sets for the use of airmail only.

The last group of stamps are the postage dues. Although postage stamps were issued in Monaco from 1885, postage dues did not appear until 1906. French postage due stamps can be found as late as 1895 in Monaco. The approximate time of French

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postage dues can be established by the type and size of the canceller used. Between 1895 and 1906 there are "T", for taxe—postage due markings by hand or handstamped.

The display ends with a specialized collection of postal stationery. The first item is a French entire used as late as 1894 and therefore charged with "T". There is on view every item of postal stationery mostly used and mint which the post office of Monaco ever issued. I like to mention specially the newspaper wrappers of 1898. They show small printing dates to the left of the imprinted stamp. The first figure indicates the year and the two others the week of printing. As an example 410 means 10th week of 1904. There are shades, different sizes, colours and papers, different perforations in the lettercards, cancellations of interest and one envelope of 1906 of which only 500 were printed according to my information.

ON LOOKING BACK

COLLECTORS AND COLLECTING
By J. C. Hand

(Taken from The South African Philatelist of November, 1911).

The collecting habit is admitted to be a force in everyday life, and the stamp collector, by assiduous cultivation of his hobby, has raised it to a first place among the cults of the unique and curious. The British Museum fifty years ago did not contain a single Philatelic specimen; today its philatelic collection, the gift of an enthusiast, is the Mecca to which thousands make pilgrimage. The hobby affects every grade of society—from king to peasant, from millionaire to office-boy. Whether the passion be mere acquisitiveness or due to subtleties connected with race advancement or decadence it is not for me to say. It is sufficient for my present purpose to recognise in the craze for collecting everything and anything from postage stamps to door knockers, a harmless and in some cases a glorified and even intellectual, form of hoarding, especially when the objects of our pursuit and study are curious, valuable and artistic.

While on the one hand this acquisitiveness opens up new industries and stimulates

(Continued on page 216)

SOCIETY NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

June 7th Prof. A. Sloan exhibited a very fine general collection of Great Britain, which proved of interest to those who attended. The usual Quiz was held and won by Mr. Jack Penfold with 22½ points out of 24.

M.F.S.

THEMATIC STAMP CLUB

June 13th: At a last minute request Capt. M. F. Stern showed sections from his 'Maps and Exploration' being those dealing with the development of South Africa, Portuguese East Africa, Angola and Southern Rhodesia. These showed the use of stamps not only of the countries but also those issued by other countries.

June 27: Again an 'All Members' Night when the following were shown: Varieties and Errors' by Mr. A. Shaw: Mrs. Hilda Jeidel 'Bogus stamps in the Europa issues', which includes those issued by the Roumanian Government in exile, caricatures by Eastern countries, Lundy, Herm, etc.: Mrs. Coe, selection from 'Cats, Birds and Flowers' a really colourful exhibit and well written up: Mr. R. Jeidel, 'The pictorials of Liechtenstein', which proved that almost every theme was covered: Mr. W. J. Combrink 'Turkey', showing Britain and France in Turkey and selection of later issues: Mrs. Williams-Green made her debut with Churchill Stamps: Capt. M. F. Stern 'Airmail Covers of The Philippines 1926-1937 including the first flight to Manilla from Madrid in 1928: Mr. H. Beinart 'Pre-Olympic Stamps of Mexico' and 'World Soccer Cup,' showing he is well in on the first issues for the next Olympics: Dr. P. L. Vautier, 'Various Covers,' including recent items, 'Red Cross' Transvaal card, old cards of Japan.

Altogether the boards were filled with interesting items which had an interest for each person attending.

M.F.S.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

May 3rd: A near record attendance of 37 members and 14 visitors enjoyed Mr. E. Baer's exhibit which was presented in four parts: Stamps of the Cape; Inter-Provincials; Early Unions and Basutoland decimal overprints.

Mr. E. Nagel paid a generous and well earned tribute to the exhibitor and an auction concluded a very successful evening.

May 24th: Dr. J. W. Harris gave an absorbing exhibit of "Caduceus" on stamps and postmarks.

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For those of us who only possessed a vague idea of its meaning and connotations it became soon clear that its original definition as "an enchanters wand" and a "heralds staff" eventually became firmly associated with the activities of the medical profession.

The large number of members and visitors present enjoyed yet another of the many and varied medical themes assembled and interpreted by Dr. Harris. The President, Mr. T. J. Strachan conveyed the thanks of all present.

June 7th: The meeting was given over to Mr. T. J. Slabbert who tabled the stamps of the Netherlands to form a very commendable exhibit particularly when one considers that Mr. Slabbert makes it a point of his collecting to accumulate his stamps as far as possible by exchange only then can the magnitude of his feat be fully appreciated.

A successful evening terminated with an auction before which the President appealed to members to support the cake sale to be held to provide funds for a future National Exhibition which is intended to be staged in Port Elizabeth in 1970.

SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELY

June: The meeting opened with the usual reports and the latest philatelic news followed by an outstanding display of THE PICTORIAL SET OF PALESTINE MANDATE (S.G. 90-111) which was sent up to us by Advocate Sam Aaron of Cape Town. The display although short was acclaimed by all present. The display was followed by showing of slides supplied by S.I.P. of America, depicting stamps of various postmarks relating to the Armoured Car Mail of Rishon Le-Zion. Mr. A. Miller acted as commentator and supported the showing with a number of sheets of Emergency Mail of the various towns and districts.

The lengthy and interesting paper written by Advocate Sam Aaron was submitted in support of the exhibit.

Stamp News: The Memorial Day Stamp with tab is no longer available — having been sold out.

The Road Safety Set and the Knesset Stamp have already made their appearance and are most pleasing.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF RHODESIA

June: During the meeting Mr. J. A. Wright brought to our notice the great debt that we owe to the Chairman of the Rhopex Exhibition Committee, Mr. J. E. Creewel, for the success that was achieved.

Mr. Creewel took this opportunity to thank all those who had contributed in any way, in labour, cash or kind, to the success of the exercise, so, if you were not at the meeting, please accept this acknowledgment of your share in RHOPEX.

Mr. Creewel exhibited part of his collection of Denmark, as he said in his opening remarks, "something out of the ordinary." In his address he posed the question, "Why do I collect Denmark?" Part of the answer was the long life of the definitive issues, the scarcity of commemoratives and the general conservative approach to the production of Danish stamps, but it is still doubtful if Mr. Creewel really knows why he collects Denmark! Anyway, we saw a wonderful collection of old Danish covers, some 'oddities' and as Mr. Creewel promised in his address "a few stamps." At the close of the meeting the Chairman expressed the thanks of the meeting for a sight of this display.

"Offsets" on the overprint issue: The Chairman stated that Mardon Printers had explained how the "offsets" came about. Apparantly at rare intervals a sheet is held back and the overprint impression is then made on the blanket overlay. The following sheet receives the overprint on the face of the stamps, but also picks up at the same time the impression from the blanket overlay, on the gummed side. My glossary tells me that the correct term for this is a "blanket print", the term "offset" or "offset" being used when the impression from a wet sheet is picked up by a following sheet which happens to overlay it.

CAPE SOCIETY OF PALESTINE — ISRAEL PHILATELY

May: This was an interesting evening when several members were invited to exhibit Thematic pages on Israel.

The following participated: Mr. Lurie made a striking display of Transport on stamps; Mr. Beinart showed very interesting items relating to the Maccabi Movement on sport and mentioned some unknown topics on this facinating subject; Sports stamps were also exhibited by Mr. Schiff who provided a short discourse.

Mr. Schifrin spoke about emblems on Israeli stamps and related it to the Bible with a display of stamps from his collection; Mr. Galloon brought the subject of Youth and Education to the fore and illustrated it with a striking display. Dr. Gottschalk introduced Flowers on Israeli stamps.

Mr. R. Jeidel related the highlights of the South African Philatelic Federation's Conference at Bulawayo and announced the honour bestowed on Dr. Peisach—the inscription on the Roll of South African Distinguished Philatelists.

To conclude the evening Dr. Peisach gave an interesting explanation to the pictures shown on slides relating to various issues and Post marks of the Rishon-Le-Zion local stamps.

June: This was an "All members" show devoted to any topic and it was rather disappointing in that it was not the expected "en masse" exhibition one anticipated.

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Mr. Piat brought along a collection of United Nations—a "one-building country" which is so seldom seen here.

Mr. Jacks sent a selection of illustrated pages of South Africa mounted on pages of colourful drawings relating to the theme of the stamps.

Mr. Jeidel's interesting display of Pictorials of Egypt included The Essays (1867) and many varieties which drew a lot of comment.

Dr. Peisach exhibited 1937-52 defintives of the Cayman Islands part of his extensive George Rex collection.

Lastly Dr. Gottschalk aroused great interest with his Orange Free State ½d opts. (1896) and 1d opts. (1890) of the early Bloemfontein issues.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

July: This month an excellent attendance saw Mr. D. J. C. Reynders display his collection comprising the stamps and stationery of Rhodesia, Southern Rhodesia and the Federation from before 1890 up to the present. Prior to displaying his collection, Mr. Reynders read an extremely interesting paper dealing with the early history, postal and otherwise, of the territory north of the Limpopo. The facts given in the paper certainly opened the eyes of many of the members in that Kruger, Rhodes, Lobengula and Khama were in some measure concerned in what is now called Rhodesia.

It is interesting to note that the first official post came into being on August 21st, 1888, with the postmark reading "GUBULUWAYO—21st AUGUST 1888—BECHUANALAND." It is understood that only six letters with this postmark are known. The name Bechuanaland was removed from the postmark prior to the next post being despatched. A photostat of this cancellation was included in the collection tabled as well as many other covers of historical significance.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

July: At one of the best attended meetings for many months we were privileged to see a section of Dr. Joe Sherel's Olympic Games collection. Before displaying the collection "Doc" gave a few interesting details of the Olympic Games insofar as philatelists are affected.

At the first Olympic Games ever to be held, in 1896 one commemorative set of stamps was issued, and this was by the host country, Greece. Between these Games and those held in 1924 not a single stamp was issued to mark the Olympics, but the Games held during the latter year were philatelically honoured by five countries. In 1928 only four countries issued Olympic Games stamps and in 1932 only the host country, the United Sates, arranged for stamps to mark the Games. Since and including 1936 increasing number of countries have commemorated the Games and this reached an all time high at the last Games held in Tokyo in 1964 when a total of 91 countries issued stamps in honour of the Olympic Games. The stamps issued by these countries comprised a total of 1094 different stamps, there being 158 perforated issues and 41 imperforate, while a total of 139 miniature sheets were issued.

Needless to say, stamps marking the 1964 Olympics form a very large collection by themselves and it was this section that Dr. Sherel brought along to show us. All perf. and imperf. stamps were there plus the miniature sheets plus some scarce overprinted issues which are seldom seen in such collections. Mr. Castignani expressed the meeting's appreciation to "Doc", thanking him for an outstanding exhibit.

THE O.F.S. PHILATELIC SOCIETY

June. Forty four members and visitors attended the meeting at which New Issues were tabled by Mrs. Gray, and Messrs. Weil, Huygen, Mountfort, Scott and Roux. In addition 18 exhibits of 10 pages each were shown. They were: Mr. D. Huygen, Canada; Mr. Marus, Italy, Tuscany, Sicily and Sardinia; Mr. Penz, Spain; Mr. Price, Sport on Stamps; Mr. Mountfort, Butterflies; Mr. Greathead, Unions; Mrs. Marincowitz, Dogs on Stamps; Dr. Freund, Stellaland; Mr. Roux, Rhodesia since UDI, Tristan da Cunha; Mr. Meyburgh, Philatelic Terms and Methods of Mail-Carrying; Mr. Weil, Berlin; Mr. Scott, Basutoland Postage Dues.

These exhibits were thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

July. In spite of the school holidays and a long weekend, there was a good attendance at this meeting.

Dr. H. Raubenheimer was to have made a report on the Post Office exhibit at the Pretoria Festival Exhibition in May, 1966 but as there was too much to describe, Dr. Raubenheimer confined his report to the franking machine or machine canceller which was on display at the exhibition. Officially this machine is known as the Universal Letter Stamping machine and members were given a most interesting explanation on the inner workings of this new aid to the speeding up in the handling of mail by the Post Office.

Finally, an instructive and controversial discussion took place on the method of collecting the new unilingual stamps of the Republican festival issue and how these should be catalogued in the Republican Handbook. The outcome of the discussion brought two schools of thought to light both of which have merit—those members

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who favoured the past practice of collecting these stamps in horizontal pairs as against those who felt these stamps should be collected in pairs joined on their longest sides.

MOOI RIVER STAMP CLUB

July. The meeting was well attended at which three exhibits were shown.

Mrs. Sorgdrager read a paper on her Republic of Indonesian stamps, especially remarking on the different types of paper used in the printing of the stamps over the years.

Mr. Kramer displayed several pages of commemorative stamps of behind the Iron Curtain (Russia). Dr. van der Merwe tabled the 9th Printing of the S.A.R. parcel stamps, which was interesting.

After the Exhibitors were suitably thanked, a brief Auction of Covers for Club funds was held.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

June. What a fantastic turnout at our second meeting! We had an attendance of nearly a hundred and it was most impressive. The reason for this, as one of our members put it, was not because it was the 600th Meeting, but that it was one of our "Free Evenings." This is not disputed but those who attended were presented with a commemorative card to mark the occasion and this will be treasured long after the real reason for attending the meeting has been forgotten. The only thing which did spoil it a little was an excessively long auction, which did not give members time to really get down to their swopping. However this will be watched at the next meeting of this type.

July. The first meeting opened with Mr. Oppenheim giving his news of the week and showing a Czechoslovakian miniature sheet, a new set of butterfly stamps and stamps on a cover from Finland.

The meeting being a thematic evening, three exhibits were staged: Mrs. Koralek showed 30 pages of Austrian First Day Covers; Mr. Boss, in absentia, exhibited a collection of birds on stamps while Mr. Hartmann followed with a portion of his Red Cross stamp collection and read a paper on it, all contributing to a very enjoyable and interesting evening.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL

June 15. A well attended meeting, including visitors from Zambia, Johannesburg and Holland, enjoyed the usual "swop" night which concluded with an auction at which the bidding was brisk, and capably conducted by our auctioneer, Mr. Ray Walsh.

July 6. The meeting was attended by about 50 members, including Mr. Nigel Ford, one of our life members on a holiday visit to Durban, and opened with a most succsesful auction, a F.D.C. of C.A.A. donated by one of our Rhodesian members being sold for charity at R3.20, among other items.

Mr. J. Walker, of the "Phooey" Club, followed by exhibiting his collection of Postmarks which, along with his talk, members found most interesting and enjoyable, regret being expressed at the shortage of available time. A request for a future similar exhibit was made.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Juuly 20. Due to unknown reasons the usual venue at Delville was not available but the members who had braved the cold that evening were determined to hold a meeting and it was decided to travel to Driehoek Road where a most successful meeting was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. I. S. Burniston. Four exhibits were tabled that evening, and, although the exhibitors were rather cramped for space to display their collections in full, a sufficient number of sheets were tabled to show the magnificence of each exhibit. Mr. J. J. Hamman showed how he was progressing with his "The Story of the Bible;" his first completed twenty pages of various stamps of the world depicting scenes of the Bible. His writing-up was in both English and Afrikaans. A fine start to what would eventually become a fine thematic collection. display by Mr. S. J. Hagger; this time the Union of South Africa London Pictorials unused, for the years 1926 and 1927. Twenty five pages of direct interest to collectors of South Africa. Mr. B. Eilers again came to light with another of his Foreign collections, written-up in his usual immaculate manner, mostly complete used sets of East Germany from 1962 to 1965. Finally, Mr. L. Daly, one of the visitors present tabled a number of Rhodesian First-Day covers including the U.D.I. overprinted set as well as the Churchill overprint. Mr. F. E. Drake, the President, congratulated the exhibitors on their displays and thanked them for bringing along such interesting collections.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa will be held on October 15, 1966.

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SIMENHOFF BOOKLET.—The Occupational Postmarks of the Mandated Territory of South West Africa by Capt. L. Simenhoff; the series as run in The South African Philatelist, in booklet form (24 pages). Price 30c post free.—Philatelic Federation, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

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Auction 9: £1 mint (SG 24) R51. 1925 Airm. set in mint blocks of 4 all with box margin value tablets R51

(Continued from page 211)

trade, unkind persons have been known to allege that it aggravates any predisposition there may be towards ultimate insanity. But as collecting within rational and legitimate limits is in itself both educative and recreative, the conclusion I arrive at is: "Go on collecting." Of all vogues that have commended themselves to the collector, none has attained more popularity than that of stamp collecting—whose scientific or pretty name is "Philately."

I think I voice the opinion of all enthusiasts when I maintain that a carefully compiled collection forms a pictorial epitome of geographical, historical and political knowledge. Take, for instance, the stamps of the Transvaal. We have first the crude, imperforate issue of the first South African Republic, followed by the surcharge overprinted "V.R.", that first marked our first annexation of the Boer territory, and by the "Queen's Head" typifying British ownership; these were followed by a return to the original designs, overprinted and surcharged, when we restored the country to its former owners. After these came the "V.R.I." overprinted, succeeded by the King Edward's head issues, indicative of various stages in the second British occupation; and finally, the 2½d. Union stamp, and the preparations now in progress for a complete Union series, are significant of the momentous event that has created the South African "Union."

The stamps of France, too, present a lesson in the vicissitudes through which authority has passed. First we have the head of Liberty, emblematic of French aspirations, soon to be replaced by the head of President Louis Napoleon, with the inscription, "Republique Francaise;" in due course "Republique" became "Empire," and Napoleon's head became laureated to mark his triumphs in the Italian war. Next followed the head of Ceres as the dominating note in the design during the dark days that followed France's humiliation, and this in turn gave place to the old Liberty type, the "Peace, Agriculture and Commerce" type, and all the issues of recent years.

And so with other countries. History in miniature of the United States may be read in its fine stamp—portraits of successive Presidents. The unification of Germany is marked by the disappearance of the Prussian, Saxony, Brunswick, Hanover and a host of other issues. Italy again, bringing its various petty States under one flag and one postal system, marked the extinction of Tuscany, Parma, the Papal States, and many others. The many issues of Bulgaria and other Balkan States recall the effects of the Russo-Turkish war, just as the surcharges on the Peruvian stamps remind us of the war with Chili in the early eighties.

Who, outside officialdom, would have known where Bergedorf was but for its stamps, which epitomise its geography in half-an-inch square? And who but a stamp collector has heard of Obock, an obscure French Colony in East Africa, whose officials numbered a few years ago nine souls all told, or Macau, an obscure promontory on the coast of China, not much larger than the town of Durban? The stamps of Spain, too, and Cuba tell their tales of trouble, and those of many Central and South American States illustrate the kaleidoscopic and often tragic changes which have marked their political life.

Moreover, the successful collector must be observant and clearheaded enough to distinguish those minute differences which frequently are all that makes one issue of stamps distinct from another. In this way he familiarises himself with those niceties in engraving, embossing, electrotyping,

(To be Continued)

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SOUTH AFRICAN NOTES

Hon. Associate Editor:
Dr. H. J. RAUBENHEIMER,
434 City Centre, Pretoria.

POSTAL MATERIAL FROM THE BUREAU

The Publicity Branch of the Post Office has issued another list of postal material available at the Philatelic Bureau Pretoria.

The first interesting feature to be noticed is that all denominations of postage stamps with two exceptions, are on RSA watermarked paper; the exceptions being the 1½c, Afrikander Bull, on Arms watermarked paper, and the 5c Baobab Tree, on unwatermarked paper. It should be mentioned, however, that a RSA watermarked paper has lately been used with some of the watermarks so faint as to be virtually nonexistent.

The three lowest values of the Definitives, namely the ½c, 1c and the 1½c are 200 stamps per sheet and the rest are as follows:-

½c Natal Kingfisher: G7, 9, 16: A and B.
1c Kafferboom Flower: S25, S23: A and B.
1½c Afrikander Bull: S19, S24.
2c Pouring of Gold: G2, G1: A and B.
2½c Groot Constantia: 60, S27 and 12, 11: A, B, C and D.
3c Crimson Breasted Shrike: G8, G15: A and B.
5c Baobab Tree: 31, S1.
7½c Maize: S21, S20.
10c Castle Entrance, Cape Town: S1, 121: A and B.
12½c Protea: G13, 12, 10: A and B.
20c Secretary Bird: 27, 6, 60: A and B.
50c Harbour, Cape Town: 70, 54.
R1 Strelitzia: G11, 4, 6: A and B.

The numbers quoted above are subject to change and it may not always be possible to supply a particular cylinder number. It is also possible that some of the Republic Festival stamps may be available at the time this list comes into print. They were issued on the 31st of May "for a period of approximately three months."

Other material obtainable is as follows:

Postage Due Labels: 1c, 2c, 4c, 5c, 6c and 10c.

Pictorial Postcards: 20 South African Views, 40c per set or 2c per card.

Aerogrammes: Ordinary 5c, Inland 2½c, Greetings 6c.

Registration Envelopes: 6" x 4" (unstamped) 3c.

Quantities less than a sheet may be ordered. Deposit accounts for standing orders will be arranged on request.

THE POST OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT

The report for 1964-1965 was tabled in Parliament early in August 1966. Once again it appears in an attractive cover, the central motif this year being a serviced cover of the Republic Festival issue of stamps. The following very abbreviated extracts would be of interest to philatelists.

Statistics can be boring but these very rough figures will give an indication of the volume of postal matter dealt with by post

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offices in the Republic during the year: Postal items—eleven hundred millions; Air mail, inland—three and a half million lbs.; Airmail sent abroad—one million lbs. All a considerable increase on the figures of last year.

Under "Postal Revenue" we learn that out of a total of twenty eight and three quarter million rand received in cash from the public, all but four million came from "postage."

In dealing with mechanised letter sorting it has been found that it will be economically justified at certain specific offices —it does not say which—and the Department decided to make a start, initially on a limited scale with the mechanised sorting of letters. Delivery of the first sorting machine is expected in 1967.

Under "Public Relations," we quote verbatim: "The Departmental Philatelic Bureau of Pretoria continued to provide an important service to philatelists and postage stamp dealers in the Republic and overseas. South African postage stamps again proved very popular in all quarters with the result that the activities in the Bureau increased considerably."

HORIZONTAL OR VERTICAL
(Continued)

The question, dealt with in our last issue, whether our unilingual stamps should be collected in horizontal or vertical pairs was again fully discussed at the August meeting of the S.A. Stamp Study Circle, but this time definite proposals and amendments were formally presented.

It was ultimately agreed, by a large majority, that pairs should have equal value whether horizontal or vertical, and the person responsible for the official cataloguing of the Republic Festival stamps was asked, when mentioning pairs, to state specifically "horizontal or vertical" and that has accordingly been done.

It was agreed, however, that this decision would not apply to the previous Union unilingual issues, so the status quo, as far as they are concerned, stands. It also makes no mention of any possible future unilingual issues which may unfortunately appear.

THE MACHINE CANCELLER

A machine canceller was installed at the Post Office Exhibition in the Rautenbach Hall, Pretoria, in May, 1966. It was in constant use and its functions were courteously demonstrated to us by its operator, Mr. Roos.

It is called "The Universal Letter Stamping Machine," the same as is used in post offices throughout the country where the valume of letters justifies its use. Basically it consists of the following parts: the letters are placed against a plate vertically with the stamped side at the bottom and edged towards two rubber pressure rollers opposite each other. The one roller pulls the letter through the machine but the other runs in reserve so that only one letter can go in at a time. The movement is so fast that the eye cannot follow the separation, indeed, the process is ingenious.

The letters then pass through two more pressure rollers of hard black rubber about 1½ inches in diameter, the one triggers the printing cylinder. The printing cylinder is of metal, about 2 inches in diameter, and holds the slogan—called the sleeve—and the die, which is the postmark. Both the die and the sleeve are removable; the die can be inverted and the sleeve's position can be changed so that it prints the slogan on the left of the die. The normal position is the well known one with the slogan on the stamp and the die on clear paper to the left.

On the one side of the printing cylinder is an inking roller of felt, about 2 inches in diameter, and which is in contact with an inkwell. The letter shoots past the printing cylinder and ends up in a receiving compartment which can be adjusted for the different widths of the letters.

On the side of the machine is a counter of five digits and, while in operation there, the number was in the early 61 thousands. Roughly six thousand letters were stamped that week.

(Continued on page 232).

EXPERT COMMITTEE

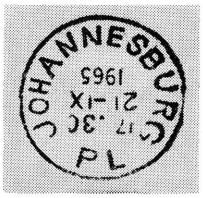
The next meeting of the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa will be held on Saturday, 19th November, 1966.

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POSTMARK NOTES

By D. Allison





What does PL mean?

The letters referred to are those at the bottom of the datestamp of the Johannesburg machine postmark illustrated, a specimen of which was recently sent me by Mr. S. L. Crozet.

The answer is, probably, that these letters stand for PLAASLIK-LOCAL. Some years ago Mr. K. E. Lydall told me that this postmark was applied at the G.P.O. to mail posted in special "tiger-stripe" boxes for local letters, and that his informant there said that the letters PL could very well have the meaning mentioned. There have been at least four of these datestamps; three, used between 1956 and 1962, had a hyphen between the letters P and L; from 1963 onwards the postmark has been as shown. (Unfortunately there is a gap of seven months in my records between the two types).

Similarly, Durban postmarks may be found with "P/L" at the bottom. In the S.A. Philatelist for July 1964 page 131, I mistakenly wrote that both Johannesburg and Durban had "P/L"; as stated above, the former has used datestamps with a hyphen between the letters but not, as far as I know, with a stroke.

The specimen illustrated has an inverted date, and this may interest some readers; actually errors of this and similar kinds are commoner than is often realised.

Where is Cape Town G?

At different times since 1946, a variety of datestamps with letters A, B, C, D, E, F, and P, and with no letter, have been used on non-continuous postmarking machines at Cape Town. Now G has turned up. I strongly suspect it is in use at a suburban sorting office but have no idea where; can anybody help.?

Hand Rollers.

A new type of hand roller, in use at Johannesburg and Uitenhage, was described in these Notes in April 1966. It seems to have had a fairly wide distribution, as Pretoria, Queenstown, Umtata and Uppington can be added to the list. For the last three I am indebted to Dr. J. F. Fick.

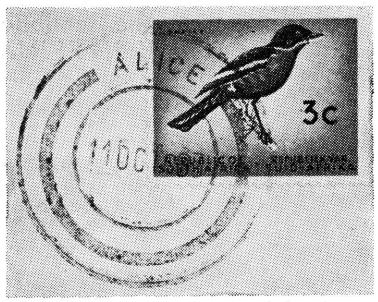
Relief Handstamps.

Early this year, Mr. T. J. Strachan drew our attention to a new type of temporary handstamp, which was illustrated in the April S.A. Philatelist. By the time the August notes were written, I was able to record its use at 12 offices. The list has been growing, largely due to the efforts of Mr. J. Walker, who tells me in a letter received today (August 18th) that he has sorted through at least 125,000 stamps on paper looking for these handstamps and can list about 120 offices which have used this type. I feel sure that there are many more which could be added, so if you find any do please let Mr. Walker or myself know.

The main points to be added to the notes published in August are as follows:

(i) The introduction of this type took place at least as far back as October 1959; Mr. Walker has one from Ermelo with that date. Probably the old relief cancellers have been gradually replaced by the new type

(ii) Instead of a thin arc round the bottom of the datestamp (seen e.g. in the Vrede one illustrated in August), earlier specimens generally have a thicker bar.



(iii) Smaller lettering may be found occasionally. Mr. Walker has informed me of two instances of this; the handstamp used at Alice (illustrated here, and incidentally showing the thicker bar referred to under (ii)); and a handstamp dated 21 AUG 1963 with EAST LONDON in the usual size letters at the top and OOS LONDEN 3 in smaller type at the bottom. (Presumably this handstamp temporarily replaced the permanent one numbered 3).

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P.O. Box 375,
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Please write clearly and include bank charges on cheques and crossed postal orders.

Remittance R..... for ..... copies.

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(iv) Owing to defective assembly of the "rollers" in the centre of the datestamp, the time-letter was always inverted on a relief handstamp used at Grabouw early in 1962. This was noted at the time, but it was not identified as a relief handstamp—nor would it have been yet, if it were not for Mr. Strachan's report of the Donkin Hill temporary postmark.

Postcript.

Since the above notes were prepared, I have received some information from an official at the G.P.O., Cape Town, from which it appears that the place names on the new relief handstamps are not set up from loose type. The history of the new type is as follows (I quote):

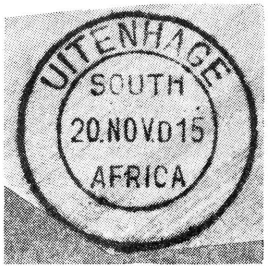
"During June, 1959 the Department experienced a big demand for relief datestamps and as there was a shortage of the old type single ring relief stamps a brass top was fitted to old stamps and the name of the office engraved thereon.

This system proved a success and as the impression differed little or not at all from the usual stamp this method is now being generally followed.

The old single relief stamps are now only used in cases of emergency."

An Older Type of Handstamp.

On several occasions recently, in Congress and out of it, the point has been made that while the history of S.A. machine postmarks and of S.A. meter marks has been given rather inadequate attention, much less has been published on S.A. handstamps. To cover the whole subject would be a very large undertaking, but there is one fairly self-contained chapter which would be relatively simple to write.



The type of handstamp involved is shown here, the specimen illustrated being in Dr. Berry's collection. The feature which distinguishes this type is the presence of SOUTH above the date and AFRICA below it. If the time is given in full, the inner circle is broken, but not if it is indicated by a letter.

Question: When was this type introduced? During what years was it supplied to Post Offices? Do any offices still use it?

Only hints at the answers are known to me. The type was in use by 1914, and the special "AERIAL POST" handstamp used on postcards in 1918 was of this type, so presumably it was still being supplied then. And the latest use which I can record is at Arundel, in May 1962.

Along with this type there is a similar type to be considered, with S. AFRICA above that date and Z. AFRIKA below. No doubt these handstamps were made before 1926, and at one time I felt it would be reasonable to guess that these were supplied later than the unilingual ones just described. Apparently, however, that guess was wrong; the bilingual type goes back at least to 1916; for Capt. Simenhoff's article on the Occupational Postmarks of S.W.A. records the use of this type between 1916 and 1923 at Walvis Bay. (S.A. Philatelist April 1963, page 86, and February 1964, page 28). Again, this type has been in relatively recent use at some small offices and may still be current somewhere.

This chapter in the history of S.A. postmarks could easily have been written in earlier days. (The moral is, of course, that the best time to study 1966 postmarks is 1966). It is a chapter which could still be written, if we all put together in one list the specimens we have. Who will write it?

Incidentally this type was used in Basutoland too—see Mr. G. N. Gilbert's article in the S.A. Philatelist, May 1954, page 88 and June 1954, page 108.

STOP PRESS

A new printing of the 5c Baobab Tree stamp of the current series has been made —same printing conditions as the previous one except that the paper used bears the RSA watermark (faint), facing left.

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meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month in
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THE EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

P.O. Box 483, Benoni. (Hon. Secretary).
Meetings every 2nd Monday in the month at the
Benoni Tennis Club House
Benoni, at 7.45 p.m.
VISITORS ARE WELCOME.

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IN MEMORIAM

We record and support the sympathy shown by Societies affiliated to the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa on the occasion of the tragic death of the Prime Minister, Dr. H. F. Verwoerd.

OBITUARY

William Newlands

The death announced recently of Mr. William Newlands brings to a close the life of a man who practically dedicated his life to philately. A philatelist in the truest sense of the word, Willie was always ready to impart his knowledge and many study sessions or discussions, finishing in the early hours of the morning, were spent by his philatelic friends in his study at home in Pretoria.

He left Pretoria towards the end of 1959 to settle in Southport, England, mainly for health reasons, but he unfortunately never regained full health, suffering a number of heart attacks as well as sustaining injuries in a nasty fall in his home.

Born in Pretoria on September 1st 1907, he had all his schooling there. On leaving school he became a clerk in the service of the S.A. Railways, but resigned this post in 1932 to join his father on the office side in the building industry, later becoming a director of the firm.

In the Philatelic field he started as a schoolboy general collector, then gradually concentrated on the stamps of Southern Africa. His favourites were, O.F.S., Zululand, Nyasaland Cheque stamps, N.F. overprints, Anglo-Boer War material, the C.S.A.R. and N.G.R. perforated and overprints, and the T.P.O.'s connected with all these services. All these stamps he treated as a challenge to find the why's and wherefore's and his research in these fields brought amazing results.

His delving into the postal history of these favourites resulted in the publication of many articles which included one on the Post Offices and postmarks of Zululand; another on the T.P.O.'s of O.F.S. and O.R.C., while a third, which involved a great deal of original research, on the Post Offices and Postal Agencies of the O.V.S. even to the extent of giving their opening and closing dates.

While living in Pretoria he was a member of the Pretoria, Pretoria Railway and the Johannesburg Societies, and also served as a member of the Expert Committee of the Federation. He assisted with the publication of the South African Handbook Catalogue. In 1956 he was presented with the Certificate of Incorporation in the Roll of Honour of Distinguished South African Philatelists to which he was elected by Congress.

To his wife, children and grandchildren we extend our heartfelt sympathies.

Willie Newlands—A great philatelist.
R.I.P. —(W. Kriste).

THE RAILWAY PHILATELIC GROUP

This Group has recently been formed by Railway Philatelic enthusiasts, who want to promote the further interest in Railway Letter Post, Newspaper, Parcel stamps, also T.P.O. postmarks and postage stamps which illustrate Railways, and propose, for this purpose, to publish a quarterly bulletin, "Railway Philately," commencing with a September/October 1966 number. The publication is planned to be a 12-page specially printed magazine which will be illustrated and contain news of both historical and modern developments in the sphere of Railway Philately.

In addition several publications are suggested, such as a complete list of Railway Letter stamps, a detailed list of all Commonwealth Newspaper and Parcel stamps and an up-to-date list of all Railway Thematic Issues from 1847 to 1966.

A committee which will meet 2 to 3 times annually has been formed and a regular exchange scheme controlled by an exchange secretary is to be established.

Individuals interested in Railway Philately are cordially invited to become members of the Group. The annual subscription is 21s. which may be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. R. A. Kirk, 59a Hartley Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Nottingham, England.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

I take exception to the article in the July issue of the S.A. Philatelist under the heading "Topical Comments . . . . an unexplained difficulty." The explanation is very very simple indeed and I would refer the writer to the latin "Mea culpa" which translated reads "by my own fault."

Like the writer of this article I too received my copy of the May G.P.O. bulletin on 12th May. This is backed up by dated stubs of postal orders. Between **that date and the 18th May** I was able to despatch some 300 (three hundred covers) to the various places. In addition I was able to contact the Chief Publicity Officer in Pretoria by letter and received a reply verifying that the date stamp to be used at the No. 1 Field Post Office would have the date changed each day and that the time letters A and B would be used for the forenoon and afternoon cancelling of mail posted, either during the forenoon or afternoon. This made a total of 31 covers per each complete set with a different date, some bearing the time letter A and some with the time letter B.

I sent the covers in small packages of about 10 covers each with typed instructions as to the day they were to be cancelled and whether they were to be cancelled forenoon or afternoon. I furthermore stamped a percentage of the above covers for registration but there was no registration arrangements at No. 1 Field P.O. Nevertheless these covers were also serviced as for normal mail.

To the other post offices who provided special cancellers I enclosed postal orders for an even amount, slightly in excess of the value of the stamps required and requested the postmasters to kindly add two extra one cent stamps to any cover to use up the extra two cents. This was done in all but one case. In this particular case the postmaster replied very graciously that he could not accommodate the extra two one cents stamps on any cover and so had taken the liberty of sending one additional cover he himself prepared.

I received each and everyone of the covers I had sent, all beautifully cancelled and in immaculate condition. Those which I sent to the No. 1 Field Post Office were all returned with the original wrappings and in the specially prepared box I made for them.

Such was my experience. I should have mentioned that amongst the covers I sent were some addressed to friends in Gt. Britain and Australia from whom I have received acknowledgements and expressions of pleasure at the **protective envelopes** in which the G.P.O. had placed the first day covers.

Naturally I wrote to the Chief Publicity Officer expressing my thanks for the meticulous service, attentions and kindness of his staff and himself.

In his reply the Chief Publicity Officer writes:-

"Thank you for your letter of 21st June 1966 and I can assure you that my staff and I noted your kind words of praise and appreciation with a keen sense of satisfaction."

In conclusion might I ask the question "Just how lethargic can some philatelists be?"

I am proud to append my signature.

J. G. Walker.

* * * *

The above letter was referred to the author of the article in question, who replied as follows:-

Dear Sir,

May I ask your correspondent to read the article referred to again and in particular the concluding paragraph. The point I tried to make, was, that whilst he and I and others on the Philatelic Bureau's mailing list had no cause to grumble, philatelic societies and monthly publications such as The South African Philatelist, received the Bureau's bulletins too late to be of any value to their members and readers who are in a less favourable position. The article was prompted by a sense of duty towards fellow collectors—nothing else.

One could suffix a few words to the quoted Latin phrase to arrive at, "by my own fault I make a hash of things," but how a wide-awake reader can miss an obvious point, made in sincerity, and then proudly proceed to accuse others of lethargy, is beyond me. It sounds a bit "Phooey."

"Topical Comments. An unexplained difficulty", did not make the slightest reference to the execution of orders or the servicing of covers by the Bureau. But,

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since your correspondent has introduced the subject, and as he does not appear to be on top of his subject, may I be allowed to enlighten him. This can best be done by comparison.

One can only conclude that your correspondent, being a good customer (300 covers) received V.I.P. treatment. The small fry most certainly had a different experience. For instance—does he know that many collectors, as distinct from wholesalers and dealers, are still waiting for their covers at the time of writing (31 July 1966)? Would he like to see some covers received by collectors "beautifully cancelled and in immaculate condition"? Does he know that some collectors have decided not to bother with the Bureau any longer because it always costs them the price of two covers, plus; that they have decided that it is less trouble and cheaper, despite what merchants charge, to get their covers from them? The reason? Special attention to big orders. Don't worry about the rest. At least that is the impression one gets, because invariably bulk orders are despatched under cover of "protective envelopes" after having been accorded special care. Regretfully I cannot say the same for one-cover orders.

ZAR TRIANGULAR NUMERAL CANCELLERS

Sir,

As regards the ZAR triangular numeral cancellers, I recently acquired a small collection from which the following have emerged:

No. 83: OVS ½d P. S. Card with VREDE cds of 28.3.98 addressed to Pretoria, bearing No. 83 triangle as transit mark. No. arrival mark. Probably went up by road (the rly. line possibly did not then exist) to Standerton, and there received the transit triangle before proceeding by rail via Heidelberg.

No. 21 (or 24): in purple.
No. 26: In violet and purple.
Nos. 42, 47, 62, 81 and 89: In black.

Colours not reported.

No. 36: Black (not clear whether known or not).
No. 16: Deep bright blue (reported to Dr. Pirie 6.1.65).
No. 13 (or 15) and 60: Pale blue.
No. 10: Pale blue and bright blue.

In this same collection, Nos. 3 and 17 are alleged to have originated at KOPSTAAND (wherever that may be) and ALLWAYS respectively, but on what authority I do not know.

I am taking the liberty of enclosing a cover from HELVETIA to Holland which may cause a little diversion in deciding whether it is No. 42, 43, 45 or 46. I do hope you will be able to reach a conclusion.

In my letter to Dr. Pirie of 6 January 65, I also drew attention to a No. 6 on cover but nothing has appeared in SAP. I wondered if No. 6 was not in fact BOKSBURG to which had been allocated No. 5. The stamps are tied with a clear No. 6 triangle and in the SW corner on the face is the squared octagon of Boksburg dated 12.10.91—both strikes being in black. There are no other marks except the London arrival strike.

Turning to the Cape type barred ovals, the collection referred to produced No. 620 on TVL SG. 175—a number apparently not previously recorded. It also stated that No. 559 originated at KORANNA FONTEIN, but the authority is not mentioned.

I trust these notes will be of interest and look forward to the return of the cover in due course.

Yours sincerely,
Harold M. Criddle.

* * * *

The above letter was referred to Messrs. J. M. Weinstein, of Pretoria and C. S. Rosenberg, of Johannesburg for consideration. Their respective replies are as follows:

Sir, I think that the "S.A.P." should record this new information, and refer to the two notes, S.A.P., November 1964, page 205, and March 1965, page 50, at the same time in order to retain continuity.

I cannot help with the locality of KOPSTAAND but you might check one or two Post Office Guide Books just in case it existed in the days after 1910. (Editors Note: KOPSTAAND is not listed in the July 1912 Guide).

The cover from HELVETIA seems to me to be the triangular numeral No. 44 (and not one of his suggested numbers)! My rather useful "Philatell' gadget shows the second numeral rather better than an ordinary magnifier and the diagonal and

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vertical limbs of the figure '4' seem to suggest themselves.

Sincerely,

J. M. Weinstein.

* * * *

Sir, The name of the post office which was allocated and used the "Z.A.R." triangular numeral canceller No. 83 may well have been Standerton or even Heidelberg but until such time as something more specific can be found, it must still be presumed that the numeral No. 83 was allocated to a post office whose identity still remains unknown.

When the late Dr. Pirie and I wrote our article on these particular triangular cancellers no cognisance was taken of the fact that different coloured inks were used at various post offices. It is a known fact that the colours Red, Blue, Purple, and Black were used simultaneously for many years and due to differences in the various ink mixes, the colour pigmentation of the blue could be classed as pale, bright and deep whilst the purple tended to the shades of violet and cerise.

Major Criddle mentions in his letter that No. 3 and No. 17 are alleged to have originated at "Kopstaand" and "Allways "respectively.

This supposition is assuredly incorrect. No. 3 is perhaps the commonest of such triangular cancellers and is known to have been used at the "Johannesburg" post offices. Reference to an article on this particular point can be made in the "S.A. Philatelist" in an article written by the late Dr. Pirie and me.

The No. 17 mark is undoubtedly "Nylstroom" or "Nijlstroom" and this can be supported by numerous covers in my possession bearing this mark or cancellation together with the circular date stamps of "Nylstroom" or "Nijlstroom."

In an official list of Transvaal Post Offices in the year 1890 no mention is made of "Kopstaand" or "Allways" and quite frankly I have never heard of these names before.

The cover from "Helvetia" to Holland bearing a mark which is not decipherable but beginning with the numeral "4" must, unfortunately, remain in the unknown category as it would be nothing more than hazarding a guess to say that the post office at "Helvetia" was allocated any specific numeral in the "Forties."

The late Dr. Pirie was unfortunately a very sick man in January 1965 and it must be presumed that he never managed to record the fact that Major Criddle had in his possession a cover showing numeral No. 6 used at "Boksburg" and correcting the supposition that No. 5 was allocated to this town.

I personally am very grateful to Major Criddle for his discovery.

Yours faithfully,

Colin S. Rosenberg.

CAPE BARRED NUMERAL POSTMARKS

Sir,

Regarding "GROOT CHWAING" postal agency about which Mr. Manfred Weinstein was enquiring in the "S.A. Philatelist," Vol. 42, No. 8, page 179, with Barred Oval numeral 478 tied to Groot Chwaing, I have found out from Mr. V. E. Ellenberger, of Salisbury, that it was a very large Salt Pan between Vryburg and Mafeking, in what was formerly Northern Stellaland. It lies to the west of WIRSING (MARIBOGO).

Mr. Ellenberger says "The only maps I have which show its position are in (a) Blue Book C4643 (Further correspondence respecting the affairs of the Transvaal and adjacent territories) opposite page 129, and (b) Volume 2 of Mackezies "Austral Africa," both these maps show its position as very slightly South and West of Maribogo.

I have an idea that the locality was later renamed "Stella." "Groot" means large, and "Chawaing" is the Boer rendering of Letswai, the Sechuana word for Salt."

In later Aeronautical maps this pan is shown just south of STELLA, and some eighty miles to the S. of west there is a smaller pan shown as KLEIN TSHWAING.

Further enquiries have been made locally but so far no answer is forthcoming regarding its history and its postal agency.

Sincerely,

G. D. B. Williams.

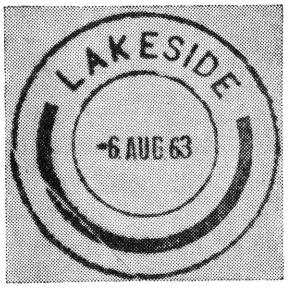
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RELIEF HANDSTAMPS

Sir,

I read with interest Mr. D. Allison's notes on Relief Handstamps/August, 1966, page 183.

I have a number of specimens which appear to be similar to the "new type", with one variation. The arc of the third circle in the handstamp is considerably thicker than in the one from Vrede/illustrated.



I enclose a specimen illustrated of this type from Lakeside. My copies date from 20 April, 1963 to 4th September 1963. Is this not rather a long time for a regular handstamp to be out of commission?

Also, I have similar specimens from Muizenberg /-3.VII.B63/ and from St. James, from as early as 23.XII.A61.

I should be much obliged to have Mr. Allison's comment as to whether these handstamps can be classified under the same catagory as those he mentioned in the South African Philatelist.

Yours faithfully,

M. A. Rozwadowski.

ALCOCK AND HOLLAND

It is announced that Captain F. C. Holland who collaborated with Mr. R. C. Alcock in their joint publication in 1940 of the "Postmarks of Great Britain and Ireland" has recently retired from scholastic life and will join the firm of R. C. Alcock, Ltd., mainly on the plating and publishing sides.

Further, Miss Rose Titford who has been handling fine stamps both as an amateur and as a professional for over 40 years, has joined the firm of R. C. Alcock Ltd., and will be assisting them as Classics Consultant.

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REPUBLIEKFEES-SEËLS

'n Beskouing deur 'n jongerlid van die Afrikaanse Filatelistevereniging

Cecil E. F. Skotnes is 'n kunstenaar wat vir homself roem en eer verwerf het as 'n skilder. Hy is egter nie 'n ontwerper en veral 'n posseëlontwerper nie.

Om 'n stel posseëls te kan ontwerp verg meer as net kunstenaarstalent en 'n kennis van kleure. Die paar vierkante sentimeters waaruit 'n posseël bestaan is nie die plek vir 'n kunstenaar om vrye teuels aan sy skeppingdrange te gee nie, en dan simboliese betekenis daaraan te wil heg nie. Dit is egter presies wat mnr. Skotnes met sy ontwerpe vir die Republiekfeesuitgifte gedoen het; hy moes in gedagte gehou het dat sy ontwerpe nie net die goedkeuring van ons geagte professors moes wegdra nie, maar dat die breë publiek, wat tog immers die seëls op briewe, poskaarte en pakette plak, ook die seëls moet kan waardeer en daarvan hou. Dit is slegs die filateliste wat mnr. Skotnes se simboliese verduidelikings gelees het en nie die deursnee man op straat nie.

In die Julie-uitgawe van "The South African Philatelist" vind dr. Raubenheimer in sy "South African Notes" die ontwerpe "striking" en sê hy dat die swart-en-wit reproduksies nie reg aan die seëls laat geskied nie. Was hulle maar liewers wit-en-swart, dan het ons nie wit mynhope en geel mielieplante gehad nie. Hy is darem 'n dokter en sal seker beter weet as diegene van ons wat nog moet sukkel om die einde van die jaar 'n matrieksertifikaat te kry.

In 1867 is die eerste diamant in Suid-Afrika ontdek en in die jare daarna het die stormloop na die Kimberleyse eldorado begin en baie water het in die see geloop sedert daardie stormagtige dae en diamante is nie meer ons vernaamste uitvoerproduk nie. Waarom nou skielik die diamant op ons 1c-seël om die baie fasette van die Suid-Afrikaanse ekonomie en die industriële vooruitgang te simboliseer? Dit sou 'n beter idee gewees het om die seël volgende jaar met 'n spesiale stempel by die Groot Gat in Kimberley uit te gee—as herdenking van die eeufees van die ontdekking van die eerste diamant in Suid-Afrika.

Die 2½c is die denominasie wat die meeste deur die algemene publiek op gewone landposbriewe gebruik word en ek wonder hoeveel van hulle besef, elke keer as hulle een van die seëls op 'n brief plak, dat die ou duifie nou die vryheid (wat hulle die afgelope vyf jaar geniet) simboliseer. Die ou duifie wat in die toekoms invlieg—dit is nou die groen en ligblou strepe. Dit lyk darem nie vir my of die duifie êrens gaan uitkom nie—hy vlieg hom dan in die toekoms vas.

Iemand het vir my gesê dat die seël van 3 sent vir haar nes 'n krap lyk (en dis nie nou om te probeer snaaks wees nie, maar is die reine waarheid). Ek stem saam dat 'n mens nogal 'n sterk verbeeldingskrag moet hê om in die geel, bruin en rooi komposisie 'n mielieplant raak te sien—en dan veral 'n gesonde vrugbare mielieplant. Want sien, mnr. Skotnes se simboliek daaragter is dan nou Suid-Afrika se vooruitstrewende landbou. Die anonieme ontwerper van die Staatsdrukker wat ons gewone 7½c-seël ontwerp het, het m.i. 'n suksesvoller voorstelling van die landbou gegee. Hoe twee verlepte geel mielieplantjies nou Suid-Afrika

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se groei as nasie kan voorstel is bo ons gewone mense se vuurmaakplek.

Aan die hoogste denominasie, die 7½c, wat meesal gebruik word vir oorseese lugpos, moes baie meer aandag gegee word, want dit moet die 5de verjaardag van die Republiek aan die buitelande bekendstel. Ons geagte kunstenaar het egter vergeet dat Jan Publiek moeilik die eerste drie versies van **Die Stem** met hierdie ontwerp kan verbind.

99.99% van die buitelanders ken ongelukkig nie die eerste drie versies van **Die Stem** nie en kan ongelukkig ook nie die verbintenis tussen die twee opmerk nie—of, soos mnr. Skotnes die wil hê: die „simboliek" raaksien nie. As 'n Suid-Afrikaner wit berge sien dink hy onwillekeurig aan Johannesburg se mynhope. Maar nouja, daar is soveel rookmis (veral in die winter) in Johannesburg, dat die mynhope nie meer wit is nie, maar gelerig. Is die spierwit berge nie dalk 'n simbool van 'n rookmisvrye Johannesburg (met wit mynhope nie? Ons moet ook onthou dat ons na **Die Stem** luister en hom moeilik kan sien.

Oor wat die arme buitelander van die seël dink, kan ons maar net 'n donker gordyn laat val en met skaamte daaraan dink dat, nieteenstaande die tientalle pleidooie van die Suid-Afrikaanse filatelistewêreld vir 'n hoë standaard in ons posseëls, ons nog ver agter is by baie lande.

Daar het tog in 1960 met die vyftigjarig bestaan van die Unie 'n stel verskyn van hoogstaande gehalte. Die landsvlag, die landswapen, die feesembleem, die vyf eerste ministers sedert Uniewording en dan een simboliese ontwerp. M.i. behoort 'n afbeelding van die Staatspresident op tenminste een van die seëls verskyn het. Die seëls herdenk immers 31 Mei 1961, die dag waarop die eerste Staatspresident ingesweer is. As hy dan ook op die hoogste waarde afgebeeld kon word, word ons land se eerste burger ook aan die buiteland bekendgestel. Ons nywerheidsgroei moes deur goud voorgestel word. Dis mos Suid-Afrika se grootste bate en belangrikste uitvoerproduk? Maar 'n mens moet seker nie kla nie: Ons het dan nou die mynhoop op die 7½c-seël.

'n Ander ongelukkige aspek van hierdie blykbaar gedoemde uitgifte is die eentaligheid op die seël. Dit is die eerste keer in elf jaar dat 'n Suid-Afrikaanse posseël uitgegee word wat in pare versamel moet word. Horisontale pare—Vertikale pare—Die beste is dan seker om maar 'n silinderblok van vier te koop.

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Oor vyf jaar sal die tiende verjaardag van die Republiek hopelik ook met 'n stel posseëls gevier word en ons hoop dat daar dan iets meer konkreets en minder simbolies sal verskyn.

Suid-Afrika het tog ook seker sy Victor Whiteleys, Michael Goamans en David Gentlemans? —Nico Dekker.

(Volgende maand gee ons u 'n ander sienswyse).

TSITSIKAMMA POSAGENTSKANTOOR

Die Posmeester-generaal maak bekend dat 'n spesiale datumstempel ontwerp is vir die Posagentskantoor wat op 3 Oktober 1966 in die Tsitsikammabos en- Seekus Nasionale Park geopen sou word. 'n Afdruk van die datumstempel verskyn elders.

Hierdie Park is ongeveer 63 myl oos van Knysna en 53 myl wes van Humansdorp af geleë. Die kusgebied is gewild onder vakansiegangers en hengelaars en word as 'n lushof vir die fotograaf beskou. Die inheemse bosse is beroemd vir die groot aantal reuse geelhoutbome, veral die bekende „groot boom."

KAAPPUNTNATUURRESERVAAT

Die ander spesiale datumstempel waarvan 'n afdruk ook elders verskyn, sou met ingang van 3 Oktober 1966 deur die pos-

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kantoor te Simonstad gebruik word om gedenkposkaarte en- omslae gepos in die spesiale posbus wat in die Kaappuntnatuurreservaat opgerig sal word, af te stempel. Hierdie Reservaat strek tot by die punt van die Kaapse Skiereiland en bied beskerming aan 'n verskeidenheid flora en fauna.

ONAFHANKLIKE BASOETOLAND

Vier herdenkingseëls sou op 4 deser verskyn het om die onafhanklikheid van Basoetoland te vier; (2½c, 5c, 10c en 20c). Daarby ook 'n spesiale gedenkkoevert teen 10½c om die geheel op 48c te staan te bring. Ongelukkig kon ons die besonderhede nie betyds vir 'n eerstedagafstempelling aan u oorbring nie. Vir toekomstige doeleindes kan u gerus die volgende adres êrens opteken: Philatelic Section, P.O. Box 413, Maseru, Lesotho.

PHILYMPIA—1970

London's next International stamp Exhibition, styled PHILYMPIA—1970, will be held from September 18 to 26, 1970, thus opening on a Friday and closing on the Saturday of the following week.

The venue is to be Olympia, probably the best known exhibition centre in Great Britain and the Exhibition will occupy some 80,000 square feet in the Empire Hall. Space has been allocated to accommodate 2,500 frames.

Joint sponsors of PHILYMPIA—1970 are the Royal Philatelic Society, the British Philatelic Association and the Philatelic Trader's Society.

We hope to publish further details later.

AEROFILIA '67

This is the title of a large International Airmail Exhibition which will take place in Budapest from the 3rd to 10th September 1967, during which the F.I.S.A. (International Federation of Aerophilatelic Societies) will be held.

The British Commissioner for this event is John C. W. Field, at Frances J. Field Ltd., Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire, England.

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NO SHORT CUT TO KNOWLEDGE

The Philatelic Foundation of New York, in a circular sent to its members recently, made these very interesting points in the field of philatelic specialisation:

Judging from the enquiries that reach us, there is a growing misconception that the purchase of a fluorescent lamp, a microscope and a bottle of benzine, will produce a knowledgeable philatelist overnight.

An increasing number of requests ask for recommendations concerning the equipment that should be bought to detect repairs, stamps from which cencellations have been removed, or to which overprints have been added, faked cancellations and covers, watermarks and types of papers.

No scientific or mechanical instruments can be used as substitutes for philatelic knowledge. Such knowledge can only be gained by years of experience in constantly handling and studying philatelic materials; it is this knowledge which will enable one to obtain the utmost use from scientific apparatus.

Some collectors seem to think that a fluorescent lamp is the answer to all philatelic problems. This is not so. For instance, a lamp alone will not necessarily disclose repairs or cleaned cancellations; nor will it identify watermarks and types of papers. There may be characteristics involved that can be observed more readily with the naked eye, or possibly by the aid of a magnifying glass, than by the use of a fluorescent lamp—always providing that the student knows what he is looking for.

In many fields the selection of scientific equipment is made with consideration being given to the function it is required to perform, plus the abilities and approach of the individual who is to use it. Vision is an important factor in our hobby for instance. Few people have identical vision, so that what might aid one collector could be useless to another. Therefore, general recommendations are not practical or possible.

(Acknowledgement to "Stamp News."

ON LOOKING BACK

(Continued from p. 216, Sept. 1966 Number)

Moreover, the successful collector must be observant and clearheaded enough to distinguish those minute differences which frequently are all that makes one issue of stamps distinct from another. In this way he familiarises himself with those niceties in engraving, embossing, electrotyping, typography, lithography, colours and colour printing, paper-making, watermarking and perforation which go to make up the complete postage stamp, and the subtleties of which are as the breath of life to the advanced collector. Then admirers of art will find much to minister to their satisfaction in the contemplation of the really beautiful designs that adorn their albums. Some present superb bits of landscape, veritable gems of the engraver's art, and others pictorial embodiments of national characteristics or products. Thus one finds oil palms and crocodiles illustrating the stamps of British Borneo, and the codfish, dog and seal of Newfoundland. Peru has its llamas, Egypt advertises its pyramids and sphinx, and New South Wales remembers her kangaroo and emu, Tasmanian its unique ornithorhyncus of science, and New Zealand its birds and beautiful scenery, while Canada and the United States typify civilisation up-to-date with representations of ocean-liners, motor-cars and locomotives. As for Kings, Queen and Presidents, particularly our late Queen, the collector can boast of a veritable picture gallery of no mean artistic merit.

Just one claim more would I add to my plea for stamp collecting. It is a mistake to assume, as many do, that money spent in forming a collection is so much hard cash thrown away. It is quite the reverse—stamps are like wine, a first-folio Shakespeare, or a specimen of the Caxton press, in that they increase in value with age. Rare stamps will always fetch their value and sometimes more, and there is probable more value to the square inch in rare postage stamps than in anything under the sun. Time was when a stamp dealer was as difficult to find as a needle in a hay-stack. In 1860 a teacher at Tonbridge School wrote to "Notes and Queries" stating that a boy in his form had formed a collection of 300 or 400 stamps, and quoted Sir Rowland Hill as having stated that there might be 500 varieties in existence. He enquired whether there was

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a shop in London where stamps could be purchased or lists of them obtained. The enquiry brought forth no reply. Today there are stamp dealers in every town of any importance all the world over. Whether the phenomenal advance in the price of the rarer stamps will check collecting by placing it above the means of a large section of the world's workers I cannot say, but for collectors of small means there is a wide field in the collection of the cheaper countries, of Europe for example, and a relative educative and recreative value.

MIDNIGHT RUSH FOR WORLD CUP STAMPS

Dealers are expected to make up to R10 million on the British World Cup victory stamps issued on April 18th.

Most of the issue of 12 million 4d. stamps from the World Cup set, overprinted with the words "England winners," was sold out within minutes in post offices throughout the country.

Then the stamps went on sale in dealers' windows. Prices: From 1s. to 2s. 6d. An expert said that by the week-end the price of an unfranked stamp could easily reach 10s.

Stamps which dealers posted on letters to themselves to get them post-marked with the issue date could sell for 15s.

Each customer was rationed to 240 stamps. The stampede began at midnight when sales started at the all-night post office in Trafalgar Square, London.

As six clerks opened the sale, two glass partitions were smashed in the rush to buy and people were cut.

With more than 1,000 dealers and collectors jostling in front of the counters, the doors were locked and police had to control crowds outside. After 23 minutes it was all over—144,000 stamps sold for R5.200.

Disappointed dealers shouted complaints at the clerks as they left.

The Post Office has made a killing, with a total of R400,000 stamps sold in a morning..

Stamps for collectors have boomed into big business since the former Postmaster-General, Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, started the trend towards special issues.

(Acknowledgment to "Johannesburg Star.")

THE MACHINE CANCELLER

(Continued from page 218)

Notes on the Printing

The machine is adjusted so that the stamp is cancelled when it is in the top right corner of the letter. Stamps placed elsewhere are postmarked by hand. A letter with a row of stamps along the top will have those on the right machine stamped and those on the left done by hand with a separate datestamp. It can also happen that a letter with a stamp in the wrong position can pass through without a mark on the stamp, but that would be by accident.

The postmark of the die is round with an outer ring seven eigths inch in diameter and an inner ring just over a half inch in diameter. The letter in the bottom of the outer circle, in this case A, denotes which machine it is. It is interesting to note that the time shown in the centre, e.g. 15.30 (3.30 p.m.) is the time when this particular period ends, in other words, this letter was postmarked before 3.30 p.m. The times on the die are not changed at the same regular intervals. An impression of each change is made on a record sheet and signed by the operator. Changes are made to fit in with the departure of conveyances such as trains. At a large post office times would be somewhat like this: 7, 8, 9, 11, a.m., 12.30, 2, 3, 4, 4.30, 5.30 p.m., and so on. At this Exhibition times started at 9 a.m. then 9.30, 11.30, 12.30 and so on.

The hand stamp, used when necessary is called the counter hand stamp. This one was round with an outer ring one and one eighth inch in diameter and an inner of three quarter inch. The number in the bottom of the outer circle, in this case 70, shows the number of the counter (it does not necessarily mean that there are 70 counters in this post office). 70 happened to be the one chosen for this Exhibition. The letter in the date e.g. 23 V B 66, shows the time, here A is up to 1 p.m. and B is after 1 p.m.

Changes of die and Sleeve

It has been mentioned that the die can be inverted in the printing cylinder. If this should happen no ill effects will result; the printing merely becomes a variety or

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possibly a collector's piece. But if the sleeve is changed and placed on the other side of the die on the printing cylinder as it is at present, and the slogan shows on the left of the die on the letter, then the result is most unfortunate. First of all there is damage done, considerably to the machine and to a lesser extent to the letter. The black rubber of the pressure roller opposite the printing cylinder is shredded by the cyclinder. If even a few letters pass through there is an appreciable layer of powdered rubber, stripped from the roller, in the receiving bin as well as on the letters.

The effect on the letters is still more unfortunate, and the following picture presents itself. The top left corner can be torn, from there drag marks lead up to an elongated slogan, the left side of which is badly blurred and only the right side being legible. There is then a very much wider gap up to the die, so wide, indeed that generally only a small portion of the die shows in the top right corner of the envelope, the chances being that the postage stamp is left untouched. Another curious effect is shown; there is a partial offset of the die, reversed, in the top right corner of the back of the cover.

One's immediate thought was that this was the reason why the post office could not accede to the request of the Philatelic Federation to change the stamp printing of envelopes so that the die, the postmark with the date, would be on or touching the stamp. But, as it turned out later, this was not the whole reason, in fact it was only a minor reason.

The present printing cylinder cannot be adapted to take the reversed position; new cyclinders for all the machines would have to be made; if the result would be an improvement the post office would not hesitate to do so, but other reasons are more important. From the post office's point of view the postmark is important as a record of the place and time of posting, the clearer the mark the better, and, seeing that this machine deals with letters with space available, the danger of a postmark, with its information, coming on a dark coloured stamp, such as most of the new Festival stamps, is obviated. The information was also given us that the post office had made a detailed study of practices overseas and had found that only a few countries had the reversed position of die and slogan, and there was not much likelihood of others changing.

That the machine at the Exhibition attracted so much attention is proof of the increasing interest in postmarks.

TRADE NEWS

"Stamp News" announces that Seven Seas Stamps (Pty.) Ltd., of Dubbo, during the next six months, will take over its largest competitor, Messrs. K. & M. Duffy (Holdings) (Pty.) Ltd., of North Sydney.

Prior to the takeover, the K. & M. Duffy (Holdings) (Pty.) Ltd., organisation was the second largest philatelic company in Australia. When it is amalgamated with Seven Seas Stamps (Pty.) Ltd., the latter organisation will rank as one of the top six firms in the world.

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ANGLO-BOER WAR PHILATELIC SOCIETY. quarterly magazine with exchange packet in U K. Subscription R1.00 (10/-) yearly. Secretary, J. H. Rathbone, "Allways", Rudheath, Northwich, Cheshire, U.K.

FOR WORLD STAMP NEWS, market commentary, new issues, postmark studies, book reviews, etc., etc. Read the "PHILATELIC MAGAZINE," published every two weeks by Harris Publications Ltd., of London. Annual sub. R2-25 (£1.2.6). Agent in South Africa: D. C. D. Castle, 174 Cooper Street, Greytown, Natal.

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South African Collectors' Society for the Union Collector—magazine, exchange packet. Subscription 15/- ($2) year. Write Hon. Secretary, W. A. Page, 138 Chastilian Road Dartford, Kent, England.

LATVIA (Lettland; Lettonie) out of the way items and bulk common stamps wanted.—J. Michelson, P.O. Box 9314, Johannesburg.

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SIMENHOFF BOOKLET.—The Occupational Postmarks of the Mandated Territory of South West Africa by Capt. L. Simenhoff; the series as run in The South African Philatelist, in booklet form (24 pages). Price 30c post free.—Philatelic Federation, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

U.S.A. SPECIALIST requires singles, blocks covers, cancellations. A. R. Kleiner, 23 Cadogan Gardens, London S.W. 3, England.

LISTS of general interest free on request. —UNION STAMP CO., Barbican Building, President and Rissik, Johannesburg. (P.O. Box 10225), Telephone 838-5879.

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IRAQ, JORDAN, LEBANON, SYRIA: Fine used recent issues wanted.—W. Lambert, P.O. Box 1138, Johannesburg.

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TRISTAN DA CUNHA—Specialist collector requires postally used covers, letters, or other related material of philatelic interest, dated prior to 1950. Please write to J. Cole, 66 Ridelle Avenue, Toronto 19, Ontario, Canada.

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SOCIETY NEWS

AFRIKAANSE FILATELISTEVERENIGING

2 Julie: 'n Redelike opkoms van 24 lede en 3 besoekers was aanwesig en was so vol belangstelling vir die veiling en ruilverkeer dat sprake van die uitstalling deur die lid Bakker (hy sou sy versameling van Switzerland vertoon) geheel en al uitgeskakel was. Gelukkig het lid Bakker nie omgegee nie want hy was self ook so doenig met sy rondsendsake dat hy skaars agtergekom het dat die tyd hom verby gesteek het. Ons vertrou dat hy binnekort weer 'n kans kry.

Mnr. en mev. Hartman en mnr. Linzer is tot lede verklaar en die name van nie minder nie as sewe aspirantlede is aangekondig. Onder hulle is drie seuns wie se openbare ywer moontlik daartoe kan lei dat ons jeugwedstryde van vroeër, volgende Februarie hervat kan word.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF RHODESIA

July. Another very well attended meeting had the privilege of viewing Dr. A. Hawards outstanding exhibit. He presented the 1924 and 1931 Southern Rhodesia King George V issues and discussed the varities caused by the different methods of printing and perforating used by the two printers, Waterlow and Sons, and Bradbury, Wilkinson and Co.

The collection showed most of the recognised varieties of colour of every mint stamp, with blocks of four of the normal, as well as the various perforations.

Photographic enlargements of the "Admiral" King's head showed that, for the single colour stamps, each die was separately engraved and for the bi-coloured stamps the same die was used for making the headplate, and that this die differed from the single coloured heads, which again had nothing in common with the 1913 engraving (Waterlow's) of the Admiral's head. In the 1931 issue the same engraving was used throughout all the values.

A series of Photographs taken in Bradbury, Wilkinson's factory was also displayed, showing in detail the steps entailed in the making of a recess printed stamp, from its design to trimming the sheets of stamps.

Dr. Haward was suitably thanked by the Chairman, Mr. J. R. Strong, who expressed the hope that the paper would be available to all members and possibly published.

(The paper has not been received.—Ed.)

August. A well attended meeting was priviledged to see an exhibit sent by Mr. W. C. Combrink, of the Royal, Cape.

The study, comprising 63 album pages, was of one stamp only, the 15c of Italy, May, 1863. Sixty-three pages of one stamp might, at first, sound monotonous, but such was the study of the printing processess involved that much interest was aroused.

This was an emergency issue and it was produced by lithography, in one colour. The stamp was laid down in five rows of five and a printing made of the block of 25. Four of these blocks were then put together to make a block of 100. A printing was made of this block of 100 which was laid on the stone next to the original block, thus making a litho stone block of 200 stamps. In this way it is easy to see how flaws were perpetuated through the sheet, say on stamps 1 and 6, 51 and 56 and so on.

The study goes on to discuss these primary transfer flaws which were, of course, repeated on subsequent blocks. Thus, in laying down the four transfers taken from the first printings, a new series of flaws came into existence—the secondary transfer flaws, all the primary flaws still being present.

Printing by lithography from stone necessitated fresh transfers being taken from time to time and the laying down of fresh blocks for printing. At the next transfer the tertiary flaws came into existence, so that in the final pages of the exhibit the primary, secondary and tertiary flaws are all shown in each block.

The whole collection was lavishly illustrated with magnified drawings of the flaws produced in the various printings.

The Chairman read the paper which accompanied the exhibit, and which gave full details of the various transfers and attendant flaws with each transfer. At the conclusion he summed up the display, stating that it exemplified the difference between a stamp collector and a philatelist.

The 1d Stamp.

The Harrison printing of the current 1d stamp is exhausted and those on issue have been prepared by Mardon Printers (Salisbury).

MOOI RIVER STAMP CLUB

August. After disposing of the usual monthly business, a well attended meeting settled down to enjoy two excellent exhibits.

Capt. Stempfle showed an interesting collection of Military History on stamps which commenced with the ancient warfare of the wall of China and continued through the Napoleonic age to the First World War period.

Master G. van der Walt followed with a very nice little exhibit of thirty pages of South African stamps, neatly written up and well displayed.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

June 21: Mr. Sam Charles entertained members with part of his "U.S.A." collec-

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tion, modestly tabled and accompanied by a warm and witty commentary.

The classic "General Issues" with Number one in the lead were well represented. They were followed by many of the subsequent definitive issues, giving some of the history and printing details attaching to them. The Columbus Issue, with only the two top values missing, and the Omaha issue made a fine show.

The next group comprised the stamps of the 1936 to the early 1940's period and included Plate Blocks of the 1938 Presidential series, the Champions of Liberty and others. The third group comprised little-known stamps and caused a great deal of interest. Special Delivery Stamps, practically complete, and a host of Tax stamps, including "Potato," "Silver" and "Duck" stamps, proving the ingenuity of the U.S. Treasury to provide revenues, were shown.

Mr. Bülbring expressed the appreciation of members to the exhibitor.

July 5. Mr. L. Lazarow, one of our newer members, staged a most fascinating display of the stamps of Hungary, probably the first time that this country's stamps have graced our tables. The raised "Lace Stamps", in particular, made an impression on account of the beauty of their design and execution.

Mr. Lazarow introduced the showing with a short résumé on Hungary as a country, its history, culture, climate, fauna, flora and sport—all prominantly displayed on the stamps, and was suitably thanked, on behalf of those present, by Mr. Bülbring.

The usual auction concluded a well attended and enjoyable meeting.

July 19. A well attended meeting, in spite of the inclement weather, enjoyed seeing Mr. W. G. Combrinck's excellent collection of Bosnia.

He had also sent along with it explanatory notes which were read and added to with further comments by Mr. Bülbring. Very few of us have ever made a detailed study of the stamps of this interesting territory, but nevertheless most were qualified and we think entitled to question the correctness of Mr. Combrinck's statement, that this was a "straightforward" collection. Not only did it include all issues from 1879 to 1918 but we also saw an astounding variety of Proofs and Colour trials. Highlights were Presentation Die Proofs on Carton Paper as well as Partial and Progressive Proofs of the pictorial 1906 issue. The 1917 Emperor Karl Die Proof set was shown complete. The sheets were written up in the concise and simple manner, becoming the classical collector, and the mounting and condition of the material was faultless. Our Society is indeed indebted to Mr. Combrinck for the privilege he accorded us to view this unique exhibit.

August 2. This was to be "Ladies Evening." It turned out to be one "Lady's Evening." Thirteen Ladies had turned out for this occasion, but behold only one of them, Mrs. H. Dickinson had brought her collection. And what a collection it proved to be! "Rhodesia" from 1890 to 1910. It made an outstanding exhibit all on its own. Only a few of the very high values of the 1890 and 1898-1908 issues were missing. The 1891 surcharges were complete unused and the 1896 Overprints of the Cape of Good Hope stamps were represented in profusion together with many of the overprint varieties. The array of "Doubleheads" of 1910 was most impressive and included some of the rare 15 perforations. It was undoubtedly Mrs. Dickinson's evening and we hope to have the pleasure of seeing the whole of her "Rhodesia" collection at a future date. Mr. E. Baer conveyed to Mrs. Dickinson the warm thanks of those present and the evening ended with the usual auction.

SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELY

July. After the usual reports the Secretary displayed the exhibit of "Jews Honoured on Stamps" submitted by Mr. Leo Hellman of East London. The display was accompanied by a short explanatory note. Mr. Hellman was suitably thanked by Mrs. Coleman—also a collector of Judaica. As per usual a discussion followed and no formal conclusion was arrived at as to what is Judaica. This time the discussion went further than usual and finished off on the complex question of Judaism as a whole.

Stamp News.

On the 19th October 1966, four stamps — 0.15, 0.30, 0.40 and 1.15 will be issued in the Israel Museum Commemorative Series depicting exhibits of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

The stamps are multi-coloured and are printed by photolithography in sheets of twelve with four tabs. Due to the large size of the stamp (51.4 x 40mm.) they will be mounted on three First Day Covers. From pictures seen the stamps look interesting, the designs being a Bronze Panther figurine of the First Century B.C.E., a Synagogue Stone Menorah of the Second Century C.E., Phoenician Ivory Sphinx of the Ninth Century B.C.E. and a Gold Drinking Horn of the Fifth Century B.C.E.

THE O.F.S. PHILATELIC SOCIETY

July. Despite the cold and the school holidays, 26 members attended this meeting. New Issues and Acquisitions were tabled by Mrs. Gray, Messrs Scott and Roux.

Mr. J. Herbst of Stellenbosch exhibited his collection of Germany entitled the "Nazi Regime" which covered the period 1933 to 1945. All the provinces and German occupied territories were shown and the presence of miniature sheets added to the interest of this well-presented collection.

The other exhibit of the evening was North and South Rhodesia and Nyasaland from 1953 to the split up of the Federation,

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and the new states of Malawi, Zambia and Rhodesia. Included were the Nyasaland Revenue overprints, N. Rhodesia missing value tablets, and the Rhodesian U.D.I. overprints —complete mint and almost complete used too.

Both exhibits were well received and the members concerned were thanked accordingly.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

June 9. The subject for this meeting was "Stamp Errors," and it proved to be a most interesting evening. Dr. Gottschalk showed stamps of the Free State and South Africa, including two sheets of the ½d 1896 overprint. Mr. Jeidel exhibited Liechtenstein and Egypt overprint varieties and errors. Mrs. Wannerton's offsets, Double Prints and retouches of Greece proved most interesting. A variety of errors from S.W.A., Basutoland, and Germany were shown by Mr. Putzel, while Mr. de Castro exhibited errors from his South African collection. Mrs. Jeidel's choice included U.S.A., Belgian Congo, and Israel tag errors.. Mr. Berneaud gave a detailed description of the errors of the 1920 Danzig Issue, and although Mr. Blum was unable to be present we were fortunate in being able to view his French tete-beche, Swiss double overprints, S.A., S.W.A. and Northern Rhodesia errors. Mr. D. Roth showed errors in the first U.D.I. issue and a sheet of Eastern Roumelia. As the final exhibitor, Mr. W. G. Combrinck delightfully exhibited the errors of Travancore, apparently any and every possible error and misprint are to be found on the stamps of this Indian state.

June 23. In complete contrast, the two exhibits shown on this date were Mr. G. Felmore's British Empire and Mr. L. du Chiappini's "British Africa." Starting with the Victorian Issues and working through to Elizabeth II, Mr. Felmore chose "Thirteen Islands and One Rock" for exhibit this evening, and this artistically arranged, mint collection was indeed a worthy effort from a comparatively new member. Mr. Chiappini's exhibit included Lagos, The Niger territories, Mauritius and the Falkland Islands, and considering that this was the first time that Mr. Chiappini had exhibited, this was a very fine show. Supplementing his collection with historical data of revelance, Mr. Chiappini pointed out rarities, items of interest and seldom-seen early Mauritius issues—altogether an unqualified success.

July 14. Mr. I. R. Goldblatt, a newcomer staged an excellent collection of the "Cape of Good Hope." In spite of the large number of collectors who are attracted by this subject, there is always something new to be seen and to be learnt, and it was apparent that a tremendous amount of research had gone into this collection. Starting with the early voyages of Exploration, we saw items of V.O.C. period and some very rare and beautifully conditioned covers from 1797-1818.

Dr. P. Keller followed with six sections of his outstanding collection of Poland. 1966 is an important year in the history of Poland, being the Millenium of Polish Christianity, and Dr. Keller has been invited to exhibit part of his collection in Warsaw. We are indeed fortunate in having the opportunity to view this collection prior to its departure. In the exhibit were items from the Warsaw Occupation Post 1915-1916, Post-War period, Provisional Postage Dues of Southern Poland, Commemorative and Definitive Issues 1924-39, Flight Covers and Balloon Posts.

July 28. In the first half of the evening the Simenhoff Cup was competed for by the ladies in the Society, and a new system of voting was introduced for the first time. Each member was issued with three voting papers and voted individually for all three competing exhibits, this based on a point system and considered far more systematic than the previous popular voting system. The three members competing were:

Mrs. J. Hotz—Union of South Africa.
Mrs. L. Coe—New Zealand Health Issues.
Mrs. M. Bergman—Anglo-Boer War.

Surprisingly enough the vote resulted in a draw, so Mrs. Hotz and Mrs. Bergman share the cup for 1966/67.

From Mr. Figov we expected an excellent display of Rhodesia, and he really did not disappoint us, his "Southern Rhodesia" is as good—and better—than we anticipated. This part of the world is particularly interesting to everyone today, politically and philatelically, and from the time of Southern Rhodesia's first Issue—The Admirals—in 1924, until her last issue under that name—we viewed it all, peppered with rarities, misprints, blocks, sheets and varieties a-plenty.

The Exchange Superintendent.

Members received with regret Mr. Solomon's resignation, due to failing health, as Exchange Superintendent, after many years of loyal service. Mr. Derek Watts was appointed as the "new" Exchange Superintendent.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

August. Thirteen members under the chairmanship of the Vice-President, Mr. R. G. L. Mephius viewed two exhibits which were entered competitively.

The first by Mr. J. H. van Loggerenberg was a collection of Triangular stamps of the world, a very colourful display with the majority of the stamps coming from foreign countries; the second, a display of mint stamps from the Pacific Islands Australian Dependencies, by Mr. T. J. B. Curle. A most interesting collection including the latest decimal issues. Mr. S. J. Hagger spoke on the two exhibits and conveyed the thanks of all present to the two exhibitors.

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Lastly, the Hon. Secretary displayed a straightforward collection of the stamps issued in Canada from 1940 to 1966, in both mint and used condition.

THEMATIC STAMP CLUB

July 25. Capt. M. F. Stern showed sections from his thematic collection 'Maps and Exploration' being Russia, Australia, Falkland Islands, in the Antarctic, and British Antarctic explorers and Dutch whalers. Accompanying this a talk was given. The rest of the evening was filled with exhibits from the Club's collection, illustrating over ten various thematic subjects. —M.F.S.

AFRIKAANSE PHILATELISTIESE VERENIGING VAN PRETORIA

Julie. Teen die gewoonte in is die maandvergadering op 27 Julie besonder goed bygewoon. Daar is besluit dat mnr. J. M. Becker en mej. M. Esterhuyse ons Vereniging by byeenkomste van die Federasie van Filatelisteverenigings van Suidelike Afrika sal verteenwoordig.

Die jaarlikse klubkompetisie wat op hierdie aand gehou is, is gewen deur mnr. N. Dekker met 'n versameling seëls van Tristan da Cunha. Dit is 'n klein versameling van 'n baie jong land. Maar dit is kompleet, met eerstedag-koeverte en ander besonderhede, en baie netjies en oorsigtelik opgestel. 'n Mooi prestasie vir hierdie jong en veelbelowende filatelis!

Volgende vergadering: vierde Woensdag van die maand in die Tegniese Kollege, Pretoria.

Augustus. Hierdie maand was daar 'n besondere goeie opkoms van ons lede. Die Philatelic Society, onder voorsitterskap van mnr. E. Walker het ons besoek met 'n viertal pragtige versamelings. Die eerste wat vertoon is, daar 'n oorsig van ouer en nuwe seëldrukke (mnr. A. Castignani), en die lede is uitgenooi om self maar te besluit waaraan hulle voorkeur gee. Die keuse was nie baie moelik nie! Die is gevolg deur 'n klassieke versameling van die seëls van Rhodesië van 1890 tot vandag (mnr. Reynders). Vervolgens 'n baie mooi versameling lugpos, met koeverte, van Israel (mnr. Smith) en tenslotte 'n versameling van die seëls van Basoetoland (mnr. G. Christie). Die versamelings was iets besonders en hulle het baie aandag getrek. Ons sien uit na 'n volgende besoek van hierdie Vereniging.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

August. A well attended meeting greeted the return of our President, Mr. M. Weinstein, after a spell in hospital, We wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

Two collections were displayed, the first by one of our new members, Mr. W. K. Seeba, who showed a collection of used stamps of West Germany (Federal Republic). Starting with the first issue which commemorated the opening of the West German Parliament in Bonn in 1949, this collection is complete in all issues, definitive as well as commemorative, up to the present.

Items which caught the eye were the Europa, Humanitarian and Welfare Relief Funds, and the Philatelic Exhibition issues.

The second exhibit of the evening, too, was a new one to the members. Mr. H. J. Schlieben brought along his outstanding collection of South West Africa. Commencing with the German forerunners used in the territory and finishing with the latest Vedder commemorative issue, this collection had very few gaps amongst the stamps shown, but the real interest in the collection lies in the cancellations, censor marks, postcards and airmail covers and some outstanding specimens of field posts of the Herero war. First day covers and other postal stationery were also well represented.

Before displaying his collection Mr. Schlieben spoke briefly on the postal history and on some of the items on show.

PRETORIA RAILWAY SOCIETY

August. The Been Cup Competition held this month drew two entries and although the attendance was not up to standard the competition itself was just the opposite—well above standard. After the usual business of the meeting had been conducted, Mr. Sam Smith tabled his entry in the competition, a collection of Israel Airmails which comprised all airmail stamps issued, covers, special cancellations, first flights, airletter sheets as well as a salvaged letter, etc. Mr. D. Reynders followed with his collection of Nyasaland from 1891 until the time that the territory changed its name to Malawi. This collection covered the early postal history, stamps, covers, cancellations, specimen stamps, cheque stamps and many special flight covers.

The judges, after mature consideration, decided that the award be made to Mr. Reynders collection.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

August. Another well attended meeting at which Dr. H. J. Raubenheimer gave some interesting facts about the 2½ cent Groot Constantia stamp printed from Cylinders 60/S27. This issue has now appeared with large and small perforation holes and the watermark facing both right and left. This printing which apparantly is a stop-gap interim issue has produced a wealth of unusual items.

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Discussion then took place on the question of cataloguing the recently printed Festival stamps and whether they should be collected in horizontal or vertical pairs and it was finally decided that both pairs would be given catalogue status.

The formal discussion was led by Mr. J. L. P. Wyndham who delivered a very instructive prepared talk on the ½d pictorial stamp of the Union's first definitive set which covers a period of twenty-eight years —a vast and most complicated number of printings. The lecture was illustrated by some fine examples from his collection which members found of interest.

Finally various printing papers shades and colours of the current and recently printed stamps were viewed under an ultra-violet lamp. All members were amazed at the transformation these stamps had undergone. Will this provide the answer to the different shades and colours of the currently printed stamps?

THE AEROPHILATELIC SOCIETY OFF SOUTHERN AFRICA

The Hon. Secretary/Treasurer's Report for 1965/1966 contains details of a very successful year, financially and philatelically, for the Society.

The following office bearers have been elected for the ensuing year:

President, Capt. M. F. Stern; Vice-President, Mr. I. H. C. Godfrey; Committee, Cape, Mr. R. F. Putzel; O.F.S., Mr. A. Apter; (Kimberley); Natal, Mr. A. L. Leon; Tvl., Mr. J. T. Burrell; Rhodesia, No member but Mr. R. D. Allen (England) appointed on committee. Philatelic Federation of S.A., Mr. I. H. C. Godfrey; F. I. S. A., Capt. M. F. Stern; Hon. Secretary/Treasurer, Capt. M. F. Stern.

HARMER ROOKE

As a result of further expansion and consolidation of the Stanley Gibbons Group, the auction house hitherto known as Harmer Rooke & Co. Ltd., and which has formed part of the Group since it was purchased by the Strand Firm in 1958, has now been reconstituted. With the start of the new season it will become Stanley Gibbons Auctions Ltd.

The first auction of Stanley Gibbons Auctions Ltd., which was scheduled to take place on July 1st was cancelled. Devoted entirely to Cape Triangular stamps, the material for the sale was sold outright by private treaty to Mr. Maxwell Joseph whose already extensive collection of Cape Triangulars was awarded one of the three Gold Medals won by British collectors at S.I.P.E.X.

(Ackonwledgement to "Philatelic Magazine.")

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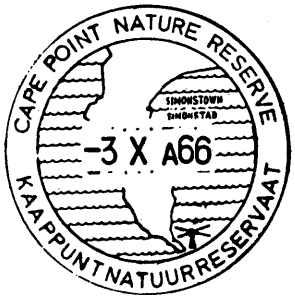
NEW DATESTAMPS



(1) **Tsitsikamma.** A new postal agency was opened in this Forest and Coastal National Park on the 3rd October, 1966, and a special datestamp, round, 29 mm. in diameter, has been brought into use there.

The park is situated approximately 63 miles east of Knysna and 53 miles west of Humansdorp. The coastal area is popular with holiday makers and anglers and is regarded as a paradise for photographers. The indigenous forest area is renowned for its large numbers of giant yellow-wood trees, especially the well-known "big tree."

Tsitsikamma is a Hottentot word meaning "clear water" and it is interesting to note the spelling of the word. This postmark has it "Tsitsikamma," the official postcard (No. 7, page V2 of the Republican Catalogue) has it "Tzitzikama" under the illustration, while the National Parks Board which controls this Park spells it "Tsitsikama."



(2) **Cape Point Nature Reserve.** A special datestamp, round, 35 mm. in diameter, is being used at the Simonstown Post Office from the 3rd October, 1966, to service postcards and covers posted in a special posting box in the Reserve. This reserve stretches to the Southern tip of the Cape Peninsula and offers protection to a variety of flora and fauna.

Collectors in South Africa who desire an impression of these datestamps should send their covers to the Postmaster, Humansdorp, for the Tsitsikamma, and to the Postmaster, Simonstown, for the Cape Point datestamps. All other collectors should send them to the Philatelic Bureau, G.P.O., Pretoria.

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LUMINOUS INK

Our request for further information on this subject in August has brought a letter from Mr. D. Luck of Bellville, Cape. Mr. Luck, who is a paper chemist, writes:

"Referring to your comments on fluorescent RSA watermarked paper in the August issue, I would suggest that a possible explanation may be found in the widespread practice of paper mills adding to the wet end of the machine a so called 'optical bleach.' This is often a stilbene derivative which gives an apparent whitening of the paper by absorbing in the U.V. Section of the spectrum and changing this by molecular excitation, to a visible blue. Paper so treated when examined under U.V. light shows a strong fluorescence. There are, of course, many other products which fluoresce under U.V., but I would not expect to find them in a sheet of paper."

* * * *

THE ULTRA VIOLET LIGHT

The article, in our August issue, "Coming events cast their shadows," by Jack Burrell, written in a semi-humorous vein, but with a solid background of hard fact, was inspired by a meeting of the S.A. Stamp Study Circle recently. Various types of lamps were shown which brought up colours in stamps not noticeable in ordinary white light.

He duly produced at the next meeting a lamp which he had specially modified for that purpose. It contained two tubes alongside each other, the one a blue fluorescent and the other a standard white. The one switch lights the tubes separately, enabling a quick change from one to the other and simplifying comparisons.

The fluorescent tube is a Philips TL 20 W/03, the 20 W means 20 watts and the 08 is the all-important factor referring to the light quality. It emits an ultra violet light in the 7.500 angstrom range of light wave lengths. It has the advantages of almost instantaneous lighting, and of its light not being harmful to the eyes, the harmful rays having been filtered out. It differs thus from the earlier high pressure mercury lamp in bulb form—often called the "black light"—which takes quite a time to "warm up" before use and to "cool down" after use and whose rays can also be harmful to the eyes.

This fluorescent tube shows up pigments in its range of wave lengths, pigments which may be present in the inks and papers used for postage stamps. It is also well-known for the odd effects sometimes seen in theatricals, live shows and ice revues, causing the apparent disappearance of the body of the actors and only showing the coloured fluorescent costume.

The stamps and paper to be examined are placed below the tube so that they are seen by reflected light. Transmitted light seemed to show the same features only to a lesser degree, while watermarks were unaffected. Of course these remarks apply only to the specimens examined, others may give different results.

Members had been asked to bring specimens of the 20c Republic stamps for examination, the intention having been expressed that all the values would be dealt with in turn. There had been frequent comment lately on the different shades of this 20c stamp, and then too, it has been printed on different types of paper, arms, RSA and no watermarks. It was not intended to provide an exhaustive study of the differences —that would require a long investigation. Quite a few of the specimens gave no date of issue, some were unmounted, others mounted on different types of album pages while still others were in transparent mounts on a black base and these had their effect.

The light did show what a valuable aid it could be and the changes it showed up were remarkable. Perhaps the most striking was the snowy whiteness of the RSA paper in contradistinction to some of the other papers which had an almost muddy colour. It was reported that other features like repairs, erasures and "doctored" stamps would also show up, no doubt they will be studied later.

The Society's scribe, "Digger" Sharpe, battled in the spells of light and darkness, and with the members milling around, to write up what he saw, and these are his short notes.

"20c Arms watermarked paper. These showed two different colours of the paper both of which were offwhite in white light but indistinguishable this way. Concluded: two different papers were used.

20c Unwatermarked paper: No differences were noted in the printings available either under ordinary or ultraviolet lamps.

20c RSA paper: All specimens on this paper showed fluorescence and all alike.

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Some specimens showed slight differences in the shades of ink under the ultraviolet lamp.

Some 50c stamps were also examined. They were on unwatermarked paper. This was an interesting study and showed four different varieties, namely:

(a) Specimens on toned paper with ink which did not fluoresce.

(b) Specimens on toned paper with ink which showed faint fluorescence in the blue ink.

(c) Specimens on toned paper which showed quite strong fluorescence in the blue ink.

(d) Specimens which were completely fluorescent.

It was suggested that, at some stage in the printing of these stamps, the old supplies of ink ran low and were mixed with a new batch which gave the fluorescence. It was also noted that specimens with small and large perforation holes gave different fluorescent effects and it was noted for further study to establish whether these effects are constant.

(Readers should note that it is not implied here that the perforation holes have anything to do with the fluorescence)"

NOTES ON THE "FAINT RSA" WATERMARKED PAPER

By D. Kransdorff

The "faint RSA" Watermarked paper was first used on our Republican stamps at the beginning of 1966. This paper was produced by Harrisons of London. When the new paper was received in Pretoria, the initial inspection suggested that this was unwatermarked paper.

To date the following stamps have appeared with the new paper:

(a) 2½c Constantia—Cyl. 12 11—Panes A, B, C, D.
(b) 2½c Constantia—Cyl. 60 S 27.
(c) 7½c Maize—Cyl. S 21 S 20.
(d) 50c Ship.
(e) 3c Shrike—Cyl. G 8G 15A.
(f) 3c Fifth Anniversary Festival.
(g) 7½c Fifth Anniversary Festival in the 2 Cylinders printed.
(h) 1c Fifth Anniversary Festival.
(i) 5c Baobab.

The 2½c Constantia Cyl. 60 S 27 has also appeared with both normal and inverted watermarks, and also on paper where the watermark is indistinguishable enough to warrant being called unwatermarked. Orientation of the watermark in most of the sheets can usually be decided by studying light reflection at various angles on the gummed side, when a series of dashes may be observed to give the outlines of the triangle or letters of the watermark.

I have recently discovered a number of anomalies in the watermark, and it is quite likely that others may discover even more striking examples. The most important are:

(1) 2½c Constantia—Cyl. 60 S 27. Here one "R" of RSA appears to be lying on its side. This may however be a double "R". Much of the remainder of the block has markings not unlike some of our Arms Watermark paper.

(2) Both 7½c Maize and 3c Shrike with a reversed "R" among a number of normal "R's".

(3) 2½c Constantia—Cyl. 60 S 27 — a double "R" seen on three different sheets.

(4) 3c Shrike—Cyl. G8 G15A — one triangle with the letters "R" and "A" close together, and an inverted "A" in another part of the sheet.

These anomalies are not particularly uncommon, and they are repetitive as already five double "R's" and two reversed "R's" have been observed. The portions simulating the "Arms" Watermark also suggest extensive damage to the "Dandy Roller" (the wire cylinder making the watermark).

The study was extended to a fair quantity of the 2½c Constantia Cyl. 12 11, most of which was found to have fairly distinct watermarks, and where successive sheet numbers were involved. It was noted that not a single anomaly could be seen where the watermark was prominent. A succession was observed of distinctly watermarked paper, followed by very prominent watermark, and later by a less distinct watermark again, indicating that an uneven pressure was maintained in watermarking. This was succeeded by a number of sheets with very faint to missing watermark, where a double "R" was again observed.

It is believed that the following deductions can be made from the study—Harrison's endeavoured to produce a paper with lighter watermark than before. The pres-

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REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



A Philatelic Bureau exists in Pretoria to meet the special needs of stamp dealers and philatelists. Only stamps of the Republic of South Africa currently in use are on sale.

Orders for stamps should be addressed to the Philatelic Bureau, G.P.O., Pretoria, and must be accompanied by money orders, postal orders or bank drafts made payable to the Postmaster-General. Cheques are not accepted. The amount should be sufficient to cover postage and registration.

Deposit accounts may be opened.

'n Filatelieburo bestaan in Pretoria om in die spesiale behoeftes van seëlhandelaars en filateliste te voorsien. Slegs seëls van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika tans in gebruik word te koop aangebied.

Bestellings vir seëls moet geadresseer word aan die Filatelieburo, H.P.K., Pretoria, en moet vergesel gaan van poswissels, posorders of bankwissels, betaalbaar aan die Posmeester-generaal. Tjeks word nie aangeneem nie. Die bedrag moet voldoende wees om die pos- en registrasie gelde te dek.

Deposito-rekenings kan geopen word.

SPECIAL INVESTMENT OFFERS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Mint stock (mostly never hinged) of Commemoratives from 1935 onwards up to about 1960, in varying quantities including 1943 Flags, 1948 New York, 1952 Airmail 80c, etc., etc. Total face value approx. $250 — for sale at R250.

EAST GERMANY (Soviet Zone and D.D.R.); a valuable stock, including most of the early Commemoratives, in varying quantities up to several dozen sets each. Mostly unmounted mint. Estimated Michel catalogue value between DM25,000 and DM30,000, offered at approx. quarter-Michel, for only R1,250.

CORONATION. 1953 Complete in Souvenir Album; price R10 — Coronation 1937 and 1953 combined in one Souvenir Album; price R30.

U.P.U. Collection of Commonwealth Countries in album; price R25.

VICTORY. Colonial and Foreign in album; one collection at R15; another (with additional stamps) at R17.50.

A. LICHTENSTEIN

(B.P.A., Etc.)

P.O. Box 576 Bloemfontein

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sure maintained by the Dandy Roller was obviously uneven as proved by the results. The Dandy Roller then suffered damage, and pressure on the paper was eased further to produce almost unwatermarked paper. Up to this point I believe the conclusions are reasonable and logical. I am going to add a perhaps "wild" suggestion that it is not impossible that Harrison's may have tried to repair the Dandy Roller vide the reversed "R". Further I suggest that their success was only moderate, and they may therefore have been forced to relieve the Dandy Roll pressure to produce a comparatively unwatermarked paper. In this connection Dr. Berry informs me that there is at least one recorded instance of a suspected repair of a Dandy Roller bit doing a run. May I suggest that the Secretary of the Stamp Study Circle write to Harrisons to ask if there is any basis for these surmises.

The specialist collector will obviously be bewildered by the variety of watermarks available. With certain stamps there will obviously exist the following types:

(1) Old RSA Watermark.

(2) New RSA Watermark prominent.

(3) New RSA Watermark — faint including undamaged and damaged varieties.

(4) The same paper as 2 and 3 but with the watermark apparently missing.

(5) Each of the headings above may be found with normal and inverted watermark.

Some decision as to where to draw the line, will obviously have to be taken when the stamps are being catalogued. In the past we have even listed the Springbok Watermark with missing horn, so why not also list each reversed "R", inverted "A", double "R" etc., etc., as these varieties are obviously repeated over a number of sheets. Perhaps others will discover even more significant anomalies. This point is stressed to empasise that the defective paper supplied can make a farce out of our collecting. Should we therefore not urge the printers in Pretoria to concentrate on unwatermarked paper only? Even here examination under ultra violet light has already indicated the multiplicity of papers that have been used for even the small quantities printed of such stamps as the 1½c Afrikander Bull.

My thanks and appreciation to Dr. Raubenheimer for his constructive criticism of this paper.

* * * *

WATERMARKS

Apropos of Mr. Kransdorff's article, and in consideration of the interest displayed in "Watermarks," not only locally but generally, this extract from "Stamp News" may not appear irrelevant:

"After noting that better class papers usually have watermark designs worked into it, Editor Lauri Vernanzoni in 'Stirling Stamp News' (NZ) goes on to make a few observations about watermarks in general. He writes:

"Primarily watermarks were introduced in stamp printing to circumvent the activities of forgers who were rampant in the early days of stamps. Nowadays, the risk of forgery is negligible, but most countries continue to use watermarked paper.

"This, of course, suits stamp collectors as different types of watermarks are collectable varieties. The major varieties are interesting, and sometimes the key to dates of issue. But like other varieties, watermark differences can be carried too far.

"In some stamps we find the watermark inverted, reversed, reversed and inverted and sideways etc., in relation to the face of the stamp, or is the stamp reversed, etc., in relation to the watermark? Readers can work that one out. It is not necessary to include all these varieties in a simplified collection though some collectors do. The point is, how far are you going with them? If prices are reasonable we see no harm in acquiring those that are available, but we are of the opinion that some have been pushed up into the high price bracket and the "push" is not justified.

"The machinist feeds in the paper in the wrong way and out pops another variety to cause another philatelic stampede which is a risk and sometimes leads to a little disappointment.

"As Confucious would have said: 'When you traverse strange country, beware of the bog'."

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PHILATELISTS' RENDEZVOUS

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month in
The Club Room of the Friends of Italy of South Africa, First Floor, Radio City Blds. Tulbach Square, Foreshore, Cape Town
at 8 p.m.
VISITORS CORDIALLY WELCOMED.
P.O. BOX 1973, CAPE TOWN.

THE THEMATIC STAMP CLUB

Meetings 2nd and 4th Mondays monthly at 8 p.m., in
St. John's Hall, Waterkant Street, Cape Town.
All interested in Thematics welcome.
Chapter No. 1 A.T.A. and Africa Section, F.I.P.C.O.
Issues a Magazine every two months and circulates sales packets.
P.O. BOX 752, CAPE TOWN.

ORANGE FREE STATE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets on the fourth Friday of every month in the
NATIONAL MUSEUM HALL, BLOEMFONTEIN
at 7.30 p.m.
Issues a monthly magazine and circulates sales packets to members.
P.O. BOX 702 — BLOEMFONTEIN

THE PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meets on the first and third Tuesday each month in the
B.C.E.S.L. Hall, St. Andrews Streets,
at 8.00 p.m.
Visitors cordially welcome.
P.O. BOX 3 - PORT ELIZABETH

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL

Meetings 1st and 3rd Wednesdays monthly at 7.30 p.m. in the
Geo Cato Room, City Hall, Durban (Entrance West Street...door nearest Beach)
VISITORS CORDIALLY WELCOMED
P.O. Box 588, Durban. Secretary's Telephone 838-682 (Evenings).

THE PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meets on the first Monday of every month in the
Council Chamber of the Technical College Church Street East, Pretoria
at 7.45p .m.
VISITORS CORDIALLY WELCOMED.
P.O. Box 514, Pretoria.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

meets Twice a Month: Second Tuesday and Fourth Monday
at
Room 97, Public Library, Johannesburg
at 8 p.m.
VISITORS ARE WELCOME.
HON. SECRETARY,
P.O. BOX 4967 - JOHANNESBURG.

THE AEROPHILATELIC SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Meetings are not held, but Members get covers, etc. of special South African flights and other interesting items—more than covered by the small annual subscription.
News letters sent. Affiliated to F.I.S.A.
P.O. BOX 3654, CAPE TOWN.

THE PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meet on the second Wednesday of every month in the
Railway Recreation Club, Berea Park, Pretoria
at 8.00 p.m.
P.O. Box 2388 — Pretoria
ALL PHILATELISTS ARE WELCOME.

SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELY

Meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 8.15 p.m.
Burlington House Boardroom (2nd Floor) c/r. Rissik & Marshall Streets, Johannesburg.
ALL WELCOME.
Secretary: P.O. Box 11502, Johannesburg

THE SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

meets at 2.15 p.m. on the second Saturday of every month in the
Staff Tea Lounge, Basement, Corner House.
Corner Sauer and Commissioner Streets, Johannesburg (Commissioner St. Entrance).
ALL INTERESTED IN SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELY ARE WELCOME.
P.O. Box 378, Krugersdorp (Secretary's Telephone: Business 660-7511; Home 660-3461.

THE EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

P.O. Box 483, Benoni. (Hon. Secretary).
Meetings every 2nd Monday in the month at the
Benoni Tennis Club House
Benoni, at 7.45 p.m.
VISITORS ARE WELCOME.

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SOUTH WEST AFRICA 2½c UNGUMMED SHEETS

Mr. H. Nöckler, of Windhoek, writes that in August, 1966, two ungummed sheets of the grey-blue 2½c value were obtained at a Windhoek post office counter.

They were placed aside when it was learnt that a third sheet had been issued in small quantities and brought back "as they had no gum."

This interesting and happy-ending episode may be read in conjunction with the following extract from "Stamp News."

* * * *

POSTAL CLERK FORCED TO SURRENDER "ERRORS"

Ryukyu Island Postal Officials recently brought tremendous pressure to bear on a temporary postal employee to force him to surrender two sheets of stamps with "colour missing" errors.

The story of the "find" and the "persuasion" methods used by the Post Office to recover the stamps had been told by Robert D. Peterson, writing in "Linn's Weekly Stamp News" as follows:

"On December 10, 1965, a temporary sales employee of the Philatelic Section of the Post Office of Ryukyu was contacted by a friend in a request to obtain eight sheets of the 1966 New Year Stamp. This he did, and these sheets were wrapped and passed on to the friend that same evening.

The following day the employee received a telephone call from his friend stating that two sheets of the stamps were faulty, with the 1½c denomination (all of the gold printing) missing, and it was desired to have them exchanged since the stamps were for another person and the purchaser did not want to pass on "faulty" stamps!

The person brought them back, and the employee purchased the two sheets and replaced them with two others. These sheets were the second and fifth in the stack of eight originally bought.

In the meantime, word of the error reached higher authorities. Postal officials became very concerned and much pressure was brought on the employee to return the two sheets.

He tried vainly to hang on to them, but pressure mounted and, as days passed, he learned that he would be dismissed from government service if they were not turned in. "With other added reasons" the employee turned the two error sheets over to the chief of the Philatelic Section on January 20.

The finding of this major error has already likened to that of the now famous Canal Zone Thatcher Bridge commemorative of a few years ago. Ryukyu Philatelic specialists placed a value on the sheets ranging from $25,000 to as high as $100,000.

The fact that these sheets were turned in and will be destroyed by burning does not minimise the intriguing possibilities of more of these sheets coming to light.

Whether pressure brought upon this postal employee for return of these stamps was proper or not will long be debated, says Mr. Peterson. The fact remains that they were purchased for a friend supposedly without the employee's knowledge.

The friend returned them and they were exchanged in the outer lobby of the Post Office. Whether this legalises the employee's ownership is difficult to say.

Mr. Peterson adds this comment: "At any rate it is obvious that the Postal Department of the Ryukyus is going to great extremes to protect its philatelic integrity and its position of respect in a world today which has all too many countries which are out and out philatelic opportunists.

A condemnation of the postal authorities action in pressuring their employee in this manner should be tempered with a commendation for their honesty and aboveboard policy."

VRYPEX

"Rules" and "Provisional Entry Forms" relative to the above exhibition from 10th to 13th October, 1967, have been posted to all affiliated societies of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa. If additional copies are required, please write to the Secretary, P. O. Box 702, Bloemfontein. While provisional entry forms must be received before 1st June, 1967, it will assist us in our preparation if they are submitted as soon as possible.

—H. E. ROUX, Secretary.

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SOUTHERN AFRICA'S PHILATELIC ROLL OF HONOUR

The list of Distinguished Philatelists, required to be published annually in the official journal of Federation is given in chronological order according to date and election.

Members are elected by Congress, but not more than two at any one meeting. The first ten were elected in 1932 when the Roll was instituted and the rule was suspended once, viz. at the first post-war Congress in 1948.

The names of members deceased are marked with an asterisk.

*1932: G. J. Allis.
*1932: A. J. Cohen.
*1932: G. Blockey.
*1932: Sir H. L. Gorges.
*1932: Chas Hand.
*1932: G. J. Houbert.
*1932: S. A. Klagsbrun.
*1932: J. Ritchie.
*1932: Emil Tamsen.
*1932: Louis Simenhoff.
*1933: J. Herbert Curle.
*1934: W. J. Harrington.
*1938: L. A. Wyndham.
1938: G. N. Gilbert.
*1939: C. H. Thornton.
*1939: W. L. Ashmead.
*1948, Jan.: A. E. Basden.
*1948, Jan.: A. A. Jurgens.
*1948, Jan.: P. C. Bishop.
*1948, Jan.: J. H. Harvey Pirie.
*1948, Jan.: Wm. Redford.
1948, Oct.: H. Hilton Sydow.
*1948, Oct.: N. Welsford.
*1949: Alec Kaplan.
1949: K. Freund.
*1951: G. K. Forbes.
1951: Sam Legator.
1952: Ernest Hunt.
*1952: And. Watson.
*1953: B. L. R. Fox.
*1954: W. N. Sheffield.
1955: J. H. H. Chamberlain.
*1956: T. B. Davie.
*1956: W. Newlands.
1957: S. J. Hagger.
1958: Leo Buchen.
1959: T. B. Berry.
1959: C. E. D. Enoch.
1960: M. F. Stern.
1963: I. H. C. Godfrey.
1965: J. M. Michelson.
1966: M. Peisach.

LIFE ON A SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY T.P.O.

by J. F. Hogg.

Acknowledgement "St. Martin's-le-Grand" January 1903

During the second stage of the War in South Africa the Army Post Office organised a system of Travelling Post Offices on the main lines of railway. From Naauwpoort, Cape Colony, the routes extended northwards through Bloemfontein, Kroonstad, Elandsfontein, and Pretoria to Pietersburg. From Pretoria eastwards there were branch T.P.O.'s to Komati Poort, and also from Elandsfontein to Johannesburg, Klerksdorp, and through to Natal. The following notes describing the work and some of the conditions under which it had to be performed may perhaps prove of interest to readers of the St. Martin's-le-Grand.

In South Africa the T.P.O.'s were post offices in a more complete sense than at home. In England the work of a T.P.O. consists in taking up, sorting, and distributing mails. In addition to this work the South African T.P.O.'s sold postage stamps, postal orders, and registered letter envelopes. A stock of stamps,, etc., sometimes of the value of £300, was carried. This was due to the fact that the Army post offices were far apart, and troops stationed in the districts lying between them had to depend for their supply of stamps. postal orders etc., on the mailman, or, as Tommy Atkins called him, the "postman."

The work on the various T.P.O.'s was very similar in character; but the large mails from the Base Army Post Office at Cape Town were dealt with chiefly in the T.P.O.'s between Naauwpoort and Pretoria. Elandsfontein is the junction for the Natal, Klerksdorp and Johannesburg lines, and had the heaviest bag transfers, hundreds of bags being dealt with daily.

The Cape Colony and Orange Free State trips were very uninteresting. The country in these two colonies to be seen from the railway is almost devoid of picturesqueness. There are few kopjes to vary the view, and the eye soon tires of one continuous plain covered with coarse grass. The two most interesting runs were the Northern and the Far Eastern.

The Northern T.P.O.

The distance from Pretoria to Pietersburg is between 180 and 190 miles, and the run occupied two days. Starting from Pretoria at 6 a.m., the mail train arrived at Pietersburg by 7 p.m. the same day, and commenced the return journey to Pretoria at 6 a.m. the following morning. The railway system in South Africa, as is doubtless well known, is worked with a single line; and it is therefore necessary in the case of trains travelling in opposite directions for one to be shunted on to a loop line while

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the other passes. This operation is termed "crossing" and with mail trains always occurred at the same place. Thus, as a T.P.O. left Pretoria daily, an up and a down train crossed every day midway, namely, at Nylsstroom.

Letters and newspapers had frequently to be thrown out at blockhouses, which were situated at intervals of 2½ furlongs along the line, and were numbered according to their distance from Pretoria; but between stations there was generally little else to do but look at the scenery and make the acquaintance of any passengers travelling on the train. The people preferred by our men were, I may add, those who were more generous with refreshments than words, and freehanded spirits of this kind were termed "nuggets." On the Northern line they were fortunately not scarce.

On arrival at a station there was much to do in the way of transferring correspondence and selling stock. Before the train drew up it was boarded by soldiers claiming simultaneous attention, and in spite of the counterman's utmost efforts it was often not until the train was moving that his carriage was clear. All business was supposed to be transacted with the Post Orderly alone; but Tommy liked to make his own purchases, and the "postman" rarely said him nay. At Nylstroom, where the Down T.P.O. was always waiting to cross, it was customary for the mail officers to interchange greetings, and discuss the latest news; and the run was then continued to Pietersburg, through a country of bush veldt, very hilly and altogether most interesting. At a distance of 162½ kilometres from Pretoria the graves of some Boer train-wreckers are visible. The train does not stop at Moord Drift, but the postman had, nevertheless, to take in a haversack full of letters. To do this he stood on the step of his coach and as the train dashed by took the haversack from the soldier who was standing at the side of the track with his arm extended and the haversack hanging on his wrist — a primitive form indeed of the mail-bag apparatus which has reached such a high state of development in England.

On arrival at Pietersburg the train was met by the men from the Army P.O., who carried the bags to the office near the line. The T.P.O. man now sat down to a substantial repast, which, needless to say, after "Maconochie ration", which was a never-varying item in the travelling man's menu, proved very acceptable. A game of cards followed, and when bed-time arrived the "postman" retired to his carriage, spread his blankets and slept until 6 a.m. The first station on the return journey—Marabastad—is near Pietersburg; and the soldiers in the blockhouse there were gluttons for stamps, or anything that came their way. The blockhouse was termed by the inmates "The Marabastad Hotel," and the signboard from the neighbouring house of refreshment bearing that name was boldly displayed to the world over the blockhouse door. Pretoria was reached about 7 p.m., and having delivered the mails, the "travelling man" drew his allowance of beer and returned for his two day's rest.

The Far Eastern T.P.O.

For interest and beautiful scenery this trip eclipsed all the others; but on the other hand it involved the most danger. It extended through the Low Veldt, and it was almost impossible for the travelling men to escape the malarial fever. In the earlier stages of the war Waterval Boven was the starting point of this T.P.O. The town is at the termination of the High Veldt, and Waterval Onder (the next station on the line) is the first place on the Low Veldt. A distance of only about two miles separates these points; but Waterval Onder is several thousands of feet lower than Boven. The gradient is so steep that one ordinary engine is quite unable to take a single truck either up or down: and the rack and pinion system so familiar on the mountain railways of Switzerland has therefore been introduced. A great part of the track has been cut and blasted through the tunnel, and the fifteen minutes ride is obviously a dangerous one, as a train leaving the metals would go over a precipice into the Krocodil River several hundreds of feet below.

The T.P.O. man on this route was provided with a closed truck fitted with a table and a nest of boxes, and he slept in this truck the night before he commenced his journey. Perhaps it would be more correct to say that he tried to sleep, for the mail train was made up over-night, and the consequent shunting operations were by no means gently done. In one of the trucks the bed was a couple of mailbags fastened to two poles, which were supported on wooden blocks nailed to each side of the truck. This was to all appearance a comfortable bed, but was in reality a rather treacherous couch; for when shunting began, soon after the "postman" had turned in for the night, the blocks were apt to be carried away by the shock, and the sleeper somewhat violently transferred to the floor. At 6 a.m. the mail train started and in the course of the trip, passed through some of the grandest scenery in South Africa. The line, on account of the mountainous nature of the country, is extremely tortuous. It winds its way round and up immense kopjes, and the train often runs along the edge of a precipice with the Krocodil River foaming and dashing over huge granite rocks in the valley below.

The up and down mail train crossed at Hector Spruit, about an hour's run from Komati Poort, which was reached by the down train about 1 p.m. For the next 22 hours the postman's truck was his home, and he hailed with delight the commencement of the return journey at 11 a.m. the followig day. To a T.P.O. man Komati Poort was perhaps the worst place in South Africa. At any time he was in danger of being stricken with fever, his nights were made uncomfortable by mosquitoes and

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R. CORBIERE, 571 Fahrenheitstraat, The Hague. Applications and orders directly to our agent for Southern Africa: Messrs. A. Dick & Co., P.O. Box A48, Avondale, Rhodesia.

fever flies, his days were dreary, and any cooking that was wanted had to be done by himself at the native's fire. This was all the more exasperating as Portuguese territory where good food and drink could be bought was only a few miles away, but was forbidden ground to the mailman.

On a return trip a great feature of the journey after darkness set in was the veldt fires. The country afforded good cover for an enemy, for it was profusely clothed with vegetation. This was therefore destroyed by burning. A veldt fire at night was a fine spectacle. Often the front of the fire extended a mile, appearing like a gigantic fiery serpent gliding over the plain and round the kopjes. Tommy Atkins treated the "postman" well on this line, giving him pumpkins, and any eatables he could spare, but he often asked great things in return. One night as the mail train was slowing down into Elandshoek station the "postman" observed four soldiers struggling along the platform with a heavy case, somewhat resembling a large coffin. Directly the train stopped they hoisted it with much labour into the mail van, and demanded its conveyance to Durban by parcel post. Upon examination it proved to be a bass viol protected by stout boards, and, as the weight was between 30 and 40 lb., and the Parcel Post maximum was 11 lb., their request was courteously refused. The Tommies were greatly put out. Their remarks on the ridiculous inadequacy of the Parcel service in South Africa were more forcible than polite, and it was only when the train was on the move that they decided to remove their treasure trove. When running to time the mail reached Waterval Onder at 7 p.m. The bags, stock box, etc., had to be carried to the office, and the traveller balanced his accounts, transferred his stock to the man leaving the following morning, and looked forward to a day's rest.

Altogether travelling life was more pleasant than that in an Army P.O. There was far less monotony to contend with, and a travelling man whilst on a trip was his own master, and his carriage was exclusively his own. The duty was not hard; but at most stations smart counterwork was necessary, as the train often stopped only a few minutes, during which time registered letters, parcels, and ordinary correspondence were given out and received, bags transferred, and stock sold. With the exception of tea, coffee, bread, and biscuits, a travelling man's ration was very unpalatable tinned food. Every precaution was taken to ensure the safety of the mails and mailman. His truck was placed in the middle of the train, and if there were Boers in the vicinity of the line the mail train was stopped and not allowed to proceed until the line was reported clear, and even then was closely followed by an armoured train.

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REVIEWS

"The Forwarding Agents" by Kenneth Rowe. Published by The Philatelic Specialists Society, Toronto, Canada. Price £2 from the European Distributors: Robson Lowe Ltd., 50 Pall Mall, London, S.W.1. England. 166 pages. 50 illustrations.

Definition of a forwarding agent "A person or firm, who undertakes to see that the goods or correspondence of another are transported without himself acting as a carrier." The earliest record example is 1673.

The introductory chapters comprises "Reasons for Forwarding," "The Agents and their Methods," "Period of Operation," "Agents Fees," "The Markings of Forwarding Agents," "Method of Listing," "Rarity" and a Bibliography.

1,800 forwarding agents are listed alphabetically under their cities with a description of the type, colour, date and rarity factor; the latter has been divided into ten groups.

The author and the publishers are to be congratulated on a very acceptable addition to philatelic literature, which is of interest to all students of postal history.

* * * *

What Stamp Is That?

What Stamp Is That? is an entirely new illustrated guide designed to assist collectors in identifying "difficult" stamps.

The book contains more than 500 illustrations of hard to identify stamps or overprints to be found on stamps. The listings are arranged in alphabetical order with details of additional inscriptions to be found on many of the hard to identify issues. A foreword provides a handy list of suggestions for identifying stamps, whilst an addendum contains an enlargement of a Danish Red Cross stamp which has inscriptions in thirty-two languages. Also included in the addendum is a listing of numerals 1 to 10 in ten different (non-English) languages.

Whilst this book will be invaluable for the beginner, seasoned collectors will find in it a lot of information of general interest.

The book is printed on good quality paper with a striking four colour cover. It is published by Review Publications Pty. Ltd. of Sterling Street, Dubbo, N.S.W., Australia. It is priced at a modest 35c and is now available from leading dealers throughout Australia.

* * * *

Stanley Gibbons Postage Stamp Catalogue Part one—British Commonwealth. 1967 Edition.

This new edition of the famous "Red Book of Philately" has recently been published at a retail price of 35s plus postage and packing.

The catalogue contains many new features comprising among others, miniature sheets listed and priced, high value "SPECIMEN" stamps priced, King George V Nigeria re-written, Thai Occupation of Malaya, sixty-seven more pages than last year and a thorough revision of prices throughout.

Altogether an interesting and exciting new edition.

H. R. HARMER'S SALES

Messrs. H. R. Harmer, Inc., announce two outstanding properties which will be sold at their New York Galleries prior to Christmas.

The first is an exceptional group of Hawaii, comprising the original collection formed by that renowned philatelist of the past, Mr. Alfred F. Lichtenstein, together with a wonderful group of "Missionaries" which has not been seen on the philatelic market for close to half a century. All are part of his daughter's collection and are being offered on her instructions.

The second sale covers important sections of Mr. Lichtenstein's outstanding European collection, wonderful single stamps, mint and used, rare multiples and ever-popular covers, which have lain dormant for 25 years or more, will become available to philatelists in all parts of the world.

The auctions are expected to realise about $75,000 and $125,000 respectively, and based on advice received from specialists resident in Europe, it is expected that a number of bidders will be travelling to the United States to attend and compete at the auctions.

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TRANSVAALSE VERVALSINGS

Prof. W. Kempen, op Stellenbosch, skryf na aanleiding van ons skrywe oor die vervalsings van die Transvaal, oftewel die Z.A.R.:

Ek het nou al jare lank 'n boekie, in 1923 gekoop, met „Timbres (Postes) du Transvaal," met 63 seëls, van 1885 tot 1901, allerpragtigste goed, van 'n oulap tot vyfponders. Ek het maar altyd gemeen dis pure vervalsings of onwettige nadrukke, en ek dink nog steeds so, maar nou na u artikel in September se Philatelist het ek hulle mooier gaan vergelyk met gelykwaardige gebruiktes en nou lyk dié my mos plek-plek ook „vals" . . . . tog sou ek meer wou weet van die flousseëls van na 1871. Ek skryf dus om in die eerste instansie te vra of u nie wil oorweeg om die verskille een vir een te behandel nie, óf, in die alternatief, of u nie na my boekie wil kyk en my dan 'n notatjie daaroor te skryf nie.

Graag voldoen ons aan die geagte Professor se versoek, te gelegener tyd. Intussen kan ons net sê dat dit glad nie nodig is om na die gemelde boekie te kyk nie want hy is welbekend en lê die hele wêreld vol. Hy het 'n interessante geskiedenis.

Van 1885 af is die Republiek se seëls deur die Hollandse drukkers Enschedé en Seuns op Haarlem gedruk. (Dié drukkersaak bestaan nog). Aangesien hulle 'n staande bestelling vir die Republiek gehad het, is hulle met die uitbreek van die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog met 'n groot voorraad opgeskeep. Na die oorlog is die Republiek tot niet en natuurlik wou die Engelse die seëls nie hê nie. Enschedé het die voorraad nietemin bewaar en in 1910 aan die Unieregering aangebied, ook sonder welslae.

Ten einde sy koste te verhaal het mnre. Enschedé en Seuns gevolglik in 1911 die hele voorraad romp en stomp aan 'n sekere posseëlhandelaar, daardie lekker Persiese kêrel Mirza Hadi, verkoop, nie net die laaste lopende reeks van 1896/97 nie, maar ook die oorblyfsels van die vroeëre uitreikings van 1885, 1894 en 1895. Dit was 'n voorwaarde van die verkoping dat al die onderhawige drukplate, snyblokke ens., vernietig sou word. Volgens die drukkers was dit gedoen. Desnietemin het verskeie onbekende „afwykings" van al die seëls kort daarna op die Europese seëlmark verskyn. Altans, dit het destyds so gelyk. Vandag is daar so 'n effense meningsverskil. Groot kenners soos Colin Rosenberg, sê dat daar niks met die seëls skeel nie. Dit is net die wyse van „uitreiking" wat pla.

Nietemin. Waar het hulle vandaan gekom? Dié vraag kon toe nie beantwoord word nie en is vandag nog onbeantwoord. Die enigste denkbare moontlikheid is dat 'n werknemer van die drukkersaak stilletjies tussen 1899 en 1911 die apparate gebruik het en op 'n geleë oomblik sy produkte „bemark" het.

Curle en Basden sê dat dié seëls nóg vervalsings nóg oorblyfsels is. Hulle kan dus niks anders as nadrukke van die genoemde vier reekse wees nie. As dit nou net die laaste reeks van 1896/97 was, kon 'n mens miskien nog twee en twee bymekaar kry. Maar al vier? Aikôna! Iewers het iemand lekker onkant baljaar terwyl die skeidsregter se aandag afgedwaal het en wel op maat van etlike miljoene seëls. So word geredeneer.

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Ongeoorloofde spel het beslis plaasgevind en is bewys toe verskeie op- en bydrukke op die sogenaamde „nagedrukte" seëls in Europa verskyn het. Toe advertensies in posseëltydskrifte dié seëls teen so min as een-tiende van die gesigswaarde aangebied het, het die naam van die Z.A.R. se seëls sy tweede en finale uitklophou gekry. (Meer hiervan later, wanneer ons weer oor die vervalsings gesels).

Intussen het die koper van die Enschedé-voorraad 'n groot deel daarvan verkoop. Die vermoede is dat Otto se ou maat, Enterlein, die tweede koper was. Wie dit ookal was, het spesiale boekies in Frankryk laat druk en 'n deel van sy buit daarin gemonteer en teen 'n nominale R2 stuk die wêreld ingestuur. (Onder andere is daar twee £5-seëls in elkie boekie). Byna elke posseëlhandelaar het die boekies in voorraad gehad en teen R3 stuk verkoop. Dit is waarskynlik wat professor Kempen in 1923 daarvoor betaal het. Moontlik was Professor saam met baie ander versamelaars „gevang." Dit sal interessant wees om te hoor wat hy daarvoor betaal het. Die algemeen aanvaarde versamelaarswaarde van die stuk, wat as niks meer as 'n interessantigheid beskou moet word, is vandag R5. En tog is daar baie versamelaars wat 'n heeltemal oordrewe waarde aan die boekie seëls heg. Onlangs nog, het een van hulle die boekie teen 'n drie-syfer-bedrag aan „Stamp Deals" aangebied. Dit onderstreep die feit dat daar nog 'n groot onkundigheid oor die karakter en waarde van die seëls van die ou Republiek bestaan.

VERSKONING

Dit spyt ons dat ons nie verlede maand se belofte om 'n ander beskouing oor die Republiekfees-seëls, vandeesmaand kan nakom nie. Dit sal beslis volgende maand verskyn.

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POSSTUKKE VAN DIE TWEEDE VRYHEIDSOORLOG

Deur N. C. Combrink

Kuruman: In 1899 was hierdie klein dorpie net 'n handelsentrum, 125 myl noordwes van Kimberley en 150 myl suidwes van Mafeking. Die dorp het minder as 200 inwoners gehad en 'n Britse garnisoen van 75 man onder bevel van 'n kaptein Baker.

Op 12 November 1899 het die Republikeinse magte die dorp aangeval, moontlik van die kant van Mafeking af, en dit tot 20 November beleër. Daar was ongevalle aan beide kante, maar die aanvallers moes vertrek om ander dele van die land teen die Britte te verdedig. Teen die einde van 1900 het die Republikeine Kuruman weer beleër, hierdie keer van Vryburg se kant af. (Vryburg lê tussen Kuruman en Mafeking). Die beleëring het nie lank geduur nie, want die Republikeine was twaalf honderd man sterk en op 1 Januarie 1901, moes die Britte Kuruman oorgee.

Tydens hierdie tweede beleëring van die dorp, is 'n poging aangewend om die seëls van die Kaap die Goeie Hoop oor te druk wat dan as herdenkingstukke van die beleëring van die dorp sou dien. Moontlik was die Britte deur die oorgedrukte seëls wat tydens die beleëring van Mafeking gebruik is, beïnvloed en het hulle gedink dat so 'n uitgawe 'n waardevolle bydrae tot die posgeskiedenis van die oorlog sou wees. Hierdie seëls het wel verskyn, maar of hulle vir posdoeleindes gebruik is word betwyfel.

'n Kenner en vorige versamelaar van posstukke van hierdie aard, senator J. D. Rossouw, van die Paarl, skryf in 'n artikel, dat hy by geleentheid van 'n veiling 'n beedigde verklaringstuk gekoop het wat heelwat lig op hierdie besondere seëls werp.

Die verklaring is deur die destydse kommandant van Kuruman, kol. William Frederik Cavage, onderteken met datum 7 Maart, 1901. Hy verklaar dat hy op 27 Desember 1900, pos- en inkomsteseëls tot die waarde van R20 van die posmeester van Kuruman gekoop het. Die seëls sou in belang van die publiek deur rapportryers gebruik word, die dorp was toe van alle pos en telegrafiese verbindings afgesny. Kol. Cavage verklaar verder dat hy verskeie seëls laat oordruk het, maar dat die seëls nooit gebruik is nie en na die posmeester terug gestuur is. 'n Mens kan aanneem dat

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die posmeester die seëls nie sou verkoop het nie, maar wel vernietig het.

Senator Rossouw sê in sy artikel dat hy vier tipes van oordrukke teëgekom het op sewe seëls wat saam met die verklaring verkry is. Die oordruk was op seëls van die Kaap die Goeie Hoop en was met die woorde „Kuruman besieged" met die waarde (2d., 3d. of 6d.) en met die datum „1900-01" daaronder. Die volgende waardes word aangegee: 2d. op ½d., 3d. op ½d., 3d. op 1d. en 1/- op 1d. Die seëls was die met die afbeelding van Hoop staande by die anker. Die inkomsteseëls was 6d. op 3d. rooi en geel, 6d. op 1d. groen en geel en 1/- op 6d. pers en geel.

Daar het ook 'n tweede groep seëls aan die lig gekom, hulle was op papier geplak. Volgens verskillende aanduidings was hulle alreeds op die papier geplak toe hulle oorgedruk is. Die oordruk is verskillend van die vorige en daarby was daar 'n posstempel van die Kuruman-poskantoor met datum „Jan. 21-01." Die waardes was een posseël 3d. op ½d. en inkomsteseëls 1/- op 6d. en 5/- op 1/-. Dit is duidelik dat hierdie seëls vir gedenkstukke bedoel was, want daar is geen bewys dat hulle amptelik deur die poskantoor gebruik is nie.

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Hierdie seëls van Kuruman word nie in Stanley Gibbons se katalogus erken nie, maar Robson Lowe beskou hulle as gedenkstukke van die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog. As 'n mens die seëls in die hande kan kry, sal hulle 'n waardevolle aanwins in so 'n versameling wees.

Soos in die geval van die Mafeking-oordrukke, is daar ook vervalsings van die Kuruman-oordrukke, 'n klein hoeveelheid is in omloop. Hulle is egter uiters skaars, maar 'n mens moet tog versigtig wees met die koop van hierdie oorgedrukte seëls. Die skrywer van hierdie rubriek het vier ongebruikte waardes in baie goeie toestand, hulle was aan hom as eg aangebied, maar mettertyd het dit tog geblyk dat hulle vervalsings is.

GEVRA: Suid-Afrikaanse seëls in ruil vir Nederland.—Mev. Bea de Vries-Poelman, Beatrixstraat 12, Voorhout (Z-H), Nederland.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,—The article, entitled "Coming Events Cast Their Shadows," in the August issue of this magazine, has brought to everyone's attention a very interesting development in the South African postal emissions. It "highlights" both literally and metaphorically a subject many of us have been aware of, but which has received little, if any, attention previously, in this publication—namely LUMINOUS PAPER.

Perhaps some of your readers, who are not avid James Bond fans, may have skipped the article in question with all its 007 jargon, but if they persisted to the final paragraph, their patience was well rewarded. In that paragraph "Jack B" stated the facts very lucidly. The matter is perfectly clear-cut—beginning with the Red Cross Centenary at the end of August, 1963, and continuing with the 1 cent Definitive in September of that year, ALL South African stamps issued on RSA watermarked paper, give a positive response to ULTRA VIOLET light. The luminosity of the paper takes the form of a brilliant white fluorescence, while all previous printings are negative in this reaction to the U.V. lamp. (In general terms, the writer deliberately wishes to omit qualifying the shade of "whiteness" which is reflected, owing to the different makes of this equipment already on the market, and future experimenters should be recommended to specify the type of lamp used). In the same August issue, the Editorial article requests further information on this news-worthy topic of fluorescence; it is admitted that these foregoing remarks only offer reiteration of substantiation. Additionally, it is worth nothing that the above statements apply also to the stamps of South West Africa where several issues now utilize the RSA paper.

In his penultimate paragraph, "Jack B" has been almost over-modest (or overcautious) in merely theorizing that the pur-

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pose of the fluorescent paper is intended for speeding-up postal cancellation of mail by the use of electronc "facing-up" mechanisms. There are already several examples in Overseas countries of this process being applied on a practical (as opposed to merely an experimental) scale. For example, in the city of Aarhus, Denmark, letters are faced-up automatically for cancellation by means of photo-electrical cell response to the luminous paper of the stamps thereon. This process has been in operation from November, 1962.

Britain and France have quite a number of recent stamp issues which also respond to the U.V. light with a similar white luminosity. On the other hand, many modern issues of Denmark and West Germany (where fluorescent paper has been used for a considerable number of years) give a quite different colour response—in the case of these latter two countries, the illumination is of a greater intensity and has a marked golden-yellow hue.

There is a tendency towards more and more papers being produced which give a positive reaction, and this includes some postal stationery. Envelopes have been noticed, e.g. from New Zealand (another paper-producing country) which respond with the same white fluorescence as is given by our RSA watermarked paper. It would be interesting to note if our Postal Authorities, now in process of experimenting with automatic "facing-up" installations, have found whether this type of envelope masks the specific area response where the stamps have been applied, thus destroying the selectivity of the device. Should this indeed be the case, it might be more effective to ensure the type of fluorescent paper adopted by the Pretoria authorities be changed to the more responsive yellow glow type mentioned above —always provided, of course, that this particular kind of fluorescent substance was NOT permitted for use in paper for manufacturing envelopes!

In the postal stationery field, the subject of fluorescent paper is also of importance, for obviously, the ability to "FACE-UP" for high-speed cancelling is equally desirable. Aerogrammes, for example, whether intended for internal or external transmission, usually consist of IMPRINTED stamps of a denomination suitable for the particular purpose without the necessity for additional ADHESIVE stamps. This means that the response given by the fluorescent paper already described for adhesive stamps will NOT apply.

In this respect, the recent Danish AEROGRAMMES have overcome the problem by coating a small portion of the light-weight paper address panel with a rectangular strip of fluorescent material which immediately adjoins the right-hand side of the IMPRINTED STAMP. In the case of the current 80 ore Air Letter, this strip is 4 mm. wide by 22 mm. deep. It would be a reasonable assumption, therefore, to find South Africa's Air Letter Cards appearing with some such modification in the near future, —if the use of facing-up units is to be extended to these items of our Postal Stationery.

Much could be said about the U.V. responding papers we now have in our current stamp issues, but I should like to confine my observations to the 2½c Groot Constantia printings. Just as the complex colour variations observed with normal daylight or artificial light, so with the Ultra Violet lamp differentations of the purple colour. Using a Wilux/Silvania U.V. light, the response given by the normal colour described by Stanley Gibbons as "violet"—there is a most distinct division into the two colour categories of (1) "slate-grey" and (2) "violet." Subdivisions of (1) into Pale, Medium and Dark "slate-grey" are fairly evident, but the sub-divisions of (2) which include Grey-Violet, Violet, and Red-Violet are by no means as positive to discern as there are subtle gradations and combinations of all three hues in this group. This is not really so surprising for one must appreciate the technical difficulties at the Printing Works of a commonly-used denomination such as the 2½c when so many printings have to be made with the attendant problem of matching inks to an exact colour standard, with so many batch repetitions.

Finally, I should like to record to Mr. Jack Burrell (whom, I feel sure, will be the last person to take offense of the exposure of his rather tenuous anonymity) the thanks of all collectors and enthusiasts in this country for being among the first to bring this fascinating and current topic to light in this Journal.

Yours sincerely,

—RONALD MEPHIUS.

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PERSONAL

We are pleased to learn that Mr. S. J. Vermaak has been appointed a member of the Africana Museum Advisory Committee in place of the late Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie who held the position for a number of years.

The Africana Museum Advisory Committee, composed of a chairman, counciller Dr. A. D. Bensusan, secretary Miss M. B. Chapman and some fifteen members, representative of every sphere of art and culture, meets monthly and functions in an advisory capacity to the Johannesburg City Council in all matters pertaining to the Africana Museum, the Director and Curator of which are Miss Anna H. Smith and Mrs. L. de Wet respectively.

We congratulate Mr. Vermaak upon his entry into a new era, and trust, through his interest and endeavours, to obtain information pertaining to philatelic material hidden among the many gems of the Africana Museum.

INVESTMENT

"Stamp News," under the heading "The World We Live In" comments:

"After an association with philately for well over fifty years it appears evident to us that the basic motive for most stamp enthusiasts is the ultimate profit to be gained.

"After making this disapproving comment, editor Laurie Vernazoni, in his "Stirling Stamp News" (NZ) goes on to make these points: "Philately, purely as a hobby, seems to be a secondary consideration. The result is, of course, that a great many collectors are disappointed if a profit is not evident when the decision is made to sell.

"Although this profit aspect draws so many hopefuls into the fold the real backbone of the hobby consists of those philatelists who are true stamp lovers and students, and who give allegiance because of the real pleasure obtained.

"All hobbies cost money and not many give any cash return; albeit there are few who complain at the ultimate loss except, perhaps, stamp collectors.

"One must pay for pleasure, and if a loss is made on the sale of a collection the vendor should remember the enjoyment obtained over the years. It is true that some collectors have done and will do very well from their philatelic activities, but the collector who is indiscriminate in buying cannot expect a dealer to hand out a profit just as soon as a sale is desired.

"Most collectors can look forward to some cash return when the time comes to sell and any loss on the transaction should be written off as amusement tax.

"Speculation and investment on a large scale should be left to those who are in a position to buy the right class of material and who can afford a possible loss better than the average collector.

"As Confucious would have said: 'Seek ultimate pleasure in the beauty of things within thy scope, for gold is like cheese in a mouse trap'."

STICKY TAPE

The Wilkinson Stamp Club Newsletter, edited by Oliver L. Green, of Pittsburgh, U.S.A., relates suggestions from the Minnesota Mining Corporation on the problem of removing sticky tape from stamps, paper and such material where its presence is no longer required.

The adhesive used on the tape is a resin from natural rubber, and can be dissolved while it is yet sticky by heptane. It oxidises in time and is often impregnated in the paper as a result, and this oxidised substance cannot be removed.

Clear, uncoloured, unleaded gasoline is the suggested source of heptane, but the newsletter says that lighter fluid will work, as it contains pentane, hexane, heptane, octaine and the lower distillates.

WAPEX 2

A Philatelic Exhibition, known as WAPEX 2, was held in the Town Hall, Perth, Western Australia, from October 24th to 29th inclusive to commemorate the 350th Anniversary of the landing on the West Australian coast, of the Dutch navigator Dirk Hartog, this being the earliest recorded landing by a European navigator.

The opening of the Exhibition coincided with the issue of a 4 cent commemorative stamp and special covers were available.

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UNKNOWN BOOKLET

Mr. Len van de Kar, of Cape Town, writes that he has recently acquired a complete, unexploded Booklet, catalogued as B1 in the Golden Jubilee Edition of the South African Handbook/Catalogue, and as "no unexploded copy known."

Mr. van de Kar is to be congratulated upon his fortunate and unique acquisition. Further, we are glad to know of the existence of this hitherto unknown item, for should it be required for research purposes, we feel sure the owner will make it available, upon request.

MAPS AND EXPLORATION (AFRICA)

by Capt. M. F. Stern F.R.G.S.

(Continued from p. 192, August, 1966 Number)

Another stamp of Cape Verde shows da Nola on his own. In 1456 strong currents put Diogo Gomez back into the Gambia, which he ascended. In 1462 he rediscovered the Cape Verde Islands, already discovered by Cadamosto in 1455. Antonio da Nola discovered Cape Verde in 1460.

Alfonso Gonsalves Baldaia (seen with Joao Fernandes on a stamp of Cape Verde) in 1454 went to Cape Bojador, discovered in 1415. Joao Fernandes in 1446 sailed under Antao Gonsalves and was the first man to enter the interior. A stamp in the same series of captains of Cape Verde show Diniz Eannes da Gra and Alvaro de Freitas.

In 1460 Prince Henry died. His body was eventually buried in the Monastery of Santa Maria do Batalha—on his tomb is inscribed his motto—'Talent de bien faire' (seen on a stamp of Portugal). The ship series of Mozambique were issued on first day covers cancelled with a fine illustration of the Tower of Belem, from which the Portuguese ships sailed to Africa (1. XII.63).

Fernao Gomez was given a lease of the whole Guinea Coast for payment of 200,000 reis annually and for exploring 500 leagues beyond Sierra Leone in 1471 for five years. His voyages rounded the southward bend of the Bight of Biafra. In 1471 Joao Santarem and Pero Escobar (both on stamps of S. Tome e Principe) discovered the island of San Tome and sighted Santo Antao and Ano Bom. In 1472 Fernao da Po (also on stamp of S. Tome e Principe) discovered the island of Fernando Po, named after him, his name having been distorted. Lopo Gonzalves (on stamp of S. Tome) and Rui Sequeria carried exploration not far from above the Congo. Two other of the captains of this period are Alvaro Esteves and Martin Fernandes, likewise on the mariner's set of S. Tome e Principe.

In addition to slaves, pepper, gold and ivory were now traded. In 1473 a Frenchman, Eustache de la Fosse, was on the Guinea Coast and the Catalans also went there. In 1481 an expedition was sent to the Gold Coast and San Jorge da Mina (now Elmina) reached, where a castle was built of materials carried from Lisbon as ballast and garrisoned (Angola issued a beautiful map stamps with early flags showing west african coast and San Jorge da Mina). In 1482 Diogo Cao (portrait of a stamp of Portugal and also on one of Angola, as well as an Angola stamp showing Cao's record on the Yellala Falls Rocks) left Portugal and reached the estuary of the Congo (called the Zaire). A padrao (cross) was planted there. In 1483 he went further south as far as Cape St. Mary (Angola) where a second cross was planted Martin Behain, the inventor of the application of the astrolobe, accompanied him. In 1484 Cao went out again, this time as far as Cape Cross (South West Africa). On his return he ascended the Congo River as far as the Yellala Falls and Mpozo. In 1486 Bartholomew Diaz (on Mariner's series of Portugal and a stamp of South West Africa shows his ship at Cape Cross and a padrao) was sent in command of an expedition. After leaving Manga das Areas, where Cao had planted his cross at the furthest point south, Diaz sailed past Angra des Ilhoes (Diaz or Pedestal Point S.W.A.), reached Angra des Voltes (Luderitz Bay) and then the mouth of the Orange River. He then drove south for 13 days, turned east and then north, reaching Angra das Vacquieras (Bay of the Cowherds—Mossel Bay). He had unknowingly rounded the Cape of Good Hope (named Cabo Tormentoso by him due to storms encountered—but on his return Cabo da Boa Esperanza by King Joao II—who had hopes of the route to India). He went as far as the Great Fish River, turned back, passed the Cape, and returned to Lisbon in December, 1487.

(To be continued).

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SOCIETY NEWS

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

July. The second meeting of the month opened with Mr. Openheim showing a selection of Czechoslovakian stamps on first day cover and some new issues. Mr. Wedderburn-Maxwell followed with a talk on the effect on the stamp market of a currency devaluation.

The first exhibitor of the evening was Mr. Frikkie Lambert, who showed us his collection of Iraq. The issues were in the main printed by well-known British firms and of a high standard. They were shown mainly in fine used, which as will be appreciated, is much harder to obtain in this country than the mint. The collection was very neatly arranged and well written up, an exhibit which everyone enjoyed seeing and a credit to its owner.

The second exhibitor was Mr. Adkins, who showed his collection of Italy and read a paper to the meeting. The stamps of Italy when viewed as a whole are very attractive and the exhibit, while having gaps to be expected in a field as vast as Italy, was well laid out and the stamps selected for their condition—not an easy task with used stamps from this country. Mr. Adkins has the makings of a very fine collection of Italy.

August. The first meeting of the month comprised two outstanding exhibits, each accompanied by a paper.

Commander Enoch exhibited many superb copies of the 1875 issue of Heligoland, selected for their perfection, condition and clarity of postmark and followed by a commendable collection of the Confederate States of America, including the American Postmaster's stamps.

Mr. Stern's exhibit was in the main a detailed study of the postmarks on the stamps of the Falkland Islands, a very fine collection indeed. Another philatelist to whom condition is all important and each stamp is carefully selected. The exhibit was well laid out, researched and a real credit to its owner.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

August 16th. This was Junior Evening. For many years our Society has undertaken a number of projects to promote the interests of young collectors and put them on the right path in their efforts. This is a formidable task as one deals not with a permanent and stable contingent of youth but with an everchanging crowd of enthu-

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siasts of the moment of which only a very few will eventually graduate to junior membership and serious collecting. To perpetuate the memory of the late G. K. Forbes, a President of this Society for fourteen years, who himself was a great friend of the young, we initiated with this meeting the competition for the George Forbes Memorial Cup, donated by the Society and individual members. In addition Mrs. Forbes, his widow, has now donated an annual prize for Juniors under the age of 14. This latter prize was won by 10-year-old David Stromberg and consisted of a handsome book on stamp collecting. It was handed to him by the President, Mr. Tom Strachan, after Mr. E. Baer, as chairman of the Jury, had explained to the youngsters the reasons for the award and giving hints on the way to advance their collections.

Mr. Bülbring then tabled a number of sheets illustrating different types of stamps, cancellations, covers and airmails, also special commemorative issues of particular interest. The winner of the George Forbes Memorial Cup, determined by popular vote, will of course not be known until our Annual General Meeting next year, when the announcement will be made together with the award of all other prizes for the year.

September 6th. After opening the meeting and welcoming the members and visitors, the President, Mr. T. J. Strachan referred to the tragic death of the Prime Minister, Dr. Verwoerd, and asked all present to stand for a moment as a token of respect. He also referred to the death of one of our country members, Mr. A. Watts, of King Williamstown, and asked those present to again rise.

Following the request that all meetings be cancelled this evening, the President stated that the matter had been discussed by the committee and it was proper to adjourn the meeting at this stage if the members were agreeable. This was unanimously agreed to and the meeting was accordingly adjourned.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

September. Dr. H. J. Raubenheimer reported that a new printing of the 5 cent had been made on RSA watermarked paper which reflected a faint watermark facing left. The perforation was small holes.

The remainder of the afternoon was devoted to a study by means of the Ultra Violet and Quartz Lamps, made available to the various study groups at the meeting, of the 20 cent, 50 cent and R1 stamps of the current issue. Some interesting and instructive observations were revealed under the lamps and study will continue at our next meeting.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

September. A Johannesburg member, Mr. Huthwaite, put on a most interesting exhibit consisting of a dozen pages of reproductions of some of the most famous stamps ever to have been issued. The items included the Mauritius Post Office, the N.S.W. Sydney Views, various Chalon Heads, the Cape Woodblocks among others, and made members appreciate the beauty of these world famous classics.

The main exhibit of the evening was a section of Mr. van Eyk's Netherlands collection. Recently returned from a holiday spent in Europe, Van still found time to organise an exhibit for this month. Although there are many gaps in the collection, they are gradually being filled in and this exquisitely written-up collection was given full justice by the members. The thanks of the meeting was fully expressed by Mr. D. Brown.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

September. After members stood in silent sympathy over the death of the Prime Minister, Dr. H. F. Verwoerd, the meeting was cancelled by unanimous consent.

The Certificate of Merit Competition for Thematic collections, due to have been held, is now scheduled for the December meeting.

THE O.F.S. PHILATELIC SOCIETY

August. The meeting was attended by 45 members, visitors and Juniors—this is, as far as is known, an all-time record for a bumper attendance!

New Issues were tabled by Mrs. Gray and Mr. Weil.

The first exhibit of the evening was Mr. S. J. van Rensburg's "Cripple Care and Christmas Stamps." This was something new in exhibits and was a credit to the exhibitor, being as it was, his first effort. Not only was the collection complete, but the presentation was also pleasant and interesting. It included tete-beché blocks and booklet panes indicative of the printing processes involved. We are looking forward to the next exhibit by this keen member.

The second exhibit consisted of a selection of Mr. A. L. Meyburgh's "Philatelic Terms," covering perforations, printing and paper. As always, Uncle Bert provides an outstanding show. Highlights of the exhibit were 3d. S.A. blue Roto Pictorial imperf. block of four, and 1/- Gnus with misplaced and normal perforations. These and many other items arrested the attention of viewers and brought very favourable comments.

A cake was sold and realised R6.00 towards Congress Funds. Refreshments brought a very happy and interesting meeting to a close.

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ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF RHODESIA

September. How very refreshing it was to see the Thematic display — Heraldry on Stamps—provided by Mr. Turnbull at the September meeting. How intriguing it was to learn of the origin of many of the Coats-of-Arms, but how bewildering it was to grapple with Heraldic phraseology and terms — lions rampant, on the sinister, Gules, Argent, and all that, instead of the simple perf., wmk., ovpt., inv., to which we are all accustomed.

Even more remarkable was the amount of trouble taken by Mr. Turnbull in seeking out his information—letters to Government Secretaries, Archivists, City Mayors, Philatelic Societies, the Church and the Windsor Herald; not all of which bore fruit; some were ignored, others received promises of information which never came, whilst yet others produced replies flattering in the warmth of the response and the amount of detail provided. It was a truly remarkable display, and Mr. Turnbull deserves the highest praise for his labours and for the enjoyment which he gave us.

Display Stands.

In use for the first time were the new stands presented to the Society by Mr. J. R. Strong, to whom the Society is extremely grateful; as also is the Society indebted to Mr. G. T. Dobson for his work in making them up and providing the lighting effects without charge.

Rhodesia—Mardon Printings.

At the **August meeting** our Chairman announced that Mardons had started on a new printing of the 4d. definitive.

For the benefit of those interested in Plate Numbers, the following are details of Mardon printings to date: 1d. Plates 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B. 2/- Plates 1A, 1B. 1C. 5/- Plates 1A, 1B. 10/- Plates 1A, 1B. £1 Plates 1A, 1B.

COPPERBELT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Once again the Society will be having a celebration, but this time it will be on the occasion of its 30th Anniversary. Having been founded on 16th October, 1936, it is the oldest Society operating on the Copperbelt.

For many years the Society met in the Mine Club and members' houses, then in the Nkana Hotel, until finally getting settled in the Synagogue Hall, which we have now been using for some 15 years. As with all Societies it has been a small hardcore of members who have kept things going, with particular reference to our only active Founder Member. Mr. S. Kelly, who was elected to the chair in November, 1945, and has held this position ever since. This duty, combined with his extensive knowledge of all aspects of philately has made him the backbone of the Society. Mention must also be made of Mrs. D. Fell, who has held the posts of Secretary-Treasurer for the last 28 years.

It is proposed to hold a Stamp Exhibition in conjunction with a dinner at a local Night Club, at which some very interesting exhibits will be on display.

Although there were only 11 members present at our first meeting, we now have almost 90 on our books, our country fellow collectors, who have retained membership since leaving the Copperbelt, being as far afield as Canada, Australia, Scotland, England, Rhodesia, South Africa and Tanzania.

Several of our members, including Juniors, have been successful in winning awards at various Philatelic Exhibitions, the most recent and noteworthy being Master Walton-Evans' collection of Decimal Surcharges of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland, for which he was awarded a Bronze Medal at Sipex (6th International Philatelic Exhibition) in Washington.

Our monthly meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of every month, while very active Exchange nights are held on every second Wednesday.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

September. Eighteen members and two visitors attended the meeting at which the President, Mr. F. E. Drake, took the chair.

The Hon. Secretary displayed an interesting exhibit of the Gold Coast, or as it is now named, Ghana, mint sets from the years 1940 to 1962, tabled during the tea break.

Mr. H. Suklje very kindly gave a most informative report on his recent trip to the U.S.A., where he had attended SIPEX. On the way over to America from England, Mr. H. Suklje travelled on the Queen Mary, on which, during the voyage, the first ever Radio Stamp Auction took place. The Queen Mary was in radio connection with Basle, London, Milan, Paris and New York; but half way through the auction communications broke down. Nevertheless, many scarce items changed hands and a block of 21 U.S.A. mint stamps, valued at R24,000, reached R40,000 before being knocked down to an interested philatelist. One dealer in stamps, Mr. Roger Weil, flew over to London from New Orleans, to travel back on the Queen Mary in order to be present at the auction.

The stamp Exhibition, "SIPEX," was held at the Hotel Shovehan, Washington, in six halls, the main hall being the large garage of the hotel. Over 3,000 display stands were on view and three main ceremonies took place, the first being for the issue of the special Sipex stamp, the second being for the issue of the Sipex miniature sheet and lastly for the First Day of issue of the new 11 cent International Air Mail Post Card. Eighty stamp dealers had stalls in the main exhibition hall. During Sipex a banquet was

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held and afterwards a large photograph was available for sale to all guests. This photograph was most unusual as it had been taken with a "Moving Camera," something quite new, not a Cine camera.

Mr. F. E. Drake thanked Mr. Suklje for his most interesting talk and also thanked him for his kindness in despatching several covers of Sipex stamps to the Germiston Society.

THEMATIC STAMP CLUB

August 8. The following exhibits were shown: "France—Thematic" by Dr. P. L. Vautier; "First Day Covers" by Mr. Fortune; "Japanese Antarctic Expedition Covers I, II, and III," "America at the Antarctic and Arctic" and "First Submarines at the North Pole Covers" by Capt. M. F. Stern.

August 22. This was also an all-member evening and the following were shown: Mr. W. G. Combrink, "Venetia"; Mrs. H. Jeidel, "European Postmarks"; Mr. R. Jeidel, "Egypt—Special Service"; Mr. Shevelew, "France"; Mrs. V. Coe, "F.D.C.'s of Horses"; Dr. P. L. Vautier, "F.D.C.'s—Stamps on Stamps"; Miss G. Hoffmann, "Marine Life." A most interesting and varied evening.

September 12. Capt. M. F. Stern exhibited a completely new theme, "Military Uniforms on Stamps," for the first time, and read an illuminating paper on same covering from Ancient Egypt up to World War II, giving details of armour, headdress and later uniforms, as well as illustrating the arms carried. —M.F.S.

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

August 2. Members were privileged to see the slides of Dr. Max Peisach on "The Agrotot Overprints of Israel." He showed in a fascinating manner the plating of same and his discoveries in regard to the various plates.

August 30. This was the Annual General Meeting last of the year. The following were elected 1966/67: President, A. W. Sloan; Chairman, Mr. C. J. Murray; Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. E. Penfold; Hon. Librarian, Mr. D. Allison; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. Wallis; Additional member, Dr. P. Keller; Co-opted, Dr. Mav Peisach. Then followed an exhibit by Capt. M. F. Stern of "Indochina, Laos, Cambodia and French Viet-Nam," colourful and with the early stamps well represented. —M.F.S.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

August 11. The subject for this evening was Germany, and it certainly proved to be a rare feast. Starting with Mr. Putzel, he showed the posthorn overprinted issues after the currency devaluation, the first definitive issues, compulsary postage tax stamps, the first definitive set after the currency reform and many other items of interest. Captain Milton Stern took us on a fantastic flight through 70 years of aviation history. Commencing with the first balloon flight, we probed the far corners of the world with the Lufthansa—radiating from Germany, and then this cleverly conceived exhibit landed us back home in the jet age. Mr. Berneaud showed an interesting collection of Thurn and Taxis. Explaining the different currency of the North and South. Mr. Berneaud showed subsequent different postage issues, the rare high-value imperfs. of the rouletted stamps, covers in beautiful condition and still uncatalogued postal stationery. Mr. D. Roth exhibited his fine collection of Heligoland, describing it as a reference collection which includes an immense variety of genuine issues and reprints. Prof. Sloan showed a complete collection of West Germany unspecialised, using only the used stamps preferable to him. Mr. Ernest Beerman, a first-timer, allowed us to "Peep through the Iron Curtain," a delightfully witty and original collection arranged thematically, and accompanied by a most entertaining postal history of the country. Mrs. Hilda Jeidel exhibited labels and semi-official stamps in connection with Pioneer flights, stamps issued to Armed Forces during World War II, and the first issue of the Allied Occupation Authorities for West Berlin, typical of her usual high standard. Mr. Berneaud returned to add the finishing touches with 10 sheets of stamps and postcards ovpt. G.E.A., in a straightforward collection of straight sets.

August 25. We now crossed the border from Germany to Switzerland, and again the evening was full of interest, historical and philatelic. Mr. D. Roth gave a most informative and interesting talk on the postal history of Switzerland and showed specimen of the cantonals in beautiful condition. Mr. S. Kaganson's selected exhibit comprised the Strubeli Issues, and this tiny corner of Mr. Kaganson's activities in Switzerland was of his usual high standard. Choice items were blocks of 4 and 6 mint and the Rayon issues in superb used condition. Mr. Giezendanner instilled a feeling of delight and pride in the artistry, restraint and efficiency of the stamps and the Philatelic management of the country. His selected exhibit of covers stretched over a period of 16 decades, and interesting items were railway and army cancellations, propaganda covers, night delivery mail and air flights. Mrs. Jeidel chose 50 years of Pro Juventute—and gave the history of the issue, showing an uncommon cover with one stamp in each of the three official languages and a complete coverage of a fascinating series. To round off the evening Dr. Vautier exhibited Balloon, Propaganda and Pioneer flights, air stamps and aerograms. Military Post—the uncommon Military labels on cover and a fine selection of Miniature sheets.

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ANGLO-BOER WAR PHILATELIC SOCIETY, quarterly magazine with exchange packet in U.K. Subscription R1.00 (10/-) yearly. Secretary, J. H. Rathbone, "Allways", Rudheath, Northwich, Cheshire, U.K.

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GEVRA: Suid-Afrikaanse seëls in ruil vir Nederland.—Mev. Bea d eVries-Poelman, Beatrixstraat 12, Voorhout (Z-H), Nederland.

REPUBLICAN PRINTING ABNORMALITIES!!! Offers wanted by J. Burrell, P.O. Box 397, Krugersdorp.

RHODESIA INDEPENDENCE OVERPRINTS. ½d. to £1 (14 values), FDC R12; ½d. to £1 (13 values; no 5/-) mint or used R7. Comprehensive range Q.E. II commemoratives in stock. JUNCTION STAMPS, 77 Stamford Hill Road, Durban.

South African Collectors' Society for the Union Collector—magazine, exchange packet. Subscription 15/- ($2) year. Write Hon Secretary, W. A. Page, 138 Chastilian Road Dartford, Kent, England.

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SIMENHOFF BOOKLET.—The Occupational Postmarks of the Mandated Territory of South West Africa by Capt. L. Simenhoff; the series as run in The South African Philatelist, in booklet form (24 pages). Price 30c post free.—Philatelic Federation, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

U.S.A. SPECIALIST requires singles, blocks covers, cancellations. A. R. Kleiner, 23 Cadogan Gardens, London S.W. 3, England.

LISTS of general interest free on request. —UNION STAMP CO., Barbican Building, President and Rissik, Johannesburg. (P.O. Box 10225), Telephone 838-5879.

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URGENTLY DESIRED! ! Four regular one-eighth page advertisers. Apply to Business Manager, South African Philatelist, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

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IRAQ, JORDAN, LEBANON, SYRIA: Fine used recent issues wanted.—W. Lambert, P.O. Box 1138, Johannesburg.

GREAT BRITAIN F.D.C. Christmas Issue, December 1st, 35c; mint/used 25c. — R. Gault, Bryncenydd House, Nantgarw Road, Caerphilly, U.K.

EXCHANGE/CORRESPONDENT WANTED.—Can offer G.B. for S. African stamps.—C. L. Chappel, 3 Ludmead Road, Corsham, Wiltshire, England.

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Notes: 1d. and 4d. in sheets of 240 (20 horizontal rows of 12). Others in sheets of 60 (6 horizontal rows of 10).

The 1d. experimental printing on Drigum paper was on sale only at the Causeway and Union Avenue Post Offices, Salisbury.

Communicated by the Mashonaland Philatelic Study Group.

V. ELLENBERGER (Convener).

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A Merry Christmas to all our readers
Also good Philatelic Hunting in the
New Year 1967.

EDITORIAL

An expression of surprise will undoubtedly be experienced by every subscriber when handling his December Number of the South African Philatelist upon its receipt. It is an enlarged edition of extra pages, not as a Christmas token but as an indication of the circumstances beyond the control of the Publication Committee.

During the immediate past, interest in the Journal has been increasing and more contributed articles have been received. This response is very welcome and satisfactory but the authorised quota of twenty-four pages for the Journal has remained constant with the result that an accumulation of copy has resulted. This condition was aggravated by the receipt during the closing months of the year of several interesting and desirable articles, some rather lengthy. A state of affairs thus eventuated which demanded drastic and immediate action.

After mature consideration, it was decided to enlarge the December number and to prune the regular monthly material for that issue in order to provide as much space as possible to accommodate a portion of the pending and accumulated material. In this respect, we crave the indulgence of Society scribes and related contributors should their copy be abbreviated.

This is one side of the picture; the other is the financial aspect of the Journal. For many years at Congress and at Executive Meetings, the cry has gone forth to "Keep the S.A.P. going." And it has been kept going due to faithful service and commendable efforts of executive members connected with the publication. In doing so, it has not transgressed deeply "into the red," but present circumstances are such, the above is one example and the general increase in cost of all commodities another, to mention only two, which now necessitate that serious consideration be given to the revenue derived from the publication—the subscription to the S.A. Philatelist.

The Publication Committee, after having had the question of increasing the price of the Magazine referred to it from the recent Congress, through Federation's Executive Committee, decided after a thorough investigation that the price per single copy be raised to 20c and the annual subscription to R2.00, effective as from the January 1967 issue. Certain concession will be made for bulk orders.

The last increase in price of the Philatelist was in 1953, and in adopting the new one, the Publication Committee envisages that, in return, it will be able to produce a more desirable publication containing more illustrations, of a shorter preparation period and if the support which your officers are entitled to expect in return for their voluntary efforts is forthcoming, a larger magazine. We trust these expectations will be fulfilled.

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CHRISTMAS SEALS

SOUTH AFRICAN NOTES

Hon. Associate Editor:
Dr. H. J. RAUBENHEIMER,
434 City Centre, Pretoria.

The South African Christmas Seals for 1966, "Prevent TB—Buy Christmas Stamps," were delivered on 30th September. Printed at the Government Printing Works, Pretoria, they once again present a departure from the previous types of seals. Instead of appearing in booklet form they come in sheets of 25, 5 rows x 5 stamps.

Each sheet has a narrow olive green margin around it and measures roughly 6½″ x 5½″. There are no gutters between the stamps and each stamp has its own design, twenty-five pictures in all. In short, the sheet shows a map of South Africa in olive green with the sea in light blue, with twen-

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ty-five coloured pictures with perforations between them. The only common features shared by the pictures are the Cross of Lorraine and the inscriptions either English or Afrikaans. The stamps are unilingual, the languages alternating horizontally and vertically. The pictures are extremely bright and attractive; the subjects fanciful, there is a fairy castle, a pink circus elephant, a sparkling multicoloured diamond and fish, deer and penguins with gay garlands.

The sheets are on coated RSA watermarked paper, the mark generally very faint or even absent, and from those sheets where it can be deciphered the watermark shows inverted. It was ascertained that the printing was done on the Albertina Machine with cylinders of 42″ circumference. The paper was then cut into 21″ lengths, each length having three pairs of panes, each pane having 25 stamps, the stamps measuring 30.2 x 24 mm., the same size as our 2½c Constantia stamp.

The perforating was performed by the Grover appliance resulting in all the finished sheets having their side margins imperforate and the bottom ones perforated through, while one in three sheets has the top margin imperforate, the other two have them perforated through.

And now as regards colours, all five printing cylinders were used. The primary colours yellow, blue and green were used in three colour process printing, producing many colours and shades, while the olive green and black were separate and distinct.

* * * *

THE EMERALD GREEN 10c

(With acknowledgements to "The Springbok")

"This will be the final chapter upon this subject. To the eye of the beholder, emerald green will be emerald green.

"I have four reference books on COLOUR, the latest being 'LIPSIA PHILATELISTISCHE FARBENKAFELA,' which costs some ten shillings. Not one of the listed EMERALD GREEN shades are identical. The only true answer to the problem must lie in black, the black cyclometer numbers of the known sheets which are of this shade, and by a true comparison with authenticated pieces, bearing the cyclometer number.—R.D.A."

VARIETIES OF THE FESTIVAL SOUVENIR COVERS AND THEIR STIFFENERS

With so many thousands of covers having been printed it is not surprising that many interesting varieties have come to light and this applies to both the covers and their stiffeners.

There is, first of all, what might be termed a V.I.P. cover, a prestige production, presumably for presentation purposes. All the grey-black printing has been replaced by a shining gold with an embossed appearance, and this lies over the blue printing of the map outline; the blue also has the embossed appearance. To complete the cover's attractiveness it is enclosed in a special plastic envelope differing from the ordinary ones; it is finely ribbed and of a heavier quality.

Two colours were used in the printing of the covers and covers have been seen with either the black or the blue missing. The one with the black missing can be quickly spotted but the other one, especially if it bears the stamps, can be easily overlooked.

When we come to the enclosed stiffeners we get a greater range of abnormalities. The cards were printed at the Government Printing Works, Pretoria, by the lithographic process on six plates. Each plate had its colour, yellow, red, orange or blue and there was a black for each side of the card. These basic colours are in parts superimposed upon each other giving numerous other colours and shades. There are also distinct variations in the depths of shade of the basic colours between different cards. Particularly does this apply to the reds which range from a light red to a pink and this markedly affects the richness of the colours of the coat of arms.

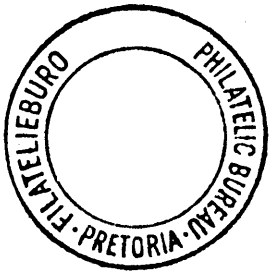
The Post Office at its exhibition during the Festival had an interesting display of the stages of printing, progressives they are called, showing the colours singly or in combination of two or more. Each was on a large sheet with eight specimens. There were three progressives.

(1) Yellow and black, shows on the coat of arms and the figure of columns on the right.

(2) Red on 1 above, shows on the coat of arms and the inscription.

(3) Blue on 2 above, gives the finished article.

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REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



A Philatelic Bureau exists in Pretoria to meet the special needs of stamp dealers and philatelists. Only stamps of the Republic of South Africa currently in use are on sale.

Orders for stamps should be addressed to the Philatelic Bureau, G.P.O., Pretoria, and must be accompanied by money orders, postal orders or bank drafts made payable to the Postmaster-General. Cheques are not accepted. The amount should be sufficient to cover postage and registration.

Deposit accounts may be opened.

'n Filatelieburo bestaan in Pretoria om in die spesiale behoeftes van seëlhandelaars en filateliste te voorsien. Slegs seëls van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika tans in gebruik word te koop aangebied.

Bestellings vir seëls moet geadresseer word aan die Filatelieburo, H.P.K., Pretoria, en moet vergesel gaan van poswissels, posorders of bankwissels, betaalbaar aan die Posmeester-generaal. Tjeks word nie aangeneem nie. Die bedrag moet voldoende wees om die pos- en registrasie gelde te dek.

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The basic orange appears only on the top bar of the flag, but the other colours, including black, are also used for the Coat of Arms where the superimposition of colours leaves only three traces of the original colour, namely the blue of the lion's tongue, the blue strip above the Natal Arms and the two blue rods in front of the lion. Perhaps the most striking result of superimposition shows in the columns on the right where the bright blue and the bright yellow produce the bright green.

As it happens, a number of varieties have appeared where single colours are missing. These show markedly the influence each one plays, and the results are curious. Where the red is missing, the card looks bare and the Coat of Arms is an anaemic picture of yellow and green. Where the yellow is missing what should be green is blue, the blue columns particularly striking the eye. A third card lacks the black making the columns merely a meaningless green figure. The absence of the blue on the fourth card has the odd effect of making the columns yellow instead of green.

Hearsay reports other variations; two colours missing, only one colour present and offsets, but these must still be shown.

It may reasonably be asked how these oddities have been found, seeing that they are within covers; the answer simply is that the covers and stiffeners arrived apart and were so supplied to buyers of mint specimens. Doubtless there are others still resting in their serviced covers and which have not yet been seen. Quite an interesting collection of these varieties could be built up and it makes a pretty picture.

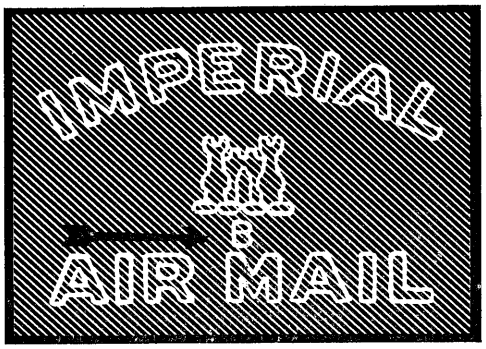
Footnote. It is reported that some persons, including at least one dealer, found that they had been sent their covers or stiffeners which included incompletely printed ones, and promptly returned them for "good" ones. The Post Office duly obliged. The "bad" ones thus never went into circulation.

MARION ISLAND

The hand canceller recently in use at the Marion Island Post Office has been destroyed by a fire there. A new canceller is in the process of being made.

WATERMARKS

Used on the Air Letter (Aerogramme) Sheets of the Commonwealth and certain other countries.



"Gateway" Watermark showing position of code letter—1948 to 1966.

In the November, 1960, issue of the "South African Philatelist" an article was published explaining the manufacture of watermarks and detailing papers used for Air Letters and Aerogrammes for the 12 year period 1948 to 1959 made by Messrs. Wiggins Teape & Co. Ltd.

Messrs. Alex. Pirie and Sons Africa (Pty.) Ltd., the local distributors of "Gateway" paper, have now been most helpful in obtaining the following information from their Head Office, London, as regards paper manufactured between 1960 and 1966.

The code letter immediately below the "Gateway" (as shown in the above illustration) indicates the year the actual paper was manufactured (though not necessarily used during that year) in accordance with the following list:—

A—1948, B—1949, C—1950, D—1951, E—1952, F—1953, G—1954, H—1955, I—1956, K—1957, L—1958, M—1959, O—1960, P—1961, S—1962, T—1963, V—1964, Y—1965, Z—1966.

Note: The letters "F" and "G" were purposely reversed to avoid confusion with the letters "E" and "C".

The missing letters—J, N, Q, R, U, W—were not used as they could be mistaken for a similar character. The letter "X" was missed as there could have been trouble with "picking" the electro thereby causing a small hole in the paper when being made.

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PHILATELISTS' RENDEZVOUS

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month in
The Club Room of the Friends of Italy of South Africa, First Floor, Radio City Blds. Tulbach Square, Foreshore, Cape Town
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THE THEMATIC STAMP CLUB

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Chapter No. 1 A.T.A. and Africa Section, F.I.P.C.O.
Issues a Magazine every two months and circulates sales packets.
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ORANGE FREE STATE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets on the fourth Friday of every month in the
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Issues a monthly magazine and circulates sales packets to members.
P.O. BOX 702 — BLOEMFONTEIN

THE PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meets on the first and third Tuesday each month in the
B.C.E.S.L. Hall, St. Andrews Streets,
at 8.00 p.m.
Visitors cordially welcome.
P.O. BOX 3 - PORT ELIZABETH

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL

Meetings 1st and 3rd Wednesdays monthly at 7.30 p.m. in the
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VISITORS CORDIALLY WELCOMED
P.O. Box 588, Durban. Secretary's Telephone 838-682 (Evenings).

THE PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meets on the first Monday of every month in the
Council Chamber of the Technical College Church Street East, Pretoria
at 7.45p .m.
VISITORS CORDIALLY WELCOMED.
P.O. Box 514, Pretoria.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

meets Twice a Month: Second Tuesday and Fourth Monday
at
Room 97, Public Library, Johannesburg
at 8 p.m.
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HON. SECRETARY,
P.O. BOX 4967 - JOHANNESBURG.

THE AEROPHILATELIC SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

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THE PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meet on the second Wednesday of every month in the
Railway Recreation Club, Berea Park, Pretoria
at 8.00 p.m.
P.O. Box 2388 — Pretoria
ALL PHILATELISTS ARE WELCOME.

SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELY

Meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 8.15 p.m.
Burlington House Boardroom (2nd Floor) c/r. Rissik & Marshall Streets, Johannesburg.
ALL WELCOME.
Secretary: P.O. Box 11502, Johannesburg

THE SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

meets at 2.15 p.m. on the second Saturday of every month in the
Staff Tea Lounge, Basement, Corner House.
Corner Sauer and Commissioner Streets, Johannesburg (Commissioner St. Entrance).
ALL INTERESTED IN SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELY ARE WELCOME.
P.O. Box 378, Krugersdorp (Secretary's Telephone: Business 660-7511; Home 660-3461.

THE EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

P.O. Box 483, Benoni. (Hon. Secretary).
Meetings every 2nd Monday in the month at the
Benoni Tennis Club House
Benoni, at 7.45 p.m.
VISITORS ARE WELCOME.

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The whole alphabet from "A" to "Z" has now been exhausted and Messrs. Wiggins Teape & Co. advise that a new series of code lettering will commence in 1967. The letter which hitherto has been placed below the "Gateway" will be moved to underneath the word "AIR MAIL."

So far as Southern Africa is concerned, the only territories having their Aerogrammes printed in Great Britain on "Gateway" paper are Basutoland and Bechuanaland, and presumably the new issues for Lesotho and Bothswana will be on watermarked paper likewise.

THE UNION'S UNHYPHENATED ROTOGRAVURE STAMPS

(Being a paper read at a meeting of the S.A. Stamp Study Circle by Mr. D. W. Sutcliffe).

It is with some temerity that I submit my exhibit for your perusal and criticism this afternoon, primarily as it does not refer to an Issue of the Republican Era, but one of the Union of South Africa dated 1931 and I know that possibly there are some of you who do not collect the Earlier Issues of the Union.

When I retired from business some 16 months ago I felt the need of some greater interest in my hobby than just sending up to the Philatelic Bureau in Pretoria for each new issue. To me, with time on my hands, I was only building up a "straight collection" and this, in my opinion, was not what I considered true philately. It seemed to lack research study, the hunting for varieties, the finding of new sources of supply and possibly the making of new friends and then the ultimate thrill of getting a new item for my collection.

So after bitterly reading through the latest Edition of the Handbook I decided to concentrate on an Issue which would afford me most interest and contained all I wanted philatelically. The issue chosen was not to be too old, the stamps of which would still be fairly easy to obtain, and the Catalogue value, with a few exceptions, within my financial means. My choise thus fell on to the ½d. and 1d. unhyphenated Rotogravure Issues of 1930/1931 and I show you the ½d. value this afternoon.

As far as I am personally concerned my choice has proved to be a happy one and has provided me with all the interest I look for. The exhibit before you today has not been costly and is the result of about 15 to 16 months of searching and has occupied much of my spare time.

My sources of supply have been varied, some of the items were purchased at auction sales in Durban and Cape Town, some from dealers and the remainder from some seven to eight collectors in different parts of the Republic. Whilst I imagine my exhibit is about 95% complete, the hunt still goes on and I might even have to go further afield, i.e. out of the country unless some of our members have duplicate items to help me.

Let me now turn to the study side of my story. With apologies to the Editors of the Golden Jubilee Edition of the Handbook (three of whom may possibly be present this afternoon) I must confess that I found the "write up" of this particular section not too easy to follow—please don't forget I was and still am a beginner and this may account for my difficulty—so, in desperation, and still wishing to continue with my choice of Issue I consulted my old friend Jack Hagger. Here I had all the luck in the world, for, not only was he able to clear up many of my problems but he let me have quite a few items. I spent many happy hours at his home where I was able to see and study his almost complete collection, and I was thus fortunate enough to see the actual examples of the different printings and varieties. And what a difference this made to me. The "write up" in the Handbook was now perfectly clear and I unreservedly withdraw my original criticism of the Handbook and its Editors.

But possibly without Mr. Hagger's kindly help and explanations I might still have been battling, for as I said before, it was only by seeing the actual different printings and varieties themselves that I was able to get a better grasp of my subject. To help others with as limited a knowledge as I had might I be permitted to suggest that the study circle endeavours to provide its members with more displays of the older Issues, for after all the Handbook is only a Textbook and I suggest needs a Lecturer to explain certain points. We would thus make the Circle a real "Study Circle" in the deeper sense of the word.

I am sure the Circle would be able to call on Dr. Berry, Mr. Legator and Mr. Hagger,

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the Editors of the Handbook, as well as our old friend, Jack Burrell, and possibly others to help in this connection. These gentlemen are the stalwarts of today, and there must be many of our members who would welcome the opportunity such as afforded me by Mr. Hagger.

Forgive me those of you who only collect the Republican issues but I feel you are missing a great deal in not collecting and studying the earlier Issues but after all that is Philately, collect what you like and perhaps my views may be wrong. We do however have Dr. Raubenheimer to keep us up to date with the current issues.

Now for my collection—There are only three issues, but issue two has four different printings all of which are well described in the Handbook and are easily recognisable. What makes the series more interesting is that the same Internal Cylinder was used in five different printings, but one with some retouching, and thus some of the same varieties consequently appear in Issue one and the three different printings of Issue two. The three multipositive varieties are found in all three Issues and there are three different sets of arrows. I have found the arrow Blocks most difficult to obtain especially that of Issue one. I show Arrow Blocks of four Printings, the scarcest, that of Issue three I still have to get.

You will thus find that the "Cobweb" and "Retouch in front of the Buck's Breast" varieties appear in all four Printings of Issue two. In Issue one I show both these varieties before retouching.

There are three External Cylinders, the majority of the identifications being tiny dots and smudges—true they are tiny dots but they are all constant. Another interesting variety is the "Snail Variety" of which I show one example in Issues two and three. Except in the "Clean Plate" Printing where the centres are always a "soft Grey" colour, shades of colour indicate nothing, but every Issue and Printing has some prominent feature to identify it, for example the "Retouched Splintered Horn and Cleaned Plate Printings." Watermarks also play their part in the identifications.

For the rest my exhibit and write-up will speak for itself and should my little display interest another member sufficiently to start collecting the Issue I can assure him he will find all that Philately has to offer and lots of fun.

Thank you for listening to me so patiently to my ramblings. I know some of my thoughts and suggestions are open to criticism, but if my exhibit leads to some discussion all the better and I will welcome it. Perhaps one of the Editors of the Handbook may care to challenge my original criticism as to the clarity of the "write up." I do appreciate that theirs was a difficult and thankless task, but, other than suggest small displays of the more difficult issues I can offer no other solution.

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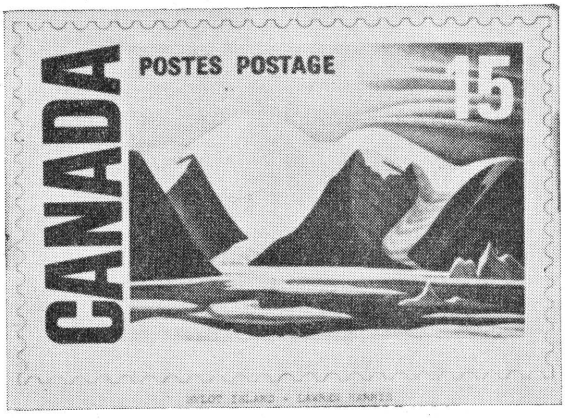
LETTER FROM NORTH AMERICA

By Charles A. Kenny, AIJP, APS

Canada will issue a new regular set of twelve postage stamps to mark her Centennial Year, and incorporate with it a program of eight commemorative issues.

According to the Postmaster-General, Jean-Pierre Cote, the lower denominations of the regular issue will break with tradition by incorporating regional views of Canada in an overall design featuring a reproduction of a new and pleasing portrait of Queen Elizabeth.

The Minister also revealed that arrangements have been made to use central portions of outstanding works of art by eminent Canadian painters for the higher denominations. These portrayals of the Canadian scene from works hanging in the National Gallery in Ottawa include an 8¢ stamp based on A. Y. Jackson's "Alaska Highway between Watson Lake and Nelson;" Tom Thomson, the acknowledged "father" of this group of artists, is represented by "The Jack Pine" on the 10¢ issue. Lawren Harris, James Wilson Morrice, J. E. H. MacDonald, John Ensor and H. G. Glyde are other Canadian artists respectively represented on the 15¢, 20¢, 25¢, 50¢, and $1 issues. The designs are the central portions of "Bylot Island," "The Ferry, Quebec," "The Solemn Land," "Summer's Stores," and "Imperial Wildcat No. 3 Excelsior Field near Edmonton" in that order.



Lawren Harris' "Bylot Island" on the 15¢ value is pictured here.

The Queen's portrait, all bearing to the right on the lower values is from a recent photograph by Anthony Buckley of London. Designs on the stamps include a 1¢, exemplifying the vast northern regions; a 2¢, readily identifiable as the Pacific Coast area by virtue of the inclusion of a Totem Pole; and a 3¢, showing a prairie scene in which is included harvesting operations and an oil rig.

Mid-Canada's industrialization with its inland deep-sea ports is represented by a Seaway lock on the 4¢ issue, and the Atlantic area, with its ever-growing fishing industry is illustrated by a fishing community harbour appearing on the 5¢ stamp.

The release dates for these stamps have not been announced by the Canadian Post Office, other than that the first one will appear on February 8.

Dates of issue for the commemorative stamps however, have been announced. The Centennial stamp is scheduled for January 11, followed by an Expo '67 commemorative on April 26. The latter is the 1967 World's Fair stamp, advertising the huge Exhibition in Montreal. The Fair opens on April 28. The Centennial stamp will be available through the year, and the Expo '67 commemorative is planned for availability throughout the duration of the exhibition.

On May 24, Canada will issue a stamp for the 50th Anniversary of Women's Franchise, while the Pan-American Games will be featured by a commemorative on July 19. The Games are to be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, from July 22 to August 7.

The Centennial of Toronto as Capital of the Province of Ontario has been set for September 20, and, rounding off the schedule will be a 3¢ and a 5¢ Christmas stamp on October 11.

The stamps for the nation-wide Centennial and Expo '67 are exceptions to the normal practice of producing commemoratives in numbers sufficient for an estimated 10-day period of sale.

In announcing its commemorative postage stamp schedule for 1967, the United States Post Office reveals that a special adhesive will be issued to salute Canada's Centennial celebration.

Americans and Canadians face each other in friendship and trust over a virtually unprotected border of 5,527 miles. The British North American Act which united the provinces into a federated state, became effective July 1, 1867. It is expected

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therefore that the United States will release its stamp in honour of Canada on July 1.

Other U.S. commemoratives to be issued during 1967 are the Sesquicentenial of Mississippi Statehood; the 100th anniversary of the purchase of Alaska; the 150th anniversary of the Erie Canal; the 100th anniversary of the National Grange, oldest major farm organization in the U.S.A.; a stamp in honour of Henry David Thoreau, 19th century essayist and poet, whose works are required reading in U.S. universities; a stamp reproducing a work by Thomas Eakins, famous American portrait painter; and a 6-cent commemorative airmail postal card that will mark the purchase of the Virgin Islands as a U.S. territory, from Denmark.

The United States will probably issue several additional commemoratives including its annual Christmas stamp during 1967. There are also several definitive issues, previously announced for release next year.

Unless otherwise noted, Canadian and United States commemoratives are of 5-cent denominations.

(Charles A. Kenny is a member of the American Philatelic Society, and the Association Internationale des Journalistes Philateliques, an accredited judge of the APS, and Stamp Editor of the Greensburg, Pa. Tribune-Review. His address is 533 Hemlock Drive, Greensburg, Pa., 15601, U.S.A.).

THE PRIME MINISTER STAMP

Special 2½c, 3c and 12½c postage stamps will be issued on the 6th December, 1966, in honour of Dr. H. F. Verwoerd, the late Prime Minister of the Republic of South Africa.

The stamps will be printed bilingually and will be on sale at all post offices in the Republic for a period of approximately three months.

The 2½c and 12½c will be in horizontal format, 24.2 x 40.5 mm. and the 3c vertical, 40.5 x 24.2 mm. All denominations will be printed in A and B panes.

MAIL DAMAGED BY STRING

At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, complaints were voiced by members concerning the frequency of covers and good stamps being damaged by the postman using string to tie up his bundles for delivery. It was resolved that the matter be raised when the Deputation Advisory Committee interviews the Postal Authorities.

It would appear that this condition is confined not only to the Republic for Mr. Ernest Trory, of Brighton, Sussex, voiced a similar complaint over the British Postal system in his Letter to the Editor of the "Philatelic Magazine."

He writes, inter alia, "for many years I have been complaining about the damage caused to the contents of my mail by post office string. I have a file of correspondence on the subject with various Brighton Head Postmasters covering a period of five years and previous to 1961 when I started the file.

"In the course of time, I learned that 'string' is the sacred totem of the Post Office, and that each Head Post Office has a special High Priest officially described as the "tying-up officer" to preside over the ceremonial rites.

"This superstition is so deep-rooted that I doubt if there is anyone with sufficient authority in the Post Office who is also enlightened enough to break with it; so it seems that the public must continue to suffer this ritual damage without redress.

"This morning I signed for a registered letter which contained valuable stamps. The envelope, which was itself of value, was badly cut into by string, although in this case the contents escaped damage. When I complained, the postman assured me there was nothing I could do about it.

"It would be interesting, nevertheless, to know how much damage is caused to contents of mail annually by the practice of tying up bundles of letters with string. Perhaps one of our more progressive Members of Parliament would ask a question in the House of Commons to ascertain this."

(Not a very encouraging outlook for our Deputation Advisory Committee, but we trust that this condition will catch the eye of a philatelic colleague who is a member of our Parliament.—Editor).

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REVIEW

A Guide to the Postage Stamps of Rhodesia 1/1/1964 - 31/7/1966.

The success of "A Guide to the Postage Stamps of the Rhodesias and Nyasaland" (Mashonaland Philatelic Society 1965), together with the phenomenal increase in the demand for Rhodesian stamps since Independence and the determination of the Compilers of the "Guide" not to allow another 40 years to pass in silence, are some of the factors which have led to the preparation of a booklet on Rhodesian stamps from the time of the dissolution of the Federation of the Rhodesias and Nyasaland up to the Central African Airways 20th Anniversary Issue.

The publication will consist of approximately 18 quarto pages stitched and bound in a cardboard cover. The pages will also be punched for insertion into a lose-leaf binder if desired.

Obtainable from the Mashonaland Philatelic Study Group, P.O. Box 2115, Salisbury, or from Stamp Dealers, Booksellers or Philatelic Societies at 10/6 (cash with order). Postage extra (in Rhodesia 4d., to South Africa and England 6d. by surface mail).

ORANGE FREE STATE STUDY CIRCLE

The 13th Annual General Meeting was held on 1st October in London, in the Board Room of the Alliance Assurance Co., St. James' Street, S.W.1. M. F. Wray Esq. was elected President for 1966/67 and Messrs. G. D. Buckley, W. B. Marriott and S. G. Laurence re-elected as chairman, hon. secretary and hon. treasurer respectively. The meetings during 1967 will be held at 2.30 p.m. on 1st April, 27th May and 30th September.

The remainder of the afternoon was largely devoted to a talk by G. D. Buckley on the various printings of the first definitive issue of 1868-90, supported with material. The publication date of the O.F.S. Handbook, Vol. 1 will be towards the end of 1966. Work on Vols. 11 and 111, covering respectively the VRI overprints and the rest of the Colonial era, is well in hand.

Hon. Secretary: W. B. Marriott, 46 Kingswood Gardens, Roundhay, Leeds, 8.

"GOLDEN GOOSE" OF COOK ISLANDS

The Premier of the Cook Islands (Mr. Albert Henry) claims that he has created a Philatelic "Golden Goose" which has yielded revenue of £35,000 for the islands in the last 12 months.

Mr. Henry made this claim in a broadcast over the Cook Islands radio when replying to criticism of the Administration's stamp issuing policy.

He said that until his Government came to office the stamp market had not been properly exploited and that revenue for stamp sales only averaged £11,785 over the five year period 1960-1965.

Mr. Henry said that as soon as he assumed office he set about the task of raising extra money by the sale of postage stamps. In the year 1965-66, when the Self-Government and the Churchill Memorial stamps appeared, the revenue was approximately £35,000 (Mr. Henry's figures did not include the controversial "Airmail" overprints which appeared late in April).

The Premier referred only indirectly to the secret Philatelic Agency agreement as exclusively reported in the last issue of "Stamp News." Here are Mr. Henry's exact words on the subject: "Long before this new Government came into office, I personally made it quite clear to the people, in fact to the whole world that was interested in listening, that if we became Government we would try to earn something out of our own stamps, and when we became Government that was one of the first things we did.

Constitution.

"According to the Constitution, all dealings outside of New Zealand must be by consultation with the New Zealand Government. This we did soon after assuming office. After consultation with the New Zealand Government we took over the authority for all our stamps, that is to say, the Cook Islands Government took over full responsibility of the handling of all its stamps. Before any arrangements were made, all necessary papers were referred to the Crown Law Office in New Zealand and were carefully studied by this Government's Legal Advisor. Only then was the new Philatelic Bureau finally established. Everything concerning stamps was laid on the table with full understanding of the

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New Zealand authorities. The Cook Islands Government, in taking over full control of Cook Island stamps and in expanding stamp services, is acting as a self-governing country, and has done so with full legal and technical advice.

"Acting with expert international advice, including continuous information on international opinion in these matters, the Cook Islands Government can assure everyone that there is no cause whatsoever for concern, but rather for satisfaction. Having introduced a 'Golden Goose' this Government will continue to care for it, and to exercise its right and authority on the matter of the Cook Islands' own stamps."

Exploitation.

Collectors now have Mr. Henry's open admission that he is deliberately setting out to exploit and fleece them. We hope that stamp collectors collectively will have sufficient good sense to turn thumbs down on Mr. Henry's plan by refraining to buy all speculative and unnecessary stamps from Cook Islands (and these terms would certainly apply to the Churchill and Airmail series).

Other territories which have sought to exploit the collectors in this manner have enjoyed spectacular sales for a short period. Then collectors have turned away from them in droves and the stamps now are a drug on the market. A typical example of this is Ghana, a country whose stamps a few years back were exploited in exactly the same manner as the Cook Island stamps are being exploited today. Ghana has completely killed its "golden goose" as most collectors now shun the country, and a wide range of stamps issued by Ghana over the past 4 to 5 years are now being peddled around the wholesale markets of the world at huge discounts UNDER FACE VALUE—with very few takers.—(Acknowledgement to "Stamp News").

MAPS AND EXPLORATION (AFRICA)

By Capt. M. F. Stern, F.R.G.S.

(Continued from page 258, November 1966 Number)

King Manoel I succeeded Joao II on October 25, 1495 and gave command to Vasco da Gama (seen on the Colonial issue, a stamp of Portugal and Portuguese India, his statue on one of Mozambique, an interesting old picture on a stamp of Portuguese India in the Viceroy series, and on a stamp of Nyassa Company) of three ships 'Sao Gabriel' (seen on stamp of Mozambique and also of Nyassa Company and of Portuguese Nyassa), 'Sao Rafael' and 'Sao Miquel', the two later commanded by Paulo da Gama and Nicolau Coelhu. The ships left Belem on March 25, 1497 and sailed to the Cape Verde Islands, reaching St. Helena Bay on November 8 and the Cape of Good Hope on November 22. On Christmas Day, Natal (thus its name) was reached and Mozambique in March 1498. No shore visits were made at Quiloa and Mombasa, but at Melindi in April. Da Gama went ashore and engaged Malemo Dely, an Indian of Gujarat, as pilot. Calicut was reached on May 20, 1498 after crossing the Indian Ocean. In 1898 Africa (Portugal) issued an interesting set, showing Vasco da Gama, the Sao Gabriel, embarking at Raitella, the departure of the fleet, the Sao Gabriel under way, the arrival at Calicut, the Muse of History and the three ships, and finally the Archangel Gabriel on a ship. After obtaining trading rights, da Gama sailed home in November. He visited Cananor on November 20 and Melindi was reached on January 8, 1499. After leaving there on January 20, da Gama reached Lisbon on September 18, 1499.

Before going on with the development of South Africa, there is yet another interesting chapter in exploration. On March 9, 1500 Pedro Alvares Cabral (seen on stamp of Portugal) left Belem for India. En route he discovered Brazil on April 21, 1500. Bartholomew Diaz, one of his captains, was lost in a storm. Joao da Neva sailed from Belem on April 10, 1501, discovering Ascension Island and on July 10, 1501 anchored at Sao Braz (Mossel Bay) where he found a letter in a shoe on a tree, the letter having been left by Pero d'Ataide, who had sailed with Cabral — this being the first known post office box in the world. The tree still exists and letters posted there receive a special cancellation showing the tree—first used on 20 XII 1963. Two beautiful stamps of Mozambique show a ship of King Manoel 1498 and the other a ship of the Armada 1500.

We now step well into history with Rene Caillie (1799-1838 A.D.) seen on stamps of the French West Coast together with map.

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In 1816 he sailed to Senegal and spent some time travelling near St. Denis. In 1824 he again visited Senegal and in 1827-28 landed in Sierra Leone and travelled eastwards to the foothills of the Fouta Djallon and over to the Upper Senegal and into the upper Niger. He started down the Niger, to Djenne, Kabara (the port of Timbuctu) and Timbuctu and then crossed the Sahara, reaching Fez from whence he went to Tangier and back to France.

Following Caillie, we have Gustav Nachtigal (1834-1885) who studied medicine and became an army surgeon. In 1863 he went to North Africa and between 1869 and 1874 visited Murzuk from Tripoli, then explored Tibesti. He crossed the Sahara to the Lake Chad region; then went eastward to Darfur, continued to the Nile and returned to Cairo. In 1884 he annexed Togoland, Cameroons and Angra Pequena (S.W.A.—Luderitzbucht) for Germany. He died at Las Palmas on the return journey. His portrait is on stamp of Germany of 1934.

(To be continued).

INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS ON F.D.C. POSTINGS

MANY ARE NOT "PRINTED PAPERS"

The Post Office of the German Federal Republic has issued a statement concerning the posting of unsealed and empty first day covers, or covers which contain only **blank** "fillers." Since these are liable to seizure under U.P.U. regulations the notice is published in full for the benefit of philatelists:

Unsealed philatelic mail containing unprinted and blank papers or cards, or completely without contents, have been noticed repeatedly in the international postal service. These mail articles which are incorrectly prepaid at the rate applicable to printed matter are not "printed papers" in the sense of the provisions of the Universal Postal Convention of Vienna (Article 127 of the Detailed Regulations). In compliance with the provisions of Article 16, paragraph 14, of the above-mentioned Convention these items, which frequently do not bear the address of the sender, are not conveyed and cannot be returned to the sender, **because no return** address is indicated.

These mail articles must be treated as **dead items, i.e.** neither the sender nor the addressee receives the item. Such disadvantages which are due to non-compliance with the international regulations for the letter mail service by the sender and unpleasant for all parties concerned would be avoided, if these mail items were dispatched in such a manner that they either contain printed matter in accordance with the regulations governing printed papers in the international postal service or are prepaid at the rate for letters.

It also frequently happens that philatelic mail articles are sent to foreign post offices with the request for cancellation and conveyance of these articles which have been correctly prepaid by means of postage stamps of the respective country. In many cases, the postal Administrations cannot meet this wish, because, under the regulations of the country concerned, mail articles may not be posted **by a post office** for conveyance by the postal service, but must be posted **by the sender,** or a person authorised by the sender. Consequently, the postage stamps affixed to such items are not cancelled by the post offices, as desired, and the philatelist is disappointed.

* * * *

It should be noted that even when covers are stamped at letter rate (or even in excess) they come within the prohibition if they are posted **unsealed** and empty, or only containing blank fillers.—(Acknowledgement "Stamp Collecting").

AN ALBUM FOR FAIR SEX

An album, especially designed for women stamp collectors, has been marketed by Seven Seas Stamps (Pty.) Ltd., New South Wales—probably the first of its kind.

Known as "Milady's Stamp Album," the new product is a full standard size album with specially prepared leaves printed in lilac pink. The leaves are housed in a smart washable white vinyl padded binder. Insert in the binder is a frontpiece printed in lilac and mauve with an unusual relief lace design taken from the centre piece of one of the Hungarian Halas lace commemorative stamps. Set into the centre of the cameo lace pattern is a reproduction of the 1939 Belgian charity stamp depicting Ruben's famous painting "Lady in a Velvet Hat."

The album will retail at $5.50, additional matching lilac leaves are available at 60c per dozen. — (Acknowledgement "Stamp News").

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"DELACRYL"—A NEW PRINTING PROCESS

Mr. Turnbull, Secretary of the Royal Philatelic Society of Rhodesia, has drawn attention to a new stamp-printing process called DELACRYL, as reported in the Crown Agents Stamp Bulletin.

This is a development by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., Ltd., who believe that as a result of research, Delacryl goes further towards satisfying the two basic demands in stamp production, namely Colour and Definition.

It is said that the forthcoming Lesotho 20th Anniversary of UNESCO will be printed by this process, as also a new issue on free education in Zanzibar, released on the 25th September, 1966, and the two postage stamps issued by the Government of Ceylon to mark the opening ceremony of the Nineteenth World Health Assembly on 3rd May.

THE GERMAN POST OFFICES IN CHINA AND THE LEASE TERRITORY OF KIAUTSCHOU

(Being a paper read at a meeting of the Johannesburg Philatelic Society by Mr. L. Buchen, F.R.P.S.L.).

The 19th Century saw France, Great Britain and the United States of America well settled in the Treaty Ports of China. The so-called "Policy of the Open Door" which the Chinese Government was compelled to accept, enabled the Great Powers to establish Consulates and Post Offices not only in all major ports but also in the Interior which protected their Nationals and provided postal communications with the homelands. Very profitable trade was carried on and during the last quarter of that century Germany decided that she was also entitled to a share of that golden harvest.

The establishment of the German East Asia Shipping Line during June, 1886, followed by the opening of the first German Postal Agency in Shanghai on the 16th August, 1886, provided the German traders already settled there and those who now followed in fairly large numbers with a very much improved postal service. During October, 1889, a branch office was opened at Tientsin, converted into a Postal Agency on 1st April, 1893, and finally turned into a full Post Office on 1st June, 1900. The Postal Agency at Shanghai had reached full postal status already on the 1st January, 1897.

Subsequent years saw the opening of Post Offices in a number of towns but all these developments were apparently not enough to satisfy German ambitions in the Far East. The German Government was soon on the look-out for a suitable opportunity to occupy some land at which she had cast a longing eye for quite some time —the peninsula adjoining the Bay of Kiautschou.

The assasination of two German missionaries on 1st November, 1897, provided the excuse to dispatch a large German naval squadron consisting of four vessels, followed by another four warships a few weeks later. Troop transports brought a Marine Battalion which acted as the occupation force and this display of military might was more than enough to force the Chinese Government to hand over to Germany on a 99 years lease the Bay of Kiautschou with some land lying to the east and north of it. In addition an area of 50 kilometers in width around the entire lease territory was declared a neutral zone and China also had to grant important concessions on the Shantung peninsula to German railway- and mining interest. The lease territory was placed by Germany under "Imperial Protection" on 27th April, 1898, which opened the doors wide to economic exploitation, turning this area virtually into a German Colony.

To suppress the Boxer Rebellion which, directed against foreigners, broke out during May, 1900, all major powers sent troops to China and Germany participated with a contingent of over 20,000 men. This created some very interesting postal developments and will be referred to again later on.

The first stamps to be used by the German Post Offices in China were the 5, 10, 20 and 50 pfennig values of the 1880 issue of Germany and the 2 Mark of 1875. They were followed by those of the 1889 issues all of which can only show the postmarks of Shanghai and Tientsin, but the 2 Mark stamp can also be found with the postmark Hankow.

(To be continued)

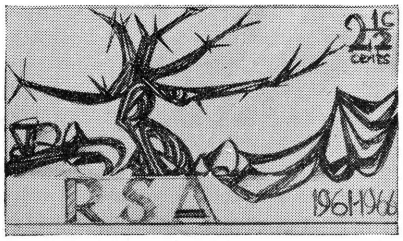
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DIE REPUBLIEKFEES-SEËLS VAN 1966

Deur Prof. F. G. E. Nilant.
(Oordruk uit Historia: jaargang XI nr. II)

Die afbeeldings is van die kunstenaar (mnr. Cecil Skotnes) se eerste sketse van sy oorspronklike ontwerpe wat deur die Departement afgekeur is. Die sketse is aan die Africana Museum geskenk en hulle verskyning hier het ons te danke aan die goedgunstigheid van die Direkteur van die Museum wat portrette van die sketse kosteloos aan ons beskikbaar gestel het. Mnr. Skotnes het ons toestemming verleen om sy sketse te gebruik.



2½c, 'n ryp tropiese boom, simbolies van die Skets van die afgekeurde ontwerp vir die Republiek van Suid-Afrika.

Elke kunsrigting, veral wanneer dit gebruiksvoorwerpe betref, het sy hoogte- en laagtepunte. Selfs met posseëls is dit die geval. Die oorsaak moet o.a. daarin gesoek word dat nuwe seëls, veral in Suid-Afrika, op ongereëlde tye verskyn en dat daar gevolglik geen voltydse aandag aan bestee kan word nie. Die werksaamhede neem sterk toe wanneer daar een of meer nuwe seëls in voorbereiding is, en verdwyn weer wanneer sulke seëls die publiek bereik het.

Dit het in die afgelope jare 'n gewoonte geword, amper 'n sport, om nuwe Suid-Afrikaanse posseëls hewig te kritiseer. Niemand wil ontken dat daarvoor soms geen rede bestaan het nie. Daar word egter uit die oog verloor dat ook 'n minder geslaagde seël sy goeie punte het, en hieroor verneem ons deurgaans maar baie min. Dat opmerkings uit die buiteland dikwels vol lof oor ons seëls is, word gerieflikheidshalwe vergeet.

Maar selfkritiek is 'n lofwaardige eienskap. Dit het ook die hoër posbeamptes besef toe die plan bespreek is om vir die herdenkingsfees van die vyfjarige bestaan van die Republiek Suid-Afrika, 'n stel besondere posseëls uit te gee. Gevolglik is in 1965 'n kompetisie uitgeskryf en die publiek is uitgenooi om ontwerpe voor te lê wat geskik sou wees om vir die republiekfees-seëls gebruik te word. Die reaksie was groter as wat verwag is: amper honderd-en-veertig ontwerpe is ingestuur. Hierby was daar uitstekende uitvoerings en baie oorspronklike gedagtes, maar geen een was geskik om as ontwerp vir die herdenkingseëls te dien nie. Dit is ook wel begryplik. Posseëlontwerp is die werk van 'n spesialis, waarby aan besondere vereistes voldoen moet word en waarvoor sekerlik nie elke kunstenaar of ontwerper oor die juiste aanleg beskik nie. Dié ontwerpe is gevolglik afgekeur.

Aangesien daar inmiddels 'n paar maande verby gegaan het en die tyd min geword het, het die posowerhede 'n komitee aangestel, wat bestaan het uit hoër departementele beamptes, verteenwoordigers van die Republiekfeeskomitee en die Staatsdrukke-

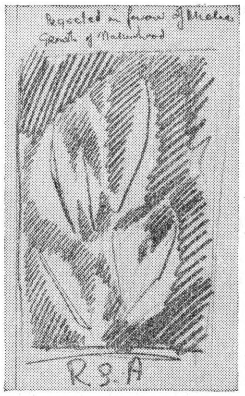
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ry, kunskenners en verder enkele persone wat op daardie tydstip van diens kon wees. Hierdie komitee het hom toegespits op die taak om met geskikte seëls vir die vyfjarige herdenking van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika voor die dag te kom. Onmiddellik het die vraag ontstaan: wat het in hierdie vyf jaar in Suid-Afrika plaasgevind? Die antwoord was nie byster moeilik nie. Dit was vyf jaar van oorbluffende ontwikkeling en tegnies-wetenskaplike vooruitgang, van ekonomiese voorspoed en, ondanks 'n knellende droogte, ook 'n geweldige selfstandige vooruitgang. DIT is wat herdenk sou word. En dit het onmiddellik duidelik geword dat vir die uitbeelding van vyf sulke jare geen gebruik gemaak kon word van historiese simbole, toneelmatige taferele of gedramatiseerde gebare nie. Die komitee het besluit om een kunstenaar te nader om die ontwerp te maak vir die vier besondere seëls wat beoog was. Die keuse het geval op Cecil E. F. Skotnes, en in die volgende maande sou dit blyk 'n besonder gelukkige keuse te wees.

Cecil Skotnes is in 1926 in Oos-Londen gebore. Hy studeer tekenkuns in Florence en werk in die Tegniese Kollege in Johannesburg. In 1950 behaal hy sy B.A.-graad in Skone Kunste aan die Witwatersrandse Universiteit. Sedertdien het hy aansienlike bydrae tot die Suid-Afrikaanse kuns gelewer. Vandag moet hy as een van die beste houtsnee-kunstenaars in ons land beskou word. Hy is 'n aangename mens in die omgang, met 'n praktiese kyk op die lewe en bowendien 'n uitstekende vakman.

Skotnes het spoedig, nadat hy die opdrag ontvang het, vier ontwerpe voorgelê. Hulle het bestaan uit 'n kaal rots, 'n primitiewe plant, 'n ryp tropiese boom, en ten slotte 'n voorstelling van die koms van die mens self. Alles was sterk gestileerd en simbolies uitgebeeld. Dit was pragtige ontwerpe, uitgevoer in mooi sagte blou-groen-ligbruin kleure. Hulle het volkome gebreek met enigiets wat tot dusver op die gebied van posseëlontwerp in Suid-Afrika vertoon was. Die komitee het hierdie ontwerpe met vertroue aan die Departement van Pos- en Telegraafwese aanbeveel.

Desondanks het dié Departement die ontwerpe afgekeur, en hiervoor was daar 'n grondige rede. Modernisering was een ding, maar die ontwerpe, hoe kunssinnig ook, sou slegs deur 'n klein deel van die bevolking kon verstaan word. Aan die breë massa sou hulle betekenis totaal onbegryplik bly—die



Primitiewe plant. Let na die opmerking bo. Vertaal lees dit: Verwerp ten gunste van mielie. Groei van nasie.

herdenking was ten slotte 'n fees vir almal. Bowendien was die uitbeeldings baie algemeen; nie tipies 'n groeibeeld met betrekking tot Suid-Afrika nie.

Dit blyk egter dat die probleem vir Skotnes self intussen ook nie losgelaat het nie. Nadat hy van die departementele besluit in kennis gestel is, het hy binne 'n verrassende korte tyd met vier nuwe ontwerpe te voorskyn gekom.

Een ontwerp was die silhoeët van 'n tipiese Suid-Afrikaanse tafelberg met 'n regaf krans en die see op die voorgrond. Of mens hierin 'n willekeurige berg, Tafelberg, of 'n mynhoop wil sien, maak nie veel verskil nie. Daar is 'n geweldige suggestie van ruimte in hierdie uitbeelding en nêrens sal 'n mens op 'n posseël so 'n sprekende weergawe van die inhoud van die eerste drie reëls van ons volkslied aantref nie! Die ontwerp vir die hoogste waardeseël was 'n wit, ondefineerbare voël, simbool van vryheid en voorspoed, wat opwaarts beweeg teen 'n toekomsmotief op die agtergrond. Daar is 'n sterk suggestie van snelheid in hierdie ontwerp. Die twee tussenwaardes het twee belangrike gebiede van voorspoed aangedui, nl. die industrie deur middel van 'n myntoring en 'n elektriese kragstasie, en die landbou deur middel van 'n mielieplant. Hierdie laaste seël simboliseer tegelykertyd die groei van 'n volk. Hierdie twee seëls se hoofkleure is rooibruin, geel, wit en 'n gedempte rooi. Die van die ander twee ontwerpe is groen, blou, ligbruin en wit. Dit is duidelik dat daar nou ook weer, net soos by die eerste ontwerpe. 'n deurlopende gedagte was, wat die vier seëls met mekaar tot een geheel verbind het.

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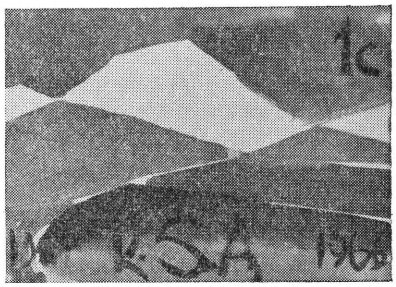


Mielie—Die oorspronklike wat later gewysig is om twee plante te toon.

Die komitee moes eenparig erken dat hierdie ontwerpe nog meer deurdag en gepas was as die eerste stel. Dit was ontwerpe van 'n sterk tegniese uitvoering, wat deur almal verstaan kon word. Die Departement was ook aangenaam verras en het slegs 'n klein aantal veranderinge aanbeveel. Die kleur van die twee tussenwaardes moes meer kontrasteer omdat dit anders moontlik by die praktiese hantering van die seëls, moeilikhede kon veroorsaak. Die seël wat die voorspoed uitgebeeld het, moes 'n bietjie meer perspektief kry, anders sou dit lyk asof die voël in 'n afgeslote ruimte beweeg. Albei hierdie aanbevelings is uitgevoer: die kleure is verander en voor die voël se snawel is 'n inkeping in die lyne aangebring wat die beoogde effek bereik het. Die Departement was egter ook van mening dat dit waardes moes verander. Die voël op die hoogste waarde van die stel, sou lugpos kan suggereer en gevolglik is die waarde verander na 2½c, terwyl die Suid-Afrikaanse berg en see na die hoogste waarde, 7½c verskuif is. Die ander twee seëls het nou ook verander: die industrie het 1c, die mielies 3c geword. In hierdie volgorde is die ontwerpe op juiste seëlgrootte aan die kabinet voorgelê.

Die Kabinet het die seëls baie gunstig ontvang, maar daar is 'n paar veranderings aanbeveel. Op grond hiervan is die ontwerp van die 1c seël (industrie) vervang deur 'n gestileerde ontwerp van 'n diamant teen 'n agtergrond van vlakke, wat die verskillende fasette van die Suid-Afrikaanse ekonomie en die begin van industriële ontwikkeling simboliseer. Die hoofkleur is groen, sonder bykleure. Dit was juis gesien: immers, 'n diamant is deurgaans 'n kleurlose steen en te veel verskillende kleure, sou dit na 'n ander edelsteen laat lyk het.

Die tweede aanbeveling van die kabinet het baie hoofbrekens besorg. Daar is destyds besluit dat ons seëls die opskrif „Republiek van Suid-Afrika" en „Republic of South Africa" sou dra. Kritici het al baie opmerkings gemaak oor die groot aantal letters wat daar op ons posseëls voorkom, maar hulle het nooit sover gekom om ook 'n oplossing aan die hand te doen nie. Op die ontwerpe vir die herdenkingseëls is aanvanklik met die drie letters R.S.A. volstaan. Die regering was egter nie bereid om op hierdie stadium van die oorspronklike besluit op 'n volledige teks afstand te doen nie. As gevolg van die groter aantal letters wat nou op die seëls moes kom, het die komposisie van die ontwerpe in die gedrang gekom. Die waarde-aanduidings is oral heen verskuif en veral op die 7½c-seël, wat 'n geweldige suggestie van wydsheid en rus gehad het, sou te veel teks 'n funeste invloed uitoefen.



Kaal Rots.

Op hierdie stadium het die staatsdrukker met sy ryp ervaring die weg na 'n oplossing aangewys. Na 'n lang bespreking waarby ook nog weer die Minister van Pos- en Telegraafwese se raad gevra is, is besluit om in die eerste plek die seëls eentalig te maak. Hiermee is, as uitsondering, gebreek met die tradisie van tweetalige seëls. Sodoende is die omvang van die bykomende teks met die helfte verminder. Vervolgens het die staatsdrukkery die moontlikheid bestudeer om die grootte van die teks „Republiek van Suid-Afrika" en „Republic of South Africa" nie meer ruimte laat inneem as wat die letters R.S.A. op die oorspronklike ontwerpe sou ingeneem het nie. Nogtans sou daarvoor gesorg word dat die woorde duidelik leesbaar sou wees. Hoewel die drie letters R.S.A., vanselfsprekend rustiger is as 'n komplete sin, is die steurende element nou tog tot 'n minimum beperk en

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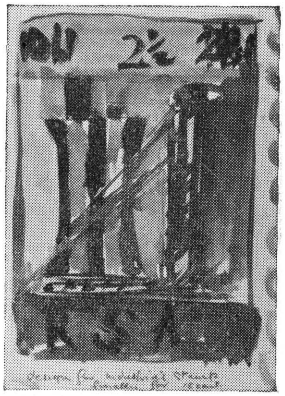
is die komposisie van die ontwerpe nie aangetas nie.

Die ontwerp van die eerstedag-koevert, ook deur Cecil Skotnes, het bestaan uit 'n blik op 'n Suid-Afrikaanse berg (vgl. die 7½c seël) met die simbool van vooruitgang soos 'n ronde skyf op die agtergrond. Ook hierin het later nog weer verandering gekom en uiteindelik is besluit om 'n ontwerp van die Publisiteitstak van die Poskantoor te aanvaar. Dit het bestaan uit die boonste gedeelte van die spesiale stempel wat op 31 Mei gebruik sou word: 'n gestileerde wiel van vooruitgang, twee hande en 'n fakkel. Hieronder is die kaart van die Republiek aangebring. Die kleure is blou en grys. Cecil Skotnes het met hierdie ontwerp ingestem. Op die koevert staan ook die woorde: Republiekfees — Republic Festival, Republiek van Suid-Afrika — Republic of South Africa, Pretoria 31.5.66. Met die afmeting van die koevert, is rekening gehou met die feit dat die posseëls eentalig is en dat daar gevolglik 'n dubbele stel nodig is, sonder egter dat dit te groot en gevolglik onderhewig aan beskadiging in die pos geword het. Die amptelike eerstedag-koeverte sal voortaan genommer word. Bogenoemde koevert is no. 3, met die aanduiding daarvan regs onder. (No. 1 was die I.C.U.-kaart, no. 2 die Kerkherinneringseëls). Ook die plek vir die adres word duidelik aangegee.

* * * *

Dit is die voorgeskiedenis van ons Republiekfees-seëls. Inmiddels het dit Februarie geword en die tyd het verby gesnel. Daar moes blokke en silinders gemaak word, die seëls moes gedruk word en betyds na alle poskantore en agentskappe in ons land versprei word. Kennisgewings, foto's en beskrywings moes na die buiteland gestuur word. Dit bring ontsaglik baie werk mee, maar op hierdie stadium was dit grotendeels roetine-werk.

Waarom is hierdie seëls so belangrik? Elkeen sal vir homself moet uitmaak of hy van die seëls hou. Die feit bly egter staan, dat hierdie posseëls deur 'n eersterangse Suid-Afrikaanse kunstenaar ontwerp is. Bowendien sal niemand ooit kan sê dat die leidende posowerhede nie die voorkoms van ons seëls op hul hart dra nie. Inteendeel, aan min seëls is so geswoeg en soveel aandag bestee, as juis aan hierdie Republiekfees-seëls. Ewemin kan gesê word dat die enkeltaligheid van die seëls geldmakery is.



Industrie. Myntoring en elektriese kragstasie. Die oorspronklike idee vir die 1c wat later deur die diamant-ontwerp vervang is. Die industrie-ontwerp het ook vir ander waardesoorte in aanmerking gekom. Van die byskrif onderaan moet afgelei word dat 'n 15c vir die reeks beoog was: Ontwerp vir industrie-seël. Eindelik vir 15 sent. (Design for industrial stamp—finally for 15 cent). 'n Veelseggende nota het ook die skets vergesel. Dit lui: Colour design for industrial stamp—probably 15 cents—still to be issued on 11 August 1966. (Kleurontwerp vir industrie-seël—waarskynlik 15 sent—nog vir uitreiking op 11 Augustus 1966).

Die gebruiklike 12½c waarde vir geleentheidseëls is self deur 'n baie laer waarde, nl. 7½c vervang, omdat die stel anders moontlik te duur sou kon word!

Die Republiekfees-seëls vertoon moderne en verantwoorde ontwerpe wat volkome daarin slaag om 'n moderne land te simboliseer. Van sentimentaliteit is daar geen spoor nie. Niemand sal kan ontken dat hierdie posseëls in een slag ons Suid-Afrikaanse seëls 'n leidende posisie op 'n internasionale vlak gegee het nie. Hulle is 'n simbool van vooruitstrewendheid!

FISHER-HILL STAMP CO.
Investment-gebou
Commissionerstraat 97,
JOHANNESBURG.
Telefoon 836-5739.

'N GROOT VOORRAAD
albums, katalogusse, bybehore
EN SEËLS
met die klem op Suid-Afrika en die Rhodesies.

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SEËLS TER ERE VAN DR. H. F. VERWOERD

(Met die kort kennisgewing wat die Filatelieburo gekry het, kon die volgende ongelukkig nie betyds geplaas word nie).

Spesiale Posseëls: Die Posmeester-Generaal kondig aan dat spesiale 2½c, 3c en 12½c posseëls op 6 Desember 1966 uitgegee sal word ter ere van dr. H. F. Verwoerd, die ontslape Eerste Minister van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika.

Die seëls sal tweetalig gedruk word en sal by alle poskantore in die Republiek vir 'n tydperk van ongeveer drie maande te koop wees.

Die 2½c en 12½c sal in horisontale formaat 24. 2 x 40.5 mm. wees en die 3c vertikaal 40.5 x 24.2 mm. Al die waardes sal in veldele A en B gedruk word.

Eerstedagkoeverte: Amptelike eerstedagkoeverte 110 x 220 mm. met 'n kaartjie ter verstewiging van die koevert en waarop 'n kort lewensskets van dr. Verwoerd gedruk is, sal ook uitgegee word.

Onbediende koeverte sal teen 7c stuk verkoop word en sal vanaf 21 November by die Filatelieburo, H.P.K., Pretoria, en vanaf 1 Desember by die hoofposkantore in Bloemfontein, Durban, Johannesburg, Kaapstad, Kimberley, Pietermaritzburg, Port Elizabeth en Oos-Londen beskikbaar wees.

'n Korting van 2c per koevert sal op bestellings van 100 of meer toegelaat word. Sodanige bestellings MOET egter by die Filatelieburo, H.P.K., Pretoria, geplaas word.

NUWE POSKAARTE

Nuwe veelkleurige prentposkaarte het op 1 Desember 1966 by alle poskantore verskyn, ter vervanging van die bestaande reeks.

Die stel bestaan uit 20 poskaarte wat verskillende landskappe in die Republiek uitbeeld en kos 2c stuk of 40c per pakkie van 20.

NEW POSTCARDS

The Postmaster General announces that attractive new multi-coloured pictorial postcards will be on sale at all post offices as from the 1st December, 1966, in replacement of the existing postcards.

A set consists of 20 postcards and depicts various scenes in South Africa. The price will be 2c each or 40c per packet of 20. Remittances should include return postage.

BOTSWANA

Bechuanaland Protectorate achieved Independence on the 30th September, 1966, and is now known as the REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA.

Four commemorative stamps, depicting pictorial scenes of local origin were designed by Mr. R. Granger Barrett, and printed in multicolour photogravure by Messrs. Harrison and Sons Ltd., on unwatermarked paper in sheet format of 50 stamps, each measuring 1.1 x 1.75 inches and of horizontal format. The date of release was September 30, 1966.

In addition, the permanent series was overprinted "REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA" and released also on 30th September, 1966.

The history of Botswana is presented in an abreviated form.

In 1885, the Batswana chiefs appealed to Britain for protection and the country was proclaimed a protectorate under Queen Victoria. Until 1895, the southern part (now incorporated into South Africa) was administered jointly with the territory of the Republic, which accounts for the siting of the capital, Mafeking, outside the borders of the state; this was rectified by the creation of the new capital at Gaberones. A new constitution first adopted in 1960, led to self-government in 1965 and the 1966 Independence Constitutional Conference in London, at which September 30, 1966, was fixed as Independence Day.

Botswana's economy depends very largely on the export of cattle, which increased steeply during 1965, largely owing to accelerated killings caused by the drought conditions. Extensive relief schemes for emergency feeding were introduced that year, and will have to continue for some time yet. Other chief products include maize, sorghum, groundnuts, beans, millet, cowpeas and tobacco. At the Lobatsi Abattoir (which was started by the U.K. Commonwealth Development Corporation), over 135,000 head of cattle were slaughtered in 1965. There is also prospect of industrial development with exploratory work being conducted by mining companies in search of copper and soda ash. An asbestos mine functioned until 1965.

The capital of Botswana was moved from Mafeking (now in the Republic) to the new town of Gaberones in February, 1965).

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LESOTHO

Basutoland achieved Independence on the 4th October, 1966, and will in future be known as LESOTHO.

Four attractive stamps of common design were released to mark the memorable occasion. They were designed and printed by Harrison and Sons Ltd., on unwatermarked paper by the photogravure process, in sheet format of 50 stamps, of horizontal format and measure 1.0277 x 1.5 inches each.

In addition to the Commemorative Issue, the Definitive Issue was overprinted "Lesotho" by the Government Printer, Pretoria.

A mountainous country of 11,716 square miles, Lesotho is an enclave within the Republic of South Africa, its boundaries being with Natal to the east, Cape Province to the south and the Orange Free State to the north and west. Three-quarters of it consists of highlands which rise to over 11,000 feet above sea level in the Drakensberg Range. In the centre is a high plateau varying from 9,000 to 10.500 feet, where South Africa's two largest rivers, the Orange and the Tugela, and also the tributaries of the Caledon have their source.

The principal agricultural zone, in which two-thirds of the population is concentrated, is the lowlands which lie in the west at an elevation of about 5,000 feet.

The emergence of the Basotho as a united people dates from 1818 when Moshesh, a chief in the north, gathered together the remnants of various clans that had been scattered by Zulu and Matabele raids.

1856-68 Moshesh (who ruled until 1870) was intermittently at war with the Orange Free State; as a result he sought the protection of the Governor of Cape Colony.

1868 Moshesh and his tribe recognised as British subjects, and their territory as British.

1870 Boundaries of Basotho territory defined.

1871 Basutoland annexed to the Cape Colony by an Act of the Cape legislature.

1884 Difficulties between the Cape Colony Government and the Basotho led to the decision that the British Government should undertake the administration. An Order in Council defined the boundaries of the country and restored it to the direct control of the Crown through the High Commissioner for South Africa.

1910 Basutoland Council created.

1943 District Councils introduced.

1957 Elected element of 42 members introduced on Basutoland Council (additional 52 members nominated by Paramount Chief and five by Resident Commissioner).

1960 New constitution setting up Executive Council and Basutoland National Council (legislature).

1964 Framework of pre-independence constitution agreed on at constitutional conference in London.

1966 Achievement of Independence, Basutoland renamed Lesotho.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

TRIANGULARS.
RECTANGULARS. POSTMARKS

Extensive selections of the above are always available, as well as interesting covers and Postal History material.

References from new customers please.

F. W. COLLINS
STOBOROUGH CROFT
WINCHESTER, ENGLAND.

SOUTH ARFICA "GNUS"

published by me for many years, is known all over the world by collectors who subscribe 3/-d. a year (4/6d. by air) to get information about and offers of South African philately.

Why not follow the example?

C. E. SHERWOOD
(V) P.T.S.,
"The South African Specialist"
105, Marford Crescent, Sale, Cheshire, U.K.

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THE POSTAL TREATMENT OF RHODESIAN INDEPENDENCE STAMPS

By W. Hubert Turnbull

(The Royal Philatelic Society of Rhodesia)

The Date: 11th November, 1965.
The Place: The Grand Hotel, Bulawayo.
The Occasion: A seminar on the administration of Pay As You Earn.
The Hour: Lunch time, between the meat and the sweet courses.

The oven-hot meat cooled off and the ice cold sweet began to melt in the torrid November air as we listened to these words which came to us over the radio:

> "We have struck a blow for the preservation of justice, civilisation and Christianity, and in the spirit of this belief we have this day assumed our sovereign independence."

We were listening to Mr. Ian Smith's fateful broadcast.

And that started it!

There was little philatelic stir at the time, but a month later, on 8th December, 1965, the mauve 2/6d. independence stamp was issued, the first stamp to be printed in Rhodesia, a litho-offset process being used. Reaction in the United Kingdom was swift. Mr. Wedgewood Benn, then Postmaster General, stated in Parliament that the stamps would be declared invalid and any letters bearing them would be treated as though no postage had been paid and would be surcharged accordingly. The reasons for this invalidation (and its legality) are as incomprehensible today as are the many and varied treatments received by the covers bearing these stamps. The subsequent independence overprints were subject to the same invalidation, but later issues by the same Rhodesian Government appear to be acceptable to the postal authorities in the United Kingdom.

Almost immediately these covers became much sought after by philatelists and it is understandable that few collectors would part with them for examination. However, I have been privileged to see most of the various cachets and surcharge devices used, and to overcome the difficulty of obtaining material for first hand study, I obtained all the details required as a result of a questionnaire issued to members of the Royal Philatelic Society of Rhodesia and the Mashonaland Philatelic Society. The response was magnificent and details of 73 covers have become available in one way or another. It would seem that a study of these covers would give a fairly good overall picture of the treatment meted out to the general run of mail received overseas. A copy of the questionnaire used is illustrated.

QUESTIONNAIRE

(1) Name of Issuing post office and date, and value of stamp.

(2) Name of Receiving post office overseas and date.

(3) Sent by registered post, ordinary air mail, air letter form or surface mail.

Reception Overseas.

(4) "Invalid" written or stamped on cover by cachet?

(5) Was the cover surcharged, and if so, how much?

(6) If surcharged, how was this done? By cachet, by open rubber stamp or by hand?

(7) Were postage due stamps affixed and to what value?

(8) Was any fee collected?

(9) How was the cover treated? Neatly? Untidily? or even, maybe, maliciously?

(10) Any other relevant comments?

FROM: (Name please) .....

I first had to get this material into manageable form and tabulated the details on a sheet of paper measuring 20" x 40". It was quite a document, but at least I could see at a glance what material I had got and the sorting could begin.

Countries other than the United Kingdom.

It seemed best to deal with this group first and clear the way for a study of the vagaries of the British Post Office afterwards.

Seventeen letters fell into this category and they were a representative collection, from as far afield as Iceland to Rio, from the Seychelles to Barbados, embracing also Australia and Europe. The following table (Table No. 1) indicates the treatment received by each letter individually:

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TABLE 1

COVERS SENT TO PLACES OUTSIDE THE UNITED KINGDOM

Place	Stamps Used	Treatment
Paris, France	U.D.I. 2/6d	Treated as normal.
Eire	U.D.I. 2/6d	Treated as normal.
Birkirkarn, Malta	U.D.I. 2/6d	Treated as normal.
Malta	O/Print 2/4d	Treated as normal.
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	O/Print 3/6d	Treated as normal.
California, U.S.A.	U.D.I. 2/6d	Treated as normal.
Reykjavik, Iceland	O/Print 2/6d	Treated as normal.
Seychelles	O/Print 1/3d	Treated as normal.
Bridgewater, Barbados	O/Print 1/3d	Treated as normal.
Epping, New South Wales	O/Print 3/6d	Treated as normal.
Limbe, Malawi	U.D.I. 2/6d	Cover not marked, but 2/6d postage due stamp affixed. Fee collected.
Mazabuka, Zambia	O/Print 6d	Cover not marked, 1/- postage due stamp.
Lusaka, Zambia	O/Print 1/4d	"To Pay 1/8d" in manuscript.
Lusaka, Zambia	O/Print 3d	"To Pay 8d" in manuscript.
Nairobi, Kenya	U.D.I. 2/6d	Cachet "NO SERVICE. RETURN TO SENDER."
Nairobi, Kenya	O/Print 1/4d	Cachet "NO SERVICE. RETURN TO SENDER."
Nairobi, Kenya		Another letter sent from New Zealand to an address in Rhodesia was treated in the same way and returned to sender in New Zealand.

It will be seen from the above that all the foreign countries accepted our stamps as normal. Seychelles, Barbados and New South Wales, although Commonwealth countries, did not follow the lead of the United Kingdom post offices.

Zambia and Malawi did not appear to have cachets of a suitable nature available and inserted the surcharges in manuscript.

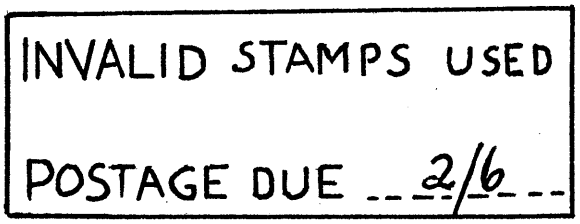
Kenya refuses to accept any mail from Rhodesia.

Cachets used in the United Kingdom.

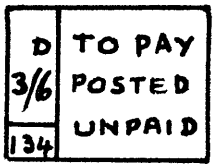
The few examples cited above seem to indicate some consistency in the attitude of countries other than Britain in the treatment of our covers. However, when we come to examine those sent to the United Kingdom, the overall picture changes very considerably and inconsistency appears to be the keyword. Nine different cachets have been seen and these were used singly or in varying combinations. Perhaps the most consistent thing about them was that green ink was used throughout! The accompanying sketches indicate the various cachets that have been seen.

Only two of these cachets (Figures 6 and 7) bear the Mount Pleasant initials. Mount Pleasant is the main clearing office for foreign mail and it is here that the first cachet is imprinted on the cover and the amount of surcharge indicated in manuscript in the cachet. The letters are then dispatched to their respective addresses and the receiving office either adds another cachet indicating the postage due or affixes the postage due stamps, or both. In twelve instances no postage due stamps were affixed, about 25% of the letters concerned. In all but two of these letters no fee was collected, because no postage due stamps were

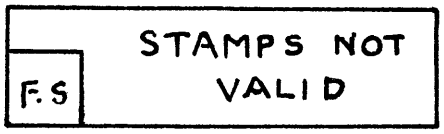
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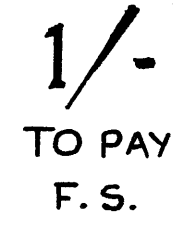
No. 1



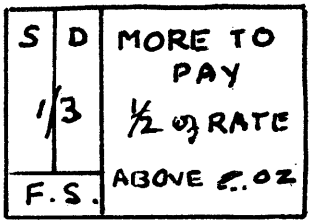
No. 2



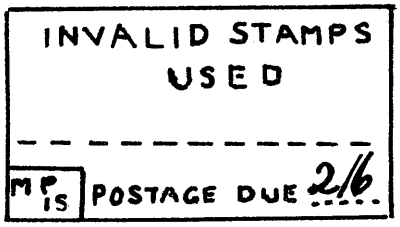
No. 3



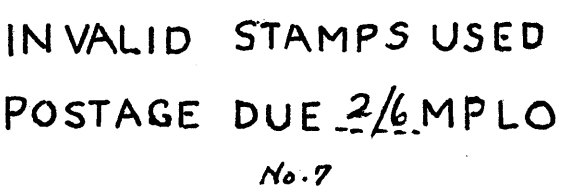
No. 4



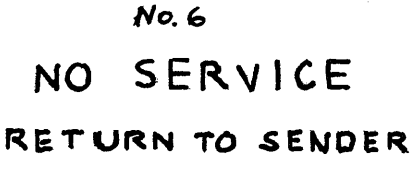
No. 5



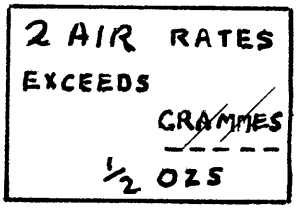
No. 6



No. 7



No. 8



No. 9.

affixed (the receipt for the surcharge), but in the other two cases the postman collected the fee. The amounts involved were 2/6d and 1/6d respectively.

Of the two Mount Pleasant cachets referred to above one has the letters MP/IS (Mount Pleasant Inland Service) in a box in the cachet and the other has the letters MPLO (Mount Pleasant Letter Office) at the end of one line of an open rubber stamp.

Three of the others (Figures 3, 4 and 5) bear the letters "FS", presumably "Foreign Service," but up to the time of writing I have been unable to ascertain from whence these cachets emanate.

Figure No. 4, the open rubber stamp, I have seen only on air letter forms sent to London. In three cases no postage due stamps were affixed and the one that did bear a 1/- postage due stamp was cancelled with a date stamp "London W1." All four letters also bore the cachet as shown in Figure No. 3. In one case there had been some uncertainty. A "6d TO PAY" rubber stamp (like Figure 4) was first stamped on the letter, was then smudged out in heavy green ink and the "1/- TO PAY" stamp was substituted. Another similar letter to the same address arrived whilst the addressees were away, and delivery was not accepted. This letter then had the postage due stamp cancelled and the two usual cachets were imprinted on the cover:

CHARGES NOT
COLLECTED

and

UNDELIVERED FOR REASONS
STATED. RETURN TO SENDER.

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The letter was returned to Salisbury where two ordinary 3d stamps of the Southern Rhodesia definitive issue were stuck over the original offending stamp and the letter was posted again. Again it returned to Salisbury, presumably on the strength of the two cachets quoted above, which sent it back the first time. The sender than gave up the unequal battle.

One cover had "Invalid" in manuscript written neatly under the stamp and the usual postage due cachet (Figure No. 2) was stamped on the letter, the requisite postage due stamps were affixed and a fee of 3/6d was collected.

The cachet depicted in Figure 1 was not so common as some of the others and was probably used at other distributing centres than Mount Pleasant. Derby, distributing to the Midlands, used a similar hand stamp and two other examples emanate from Plymouth and Teignmouth, representing the West Country.

At Cambridge and Bickley the word "Invalid" was written in manuscript on one cover received at each place, but other covers to the same addresses used an "Invalid Stamps" cachet.

The cachet depicted at No. 9 in the illustrations was seen on only two covers. In one case it was used to indicate that the letter weighed over the normal ½ ounce limit. The word "Grammes" was scribbled out and "½" was inserted in the space before "OZS." In front of the word "RATES" the words "2 AIR" were added in manuscript.

Cachet No. 8 was used only in Kenya, where mail from Rhodesia is not accepted.

Postage Due.

On thirty-seven of the covers I had definite information as to the amount collected. The details are presented in tabulated form in the table which follows.

The ordinary air letter form, on which the normal postage to Britain is 6d, seemed to present little difficulty to the postal authorities. The letters were treated as unstamped and double the deficiency was charged, i.e. 1/-. Seven of these are recorded in the table.

Two of these had the postage due stamp for 1/- affixed and the 1/- fee was collected.

One did not bear the postage due stamp, the letter was not accepted and was returned to sender.

One bore the 1/- postage due stamp, the addressee refused to pay and the letter was returned to sender.

Two had no postage due stamps affixed, the letters were delivered and no fee was collected.

One had no postage due stamps affixed, the letter was delivered and the fee of 1/- was collected.

So, although the postal officials seemed to agree as to what the surcharge should be, the subsequent fate of the letters was different in nearly all cases.

The use of the postage due stamps also varied. Although surcharged, about a quarter of the 37 letters did not carry postage due stamps, and again, some were cancelled with the local date stamp and some were not, the percentage in this case being about fifty-fifty.

Perusal of Table 2 reveals some very interesting discrepancies and suggests that postal authorities either had no definite instructions or that they interpreted them in many different ways.

For example, of the letters bearing the U.D.I. 2/6d stamp, thirteen were sent by registered letter post, for which the postage would be 1/3d + 1/- registration, 2/3d in all. The postage due on six of these was charged as 1/3d, the ordinary air letter rate, the post offices concerned being in Hanoed (Wales) Cambridge (3), Cawston (Norfolk) and London E.C.

Four of them, one addressed to Streatham, one to Highgate and two to London E.C. 2, were surcharged 2/3d, presumably the single deficiency plus registration.

One sent to Nailsea in Somerset was surcharged 3/6d, double the deficiency, plus registration fee.

Two sent to Melksham (Wiltshire) bore postage due stamps for 1/- plus a rubber stamp "TO PAY 5/-", making 6/- surcharge in all. This was paid "under protest," but it could have been correct if the letters had exceeded the ½ ounce rate.

The ordinary, unregistered air letters also received varying treatment. Four were correctly surcharged 2/6d, double the deficiency in postage. These were from post offices as far apart as Bickley (Kent), London N.12, Hastings (Sussex) and Manchester. Another one arriving at Manchester was delivered without surcharge. One was

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surcharged 1/3d at Hull and one was surcharged 2/3d at a London post office.

And, finally, one sent by ordinary surface mail to Southampton was surcharged 6d, double the deficiency.

The registered air letter forms met with similar uncertainties. I have details of three of these, all addressed to Cawston, in Norfolk. Two bore an ordinary 6d Southern Rhodesia definitive plus two 2/6d U.D.I. stamps. They were each surcharged 9d. The other carried a single 2/6d U.D.I. and was surcharged 3/6d.

The Overprint issue was treated in much the same way, although I have not so many examples to study.

An ordinary air letter sent to Bickley, in Kent, bearing 1/3d overprints was surcharged 2/6d. One sent to Croydon, Surrey, was similarly treated, but two bearing short sets from ½d to 1/- went through Cawston, Norfolk, unscathed. Cambridge, on the other hand charged the single deficiency (1/3d) on a similar short set.

In one or two cases quoted in the foregoing it has been shown that some people refused to pay the surcharges. But the reverse was also true. As the value of these covers became more widely known, any that slipped through without fee were taken back to the post office to have the postage due stamps affixed and an "invalid" cachet of some sort imprinted thereon. I am told that this was not a matter of patriotic principle on the part of the recipients, but was rather one of philatelic fervour in search of a treasure.

Tabulated details of the covers are shown in Table 2 which follows:

TABLE 2

POSTAGE DUE CHARGED AND COLLECTED

Receiving Office	Surcharge	Postage Due Stamps Used	Fee Collected
Hanoed (Wales)	1/3	1/- + 3d	1/3
Cambridge	1/3	NIL	1/3
Cambridge	1/3	1/- + 3d	1/3
Cambridge	1/3	1/- + 3d	1/3
Greenford (M'sex)	2/6	2/6	2/6
London	2/3	1/- + 1/- + 3d	2/3
Hull	1/3	NIL	NIL. Letter Delivered.
Streatham (London)	2/3	1/- + 1/- + 3d	2/3
Bickley (Kent)	2/6	NIL	NIL. Letter Delivered.
Bickley (Kent)	1/-	1/-	1/-
Bickley (Kent)	2/6	2/6	2/6
Highgate (London)	2/3	1/- + 1/- + 3d	2/3
Southampton	6d	6d	6d
London E.C.2	2/3	1/- + 1/- + 3d	2/3
London E.C.	2/3	1/- + 1/- + 3d	2/3
Hastings (Sussex)	2/6	2/6	2/6
London E.C.	1/3	1/- + 3d	1/3
London N.12	2/6	2/6	2/6
Prestatyn (Wales)	1/-	NIL	NIL. Delivery Refused Letter R.T.S.
Manchester	2/6	2/6	2/6
Manchester	NIL	NIL	NIL. Letter Delivered.
London W.1	1/-	1/-	NIL. Delivery Refused Letter R.T.S.
London W.1	1/-	NIL	NIL. Letter Delivered
London W.1	1/-	1/-	1/-
London W.1	1/-	NIL	NIL. Letter Delivered
Nailsea (Somerset)	3/6	2/6 + 1/-	3/6
Cawston (Norfolk)	9d	6d + 2d + 1d	9d
Cawston (Norfolk)	3/6	6 x 6d Stamps = 3/-	3/6 or 3/-
Cawston (Norfolk)	1/3	6d + 5d + 4d	1/3
Cawston (Norfolk)	1/3	6d + 5d + 4d	1/3
Cawston (Norfolk)	NIL	NIL	NIL. Letter Delivered

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Cawston (Norfolk)	NIL	NIL	NIL. Letter Delivered
Saffron Walden (Essex)	2/6	2/6	2/6
Melksham (Wiltshire)	6/-	1/- + TO PAY 5/-	6/- Under Protest
Melksham (Wiltshire)	6/-	1/- + TO PAY 5/-	6/- Under Protest
Croydon (Surrey)	2/6	2/6	2/6
Croydon (Surrey)	1/-	NIL	1/-

Since compiling the above I have been fortunate to see half a dozen other covers with combinations of the current February 1966 Rhodesia issue and overprints. The Rhodesia issue appears to be acceptable in the United Kingdom, but the assessment of the postages due varied in even these few covers.

One ordinary air letter bore a 9d Rhodesia and a 1/3 overprint. Deficiency in postage 6d, surcharge 2/6d.

One ordinary air letter bore a 2/6d Independence stamp, was rated over ½ ounce and was correctly surcharged 5/-.

Another with a 6d Rhodesia and a 1/- overprint, deficiency 9d, was surcharged 2/-

A 1/- Rhodesia and a 6d overprint was surcharged 1/3, although the deficiency was only 3d.

Another with a 1/- Rhodesia and a 6d overprint, exactly as the last, was surcharged 2/6d.

All these bore postage due stamps to the correct value of the surcharges indicated and all the postage due stamps were cancelled. The above additions to those studied previously only make confusion worse confused.

Censorship.

There was no evidence on any of the 73 covers to indicate that they had been examined by censors. Two letters from the United Kingdom to Rhodesia are known to have been opened. One had British Postal Orders enclosed for the purchase of RHOPEX first day covers. British Customs and Currency control had opened the letter, seen the postal orders and inserted a polite roneoed slip advising the addressee to warn the sender that he was contravening currency regulations and to advise him not to do it again. The postal orders were not confiscated. Another quite innocent letter, from Cawston in Norfolk, was opened by officials and resealed with a Government Label inscribed "BRITISH CUSTOMS AND CURRENCY EXAMINATION." These are the only two cases that have come to my notice. There was no indication on the covers as to where the examination had taken place. The sealing label was franked with a round stamp, in red ink, bearing a crown and the number "27". The writing at the top of the circle was indecipherable, but could have been "Customs and Currency."

Conclusions.

I have written the foregoing, and you, presumably, if you have got as far as this, have read it. What would you conclude? It all seems to me to be much like the schoolboy's packet of stamps—"100 all different."

There seems to be no basis on which any correlation can be done at all. Various cachets have been used in differing combinations or singly or not at all. In the same towns or cities the surcharges raised were different, some were collected and some were not. Sometimes postage due stamps were used to support the cachet and even the treatment of these stamps differed—some were cancelled and some were not. In one case it is known that the postman refused to accept the fee to be paid, and in other cases where surcharges had been raised no fee was paid. In some instances the recipient appears to have been badly "stung," in many others he got off very lightly. The Post Office Guide states quite clearly that "Letters and Postcards posted unpaid are chargeable on delivery with double postage, or, if unsufficiently prepaid, with double the deficiency." Many of the letters in this survey were delivered with only the single deficiency charged. About all that one can say on the matter is that sanctions against Rhodesia must have brought some headaches to postal authorities in the United Kingdom.

Most of the cachets and postage due stamps were placed on the covers with reasonable neatness, especially considering that many passed through busy post offices. A few cases have been mentioned where the Rhodesian stamps were deliberately scribbled over, or defaced in some other way, but none has come to my notice. I have one cover in my possession that is a perfect specimen, and my thanks are due

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to the official, who must also be a philatelist, for the loving care extended to my cover.

Since writing the above I have had a reply to some of my queries addressed to the Postal Services Department, G.P.O., London.

I quote as follows: The Postmaster General's first statement about the validity of Rhodesian Independence stamps was made in reply to a Parliamentary Question on 2nd December, 1965. Further Parliamentary Questions on the same subject were answered on the 27th January, 2nd February, 23rd February and 1st July, 1966.

Immediately following the Postmaster General's statement in the House of Commons, inward offices of exchange dealing with mail from Rhodesia were instructed to regard "independence" stamps as invalid, and surcharge accordingly. Each office used a green cachet which included the words: "Invalid stamps used . . . . Postage Due" to show the addressee why the item had been surcharged. Some of the special hand stamps made for the purpose bore an identification code—MP IS is that for London—to show which office raised the surcharge.

With regard to the surcharges raised on our various letters the following should have been standard practice. The procedure should have been as follows:

Surcharges on underpaid registered items are based on the single deficiency in postage, the value of any stamps affixed being first offset against the registration fee. A totally unpaid registered letter would thus be charged at the appropriate single letter rate, the registration element being ignored.

I feel that the "Invalid" stamps and their treatment overseas mark an important phase in the postal history of Rhodesia. That I am not alone in this feeling is evidenced by the wonderful response which was accorded to my questionnaire by members of the Royal Philatelic Society of Rhodesia and those of the Mashonaland Philatelic Society, to whom I extend my very grateful thanks and without whose help this survey would have been quite impossible. In addition I must thank Mr. J. M. Jarand, of the British Postmarks Society, for his most willing help in answering some of my queries, to Mr. J. R. Strong, of the Royal Philatelic Society of Rhodesia, who was always at hand with ready help and, finally, to Mr. James A. Mackay, of the British Museum, who, although he did not always know it, was ever a source of inspiration. And perhaps I should not conclude these acknowledgements without some reference to my wife who became a philatelic widow for long hours over many weeks whilst I tried to reconcile the irreconcilable.

Why I Collect SOUTH AFRICA

By Eileen A. Cox

My introduction into serious philately began about eight years ago when my husband gave me an unmounted accumulation of material of the Union of South Africa consisting of many of the phases of Union collecting. "Here's something for you to cut your philatelic teeth on" he said. Up till then I had only been collecting thematics —in a small way. He told me I would find particular interest in the many printings of South African stamps which, at first glance, looked similar. As he predicted, I found these to be a fascinating study: not only the stamps, but also the postal history and especially the growth of the South African air mail service.

South Africa was one of the four countries which in 1911 pioneered the carriage of mail by air (this having been between Kenilworth and Muizenberg), the others being India, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. Up to the present day air mail history is still being written, so one's collection and interest is never dead.

A recent unique, and interesting, item which a very good correspondent returned to me is an Australian commemorative aerogramme which had been issued to honour the **Commonwealth Law Conference** held in Sydney during August and September last year. This had been posted at the special post office established at the Conference and sent on to my South African friend. When it arrived at the office of destination it was stolen by a native postman, but was then recovered and held by the police, as evidence, until after the Court

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hearing. It was then delivered, with a note of explanation from the postmaster and with the Department's regret for the mutilation and the delay in delivery. What an unusual coincidence and tie-in! A special **Law Conference** aerogramme, posted from the special conference post office and then stolen and used as evidence in a Court of Law!

Another interesting phase of my South African postal history is that of "Non-European" cancellations that can be encountered. These, I imagine, would be the only philatelic examples of the Apartheid Policy. My attention to these was first drawn by a cover I received (in a bulk lot) from a firm in England "Predominant in Air Mails." It was a registered cover of 1934 vintage, with both cancellations and registration label reading "Non-European Post Office, Pretoria." Other types of these cancellations which I now have are: "Pretoria, Non-E," ..Brak Pan, Non-E," "Durban-Bantu," "Vereeniging-Location," "Bloemfontein-Location," "Germiston Loc./Lok." and many others. Some of these Non-European post offices now have merely numbers together with the town name such as "Pietermaritzburg 18," "Pretoria 36," "Durban 107," etc., thus camouflaging the nature of the post office. Pietermaritzburg has an Indian office also, though this cancellation, up till now, has eluded me.

These are just a few examples of the side-paths one can find in South African collecting, when you get off the beaten track of collecting merely stamps as such.

Another aspect, which holds great interest for me, is that of war-time mail. It was during this period that airgraphs made their appearance, though eventually (as the necessity for aircraft space economy decreased) they disappeared. However, their stable-mate the air letter (now aerogramme) proved its worth in peace as it did in war, and many interesting items of this type of air mail stationery are in my collection. Their varied inscriptions show stages in South African history: **War—Peace—Pence—Cents**—and now the **Republic.**

As my collection grows, so does my interest. — (Acknowledgement "The Aero Field").

BIG MONEY IN THE MAIL

Stamps have become money-spinners for newly independent countries.

Two African States issued independence stamps which will bring in about R200,000 from sales to dealers.

The stamps were released by Botswana—formerly Bechuanaland — and Lesotho — known as Basutoland until independence.

A spokesman for the British Government stamp agency said: "About 50 per cent. of these issues will be bought by collectors and dealers.

"Some places, like Tristan da Cunha, Pitcairn Island and Tonga, depend a great deal on stamp issues for their livelihood."

The Botswana stamps depict an aeroplane, a Government building—and an abattoir.

The Lesotho issue shows heads of Moshoeshoe I, 19th century king of Basutoland, and Moshoeshoe II, the present sovereign.—(Acknowledgement "The Star," Johannesburg).

POSTAL ORDERS

Commenting upon the new British Postal Order, the "Philatelic Magazine" writes that although postal orders are hardly a philatelic subject, the newly designed £5 postal order—the handiwork of Professor Richard Guyatt and which made its appearance in September—has been given so distinctive a philatelic flavour that it would seem a pity to ignore it. The profile portrait of the queen is incorporated to the left of the design and was taken from the Dorothy Wilding photograph previously used on the 3d. Letter Card and the 2½d. postcard.

Postal orders were first introduced in Great Britain in 1883, under the Postmaster-Generalship of Henry Fawcett. They were called Postal Notes in those days and were issued for sums of up to 20/- only. Poundage varied from ½d. to 2d. The following year a new regulation was introduced permitting the affixing of mint stamps for the purpose of increasing the nominal value.

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SOCIETY NEWS

JOHANNESBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY

August. Messrs. Oppenheim and Wedderburn-Maxwell opened the meeting by discussing current events. Germiston Philatelic Society were the visitors of whom Mr. Curle exhibited a balanced collection of Australia, Mr. Mephius, a portion of his Denmark collection and Mr. Hagger, the typographed issues of the Union.

September. Mr. Oppenheim discussed the new German Catalogues and exhibited a miniature sheet from Czechoslovakia with tabs among other items. Mr. Wedderburn-Maxwell commented upon the price aspect of stamps.

Mr. Seelig exhibited an excellent collection of Swiss Pro Juventute and Pro Patria stamps. Dr. von Varendorff followed with a fine collection of Bavaria.

BELLVILLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

September. The monthly meeting was cancelled due to the tragic death of the Prime Minister.

COMBINED WESTERN PROVINCE SOCIETIES MEETING AT THE "ROYAL"

Messrs. Beunderman, Lee and Goldblatt exhibited. Mr. Beunderman showed some very interesting items from his South African collection, Mr. Lee showed Great Britain 1964-1965, and Mr. Goldblatt showed St. Helena, Rhodesia and Natal.

AFRIKAANSE PHILATELISTIESE VERENIGING VAN PRETORIA

September. Ondanks die feit dat daar besonder baie ander dinge aan die gang was daardie aand, was die opkoms nog heeltemal bevredigend. Drie uitstallings het plaasgevind: nl. mnr. Fouché: Suid-Wes Afrika, mnr. Becker: Lugposkoeverte van Suid-Afrika, en ten slotte, prof. Gonin: Switserland. Aldrie was besonder mooi versorgde versamelings en was netjies en oorsigtelik opgestel.

By 'n bestuursvergadering vroeër in die maand is 'n aantal drastiese besluite geneem, o.a. om te probeer verhoed dat lede so stadigaan wegsmelt namate die maandvergadering aangaan. Die gewoonte is blykbaar besmetlik en neem toe. Daar sal wel iets op gevind word.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIIETY

September. The meeting was the occasion of a visit from the Johannesburg Society when Mrs. Hodgkin sent over an exhibit of West Germany. Mr. J. Frankland exhibited King Edward VII Stamps of countries under the letter M, viz. Malta etc.; Mr. J. Michelson followed with a humorous skit on the printing of stamps giving all sorts of colours and varieties such as over and under inking etc.—an exhibit he entitled "Philatelica Absurda." A small exhibit of First Day Covers of Austria concluded a pleasant evening.

THE MASHONALAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

September. An excellent attendance of 41 members and 21 visitors enjoyed the exhibits staged by the Lomagundi group.

The following **Amendments** should be made to the recent publication "A Guide to the Postage Stamps of Rhodesia, 1964-1966."

Top of page 15—add under offsets "1d."

Top of page 16—for SG 354 read "SG 374."

Amendment slips will be included in future volumes sold.

To date 92 copies have been sold, so there are plenty more left at 10/6 each plus postage.

Mardon Printed Definitives. The 4d. value has recently been printed. It is **understood** to have been printed with two pane numbers 1A x 3 and 1B x 3, also that the first batch of 1B was in some way unsatisfactory and that the printing was destroyed and another undertaken. The result will be that 1B's will be in relatively short supply.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

September. The occasion was an exhibit of ten sheets from a member's collection which resulted in a world-wide selection of most interesting items and an enjoyable and instructive evening.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

October. A well-attended meeting enjoyed an interesting afternoon. Dr. Raubenheimer discussed the recent issue of the 5c Republican stamp printed on RSA watermark paper and Dr. Berry along with Messrs. Webbstock and Hagger introduced a study of the Travelling Post Office cancellations.

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PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

October. An excellent attendance enjoyed Dr. Sherel's paper and exhibit of the World Cup Football Competition stamps.

Mr. Huthwaite tabled two very unusual items as well as reading an extremely interesting article on the early British Guiana 1c stamp.

SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELY

September. Mr. Spitzer, Deputy Director of the Israeli Philatelic Services, and Mr. Veiffar, a leading Israeli collector from Holland, were guests of the evening and addressed members.

Dr. Max Wulfsohn displayed a collection of stamps, covers and relevant material in support of an excellent paper titled "The Jewish Contribution to Medicine and Science."

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

September 8. The evening's entertainment was the responsibility of Mr. J. Wannerton who adequately interested members with an exhibit from his George V and George VI extensive collections of Canada.

September 22. The annual Western Province "get-together" was once again an outstanding success when seven visiting societies provided the evening's entertainment with fourteen exhibits covering a wide range of philately.

The Society regrets to record the passing over of a past Exchange Superintendent and an Hon. Life Member, Mr. C. V. R. Solomon.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL

October 13. Five members visited the Pietermaritzburg Society and spent a very pleasant evening there. Mr. L. Bevis exhibited his thematic collection of Orchids; Mr. I. Bevis, his Greece; Mrs. B. Bevis her United Nations and Mr. Slater-Kinghorn sent up his Union Air Letters Collection.

October 19. Two entries competed for the Union Cup Award, Mr. Slater-Kinghorn's Collection of Air Mail Cards used during World War II and Mr. Potgieter's Union Bantams. After mature consideration, the Judges awarded the cup to Mr. Slater-Kinghorn's exhibit.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

October. There were no exhibits at the meeting which took the form of a Swop and Sell evening—a most enjoyable event. Thereafter the Vice-President, Mr. R. G. L. Mephius, recently returned from a visit to Rhodesia, conveyed the Philatelic greetings from the Bulawayo Society, and then gave a short but very instructive and interesting talk on Luminous Postage Stamps for automatic sorting of mail matter and demonstrated the use of an Ultra Violet Lamp.

THE O.F.S. PHILATELIC SOCIETY

September. A fairly well-attended meeting enjoyed two exhibits. Mr. Roux staged a portion of his collection of three African territories, Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone.

The second exhibit was provided by the Thematic Stamp Club of Cape Town, entitled "My Trip Round Africa." This was compiled by the late Mr. C. C. Mummery and bequeathed to the Cape Society.

CAPE TOWN PALESTINE ISRAEL PHILATELY

August. Dr. M. Peisach was responsible for arranging a very interesting and enjoyable Quiz evening, the subject of which was arranged in two parts, viz. the first set of questions was visual, the second oral.

September. A bumper attendance was attracted to the meeting which was devoted to a display of all the Festival Issues from 1948-66, a member being alloted a year so as to make the exhibit a combined effort and resulting in a highly successful effort.

HERE AND THERE

"He Loved His Stamps More Than His Wife."

These stirring words formed the headline in the "Daily Express" recently. Briefly, the case was this: Mr. A. fell in love with Mrs. B., the wife of a collector dealer, and offered Mr. B. £150 of stamps in exchange for his spouse. The offer was accepted, an agreement drawn up and the exchange made. On returning home Mr. B. found his new acquisitions had been removed by Mrs. B. earlier in the week from his collection. All parties are now in prison, charged with conspiring to be immoral. The scene was located in New York.—("The Philatelist").

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FOR EVERY 100 commemoratives or pictorials of your country, I will return 110 Australian commemoratives and pictorials. R. Christophers, P.O. Box 60, South Caulfield, Victoria, Australia.

South African Collectors' Society for the Union Collector—magazine, exchange packet. Subscription 15/- ($2) year. Write Hon. Secretary, W. A. Page, 138 Chastilian Road Dartford, Kent, England.

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SIMENHOFF BOOKLET.—The Occupational Postmarks of the Mandated Territory of South West Africa by Capt. L. Simenhoff; the series as run in The South African Philatelist, in booklet form (24 pages). Price 30c post free.—Philatelic Federation, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

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WANTED: Union King's Heads; Miniature Sheets Animal Series.—V. Webbstock, P.O. Box 2, Bryanston, nr. Johannesburg.

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