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THE SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST

VOLUME 30 — 1954

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Western Rand, P.S. of, 157 Durban Deep, Roodepoort, Transvaal.	4th Wednesday, Parish Hall, Amelia St., Roodepoort

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THE

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EDITORIALLY SPEAKING

(1) **Philatelic Franking.** In our October issue we published a little note suggesting to our readers, especially those in South Africa, to introduce a little spice and variety into their franking of letters, by using wherever possible not just the commonest of current stamps, but more interesting stamps or combinations of stamps.

We quite expected to receive, and would indeed have been disappointed if we had not recivd, communications asking us why in the case of the 'South African Philatelist' itself, we did not practice what we preached.

The answer can be given in one word — economy. By making use of the Post Office's Bulk Postage scheme we can get local delivery in the Union, at ½d. rate (for which there is no adhesive stamp available!); this means arranging the packets by towns, districts and streets ready for delivery with no further sorting to be done. On packets for the African Union (which is practically Africa south of the equator) we get ½d. rate, other countries 1d. rate. This scheme saves us on an issue of about 1,700 per month, quite a little sum and for a magazine which is scarcely yet paying its way, it is something we just cannot afford to neglect, however much we might have liked to ring the changes on ½d. and 1d. franking.

(2) Union Flower, Animal and Bird Stamps.

On another page is a letter from Mr. W. N. Gilbert referring to the rumour that is flying around that the Union is soon to go in for a set of Flower Stamps, to be followed by another lot of Animal Stamps and eventually by one of Bird Stamps. We do not know what truth there is in the rumour, but it is certainly a persistent and widespread one.

Our personal opinion agrees with that expressed by Mr. Gilbert, but we would be glad to hear from Societies and philatelists in South Africa generally what they think on the matter.

U.S.A.

November 11th saw the issue of the stamp honouring Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., and the Armoured Forces of the U.S. Army, and December 30th the 'Gadsden Purchase' centennial. That finishes the thirteen for 1953; we have not so far seen any list of those contemplated for 1954, but they start on January 4th with one for the 200th anniversary of the founding of Columbia University, N.Y.

UNION NOTES

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

RECENT PRINTINGS

The Publicity Officer of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs has kindly supplied the following information covering the period from 22.7.53 to 21.10.53. For the previous list see our September issue.

Ordinary Pictorial Postage Stamps:

1d. — Job No. 12748 contd. On an order for 1,000,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, 430,090 have so far been delivered. Same cylinders as before, No. 54 Interior and No. 53 Exterior.

2d. — Job No. 5906 contd. On an order for 1,000,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, 174,856 have been delivered to date from same cylinders as before, Nos. 27 Interior and 18 Exterior.

3d. —Job No. 12743 contd. On an order for 100,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, 58,400 have been delivered to date. Some one colour cylinder (No. 17) as before.

4½d. — Job No. 7202. New postage stamp. On an order for 60,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, the first batch of 1,500 was delivered on 27.8.53 and a total of 66,500 sheets up to the final date of delivery on 10.9.53. Printed from new cylinders Nos. 76 Interior and 47 Exterior.

6d. — Job No. 12745. On a new order for 50,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, 24,900 were delivered on the 22.9.53 from same cylinders as before, Nos. 6930 Interior and 6 Exterior.

1/- — Job No. 12746. On a new order for 50,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, 14,500 were delivered on 4.8.53. from the same cylinders as before, namely Nos. 6926 Interior and 6935 Exterior, and a further batch of 24,877 sheets on 24.9.53 from new cylinders Nos. 66 Interior and 3 Exterior. Total to date on this order equals 39,377 sheets.

1/3 — Job No. 7203. New postage stamp. On an order for 60,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, the first delivery of 20,000 was made on 27.8.53 and a total of 35,000 has been supplied to date. Printed from a new one colour cylinder No. 30.

1/6 — Job No. 7204. New postage stamp. On an order for 100,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, the first batch of 4,000 was delivered on 18.8.53 and a total of 70,514 sheets to date. Printed from new cylinders Nos. 21 Interior and 68 Exterior.

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Centenary of Postage Stamps in South Africa:

1d. — Job No. 8394 contd. On an order for 200,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, 205,015 were supplied up to the final date of 30.7.53 for this Job No. Printed from cylinders Nos. 19 Interior and 107 Exterior.

1d. — Job No. 10220/3. On an order for a further 75,000 sheets of this value, 5,000 were delivered on 10.9.53 and a total of 76,150 sheets up to the final date of 22.9.53. Same cylinders as before, Nos. 19 Interior and 107 Exterior.

4d. — Job No. 10291/3. On an order for an additional 5,000 sheets of this denomination (See Job No. 8395 in September issue), 4,000 were delivered on 15.9.53 and a total of 6,750 sheets up to the final date on 17.9.53. Printed from nem cylinders Nos. 106 Interior and 90 Exterior.

Roll Stamps:

1d. — Job No. 4113 contd. On an order for 12,000 rolls of 506 stamps per roll, and 7,000 rolls of 1,012 stamps per roll, 8,973 of the former and 2,160 of the latter have now been delivered. Printed in sheets of 264 stamps per sheet from same one colour cylinder as before, No. 97.

Air Letter Cards:

6d. — Job No. 4112 contd. On an order for 4,000,000 cards, 2,130,000 have now been delivered on the new paper recorded in our September issue.

"Official" Stamps:

The following were supplied by the P.M.G. and overprinted OFFICIAL-OFFISIEEL from the same process blocks as before.

½d. — 499 sheets x 240 (Cylinder Nos. 31 Int. and 70 Ext.)

1d. — 499 sheets x 240 (Cylinder Nos. 54 Int. and 53 Ext.)

6d. — 499 sheets x 240 (Cylinder Nos. 6930 Int. and 6 Ext.). Date of delivery, 3.9.53.

Revenue Stamps Overprinted S.W.A.:

The following were supplied by the P.M.G. and overprinted S.W.A.:—

1/- — 3999 sheets x 60 — Delivered 15.9.53.

£2 — 99 sheets x 60 — Delivered 4.9.53.

Saving Stamps Overprinted S.W.A.:

Supplied by the P.M.G. and overprinted S.W.A. with new block.

3d. — 2499 sheets x 240 — Delivered 6/8.10.53.

Air Mail Letter Cards Overprinted S.W.A.:

Supplied by the P.M.G. and overprinted S.W.A. with same block as above.

6d. — 21,600 Air mail letters — Delivered 6/8.10.53.

Revenue Stamps:

Supplied by the P.M.G. and overprinted PENALTY-BOETE.

2/6 — 499 sheets x 60 — Delivered 14.9.53.

Native Tax Stamps Overprinted for Basutoland:

Supplied by the P.M.G. and overprinted BASUTOLAND 6/- REVENUE.

2/6 — 999 sheets x 60 — Delivered 15.9.53.

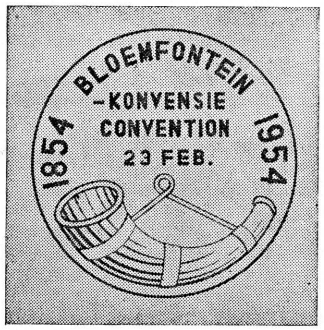
Customs Stamps:

Supplied by the P.M.G. and overprinted DOUANE from same process blocks as before.

½d. — 1,000 sheets x 240 — Delivered 23.7.53.

Centenary of the Orange Free State — Commemorative Date Stamp:

As announced in our December number, it is proposed to issue special 2d. and 4½d. postage stamps on the 23rd February 1954, to commemorate the centenary of the founding of the Orange Free State and we now illustrate the date-stamp which has been specially engraved for the occasion and will be in use at the temporary post office to be opened at the festival camping site, Bloemfontein.



Quoting from the official bulletin issued by the Publicity Officer of the G.P.O., Pretoria, the engraving shows a post bugle, as used in the early days of the mails services, with the inscription „BLOEMFONTEIN-KONVENSIE — CONVENTION 1854-1954" and the date "23 FEB."

New Printing of the 2/6 Pictorial Stamps:

We have been advised by the Publicity Officer of the G.P.O., Pretoria, that a new printing of the 2/6 pictorial stamps appeared during the early part of December from cylinders No. 5 Interior (new) and No. 51 Exterior (old).

The last printing of these stamps, which depict an ox-wagon crossing a drift, was issued in May 1952 from cylinders Nos. 3 Interior and 51 Exterior. The former cylinder, No. 3, as noted in our November number, is now in use for the current 1/- pictorial stamps and this latest printing of the 2/6 denomination is therefore a combination of the previous exterior cylinder No. 51 and a new interior, No. 5.

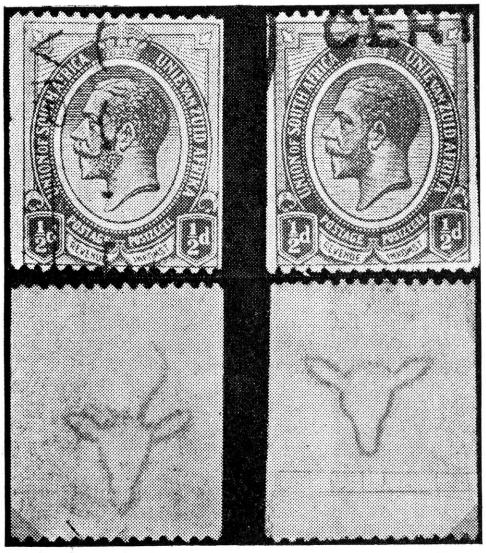
The colours of green and brown are both paler than in the previous issue, and as in the case of the new 1/- pictorial stamps, the perforation holes are now slightly larger in diameter. There is no change, however, in the size of the mesh type screen used for the new interior cylinder and all other general features appear to be the same.

Missing Horn Watermark Varieties on ½d. King's Head Roll Stamps:

Mr. Leonard J. Dodd, of Pretoria, recently discovered the two interesting missing horn watermarks on the ½d. King's Head roll stamps which we illustrate in the accompanying photograph.

The item on the left with one missing horn, is fairly well-known on the ½d. sheet stamps of the series, but we believe this is the first occasion it has been recorded as present on a ½d. roll stamp. (It is catalogued as existing on the 1d. King's Head roll stamps — No. 3/Wi of the Union Handbook).

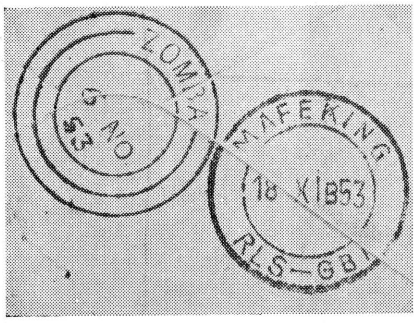
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In the other case, also a ½d. roll stamp and incidently a joined strip variety, both horns are entirely missing and as Mr. Dodd points out, this is a variety so far only recorded in the 1/- value of the King's Head. (No. 10 Wc.).

"R.L.S." Cancellation Mark

Referring to our note and illustration of Welkom's new cancellation mark on page 199 of the November issue, Mr. Ury M. Milunsky of Mafeking has forwarded an impression of the cancellation used on incoming registered mail at their local post office and states that he first noticed this mark several months ago.



Mr. David Allison of Mowbray, Cape, has also written to say that he has in his collection, three impressions of hand-stamps with similar inscriptions and continues as follows:—

"(a) GRAHAMSTOWN, with "R.L. and P. SECTION" at the bottom ("L. AND" often looks like one word LAND), I suppose "P" stands for "Parcel."
(b) UMTATA, with "R.L.S./G.B.A." following the place name at top.
(c) Also UMTATA with "R.L.S. following the place name at top and "Z" at the bottom.

Sometimes such handstamps may be found on non-registered mail."

Mr. Allison also comments on the "Eat Enriched Bread" slogan, which he states he has only seen in use on non-continuous machines, and so far, the towns noted as using this slogan are, DURBAN, CAPE TOWN, EAST LONDON, JOHANNESBURG, PIETERMARITZBURG, PORT ELIZABETH and PRETORIA.

"Cracked Plate" Varieties on Coronation and Centenary Stamps:

Mr. C. E. Sherwood of Manchester, England, has written to say that he has these varieties in the following positions on sheets of the last two commemorative issues.

CORONATION — Cylinder No. 98. Row 1/1 and 2/1.
Also: Row 1/11 and 2/11.
— Cylinder No. 66. Row 5/10 and 6/10.
Also: Row 5/20 and 6/20.

CENTENARY — 4d. Value, Cylinders 106/90 — Row 11/5 (Screen reversed).
— 1d. Value, Cylinders 19/107 — Row 10/1 and 10/2.

Flaws on Current 1d. Pictorial Stamps:

We have received the following notes regarding the flaws present on the current 1d. pictorial stamps printed from cylinders Nos. 54/53 from "J. T. Rhenius" of Cape Town.

Row 10/2 — Red dot in right hand margin.
Row 11/12 — Red dot in top margin above "F."
Row 15/1 — White dot (break in top frame line) above "U."
Row 15/3 — Red spot above "H" in SOUTH.
Row 20/3 — Broken frame line, opposite stern of ship, left hand side.
Row 20/12 — Red dot in sun's rays near upper yard arm.

Editor,

The S.A. Philatelist.

Sir, — Rumour has it that the powers that be intend shortly to do away with the present Union set of stamps, and that a series of issues is to take its place, starting with a set depicting flowers, to be followed by one with animals and a third with birds.

I can only hope that "rumour is a lying jade" on this occasion.

It would be a great pity if the Union stamps lose their present popularity, and I can think of no quicker way of bringing this about than by falling to the level of some of the foreign countries who turn out new issues every few months just to make revenue out of the gullible stamp collectors.

If there is any truth in this rumour, I trust all Union Philatelists will let their voice be heard in strong protest.

Let us by all means have a new set worthy of the country, with decent designs, and well printed, to take the place of some of the present designs, but having got one, for heavens sake let us stick to it for a time.

And talking about designs and printing, I think that in the words of Ko-Ko in the Mikado the last three denominations that have appeared could well be put in his song: "they never would be missed!"

Yours, etc.,
G. N. GILBERT.

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BASUTOLAND—SOME HISTORICAL NOTES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO POSTAL MATTERS

By G. N. GILBERT.

(Paper given a Congress Award at Bulawayo, July 1953).

Since the publication of a short article on this country which appeared in the Official Brochure of the Bloemfontein Stamp Exhibition in May 1951, and which was later reprinted in the South African Philatelist of August 1951, a considerable amount of new and interesting information has been compiled, which gives some idea of early events and of postal matters in Basutoland from the time of the arrival of the first Europeans in 1883 until today.

So far no official records have been made available, if such do exist, which is doubtful, and the notes which follow have been compiled from references obtained from old books, newspapers and Government Archives, and in one case, from extracts from the diary of one of the early Magistrates.

The Coming of the First Europeans to Basutoland

The first whites to come and live in Basutoland were three French Missionaries, Messrs. Casalis, Arbousset, and Gosselin, who trekked up by wagon from Algoa Bay, via Graaff Reinet and Colesberg, and arrived at the foot of Thaba Bosiu mountain, which was Chief Moshesh's stronghold, on June 28th 1833.



Rev. E. Casalis.

Moshesh welcomed these newcomers, and he himself helped them to choose a site about twenty three miles from Thaba Bosiu, where Casalis started the first Paris Evangelical Mission Station. The native name of this place was Makhoarane, and Casalis named it Morija, which is the French version of the Biblical Moriah (Genesis 22, v. 2), in memory of the difficulties they had encountered.

It is still known to the natives as Moriah today.

The Rev. Eugene Casalis became the friend and advisor to Moshesh, who, in his own words, described him as "my eye, hand and foot."

Other Missionaries followed, and in 1859, the Revd. Mr. Coillard settled and started the second Paris Evangelical Mission in the Leribe district, close to Chief Molapo's village, and just opposite the farm Brindisi on the Free State side of the river Caledon. It was close to this site that the first Leribe Magistracy under Mr. Surmon was opened in 1870, and this place is still known to the natives as "Ha'Mastrata" — the Magistrate's place.

In the early days of these first Missionaries there were practically no other white inhabitants, with the exception of a few men employed by Moshesh as stonemasons and armourers, most of whom were deserters, and a few Boers who had infiltrated over the nebulous and frequently changing borders.

It was not until later that a few white traders were allowed by Moshesh to settle, and in 1859, Moshesh, in his "Law for Trade" said: "I, Moshesh, write for any trader whoever he may be already in my land, and for those who may come to trade with the Basuto — my word is this — trade with me, and my tribe is a good thing, and I wish to promote it."

This then gives a picture of these early days, and it can be imagined how difficult it was for those few white inhabitants to send and receive mail from outside.

How Mail was Received and sent in the Earliest Days

Casalis records in his "Souvenirs" (pg. 239) that they used to get their mail from Graaff Reinet in the Cape, and this is supported by a reference in the "Little Light of Basutholand" published in 1872 (No. 1, pg. 2): "Till the town of Colesberg was established, the nearest post was Graaff Reinet."

MacIntosh records in his book "Coillard of the Zambesi" that Mr. Coillard used to get his mail from Winburg in the Free State in 1859, and Miss Adele Casalis records that in the

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Chief Moshesh.

1840's they used to get their mail from Colesberg, which had been established about the end of 1839.

The writer has a copy of a pre-stamp letter sent by David Livingstone to the Revd. Mr. Dyke and addressed to Thaba Bosiu via Colesberg, dated Feb. 24th, 1843.

The First Postal Services in Basutoland

The first record of any official postal service so far found comes from a brochure published in 1907 which records: "The Government's Postcart starts running between Maseru, Aliway North-Leribe and Moshaleshoek." The date given is July 1870.

However, in the Basutoland Records in the Cape Archives there is a letter from Mr. Bowker to the High Commissioner dated at Koro-Koro, December 1st 1868, in which it says: "the police are stationed at the drift on the Orange near where your Excellency crossed in April last, but they can keep the postal route open just as well by the upper wagon road by Bethesda."

This would seem to show that there was some sort of service working before July 1870.

It is very doubtful if postcarts were generally used as mentioned in the first reference, and it is far more likely that pack-horses were employed as further references appear to show.

In the Bulletin Missionaire of 1872-5, it describes a journey by missionaries by ox-wagon from Port Elizabeth to Basutoland, who were met by Casalis and others at Aliwal North.

On their journey from Aliwal they met two natives on **horseback** who were half-frozen by the cold, and in their own words: "one of them was our postal messenger, who has the hard task of coming every week from Aliwal to Basutoland, and the other was a witch doctor!

Again, in the Journal des Missions of April 1873, it records a trek of missionaries from the Cape to Basutoland, who made use on the way up of Postal carts where these were functioning, but it expressly states that from Aliwal to Basutoland, they had to borrow horses, as no postcart was running.

In one of the old books "Au Sud de l'Afrique" (Christol) there is a picture of a native postman. He carries a bag on his back and his horse is standing by.

The first postal service was financed by a hut tax, which in 1871 amounted to over £3,700.

According to records in the Government offices in Maseru, only a fraction of this would have been necessary to cover the cost as the sum of £235 is shown as spent on postal services in 1873. This cost steadily increased, being £896 in 1895, £1,619 in 1898, and £3,992 in 1907-8.

Today the revenue is in the vicinity of £30,000 per annum, but latterly, except when special Commemorative issues were on sale, the cost of running the service exceeds the revenue.

Some figures of revenue and expenditure are given in a note at the end of this paper.

The route followed by this first post service was apparently via Smithfield to Aliwal North for the first year, as in the "Friend of the Free State" newspaper dated August 31st, 1871, appears the following note: "An inhabitant of Lesuto complained about postal inconvenience. They have now been cut off from Smithfield and placed under Rouxville, with better postal facilities."

So in the second year the route taken was the more direct one via Sephapho's Gate to Bushmans Kop, Rouxville, and on to Aliwal. (See note of postal routes later in this paper).

(To be continued.)

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OBITUARY

We regret to hear from Pretoria of the death of Mr. C. E. v.d. Gass, a valued member of the P.P.S. for twenty years. He was a regular attendant at meetings, although quiet and reserved, keenly interested in philately generally, but especially in the issues of the Nethrlands.

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"ELUSIVE BROKEN C".

The Editor,

The South African Philatelist,

Dear Sir, — With reference to the "elusive broken C" of the Officials overprinted by the new stereotype plate, there is still another characteristic of this plate, which I have not seen mentioned as yet, and I wonder if Dr. Berry or others who are interested in these stamps have spotted it.

This takes the form of a "full stop" below the first E in Offisieel, and this follows the same pattern as the "broken C" as it pops up in different positions in different printings. It will be found on No. 2 or No. 8 in row 9, or on No. 2 or No. 8 in row 19.

I have not blocks of all the printings which appeared of the ½d. 1d. and 6d. overprinted by this stereotype plate, which would show this stop if present, but I append a list of the printings I have got, in which it does occur.

I think it is highly probable that this will be found in some position on every sheet and every printing overprinted by this plate.

½d. Control 11A-11B .... Row 9 No. 2.
½d. Control 70-31 .... Row 19 No. 2.
1d. Control 76-14 .... Row 19 No. 2.
1d. Control 6925-36 one ptg. Row 19 No. 8.
1d. Control 6925-36 another ptg. Row 19 No. 2.
1d. Control 53-54 .... Row 9 No. 2.
6d. Control 6930-6 latest ptg. Row 19 No. 2.

Unfortunately I have not got blocks showing row 9 in the 1d. Control 6A-6B, so cannot say if the stop appears in this ptg. on No. 2 or No. 8 of row 9.

It certainly is not present in row 19, either No. 2 or No. 8, of the part sheet I have.

I shall appreciate it if someone can confirm its presence or otherwise in row 9 of this printing.

Yours faithfully,

G. N. GILBERT.

P.S.: I find that there is another similar stop or black spot this time under the second E in Offisieel, row 5 or 15 Nos. 5 or 11, and this occurs throughout the same printing.

ROLL OF HONOUR OF DISTINGUISHED PHILATELISTS: SOUTH AFRICA

We regret that in the list as published in our December issue, two names were inadvertently omitted. Our apologies to the two gentlemen concerned, Dr. K. Freund and Dr. Alec Kaplan. Herewith is the corrected full list.

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

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

SHORT NOTICES

H. R. Harmer's 28th Resume — Activities for 1952-53:

This covers their many sales in London, New York and Sydney and illustrates some of the most interesting pieces sold. The total turnover of the three houses for Auction and Private Treaty was £650,000.

It is announced with justifiable pride that three generations are actively sharing in the activities of the organisation — the founder, H. R. Harmer, his son Cyril, and his grandson Ian Glassborow, who is the son of H. R.'s second daughter. Bernard Harmer is with the New York house.

France and Colonies Philatelist.

Mr. Stephen G. Rich has sent us a number of copies of this magazine, a bi-monthly now in its twelfth volume, published by the France and Colonies Group. A specially interesting number is the 71st (Sept.-Oct. 1953) which includes an Index of all articles published in the preceding 70 numbers.

We gather that this group has over 500 members and we should imagine it would be well worth the while of anyone specialising in France and Colonies to belong to it. The Secretary's address is P.O. Box 67, Ploughkeepsie, N.Y.

German Philatelic Review.

The September issue of this Review, published at 152 Finchley Road, London, N.W.3, deals mainly with modern works this time. Amongst the articles are: Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Forgeries of the 1945 issue; German Whale Fishing (Antarctic) Mail; the Arnsberg Provisional of 1946; Stamps of the Rhine Republic; The 20 pfg. Buildings Set Forgery — postal or philatelic?; Railway T.P.O.'s of Prussia; Literature Index.

RHODESIA — NYASALAND

It has been officially announced that stamps for the new African Federation will be issued on 1st July and that they will be inscribed "Rhodesia and Nyasaland." The recently issued Q.E. stamps of N. and S. Rhodesia and of Nyassaland will have a short life, but not so short that they will be scarce for that reason alone.

Incidentally we see in **Stamp Collecting** that one of our advertisers, Mr. B. J. Hunter, recently received a few copies purchased at the Bulawayo P.O. of the current 2d. comb. perf. on a very thin, almost pelure, paper. There appears to have been only one sheet of this variety, and most of it was sold over the counter before the discovery was made.

O.V.S. COMMEMORATIVES.

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Dear Sir,

"Cracked Plate" — Coronation and Centenary.

I received my copy of the October "S.A.P." yesterday and was exceptionally interested to read the notes on pages 179-181 in connection with the so-called "cracked plate" varieties on the Coronation stamps from Cyl. 98, which have also appeared on the Centenary 4d., Cyl. 86. This is a type of flaw I have never come across before and I immediately got out my own sheets of the Coronation and Centenary stamps for closer examination. You can imagine my surprise and excitement when I found that the marks DO appear on every one of the five cylinders used for these issues! Details are as follows:—

CORONATION:

Cyl. 98 — Cols. 11 - 12, Rows 1 - 3. All three marks are clearly visible as per your illustration. The "Hyphen" on Col. 12, Row 3 is rather faint.

Cyl. 66. — Cols. 19 - 20, Rows 4 - 6. In this printing there are distinct signs of marks in the same position if **one reverses the sheet** and remembers that the separation of the panes into sheets is more or less fortuitious. The clearest mark is the middle one (on Col. 20, stamp 5).

CENTENARY:

1d. Cyl. 107. Rows 9 and 10, stamps 1 - 3. This time the marks are very faint and I cannot see the "hyphen" on my copy. Again the clearest is the one on Row 10, stamp 2, which appears almost touching the end of the L of POSSEEL (L/).

4d. Cyl.86: Rows 19 - 20, stamps 1 - 3. As described and illustrated by you.

4d. Cyd. 90: Rows 11-12, stamps 4-6. Again "inverted" as in the case of the Coronation, Cyl. 66. This time the "hyphen" is very clear and appears as a bar over the P of CAPE.

Your theory as to how these flaws are caused seems undoubtedly to be correct and is, if anything, strengthened by my further discoveries. It would be so easy to use the glass screen plate the other way round for two of the five printings.

How true is the old tag: "Ex Africa semper aliquid novi."

Yours faithfully,

R. P. JONAS.

CAPE INVERTED WATERMARKS

Mr. W. F. Michler, of Oogies, Transvaal, has sent us for inspection, a pair of 1d. Cape stamps of the 1884-90 issue (S.G. 49), with the cabled anchor watermark inverted, with the query: "Is this a find"?

The answer is to be found in G. J. Allis book on the stamps of the Cape, where it is stated that inverted watermarks are known in the ½d., 1d., 2d. and 1/- values of this issue. They would appear to be of considerable rarity, as he reports having found only a very few after searching through thousands of specimens.

Inverted watermarks are also known, but again scarce, in earlier issues with C.C. and C.A. watermarks, but apparently not in any issues later than the 1884-90 one.

UNIDENTIFIED TOWN MARK ON CAPE TRIANGLE.

By Henry A. Meyer and Stephen G. Rich

In mid-1953, when visiting the stamp store of Col. Lawrence J. Hayman at Louisiville, Ky., Henry A. Meyer bought a Cape 6d. Perkins Bacon, the usual Perkins Bacon 1858 stamp, in the usual mousy dull lilac colour, die A, with a red town mark struck on it. This stamp, as here illustrated, provided a puzzle as to the wording and place of use. The regular double oval town mark reads, as far as on the stamps "POST-K" and either A or E. After consulting Mr. Jurgens' book (Pages 48 and 49), nothing was found in the list of post offices to correspond with this.



The stamp was submitted to S. G. Rich, who came up with the suggestion that it was a mark reading "POST-KANTOOR." His view is that the first letter of second word is definitely K, not R; that the fragment of next letter visible is almost surely A. It seems to both Meyer and Rich that this must be the case; yet at times the slant of the stroke seems so small, and the appearance of a serif at top so definite that it could be an E, slanted away from the K by the curve of the postmark design.

Information is much wanted, both as to reading and, if it is POST-KANTOOR, place of use. Thus far, no reason for a mark of that reading has apparently been put on record; not any likely place for such a mark. Rich suggests that possibly such a mark might have been used at G.P.O. Capetown; but if so, it seems strange that no previous occurrence of it has been noticed. Faced with this, Rich has suggeshted that this mark may have been sent to newly established offices while their permannt town mark device was being procured.

Anyone who will communicate information on this to Henry A. Meyer, 516 Read Street, Evansville, Ind., United States, will confer a favour by so doing. No doubt it would also be in order to send the information to this journal for publication at the same time.

Because the first letter of second word is definitely not an R, the possibility of its being POST-RETIEF, an office existent in 1858, has been ruled out by both Meyer and Rich.

XMAS GREETINGS

We have to acknowledge receipt of greetings from the Central News Agency, Stanley Gibbons Ltd., Australian Stamp Monthly, H. R. Harmer, Inc., N.Y., Robson Lowe, W. Tunstall, Francis J. Field, A. Lichtenstein and Whitfield King & Co.

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THE PROCESS BLOCK OVERPRINT OF THE ½d., 1d., AND 6d. OFFICIAL STAMPS OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

By T. B. BERRY.

(Paper given a Congress Award at Bulawayo, July, 1953.)

Official stamsp comprise a definite issue of Postage Stamps overprinted OFFICIAL and OFFISIEEL. Previous to June 1950, the overprint was made by type-set formes arranged in various designs. Broken and misplaced letters, mal-alignment of the type and irregular spacing between the overprint-formes were some of the common defects of this manner of overprint. In order to eliminate these flaws, and possibly others, a new type of overprint, from Zinco Process Blocks, was adopted some three years ago.

The Process-Block Overprint embodies larger and clearer letters than those previously used, and the letters, instead of being independent units, are embedded and fixed to a common base to form the particular process block.

The Process Blocks are prepared from stepped up negatives of which the original has been hand-drawn. The metal plate is sensitized with a solution and whirled over a flame to dry evenly. The negative is then exposed on to this plate by means of an arc lamp and after exposure it is rolled up with etching ink and developed. The developer washes away the coating on all areas which have not been hardened by light action. This uncovers the metal around the work so that it can be etched. After the plate has been developed it is burnt in over a flame to harden the coating which remains and becomes acid resistant. The etching is done in an acid bath. To obtain the required depth for the raised lettering, the etching process is repeated several times but the sides of the raised surfaces are protected with a dusting of dragon's blood. The plate goes through a series of finishing steps such as re-etching, hand tooling, burnishing, trimming, and is finally mounted on a wood block.

Three sets of process blocks are used to overprint the different stamps comprising the series. Set No. 1, consisting of four particular blocks or quadrants, is used to overprint the ½d., 1d. and 6d. values. A second set, made up also of four quadrants, is used upon the 1½d. and 2d. values; while a third set does duty for the 1/-, 2/6, 5/- and 10/- values.

The relative process blocks required to impart the overprint are assembled in a metal frame. The overprint is made on to the sheet of basic stamps in a flat bed machine. The process blocks of each group carry no distinguishing marks and are interchangeable in their positions in the metal frame, with the result that they may not necessarily be assembled in the same order for each printing.

The sheets are overprinted by the Government Printer, Pretoria, on requisition by the Controller of Stores, who issues to the former a definite number of sheets of the various values requiring to be overprinted. On completion of the overprint, the sheets are returned to Stores from which source they are distributed to the various Government Departments entitled to make use of official stamps, and to the Philatelic Agency of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, Pretoria, at which office only may these stamps be purchased by philatelists, stamp collectors and the public.

The Government Printer may, at his discretion, retain one sheet of a selected printing for official record purposes, and this fact would account for an apparent odd number of sheets issued, vide, the report in the S.A. Philatelist of November, 1950 of the number of sheets of official stamps issued:—

"29.6.50, 1d. value, 999 sheets of 240 stamps.
4.7.50, 2d. value, 499 sheets of 240 stamps.
4.7.50, 6d. value, 299 sheets of 240 stamps.
4.7.50, 1/- value, 299 sheets of 240 stamps.
4.7.50, 2/6 value, 299 sheets of 60 stamps.
4.7.50, 10/- value, 99 sheets of 60 stamps."

The sheets retained by the Government Printer are placed in his Record Album after the removal of a marginal block of 24 stamps containing the cylinder numbers. These marginal blocks are sent to the Publicity Officer of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs (Philatelic Section), Pretoria, and are retained by him for his Departmental Records.

When this new Overprint made its appearance, the stamps were immediately subjected to the scrutiny of the magnifier. Initial examinations bore disappointing results in that the overprint was declared to be remarkably free from flaws — the exception being a "Broken O" of OFFISIEEL, stamp 7, Row 4 of the first printing, dated 4.7.50, of the 2d. value. The flaw was corrected at the next printing, dated 5.12.50. This printing, however, presented a further flaw in the form of a "Broken C" of the world OFFICIAL, Stamp 2, Row 3, and it appeared on the ½d., 1d. and 6d. values in this position.

At the next printing, dated 15.3.51, it was observed that the "Broken C" of OFFICIAL had now assumed a different sheet position, namely Row 13, Stamp 2, and was constant again for the ½d., 1d. and 6d. values.

Interest was quickened when it was determined that in subsequent printings the "Broken C" flaw recurred and behaved in an elusive manner by taking up different sheet positions. It also underwent a disguise in the form of a "Retouched C" and was accompanied at a later stage by another "Broken C."

The "Broken C" came into existence at the second overprint and took the form of a "bite" out of the lower arc of the letter C. This de-

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pression increased until the erosion trespassed almost across the complete width of the letter when the defect of a fractured letter was remedied by "retouching." The retouching process was accomplished by "tapping" the metal of the base of the process block back into the cavity on the letter by means of a small punch.

The remedy was not permanent for the Retouch soon exhibited signs of breaking up which it ultimately did during the 6th overprint of the 1d. value. The early sheets of this overprint exhibit a "retouched C" in position Row 11, Stamp 12, while the last sheets of the batch to be overprinted display a "Broken C" in this position. Thus, we have the peculiar condition of a particular letter appearing in two different forms during the same printing.

Photoproofs numbered 1 to 4 show the appearance of the "Broken C" at four stages of its existence.

1.
Initial break-up of the letter C.

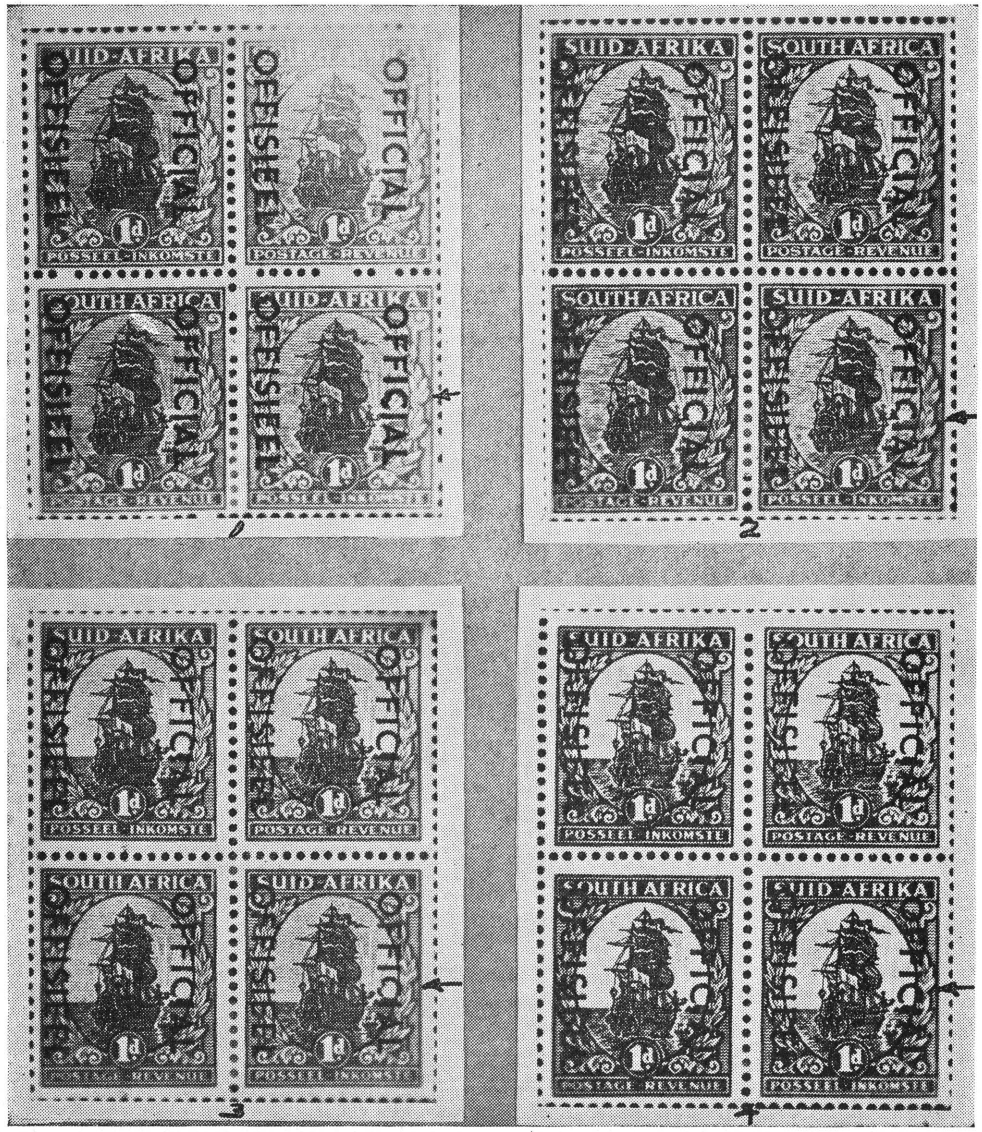
2.
A later stage of the break-up.

3.
Final state of the break-up.

4.
The "Broken C" retouched.

Upon inspection of the various printings, it will be observed that the "Broken C", in one disguise or another, has occupied 10 positions on the sheet of stamps, which positions are recorded in Schedule No. 1.

(To be continued).



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SOCIETY NEWS.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF THE WESTERN RAND

At our usual monthly meeting of **25 November** in the Parish Hall, Roodepoort, after the business was attended to, all the members present tabled displays. Mr. Sharpe, the chairman, started off with some of the latest issues of New Caledonia, which was well written up. Mr. Vermaak tabled "Freaks in Stamps, Malta, Nova Scotia, two sheets of Cape Verde stamps with two stamps of Mozambique printed in error on the sheets, also an envelope from Denmark addressed by the Danish King. Mr. Simpkins with early Orange Free State Stamps, specimens, cards and wrappers; this certainly was excellent material. Mr. Henderson's sheets of stamps represented the word "Stamps" S, South African King's Heads; T, Early Transvaal; A, Australia; M, Mauritius; P, Pitcairn; S, Swaziland.

Mr. Godfrey showed us something out of the ordinary with Pages of Air Letter Cards including Unions, Southern Rhodesia, Iceland, and the Persian Gulf Dependencies of Bahrain, Kuwait and Muscat. Mr. Botha displayed several sheets of Canadian and South African Commemoratives. Mr. Keet tabled some Covers of the Union, Austria, Newfoundland and New Zealand. J.K.

ORANGE FRE ESTATE AND BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

At the **October** meeting, the President, Dr. Freund, gave a display "Union George V., used blocks." Except for the £1 value which was represented in fine used singles, all denominations and all possible shades were represented with outstanding blocks. Some of the blocks were really 'outsize'. Particular mention must be made of the five blocks shown of the 5/- and 10/- values. The Secretary, Mr. H. J. Nel, tabled his collection of "Swiss Pro Juventure," a collection which was started only a few weeks before and requires only a few odd items to be complete. He also displayed the new issues of Hungarian animals. Philatelic News was reported by Mr. J. Lewis, and an auction sale of various First Day covers rounded off a short but interesting evening.

Should the Bloemfontein Convention Centenary issue materialize in accordance with the suggestions made by the Society to the Postal authorities, the Society intends to sell and service special First Day Covers. A special Sub-Committee is attending to these matters and is in constant touch with th Bloemfontein Centenary Committee. According to an agreement with this organisation, the Society's Special Souvenir covers will be the only authorised "official" ones. K.F.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The **November** meeting of the Society was notable for the fact that the attendance was rather below the high standard that exists, but as the end of the year approaches together with its attendant counter-attractions, we must expect a falling off in the number of members that attend.

Mr. Slater-Kinghorn entertained the members with a really interesting and instructive paper and exhibit of the early postal history of Great Britain. This gentleman can always be relied upon to give us something out of the ordinary, and his paper on this occasion gave us a very interesting resume of the early postmarks and printings of this period. The amount of research and hard work that this collector puts in must be enormous, and the high praise that was accorded his exhibit was well deserved. The perfect condition of the stamps and postal stationery and the many rare and interesting items were all commented on by Mr. Peisach who spoke on the collection. We can only conclude by endorsing this gentleman's congratulations and thanks for a very good show. At the conclusion of his paper Mr. Slater-Kinghorn started quite a discussion among several of the members on the merits of writing up. This informal talk was very much appreciated by those members present, and I do feel we could do with some more on the same pattern.

The **December** monthly meeting of the Society is usually taken as an opportunity of staging an informal gathering where members may have a social get-together just before Christmas, but the attendance was exceptionally good for this time of the year, and I think it could be placed on record that everyone present enjoyed themselves immensely. Among those present, was a former country member, Mr. R. L. Knipe, who is now resident in Pretoria, and in extending him a warm welcome, we also hope he will be able to enjoy many more. No exhibit had been scheduled for the meeting, but Mr. Goldberg very generously came over from Johannesburg and showed us a very interesting collection of the ½d. values of South Africa. Prior to his showing the collection, Mr. Goldberg gave the members a short talk, in which he gave us some very good information in connection with the latest printings of this value. We are indebted to Mr. Goldberg for so ably filling the gap, and congratulate him on a fine show. — F.J.V.L.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

3rd November 1953:

The Secretary, Mr. A. F. W. Pavitt, delighted members and visitors with a very nice selection of Belgian Congo and Sudanese Stamps. They were much admired and Mr. G. K. Forbes thanked Mr. Pavitt both for the display and the talk which accompanied it. An Auction of attractive material kept members busy until the close of the meeting.

7th November 1953:

Two members of the Committee followed a request to speak at a meeting of Coloured School Boys who had recently banded themselves together under the guidance of their Teacher and formed a Stamp Club. An enthusiastic audience appreciated the talks, advice and display given by the representatives of our Society.

17th November 1953:

The meeting was again well attended and proved very enjoyable. Mr. R. W. Pearson and Mr. H. P. Youngleson combined in showing many interesting covers, including "Tin Can Mail" and Tristan da Cunha cancelled and franked only with local stamp without the addition of other postal stamps. They were ably assisted by the third exhibitor, Mr. C. G. Wilson, who showed all the new stamps of Queen Elizabeth II reign, in beautiful mint condition, well mounted and including blocks, strips and high values. Members did appreciate this exhibit very much indeed. Dr. Worthington expressed the Society's thanks to the three members.

Official business was soon disposed of and after that, Mr. M. Hotz, from Cape Town, who was one of the visitors during the evening, spoke about the activities of the various societies in the Western Cape and an interesting and informal discussion followed on his remarks. The President thanked him for giving the P.E.P.S. the opportunity of hearing something about the hobby in another part of the country; the meeting finally terminating well after 10 o'clock.

AFRIKAANSE FILATELISTIESE VERENIGING

Saterdag, 14 November: Vergeleke met ons vorige Saterdag-byeenkoms, was die een maar flouerig. Die opkoms was nie so goed nie en gevolglik was daar ook minder ruilmateriaal. Nogtans was daar geen teleurgesteldes onder die aanwesiges nie.

Vir die jongspan is dit nie altyd moontlik om saans iemand te kry om hulle geleide te doen nie, en daarom pas 'n Saterdagmiddag so mooi in hul kraal. Ons doen 'n beroep op lede om hulle die nodige aanmoediging te gee.

Vrydag, 4 Desember: 'n Goeie bywoning het vergoed vir die swakkerige opkoms van 14 November. Ons was baie bly om die Nolte-gesin, dr. Van der Merwe en dogter en mnr. Britz weer aanwesig te hê. **Dit** is die geesdrif wat nodig is.

Hierdie byeenkoms het die begin van die reeks uitstallings in die mededinging om die Rembrandt Wisseltrofee ingelei. Aanvanklik sou twee inskrywings onder die oë van die beoordelaars deurgeloop het, maar ongelukkig was die vriend Schwartz weens ongesteldheid nie in staat om sy Rhodesië betyds agtermekaar te kry nie, en het hy self's op dié aand nog die bed moes hou. (Ons wens hom 'n spoedige herstel toe).

Ons voorsitter het toe eerste aan die beurt gekom met sy versameling van Nederland, tot en met die uitgawes van omstreeks die jaar 1923, wat ruim 70 albumblaaie beslaan. In sy voorlesing het hy gesê dat hy, vanweë die uitgebreide omvang van die versameling en omdat die vroeë uitgawes minder bekend is, sy inskrywing tot gemelde tydvak beperk het. Voorts het mnr. Schubart verskeie aspekte van sy inskrywing verduidelik, alvorens hy dit ter tafel gestel het.

Die inskrywings wat in Januarie a.s. onder die vergrootglas sal kom, is dié van lid Lambert ('n lugpos afdeling) en lid Schwartz (Egipte of Rhodesië).

Op 'n voorstel van lid Britz, van Parys, is besluit om nog 'n diens in te stel vir die gerief van lede. Dit is om dié lede wat dit verlang, onmiddellik in kennis te stel van die verskyning van nuwe versamelwaardighede onder Unie-seëls. Dit gebeur dikwels dat iets verskyn en, by die tyd wat die

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nuus lede deur die nuusbrief bereik, reeds onverkrygbaar is. Treffende voorbeelde hiervan is: 2d. sils. 46/27; eeufeesuitgawes — 4d., gebreekte knie **in die middel van die vel** en 1d., tweede „druk" met kleurverandering. Mnr. Britz voel dat as lede sulke LIDMAATSKAP is toegeken aan mnr. H. C. inligting vroegtydig kan kry, hulle nie so maklik uitgevang sal word nie.
Nöckler, van Johannesburg, en mevr. W. Ward, van Klerksdorp.

Die bestuur en lede van die A.F.V. wens alle versamelaars gesondheid, voorspoed en lekker versamel gedurende die nuwe jaar, toe. S.J.V.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

At the meeting held on December 8th, Dr. T. Berry showed Union Pictorials, London Printing. He gave a talk on the exhibit.

He pointed out that these original 1926 designs, with the exception of the 4d. Triangular, have persisted with slight modifications from time to time throughout Union issues. This issue includes some of the Union's scarcest stamps. The exhibit included some of the varieties including 1d., watermark sideways, ½d. double printed and an imprint block of 4 of the 2/6 value Perf. 14 x 13½. The exhibit included proofs, Specimens, Booklets, Postage Dues and original drawings. There were many large blocks included.

Dr. A. Kaplan spoke on the exhibit.

PHILATELIC SECTION OF THE JEWISH GUILD

At the meeting held on November 26th, 1953 the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg paid a visit to the Guild and provided the exhibits.

Commander C. E. D. Enoch showed an exhibit of No. 1 stamps of several different countries. He read a paper on the exhibit which included the G.B. 1d. Black in all plates fine used, Bahamas, Ceylon, Greece, St. Lucia, U.S. America, Scinde, and numerous others all in very fine condition.

Dr. Pirie showed an exhibit he called "Great Scot." This was a thematic collection consisting of stamps with Scottish names (such as Nova Scotia and New Caledonia). Scots on stamps (such as James VI of Scotland on Newfoundland) and stamps with Postmarks of Scottish interest. There were 60 postmarks of this nature on Union stamps alone. Dr. Pirie gave some notes on the exhibit.

Mr. Home showed Union George V Kings Heads. It was a fine exhibit, including plate blocks, several varieties. The £1 was shown in shades, mint and used and plate blocks.

Mr. Frankland showed Morocco Agencies. The exhibit incuded all Zones and contained several varieties including the Silver Jubilee "Centimes" in a sheet of "Centimos" and the Tangier silver wedding overprint missing in part with the normal. There was also a strip of 5 centimes Edward VIII with the Top Bar through the discharge.

Dr. Kaplan showed France chiefly commemoratives on beautifully printed sheets. There were many proofs included.

Mr. B. Glassman, Mr. L. Buchen and Mr. I. Travers spoke on the various exhibits.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL

Durban summer weather at its very worst tried hard to keep members from the **December** meeting. The brave 35 who defied its efforts were rewarded by a most entertaining evening.

After the very short business session, characteristic of this Society, there were two exhibits.

The first was thematic — Music on Stamps — introduced by a short paper on Thematic Collecting read by the exhibitor, Mr. C. Selwyn Smith. The unusual presentation created considerable interest, the exhibitor receiving many congratulations on his work. Dr. B. Morris spoke to the exhibit and hoped that the collection would be seen again at the Centenary Exhibition in June.

The second, shown by Mr. J. G. Walker, was an outstanding collection of South West Africa; outstanding because of completeness, condition, and neatness of presentation. Mr. Klein, a visitor from Mombasa spoke on the exhibit, thanking Mr. Walker for giving the members the opportunity to see his splendid collection.

The usual auction produced many desirable lots, most of which were sold by Mr. Joe Lyle, the auctioneer.

The President, Mr. Lionel Bevis, outlined the work, to date, of the sub-committee responsible for the organisation of the Exhibition to coincide with the Durban Centenary Celebrations and the Federation Conference to be held at Durban in June, 1954. Kindred Societies may expect the Exhibition Programme in the very near future.—C.S.S.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Owing to apologies for non-attendance from six of our members, there were only 14 people present at our **November** meeting. However, those present were full of enthusiasm and the meeting went off very well. Our exhibitor was Mr. J. A. Parker who displayed his collection of Rhodesias. Mr. Ross spoke on the exhibit.

Most of the absentees were back for the **December** meeting at which we had twenty-one persons present. After the usual business had been attended to we were all invited to enter for a stamp quiz of the questions, mostly on South African stamps, provided by our Chairman, Dr. A. Kaplan The winner of the quiz was Mr. S. J. Hagger who scored twenty points out of a possible of twenty-two. As this meeting was considered members' night, several short collections were exhibited by the following members: Mr. Picton, Mr. S. J. Hagger, Mr. I. S. Burniston and two of our juniors. Mr. Retief proposed the vote of thanks and spoke on the exhibits. It is to be hoped that in the new year we will have visits from other Societies and in return we will be pleased to reciprocate. — J.S.B.

THE GLORIOUS ISLANDS.

How many of our readers have ever heard of this group of African islands, or know where they are? Probably very very few. They are described (from a postal point of view) by Lieut. G. J. Raymond, U.S.A.F. in the July-August "West-End Philatelist". He describes a cover recently received from Madagascar, bearing a Madagascar stamp with an oval cancellation "Possession Francaise/Ile Gloricuses/Depen[illegible]

These islands are apparently three tiny dots north-west of the northern tip of Madagascar. Maps which show them at all may mark them as British or as French. Perhaps they belong to the Aldabra group. The main island of the three is inhabited by seven black men and three donkeys, so the need for a post office would not appear to be too urgent. A schooner calls twice yearly to collect copra.



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REVIEWS

English-Afrikaans Glossary of Philatelic Terms. Compiled and issued by the Afrikaanse Filatelistiese Vereniging, Johannesburg (c/o Krugerlaan 82, Selwyn, Florida). Price 3/6.

We must congratulate this young and energetic Society on their work in the compilation of this glossary. It should serve a very useful purpose to have this authoritative source of reference for the exact equivalents of the numerous technical philatelic and postal terms in English and Afrikans. It includes also geographical and currency terms.

Two Reigns Catalogue, Stanley Gibbons Ltd., 391 Strand, London, W.C.2. Price 4/- (3d. extra postage).

This is a continuation of what was formerly the firm's K.G. VI catalogue. It now includes such Q.E. issues as have already appeared. A compact volume listing on standard Gibbons' lines, the modern British Empire stamps, 7699 of them in all, with 1806 illustrations. The pricing has been thoroughly revised. We note with interest that in their introduction the publishers have thought fit to include a protest against the issue of £1 denominations in many small colonies, e.g. Falkland Is., Dependencies, Gambia and Solomon Islands. As they say, if a large country like Canada can get along with a $1 value as its highest, then so can the rest of the Empire, and there is no real argument in favour of such high values.

Stanley Gibbons' Simplified Catalogue, 1954. Price 18/6, Postage 1/6 extra.

The publishers tell us this is one of the most popular catalogues in the world. We presume their main criterion is the numbers sold and their steady increase. This is not surprising as in these days anyone attempting a general type of collecting needs something simpler than the ordinary more or less specialised catalogue.

This is attained by cutting out all watermark and perforation differences, and omitting all errors and varieties. Even so there are some 85,000 stamps listed, with 11,500 illustrations.

This type of catalogue should appeal especially to thematic collectors; it is very convenient to have the world in one volume, but the publishers fear the unending spate of new issues will soon force them into two volumes.

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FRANCE

28th November saw the issue of a set of six stamps, values ranging from 20 to 75 f., featuring sports in which France had victories in the 1952 Olympic games at Helsinki.

On 12th December there appeared two semi-postals (surcharge for benefit of the French Red Cross), one featuring Mme. Vigee-Lebrun and daughter from portrait by Greuze, the other part of Le Nain's picture 'The return from the Christening' showing the mother and daughter from the family group.

Mons. P. Ruinart informs us that the long-delayed new airmail set of stamps is due for issue on 9th January. Four values (100, 200, 500 and 1,000f.) showing different types of aeroplanes.

The Philatelic Society of Natal.

NATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

(in conjunction with XVI Philatelic Congress and Durban Civic Centenary Celebrations)

CITY HALL, DURBAN,

1st to 4th JUNE, 1954

Prospectus and entry form obtainable from Exhibition Secretary, 25 Hunt Road, Durban.

ENTRIES CLOSE 31st MARCH, 1954.

It is imperative that persons intending visiting Durban during the Exhibition should book their accommodation NOW.

NAURU

A new issue is to appear on February 6th, in nine denominations ranging from ½d. to 5/-; this is only the second issue for the island, the first being in 1924. One stamp will depict a map of the island, the others portraying various scenes of its life and activities.

AUSTRIA

The 2nd of December was the "Day of the Stamp" and a special issue of a 1s. plus 25g. stamp was made. It features a small globe of the world with a band round it bearing the inscription "Tag der Briefmarke 1953." The globe rests on a stamp album, with a magnifying glass and a pair of pincers beside it.

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SOME RECENT AUCTION PRICES

H. R. Harmer.

Belgium 1849. 10c brown unused, £30.
Hanover 1 gr. 1859/61 split used as 6 pf. £55.
Roman States 1852 ½ b tête-têche on entire £170.
Vaud 1849 4c used, £260.
Bahamas 1859 1d. (S.G.I.) used, £24.
G. Britain 1888 £1 wmk. orbs, £63.
Do. 1935 2½d. Prussian blue, £90.
Falkland Islands 2½d. S. Georgia provisional, £20.
Malta 1937 Coronation 1½d. error of colour, £31.
France 1849-50 1 fr. orange vermilion used, £180.
Do. Pair on cover, £440.
Newfoundland 1919 Hawker 3c on cover, £370.
Do. MS Martinsyde, £675.
Cape Unused pair 1d. Woodblocks, £260.
Do. Used pair 4d. Woodblocks, Type II, £340.

Robson Lowe.

Canada 1851 6c., laid, slate-violet on cover, £21.
Do. 1855 10d. thin wove, dull blue, used, £22.
St. Helena 1861 6d. blue clean-cut perf., £9.
Falkland Islands 1933 Centenary set, mint, £42.
Gold Coast, one sixth of 6d. orange, used locally on cover, £85.
Sierra Leone 1933 Centenary Set, mint, £31.
G. Britain 1855 2d. large crown wmk., imperf., £45.
Cape 4d. slate blue De La Rue, £37.
St. Vincent 1881, 4d. on 1/- verm., used, £28.

J. H. Wicks.

S. Africa King's head 10/- mint, £3/3/-.
Rhodesia 7/6 (S.G. 162 mint), £4/5/-.
Do. £1 (S.G. 166 used), £5/10/-.
S.W.A. 1935 Silver Jubilee Set, £1/5/-.
Bechuanaland 1895 2d. op't double (S.G. 39a), £5.
G.E.A. 7½h. printed on cover, £3.
S. Africa Royal Visit 2d. block with 'Curtain' var., £3/5/-.
Canada 1858 ½d. (S.G. 25), £4.
Cape S.G.6 with circular pmk. in red, £5.

AUSTRALIA

The P.M.G.'s Philatelic Bulletin announces so far only two commemorative issues for 1954: (a(3½d., 7½d. and 2/- Royal Visit Stamps on 2nd February; (b) one celebrating the centenary of the first stamps of Western Australia; this will incorporate a swan desingn.

PHILIPPINES

A 1c stamp with a portrait of President Quezon appeared on 30th November and on 16th December there was issued a 5c stamp for the Jubilee of the Philippine Medical Association; it features a patient on the examination table with a physician auscultating.

NEW ZEALAND

We are indebted to Mr. H. Jeffery of Christchurch for a souvenir cover from the Glenelg Health Camp, franked with the 1½d. plus ½d. and 2d. plus 1d. Health stamps showing guides and scouts.

NEW PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

In last month's issue we just mentioned the formation of two new societies in the Union. We have now received further particulars about them.

The Ladysmith-Colenso and Districts P.S. has Dr. G. Furness of Colenso as Chairman and Mr. A. Phillips of P.O. Box 109, Ladysmith, as Secretary-Treasurer. They have announced that they propose applying to join the Federation and we, on our part, hope to welcome them soon.

Wellington Stamp Society. The following information comes from the Secretary, Mr. J. C. Stewart, but it is coupled with the statement that any correspondence should be addressed to Mr. I. D. Naeser, P.O. Box 52, Wellington.

The Wellington Stamp Society was formed at an enthusiastic inaugural meeting held in the Town Hall supper room, Wellington, on 22nd October. This society will exchange visits with the Paarl Society, as the two towns are only nine miles apart. The society appreciates the support of country members who are members of The Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town, the Thematic Stamp Club of Cape Town, and their next-door neighbours „Die Paarlse Possexlversamelaars Vereniging." There are 19 adult and 11 student members. It is planned to organise a competition in 1954 for the students who number nearly half of the membership. The meetings are to be held on the first Wednesday of every month barring January.

FLOREAT RES PHILATELICA!

ONE THOUSAND NOT OUT

Congratulations to "The Philatelic Magazine" in having reached No. 1,000. It started in a very small way in March 1911 as the "Philatelic Circular," flourished so well that it became the "Philatelic Magazine" in 1916 with a page size much as it is now. It was then a monthly but became a fortnightly in 1919. Long may it flourish!

FINLAND

Three very attractive semi-postals have been issued for anti-tuberculosis work. They feature a squirrel, a bear and an elk.

NETHERLANDS

The usual set of semi-postal Children's Stamps was issued on 16th Novmeber, remaining on sale till 15th January. Five values, with head of boys or girls on half the stamps, the other half showing toys, ship, apple, dove or flower.

EXCHANGE WANTED

Mr. Yngvar Mejland, of Terrasseveien 4, Bryn, nr. Oslo, Norway, wishes to exchange Scandinavian (or other European) stamps for Union or other Southern African stamps. He gives a list of his Union 'wants,' the numbers as in Yvert-Tellier catalogue, which we can forward to anyone interested.

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THE
SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST
PROPRIETORS AND PUBLISHERS:
The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa
Honorary Editor: Dr. J. H. HARVEY PIRIE
Business Manager: Mr. J. MICHELSON.
P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.
Subscription: Ten Shillings per annum, post free to any part of the world.
Vol. 30. No. 2. FEBRUARY, 1954. Whole No. 347.

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

New Printing of the 5/- Pictorial Stamp.

Advice of a new all-screened printing of the 5/- pictorial stamp, from two new cylinders Nos. 8 Interior and 72 Exterior, was received from the Publicity Officer at the Philatelic Agency in Pretoria, during the early part of January this year and on examination shows that though the design of an outspanned ox-wagon is similar to that of the previous issue, the new stamp reveals several changes which are of particular interest to collectors and we are indebted to Mr. S. J. Hagger of Alberton, Transvaal for the following notes on the matter.



"An examination of the 5/- postage stamps printed from the new cylinders 8 and 72 shows that changes have been made in the letters "U", "A" and "H" of the name place SOUTH AFRICA on the English inscribed stamps. As no alteration appears to have been made on the Afrikaans inscribed copies we have the curious feature in this printing that some of the letters in the English inscription are of a different style from the corresponding letters in the Afrikaans inscription on the adjoining stamp."

"The new stamps are slightly smaller in size — frame measurements, 26½ mm. instead of 27 mm. in length; height slightly less than the 21½ mm. of the previous issue — and a finer screen has been used for both the centres and frames, but their general appearance is similar to that of the previous printing from cylinders 36 and 6925. The changes in shade are from black to grey-black in the centres and from grey-green to dull green for the frames: similar shades to those of the unscreened 5/- stamp when it first appeared in 1935. The perforations are unchanged, but like the recent printings of the 3d., 1/- and 2/6 postage stamps, the holes are slightly larger in size."

"There is a striking innovation in the production of these stamps inasmuch as they have been printed in sheets of 120 stamps divided into two panes of sixty by a blank gutter, the size of the stamp, in a similar manner to that of the recent commemorative issues. Therefore the first stamp inscription and the first stamp on the other pane on any one pane of a sheet bears an English is inscribed in Afrikaans. Arrows are printed in the horizontal gutters at the top and bottom of each pane to indicate the centre line of the stamps and the cylinder numbers are imprinted on the right hand margin opposite the 9th and 10th rows of each pane."

"Seeing that the design of the English inscribed stamp has been altered it follows that a new frame master negative and multopositive must have been made for the new cylinder 72. The centre multopositive flaw, consisting of a dot to the left of the top skei on stamp No. 6 of the 18th row in the two previous printings, is not present in either pane of the new issue so most probably the centre cylinder No. 8 was also etched from a new multopositive."



"A scrutiny of the four arrows makes me think that the new multopositive consists of 22 rows, starting with an Afrikaans stamp. The first row must have been masked except for one arrow and the 12th row also masked except for two arrows. The arrows themselves bear this out in that the top one is only faintly smudged at the left and the next two, owing to the difficulty of fitting them into this space, are tilted and both show clearer traces of the underlying images, while the bottom one is, as would be expected, perfect. To sum up therefore, it would appear as if the pane that begins with an English stamp is from rows 2 to 11 and the

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Afrikaans one, from rows 13 to 22 of the multopositive. The only flaw I have seen, a white blob at the lower left of the first "A" of AFRICA, is on Row 4/3 of this second pane."

The accompanying illustrations show the change in the form of the letters "A", "U" and "H" of SOUTH AFRICA. The top one is the type employed in the previous printing of the 5/- stamps and the bottom one, the form on the latest issue, which incidently, is the same as that in use on the current 2/6 pictorial stamps.

Misaligned Perfs. on Current Pictorials.

Dr. B. Wasserstein of Pretoria has drawn our attention to a pronounced misalignment of perfs. on some of the current pictorial stamps.

They occur in the **vertical gutter** between stamps Nos. 2 and 3 in the two top rows and the top margin of the sheet and also in the same gutter of rows 11, 12 and 13. The fifty odd holes covering eight of these two portions of the column take on a distinctly undulating form varying to the extent of half a hole on either side of the centre line. In some sheets examined, the variety occurs in Rows 1, 2 and 3 and then again in Rows 12, 13 and 14.

Dr. Wasserstein states that, so far, these perf. aberrations have been noted in similar positions on sheets of the 3d., 4½d., 1/-, 2/6 and also the new 5/- stamps.

Collectors' Wants & Offers

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

Collections and rarities especially Unions wanted for cash. Kindly contact—JOHN MENDELSSOHN, P.O. Box 1607, Johannesburg.

SOUTHERN NIGERIA. Full S.G. prices offered for superb used copies of S.G. 15, 17, and 28. — WILLIAM REDFORD, Box 1182, Johannesburg.

STAMPS.—Want lists invited for any country; specialities Union, S.W.A., British Africa. — LACY'S, Gillbern Buildings, cor. Plein and Mostert Streets, Cape Town.

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

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

SEYCHELLES—Required for specialised collection: Panes of Provisionals, Covers and other interesting items.—A. R. KLEINER, 101 Westwoldway, Saxonwold, Johannesburg.

AUSTRALIA.—All new issues and First Day Covers including unusual items. Send direct for best Retail or Wholesale service.—A. M. GUTHRIE, Box E. 287, G.P.O., Perth, Western Australia.

EXCHANGE STAMPS. Send me 125 different receive 100 others different, better. DUADE, 214-12 46th Road, Bayside 61, N.Y., U.S.A.

FOR SALE.—Superb Mint Union Collection. Over 1,000 different Unhinged Stamps. All Ordinary Issues, Commemoratives, Airmails, Officials and Dues. Many Scarce Items. $500. —ANDREW GRANTZOW, 149 Brookside Ave., Irvington 11, N.J., U.S.A.

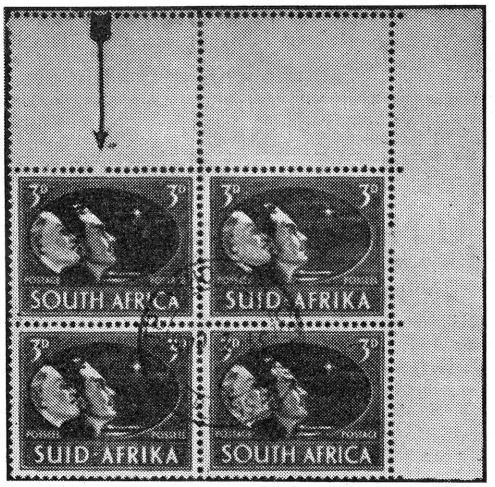
WANTED: British Africa — used pictorials in quantities. All reigns, especially Q.E. II, Northern, Southern Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Cash, Mint or Used U.S.A. Commem. in Exchange. — JOHN HOLMDAHL, 2300 Dashwood, Oakland 5, California, U.S.A.

URGENTLY WANTED INTERPROVINCIALS large variety on paper. — DR. MURRAY, Kuilsriver, C.P.

WANTED. Union Postal Stationery **(Mint only)** and Inter-Provincials.—S. J. VERMAAK, P.O. Box 4566, Johannesburg.

Missing Perf. Variety on Union 3d. Victory Issue.

We illustrate herewith a used block of 3d. Victory stamps with a missing perf. variety, recently shown to us by Lt. Richards of Lyttleton, Transvaal.



The block bears a Pretoria cancellation dated 31.1.46 and to the best of our knowledge this item has not been previously recorded.

Orange Free State Commemorative Stamps.

We have been advised by the Publicity Officer of the G.P.O., Pretoria, that the colours of the new commemorative stamps and the cylinder numbers are as follows:—

2d. Background — Orange.
Coat of Arms and lettering—Dark Brown.
Cylinder Nos.: Exterior 104; Interior 1.
4½d.—Background—Grey.
Coat of Arms and lettering—Violet Red.
Cylinder Nos.: Exterior 104; Interior 11.

These stamps are to be issued on the 23rd of February 1954 to commemorate the founding of the Orange Free State and will be on sale at all post offices in the Union for a period of approximately three months. The official information received from the Publicity Officer of the G.P.O. regarding the issue of these stamps and the servicing of first-day covers will be found together with illustrations of the design, on page 219 of our December number, but it should be noted that the heading to the Bulletin, indicating its source, was inadvertently omitted in our publication of the text.

Handbook/Catalogue Supplement.

Arrangements are being made to publish a Supplement to the Van Riebeeck Tercentenary Edition of the Handbook/Catalogue on the Union Stamps and any suggested corrections or additions to the Handbook should be forwarded without delay to Mr. Sam Legator, Box 133, Brakpan, Transvaal, South Africa.

All letters on the subject will be welcome, but readers will oblige by noting that lack of time will make it impossible to enter into any correspondence on the matter.

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THE SCREENED PHOTOGRAVURE ESSAYS OF HARRISON & SONS, 1923

By W. L. FRESHWATER.

The Union Handbook lists this series of Essays by Harrison & Sons, London, on page 54 under sub-heading II. The design is the well-known Springbok, and seven different colour combinations are listed The last listed, in blue, is smaller than the others, being 21.5 mm. x 17 mm., whereas the other six are bi-coloured and measure 23 mm. x 18.75 mm.

All are by screened photogravure.

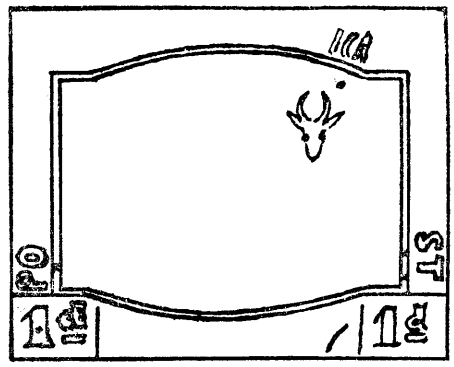
The mono-coloured essay, in blue, was printed in sheets of 100, on unwatermarked, ungummed paper and perforated 13½ x 13. It is extremely unlikely that more than one sheet, or possibly two, ever found their way into the philatelic world.

The larger essays listed were printed in the following colours; centre being given first followed by the frame: (a) Carmine and Green. (b) Black and Blue. (c) Purple and Blue. (d) Carmine and Blue. (e) Black and Green. (f) Orange and Black. These were printed on gummed, unwatermarked paper and perforated 13½ x 13. These were printed in sheets of ten only —two rows of five, and from small dots which appear in the design and lettering can be easily plated.

Unknown, as yet, to the philatelic world, most of this issue exist imperforate. The Carmine and Green, Black and Blue and the Purple and Blue are on gummed, unwatermarked paper, similar to the same essays perforated. The Carmine and Blue and the Black and Green imperforate essays are on gummed paper, watermarked Harrison & Sons, London in continuous lines across the sheet.

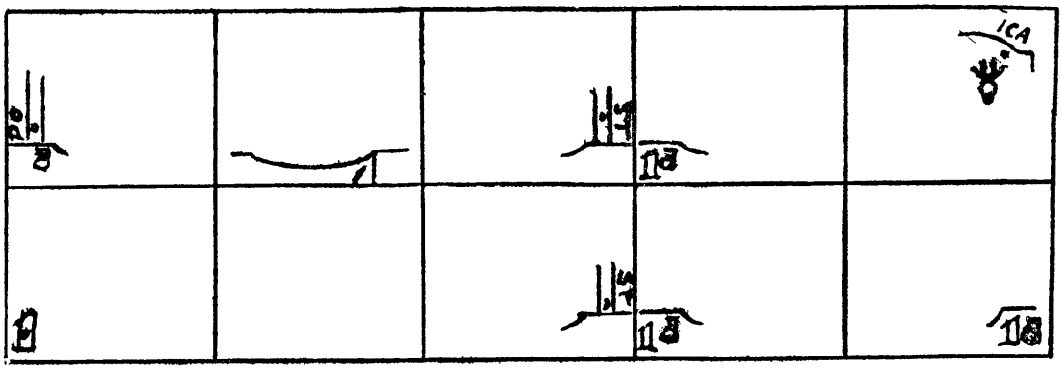
These again, were printed in sheets of ten and were probably the first one or two sheets off the press, and in most cases fewer than ten copies are known. It is quite possible that the Orange and Black exists imperforate, but it has not come to light as yet.

By far the most interesting of these essays are the printers' "paste-ups". The centre was cut from various essays and pasted into other frames, creating further colour combinations without the necessity of additional printing. These "paste-ups" are seldom seen and are extremely scarce. The accompanying sketches will enable the reader to plate any of these essays in his collection. There are often fine hair-lines running through the design, but as these are not constant, they cannot be used for plating. The second stamp in the bottom row, incidentally, has no visible dots or marks, and can be plated thus.



Key to diagram. Stamps 1 to 10.

1. Dot between P and O in Postzegel. Dot in top of 'd' in 1d. bottom left corner.
2. Curved dash just to the left of 1d. bottom right hand corner.
3. Dot between S and T in Inkomst.
4. Dot in 'd' in 1d. bottom left corner, slightly lower than in first stamp.
5. Dot between antlers of Springbok and 'A' of Africa.
6. Dot in 1 in 1d. bottom left corner.
7. No constant markings.
8. Dot between T of Inkomst and 1d.
9. Two dots in 'd' of 1d. bottom left corner, one in the stem of the 'd' and the other at the base.
10. Dot outside frame bottom right corner.



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THE PROCESS BLOCK OVERPRINT OF THE ½d., 1d., AND 6d. OFFICIAL STAMPS OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

By T. B. BERRY.

(Continued from page 14 of January issue.)

SCHEDULE No. 1 RECORDING THE SHEET POSITIONS OF THE "BROKEN C".

Government Printer's Job No.	S.A. Handbook Cat. No.	Overprint Setting No.	Basic Stamp	P.M.G. Date of Issue.	Quantity issued in sheets.	Date of Issue at	Sheet Position of No. 1 Broken C.	Sheet Position of No. 2 Broken C.	Sheet Position of No. 1 Retouched C	Sheet Position of No. 2 Retouched C
1933	O 98	1	1d., 6A/6B	29.6.50	499	Pretoria Aug. '50.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1933	O 102	1	6d., 6930/6	4.7.50	299	Pretoria May '51.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8318	O 99	2	1d., 76/14	5.12.50	300	Pretoria May '51.	R 3/2A			
8318	O 102a	2	6d., 6930/6	5.12.50	200	Pretoria May '51.	R 3/2E			
12566	O 97	3	½d., 11A/11B	15.3.51	500	Pretoria June, '51.	R 13/2A			
12566	O 99a	3	1d., 70/14	15.3.51	500	Pretoria June, '51.	R 13/2A			
12566	Not Cat.	3	1d., 6925/36	15.3.51		Pretoria June, '51.	R 13/2A			
12566	Not Cat.	3	6d., 6930/6	15.3.51	500	Pretoria June, '51.	R 13/2E			
7400	Not Cat. Not Cat.	4 4a	½d., 11A/11B ½d., 11A/11B	1.11.51 387 shts. Bal. of 113 shts. delivered. 13.11.51	500	Pretoria Feb. '52. Cape Town Mar./Apr. 1952.	R 13/8E R 13/2E	 R 1/6E		
7401	Not Cat. Not Cat.	4 4a	1d., 6925/36 1d., 6925/36	†1.11.51 †1.11.51	500	Pretoria Jan. '52. Cape Town Mar./Apr.	R 13/8A R 3/2A			R 1/12A
12455	Not Cat.	5	1d., 6925/36	11.3.52	500	Pretoria June, '52.			R 13/2A	R 1/12A
12456	Not Cat.	5	6d., 6930/6	11.3.52	500	Pretoria June, '52.			R 13/2E	R 1/12E
11375	Not Cat.	6	½d., 31/70	27.1.53	500	Pretoria Feb. '53.			R 3/2A	R 11/12A
11375	Not Cat.	6	1d., 6925/36	27.1.53	500	Pretoria Feb. '53.		R 11/12A*	R 3/2A	R 11/12A*
11375	Not Cat.	6	6d., 6930/6	22.1.53	500	Pretoria Feb., 53.			R 3/2A	R 11/12E

*Due to a breakdown of the retouch during the process of printing, the "Retouched C" reverted to a "Broken C".
†The number of sheets overprinted is not recorded.

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It will thus be concluded from the different positions which the "Broken C" and its successors assumed on the sheet, that the overprint for the ½d., 1d. and 6d. values must have been applied in four quadrants and that the quadrants were not arranged in the same order for each overprint.

Efforts were consequently made to pick out a definite and constant flaw of the overprint which flaw would earmark a particular quadrant, and thus determine the sheet position of the quadrant when assembled at each printing. Four definite flaws of the overprint, one in each quadrant, were determined for this purpose, and they are:—

1. Dot below EL of OFFISIEEL, determined overprint Quadrant A.
2. Dot under the first E of OFFISIEEL, determining overprint Quadrant B.
3. Dot under O of OFFICIAL, determining overprint Quadrant C.
4. Dots above and below "SIEE" of OFFISIEEL, determining overprint Quadrant D.

By examining the various printings, the sheet positions of these overprint flaws were noted and consequently the relative overprint quadrants were determined. Their positions are tabulated in Schedule No. 2.

Thus, employing the foregoing information, and breaking the sheet of the basic stamp into four panes, namely Upper Left, Upper Right, Lower Left and Lower Right panes, it is possible to reconstruct the arrangement of the overprint quadrants which the operator of the flat bed machine made at the time when the sheets were overprinted. The arrangement of the overprint quadrants A, B, C, D, is shown in Schedule No. 3.

Thus, by investigating and following up an apparent minor flaw, such as a broken letter, and resorting to the aid of "flyspots", the complete plating of the Process-block Overprint, or as it is more commonly termed, the Stereotype Overprint of the ½d., 1d. and 6d. values has been accomplished to date.

Grateful acknowledgement is made to the Government Printer and the Staff of the Government Printing Works, and to the Publicity Officer and Staff of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, for allowing me to view their records; to many philatelic friends for placing their material at my disposal, and last but not least, to Mr. Eric Walker of Pretoria, who originally drew attention to the presence of the "Broken C" in the overprint of our current official stamps.

SCHEDULE No. 2.

Overprint Setting No.	Basic Stamp	Sheet Positions of the Determining Flaws of the Overprint Quadrants. Dot below EL of OFFISIEEL indicating Overprint Quadrant A.	Dot under first E of OFFISIEEL indicating Overprint Quadrant B.	Dot under O of OFFICIAL indicating Overprint Quadrant C.	SIEE of OFFISIEEL indicating Overprint Quadrant D.
1	1d., 6A/6B	R 5/5E	R 9/8A	R 15/4A	R 19/10A
1	6d., 6930/6	R 5/5A	R 9/8E	R 15/4E	R 19/10E
2	1d., 76/14	R 5/11E	R 19/2A	R 5/4A	R 19/10A
2	6d., 6930/6	R 5/11A	R 19/2A	R 5/4E	R 19/10E
3	½d. 11A/11B	R 15/11A	R 9/2E	R 15/4E	R 9/10E
3	1d., 70/14	R 15/11A	R 9/2A	R 15/4A	R 9/10A
3	1d., 6925/36	R 15/11E	R 9/2A	R 15/4A	R 9/10A
3	6d., 6930/6	R 15/11A	R 9/2A	R 15/4E	R 9/10E
4	½d., 11A/11B	R 15/5A	R 9/8E	R 15/10E	R 9/4E
4a	½d., 11A/11B	R 5/11A	R 19/8E	R 15/4E	R 9/4E
4	1d., 6925/36	R 15/5E	R 9/8A	R 15/10A	R 9/4A
4a	1d., 6925/36	R 15/5E	R 19/8A	R 5/4A	R 9/10A
5	1d., 6925/36	R 15/11E	R 9/2A	R 15/4A	R 9/10A
5	6d., 6930/6	R 15/11A	R 9/2A	R 15/4E	R 9/10E
6	½d., 31/70	R 5/11E	R 19/2A	R 5/4A	R 19/10A
6	1d., 6930/6	R 5/11A	R 19/2E	R 5/4E	R 19/10E
6	6d., 6925/36	R 5/11E	R 19/2A	R 5/4A	R 19/10A

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SCHEDULE No. 3.

Overprint Setting No.	Basic Stamp.	Top left pane of sheet. Overprint Quadrant.	Bottom left pane of sheet. Overprint Quadrant.	Top right pane of sheet. Overprint Quadrant.	Bottom right pane of sheet. Overprint Quadrant.
1	1d., 6A/6B	A	B	C	D
1	6d., 6930/6	A	B	C	D
2	1d., 76/14	C	A	B	D
2	6d., 6930/6	C	A	B	D
3	½d., 11/A/11/B	B	D	C	A
3	1d., 70/14	B	D	C	A
3	1d., 6925/36	B	D	C	A
3	6d., 6930/6	B	D	C	A
4	½d., 11A/11B	D	B	A	C
4a	½d., 11A/11B	D	A	C	B
4	1d., 6925/36	D	B	A	C
4a	1d., 6925/36	C	D	A	B
5	1d., 6925/36	B	D	C	A
5	6d., 6930/6	B	D	C	A
6	½d., 31/70	C	A	B	D
6	6d., 6930/6	C	A	B	D
6	1d., 6925/36	C	A	B	D

REVIEWS

The Gambia, by R. E. R. Dalwick. Robson Lowe, Ltd. Price 20/-, postage 1/-.

The postage stamps of The Gambia have always been popular, more especially perhaps the early cameo ones.

We have in this most attractive volume, a study of the stamps, postal history and cancellations by one who has been for forty years a philatelic student of high repute and in its preparation he has had the help of fellow members of the Gambia Study Circle which was formed in 1950.

The work is most readable and enjoyable, even for one who is not highly specialised as regards the Gambia, and although the author says that no attempt has been made to make the book highly technical, it really records practically all that is known about the stamps, including varieties, proofs, forgeries, quantities issued and plating of the cameo issues. There are also chapters on the air mails and cancellations of the territory.

Ship Letter Stamps of Liverpool, by Alan W. Robertson. Published at 5/- as a supplement to "The Philatelist and Postal Historian." Regent Stamp Co. Ltd. (Robson Lowe).

A 12-page pamphlet with nearly 80 illustrations of the ship letter stamps, Packet letters and Handstamps of maritime significance. These cover the period 1781 to 1900 approximately.

O.F.S. CENTENARY.

In addition to the Souvenir Covers advertised in last (January) issue, I have available a few old Free State Republican postcards, with Centenary stamps and Festival postmark. Sent on approval, on request.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC.

Karl Marx issue of 1953, very colourful, complete mint set of 10 ..... 3/6
Ditto., in two miniature sheets, Pair 8/6
Ditto, in two miniature sheets, imperf. Pair 7/6

New Approval Selections: Holland, Egypt, Natal Queen's Head, etc., etc.

A. Lichtenstein
B.P.A.
Box 1117 ——— BLOEMFONTEIN

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★ South-West Africa ★

We have just purchased an unusually fine collection of the issues of this country, probably one of the best to come on the market for some years. It will be some two or three months before we can list the whole collection in our regular fortnightly list, and we have therefore decided to give readers of the "SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST" the opportunity of having first pick!

1923	I.	**14 mm. between lines of overprint:—**	
		½d. S.G. 1, broken "Z", **1/6;** Pl. 5 blk. of 4 also showing broken "A", **2/6;** broken "t" in "West" in blk. of 4, **7/6;** Strip of 6 with misplaced overprint	£1 5 0
		½d. S.G. 1a in block of 4	£0 17 6
		1d. S.G. 2 Pl. 6 blk. of 4, **3/6;** Pl. 7 blk. of 4	£0 3 6
		1d. S.G. 2a overprint inverted	£6 0 0
		1d. S.G. 2b in blk. of 4	£0 15 0
		1d. S.G. 2c in positional blk. of 6	£1 5 0
		2d. S.G. 3 Pl. 1 blk. of 4, **3/6;** broken "t" in "West" in blk. of 4	£0 10 0
		3d. S.G. 4 Pl. 1 pair, **2/6;** Pl. 1 blk. of 4, **6/-;** broken "t" in "West" block of 4	£0 15 0
		4d. S.G. 5 Pl. 1 pair, **4/-;** Pl. 1 blk. of 4, **10/-;** broken "t" in West" twice in blk. of 4	£1 5 0
		6d. S.G. 6 Pl. 1 blk. of 4, **12/6;** broken "t" in "West" twice in blk. of 4	£1 12 6
		1/- S.G. 8 Pl. 1 pair, **7/6;** Pl. 1 blk. of 4, **16/-;** dropped stop after Africa, **7/6;** broken "t" in "West"	£0 17 6
		1/3 S.G. 8 Pl. blk. of 4	£0 15 0
		1/3 S.G. 8a inverted overprint	£10 0 0
		2/6 S.G. 9 **£1;** broken "t" in "West" in block of 4	£2 15 0
		5/- S.G. 10 small stop variety	£3 0 0
		10/- S.G. 11, **£12;** £1 S.G. 12	£8 10 0
1923	IA.	**Lithographed Overprint:—**	
		½d. S.G. 12a Pl. 5 blk. of 4	£0 2 6
		4d. S.G. 12b Pl. 1 blk. of 4, showing broken "S" in "South"	£0 16 0
		6d. S.G. 12c. **6/-;** Pl. 1 blk. of 4	£0 13 6
		1/- S.G. 12d, **12/6;** blk. of 4	£1 5 0
		1/3 S.G. 12e, **13/6;** 2/6 S.G. 12f, **15/-;** blk. of 4	£1 10 0
1923	II.	**10 mm. between lines of overprint.**	
		5/- S.G. 13, **£3;** blk. of 4	£6 10 0
		10/- S.G. 14, **£6 10s. 0d.;** £1 S.G. 15	£10 0 0
1923	III.	**Without Hyphen — 14 mm. spacing.**	
		2d. S.G. 18 Pl. 1 blk. of 4, **5/-;** Pl. 2 blk of 4	£0 3 6
		3d. S.G. 19 Pl. 1 pair	£0 5 0
		6d. S.G. 21 Pl. 1 block of 4	£0 11 6
		1/- S.G. 22 Pl. 1 block of 4	£0 12 6
		2/6 S.G. 24 Pl. 1 block of 4	£3 0 0
		5/- S.G. 25, **£1/5/-;** 10/- S.G. 26, **£1/15/-;** £1 S.G. 27	£7 10 0
1923	IV.	**South West 16 mm.**	
		2/6 S.G. 28, **£1/5/-;** blk. of 4	£2 15 0
1923	VI.	**9½ mm. spacing: South West 16½ mm.**	
		½d. S.G. 29 Pl. 7 block of 4	£0 2 6
		1d. S.G. 30 Pl. 6 blk. of 4, **2/6;** Pl. 7 block of 4	£0 2 6
		2/6 S.G. 37, **10/-;** Pl. 1 pair **15/-;** broken "e" in "West"	£0 15 0
		5/- S.G. 38, **£1/5/-;** blk of 4 in light blue shade	£3 10 0
		10/- S.G. 39 Pl. 1 blk of 4, **£6/10/-;** £1 S.G. 40 Pl. 1 blk. of 4	£17 10 0
1923	VI.	**9½ mm. spacing: South West 16½ mm.**	
		2/6 S.G. 37, **12/6;** 5/- S.G. 38	£1 10 0
		10/- S.G. 39 Pl. 1 blk of 4	£6 10 0
		£1 S.G. 40 Pl. 1 blk. of 4	£17 10 0
		£1 S.G. 40a, **£5;** se tenant pairs from top and bottom panes, both 16½ mm.	£13 10 0
1923	VI.	**9½ mm. spacing:** se tenant pairs from top and bottom panes showing 16 mm. and 16½ mm. measurement of "South West" in the one block — scarce thus:	
		½d. S.G. 29, **10/-;** 1d. S.G. 30, **10/-;** 3d. S.G. 32	£1 5 0
		4d. S.G. 33, **£1;** 5/- S.G. 38	£4 10 0
		£1 S.G. 40 superb	£17 10 0

The above are all in units of pairs as per S.G. Catalogue, and in fine Mint condition. This list gives only a general idea of the material contained in Vol. I of this 3-vol. collection. Later issues, postage dues and officials are included, and we shall be glad to receive want lists.

B. J. HUNTER

56a, EAST STREET, BRIGHTON, SUSSEX, ENGLAND.

Tel. Brighton 26977.

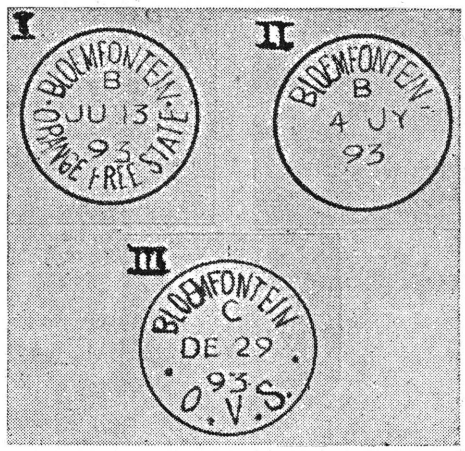
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The Condensed Type "Bloemfontein Orange Free State" Postmark.

By W. NEWLANDS.

The postmark mentioned in the title of this article is of the Single Circle type 23 mm. in diameter, with very condensed lettering reading "Bloemfontein" between two stops at the top and "Orange Free State" in full around the balance of the circle, the letters being about 3¾ mm. in height. In the centre there is an index under the 'FO' of Bloemfontein with the date in 2 lines below this index letter. So far only index letters A, B and C have been noted.

No reason has so far been advanced as to why the name of the Republic appears in full in English, but from what happened to this type of canceller after a short initial period of use, the impression is gained that the English wording was an error. This type of cancellation is found mainly on 1d. Brown stamps or on the ½d. chestnut provisional Postcards and in the lists given below the use of this cancellation on other values is specially noted. Where used on the provisional postcards this is noted by means of the letters PC in brackets after the date. Where the letter F is shown in brackets this is used to indicate dates in the collection of Mr. A. Cecil Fenn of Sutton Coldfield, England, who has helped in the work on this postmark.



TYPE 1.

Type 1 (Fig. 1) is as described in the first paragraph and is fairly rare as its period of use appears to be restricted to May and June of 1893. The earliest date noted is MY 24/93 and the latest date JU 13/93.

TYPE 2.

Type 2 (Fig. 2) is similar to type 1 except that the wording "Orange Free State" has been removed as well as the two stops but a trace of the previous wording is visible below the 'N' of Bloemfontein in the form of an inverted comma-like mark. This type is extremely rare with the earliest date 20 JU/93 and the latest DE 9/93.

TYPE 3.

Type 3 (Fig. 3) is similar to type 2 but has had the letters O.V.S. added with stops before and after Bloemfontein, and stops after each of the letters O.V.S. Impressions vary from thin clear lettering to thickish lettering on later postmarks — probably due to wear. For this type the earliest date is AU 10/93 and the latest —R 4/94 (probably March 1894).

TYPE 4.

Type 4 is similar of type 3 but has no stops after the letters O V S and the two stops before and after Bloemfontein have also been omitted. There is however a short line (or stop) just after the 'N' of Bloemfontein in approximately the same position as the stop in Type 1 and a blackish mark shaped like a leaf between the 'B' of Bloemfontein and the 'O' of O V S. The first mark shows in almost every case but the leaflike mark does show signs of a line between the "stop" after the 'N' of Bloemfontein and the 'S' of O.V.S. In this canceller the letters O V S are larger than those in type 3 with the letter 'O' being 3mm. wide and the arms of the letter 'V' being 4mm. long. These measurements distinguish this type from Type 5. The earliest date for this type is DE 4/93 and the latest date noted is 20 MR/94.

TYPE 5.

Type 5 is similar to Type 4 with the letters O V S being of a smaller type. The 'O' is 2½ mm. wide and the arms of the letter 'V' are now 3mm. long. The leaflike mark described for Type 4 does not show nor does the line between the stop after 'N' in Bloemfontein and the 'S' of O.V.S. The earliest date noted is 14 MR/94 and the latest MY 28/95.

TYPE 6.

Typ 6 is similar to Type 3 but with slightly larger letters. The lettering for this type is 4 mm. high and appears to be a new canceller, but why the name "Bloemfontein" was condensed as for Type 1 is a mystery as there was ample space to spread the letters as is shown on later "Bloemfontein O V S" cancellers, used during the period just prior to the Boer War. The only dates for this type are 10 JU/96 and 8 JY/96.

From the tables and dates given hereunder it will be noted that the Bloemfontein Orange Free State postmark and its allied types were in use over a period of 3 years during the 90's. The types with the letters O V S, with and without stops, should not be confused with similar Bloemfontein postmarks where the lettering of the word Bloemfontein is spread out. All types described above have condensed lettering and the word Bloemfontein does not occupy more than one-third of the space around the circle.

A glance at the dates for each index letter will reveal the fact that only Type 4 fails to conform to a regular pattern for period of use. This leads one to the conclusion that there were two similar cancellers with index letters A and C (one each of Type 4 and Type 5) and only one with index letter B (Type 5) and that all of these were in concurrent use hence the overlapping of dates. However the why and wherefore of this type of postmark is one of the many mysteries that make the collection of used O.V.S. stamps so full of interest.

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TYPE 1 (BLOEMFONTEIN : ORANGE FREE STATE:)

A.	B.	C.
JU 3/93	MY 24/93 (F) MY 31/93 (F) JU 13/93	MY 25/93 — 29/93 (2d.) JU 3/93 JU 6/- JU 12/93 (F)

TYPE 2 (BLOEMFONTEIN:)

DE 9/93(PC)	20 JU/93 (PC) 4 JY/93 (½d pr)	NIL.

TYPE 3 (BLOEMFONTEIN:O.V.S:)

26 JA/94 (PC) FE 3/94 (PC)	OC 10/93 (PC) OC 20/93 DE 18/93 JA 3/94 (PC) JA 5/94 (PC) —R 4/94 15-/9- (½d.)	AU 10/93 (F) 18 SP/93 (F) 18 SP/93 (PC) 29 SP/93 DE 18/93 (PC) DE 29/93 (½d.) 9 JA/94

TYPE 4 (BLOEMFONTEIN:OVS) (LARGE LETTERS IN O.V.S.)

—E 16/93	NIL.	DE 4/93 (PC) 6 FE/94 (½d.) 5 MR/94 10 [illegible]/94 12 MR/94 (PC) 20 MR/94 (½d.)

TYPE 5 (BLOEMFONTEIN:OVS) (SMALL LETTERS IN O.V.S.)

AP 5/94 (PC) MY 18/94 (PC) JU 2/94	14 MR 94 26 AP/94 (PC) JU 2/94 JU 9/94 JU 23/94 JU 25/94 JU 26/94 JY 3/94 JY 5/94 JY 6/94 (PC) JY 9/94 MY 11/95 (½d.) 21 MY/95 (F)	JU 18/94 (PC) JY 16/94 (F) MY 28/95 (F)

TYPE 6 (BLOEMFONTEIN:O.V.S:)

NIL	10 JU/96 (1d. Mauve).	8 JY/96(F)

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SOUTH AFRICAN POSTAGE STAMPS USED FOR REVENUE PURPOSES

The recently issued centenary stamps of the 1d. denomination was not specifically described as being available for revenue purposes although the normal 1d. stamp of the "Ship" design has embodied in its frame work the words "Postage and Revenue." As a result a certain amount of doubt arose in the minds of the public as to whether or not the centenary stamp could be used for revenue purposes.

Readers might, therefore, be interested to know what the legal position is with regard to the use of postage stamps for revenue purposes and the following information is taken from the "Stamp Duties Handbook" (1940 edition) published by the Government Printer, Pretoria.

Section 6 of the Stamp Duties and Fees Act, 1911 provides, **inter alia,** that:—

> "In the case of any instrument liable to the duty of one penny, a postage stamp may be used for denoting the duty."

This means that in the case, for instance, of a receipt, upon which the duty is 1d., any South African penny postage stamp may be used, irrespective of whether it is marked "Postage and Revenue" or not. In actual fact there is no such thing as a penny Revenue Stamp so that the only way of paying stamp duty of 1d. is by means of a postage stamp.

The 1d. centenary stamp is therefore available for payment of stamp duty not exceeding 1d. and, to remove any doubts on this score, the Department of Finance published the following notice in the Government Gazette on 18th September, 1953:

> **"Centenary of Postage Stamps in South Africa**
>
> It is hereby notified for general information that the one penny commemorative postage stamps issued by the Post Office from September, 1953, may be used for the purpose of denoting payment of stamp duty on documents liable to a duty of one penny."

The "Stamp Duties Hand Book" also contains the following notes regarding the use of Postage Stamps:

(1) A "postage" stamp of, or exceeding, the requisite value may be used to denote the duty on any instrument liable to the duty of one penny. (That is to say, you may use a 2d. postage stamp on a receipt — or for that matter a 10/- postage stamp, if you wish).

(2) "Voortrekker" or other commemoration issues of postage stamps may be used for the purpose of denoting payment of the duty of one penny referred to in Note (1). It should be noted, however, that such stamps can be used to denote the payment of duty only to the extent to which they are available for postage purposes. Any such stamps which are available for postage purposes only to the extent of two-thirds or one-half of their face value would be similarly restricted in their use for revenue purposes.

(3) As the Union half-penny and penny stamps are "postage and revenue" stamps, a sufficient number thereof may be used to denote the duty on any instrument.

D. LAMONT SMITH.

RHODESIAN INTER-PROVINCIALS.

"What on earth are they" we can hear readers remarking on the title. They are well described in the November issue of the "Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle".

There is actually a 'Pre-Interprovincial' period as well as a more strictly 'Interprovincial' one.

The former runs for the 6 months 1 Oct., 1893 to 1 April, 1924. On the former date Rhodesia ceased to be governed by the Chartered Company and was divided into the southern and northern territories. It was agreed that the Company's stamps, the Admiral issue, could be used on mail until 1 April, 1924 when the first issue, peculiar to S. Rhodesia, was to be put on sale. Such pre-interprovincials, showing properly dated cancellations, form a proper introduction to a Southern Rhodesian collection.

The strictly Interprovincial period lasted only for one month, 1 April—1 May 1924, when, as a further concession, the authorities in S. Rhodesia allowed the use of Rhodesian 'Admirals' for prepayment of postage. Such stamps could be exchanged at a post-office for equivalent values of the new issue but the Rhodesian stamps were demonetised in S. Rhodesia on 1 Oct., 1924.

SHORT NOTICES.

Aero Philatelic Annals. No. 2 of this new publication, like No. 1 which was reviewed in our December issue, contains a variety of articles on Air Mail topics from many parts of the world. An important one deals with the clean-up in Nicaragua of the enormous amount of forged material which has been made there recently. There have been raids, seizures, trials, fines and punishment of offenders and a huge amount of material destroyed.

B.C.A. & Nyasaland. The postal history and postmarks of these territories has started in the "Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly" as a serial, by W. G. Nodder and C. D. Twynam. This gives promise of being a very interesting communication; we understand it will later be published in booklet form.

Palace Collections of Egypt. The catalogue (price 5/-) produced by Messrs. H. R. Harmer Ltd., of these sales held in Cairo Feb. 12-18 is a real work of art listing some 1,100 lots of the matchless Egyptian collection and over 400 of the world generally, including many rarities.

In the Egyptian lots are a hundred of the 'Port Fuad' sets, in full sheets, otherwise known almost entirely as singles only. How will the market value of the singles be affected?

British Exhibition and Congress. A National Exhibition was held in London, January 9-16. From the short notices we have seen there appears to have been some very fine material on show.

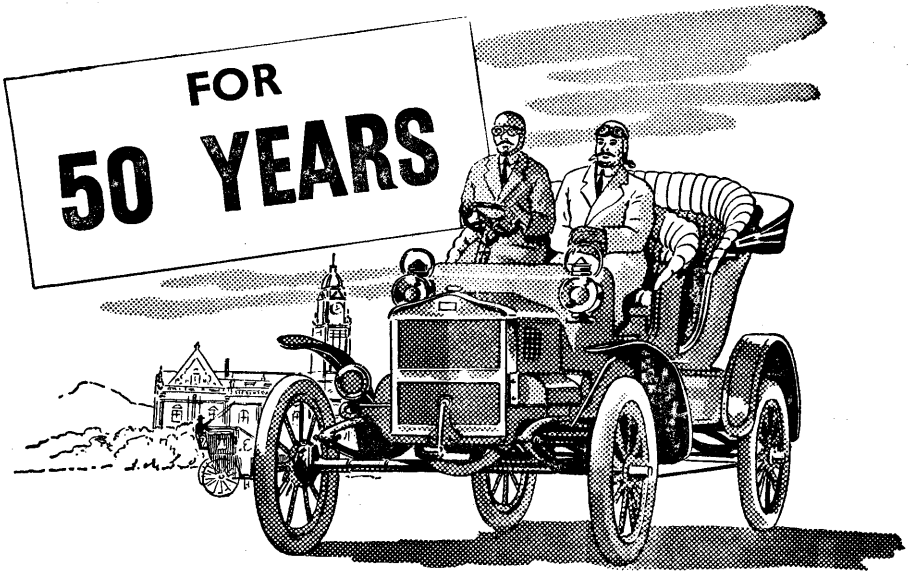
The 36th meeting of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain is to be held this year in Eastbourne.

Special postmarks at both events.

German Philatelic Review. The November issue is a special "Palestine" edition, dealing with German post offices in the period 1898-1918.

Bermuda 'Postmaster' stamp. On 8 February Messrs. H. R. Harmer were due to auction a Bermuda 'postmaster' 1d., the only one of the 10 known copies on complete cover.

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BASUTOLAND—SOME HISTORICAL NOTES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO POSTAL MATTERS

By G. N. GILBERT.

(Continued from page 5 of January issue.)

The First Postoffices in Basutoland

Up to this date, viz 1871, there were no actual Postoffices in existence, and we come now to the references which gives the date of the opening of the first, viz. Maseru.

In 1872, Chief Magistrate Griffiths, reporting on the results of his first year's work, mentions, inter alia, the following expenses viz, "for 41 native police, £402, and for one Postmaster, £6. In the Basutoland Records in the Cape Archives (vol. 6, pg. 350-2) the following is found in letters from the Governor's Agent to the Colonial Secretary, dated at Maseru, December 29th, 1871: "The cost (i.e., of the proposed Postoffice) is estimated to be £84. Bright is to be the first Postal Agent, and to get £6 per annum, plus £3 per annum stationery allowance."

In the same Records (vol. 6 pg. 382) it records: "Bright has assumed duties as Postal Agent as from January 1st 1872."

Following on this appears the notice in the "Little Light of Basutholand" of 1872, viz: "Unclaimed letters at the Postoffice, Maseru.

The following list of unclaimed letters and newspapers now lying at the above mentioned Postoffice is hereby published for general information:

Signd H. E. Richard Bright, Postmaster,
Postoffice, Maseru, Feb. 10th, 1872.

So Maseru was the first Postoffice and opened on January 1st 1872.

Regarding the sum of **£6** mentioned above as being the Postmaster's salary, the writer was inclined to think at first that this must refer to a native supervisor of the first post service, but it now appears that this was quite a usual sum to pay Postal Agents in the Cape at that time, as they usually ran their own businesses as well, their postal work being only part time.

Actually in the case of Mr. Bright, he was Clerk of the Court, and Assistant Magistrate at Maseru as well as being the first Postmaster. When Maseru first opened, it was purely a receiving and despatching Agency.

No Postal orders or Money orders were stocked, and stamps were obtained from Aliwal North.

So far no proof has been forthcoming that any stamps were actually cancelled in Maseru until 1875, as prior to the opening of Maseru Postoffice, all mail was dealt with and cancelled at Aliwal North or the other outside Postoffices such as Winburg, etc.

In the "Little Light of Basutholand" of 1875 is found the following: "We understand that Postoffice moneyorders can now be obtained at Maseru to send money to the Colony or even to England and vice versa."

From the same publication (no. 4, pg. 16): "In accordance with instructions from the Postmaster General it is hereby notified for general information, that, on and after this date all letters, parcels, papers, etc. for Aliwal North must be stamped at the same rate charged in posting to any other part of the Colony."

Signed, Henry Lee Davis, Postmaster,
Maseru, March 11th, 1875.

What is particularly interesting is the reference quoted below which shows that until July 1877, all internal post had been carried free in Basutoland.

It is again from the "Little Light of Basutholand" and is dated 1877.

"From the 1st of July let it be remembered that stamps have to be affixed to every letter, book, parcel, etc. sent from post to post in the limits of Basutoland. **Hitherto no charge has been made.** We think that a 1d. stamp ought to have been considered sufficient for letter postage within the limits of the country."

Shortly after Maseru Postoffice was opened, Agencies were started at **Leribe, Mohalieshoek and Mafeteng,** the latter Camp being opened in 1874 with Revd. Mr. Rolland as Magistrate.

There is a reference to this in the Financial Report on British Basutoland for 1873 and 1874, which refers to the cost of the Agencies at Leribe, Cornet Spruit (Mohalieshoek) and Mafeteng, together with cost of repairs to mail bags, pack saddles, etc.

Quthing was made a Magistracy in 1877, and a Postal Agency started there shortly after, followed by **Morija.**

The Revd. Mr. Mabille at Morija, who had been on leave overseas, applied on his return towards the end of 1882 for a Postoffice to be opened to deal with the ever expanding business of his Book Depot there, and it was opened in 1884.

The following notes, taken from the "Basutoland News" of 18-8-53, with an obituary leader on Miss Florence Suzanne Mabille, give some interesting sidelights on early postal matters.

Miss Mabille was born in Morija on Sept. 14, 1862, and was the grand-daughter of the Rev. Eugene Casalis.

In 1884, her father received permission from the Basutoland Government to open a Postal Agency at Morija.

This at first consisted of a large pigeon-holed cupboard for letters, and a box on which the letters were stamped, both in Mr. Mabille's study, and Miss Mabille was placed in charge of the Agency without salary!

In due course the Mission erected a two-roomed building at the back of the "Presbytere", one room serving as postoffice, and schoolroom, and the other was the nucleus of the present large Book Depot.

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This was also served by Miss Mabille, who carried on the triple job of Postmistress, book depot manager, and school teacher. In due course the Government paid her a small salary for the postal agency and when in 1899 Morija was linked to Maseru and Mafeteng by telegraph, she, after a short course of instruction, was appointed telegraphist and postmistress, at a salary which never exceeded £60 per annum. Out of this she paid a part-time assistant, Akim Sello, then a teacher at the Normal College, as the work had become more exacting.

In those days the mail was carried by Cape Cart and four horses once a week between Maseru and Mafeteng via Morija.

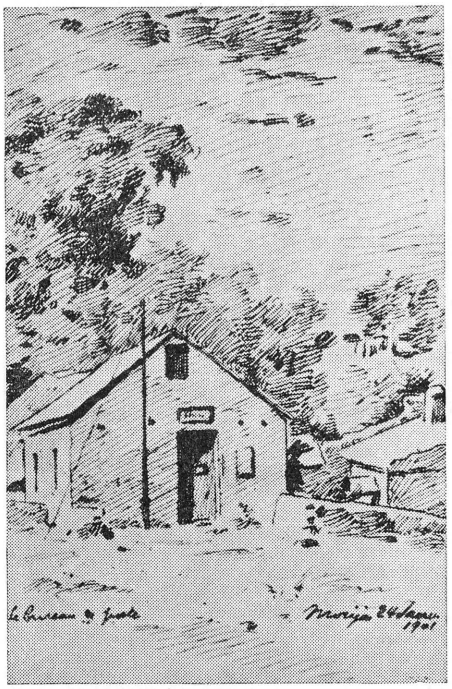
When the postcart driver neared Morija he announced his arrival by curious sounds on a bugle. Not infrequently this was in the middle of the night, bitterly cold in the winter, and the postmistress had to get up to receive the postbags and sign the way bills.

She gave up the postal service in 1907, when the present postoffice was built.

She was in her ninety-first year when she died recently, and thus passes one of the few remaining links with the original pioneer Missionaries.

Butha Buthe was the next Agency to be opened.

The Camp there was started in 1884 by Mr. Kennan, who had been sent there by Sir Marshall Clarke to keep the peace between Chiefs Joel and Jonathan.



Morija Post Office in 1901.

This is recorded in Mr. Kennan's diary, and also the fact that the place was known for a very long time as Kennan's Camp.

The writer was told by an old inhabitant that he could remember the coming of the Postal Agency, as it started in a tent, while a building was being completed.

Teyateyaneng, or known to the inhabitants as T.Y. for short, was the next to be opened.

This place was previously known as Advance Post, where a Camp was started in 1869, about three miles south-west of the present position of Teyateyaneng.

This Camp was evacuated in 1880 during the "Gun War" as being untenable, and was reopened on its present site in 1886 and called Teyateyaneng, Mr. Lagden being the first Magistrate.

The correct spelling of this place is "Tejatejaneng" and this is literally translated as "the place with the not too bad quicksands".

Qacha's Nek was apparently the last of the present-day large Postoffices to be opened, in 1892/3.

According to Mr. Kennan's diary, this place was opened by him as a Police post in 1888, while he was Magistrate at Quthing.

There was no white man in charge, only a native, and Mr. Kennan used to make frequent visits there.

The first white official to be posted there was Mr. Griffith who took up his post on the 14th of November 1892, and it was shortly after this that an Agency was started there.

The writer has been told that prior to this one of the Mission Stations on the East Griqualand border acted as an unofficial postal agency.

Regarding the opening of the Police Post there, Mr. Kennan's diary gives a most interesting story of a journey he and his party took on this occasion.

They intended to try to find a pass through the mountains in the north to Leribe after starting the Post, and reached what is now Mokhotlong when the weather turned atrocious. Snow was falling and as the country was completely unknown, they asked the local Chief of the Batlokoa tribe—Lelingoana—for a guide.

This the Chief agreed to give them, but secretly ordered the guide to mis-lead the party.

He took them down into a valley deep in snow and then decamped, leaving them to their fate.

They struggled for days to find a way out, and eventually did find a pass through the mountains and arrived in Leribe half dead with exhausiton and hunger.

The day they arrived, Chief Khethisa Molapo's wife had presented him with a son, and he was so astounded that the party had come through the mountains alive, that he named his son Kennan Khethisa. This then gives an outline of postal events up to the 1890's.

(To be continued.)

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BLOEMFONTEIN—1854.

When news of the O.F.S. Centennary Commemoratives first came out I was asked "Will you be writing up the story of the Sand River Convention for the occasion?" The answer was in the negative as that particular Convention had nothing directly to do with the establishment of the Orange Free State, although indirectly it no doubt helped lead up to it.

The following brief history of the period 1848-54 has been checked up as regards facts from Theal's "History of South Africa", Vol. 3, so may be taken as accurate.

In 1848 Sir Harry Smith, the Governor at the Cape, visited Bloemfontein, Winburg and Natal, meeting amongst others Pretorius from the Transvaal, and also the two leading African chiefs, Adam Kok of the Griquas and Moshesh of the Basutos.

At Winburg, then the headquarters of a local Republic, he was presented with an address from a number of Boer settlers asking him to extend British protection to the area; he was probably under the impression that this feeling was more widespread than it actually was and drew up a proclamation extending the Queen's sovereignty over territory both north and south of the Vaal.

Pretorius, however, warned him that the Boers north of the Vaal would not stand for this so he limited the proclamation to the territory between the Orange, the Vaal and the Drakensberg. So came into being the Orange River Sovereignty, as it was termed, and it lasted from 1848 to 1854. Major Warden and a detachment of some 50-60 Cape mounted riflemen were put in charge of this huge area. There was a lot of trouble with the Basutos and the local whites were largely unwilling to share in operations against them, taking up the attitude "That's the British job.' Later the troops had to be augmented considerably.

In January 1852 a Convention was held at Sand River, about 10 miles north of Winburg between Pretorius and British authorities. The signing of this on 17-1-52 was the formal acknowledgement by Great Britain of the independence of the Boers north of the Vaal and recognition of their Republic.

Later that year Earl Grey wrote to Sir Harry Smith that "ultimate abandonment of the Orange River Sovereignty should be a settled point in imperial policy." That represented official opinion in Great Britain; in the Cape the feeling seems rather to have been the opposite, whilst in the O.R. Sovereignty itself opinion was divided.

In April 1853 Sir G. Russell Clark was appointed a Commissioner "for settling and adjusting of affairs of the O.R. Sovereignty" — in other words to withdraw British authority with the best grace possible. A preliminary meeting was held in Bloemfontein on 5 Sept. 1853 of some 95 delegates (76 Dutch, 19 English — there were quite a lot of English settlers by this time among the approximately 15,000 whites). This meeting refused to undertake the setting up of a government, unless various matters (mainly concerned with native affairs) were settled and then, **mirabile dictu,** drew up a constitution on their own initiative "under Her Majesty's Government."

But the British were evidently determined to get out—the Commissioner called another meeting of those willing to form a government, laying a draft Convention before them. This was signed on 23rd February, 1854 and so the Orange Free State came officially into existence.

The Volksraad met on 28th March, framed a constitution, and elected J. P. Hoffman as first President of the Republic. J.H.H.P.

MYSTERY WAR MARK.

Mr. I. H. C. Godfrey submits a Union World War II mark which has not been recorded. It is on a Union Official foolscap-size envelope addressed 'By Air in charge of pilot' to 'D. E. E. Admiralty, Bath, England'. The mark is a double-lined circle of 35 mm. diam. Wording at top is 'S.I.D.G.', at bottom 'South Africa' with small 5-point stars opposite each end of the date across the centre, 24-7-1945.

One might hazard a guess that it is a naval franking but can any reader give a definite clue?

PHILIPPINES

A 1c. stamp with a portrait of President Quezon appeared on 30th November and on 16th December there was issued a 5c. stamp for the Jubilee of the Philippine Medical Association; it features a patient on the examination table with a physician auscultating.

O.F.S. CENTENARY.

Don't forget the O.F.S. Centenary celebrations on 23rd inst. There are two special stamps, 2d. and 4½d., (illustrated in our December issue) and first day covers are being serviced by the O.F.S. and Basutoland Philatelic Society, also by Mr. A. Lichtenstein. For particulars see our advertising columns. ee also page 22.

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BRAPEX III.

We have received a programme of this International Exhibition, to be held in Sao Paulo, Brazil on 6-15 November.

It looks like being a big affair, but so far as African exhibits are concerned they are not very encouraging. You may enter a general collection of Africa, Asia or Australia, or a specialised collection of one country in any of these three continents (but they are all in one group). At most you will only get a silver-gilt award.

SOME RECENT AUCTION PRICES.

H. R. Harmer.

Cape Woodblock 1d. error of colour, small tear and creases, £100.
Do. 4d. do. do. do. do., £120.
G. Britain 1841 1d. error with no A (S.G. 12a), £57 10s.
Morocco (Spanish Zone) Silver Jubilee error (S.G. 131a), £26.
Australia 1915-1928 £1 (S.G. 45a), £13.
Australia 1915-28 £2 (S.G. 46b), £19.
Kenya 50r. (S.G. 16), £23.
Kenya £20 (S.G. 107), £70.
S. Africa £1 (S.G. 24a), £13.
Gibraltar 10c. error (S.G. 35), £125.

Robson Lowe.

Danzig Aug. 1920 1m. and 2m. mint, £36.
France 5fr. used on 1873 cover from Venezuela, £57 10s.
Madagascar 1902, "O.10" on 50c. (S.G. 56), £21.
Palestine 1915 cover with various war markings, £27.
U.S.A. 1893 Columbus $5 unused, £14 10s.
Canada 1851 6d. slate-violet, used, £32.
Mauritius 1848 Post Paid 2d. on cover, £92.
Turks Is. 1873, 1/- lilac, unused, £75.

J. H. Wicks.

Natal 6d. Opt. inverted (S.G. 87), £4.
Rhodesia 1901 £5 (S.G. 92), £8.
Rhodesia 1/- (S.G. 152a), £4.
Rhodesia 7/6 Double head, uncatalogued Reckitt's blue, £6.
Swaziland 2d. 1889 Opt. inverted used, £2/10/-.
S. Africa £1 (S.G. 24), mint pair, £24.

UNITED NATIONS.

The programme of stamp issues for 1954 has been announced as: 11 Feb., two Food and Agriculture stamps; 10 May, two for International Labour day; 24 Oct., two for U.N. day; 10 Dec., two for Human Rights day. Stamps may be purchased in N.Y., London or Geneva, but first day servicing is only done in N.Y.

DURBAN CONGRESS AND EXHIBITION 1-4 JUNE, 1954.

Durban this year celebrates its civic centenary, and one of the attractions will be the philatelic exhibition to be staged by the Philatelic Society of Natal in the City Hall. This will be contemporaneous with the 16th Annual Congress of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa.

The Prospectus of the Exhibition and Entry Forms are now available and are obtainable from the Exhibition Secretary, 25 Hunt Road, Durban. It is noteworthy that there is a big scope from Thematic collections.

Prospective visitors are advised that there is already a big run on accommodation over the period of the exhibition, and should book **at once.**

A N. RHODESIAN RE-ENTRY.

Mr. Jack Creewel has been travelling throughout the Rhodesia's lately and in the course of his travels reports finding a 1/- N.R. Centenary stamp with a re-entry in the wording 'Victoria Falls and Railway Bridge'. The lettering of 'Falls and Ra' is definitely doubled. The position on the sheet of the stamp with the re-entry is uncertain, beyond the fact that it is in the top row, his specimen having a small part of the top selvage attached.

SWITZERLAND.

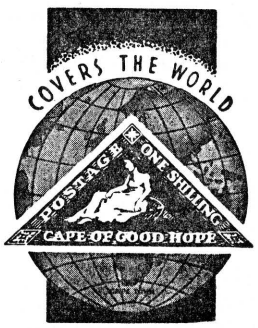
The 1953 Pro Jeuventute set consists of 5 stamps, one with the head of a child from a painting by Anker, one with a portrait of the artist F. Hodler, and three featuring respectively a moth, a butterfly and a beetle. There are also sheets and booklets with the various stamps se tenant and tête bêche.

TONGA.

It had been intended to overprint the current 8d. stamp to commemorate the Royal Visit but orders from the trade were so heavy (rumour says a million stamps would have been needed to fill them) that the authorities decided to abandon the project altogether.

AUSTRALIA

The P.M.G.'s Philatelic Bulletin announces so far only two commemorative issues for 1954: (a) 3½d., 7½d. and 2/- Royal Visit Stamps on 2nd February; (b) one celebrating the centenary of the first stamps of Western Australia; this will incorporate a swan design.



The NEW CENTRAL STAMP AUCTIONS

The GLOBE POSTAGE STAMP COMPANY proudly presents the above public auctions which will be held regularly in the comfortably furnished, well-lit basement of the Company's centrally situated, ground-floor premises.

The auctions will be conducted by an expert philatelist with long experience of values.

Philatelists throughout Africa are cordially invited to inscribe their names for regular gratis supply of full descriptive catalogues. Postal bids welcomed.

Material for sales also welcomed.

Auctioneer: R. H. LACY

BPA BRITISH PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION Trade Section

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Plein & Mostert Streets
(12 Mostert Street),
CAPE TOWN.

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SOCIETY NEWS.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL.

January.

It was appropriate that a former Director-General of Indian Posts and Telegraphs, in the person of Mr. A. Brokenshaw, a newly-joined member of the Society, should propose the vote of thanks to Mr. R. A. Gilzean for his display of Commonwealth Middle and Far East at the January meeting.

In spite of the efforts of Durban's notorious humidity at its warm worst, over forty members were present: a tribute either to their keenness as collectors or to the knowledge that any Gilzean display pays dividends by way of interest (no pun intended!)

This collection, seen for the first time, was well up to "Gilzean Standard" in neatness and originality of mounting and in general interest.

Mr. Brokenshaw, in a short speech, made more intriguing by little touches of first-hand knowledge of Eastern personalities revealed that, in spite of his favourable position, he did not collect a single stamp while in India! Sometimes the philatelic germ works somewhat late!

In the absence of the President, Mr. Lionel Bevis, who was collecting in Basutoland (museum specimens, not stamps, this time) the chair was taken by the Ex-President, Mr. H. R. Brown.

The usual auction was more than ordinarily interesting, many properties changing hands under Mr. Joe Lyle's experienced efforts. The Durban Centenary Exhibition Fund had a good evening from the sale of several donated items.

The Prospectus of the 1954 Durban Centenary Exhibition, to be held in the City Hall from 1st to 4th June, has now been published. Your own Secretary probably has copies but, if not, apply to: The Exhibition Secretary, Philatelic Society of Natal, 25, Hunt Road, Durban, Natal. As the closing date for the acceptance of entries is 31st March, undue delay in obtaining a copy is not advisable.

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

December. A fair attendance despite the very unsettled weather, and once the formal business of the meeting was concluded, we had three exhibits for the Sam Legator Trophy. Mr. Feinstein, although unable to attend the meeting personally, sent along his collection of Queen Elizabeth which comprised stamps of the Coronation, and most of the latter issues that the various countries have issued to date. Mr. Slomowitz' George VI stamps, although a portion of his collection, but even so it consisted of at least 120 pages and the various countries were well represented. Mr. Rigg showed his stamps of Austria, a collection of 100 pages.

The committee will meet before our next meeting and decide who is the winner of this floating trophy. Members are reminded that our next meeting will be the 34th Annual General Meeting, at which the Sam Legator Trophy will be presented to the successful member for his exhibit. E.N.R.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

1st December, 1953.

Mr. Dave Berg afforded the members the opportunity of seeing his thematic collection of "Horses on Stamps" of which we have heard so much, and were not disappointed.

Mr. T. Winsley thanked and complimented Mr. Berg on his collection of "Gee-Gees".

A very successful auction followed the tea interval and a pleasant evening terminated at 10 p.m.

15th December, 1953.

The last meeting of the year proved most enjoyable and informal. Twenty members, two visitors, including Dr. Faerber of Germiston, and three juniors made up the gathering.

Official business occupied the minimum of time, the rest of the evening being devoted to auctioneering of some attractive material, a "3d. in the pool" raffle for the benefit of our finances and as the 'piece de resistance' an exchange of stamps between members.

This proved a very successful ending to the year's activities, the President extending to all his best wishes for a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year with many a good hunting day in the philatelic field.

AFRIKAANSE FILATELISTIESE VERENIGING.

12 Desember 1953: Ons sewende Saterdag-byeenkoms tel onder die minder geslaagdes. Slegs 16 persone was aanwesig, en van hulle was 6 lede van die jongspan. 'n Goeie klompie het natuurlik hulle goedjies toegesluit en spore gemaak, kus toe.

Vir die jongspan was dit Kersbyeenkoms. Elkeen het na hartelus kon uitsoek uit pakkies wat vir dié doel deur ouerlede beskikbaar gestel was. Lede kan hierdie gebaar gerus in gedagte hou.

8 Januarie 1954: Die eerste vergadering van die jaar het gewys dat daar baie gelukkiges was wat nog met vakansie uitstedig was. As hulle maar weet wat hulle gemis het, want die twee uitstallings in ons wedstryd was van die soort wat nie aldag gesien word nie. Lid Lambert se lugpos-inskrywing, in die wedstrydreeks om die Rembrandt Wisseltrofee, was van die hoë gehalte wat van hom verwag word, en het die uitgawes van party Britse gebiede behandel. Waar sy inskrywing slegs gebruikte seëls bevat het, was dié van lid Schwartz posfris. Laasgenoemde het iets gelewer wat baie min van ons nog gesien het, n.l. die seëls van Rhodesië, oftewel British South Africa Company.

Lidmaatskap is toegeken aan juf. Bettie van der Merwe van Viljoenskroon. Sy versamel die seëls van koningin Elizabeth II. S.J.V.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG.

At the meeting held on Jan. 12th, 1954, the Rev. W. Loxley Chamings showed a thematic exhibit which he called **"Ex Africa Semper Aliquid Novi."**

This consisted of 200 stamps including stamps of every stamp issuing country in Africa, each stamp showing a place in Africa, a personality connected with Africa or an animal native to Africa.

Most of the stamps were on separate cards though there were sheets of some including Angola animals, Gambia Queen Elizabeth issue and the last Gold Coast George VI issue.

Each stamp was in fine condition either mint or used.

The Rev. Chamings gave an address on his exhibit giving very much information on some of the places and personalities shown.

Commander C. E. D. Enoch spoke on the exhibit which everyone present found to be of great interest.

At the meeting of **Jan. 25th,** Mr. Douglas Roth exhibited "Reprints". He read a paper on his exhibit and on reprints generally. He pointed out that his collection was a reference collection. In his paper Mr. Roth referred to the words written on reprints and gave the different reasons for reprints being issued. He also gave some information on how to recognise reprints from the originals. In his exhibit Mr. Roth showed some original stamps mounted with the reprints to illustrate distinctions. Heligoland was shown complete with originals and reprints. Bergedorf was also shown in original and reprints. The reprints included almost every country and some were in sheets, including Argentine, Greece, Denmark, New South Wales and many others. The Great Britain 1d. Black was shown in reprint and there were also several locals.

Mr. Lilley spoke on the exhibit which was very much appreciated by all the members and visitors present.

SWAZILAND.

As from 1 January, 1954 the Swaziland Administration assumed full responsibility for the personnel of its Postal Services who hitherto have been members of the Union Department of Posts and Telegraphs seconded for duties in Swaziland. Mr. G. P. Crafford, formerly postmaster at Mbabane and lately of De Wetsdorp, O.F.S. has been appointed Chief Postmaster for Swaziland.

The transfer of postal services to Swaziland control does not constitute a complete break away from the Union and existing links will be maintained.

This is, however, the first time since 1887, when postal services started, that Swaziland has been in full charge of its own services.

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SWAZILAND—POSTAL HISTORY and STAMPS

By
J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

(Continued from page 236 of December issue.)

CHAPTER 2.

POSTAL HISTORY — STAGE I, 1887-1889.

Prior to 1887 we know of no postal arrangements in Swaziland but they began in 1887 during the period when the "White Committee" was in charge of the affairs of Europeans in the territory and Theo. Shepstone was King Mbandine's adviser and representative.

One of the first actions of the "White Committee" was, in 1886 to ask Mr. Shepstone to approach the Z.A.R. Government with a view to getting a regular postal service between the Transvaal and Swaziland.

On 7th July, 1887 Mr. Shepstone reported that no extended postal service had as yet been organised but in the meantime there would be a regular weekly service to Steynsdorp and a fortnightly one to Delagoa Bay.

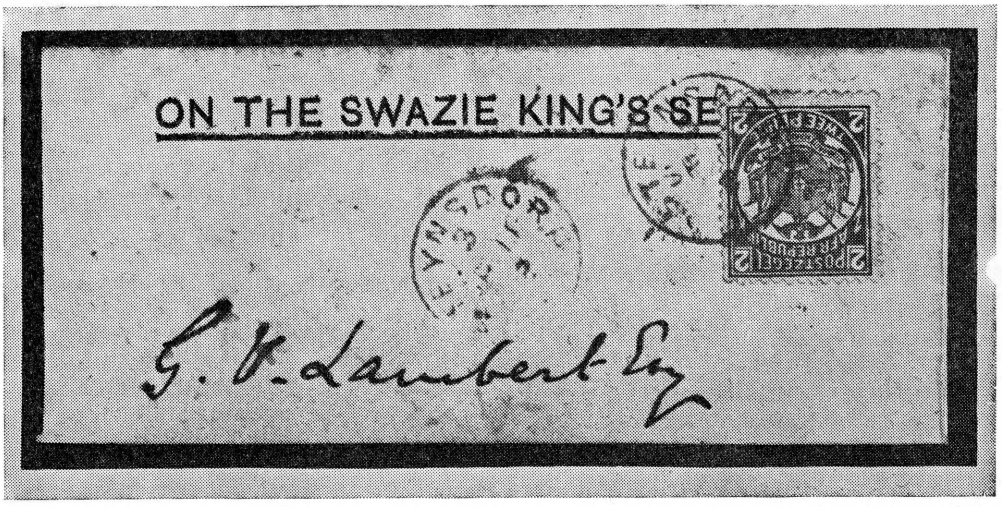
No specimen of mail sent either out or in by the Delagoa Bay route has so far come to light, nor has any actual record been found of how the service functioned. It is probable, however, from what is known of routes in Swaziland at that period, that it went from Embekelweni via Nomahasha in the N.E. corner of Swaziland, crossing the border there into Portuguese East Africa and so to Lourenco Marques. (See Map on next page).

More is known about the weekly service to Steynsdorp. It may be noted that Steynsdorp at this period was a flourishing mining town, quite extensive prospecting and actual mining having gone on since the beginning of the gold rush in 1885. It is reported that in 1887 there were something like thirty stores and saloons in the town and it ran to a weekly paper, first the "Observer" and later the "Phoenix." Its glory has now departed; actually it was pretty well finished during the Anglo-Boer War when it was looted and burnt by both sides. Today it consists literally of one house, a combined store, post-office and residence.

The postal service which was opened in 1887 operated as follows: A bag was made up at the Government Offices in Embekelweni and sent by runner to Steynsdorp where the letters were stamped with Z.A.R. stamps, these being paid for out of a deposit kept there. Private individuals were allowed to use the bag, paying cash at Embekelweni for the postage due on their packets.

Only one cover has so far been reported as carried by this service, but there is no doubt as to it being an authentic Swaziland item, as it is an official envelope marked "On the Swazie King's Service." It is addressed to a firm of lawyers in Pietermaritzburg and is franked by a 2d. Z.A.R. stamp cancelled by a Steynsdorp postmark dated SP 11 88.

In the southern part of Swaziland at this period there were few letter writers, the few white inhabitants being mainly hunters with one white storekeeper at Mahamba. He is understood to have sent a private bag to Piet Retief at irregular intervals, the letters having Z.A.R. stamps affixed there. Even if any covers coming from Mahamba still exist they probably could not be positively identified as coming from Swaziland.



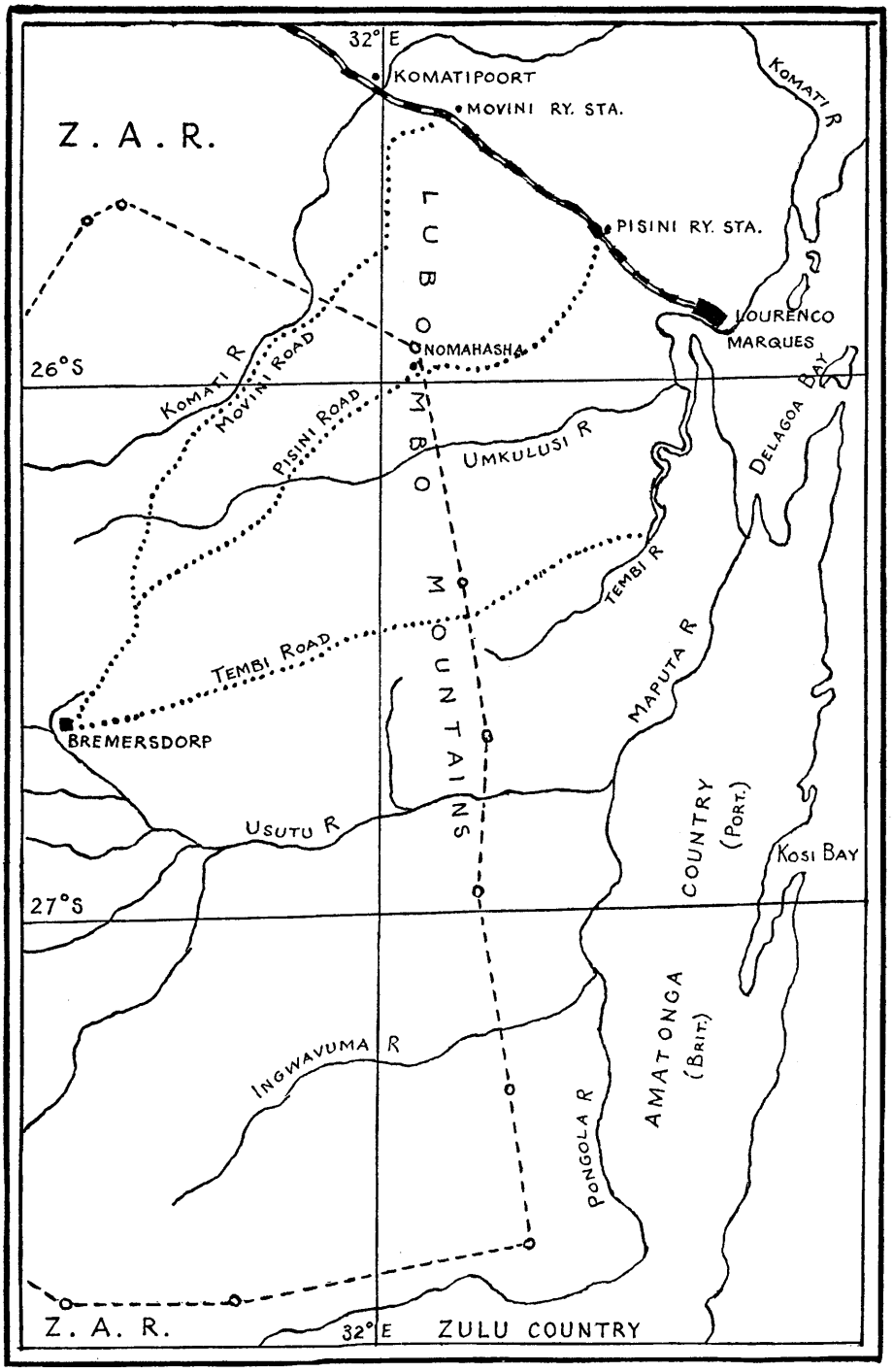
Only recorded cover of Stage I.

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Mail from the north of Swaziland, Pigg's Peak area, if sent during this period, probably went by private bag to Barberton and also would not be definitely recognisable as coming from Swaziland.

In the Z.A.R. "Postgid" No. 1 of 1888 there are two postal routes mentioned leading to Steijnsdorp, one from Middelburg via Ermelo and Lake Chrissie, the other from Barberton.

(To be continued.)



Routes from Bremersdorp to Delagoa Bay. From inset to Miller's 1896 map.

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UNION AIR MAIL NOTES.

Noteworthy events in the Air Postal history of the Union occurred during October, 1953, the most outstanding of which were the introduction of a de Haviland "COMET" service to London and of Tourist services to Europe by SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS.

1 September, 1953.

JAN SMUTS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, reckoned to be one of the finest airfields in the world, was officially opened on 3rd October, although it had superseded Palmietfontein aerodrome as the Union's Air Terminal on the 1st of the previous month. Airmail matter posted the day the Airport Post Office was opened was cancelled "JAN SMUTS LUGHAWE/AIRPORT" with the figure "1" at the foot of the circle and dated "1 IX 53".

5 October, 1953.

SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS "Dakota" Service CAPE TOWN to JOHANNESBURG via GEORGE.

The first plane to carry mails over this new route left Cape Town at 8.30 a.m. on Saturday, 3rd October, and reached Jan Smuts Airport at 4.45 p.m. The first return flight was made on October 7th to the same schedule.

SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS "Constellation" Tourist Service to LONDON vit LUSAKA.

The only new stage of this service was the direct flight from **Lusaka to Nairobi.** The plane left the Northern Rhodesian capital on Saturday, 3rd October at 11.15 a.m. and reached Nairobi at 5 p.m. The first return flight was made on Monday, 5th October. (Covers posted at Nairobi on the Saturday afternoon were backstamped at the Poste Restante Lusaka on 6th October).

5th October, 1953.

SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS "Constellation" Tourist Service to LONDON via LIVINGSTONE.

The new stage **Livingstone to Nairobi** was flown between 10.40 a.m. and 5.10 p.m. on Monday, 5th October. The first return flight left Nairobi at 11.15 a.m. on Saturday, 10th October. (No covers appear to have been backstamped at Livingstone).

8th October, 1953.

SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS "Constellation" Tourist Service WINDHOEK to LONDON.

The departure on Thursday, 8th October of a **South African Airways'** plane for London marked the beginning of Windhoek as an international Airport, in that South West Africa's capital is now directly linked with the world's airlines via Europe. On 10th January this year the first direct airmails were flown from Johannesburg to Windhoek and this present service is therefore an extension to London, via Nairobi, Khartoum, Cairo, Athens, Rome and Frankfurt. (Covers posted at Windhoek on October 7th to Nairobi were backstamped at the Poste Restante on the following Monday, the 9th).

The first return flight left London at 8.30 a.m. on Thursday, 8th October and arrived at 4.20 p.m. the next day. (Covers are known from Great Britain with the Windhoek Poste Restante backstamp of Monday, 12th, and some from Nairobi backstamped the following day.)

4th October, 1953.

FIRST SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS "COMET" SERVICES.

In partnership with B.O.A.C., **South African Airways** commenced to operate de Havilland "Comet" Jetliners on 4th October between London and Jan Smuts Airport. The route and timetables are identical to those of B.O.A.C., who inaugurated the world's first jet propelled mail service on 2nd May last year — to Johannesburg via Rome, Cairo (Beirut), Khartoum, Entebbe and Livingstone.

The first southbound flight left London at 3 p.m. on Sunday and arrived at Jan Smuts Airport, four hours late, at 6.20 the next afternoon. The "Comet" was commanded by Capt. D. B. Raubenheimer as far as Entebbe, where control was handed over to Capt. J. B. Botes.

The first return flight left Jan Smuts Airport at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 6th October.

No souvenir covers were printed by the Airline to commemorate the event, as was done by B.O.A.C. last year, but a few **South African Airways** official envelopes are known to have been carried on the Return Flight. They were franked with the new 1/3 Union stamps, issued for airmail purposes on Oct. 1st and bear the Jan Smuts Airport postmark of the date of departure.

Covers carried on the inaugural "Comet" flights may be identified as follows:

London — Johannesburg: Latest time of posting in London, 5.15 p.m., 3rd October, backstamped at Poste Restante, Johannesburg, 6th.

Livingstone — Johannesburg: Postmarked 7 a.m. 4th Oct. Johannesburg 6th.

Johannesburg (Jan Smuts) — London: Postmarked 6th Oct. Earliest date of arrival postmark seen was applied at Sutton Coldfield 11 a.m. 8th.

Johannesburg — Livingstone: Jan Smuts 6th Oct. backstamped Poste Restante 8th.

30th October, 1953.

"SECOND CLASS" AIRMAIL MATTER FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

30th October saw the introduction of reduced postage rates on "Commercial Papers" etc. to all countries served by air mail services: they vary from 6d. to 1/- per half-ounce depending on the destination.

The concession was first introduced by Great Britain as long ago as 1 February 1948 but was applicable to South American countries only. From 18 Nov. 1949 "Second Class" air mail matter from Great Britain to South Africa was accepted at 4d. per halfounce but, as only "First Class" mails were flown without surcharge in the Union, such mail was stamped on arrival in Johannesburg by the Post Office with a purple inscription reading:—

BY SURFACE
PER LANDPOS
FROM
VANAF
JOHANNESBURG.

I.H.C. GODFREY.

INDIA.

So far the only special issues promised for 1954 is a set commemorative of the centenary of Indian postage stamps.

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THE
SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST
PROPRIETORS AND PUBLISHERS:
The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa
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P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.
Subscription: Ten Shillings per annum, post free to any part of the world.
Vol. 30. No. 3. MARCH, 1954. Whole No. 348.

UNION NOTES

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

Orange Free State Centenary Issue.

The 2d. and 4½d. special postage stamps commemorating the Centenary of the founding of the Orange Free State were issued on the 23rd February 1954 and will remain on sale at all post offices throughout the Union for a period of approximately three months. And a most attractive set they have turned out to be, for though the well balanced design consisting of the coat-of-arms of the Orange Free State with a quill pen, scroll and dates, symbolising the signing of the Bloemfontein Convention on the 23rd February, 1854, is the same on both stamps, the colours of sepia and red-orange on the 1d. and jurple and grey on the 4½d., give each denomination a distinctive and individual appearance which will appeal to all and especially to all South Africans whether or not they happen to be stamp collectors.



Printed by the rotogravure process at the Government Printing Works, Pretoria, in sheets of 120 stamps separated into two panes of 60 (each 10 rows by 6) by a blank central gutter in a similar format to that of the recent Cape Centenary 1d. and 4d. commemorative issue. They are bicoloured and bilingually inscribed in English and Afrikaans, perforated 15 x 14 and on paper watermarked with the usual upright multiple Springbok's Head. Each sheet bears a four-figure red serial number on the right hand margin, adjoining each of the two panes, and like the second printing of the 4d. value in the Cape Centenary series, the innovation of printing **eight** sets of cylinder numbers in the vertical margins — instead of two — has been adopted for both the 2d. and 4½d. stamps of this new commemorative; a policy which will undoubtedly assist the much harassed post office officials in meeting the apparently ever growing demands of the stamp collecting public for cylinder number blocks of the Union's issues.

There are four sets of numbers in the left margin and four sets in the right, and like their predecessors of the 4d. Cape, they are imprinted opposite the two top rows and two bottom rows of both the upper and lower panes. But unlike the 4d. Centenary sheets, there has been no alteration in the set up of the interior and exterior numbers and in both values of the Orange Free State issue the interior cylinder numerals (Nos. 1 on the 2d. and 11 on the 4½d.) are printed opposite odd-numbered rows, and the exterior cylinder numerals (No. 104 in bots cases) are opposite even-numbered rows. Their colours are, of course, the same as in the respective centre and background sections of the stamps.

Marginal arrows are printed at the centre of the top and bottom margins, and also in the centre pane-dividing gutter — four in all, but here again the Printing Department has changed its usual procedure by etching these arrows on the surface of the **interior** cylinders, instead of on the exterior and therefore, on both the 2d. and 4½d. sheets, they appear in the same colour as their respective centres, namely sepia and purple. The last time this occurred was in the case of the "Brown Arrow" printing of the 1/- pictorial stamp in 1948 (South African Catalogue No. 50A) and it is of interest to note the re-appearance of this type of variety on the Union stamps.

As already mentioned, the interior cylinders employed for the two values are numbered "1" for the 2d. and "11" for the 4½d., the same exterior cylinder No. "104" being used for both but of course in different colours. All three

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cylinders are fine mesh (cross-lined) screened and Dr| B. Waserstein of Pretoria has drawn attntion to the presence of the **scratched screen plate** flaws on the exterior of cylinder sections of both values. They show up as white lines or marks, and were first recorded and illustrated in our October 1953 issue as having appeared on the Coronation and Cape Centenary commemoratives. They are easily picked up again in the background colouring of Nos. 1, 2 and 3 in the bottom row of these Orange Free State 2d. and 4½d. stamps and in positions fairly close to those shown in our October illustration on the subject.

The varieties on the new stamps have still to be listed, but in the meantime Dr. Wasserstein has noted that the top marginal arrow of the 2d. value has a distinct break in the right hand prong and that an exterior cylinder flaw, in the form of a short oblique line, appears immediately above the "O" of O.V.S. on the 2d., and O.F.S. on the 4½d. in the fourth stamp of the top row: two items of interest which, in due course, might quite easily turn up on the lower pane of the sheets.

A white dot immediately under the "S" of O.V.S. on the 2d. and the "S" of O.F.S. on the 4½d., in the third stamp of the 2nd row, is also recorded as constant by Dr. T. B. Berry of Bryanston.

New Printing of the 6d. Pictorial Stamp.

We were advised by the Publicity Officer of the G.P.O. Pretoria, during the first week of February that a new printing of the 6d. Orange Tree pictorial stamp had been issued from cylinders No. 85 Interior and No. 32 Exterior — both new. The first consignment of 4,000 sheets was delivered on the 2.2.54.

Dr. T. B. Berry of Bryanston, Transvaal, has contributed the following notes on the new printing.

The stamps resemble the previous issue in design, colour green and vermilion; format 18 x 22mm; closed scroll and the length of SUID-AFRIKA the same as before. Printed in sheets of 240 (20 rows x 12) on multiple Springbok's Head watermarked paper. The marginal arrows are of the solid type and are similar in size, design and shape to the previous printing. Their distance from the stamps is also approximately the same and the only apparent difference is a slight smudge on the foot of the middle prong of the right hand arrow.

Two types of paper were evidently used for the first consignment of sheets, for some of the stamps examined soon after they appeared on sale were found to be printed on what might be described as of a harsh, or brittle nature, which tended easily to curl up when handled. The gum on the back of this paper had a distinctly "ribbed" appearance caused by light reflected lines running diagonally across the stamps. Examination of later sheets showed them to be free of this brittle and curling feature, and also of the light reflected lines and since there is no apparent difference in any of the stamps after postal use and washing, it is possible that the effects mentioned above are solely due to the use of two different types of gum.

Flaws noted so far are listed below.

Row 10/Stamp 12—Falling branch at right. (Multopositive).

Row 17/6—Scratch in tree at top. (Multopositive.)

The following are cylinder flaws and were not present on the previous issues.

Row 3/2 —White smudge on right hand portion of tree.

Row 10/3 —White smudge on "T" of SOUTH.

Row 16/1 —White smudge at base of "U" of SOUTH.

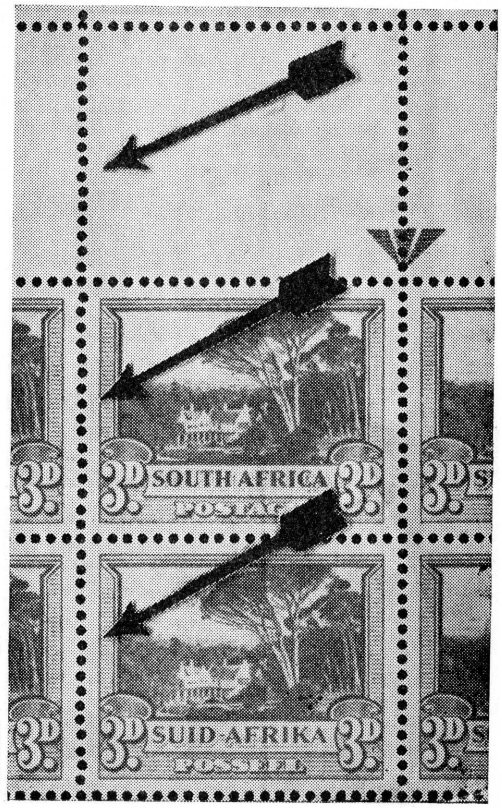
Row 18/3 —White dot at left of trunk of tree.

Row 19/11—White smudge on "R" of AFRIKA.

We can add that the cross-lined screen used for both the interior and exterior cylinders of the new printing is of a finer mesh than the previous issue, a feature which Mr. S. J. Hagger points out, gives the horizontal lines around the tree a "serrated" instead of a "dotted" appearance and enables the individual stamps of the last three issues — 1946, 1950 and now 1954 — to be very easily distinguished from one another. For an interesting little study we can recommend comparing the designs of these particular stamps under a "5X" or stronger magnifying glass.

Misaligned Perforations on Current Pictorials.

The accompanying illustration shows the misalignment perforations which Dr. B. Wasserstein of Pretoria brought to our notice as present on sheets of the current 3d., 4½d., 1/-, 2/6 and 5/- stamps and recorded in our February issue.



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CORRESPONDENCE

PROCESS BLOCK "OFFICIAL" OVERPRINTS.

Editor,
"S.A. Philatelist."
Sir,

On page 13 of your January 1954 issue you have an interesting article on Official Stamps by T. B. Berry. My only complaint is that an otherwise informative and accurate article should be marred by the introduction of some common beliefs which happen to have no foundation in fact.

It is said that these plates "consist of four particular blocks or quadrants." Now we know that there are 240 stamps to a sheet and that to overprint a sheet on a flatbed 240, or rather 480 lines of type will have to be used — one for English and the other for Afrikaans. No explanation is given as to how these lines are obtained.

It would be most unlikely, in fact impossible to use the original blocks. What I think happens is this.

Matrices are cast from the original blocks and sufficient stereo casts are made to build up the number of lines required for a sheet. These lines, or rather blocks of four, are imposed in a chase, locked up and the printing is done from these stereos — not from the original line blocks.

To say that the retouching process was accompanied by "tapping" is humourous. Why destroy the plate by tapping? In any case, owing to the very small area occupied by one letter, it is impossible to "tap" it without affecting the whole line. Besides it would be much quicker and cheaper to make another line block.

Judging from the photographs I would suggest that the broken C was the result of an air bubble forming just under the surface of the metal during casting. This resulted in a weak spot in the plate which collapsed when subjected to printing pressure — which amounts to several pounds per square inch.

The broken C retouched in photograph four is most probably a new stereo.

As for the tapping story, take any line in the S.A. Philatelist and tell me what size hammer or punch would be required to alter only one letter in the line without affecting the others — especially when the actual height of the letter is measured in thousands of an inch. You see the Philatelist is printed by the letterpress process, just as the overprints are. I will be interested to read any feasible answers.

Yours etc.,
A. I. MACKENZIE.

Editor,
"S.A. Philatelist."
Sir,

I appreciate the opportunity you have afforded me of replying to Mr. A. I. Mackenzie's letter to you concerning my article on "The Process Block Overprint of the ½d., 1d. and 6d. Official Stamps of the Union of South Africa."

During the preparation stage of the material for my paper the technique of the overprinting of the stamps was explained to me by a senior official in the Government Printing Works and a description of this act was supplied to me in writing at a later date. This authentic description was included verbatim in the introduction to my paper, to which description Mr. Mackenzie has deemed fit to apply such terminology as "some common beliefs which happen to have no foundation in fact", "humorous", etc.

Contrary to Mr. Mackenzie's belief that matrices are cast from the original blocks and that lines of type are set from stereo casts, the explanation of how the required number of lines of type is obtained, is contained in the first sentence of paragraph 3 of my article in the January 1954 issue of "The S.A. Philatelist", which I repeat here "The Process Blocks are prepared from stepped up negatives of which the original has been hand-drawn." Mr. Mackenzie is apparently confusing an old method with the more modern photographic process.

With regard to the "tapping" attempted to repair the broken "C", which Mr. Mackenzie stigmatises as not feasible, I can ony say that I was told that this was the method which had been employed. I did not evolve the idea out of my own consciousness.

In conclusion I firmly believe that the information derived from the Government Printing Works is correct.

Yours etc.,
T. B. BERRY.

A CORRECTION.

Dr. T. B. BERRY'S ARTICLE ON "PROCESS BLOCK OFFICIAL" OVERPRINT.

We regret that a mistake occurred in Schedule 3, p. 26 of our February issue. The headings of the 2nd and 3rd 'Overprint Quadrants' were transposed; that of the 2nd column should be "Top right pane of sheet", and that of the 3rd column "Bottom left pane of sheet."—Ed.

Editor,
"S.A. Philatelist".
Sir,

"IS COLLECTING A GOOD INVESTMENT?"

In common, I am sure, with many of your readers, I found great interest in the article published in your December 1953 issue, by the Rev. W. Loxley Chamings, on the changes in catalogue quotations as measured by comparing the Gibbons "Simplified" of 1934 and 1953.

I feel some doubt, however, about the validity of his advice to the new collector, which is, broadly, to purchase from the items most conspicuous in his list of appreciations. It is suggested that the newcomer should be made aware of several other considerations, amongst which I would particularly mention

(a) that some quotations stand higher than is intrinsically justified because the item happens to be **at present** popular and keenly in demand;

(b) that fashions in popularity change frequently and often quite unaccountably: even where the reason can be diagnosed it could not always have been reasonably forecast;

(c) that even where the items listed in the article were intrinsically deserving of their rise, they are less likely to rise any **further** above today's prices than the many equally deserving items which have not yet been raised to intrinsically justified prices.

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(d) that catalogue editors who are also dealers in the trade are in close touch with current values only for those items where there is a very active market, or, conversely, a glut of offerings beyond the healthy absorption capacity of the trade. Outside this range they are very far from possessing the omniscience commonly attributed to them and in many instances are so ill-informed or prejudiced that both their quotations and the changes made in them are ridiculous to the point of absurdity.

Perhaps a few examples may be of interest?

(a) New Zealand S.G. 699a. Face value 3d. Issued October 1949 and quoted in the 1954 Part I Edition at 45/-. Here are the facts, recommended to the attention of any intending purchaser at anything like this price: number issued, of which over 95% are in philatelic ownership, a little over 50,000. It has been chased up to its present quotations because modern New Zealand stamps are **at present** popular, and it is also one of the series of "Heolth stamps" which have a large following. Its intrinsic worth is certainly under 10/-.

(b) If you had told the average collector of 1939 that today

(1) collections of Egypt or Newfoundland can "hardly be given away"

(2) there is a large unsatisfied demand for Indian States which has caused tremendous increases in prices without dislodging much stock

(3) that he would be lucky to sell a large George VI collection at much over face value

he would probably have stared at you and would certainly not have believed you. Yet if you project forward 15 years from now there will be the same story, with different names inserted, and the new collector who guesses right, or has the discernment, to bny now whatever will be in item (2) and eschews the others will do very well for himself.

(c) Would you buy Silver Jubilees today for appreciation? or the Wilberforce series? or the Laughing Boys? or . . . (you can add your own)

(d) I buy the Gibbons Part I catalogue every year mainly because it is still the best work **of general reference** for the stamps of the British Empire, but I also bring forward each year for incorporation in the new edition a long, and growing, list of private notes: a few of these are amplifications, but most are direct corrections of errors, not all, of course, having any bearing on the values of the stamps, but cumulatively sufficient to explode the myth of omniscience and infallibility. E.g. (a simple one) how do **you** spell Wolmaransstad? There is only one right answer, but the Gibbons catalogue remains wrong although the Editor has been told of his error, and the mistake is now spreading to other works of greater merit (Sir John Wilson's "Royal Collection" and the Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia both carry this blemish).

What advice, then, should be given to the newcomer? I agree with Padre in saying "don't try to collect the whole shoot", but not for his reasons, rather because unless you have a deep purse and lots of time it will be too big for you. I do say "make your collecting field a broad one": it will always remain fresh for you and on the average you will be less vulnerable to the whims and caprices of the ignorant. And above all, I do say "don't follow the crowd": rather let our newcomer browse in the unaccustomed pastures, always on the lookout for information or personal discoveries which are not in the catalogue or reflected in its prices, and if he is **investing** in his hobby let him seek **first** those items (they are still many in number) whose intrinsic worth is not, yet, reflected in what he has to pay for them.

Any recommendations? Here are a few:— **do** buy 19th century French Colonies, mint or fine used on original (and learn about the duds at the same time so that you know what to avoid); Specimen stamps; proofs and **authentic** essays; British Empire stamps of the Edwardian decade: **don't** buy anything which is the great rage of the moment or is still wildly inflated from having been the great rage of a few months ago; don't buy inferior examples of things like the Penny Black or the New Zealand Chalon Heads, their prices are too close to what is asked for fine ones, and even those are probably too high; if you take new issues don't expect them to be all worth double face value in ten years' time (the ones that do best will be just those which, for various excellent reasons, your supplier is **unable** to include in the monthly envelope); and, to conclude, perhaps one should add, don't be ashamed of your intention to make your collection an investment — the idea that it was in some way indecorous (not to mention impossible!) to buy stamps for appreciation is now moribund, if not dead, but you have to know the right way to go about it.

Yours etc.,

J. E. FRANKLAND.

Editor,
"S.A. Philatelist".
Sir,

"IS COLLECTING A GOOD INVESTMENT?"

Please allow me to draw your attention to the article "It's All In The Game" by W. L. Chamings in the December 1953 issue of our Magazine.

When I saw what it was about, I thought it would be interesting to see how South African stamps have risen in value in comparison with other countries. But to my utter surprise and disappointment, which was undoubtedly shared by many readers, he does not say a word about South Africa. It is surprising that he mentions Transvaal, though.

Does he mean to say that South African stamps do not even show a dividend of 5% p.a.? Or has he got no good word for South Africa? Why does he write such an article in a South African magazine without mentioning South Africa? Is he himself not even interested in the value of South African stamps? I would like this gentleman to answer these questions.

I am sure the Union's stamps will show a profit of more than 5% p.a. and many readers will be pleased to know exactly how much. Please cause this to be published. South African stamps should in any case receive the publicity that they deserve.

Yours etc.,

F. J. VISSER.

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BASUTOLAND—SOME HISTORICAL NOTES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO POSTAL MATTERS

By G. N. GILBERT.

(Continued from page 33 of February issue.)

Stamps used in Basutoland.



Miss Mabille, Postmistress Morija, 1884-1907.

We now came to the stamps used in the Territory.

It states in the Postal History section of the Union Handbook that British stamps were used in Basutoland during the periods 1843-54, British and O.F.S. stamps from 1854-68, and again British stamps from 1868-71.

The writer would very much like to know on what authority these assertions are made, and if the compilers have any proof whatsoever of this.

Prior to round about 1870 there were no postal services at all in the country, and we have ample evidence that mail was sent and fetched from postal centres outside Basutoland, and that such mail was dealt with at these outside centres.

Even if some British stamps were brought into the country by the missionaries and others, and even if letters were stamped with these they would still have been cancelled, if accepted, at these outside centres, and could not be recognised as used in Basutoland. The late A. A. Jurgens, who was the doyen of Postal History of the Cape, and who had unrivalled opportunity of discovering any such letters, recently emphatically denied in a letter to the writer, that any such proof had been found.

The only British stamps known to have been used in Basutoland and to have received Basutoland cancellations are those during the Boer War period, which were probably brought in by the troops. As is known, these were commonly used in the field by the troops, but those used in Basutoland are very rare.

From 1872, when Masern Postoffice was opened, Cape stamps were obtained from Aliwal North, and used on Basutoland correspondence. Cape stamps were in use until the Union of South Africa in 1910 when the Union stamps, together with the stamps of the four Provinces were valid for use in Basutoland.

This continued until the issue of the first of Basutoland's own stamps on December 1st 1933, and for one month's grace after. It has been stated that Griqualand West stamps were also used in Basutoland during the period from 1880 to 1933.

That they were valid and could have been used is perfectly true, as these stamps were made obsolete in 1880, and remaining stocks were distributed to some of the Cape Postoffices to be used up.



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Till the other day I had never seen or heard of a specimen of a Cape stamp with a "G" overprint normally used in Basutoland, nor had the late A. A. Jurgens. Mr. Brutsch has just recently reported to me, however, a cover with the Mohaleshoek killer cancellation No. 210 and also a ring place-name cancellation, franked with four ½d. black Cape stamps with the Griqualand "G" overprint. The date is MR 9/83. Normal usage of Griqualand West stamps in Basutoland may therefore be accepted.

This cover is illustrated on the previous page.

We know of course of specimens philatelically used on the so-called "Sunset" covers which sported every type of stamp which was valid for use up to the last day of validity, but these can hardly be classed as legitimately used.

After the issue of Basutoland's own stamps in 1933, only these were valid for postage in the Territory, and the only known occasion when this ban was lifted was during the last war when Union Airletter cards (3d. Groot Schuur type) were in use until a supply of the "Bantam" type Union Airletter cards were received overprinted Basutoland-Basoetoeland.

Incidentally this is the only known occasion on which Afrikaans has occurred on a Basutoland stamp.

At least one Postoffice ,viz. Teyateyaneng, took upon itself to overprint its supply of the 3d. Groot Schuur type lettercards with "TEYA-TEYANENG" in violet letters.

This is the only example the writer has seen.

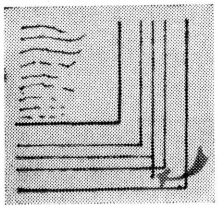
The first Basutoland definitive issue.

This issue consisted of ten values from the ½d. to 10/-, and was put on sale on Dec. 1st, 1933.

The design was a particularly pleasing one, well-balanced, with the "formal" position of the King's Head flanked by the denomination, and below showing a crocodile basking on a sand bank, with a view of the Maluti mountains in the background.

It may be asked why the crocodile appears on these stamps, as certainly there are none of these animals in Basutoland. It is the "totem" of the Bakuena tribe, who were known as "the People of the Crocodile", and the ruling caste in Basutoland still hold this animal as their "totem".

As far as is known, the name of the designer of these stamps has not been published, but it is most likely the work of Mr. W. G. Fairweather who designed the very attractive Northern Rhodesia 1925 set. This set has certain similarities of design.





This first issue was particularly free from printing or plate flaws, and only two have been recorded as far as the writer knows and photographs of these were sent to the writer by an overseas collector.

They both appear to be graving tool slips.

One is on the ½d. denomination, and consists of an extension of the middle fine border line of the three making up the border in the bottom righthand corner, and occurs on No. 43 of the sheet.. The other, on the 1d. denomination, is a scratched line up from the outside righthand border line, through the corner of the scroll to nearly the top of the three fine middle border lines. The position of this is not known to the writer.

The Basutoland Officials.

This first Basutoland issue has provided us with a set of some of the rarest of modern stamps, viz. the overprinted "Officials". These were issued on May 4th 1934, apparently without the knowledge or consent of the High Commissioner, who, as soon as they came to his notice, ordered their immediate withdrawal.

This was done on June 25th 1934, and all unused stocks were returned to Pretoria for destruction.

These stamps were never available to the public, and were purely for use in the Government offices.

The set was composed of the four denominations, ½d., 1d., 2d. and 6d. and from official figures it is possible to determine exactly how many are available for collectors, supposing that all those not returned for destruction have survived.

These official figures are given here, and they come from the Dept. of Posts and Telegraphs, Pretoria, in answer to a letter of enquiry.

"Six thousand stamps of each value were printed and **three hundred** of each value were forwarded to the Basutoland Administration, the remainder being held by the Controller of Stores, Pretoria. The undermentioned quantities were finally returned to Pretoria: 273 at ½d., 262 at 1d., 242 at 2d., 270 at 6d., and **were destroyed together** with the whole of the unissued stock.

"It may be stated further that of the stamps that were not returned by the Basutoland Administration, four of each value were presented to H.M. the King for his collection."

Certain overseas publications gave the figures, which they stated from the "S.A. Philatelist", completely wrong, and showed several hundreds as being used. They apparently overlooked the vital point that only **three hundred of each value** actually came to Maseru, and after deducting the official numbers of those returned from Maseru, we get the extremely small numbers which were unaccounted for, and which **include** the blocks of four of each value presented to the King. These are — 27 of the ½d., 38 of the 1d., 58 of the 2d. and 30 of the 6d.

At the time these stamps were recalled, a few were undoubtedly retained somewhere.

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Proof of this is shown by the fact that at least two sets have recently been on offer, mint, both in London and in this country. £1,000 was asked for the London set, and £800 actually obtained for the set sold in Johannesburg.

It is also known that some of those retained have since been cancelled with the correct dates, but these usually appear to have been "cancelled to order" as they are on the same type paper, usually with the same date, and beautifully cancelled. Appropos of this, the writer was recently offered what was described as an "unique" set, viz. cancelled with the Royal Train (Prince George) special canceller.

As however the Royal train had left the Union and was in Bulawayo on the 21st of March, and these stamps were only issued on the 4th of May, it was not difficult to put two and two together.

All this makes the genuinely used "Officials" all the rarer. There have been attempts to forge the overprint, and buyers should exercise caution and insist on a certificate of genuineness, although so far the only ones the writer has seen have been almost too obvious to deceive anyone.

(To be continued.)

AUSTRALIA.

A new 1/- Postage Due stamp is announced as having been brought into use on 17 February. Printed in green (frame) and red (value in centre, on a white background), similar therefore to the current 2/- and 5/- Dues.

A special 3½d. is to be issued on 7th April, commemorating the centenary of the Telegraph in Australia. The first telegraph line was between Melbourne and Williamstown, to-day there is a network of some 904,000 miles of lines. The design features a telegraph pole and lines, with a Morse tapping machine in the foreground.

It has been announced in the public press that the Antarctic Expedition has reached the continent, after early very difficult ice conditions. A good site for the permanent camp has been found, and the party landed safely with stores. The special "first-day" covers taken down, may be expected back in due course.

A. A. JURGENS CAPE COLLECTION.

It has been reported in the public press that the Union Government has purchased for £5,000 the 20-volume collection made by the late A. A. Jurgens of envelopes, letters, seals, photographs and maps covering the postal history of the Cape of Good Hope from 1652 to 1853. The collection will be housed in a new wing of the Public Library, Cape Town.

We are delighted to hear that the collection is not to be broken up and that it is to remain intact in South Africa. Cape Town is unquestionabily also the right place for it to be, and it will be a permanent memorial to "Boy Jurgens", who made the amassing of it his life's work.

FRANCE.

The 4 new airmail stamps recorded in our January issue as due to appear on 9th Jan., are now officially reported as having been issued on the 16th.

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SOME MORE SUPERB USED COMPLETE SETS FOR DISCRIMINATE COLLECTORS

CAYMAN ISLAND:			
On each value, S.G. 69-83	£5	10	0
S.G. 100-111	£8	10	0
GAMBIA:			
S.G. 69-70	£6	0	0
S.G. 100a	£5	10	0
S.G. 123-142 except 139	£12	0	0
GOLD COAST:			
S.G. 103-112	£2	10	0
MONTSERRAT:			
S.G. 84-93	£16	10	0
NIGERIA:			
S.G. 34-45	£8	0	0
PAPUA-NEW GUINEA:			
Current Pictorials	£2	15	0
SIERRA LEONE:			
S.G. 155-167	£12	0	0
SOLOMON ISLANDS:			
S.G. 1-7	£6	6	0
SOMALILAND:			
S.G. 93-104	£8	8	0
S.G. 105-116	2	0	0
TURKS AND CAICOS:			
S.G. 176-186	£4	4	0
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Plate II. Set S.G. 9 — 14. U.	£0	18	6
1893 Set S.G.15 — 21	£1	17	6
Set S.G.15 — 21 Used	£2	0	0
1893 Set S.G.25 — 28	£1	5	0
Set S.G.25 — 28 Used	£1	4	0
1897/1900 Set S.G. 32 — 40	£5	15	0
Set S.G.32 — 40 Used	£5	15	0
1901 Set S.G.41 — 44	£0	7	0
Set S.G.41 — 44 Used	£0	13	6
1902 Set S.G.45 — 49	£2	7	6
Set S.G.45 — 49 Used	£3	5	0
1902 Narrow "O" S.G.50 and 51	£3	0	0
Narrow "O" S.G.50 and 51 Used	£4	7	6
1912 Set 78 — 88a	£3	15	0
Set 78 — 88a Used	£3	5	0
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CAYMAN ISLANDS 1907. 1d. on 5/-. S.G.19	£6	0	0
CYPRUS 1882. 30 par. S.G. 23	£4	10	0
DOMINICA 1907/08. 5/- S.G.46	£3	0	0
FALKLAND IS. 1890/92 ½d. S.G.12a Used. On small piece	£4	0	0
GAMBIA 1922/27. 10/- S.G.142	£2	7	6
GIBRALTAR 1907/11. 8/- S.G.74 Used	£10	10	0
GOLD COAST 1921/25. 15/- S.G.100a	£2	10	0
GRENADA 1913/21. 1/- S.G.98b	£2	0	0
KENYA 1912/22. 75c. S.G.51c	£3	15	0
LAGOS 1904. 2/6d. S.G.51	£4	0	0
MALTA 1922. 10/- S.G.121	£3	5	0
MONTSERRAT 1880. 2½d. S.G.4	£5	10	0
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B. J. Hunter

56a, EAST STREET, BRIGHTON, SUSSEX, ENGLAND

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SOCIETY NEWS.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF THE WESTERN RAND.

The Society held its Annual General Meeting on the **27th January,** in the Parish Hall, Amelia Street, Roodepoort, with 8 members and 1 visitor present. Mr. J. Keet was elected Chairman.

After the usual business was completed, Mr. O. Botha tabled a complete set of Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Stamps, and they were suitably commented on by Mr. Sharpe.

Dr. T. B. Berry was awarded the Semmens Prize for 1953 for his outstanding exhibit of Union Postal Dues. (April meeting). H.F.H.

AFRIKAANSE FILATELISTIESE VERENIGING.

Vrydag, 5 Februarie het ons 'n lekker byeenkoms gehad. Die bywoning was omtrent die gemiddelde, en sou ongetwyfeld groter gewees het, as dit nie vir ongunstige weer was nie.

Lidmaatskap is toegestaan aan mevr. M. Koops van't Jagt, Johannesburg en mnr. F. van Rensburg, Durban.

Die geesdrif deur dr. van der Merwe openbaar deur die lang rit van Viljoenskroon af, af te lê om vergaderings by te woon, het hom die sobriquet „die mal dokter van die Vrystaat" verwerf Wat gaan die mense sê van vriend van Rensburg, wat almal verras het deur die 400 myl van Durban af, af te lê om met hierdie byeenkoms nadere kennis te maak. Sy entoesiasme sal hom in die posseëlwêreld nog ver bring, en ons vertrou dat ons hom in enige moeilikhede wat hy mag teëkom van diens mag wees.

Nog 'n besoek staan voor die deur. Die nuwe vereniging, Germiston Philatelic Society, het gevra of hulle ons op 4 Junie kan besoek. Ons sal hulle waarskynlik in Oktober besoek.

Die drie streekwenners om die Rembrandt Wisseltrofee is nou aangewys. Paarl s'n is 'n versameling oor kuns, Pretoria die Voortrekker-uitgawes van 1933-36, en Johannesburg die Duitse Geboue-serie. Aldrie dus tematies en, uit die aard van die groepe, beperk tot 'n paar seëls, behalwe dié oor kuns, wat oor 'n uitgebreider veld strek. Die Voortrekker-inskrywing behandel slegs 4 seëls, terwyl die Geboueserie uit 28 bestaan, en derhalwe die spesialis sterk op die voorgrond bring. S.J.V.

O.F.S. & BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The January meeting was the Annual General one. The following were elected office-bearers for the ensuing year:—

President, A. H. Scott; Vice-President, G. H. van Rooyen; Hon. Sec./Treasurer, H. J. Nel; Exchange Superintendent, A. Denne; Hon. Auditor, R. G. Lyon; Committee members, K. Freund, Mr. Weil, Mr. Sachs, and J. Hodgson.

It was reported that orders for the official Souvenir Covers for the O.F.S. Centenary had poured in and surpassed all expectations in number.

A special meeting was held on 28 January when Mr. Douglas Roth of Cape Town gave a highly instructive talk and display on "Reprints". (Reprints are printings made from the original plates, but at a later stage, and for other than postage purposes).

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

On **19th January 1954,** the first meeting of the year was attended by 28 members and four visitors who were welcomed by the President.

Many members contributed to the competition of the evening by each displaying six of their fevourite sheets from their Albums. The material shown was of great variety and fine quality, the panel of judges having no mean task in awarding the prizes which went to Messrs. Pearson, Bülbring and Mrs. Douglas respectively..

2nd February.

A goodly number of members, one visitor and four young enthusiasts foregathered at a lively and successful auction, which augurs well for the coming year. The display of the evening was given by Mr. G. Bülbring who showed a very complete collection (excluding local issues) of the Post-war German Stamps, in many cases both mint and used. The issues under the British-American Administration, of the French and Russian Zones, as well as of the West German and East German Republics and West Berlin were fully represented. Included were also miniature Sheets, Booklets, Covers and other Philatelic matter. Explanations of postal-historical character as well as remarks about certain issues were given. Dr. Harris afterwards expressed the thanks of those present to the exhibitor.

Before the conclusion of the meeting, a member showed some very interesting German covers which reflected the political animosity between the present West and East German regimes in a remarkable manner. These covers supplemented the evening's display.

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The **February meeting** was very well attended, and the members were given a treat in the exhibits that were displayed. After the business of the meeting was concluded the first exhibit was by Mr. Rigg who came along with his collections of Nyasaland and Great Britain. Then Mr. Shepherd read a paper which he has prepared on the postage in the Cape of the penny triangular stamps. As the paper was being read, stamps on covers were passed around substantiating the remarks and places where the letters were posted, also dealing with the various postmarks that were then in use.

The final exhibit was by Mr. S. Legator who brought along a collection of the Darmstadt Labels and gave a short personal explanation on the exhibit, and advised members to wait till the final decision has been given on these Darmstadt Labels or Stamps. The Chairman thanked the exhibitors on behalf of the members for the very interesting exhibits and explanations, which had been given.

Before concluding the meeting he reminded the members of the Philatelic Bowls Tournament to be held on 4th April 1954 at Balfour Park Bowling Club.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL.

Only one exhibit was on view at the **February** meeting: a display of "German Occupied Countries" — an entry by Mr. C. A. Whysal for the "W. H. Winde" Trophy. Those members whose interest in the hobby overcame the discomforts of summer humidity, found their effort very worth-while.

Mr. Richard F. Robinow, speaking to the exhibit said that the display was another of the mammoth exhibits which Mr. Whysal was accustomed to show from time to time. The collection was not concerned primarily with the technicalities of perforations, watermarks and the like. It was a dramatic exhibit, composed of stamps that are witnesses of recent history: arrogant stamps; triumphant stamps; many of them issued to bring home to the peoples concerned that they now had new masters. What lent special interest to this aspect of Mr. Whysol's exhibit was the fact that, alongside the many sets of stamps proclaiming the successes of German arms were others showing stamps issued by the Allied Authorities in times when this situation was completely reversed. In conclusion Mr. Robinow said that this exhibit, more than any he had seen for years, called to mind the thought-provoking words "sic transit gloria mundi."

A fourth trophy, presented by Mr. Edward Dee, has now been added to those offered to members in regular competition:

Persy C. Bishop Trophy for exhibits of Commonwealth Countries.

W. H. Winde Trophy for Foreign Countries.

Maynard Trophy for Thematic Collections.

Edward Dee Trophy for Union of South Africa.

In place of exhibits from month to month, it has been decided to hold the competition for the Edward Dee Trophy on one evening—at the regular meeting in October, when a capacity attendance may be expected.

Arrangements for the Annual Conference of the Federation, together with the Durban Centenary Stamp Exhibition are now well in hand. One of the features of the Exhibition is to be an interesting, illustrated brochure at the very modest cost of one shilling. Societies would be well advised to book their supplies in good time. The address of the Exhibition Secretary is Mr. W. H. Winde, 25, Hunt Road, Durban. C.S.S.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG.

The meeting of **February 9th** was the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

Reports from the President, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretaries and Hon. Exchange Superintendents showed that the Society had had a successful and interesting year.

The following members were elected to the Executive Committee for the following year:

President, Mr. J. B. Joseph; Vice-President, Mr. K. Lydall; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. K. Lydall; Hon. Secretaries, Dr. Hesse and Br. B. Glassman; Hon. Exchange Superintendents, Mr. M. Jecks, Mr. Seligman and Mr. A. J. Nathanson. Members of Committee: Messrs. L. Buchen, Ferguson, Isaacs, Lilley

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and Sheffield, with Mr. E. Schaiovitz and Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie as ex officio members.

Mr. B. Glassman was awarded the Long Cup. The prizes for the best exhibits for the year were awarded to Dr. A. Kaplan, Mr. J. Michelson and Mr. H. M. Nathanson.

Dr. A. Kaplan, Mr. W. Redford and Mr. E. Hunt were elected Hon. Life Members of the Society.

The retiring President Mr. E. Schaiowitz showed a fine thematic collection of music and musicians. The exhibit was beautifully written up and was complete. Mr. Schaiowitz, in order to illustrate his exhibit provided about 40 minutes of music by a string quartette of which he was one of the members, the others being Mrs. J. H. Harvey Pirie, Mrs. Danser and Dr. Joseph.

Mr. Froehlich and Commodore Enoch expressed the thanks of the Society for the exhibit and the music.

At the meeting of **January 22nd** Mr. L. Buchen showed a fine collection of German Colonies including Post Offices in China and Turkey.

All the Colonies were shown. In each Colony Mr. Buchen showed German stamps used in the Colonies. The collection was practically complete in each Colony. There were some fine used as well as fine mint and there were numerous covers. The China and South West Africa included several field posts. The South West Africa was particularly a fine collection and there were numerous Union stamps used in South West Africa on view. The Exhibit showed a great deal of research into postmarks and kinds of obliterators. There were also booklet panes and the exhibit included several rare items.

Mr. Buchen gave a short talk on the exhibit.

Dr. Von Varendorf spoke on the exhibit.

Collectors' Wants & Offers

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

Collections and rarities especially Unions wanted for cash. Kindly contact—JOHN MENDELSSOHN, P.O. Box 1607, Johannesburg.

SOUTHERN NIGERIA. Full S.G. prices offered for superb used copies of S.G. 15, 17, and 28. — WILLIAM REDFORD, Box 1182, Johannesburg.

STAMPS.—Want lists invited for any country; specialities Union, S.W.A., British Africa. — LACY'S, Gillbern Buildings, cor. Plein and Mostert Streets, Cape Town.

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

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

SEYCHELLES—Required for specialised collection: Panes of Provisionals, Covers and other interesting items.—A. R. KLEINER, 101 Westwoldway, Saxonwold, Johannesburg.

AUSTRALIA.—All new issues and First Day Covers including unusual items. Send direct for best Retail or Wholesale service.—A. M. GUTHRIE, Box E. 287, G.P.O., Perth, Western Australia.

URGENTLY WANTED INTERPROVINCIALS large variety on paper. — DR. MURRAY, Kuilsriver, C.P.

WANTED. Union Postal Stationery (**Mint only**) and Inter-Provincials.—S. J. VERMAAK, P.O. Box 4566, Johannesburg.

WANTED—Union small Wars in mint corner and arrow blocks, Postage Dues and Tristan Covers UA 79-UA 93.—R. RICHARDS, 2613 MAFCamp—P.O. Valhalla, Transvaal.

WANTED for cash or exchange: 1930 and 1931 Roto booklet panes.—M. J. RALL, Dassieklip, Heidelberg, C.P.

EXCHANGE WANTED. Give 400 Germany and Europe for 400 S.A., S.W.A., etc.—LOOKER, 5 Crusoe Rd., Mitcham, England.

REVIEWS.

Stamp Collectors' Annual. Harris Publications Ltd., 29 Buckingham St., Strand, London, W.C.2. Price 2/6.

This 'Hardy Annual' is always a welcome arrival, with its up-to-date lists of Books of the Year, Exhibitions of the Year, Currency Guide, Philatelic Periodicals, active Philatelic Societies, and Exchange Clubs (mainly but not entirely in Britain).

There are also a number of articles on one or another aspect of philately. Among them may be mentioned: Best designs of 1953, Royal Mail to West Indies, Railways on Stamps, First Day Cover Nonsense, Bechuanaland and its thirsty cattle, Semi-specialising in Swiss stamps, and The Czechoslovak story. Altogether a very good half-crown's worth.

Air Mail Digest 1-10. British Commonwealth. Francis J. Field Ltd., Sutton Coldfield, England. Price 7/6.

This is an Air Postal History of ten of the smaller popular countries in the British Commonwealth. They are thus grouped because the material was too small to warrant publication in ten separate booklets.

The countries dealt with are Bermuda, British Guiana, British Honduras, Burma, Fiji, Kenya and Uganda, Jamaica, Malta, Sierra Leone, and Tanganyika. Burma is included as most of its air-mail history occurred in the quarter century preceding its independence.

Each country has its air post history described, with chronological Check Lists. There are some 50 illustrations of covers and stamps, also maps.

A Review—1952-53. Robson Lowe Ltd., 50 Pall Mall, London S.W. 1. Price 2/-.

How does one review a Review? It summarises the activities of Robson Lowe Ltd., and its subsidiaries, in 50 pages attractively got up, with over 100 illustrations of which 11 are stamps in natural colours.

92 sales were held, and nearly 20,000 lots sold, realising over £200,000, which last figure was 96% of the valuations given beforehand. British Empire and Postal History sales both showed hardening in the proportion of realisation to valuation; the Foreign market being very stable, with a decrease of under half of one per cent.

About one-third of the total sales went abroad, to every part of the world almost, and this applies to every kind of material, British, British Empire, Foreign and Postal History.

Altogether this excellent 'Review' shows that the stamp trade is in a most flourishing condition. Incidentally the publishers have a booklet describing some 24 collections for sale by private treaty. Total value over £20,000, individual countries ranging from £30 to £2,400.

OBITUARY.

The Pretoria Philatelic Society reports the passing of another of their "old stalwarts", Mr. H. P. de Boon. He was one of the oldest members of the Society, an honorary life member, and a very regular attender at meetings until quite recently. His main interests were in the old Transvaal issues and Netherlands.

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SWAZILAND—POSTAL HISTORY and STAMPS

By
J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

(Continued from page 38 of February issue.)

CHAPTER 3.

POSTAL HISTORY — STAGE 2, 1889-1894.

This is the stage of the Z.A.R. and British Condominium with the two Commissioners from these countries and Mr. Shepstone as representative of the Swazi nation as a Triumvirate in charge.

As already mentioned the Z.A.R. held the postal rights among other concessions and so, not unnaturally, they made use of the current Z.A.R. stamps, overprinting certain values with the word "Swazieland". Some of the stamps were actually brought into use on 18 Oct., 1889, by which date Great Britain and the Z.A.R. had agreed on the terms of the joint protectorate, although the appointments of the two Commissioners, etc. were not confirmed by the Swazi "King-in-Council" until Dec., 1889.

A Postmaster (J. Duiven) was appointed, with his office at Bremersdorp, which was now the headquarters of the Administration, and there were sub-offices or Postal Agencies at Embekelweni and Darkton, all being opened in 1889. Old-timers in Swaziland seem to think there was also a sub-office at Vrederechter (Justice of the Peace) Ferreira's station in the southern part of Swaziland, but no actual record of it has been found.

It is interesting to note that Mr. I. N. van Alphen, who had been P.M.G. of the South African Republic since 1st April, 1885, was given the title of P.M.G. of Swaziland with effect from 1st Nov., 1889.

A post-cart service was established between Bremersdorp and the Transvaal. The nature of the communication between Swaziland and the outside world may be judged by the following extracts from the Steynsdorp "Phoenix" of 18-4-91, apparently just after a new arrangement of the mail services had been made:—

Mail from Europe, Cape, Natal and Transvaal arrives at Steynsdorp on Mondays at 8 p.m., having left Lake Chrissie (between Ermelo and Steynsdorp) at 9 a.m.

There is also a weekly service to and from Barberton, arriving at Steynsdorp on Wednesdays at 8 a.m. and leaving for Barberton on Saturdays at 11 a.m.

The mail from Steynsdorp for Swaziland runs as follows:—

Leaves Steynsdorp on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 5 a.m.

Arrives Darkton on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 9 a.m.

Arrives Embekelweni on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 5 p.m.

Arrives Bremersdorp on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 9 p.m.

It was further noted that at Steynsdorp one could purchase not only Z.A.R. Postal Orders, but also Natal, Cape Colony and Orange Free State Postal Orders.

Editorial comment says "The new postal arrangements are not a change for the better as the times are very awkward."

In the Z.A.R. "Postgids" No. 4, of 1891, there is the first mention of a postal route **into** Swaziland, viz., from Steynsdorp to Bremersdorp. The first call is given as at Junction House Postal Agency. I fancy this must have been the first name given to Darkton, as the name does not appear in subsequent years, but Darkton does. The second call en route was at Embekelweni. No postmark "Junction House" has been recorded.

Post Offices and Postmarks of Stage 2.

(1) BREMERSDORP.

(a) A double-lined oval from a rubber stamp, 40mm. x 24mm. with "Bremersdorp" at the top and the date in one line in the centre, e.g. 26 OCT 91. Two specimens in my collection have each two 6-rayed stars at the bottom; others have nothing there. But whether these come from two separate stampers or whether the stars may have worn away and thus give a mark with nothing at the bottom cannot be determined. All in violet.

(b) A "Squared" circle, diameter of outer circle 21.5mm. and of inner circle 12mm. Square has sides 22-23mm. Wording between circles "Bremersdorp/Swaziel" in letters 3½mm. high. Date in 3 lines in centre e.g. 13/MEI/93. In black or in blue.

(2) EMBEKELWENI.

(a) A single-lined oval from a rubber **stamp,** 35mm. x 22mm. with "Embekelweni" at the top, 3 dots in the form of an inverted pyramid at the bottom and the date in one line in the centre as in the case of the corresponding Bremersdorp mark.

(b) A single-circle mark 22mm. in diam., with "Embekelweni" at the top and a dot at the bottom. Date in two lines in the centre, e.g. 19 OC/90. In black or in blue. Sometimes, but not always there is an index letter "B" above the date. No other index letter has been noted, with the exception of a mark with "A" and date in 1929. (See list of P.O.'s, Stage 7, Chap. 6).

(c) "718". This thick barrel vertical oval of Cape type, with 718 in a box in the centre is known as a killer on the stamps of several covers which have also the type (b) date-stamp of Embekelweni, so its use there is well authenticated. In black or in blue.

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(3) DARKTON (? originally called "Junction House").

(a) A "squared" circle with "Darkton/Swaziel" similar in every respect to the type (b) of Bremersdorp. In black.

(b) This mark is a puzzle. It is a double-circle mark of 29mm. diameter with "Darkton/Z.A.R." and small stars between the upper and lower lettering. Date in one line in centre. In black. But why should it be "Darkton Z.A.R."?

POST MARKS

Stage 1 Up to 18-10-89

STEYNSDORP Z.A.R.



Stage 2 18-10-89 to 7-11-94

BREMERSDORP





EMBEKELWENI







DARKTON

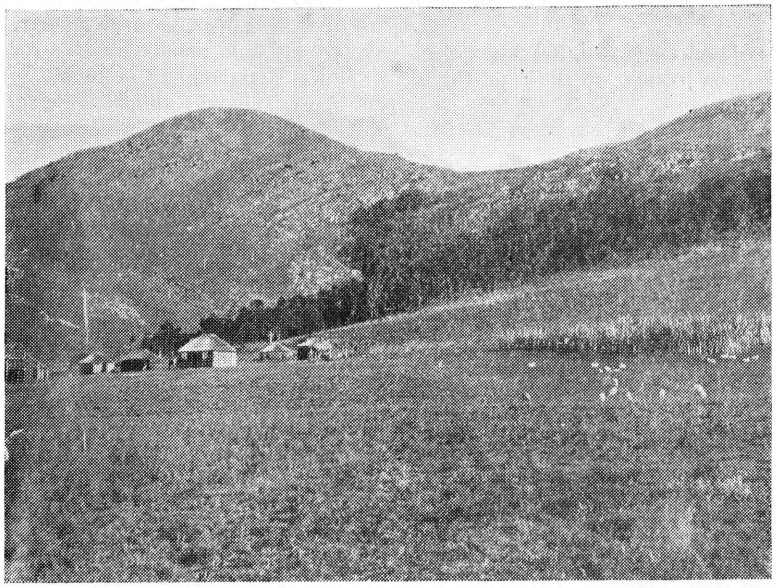






PLACE OF USAGE NOT IDENTIFIED

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Darke's Store and P.O. (Darkton). Ingwenya Mountains in background.

There is no doubt about Darkton being in Swaziland, about a mile from the Z.A.R. border; there was a store (probably including the post-office) and rest house there run by Mr. Geoffrey Darke, who had considerable property in that area. I have seen examples of his notepaper with the printed address "Darkton, Swaziland."

I have a specimen of this mark dated 5 FEB 94; admittedly it is on an overprinted 2d. Z.A.R. stamp. Contrariwise I have on piece a pair of 1d. stamps "Swazieland" cancelled with a triangular mark with the letters "Z.A.R." in the corners and, alongside a squared circle Darkton mark dated 8 FEB 92.

The fact that the "Darkton/Z.A.R." mark is on an unoverprinted stamp does not preclude the stamp having been used in Swaziland as a fair number of cases of such irregular usage are known (See below).

This mark was in use in Stage 3, when Swaziland became a purely Z.A.R. Protectorate, but then the marks of other offices were similarly worded "Z.A.R." in place of "Swaziel".

Could it have been that in the 1889-1895 period the Darkton office, being so near the border, was operated jointly as a Swaziland-Z.A.R. post-office? Or was there, perhaps, a separate post-office called Darkton, but located across the border in the Transvaal? I have not been able to find the answer to this puzzle.

(4) Place of usage not identified.

"628" barred oval killer similar to the "718" known used at Embekelweni, but so far no specimen of it has come to light on cover along with a place-date stamp. In black or blue.

Mr. Alastair Miller has suggested that it was also used by Mr. Shepstone at Embekelweni along with No. 718. It is a fairly common mark and seeing that no other post-office is definitely known, particularly one which would likely have had considerable correspondence passing through it, the suggestion seems a reasonable one. However, only the finding of a cover with the mark and a place-date stamp will solve the matter finally.

Registration.

The only two registered covers I have seen of this stage are both from Embekelweni and addressed to Mr. Emil Tamsen, Waterberg, Z.A.R. They have each two registration marks, one in blue pencil — R and a low 3-figure number, which I take to be the original; the other a boxed mark from a metal stamper, reading "Geregistreerd/Z.A.R. No....." the number (in the three thousands) being filled in by hand in ink. This is the standard Z.A.R. mark of the period, but it might have been applied either at Bremersdorp or in the Transvaal.

Unoverprinted Z.A.R. Stamps Irregularly Used.

Seeing that the postal service was staffed and run by Z.A.R. officials it is hardly surprising that Unoverprinted Z.A.R. stamps were sometimes used instead of the proper "Swazieland" overprinted and passed unchallenged. I have the following: 2½d. on 1/- (S.G. 198 and 198d), 1d. on 6d. (S.G. 197c), 1d. (S.G. 176), 2d. (S.G. 178) the commonest, and 4d. (S.G. 181).

Revenue from Postage Stamp Sales.

During 1889 the revenue was only £44-12-2. In 1890 it was £1,024-17-4½, a figure which by comparison with the following years' sales suggests that a considerable proportion of it came from stamp dealers and collectors. In the next five years the figures were as follows: 1891, £773-14-9; 1892, £409-4-1; 1893, £691-11-8; 1894, £440-11-4½; and 1895, £586-18-3½. The size of the 1895 figure suggests that it may include the amounts received from sale of the remainders of the overprinted stamps. It is known that they were sold, from a statement made by the P.M.G. to Capt. Newman. (See later).

(To be continued.)

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HIGHER AND HIGHER

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TRISTAN DA CUNHA.

The Q.E. definitive set of 14 stamps was issued on Jan. 2. It is a decorative pictorial bi-coloured set, the subjects depicted having been listed in our July, 1953 issue. These stamps will doubtless be good revenue raisers for the island, but Tristan is now just like many another British Colony and gone, alas, is the romance of its posts.

A few first-day covers actually left the island on Jan. 2nd in the Dutch M.V. "Ruys", which unexpectedly put in to pick up a cargo of crawfish tails. A host of others were not ready.

UNION MOBILE P.O.'s.

In Vol. 28, 1952 we recorded seven new mobile P.O.'s, Nos. 8 to 14, as starting operations.

We have just been informed by the Publicity Section of the P.O. that the dates given were dates of allocation, not actually dates of starting operating. The correct dates of these new offices coming into operation are now given as follows: Nos. 8 and 9, Johannesburg, 18-8-52; No. 10, Capetown, 3-9-51; No. 11 Bloemfontein, 3-9-51; No. 12, Durban, 18-1-54; No. 13, East London, 2-7-51; No. 14, Pietermaritzburg, 3-9-51.

NYASALAND.

We have been informed both by the Public Relations Officer, Zomba and by Mr. C. D. Twynam that the ½d., 2d. and 6d. current Q.E. stamps, comb-perforated will be put on sale at all offices from 8th March until the first stamps of the Central African Federation are issued. The present line-perforated stamps of those denominations will also be on sale, so philatelists ordering stamps from the Postmaster, P.O. Box 88, Zamba, should specify which type they require.

Mr. Twynam adds further that the comb-perforated stamps are in coil form with 480 stamps per coil and a join every 10th stamp. They are meant primarily for stamp vending machines, but there has been a hitch over these and they are unlikely to be delivered before 30th June, when these stamps will probably become obsolete. They will therefore only be available at the larger offices (Zomba, Blantyre, Limbe and Lilongwe) where there is a European in charge who can give the counter clerks part of a roll at a time.

O.F.S. "Y" CANCELLATION.

Mr. Morton Morris of New York reports the finding in an accumulation of O.F.S. postal stationery of a post card, with a 1d. orange stamp cancelled by an 11-bar grid with the letter "Y". The place of usage of this has not so far been identified, but this card also has a single-circle place-date mark "DeWetsdorp/Feb., 20, 1888." The card is addressed to P. Borckenhagen, Bloemfontein and it bears also a single-circle date stamp, presumably Bloemfontein (although only 'ontein' is decipherable) with date Feb., 21, 1888.

UNION — 6d. ORANGE TREE.

In the January issue of 'The Stamp Magazine', Mr. W. A. Page has an excellent summary or key to the various printings of the 6d. pictorial from 1926 onwards, very handy for quick reference.

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UNION NOTES

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

"Double Strike" King's Head Variety.

We illustrate herewith a mint pair of the reddish purple and light blue 5/- first definitive stamps which Mr. G. N. Gilbert of Westminster, O.F.S. has had in his collection for a number of years as excellent examples of the "Half moon" variety (S.A.C. 13 Vb) and might have remained so for many years to come but for the fact that during a remounting and writing up process he discovered that in addition to the "Half moons" they clearly showed on both the head plate and frame plate portions of the design that unusual feature which is probably best described as a "double strike" variety.

It is a variety which never fails to interest the students of the Union's King's Head issue and we are indebted to Mr. S. J. Hagger of Alberton, Transvaal, who has been a collector of these stamps since they were first issued, for the following interesting notes on the subject.



"This, I think, is an example of a "double strike" caused by an "arching" of the paper during printing, and which led to the high spots on the paper receiving a light impression from the plate before the paper flattened on to the bed to receive the full or proper impression. It would seem to be confirmed by the fact that the various parts of the extra impression are differently spaced from the true impression, due to the fact that portions of the paper would have further to move during the flattening process, than others."

"Note particularly that on the right hand stamp, the faint impression of the right hand vertical frame line is much further from the actual frame line than its counterpart on the left is from the true frame. The descent of the plate in printing the frames would have taken much of the curl out of the paper, so that the "arching" would be less and there is only a slight sign of a "double strike" of the head plate. Also on the right hand stamp, the faint and the true impressions are very close together indicating that the paper was almost flat."

"I have a single specimen of this shifted head plate, or "half moon" variety in the 5/- value; it is from Row 11 and has a portion of the centre horizontal gutter attached. The colours are the same, the amount and direction of the shift of the headplate is identical and so is the positioning of the stamps in relation to the perforation, so it is probably from the same sheet, but mine shows no sign of a 'double strike'."

"In his letter on the matter, Mr. Gilbert remarks on the ease with which one misses these unusual items in a collection and I agree with him, for I recently discovered that what I had regarded as a normal pair of ½d. unhyphenated rotos in my 'straight' collection included the one with slightly worn lines of shading at the top of the vignette — the one which was subsequently retouched to give the famous 'cobweb' variety."

Missing Perf. Variety on Union 3d. Victory Issue.

Writing in connection with the missing perf. variety which we illustrated and recorded in our February number, Mr. M. Pon of Benoni notes that he has this variety in a top right hand corner block of the 3d. Victory stamps bearing the BECHUANALAND overprint.

1953 Christmas Stamps—Unwatermarked Paper.

We apologise to our readers for the error which inadvertently crept into our December 1953 notes on the current Christmas Stamps. We had written that they had been produced on **un**watermarked paper, but unfortunately the printers left the prefix "un" out of the text. To the best of our knowledge watermarked paper was **not** used for any of the 1953 Christmas Stamps.

Proposed Animal Head and Flower Designs on South African Stamps.

Notice appeared in the South African Press during March of an announcement in Parliament by the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, Mr. Tom Naude, to the effect that consideration

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was being given to a new issue of postage stamps featuring South African animals.

The Minister stated that nothing had yet been decided, but the new issue was intended to replace permanently the stamps at present in ordinary use. A further report, which appeared later in the month, indicated that a set of stamps illustrating South African flowers would follow the series of animal head designs.

No official confirmation of the Press notices has yet become available from the Department.

Sheet Serial Number Variety on 3d. Pictorial Stamps.

We illustrate a block of six of the 3d. pictorials from cylinder No. 17 on which the sheet serial number of five numerals in black are



partially printed on the stamps. In showing us this specimen, Dr. C. L. L. Murray of Kuils River, Cape, mentions it as an interesting variety which he recently obtained from another collector and which is apparently not generally known among Union specialists.

Varieties on the New 2/6 Pictorial Stamps.

Dr. T. B. Berry of Bryanston, Transvaal, has noted the following varieties on the new printing of the 2/6 pictorial stamps from interior cylinder No. 5 (new) and exterior cylinder No. 51 (old), which we recorded in our January number.

Row

18/1—Green smudge left of left hand tree. (Multopositive flaw also present on the previous issue).

10/5—Broken Frame.

10/6—Brown dot in vertical gutter between stamps 5 and 6.

He point out that the above flaws in row No. 10 also appeared in the previous issue and are present again with the use of the same cylinder No. 51. The interior cylinder flaw of a "Broken bough" on Row 10/6 of the last printing is of course not present on the new issue.

Orange Free State Centenary Varieties.

We give below a list of the printing flaws on the Orange Free State Centenary stamps as published in The O.F.S. and Basutoland Philatelic Society's Monthly News Letter for March 1954. A note states that they were supplied mainly by Mr. Lewis.

The first part of the number against each item indicates the Row number and the second part, the position of the Stamp in the row. All are common to both values, but in some cases are in different colours.

1/2—White dot above "E" of POSTAGE.

1/4—Green stroke on the 4½d. value and orange stroke on the 2d. at top of stamp and to right of flag.

1/6—"Flying saucer" opposite the cylinder number.

2/3—White spot under "S" of O.V.S. on 2d. and O.F.S. on the 4½d.

2/4—White streak starting under "A" to "R" of AFRICA.

4/4—White spot to left of the quill point.

4/6—Another "Flying Saucer".

5/6— ditto.

10/3—Spot to left of bottom flagpole right under flag.

15/2—White spot to right of "D" top.

19/3—Scratched screen plate flaw: more clear on 4½d. than on the 2d. denomination.

20/1—White streak starting from top of the quill and extending to No. 2.

20/2—White streak extension from No. 1, crossing at an angle through top of flag, touching "O" of O.F.S. and continuing to top of stamp above "S" of O.F.S.

20/3—White streak starting from opposite 8th perf. from top and continuing at an angle towards top of flagstaff.

20/6—"Flying saucer" — horizontal stroke with white spot in centre extending towards the seals from bottom of the quill.

The list also notes the white spot or break in the right prong of the top marginal arrow on sheets of the 2d. value only, and draws attention to the use of the word POSGELD (postage) instead of the usual POSSEEL (postage stamp) on South African stamps.

Discovery of Unrecorded Printing in the 1d. Unhyphenated Issues — Plate VIa.

When the Union Handbook/Catalogue was compiled and published early in 1952 it was believed at the time that all the different printings of the 1d. unhyphenated issues had been well established and in accordance with the records then available, and following an accepted practice of distinguishing one issue from another, they were set out in the Handbook in their chronological order of Plates I to IX.

The Plate VI printing is that which has come to be known as the one with the fine black (dotted) arrows in the centres of the sheet margins and incidently can be considered as unique in the fact that it was the only one of the series in which the marginal arrows were etched on the interior (ship) cylinder instead of the exterior which, because it bears the frame designs, naturally lends itself more easily to the exact positioning of the arrows on the multopositive. They are shown in their relationship to the edges of the stamps on page 87 of the Union Handbook.

When the next issue appeared with the marginal arrows again printed in the same colour as the frames, the collectors of that day apparently recorded it as Plate VII (page 88 of the Handbook) and it has been left to Dr. G. I.

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Faerber of Germiston to bring to light the fact that there was also an intermediate issue of sheets which carried **marginal arrows printed from both the interior and exterior cylinders.**



Our illustration shows the block of six 1d. stamps, recently found by Dr. Faerber, with a portion of the black dotted arrow present on the Plate VI printing and also the right prong of a carmine coloured arrow somewhat similar in appearance to the arrow used for Plate VIIa. The two different prongs are distinctly visible and in confirmation of this additional printing we have since come across a vertical pair from the bottom of a sheet with the left hand half of a carmine coloured arrow printed over the black left hand prong of a Plate VI arrow, thereby clearly indicating that the Plate VI interior cylinder was at some time used in conjunction with another exterior cylinder.

Whether or not it was actually one of the Plate VII exterior cylinders, or one that was used solely for this particular printing, has yet to be determined but in the meantime we have much pleasure in recording this very interesting discovery on the part of Dr. Faerber and will await further information from those who may happen to have in their collections similar arrow pieces to what, for the time being, we can designate as Plate VIa.

SOUTH WEST AFRICA

New Series of Postage Stamps for South West Africa.

We are indebted to Mr. R. Jaacks of Windhoek, South West Africa, for the following information on the new series of postage stamps and postcards for South West Africa, which was published in "The Windhoek Advertiser" of March 19th, 1954.

The Director of Posts and Telegraphs announced on Wednesday that the designs for the new series of postage stamps and postcards for South West Africa have been officially approved. There will be a new series of 12 stamps and 24 postcards. The stamp series are divided into four groups consisting of rock paintings, karakul industry, studies of Herero and Ovambo Natives and wild animals. The designs were prepared by two local artists. The four rock paintings by Mr. Otto Schröder and the remaining eight other designs by Mr. Mark Vandeneschen.

The new penny issue will be the Brandberg Rock Painting of a steenbuck. The twopenny stamp will bear the famous White Lady painting from the Brandberg. The tickey issue is the rock painting at Rehoboth of a Native hunting scene depicting the slaying of a rhinoceros. The fourpenny issue is of a rock painting from Phillips Cave at Usakos and depicts an elephant and giraffe.

New Stamp.

A new stamp of 4½d. will make its appearance in the new series, this will bear a picture of a karakul lamb.

The 6d. stamp will depict Native life showing an Ovambo woman blowing a bugle made from an eland's horn. The shilling issue shows the head of a fully matured Ovambo woman wearing her traditional headdress.

Herero Woman.

A striking painting of an Herero woman's face is printed on the 1/3 issue. The new 1/6 issue that appears in the new series depicts the profile of an Ovambo maid before she has reached maturity.

The half-a-crown issue depicts wild life and is of a lioness. The design of the 5/- issue is of a Gemsbok and 10/- of an elephant. There will be no more £1 issues.

The colours of the new stamps have not yet been decided upon as the colour proofs are still awaited.

Postcards.

For the postcards a series of photographs depicting typical South West veld scenes, Bushmen and other Native studies, monuments and views of towns have been used. A special stamp has been designed for these postcards and is of Klipbok.

Air Letter.

Work is also under way on an Aerogramme (Air Letter) form for South West Africa and on this form a stamp depicting two ostriches running at full speed will likely to be depicted.

In the past South West Africa has always used Union postcards and air-letter forms with the letters S.W.A. overprinted on the stamps.

It is expected that the new stamp series will be available by October this year. The actual date will be announced later. It is possible that the postcards and air-letter forms will be available earlier.

Anonymous Correspondence.

"Philatelist" has written about a 2d. O.F.S. commemorative variety, but has omitted to give his name and address beyond "Cape Town."

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Thematic Collecting.

by
J. E. CREEWEL
(Paper given a Congress Award at Bulawayo, July, 1953).

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It was at "Satise" last year that my attention was first seriously attracted to "Themately". I was drooling over some particularly tasty morsels of philately fare — some Holland first issues, I think they were, when my wife, who had been wandering round the exhibition in that somewhat abstract fashion that philatelic "widows" usually adopt, dragged me away to examine something which she described as "far more interesting".

I went! I saw! — But I was not conquered. My first reaction was that it was not a collection of stamps that I was looking at, but a natural history lesson. It was certainly a very fine display, and I learned a lot about a lot of wild animals, but I did not see many stamps.

Philately is acknowledged in encyclopaedias and dictionaries as the "science of stamp collecting", and is generally accepted by the uninitiated as a useless waste of time by a lot of senseless people, who try to find out why the gum tastes so awfully, why the holes round the edge do not tear properly, and who examines a stamp with a microscope in the hope of finding some fault by which their fame and fortune will be assured — or to transpose this into a more sober and serious mood, who study the anatomy of a stamp, the reason for its existence and its history, as any scientist might study his his particular subject, from A to Z.

A lot of criticism has been levelled at Thematic Collecting — criticism which always follows the introduction of any revolutionary fashion or idea — but it is obvious that this new branch of the hobby not only has come to stay, but as time passes, is finding an increasing following. One of the accepted tenets in the philatelic world is that each individual collects what pleases, him, and no one else can rightly tell him that it is wrong or right. Yet when it comes to the question of collecting thematically, I feel bound to maintain my opinion that it is not philately.

From the time when people first commenced collecting stamps, which I believe was round about 1862, and incidentally, I also gather that the idea was born in France, philately has developed in many directions, and under many influences. The Air Mail introduced a new aspect — "Flown Covers"; the genius who introduced the "First Day Cover" fetish started another trend which, speaking with feeling after our recent spate of new issues, I can only regard as a racket; and the speculator, or should I say "hoarder", who regards stamp collecting as another means of getting rich quickly, is responsible for another aspect which I have already expressed as deplorable.

You will probably recall some remarks I made at last Congress and will recognise some of them introduced here in a slightly different guise. I hope you will pardon this repitition, but I feel that they can usefully support this discussion.

The stamps that illustrate a thematic collection are generally classed as "pretty-pretties". They are not always works of art, nor are they always tastefully coloured, but the term is applied to distinguish them from the symbolic types. That is understandable as they illustrate a subject — birds, bridges, aircraft, music, or whatever else it might be. The annotations which "write-up" the collection are sometimes brief, sometimes lengthy, depending on the whim of the collector, but these invariably deal with the subject, not the stamp, which is left in its nakedness as a mere illustration. The important philatelic information — details of printing, perforation, watermarks, etc., the science of the hobby, is neglected.

I will not deny that the story that attaches to the illustration on the stamp is full of interest — is the result, very possibly, of an immense amount of research and work which has been entirely pleasurable and satisfying to the collector. Nevertheless, the stamp is incidental to the subject, which could possibly have been illustrated with cigarette cards, photographs or sketches. It is not the essence of the matter in terms of the accepted interpretation of the word "philately".

I will further admit that many times I have found it far more entertaining to listen to a talk on stamps which deals with the more general aspect, rather than the "dry dust" scientific facts about watermarks, numbers printed and so on. It is surprising what can be learnt in this way — and it is equally surprising to find the number of errors of fact which come to light; for example, how many people have realised that the bridge on the 30c. stamp of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyike, is connected to the road at one end, but not at the other: or that the illustration of the 1903 issue of St. Kitts is a gross misrepresentation of fact — the telescope was only invented long after the death of Christopher Columbus.

An interesting point was raised when a "one country" collection was being judged at one of our Society meetings. It was a question of completeness, and to what degree it should be penalised on account of the blank spaces. There are so many factors to be taken into consideration to-day, but two, to my mind, emerge more prominently than others, and both of them are very closely related. With so many new issues falling from the printing presses these days, is it possible to gather together a complete collection and to keep track of the many changes in perforation, etc., which appear for a short while from time to time? Is it possible, when in these days it is difficult enough to balance the family budget, to spend the hard earned penny on a fabulous rarity, or a common stamp highly priced because of a "corner in the market", just to complete a collection?

Again, how many collectors, in the traditional sense, have realized in the course of time, that they have a large accumulation of stamps. but really nothing of substance — a bit of this, a bit of that, but no really comprehensive collection of any one country, group of countries, or issues — simply because they have unwittingly succumbed to the "power of the press"; the articles and advertisements that assure philatelists that "this is going to be good" or that that "is worth having"; or who, on their own account and by their own reasoning, dabble in an issue, at the expense of their collection ,because of some restrictions or limitations on

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the issue, and who subsequently find so many others in the same boat, only too willing to off-load their stocks at less than face value.

These problems do not confront a "thematelist" who selects his subject, obtains his specimens, follows his line of research, enjoys his hobby, and improves his general knowledge. Therefore, in weighing the pros and cons, thematic collecting must have some grounds for recognition — it is stamp collecting, though it is not philately.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, even philately becomes more interesting if some controversial point gives rise to discussion. I hope that this paper might do so, even though there might not be the time for it here and now, but before concluding, I would like to make one more point, the sting in the tail, as it were.

From what I have said, I do not think you will have much doubt that I am not in favour of thematics, so that what I am about to say, will appear as a complete change of face.

Themately can be philately — under one condition, that the theme is "Stamps". Many countries have issued stamps at different times, commemorating their first issues, or the issues of the first Postage Stamp. Research into the subject matter of this collection, can only result in a scientific study of stamps.

SHORT NOTICES.

Brasil Aerofilatelica. We have received copies of this magazine. Formerly purely the house-organ of "Sulamerica", P.O. Box 3718 Sao Paulo, it has been considerably enlarged and the six yearly numbers will now cost 2 U.S.A. dollars. It deals mainly with S. American aero-philately, but there is also some general stamp news of that continent. Mostly, of course, in Portuguese, but several articles are in English.

International Exhibition in India.

It is proposed to hold an International Exhibition in New Delhi in October of this year, but details are not yet available. The occasion is the Centenary of Indian postage stamps.

In fact philatelists in India do not appear to favour the idea, saying the time is too short. They also strongly oppose the Government's proposal to issue an album with facsimiles of all Indian stamps issued to date.

Harmer Sales. The "Bermuda Postmaster" 1d. of 1849 fetched the record price of £950.

The Palace collections of Egypt realised in all £115,160, of which £53,800 was for the collection of Egypt, the remainder for stamps of various other countries.

It is understood that a 'Post Office' Mauritius was obtained by a South African collector.

Their American house reports the finding of four blocks of the Presidential $1 stamp with Revenue watermark. Specimens of this error have created much excitement lately. These are being auctioned late in March.

HIGH COMMISSION TERRITORIES

The Crown Agents have announced that the designs of the Q.E. stamps for Bechuanaland will be the same as in the current issue save for the change in the portrait and crown. The date of issue has not yet been announced.

So far as Basutoland and Swaziland are concerned there is as yet no information as to either designs or dates of issue.

Z.A.R. "STAMP COMMISSION".

Mr. L. E. Orkin, of Pretoria, has a very interesting little article in the "London Philatelist" which he terms "Some new light on an old theme". It deals mainly with the Stamp Commission which was responsible for the production of the Z.A.R. stamps from 1875 until some little time after the British Occupation in 1877.

According to Curle and Basden it is not recorded who actually printed for the Commission, but Mr. Orkin has ascertained (just how, he doesn't say) that the printing was done by Messrs. Celliers and Rous who conducted "De Volksstem", at that time a bilingual newspaper, as well as a jobbing printing business.

The actual Commission consisted of H. C. Bergsma, the Auditor-General, and H. van Breda, the Treasurer-General. The unofficial member was at first J. F. Celliers, one of the printers, but he was later replaced by C. J. Juta.

A notice from a Government Gazette with a list of stamps ordered, indicates that the stamps were supplied in sheets of 40, although Curle and Basden say they were printed mostly in sheets of 80.

Collectors' Wants & Offers

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

Collections and rarities especially Unions wanted for cash. Kindly contact—JOHN MENDELSSOHN, P.O. Box 1607, Johannesburg.

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SWAZILAND—POSTAL HISTORY and STAMPS

By
J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

(Continued from page 53 of March issue.)

THE STAMPS OF STAGE 2.

The stamps of Stage 2 of Swaziland's postal history are probably the most interesting group for the philatelist of all the country's stamps, the interest lying more in the Overprint rather than in the basic stamps themselves.

Something, however, is taken away from the interest by (a) the aura of suspicion that the errors and varieties may have been deliberately made and (b) that, like other overprints, they lend themselves rather readily to the art of the forger. Imitation overprints have been somewhat extensively produced, some poor and easily recognised, some good (from the point of view of technique) and not so readily spotted.

The basic stamps were the Z.A.R. stamps of the 1885-1893 issue printed by Enschede & Son of Haarlem, ½d. grey, 1d. carmine, 2d. olive-bistre, 6d. blue, 1/- yellow-green, 2/6 orange-buff to buff, 5/- slate, and 10/- fawn.

These were overprinted with the word "Swazieland" (the High Dutch spelling of the name of the country); the overprinting being done in Pretoria on the sheets of 60 (10 horizontal rows x 6 vertical) of the Z.A.R. stamps.

The high postal officials in the Transvaal of this period not only dealt with stamps in their official capacities but many of them were also private stamp dealers and the temptation to make readily saleable varieties proved too much for some of them. Curle and Basden in their book "Transvaal Postage Stamps" gives this as the explanation of the many varieties occurring in overprinted Z.A.R. stamps of this period and speak of it rather slightingly as "The Comedy of Errors" in the "Reign of Van Alphen". The overprinting of the stamps for Swaziland falls into this reign.

That the outstanding error (the missing "d" from "Swazieland", which we will come to anon) was very early on suspected of having been deliberately produced may be gathered from the "London Philatelist", Vol. 4, 1895, p. 192, where Capt. Norris Newman reports on an interview he had had with the Transvaal P.M.G. (Mr. Van Alphen) when he was shown the Transvaal State collection of stamps.

He writes "Mr. van Alphen could give me no explanation about the missing "d" in the corner stamp of certain sheets, except that when it was noticed it was too late to alter them as the stamps were urgently needed for use at Bremersdorp.

He admitted that the omission of the "d" was somewhat peculiar and that the inverted surcharges and stops after some reprints, viz., the ½d., 1d. and 2d., were only noticed after a lot had been struck off.

The remainders of these stamps were all sold by public tender some time ago."

The stamps with stops referred to above were presumably the so-called "Government Reprints" (see later). It is pretty obvious, however, that Capt. Newman was far from satisfied with the explanations giveu by Mr. van Alphen, and although he does not say so in so many words, it can be inferred from his notes that he strongly suspected the "Swazielan" error of having been deliberately made.

Here is something which **may** have a bearing on the urgency with which, according to Mr. van Alphen, the stamps were needed for use at Bremersdorp:—

Framed in the entrance hall of the Secretariat building in Mbabane is a document in longhand script which appears to be a receipt for a transfer fee. It reads as follows:—

> I Umbandine King and Paramount Chief of the Swazie Nation hereby acknowledge having received the sum of four pounds being transfer duties on the sale to Captain Ewing of one half of Stone's Trading Concession.
>
> Witnesses — Umbandine
> Allister M. Miller — X his mark.
> Embekelweni. — King
> May 1, 1889.
>
> (Umbandine's Seal in red wax)
>
> 1/- Z,A,R. Stamp overprinted "Swazieland"

If that 1/- stamp were affixed to the document on the date of its signing it means that at any rate some "Swazieland" stamps were already in Swaziland some 5½ months before their issue for postal purposes and the urgency argument pleaded by Mr. van Alphen sounds somewhat specious.

But there is a snag. The stamp on the document is not cancelled with the date so there is the possibility that it may have been affixed at a later date than that of the signing and witnessing of the document and in that case it has no significance vis-a-vis the present argument.

The "Swazielan" error is further dealt with below.

The Stamps.

As already stated the Z.A.R. stamps overprinted for use in Swaziland were eight values (½d., 1d., 2d., 6d., 1/-, 2/6, 5/- and 10/-) of the Enschede-printed issue of 1885-1893.

Quanities overprinted. These are given in "The London Philatelist Vol. 1, 1892, p. 287 with the statement that the dates and quantities are as quoted by "Le Collectionneur de Timbre-Post.

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Issue of 18 Oct., 1889:
½d. 30,000 (500 sheets).
1d. 30,000 (500 sheets).
2d. 30,000 (500 sheets).
6d. 30,000 (500 sheets).
1/- 30,000 (500 sheets).
Issue of 20 Oct., 1889:
2/6 1,500 (25 sheets).
5/- 600 (10 sheets).
10/- 300 (5 sheets).
Issue of 30 Jan, 1891:
2d. 30,000 (500 sheets).
2/6 3,000 (50 sheets).
Issue of 10 Aug., 1891:
5/- 1,200 (20 sheets).

These dates and quantities are confirmed in the Royal Philatelic Society's **Africa,** Volume III with the one exception that the quantity of 5/- stamps printed on 10 Aug., 1891 is given as 1,500 (25 sheets).

Paper. The paper is generally white but may be slightly toned (and slightly thicker). I have the 1d., 1/- and 5/- on toned paper.

Perforation. This issue of Z.A.R. stamps has four varieties of perforation, but only two of these are known on the stamps overprinted for Swaziland, the 12½ x 12 and the 12½ all round. The 1d. and 1/- are only known perf. 12½ x 12; the 2d. occurs in both varieties, while the ½d. 6d., 2/6, 5/- and 10/- are only known perf. 12½ all round.

Shades. There is very little in the way of shade varieties in any of the denominations although some gradations may be selected. This is perhaps more noticeable in the ½d. and 1d. values than in the others and these might be described as ranging through grey and pearl-grey on the ½d. (as in the case of the basic Z.A.R. stamps), and from carmine to rose-pink on the 1d. stamps.

The Overprint.

A. BLACK.

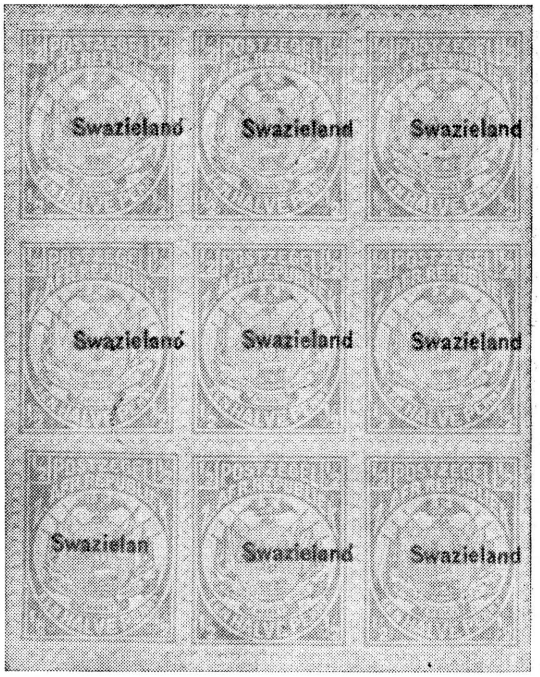
The overprintings of 1889 and 1891 were all done in black, the ink used being a dull one with practically no shine to it. The word "Swazieland" measures 13 mm. in length, the height of the "S" being 2 mm. and that of the ordinary letters 1¼ mm.

Major Varieties.

(1) "Swazielan". This, the most outstanding error, occurred on early printings of the ½d., 2d. (both perforation varieties) and the 5/-, but was later corrected. It occurs on the first stamp of the bottom row of the sheet.

In the Postal Museum, Pretoria, there are three complete sheets (one of each denomination) with this error. They were on show in the Union Government's exhibit at the Cape Town International Stamp Exhibition of 1952. Mr. H. R. Harmer was looking at these sheets with me and drew my attention to a curious feature on the ½d. sheet. This may have been noticed before but I have not seen it recorded or commented on in any way.

In the case of the 2d. and 5/- sheets the vertical alignment of the overprints in Vertical Row 1 (the row with the error in the bottom stamp of the row) is perfect. On the ½d. sheet however, while the vertical alignment of the top five stamps is also perfect, the sixth stamp (with the error) has the overprint misplaced to the left by the width of the capital "S".



I am indebted to the Union Postal authorities for the accompanying photograph of the part of the ½d. sheet with the error. Note that the stamp with the error has been slightly folded up in taking the photograph, but that does **not** account for the displacement.

My first reaction to this was "Ah, here is almost conclusive proof that this error was deliberately made." My argument ran thus:

(a) The printer must have handled that type during the stage when the sheets with the error were being printed.

(b) Therefore he must have known that the error was there.

(c) But, as he still left the error there, it must have been deliberately made.

I put this view to Mr. Harmer, but I could see that he was not prepared to accept it without further consideration, and he said that he would write to me about it on his return to England. This he did at considerable length; a summary of this letter is that he felt the error was genuine and purely accidental.

From his comments on the significance of the misplaced "Swazielan" on the ½d. sheet and on printing in general, I have reconstructed what was the probable sequence of events in the early printing of these stamps. This reconstruction has been submitted to Mr. Harmer and he has passed it as correctly expressing his views. Here it is:—

(1) The forme of 60 overprints was made up and tightened as usual with wooden coigns. At first all 60 overprints were correct and some, perhaps all, of the first printing of the 1d., 6d., 1/-, 2/6 and 10/- were made.

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(2) Then, probably through shrinkage of the wooden coigns in hot weather, the letter "d" dropped out from the bottom left "Swazieland" position. This might or might not have been noticed by the machine minder (a point considered further on) but in any case the 2d. and 5/- stamps with the error were now printed.

(3) Then a metal "space" or two dropped out and, noticing the looseness in the ordinary routine look at the forme before starting to print the ½d. sheets, the machine minder pushed up the line of loose type to the end of the line, added two or three thin metal "spaces" and locked up, with the result that the vertical alignment was out.

(4) The "Swazielan" error was later spotted on the sheet of the three denominations, the forme was corrected and there was then no spelling error or misplacement in any further printings made from it.

An alternative, but less likely, possibility to this suggested sequence of events is:—

(1a) In the original set-up of the forme the error was present in the bottom left corner and the 2d. and 5/- were first printed.

(2a) Looseness occurred and in correcting this the slight misplacement which is seen on the ½d. sheet was produced.

(3a) The error and misplacement were corrected and then the printing of the other values took place.

Mr. Harmer would not accept the conclusion I had jumped to from the misplaced error on the ½d. sheet, viz., that the printer must have known the error was there and that, knowing it was there but not correcting it, it therefore was deliberately made.

He points out that the workman who would have done the tightening up of the forme was in all probability just a machine minder and not a compositor. Such an individual would in all probability not have been permitted to "set-up", alter type, or do much more than put in a missing "space" or coign. Even if he had noticed the missing "d", which in itself was unlikely, he would not have troubled to search the fount for a "d"; that was not his job and it may be that he was not even permitted to do such a thing.

As a general argument against the error of the missing "d" having been made intentionally, Mr. Harmer pertinently remarks "why only on the ½d., 2d. and 5/-? Why not on the other five values, especially on the 10/-? Would anyone out to make deliberately errors do it on only three denominations when he could just as easily have done it on eight? The answer of course is that five denominations were printed **before** the "d" dropped out of the forme, and the other three, with the error, **after** it had dropped out.

It is not surprising, adds Mr. Harmer, that the P.M.G. could not give Capt. Newman a satisfying answer about the error. How could a Postmaster-General have done so? Had Capt. Newman seen the printer he would probably have got the answer in a couple of minutes.

Because of Mr. Harmer's experience and knowledge of errors and fakes, and of printing processes, I am very glad to accept his view that the "Swazielan" error was in all probability purely accidental in origin. This is a more charitable view than was my original opinion, and than the views of many others; it has the added advantage of being based on technical probabilities.

This view restores my interest in these overprints; it had been somewhat lessened by the suspicion that some of the faults in the overprints had been deliberately made.

(To be continued)

AUSTRALIA

The three Royal Visit stamps duly appeared on 2nd February, and were anuounced as remaining on general sale for about two months. The 3½d. (rose-scarlet) and 2/- (deep green) portray both Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburg; the latter does not look quite so pleasant as he has appeared on some stamps. The 7½d. (purple) bears an attractive half-length portrait of Her Majesty. A special slogan postmark "Australia celebrates 1954 Royal Visit" was in use at G.P.O.'s in all States, also at Canberra, Newcastle and Launceston, from 3 February to 1 April.

Aerogrammes are now being issued in varicoloured borders, with the 10d. stamp and the word "Aerogramme" in red instead of blue.

Her Majesty has been presented with a special album and a cabinet to hold it, containing copies of every stamp issued since the Commonwealth series started in 1913.

S.W.A.

Mr. J. Malan of Wellington reports that specimens of the current 1/3d. recently received from Windhoek are of an orange-vermilion or orange-brown, very different from the previous orange-yellow. The centres are of a very deep violet.

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CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor,
S.A. Philatelist.

Sir,

OLD CAPE POSTMARK.

On opening the January number and seeing the article on the Triangular with Oval Postmark I immediately put it down as a "Post Retief."

Reading through I had to agree that the first letter following "Post" seemed more like "K" than "R" so turned for guidance to Jurgens' book which failed to elucidate the matter. While the top of the letter is somewhat blurred as by a dirty cancelling implement the lower limb is curved as in "R". Looking up words with "K" as Knysna, Wolvekraal etc. "K" seems always to have a straight stroke for the lower limb.

Post Kantoor can be ruled out for, in those days, Dutch was not used in the P.O. Service except as a place name. Even "Post" did not indicate a P.O. but referred to a military or police post and of such Posts I can find only Post Retief as a possible solution. In Elands Post the word "Post" is not prefixed.

It is possible there may have been other "Posts" such as Kat River, Katberg or even Kanuka but I cannot find any record of one with "KA" as initial lettering.

I have a stamp cancelled with the red oval marking in clean, clear lettering "POST RE . ." which I've always taken to be Post Retief.

To my mind the curve in the lower limb refutes the article in question where it states "Because the first letter of second word is definitely not an R the possibility of its being POST RETIEF, an office existent in 1858, has been ruled out by both Mayer and Rich."

I am, etc.,
C. H. THORNTON.

The Editor,
South African Philatelist.

Sir,

PRINTING OF U.S.A. STAMPS.

For some months now I have known that the United States were dissatisfied with the printing method employed on their stamps.

Recently it was announced that the photo-intaligo process was to be tried out. Nothing further was heard about this and so far as I am aware only trial proofs were printed by this method.

Now I have been informed that the United States Bureau of Printing is to print stamps by photolitho using the two colour process. Furthermore the Presidential series is to be scrapped and these are to be replaced by a series showing American scenic beauty spots.

This is at least two steps in the right direction. Hand engraving is too slow for modern demands. Photogravure is not satisfactory from the point of view of beauty — the screen spoils the stamps. Our own issues are a case in point. Photolitho — the method used for the butterflies and fishes issues of the Portuguese colonies as well as the later issues of Hungary and the Israeli stamps — hold distinct promise for those who appreciate beautiful printing in stamps.

So far the U.S.A. has reached no decision as to what process will be used, but it will be interesting to see what is finally decided.

Yours, etc.,
A. I. MACKENZIE.

(Mr. Mackenzie's statement that the Bureau of Engraving and Printing has decided on switching over from engraving to photolithography for the production is not quite borne out by a leading article in "Stamps" of 13th February. From this it would appear that there have been trials of production by photogravure, but they have not been considered satisfactory. No mention is made of trials by the photolitho method. A new regular issue and various commemorative and Famous American issues are in contemplation. A decision as to method of production is urgently wanted, but so far it does not appear to have been arrived at. There is still strong support for engraving.—Ed.)

(P.S. A note by Kent B. Stiles in the latest received number of "Scott's Monthly Journal" states that during the war years, because of bad inks the engraved steel plates were wearing out faster than they could be replaced. As a temporary expedient the Bureau of Engraving and Printing did use a Photo-lithographic process temporarily, the plates being of zinc instead of steel. After the war, however, the camera process was abandoned and they went back to engraved steel plates. The Bureau meantime has been asked "to explore the possibilities of producing multi-coloured stamps by Photogravure or some other method rather than the hand engraving process being presently used."—Ed.).

Editor,
"S. A. Philatelist."

Sir,

"IS COLLECTING A GOOD INVESTMENT?"

I was greatly interested in two letters in your March issue, just to hand, provoked by my article in the December number.

Mr. F. J. Visser is troubled, not to say overheated, because that article made no mention of South Africa. If he had read the article a little more carefully he would have noticed that I wrote: "I exclude countries with less than 100 stamps listed in 1934, for a comparison of a few stamps can be grossly misleading." South Africa therefore was automatically excluded, having only 37 stamps in the "Simplified" of 1934. Even the "Big" Gibbons had nothing like 100 then. It may console Mr. Visser to be assured that these 37 stamps have put up quite a decent performance, having appreciated by a little over 8 per cent. over the 19 years.

Mr. Frankland's letter is a model of what such should be, and makes a real contribution to this aspect of collecting. I entirely agree with almost everything he writes. Even where he appears to differ from me we are really not at variance. An appraisal even over 19 years can be no **infallible** guide to future performance, though perhaps a litle tmore reliable han Mr. Frankland suggests. He is more likely than I to be able to apply the test of time! His advice to potential buyers is probably better than mine — I have never been good at either giving or taking advice!

Yours, etc.,
W. LOXLEY CHAMINGS

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BASUTOLAND—SOME HISTORICAL NOTES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO POSTAL MATTERS

By G. N. GILBERT.

(Continued from page 48 of March issue.)

The Second Definitive Issue, 1938.

This was put on sale on April 1st 1938 and consisted of the same denominations as the first, with the addition of the 1½d. value.

The same design was used, the only difference being that the new King's head was shown three-quarter face instead of the earlier profile.

Again there have been practically no flaws worthy of mention with the exception of one on the 1d., viz. a "mast" or "tower" on the small hill in the background, which appears on the fourth stamp of the second row in many printings.

Some sheets have appeared without this flaw, only to be followed shortly after with sheets showing it, and this raises an interesting point, viz., were the original sheets printed in two panes of 60 stamps, and then divided for distribution? This might account for the sporadic appearance of this flaw.

As the 1d. denomination has no control number on the sheets it is difficult to determine if there has been a change of plate at any time, but this would still not account for the odd reappearance of this flaw from time to time.

The writer has seen one other printing error, this time on a registered envelope, the embossed stamp being entirely "albino". There are quite a few good shades in the different printings of this set.

Both of these two Basutoland definitive issues were recess printing by Waterlow and Sons Ltd.

Commemorative Issues.

It is hardly necessary to go into details of the various Commemorative sets which have appeared, as there is really nothing which cannot be found in any catalogue, but it may be worth while mentioning the published date of the Silver Jubilee set, which is shown as May 4th, 1935.

The official date for the Colonial issue was "Jubilee day" the 6th of May, but the Basutoland postal authorities decided to issue the stamps on the 4th, which was a Saturday, Monday the 6th being a Public Holiday.

A large number of covers sent in by philatelists and dealers received the cancellation on the 4th, but quite a large number were dated subsequently the 6th.

It is therefore quite a point for those who go in for first day covers, which date is really the first day — the official one, the 6th, or the 4th on which the stamps were actually put on sale? As Gibbons have shown the date of issue as the 4th, it is presumed that this is the recognised "first day."

Of the other commemoratives, there is one point which may interest those who go in for post-marks, viz. the special Royal Visit cancellers, which were used for mail posted in Basutoland on the day the Royal Family arrived, viz. the 11th of March 1947, and on the day they departed, viz. the 12th of March 1947. For some reason two cancellers were used, both very similar being two-ring type with Royal Visit on the top, and Basutoland at the bottom, and the date in the middle, but that used on the 11th is nearly 1 mm. larger in diameter, and the spacing between Royal Visit and Basutoland is considerably wider than that used on the 12th.

Why two were prepared, when it would seem one would have been sufficient, is anybody's guess.

The Coronation issue of 2nd June, 1953 was printed by De La Rue and Coy., in panes of sixty stamps, 10 x 6. The following plate numbers have appeared, viz., 1A-2A, 1B-2B, 1A-6A, and 1B-6B.

So far no plate flaws have been recorded, but in Plate 1B-6B sheets there is a faulty perforation out of alignment in the top right corner between Nos. 8 and 9 in all rows.

Cancellations.

The cancellations of Basutoland can form a study of their own. In the early days, when the Cape Postoffices were issued with the oval cross-bar "killer" type cancellers, each with their identifying numbers, certain Postoffices in Basutoland were also issued with this type.

Those so far identified are: Maseru No. 281, Mohaleshoek No. 210, Morija No. 277 not 377 or 577 as previously reported by Jurgens and Robson Lowe), Mafeteng No. 156, Quthing No. 407 and Thlotse Heights No. 317.

Since originally writing this paper "Rigby Stamps" of Bournemouth, England report finding a cover with No. 688 and the place-date stamp of Teyateyaneng.

An illustration of Maseru No. 281 is shown on piece together with the old type (1) ring canceller.

The various ring type cancellers used in Basutoland also form an interesting study, and the writer has so far found twenty different ones used in Maseru.

The writer has endeavoured to classify these into types which have been used not only in Maseru, but in the other Postoffices and Agencies.

It must be understood that when a type is mentioned, this may vary in size and other slight characteristics in the different places where this type has been used, but the **type** remains essentially the same.

It is virtually impossible to describe every date-stamp used in every Postoffice and Agency.

Type 1.

Single ring with the name at top and Basutoland at the bottom, measuring approx. 22 mm. Two row date in the middle. Similar types used at Maseru, Teyateyaneng, Mohaleshoek and

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Mafeteng.

Period used—1880 (possibly before) until 1901 in Maseru and up to 1915 elsewhere.

Type 2.

Single ring with name at top only. 22 mm., two row date in middle.

Used at Maseru, Morija, Quthing, and Mafeteng, approximately from 1900 to 1932.

Mokhotlong has similar type but larger ring.

Type 3.

Double ring type, with name at top, bars of varying size and thickness at sides, and Maltese cross at bottom. Some have two row date, others single row.

This type has been commonly used in many of the Postoffices and Agencies from about 1911 until the present day, varying greatly in size, as well as in the side bars and Maltese cross.

Those used in Maseru are tabulated.

Type 3A.

25 x 15 mm. Medium heavy side bars nearly up to letters. Two row date in middle.

Type 3B.

30 x 19 mm. Thinnish side bars extending to about 5 mm. from letters. Single row date.

Type 3C.

30½ x 20. Similar side bars and spacing as B but letter of Maseru slightly smaller. Single row date.

Type 3D.

25 x 17. Short thinnish side bars. Single row date.

Type 3E.

28½ x 19. Heavy side bars close up to letters. Single row date.

(To be continued)



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SOCIETY NEWS.

FEDERATED SOCIETIES

NAME AND ADDRESS:	MEETINGS.
Cape Town, Royal P.S. of, P.O. Box 1973	2nd and 4th Thursdays, St. Johns Church Hall, cor. Long and Waterkant Streets, Cape Town.
Copperbelt, P.S. of, P.O. Box 211, Kitwe, N.R.	Third Thuprsday, Jewish Synagogue, Kitwe.
East London P.S., P.O. Box 925, East London	2nd Friday, Red Cross House, Commissioner Street, East London.
East Rand P.S., 157 Woburn Avenue, Benoni	Third Tuesday at 8 p.m. Regent Hotel, Benoni.
Germiston P.S., 57 Driehoek Road, Germiston	2nd Wednesday, Volkskas Bank Building, Germiston.
Grahamstown P.S., 20 Market St., Grahamstown	2nd Friday, 1 Thompson Street, Grahamstown.
Jewish Guild P. Section, c/o. P.O. Box 10, Joh'burg.	Last Thursday at Jewish Guild Memorial Hall, Jhb.
Johannesburg, Afrikaanse Fil. Vereniging, 82 Kruger Avenue, Selwyn, Florida	1st Friday, 8 p.m., 2nd Saturday, 2.30 p.m., Room 91, Public Library, Johannesburg.
Johannesburg. Phil. Society of, P.O. Box 4967, Johannesburg	2nd Tuesday, 4th Monday, Room 97, Public Library, Johannesburg.
Mashonaland P.S., P.O. Box 74, Causeway, S.R.	2nd Wednesday, Room 4, Salisbury Polytechnic, Salisbury.
Natal P.S. of, P.O. Box 588, Durban	1st and 3rd Wednesday at 7.30 p.m. at 31 London Assurance House, 319 Smith Street, Durban.
O.F.S. & Basutoland P.S., P.O. Box 702, B'fontein.	4th Friday at Free State Technical College, Bloemfontein.
Paarlse Posseëlversamelaarsver., c/o. P.O. Box 528, Zuider Paarl	2nd Wednesday, Paarl African Trust Building, Main Street, Paarl.
Port Elizabeth P.S., P.O. Box 3, Port Elizabeth	1st and 3rd Tuesday, Room 3, City Hall, Port Elizabeth.
Pietermaritzburg P.S., P.O. Box 256, P.M.B.	1st and 3rd Monday, Council Chamber, Technical College, Pretoria.
Pretoria, Afrikaanse Fil. Ver. van, P.O. Box 281, Pretoria	Second Wednesday, Railway Recreation Club, Berea Park, Pretoria.
Pretoria Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 514, Pretoria	Arranged during Academic Year, Senior Common Room, Students' Union.
Pretoria Railway P.S., Railway Recr. Club, Berea Park, Pretoria	Fourth Wednesday, Parish Hall, Amelia Street, Roodepoort.
Rhodesia, P.S. of, P.O. Box 803, Bulawayo, S.R.	
Springs and District P.S., Box 688, Springs	
Thematic Stamp Club, P.O. Box 4290, Cape Town	
University of C.T. P.S., University of C.T., Rondebosch, Cape	
Western Rand, P.S. of, 157 Durban Deep, Roodepoort, Transvaal	

Note. An application by the Ladysmith, Colenso and District P.S. to join the Federation will considered by the Executive on 21 April.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

13th January, 1954.

At this Meeting there were 19 members and 1 visitor present. In spite of the fact that our worthy President, Dr. A. Kaplan, is hard pressed for time, he always manages to make a success of his task, so this evening the members were privileged to view yet another outstanding collection. This time it was an extensive display of mint stamps of France, all mounted on special sheets. Mr. J. S. Hagger thanked Dr. Kaplan both for the display and the short talk which accompanied it.

10th February, 1954.

This was the Annual General Meeting of the Society and there were 16 members present.

After reports on the Society's activities during the year 1953 had been given by the Chairman, Secretary/Treasurer and the Librarian/Auctioneer, the following Office-bearers were elected for the year 1954.

President: Mr. J. S. Hagger; Vice-President, Mr. E. Muller; Secretary/Treasurer, Mr. I. S. Burniston; Auctioneer/Librarian/Exchange Superintendent, Mr. H. C. Christophers. Committee, Mr. E. A. Borland, Mr. L. J. Picton and Mr. L. G. V. Mayne.

The exhibitors at this meeting were Mr. Christopher who displayed a collection of used Capes, S.W.A. and Unions, and Mr. Hagger who showed a number of sheets of Union Postage-Dues.

It was decided that the new Committee would discuss ways and means of encouraging juniors to join the society and to help them in every way to learn the finer points of Philately. I.S.B.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

February. The committee were well rewarded for their efforts when the total of members and visitors reached the figure of 45 for the last monthly meeting of the Society.

The evening was the one that had been set aside for the competition that had been organized by Lieut. Richards, and this provided the members with a good evening's entertainment. The judges task was by no means an easy one, but the final result was announced as follows: 1st, Dr. C. Been with an excellent showing of "Southern Rhodesia"; 2nd, Mr. A. Olivier who showed us his "Seychelles" and 3rd, Mr. N. Michael who exhibited his "Basutoland" collection. We extend our sincere congratulations to the successful competitors, and to those who did not gain a prize we say 'hard luck and well tried". Mr. Slater Kinghorn rounded off the evening by showing us a general collection, and also one of the "Pitcairn Islands". F.J.V.L.

THE O.F.S. & BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

March. Our last meeting was very well attended and members spent an entertaining evening. Four collections were displayed under the title of "The Big Four" as well as an extra specialised collection of the latest O.F.S. Centenary Issues, by Mr. C. E. Kachelhoffer. Mr. "K" did much work in compiling such a magnificent collection in such a short time, and is to be congratulated on his success. The exhibitions in the "Big Four" display were as follows: Mr. M. Sachs displayed an unbelievable col-

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lection from behind the Iron Curtain, namely Russia. Our President, Mr. Scott, tabled a collection of Great Britain. Many of us have never seen so many Penny Blacks and Twopenny Browns! Mr. Weil gave a display of France in a beautiful Canadian printed Album which is in itself a masterpiece. The exhibit of "U.S.A." was given jointly by Mr. Hodgson and the secretary. The President also tabled a collection (not of stamps) under the title of "The Birth of a Cover". This consisted of the different steps and artists' drawings of our Official Cover, from start to finish, including a few "freak impressions" from the printer, and the Printers Blocks. This was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Due to lack of time Mr. "K" could not show his collection of 1937 Coronations but it is hoped that he will show them at a later date.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG.

At the meeting held on **March 9th** the Philatelic Society of Pretoria visited the Johannesburg Society and provided the exhibits.

Mr. Dodd showed Transvaal Revenue Stamps and Railway Panel Post and Newspaper stamps. His exhibit included a strip of stamps cancelled with the signature of H. Rider Haggard who was the Secretary to the First Administrator of the Transvaal during the first British Occupation. The exhibit also included customs duty stamps, a block of 9 of the 2/6 Transvaal King's Head fiscals with inverted centres and one of the 5/- value with inverted centre.

Mr. Dodd gave a short talk on his exhibit. Dr. Pirie spoke on the exhibits.

Mr. Wright showed Nyasaland. It was an almost complete collection of mint with some fine used, including the cheque stamp. There were also some specimens and some items of postal stationery. The used included high values in fine condition.

Mr. W. Redford spoke on this exhibit.

Mr. Newlands showed Falkland Islands. The mint values were practically complete. There were some fine used blocks, and some used bisects. Many of the used were so used in the Dependencies. There were many varieties some extrmely rare. Postal stationery was included.

Mr. E. Stern spoke on the exhibit.

Dr. Hack showed a Thematic Collection. The theme was medicine and the stamps shown included persons connected with medicine, hospitals and stamps symbolical of medical matters. There were also covers with postmarks of medical congresses. The exhibit was beautifully written up with full information on the subject matters. Professor Watt spoke on the exhibit.

Mr. Castignina showed Union Commemoratives, air stamps and the war issues. The exhibit included both mint and used and the official photographs of all the issues shown. Mr. Castignina also showed some rejected designs for Union stamps.

Mr. Sheffield spoke on this exhibit.

All the exhibits were much appreciated by the large number of members and visitors present.

At the meeting held on **March 22nd, 1954,** Mr. B. Glassman showed a selection of Queen Elizabeth stamps including several commemoratives. Amongst the stamps shown were the 1953 Sudan Self-government which had been issued in error. There was also Leeward Islands shown in blocks with varieties. Several Plate Number pairs and Blocks were also shown.

He also showed a practically complete mint collection of Gilbert and Ellice Islands. This included several blocks some with plate numbers, Postage Dues were included.

Mr. Glassman introduced his exhibits with some explanatory remarks. The Queen Elizabeth stamps shown were merely a small portion of his collection of these stamps.

Mr. R. T. Lilley spoke on the exhibits which were much appreciated.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

16th February, 1954.

The evening brought members together for the Annual General Meeting, presided over by the President, Mr. G. Bülbring. After the minutes of last year's meeting had been confirmed, the Hon. Secretary presented his detailed report of the past year's activities of the Society, which disclosed, inter alia, a welcome growth in the number of members. Owing to the unavoidable absence of the Hon. Treasurer, he also asked for confirmation of the financial statement, as circulated. A gratifying surplus could be disclosed. The retiring President followed up with his review of the past twelve months, which were marked by well attended meetings and keen interest by members, as well as pleasant social relations. He expressed the firm conviction that this happy state would continue in future.

The same office bearers were elected for the ensuing year, viz.: President, Mr. G. Bülbring; Vice-Presidents, Dr. J. W. Harris, Mr. D. Berg; Secretary, Mr. A. F. W. Pavitt, 37, Heugh Road, Walmer; Treasurer, Mr. H. Youngelson; Auctioneer, Mr. R. W. Pearson; Auditor, Mr. T. van Duyker; Press Correspondent, Mr. G. Bülbring; Librarian, Mr. G. K. Forbes.

Amid acclamation Mr. Harmer, who has belonged to the Society uninterruptedly since 1926, was elected a Life Member, on the proposal of Mr. G. K. Forbes.

As Delegates to this year's Congress were elected Mr. G. Bülbring, Dr. J. W. Harris with Mr. C. Willson as alternate.

The meeting further resolved to affiliate as a Society to the British Philatelic Association.

2nd March, 1954.

In pursuance of the policy laid down some time ago, this evening was again devoted to the Junior Stamp Collectors of the City. Well over twenty girls and boys came along and seemed to thoroughly enjoy the evening, together with parents and members of the Society. The President welcomed all and outlined the proceedings for the evening. A competition as to the best collections resulted in prizes (Sets of stamps) being awarded to different age groups: Miss K. Lindström (15 years and over), Master Mathews (13-15 years) and Masters Hall and Douglas (12 years and under).

After refreshments in the form of cool drinks, tea and cakes had been served, the young collectors greatly enjoyed themselves by extracting stamps from 'Swap Boxes", which had been well filled for their benefit by Society Members. A happy, bright and successful evening ended well after ten o'clock.

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Our **March** meeting was again a great success, there being a large attendance and it is hoped that members will continue attending our mettings in force. It has been agreed, that from 7.45 p.m. till 8.15 p.m. members who wish to exchange or dispose of stamps will be able to do so before the meeting, and if they wish, may continue after the meeting. So come along you Collectors who have boxes of duplicates and bring them along. Several Covers were passed round by the members, and the news of the month dealing with various stamps and topics of the day was given by Mr. Legator, who also wished any member to bring forward any suggestions for the supplement of the Union Hand Book.

The exhibits for the evening were (a) Mr. Waner, who is a new member of the Society, brought along his collection of George VI. They were mounted in a Gibbons Album already printed. Mr. Slomowitz proposed a vote of thanks to this new member. The second exhibit was a complete collection of Christmas stamps with the posters that have been used each year since they were started, by Mr. Sheffield.

Mr. Legator expressed the members' pleasure in seeing this collection and although they are not postage stamps, the stamps of the early issues are very rare.

The Chairman also associated himself with the views expressed on these two exhibits and was sure they have been enjoyed by the members.

Before terminating the meeting the Chairman wished Mr. Johnson who is going overseas, a very pleasant holiday and safe return. E.J.R.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

7th December: Traditionally the last evening of the year is the "President's Evening", and as always Mr. F. C. Ferguson was not found wanting. He surprised us with a "Philateelic Causerie" forcing members to participate in discussions on selected topics whenever their names came out of the hat. Prizes were "earned" by those contributing most and LEAST to the discussions which were highly stimulating. Our President showed considerable acumen in getting the meeting to run **his** meeting for him and at the same time feeling the pulse of the Society. Such stimulated discussions took place on the various philatelic topics and Society activities, that the meeting terminated far beyond the normally set time. One came away realising that our hobby — like our President -- is a dynamic one.

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4th January: Billed as a philatelic jostling and members' thematic evening, only the latter could be produced — by two members of the committee! There was only a small turn out for this meeting — the time of the year being against a large attendance, as presumably many members were still on leave.

Mr. C. S. J. Gouws showed us his "Zoo" collection after a paper delighting in listing various gruesome details about the animals depicted; Mr. F. C. Ferguson showed us contemporary history by means of published matter and philatelic items covering the Royal household — members enjoyed both exhibits.

The hour being early certain Society matters were discussed and members had an opportunity of airing their views. This showed that a considerable amount of thought goes into our hobby and the mechanics of running our Society.

18th January: This was an outstanding evening as the authoritative Mr. Douglas Roth provided a fine talk and an excellent exhibit of a surprisingly high standard on "Reprints", and these covered a great many countries. A technical description is beyond the capabilities of your correspondent but the fascination of the topic still lingers on. The large gathering seem to stimulate the exhibitor who gave us of his best.

1st February: Annual General Meeting. The election of officers took up most part of the evening as a number of officers did not wish to stand for re-election. Owing to his transfer to Johannesburg Mr. Ferguson relinquished the chairmanship after what well may be a record innings: his services in the past were acclaimed during the evening. The following were elected: President, Mr. E. Manville-Ford; Vice-President: Mr. D. Slater-Kinghorn; Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. M. Weinstein; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. C. S. J. Gouws; Hon. Exchange Supt., Mr. W. Impey; Hon. Curator and Auctioneer, Dr. H. O. Reisener; Hon. Correspondent, Dr. B. Wasserstein; Committee Members, Messrs. F. C. Ferguson, E. C. Wright and Dr. T. Berry.

The outgoing President presented the report of the Committee in a fine resumé of the year's activities, levelling criticism here and there in a constructive manner and paying a fine tribute to the office bearers for their unstinted efforts.

Dr. T. B. Berry gained the coveted Hawke Memorial award and was presented with it during the evening — a worthy tribute to his efforts in Union philately, and an inspiration to many.

15th February: After a certain amount of business matters and some interesting items had been exhibited the guest speaker of the evening, the Rev. W. Loxley Chamings gave an almost classical narration on a tour around Africa in philately while he used as his theme, that there was always something new out of Africa — and sometimes, something bad! Stamps were exhibited singly mounted on cardboard showing something of African interest — being animal, vegetable — and perhaps even mineral, but your correspondent cannot recall the latter for certain. Mr. Orkin ably proposed a suitable vote of thanks for an unusual evening's "entertainment". (verb. sap.)!

1st March: Mr. Obermeyer took charge of the evening for a few minutes and distributed some sheets of 2d. and 4d. Z. Afr. Rep. of doubtful philatelic value which he had kept for over 50 years and had lately come across — there was even a tete-beche!

Some Union notes were presented by Drs. Berry and Wasserstein, and then Mr. E. C. Wright gave an excellent and novel talk and display of the Indian States — which made many wonder how popularity in philatelic subjects is really determined; one feels he has sown a few seeds in several minds. Dr. Reisener, as so often before, showed a fine understanding of the exhibit and expressed the vote of thanks which was strongly endorsed by all those present. B.W.

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Displays tabled for the last few months included the following:

AUGUST: Mr. Watson's Unions.

SEPTEMBER: Capes by Mr. C. H. Thornton and Mr. Harper. A paper was read by Mr. Thornton on

OCTOBER: Thematic collections by Mr. C. H. the occasion of the issue of the Cape Centenaries. Thornton, Mr. L. Hellman and Mrs. J. P. Shingler.

NOVEMBER: Mr. Sparkman's stamps of the countries forming a new Central African Federation.

DECEMBER: Six sheets of their own choice by each member.

JANUARY: Greece by Mr. Harper and Mr. Shingler.

Official membership now exceeds one hundred and ten and the sales packet service is still going strong. It has been suggested that arrangements should be made for inter-centre visits between the Grahamstown, Port Elizabeth and East London Societies. J.J.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL.

Annual General Meeting.

It is safe to say that few societies get through their formal business with greater speed than the Philatelic Society of Natal. But even its own record must have been broken at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 3rd March, in the Masonic Hall, Hunt Road. With high-octane phrases such as "Take it as read", and "Agreed", the business proceeded with breath-taking speed and when those present — about sixty — came up for breath somewhat later, the following officers were found to have been elected for the ensuing year: President, G. Milner Palmer; Vice-Presidents, A. Lionel Bevis, H. R. Brown, C. Selwyn Smith, D. McKay Malcolm, J. Lyle; Committee: W. H. Winde, C. Whysall, G E. Ponsford, J. G. Walker, N. Paterson; Hon. Exchange Supt., L. O. Bosse; Hon. Sec./Treas., K. I. Bevis; Hon. Auctioneer, J. Lyle; Hon. Librarian & Press Correspondent, C. Selwyn Smith; Hon. Auditor, K. McIntyre.

The circulated reports showed the finance to be in very healthy condition; the Exchange Packets had sales of over £750; the meetings throughout the year were well-attended; there had been a succession of interesting and instructive displays by both members and visitors; there were visits to and from sister societies; all signs of a successful year.

The retiring President, Mr. A. Lionel Bevis, after thanking all those who had taken an active part during the past year, outlined some of the features of the Federation Congress and Philatelic Exhibition to be held in June in the Durban City Hall, and asked for the co-operation of all members. There would be a Post Office at the Exhibition, using a special Canceller and attractive Covers to commemorate the event were being prepared. An illustrated Brochure including the Exhibition Catalogue, would be on sale for the modest charge of one shilling and would be found to be worth at least five times as much.

Mr. Bevis drew attention to the trophies displayed before him, including the latest, 'The Union Cup", donated by Mr. Edward Dee, for displays of Union Collections, to be competed for in October, 1954, for the first time.

The winners for 1953 were:

P. C. Bishop Trophy: Winner, J. G. Walker — S.W.A.

(Commonwealth): Runner-up, Mrs. A. Jacot-Guillarmod — Basutoland.

W. H. Winde Trophy: Winner, C. A. Whysall—Poland. (Foreign), Runner-up, A. L. Bevis—Liberia.

Maynard Trophy: Winner, C. Selwyn Smith—Music. (Thematic): Runner-up, Mrs. M. B. Bevis—Religion.

Novices' Exhibition: Winner: E. Dee—Southern Africa. Runner-up, J. G. Walker—Autographs.

Presentations were graciously made by Mrs. M. B. Bevis. Two awards to the ladies! An interesting and welcome sign of the increasing feminine interest in the hobby. Mrs. Bevis nearly had to "let her left hand know what her right hand doeth", until Mr. Milner Palmer stepped in and saved an embarrassing situation!

The winniung exhibits, in accordance with the custom of the Society, were on display and evoked considerable admiration.

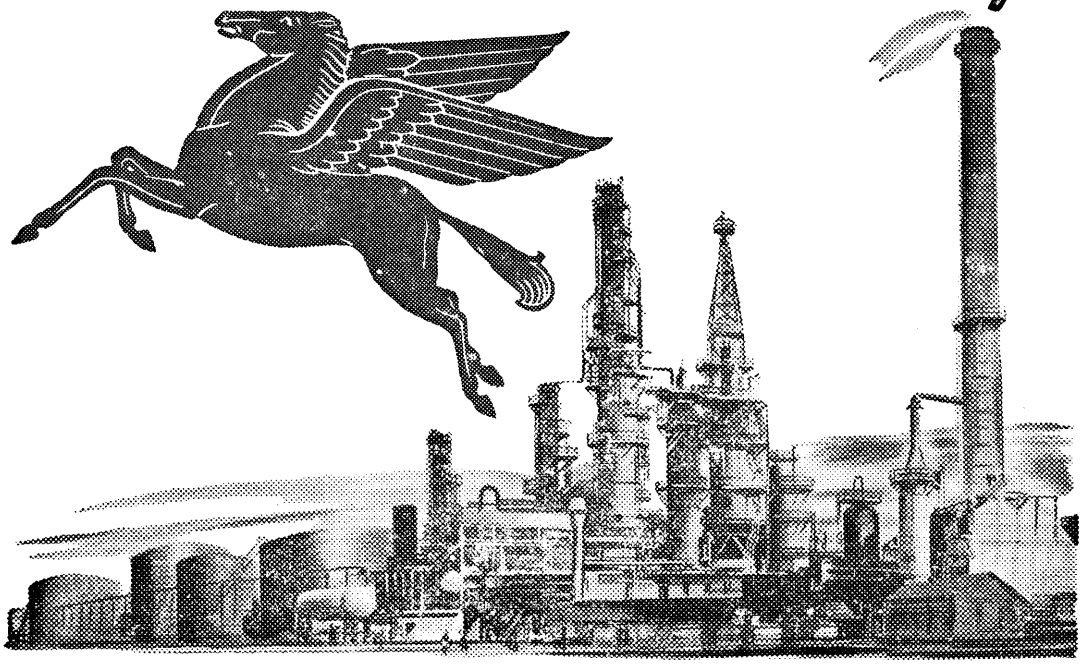
Refreshments were again in the capable hands of Mrs. Bill Winde who made sure that proceedings were not too dry.

Dr. Lucas Young, bringing with him greetings from "the daughter Society, Pietermaritzburg", came down from the Capital to conduct a Twenty Questions Quiz and had the team of four members groping with only moderate success to identify the subjects. Honours were with the Quizmaster, who obviously believes that the doctor should NOT tell! But everyone, including the team, got plenty of enjoyment from the effort. Thank you, Doctor! C.S.S.

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ANDORRA.

A country not often in the philatelic news but according to a writer in "Mekeel's Weekly" it may become a 'dead country' in the catalogue.

At all events France is reported as breaking off relations in an attempt to get control of the little state's finances and communications. That would mean an end of the joint postal service run by Spain and France and recognised by the U.P.U. Although both these 'protecting' countries need no lessons in the production of un-necessary issues, Andorra has never issued a single commemorative or semi-postal stamp, and many collectors would figuratively shed a tear should Andorra become a dead country philatelically.

NORTH POLE.

Mr. Ed. Hopps of Chicago has sent us a postcard with a "North Pole" cancellation. At first we took this to be from the meteorological station which the U.S.A. has established on an icefloe in the neighbourhood of the N. Pole. A further note from him, however, makes it clear that it comes from a town in the Adirondack Mountains in N.Y. State. Mail addressed to Santa Claus by children is sent there by the U.S. post-office, so as to convince them that there really is a Santa Claus at the North Pole.

EGYPTIAN OCCUPATION STAMPS—1914.

It is not often that stamps printed in "huge quantities" are discovered only after a lapse of 40 years, even if they do come into the category of "prepared for use but not issued."

Such however has been the luck of Mr. Ernest A. Kehr, as told in the Dec. issue of "Scott's Monthly Journal." He was recently in the Middle East and met a Turkish pasha who reported having the only unused set of four stamps issued to the Turkish Army when they set out to invade Egypt (on the German side) in 1914. When defeat by the British at Gaza seemed inevitable the stamps were destroyed, with the exception of one unused set, kept by the pasha who had been in command of a unit in the invading force, and of a few sets which were stuck on military envelopes and cancelled with the special postmark.

The set consisted of four values of similar design, crossed Turkish and Egyptian flags and an inscription (in Arabic) reading "Occupied Territory/Postage stamp of the Moslem Army (sent) to liberate Egypt."

G.B. 1d. OF 1881 A COMMEMORATIVE.

In "Stamp Collecting" Mr. W. H. S. Cheavin tells the story of that much neglected stamp the 1d. lilac of 1881, For long the photographing by X-rays of stamps printed with ink of vegetable or coal-tar sources was considered impossible but Mr. Cheavin has now overcome the difficulties.

This set him off on the history of the 1d. lilac of 1881 and it now appears that it was the first stamp printed with an ink of coal-tar source and that the stamp was really a commemorative of the 25th anniversary of the first synthesis (by Sir William Perkin) of aniline mauve or "Mauveine".

The unfortunate labelling of the stamp as "lilac" obscures its real significance, honouring the great discovery of "Mauveine".

OBITUARIES.

ERIC W. MANN.

We regret to have received word of the death of Eric W. Mann, one of Britain's outstanding philatelists. He was a Past President of "The Royal", curator of its collections and a member of its Expert Committee. His name was on the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. His interests were wide and there were few countries he had not included to a greater or lesser extent in his studies. One of his early favourites was Natal, for his work on which he is probably best known to South African collectors; the collection on which his work was largely based was recently presented by him to the Royal Society.

STANLEY PHILLIPS.

We regret to have to report that we have received just as we were going to press, a brief intimation of the death of Stanley Phillips. He had been for a considerable time managing director of Stanley Gibbons Ltd.

NEW ZEALAND

The full series of Q.E. stamps appeared on 1 March. The ½d., 1d., 1½d. (issued earlier, 15 Dec.), 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d. and 8d. are of small size with head of Her Majesty, 9d., 1/-, 1/6 are larger, with three-quarter portrait of Her Majesty; 3/-, 5/- and 10/- large size with Her Majesty on horseback in Guard's uniform.

Also a set of "Officials", 1d., 1½d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 9d. and 1/- in a design reminiscent of the K.G. V set. (S.G. Type 60).

BOGUS ISSUES.

"Stamp Collecting" reports the the following 'stamps' as privately printed in the U.S.A. for so-called free governments. As none of these governments runs a postal service, they are nothing but labels made for sale to unwary collectors. **Cave.** The issues are as follows:—

(1) South Moluccas. Three triangular-shaped sets with butterflies, fish and birds respectively.

(2) "Free" Croatia. Four U.P.U. labels, Two sets of triangulars with birds and flowers respectively.

(3) "Free" Albania. The four labels depicting Roosevelt and Churchill, with a purple portrait of Kastrioti, "re-issued" as airmails with additional inscription '1952'.

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REVIEW

French Morocco—The 1943-44 "Tour Hassan" issue by Charles Neidorf. The Collectors Club, 22 E. 35th Street, New York 16. Price $1.50 post free.

This issue was necessitated by the landing of the Allies in N. Africa in Nov., 1942 cutting off supplies from Paris. A firm in Algiers was commissioned to prepare a set of 19 values. This was done by old-fashioned lithography by very inexperienced workers. The methods by which the single master design was multiplied to produce full sheets of each value, were varied during the several printings of the issue. Hence an issue very complicated for the collector.

This magnificent booklet of nearly 60 pages, lavishly illustrated, will make it comparatively easy to identify the stamps, however.

In addition it may be said that the whole process of old-fashioned lithography, from stone plates, is so thoroughly described as to make this a valuable reference work on lithography in general or in a stady of any stamps produced by that process.

SUDAN

There is a pretty kettle of fish over the 3 stamps issued to commemorate the attainment of self-government. It was expected that this would come into effect in 1953, but it only happened on 9 Jan., 1954. Meanwhile stamps had been prepared with the inscription "Self Government 1953" and, acting on instructions from Khartoum, some of these were issued by the Sudan Government office in London. The fresh stamps, with the date changed to 1954, were made and instructions were given to withdraw, as far as possible, those with 1953, and to destroy the balance. It is understood that the Government are trying to repudiate the 1953 "errors" altogether.

SOMALIA

Italian Somaliland has recently issued a set of three air stamps to mark the 75th U.P.U. anniversary. It is only some 4 years belated, but as the post-war Italian administration only came into operation in 1950, it couldn't very well commemorate in 1949.

A MOMBASA NAVAL LOCAL

"Stamp Collecting" reports a "Local" issued at Mombasa in the following circumstances: Royal Naval ships were assembling in the summer of 1942 for the investing of the southern part of Madagascar. The Fleet Mail Office ran out of postage stamps and the ship's postmaster of "Valiant" collected money to frank his mail; in exchange he was given pieces of perforated gummed paper which he stamped in blue with the ship's crest, a gamecock. The issue was sanctioned by the local authorities for use till proper stamps were available, which was only a matter of several days. These "locals" were cancelled with a double-circle red datestamp inscribed 'Postage Paid' with the date across the centre.

UNITED NATIONS

The programme for special issues in 1954 has just been announced. The first will be one honouring the Food and Africultural Organisation, two values, 3c. and 8c., the design a head of wheat; 10 May, International Labour Organisation, two stamps; 24 October, United Nations day, two stamps; 10 December, Human Rights day, 2 stamps.

SOME RECENT AUCTION PRICES.

Robson Lowe.

Great Britain 1d. black. P.B. 2nd and rare 3rd state (3), £46.
1d. red EA-FE block of 10. 2nd state, £42.
1d. red P.A. 1st and 2nd state, re-entry, pair, £36.
2d. blue SF-SI, strip of 4, £72/10/-.
£5 1882-83 on slightly blued paper, £100.
Cape. 6d. slate lilac on blued, used pair, £64.
Gold Coast. 2d. of 1876-79, quartered, used with whole, £12.
Eight Die Proofs of 1921 issue, £44.

H. R. Harmer.

Kenya 20R. (S.G. 31), £11.
50R (S.G. 32), £17.
£5 (S.G. 97), £13/10/-.
£3 (S.G. 105), £13.
Sierra Leone £5 (S.G. 154), £24.
Sudan 2½p. on 5m, surcharge inverted (S.G. 70c), £65.
Great Britain 2½d. Silver Jubilee, Prussian blue, £80.
Egypt Port Fuad set of 4, £55.
Australia "Ross Smith" Vignette on cover, £50.
S. Africa £1 (S.G. 24a), £11.
S.W.A. 4d. air, opt. inverted, £3/15/-.

J. H. Wicks.

Cape 4d. steel blue (S.G. 19c), £10/10/-.
4d. slate blue (S.G. 19b), £12.
Gambia 1/- Aniline Violet (S.G. 36a), £13.
Transvaal 1d. red on yellow (S.G. 154), £6
South Africa 5 Plate Proofs of 1/- Air, £30.
£1 (S.G. 24), £12.
Tasmania S.G. 24 1d. No wmk. Pelure paper, £7/10/-.

ORANGE FREE STATE.

Mr. W. B. Marriott has a long article in the January issue of 'Gibbons' Stamp Monthly' on the V.R.I. overprints. This is much too long to quote from, but it should certainly be read and studied by all interested in these stamps and it will doubtless furnish information to the O.F.S. Study Circle for their proposed handbook on the O.F.S. stamps.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The low values of the Q.E. issue have now all appeared; the 3d. is a particularly beautiful stamp.

A new Air Letter form appeared on 1 January. The design is the same as the special Coronation form except that the Coronation emblem is omitted from the address panel and the date '2nd June 1953' does not appear on the stamp.

1872-1954

If you are interested in stamps, covers, proofs, postmarks, etc., of this period connected with Germany and occupations, plebiscites, colonies, war history etc., you will sooner or later have to get in touch with us. We handle nothing else, that makes our stock the best within British Commonwealth. As we send everything on approval against references, fullest satisfaction is assured. We shall be pleased to hear from you.

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THE
SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST

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The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

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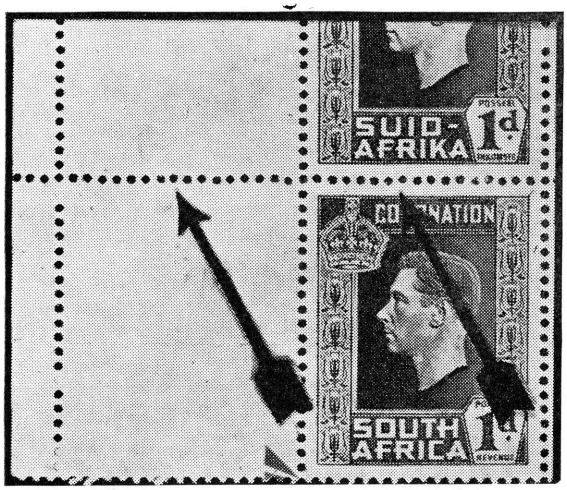
Vol. 30. No. 5. MAY, 1954. Whole No. 350.

UNION NOTES

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

Misaligned Perforations on the 1937 Coronations.

"Always something new to look for in Unions" has for a long time now been accepted as an axiom by the collectors and students of this country's stamps and this month we have pleasure in recording the discovery of Mr. J. S. Hagger of Alberton, Transvaal, that the misaligned perforation variety, which we noted in our February and March numbers as present on some of the current pictorials, also existed on stamps of the Union 1937 Coronation issue.



Mr. Hagger first observed the similarity of the misaligned perforations on a block of the ½d. Coronation stamps and subsequent examination of sheets of all five values of the series revealed that that particular perforation plate with several stagered needles, had undoubtedly been previously used for the printing of some of the Coronation stamps.

The variety occurs in the same perforated gutter as that illustrated for the current 3d. pictorial stamps, i.e. to the left of the marginal arrow, and appears twice on each sheet over a length of three adjoining stamps. These, however, are not always grouped in the same position on the sheets and in some cases, as shown in the accompanying illustration of the 1d. denomination, the varying action of the eleven-row multiple perforator used on this machine in the Government Printing Works, results in one group of the misaligned perforations being divided up over the two ends of the sheet. In such instances, the other group in the same sheets falls in the positions covered by stamps Nos. 10, 11 and 12 in the row.



Our illustrations of the Coronation stamps are set sideways for comparison with the position of the variety on the current pictorials and for those who would like to follow this interesting matter up in the Coronation issue we give below a summary of our study of the variety on these stamps. It should be understood, however, that the information cannot, as yet, be considered as conclusive for it has been compiled on an examination of the sheets at present available and it may in due course be proved that the misaligned perforation also appeared in printings which we at the moment record as being free from the variety. The list does not indicate though that two different perforation plates were employed in the production of the Coronation stamps some seventeen years ago and one of them was the same as that recently used for bringing to light the misaligned perforations on the pictorials. It may yet turn out that this same perforator has also been used on several occasions since the 1937 Coronation issue.

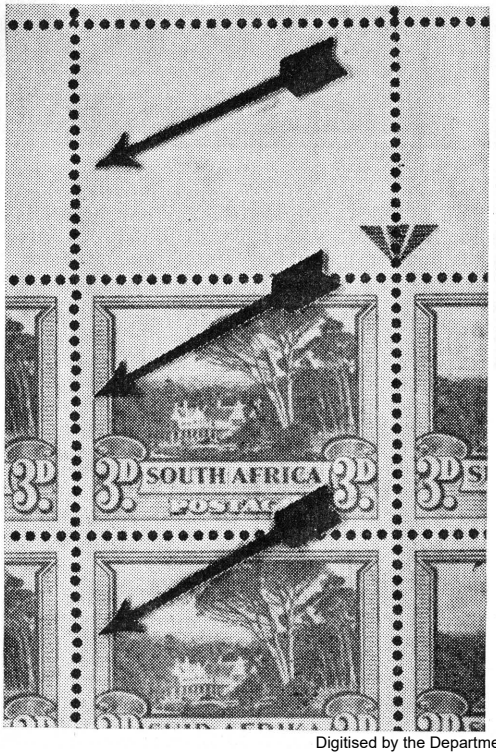
For the convenience of readers we reproduce on the next page the illustration on the mis-

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aligned perforations which we published in our March number.

Misaligned Perforation Variety on 1937 Coronation Series.

Value	Watermark	Position
½d.	Facing right (1st Printing)	No perforation variety present on sheet.
½d.	Facing left (2nd Printing)	Gutter between Rows 2 and 3. Stamps 5, 6, 7, and 16, 17, 18.
1d.	Facing right Cyl. No. 55. (1st Printing)	Gutter between Rows 2 and 3. Left margin, Stamp 1, right margin, and Stamps 10, 11, 12.
1d.	Facing right Cyl. No. 30A.	No perforation variety present on sheet.
1d.	Facing left Cyl. No. 30A.	No perforation variety present on sheet.
1d.	Facing left Cyl. No. 30A.	Gutter between Rows 2 and 3. Stamps 8, 9, 10 and 19, 20, and right margin.
1½d.	Facing right	Gutter between Rows 2 and 3. Left margin, Stamp 1, right margin, and Stamps 10, 11, 12.
1½d.	Facing left	No perforation variety present on sheet.
3d.	Facing right	Gutter between Rows 2 and 3. Left margin, Stamp 1, right margin, and Stamps 10, 11, 12.
3d.	Facing left	Gutter between Rows 2 and 3. Stamps 5, 6, 7, and 16, 17, 18.
1/-	Facing right	Gutter between Rows 2 and 3. Left margin, Stamp 1, right margin, and Stamps 10, 11, 12.
1/-	Facing left	No perforation variety present on sheet.



Two Abnormal Printing Flaws.

Two printing flaws of the non-recurring type which occasionally turn up on stamps and illustrate the effect of a small piece of loose paper being present during the printing of that particular sheet have recently been brought to our notice.

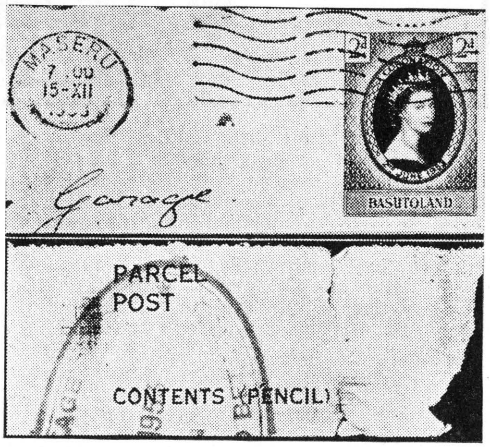
The first was shown to us by Mr. R. Jaacks of Windhoek, S.W.A., and occurred on a recess produced ½d. Gom-pauw stamp of the South West Africa pictorial series. A round piece of paper the shape and size of the punched piece removed by a letter filing hole-punching appliance had evidently fallen onto the sheet of stamp papier prior to printing the frame portion of the design and the result was a clear white circle over a part of the name tablet on one of the English inscribed stamps. The sheet subsequently formed one of a batch overprinted OFFICIAL—OFFISIEEL, but in both cases the flaw apparently passed unnoticed by the checking staff and arrived on a post office counter. An inspection of the other sheets on hand at the time of the discovery showed the item to be a singleton.

The other unusual flaw came from Mr. Leo Hellman of East London in the form of a photograph of a block of twelve of the recent Cape Centenary Stamps, five of which showed some portion of the centre missing. A piece of loose paper lying in the roll of stamp printing paper had evidently picked up part of the interior cylinder impression and then became dislodged, before reaching the exterior cylinder, and left a blank space on the sheet which affected the centres of the five stamps. Mr. Hellman mentions in his letter on the subject that the sheet was purchased in the ordinary way over a post office counter in East London last September.

It may be of interest to note that abnormal flaws of the nature mentioned above are not usually considered as of philatelic importance, but are looked upon more as particular items of interest for inclusion in one's collection.

Protectorate Machine Cancellation and "Postage Paid" Oval Cancellation.

Our accompanying illustrations are photographs of two postal cancellations which Mr. U. M. Milunsky of Mafeking recently submitted to us with a letter mentioning that they were both new to him.



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The top item is a portion of a cover bearing a Maseru machine cancellation dated the 15th December, 1953 and is the first Protectorate machine cancellation Mr. Milunsky has seen.

The lower illustration shows a label with a portion of a POSTAGE PAID oval shaped cancellation which arrived on a parcel from Johannesburg.

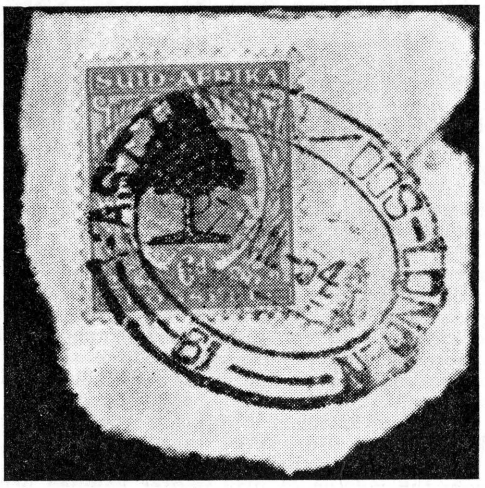
Union Handbook/Catalogue Supplement.

Publication in book form of a Supplement to the Handbook/Catalogue on Union Stamps is now in course of preparation and readers are reminded that any corrections, or additional information, they may be in a position to furnish on the subjects contained in the Van Riebeeck Tercentenary Edition of the book will be very welcome and should be forwarded without delay to Mr. Sam Legator, P.O. Box 133, Brakpan, Transvaal, South Africa.

Because of the work involved and the limited time available, the members of the Committee would like it to be understood that they will will be unable to enter into any correspondence on the matter.

Oval Cancellation Mark.

Mr. U. M. Milunsky of Mafeking has shown us the oval cancellation mark from East London which we illustrate below. He considers that it was probably used at a registration counter and thinks it would be interesting to try and establish the date when it first came into use.



Postal Stationery—New Registered Envelopes.

A new registered envelope appeared on sale at post offices in March incorporating a slight change in the type that has been in general use for the last twenty years. Its form and size is similar to that depicted as Type 35 in the Union Handbook/Catalogue and the Native kraal design, found on the current 4d. pictorial stamp, is printed as before on the pointed flap folding to the back.

The wording of the instructions printed on the front of the new envelope is also the same as Type 35, but a different font has been employed and the main change is on the back of the cover where there are now four dotted lines in blue with the words in English and Afrikaans "Name and address of sender" — "Naam en adres van af sender".

UNION ½d. CYLINDER 70-31.

Mr. Sam Legator informs us that he has made a study of the ½d., Cylinder 70-31 with the "31" missing, and has found that there are hundreds more of such items than collectors imagine. He has traced them with sheet numbers 0116 up to 1158 (which would mean at least 1,000 sheets). He has been reliably informed that the "31" did not wear off from the cylinder but missed picking up the ink through a "wobble". Presumably it could start working again correctly after having been missing for a bit.

CONGRESS AND EXHIBITION
Durban 1-4 June, 1954.

It gives the Society great pleasure to intimate that we have now finalized the arrangements with regard to the Philatelic Exhibition and Congress to be held in Durban 1st-4th June, 1954 in Durban.

As the City Hall is required for a reception to His Excellency the Governor-General on Monday, 31st May, we have had to make considerable changes in our plans. In consequence of which the Exhibition will not be opened until 8 p.m. on Tuesday the 1st of June. Congress will however, be opened on Tuesday, 1st June, at 2.30 p.m. in Committee Room No. 3, City Hall.

The Exhibition will close on Saturday at 12 noon. This will give us ample time to hand back collections to those who wish to take them away.

The Exhibition Committee are very happy to announce that they have received 160 entries, which are very comprehensive with a particularly good entry in the Thematic Section.

For the information of visitors and members, a special souvenir envelope will be available from the Local Secretary, 25 Hunt Road, Durban, at 6 for 1/- and 3 for 6d. If addressed and stamped can be sent back to the Local Secretary in bulk, who will have them cancelled and posted. These envelopes will depict the first seal of the Borough of Durban. Brochures will be sold at the Exhibition at 1/- each and envelopes will also be available for these for anyone wishing to send them overseas.

Postal arrangements have been made and the Post Office is supplying a special canceller for this purpose.

There will be no question of First Day Covers, but all envelopes will be cancelled "1st-4th June".

We in Natal look forward to meeting all the Philatelists of Southern Africa, and what has been done for the wellbeing of the Exhibition and Congress will, we hope, be of the same high standard as in previous years.

We would of course appreciate any help which can be given to us on the Sunday and Monday prior to the Exhibition, and the old saying still stands good — many hands make light work.

With sincere Philatelic greetings, from the Exhibition Committee.

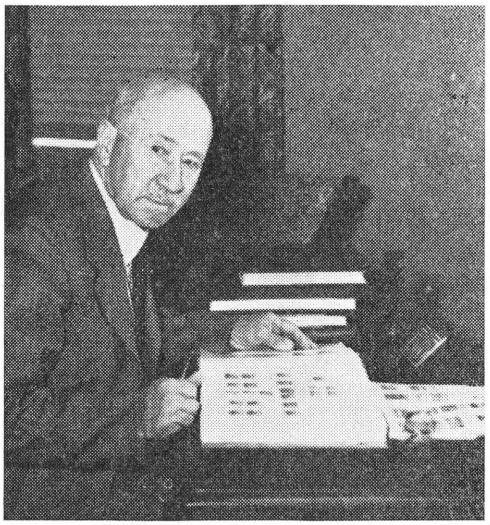
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ROLL OF HONOUR.

B. L. R. FOX.

This is a melancholy record, for Bert Fox, who was elected to the Federation's Roll of Honour at the Bulawayo Congress last year, passed away on April 1st at the age of 70. His biographical note has therefore to serve also as an obituary notice.

He started general collecting as a boy in England, but after arriving at Umtali in 1914 he began to concentrate more on the stamps of Rhodesia. Moving in 1918 to Bulawayo he was taken to a meeting of the Philatelic Society of Rhodesia and when showing his little collection to Mr. A. C. Thornton, it was pointed out to him that his 3/- Admiral stamp was perf. 15, not perf. 14, a fact which made it worth about £5 rather than 5/-. That little incident, he used to say, changed him from a mere collector to a philatelist.



He built up a very extensive collection of B.C.A. and Rhodesian stamps. When he retired from the Railway service in 1939 he went to live in Norwich, England and served with the Royal Norfolk regiment. Owing to the risk of the blitz he disposed of his collection.

From 1922-25 he was Secretary of the P.S. of Rhodesia, President for the period 1930-34, and on leaving in 1939 was elected a life member.

In 1946 he returned to live in Bulawayo, rejoined the Society, and re-started a Rhodesian collection. Although this never attained the standard of his earlier one, it was good enough to get a bronze award at the Cape Town International.

He was greatly interested in the Postal History of the Rhodesias and provided Major Harrington and Mr. H. C. Dann with much information for their publications.

He was also largely responsible for the preparation of the published "Check List of the Postage Stamps of Rhodesia."

A more extensive writing was his "Stamps of Rhodesia and their bearing on the history and development of the territory". This was never published in full book form, but appeared in condensed form as a serial in the "Stamp Digest" of 1949.

Bert Fox was what is colloquially termed "a cheery soul" and will be much missed.

OBITUARY.

FRANK GODDEN.

We regret to hear of the death of Mr. Frank Godden, M.B.E., the well-known London dealer. He was known to many South Africans personally, through his visits to exhibitions at Johannesburg and Cape Town in 1936 and 1952. For many years he had been trusted by the British Government with the taking of official exhibits to exhibitions abroad and was a much travelled man; for this work he was awarded the Order of the British Empire. He had previously been honoured by philatelists by being elected to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

REVIEWS.

Catalogue of Cylinder Flaws on K.G. VI British Commemoratives. Author's name not given. Published by Crabtree Press, Ltd., 57 Tivoli Crescent, Brighton, 5, England. Price 4/6.

This appears to be a pretty comprehensive listing, well illustrated, of 106 cylinder flaws on 7 G.B. K.G. VI commemoratives, but as the author states, there are still 14 more stamps to be studied. He thinks the photogravure process has now reached such a degree of accuracy that the stamps of the new reign are unlikely to show anything like the same number of flaws of interest or importance.

His pricings are arrived at after consultations with dealers and he has no stocks of stamps with flaws personally.

Post Office Progress 1952-3. This is the Annual Report of the Union P.M.G. for the period. As in the past few years it records progress in all directions, but states there is much leeway still to make up, particularly in the sphere of telecommunications where shortages of material, labour and funds still hampers development.

A general shortage of staff for practically all departments also makes working difficult.

Postally, nevertheless, there is steady expansion, the volume of mail matter handled being approximately two million articles per day. The operations of the Post Office yielded a profit of £1,833,868 for the twelvemonth ended 31.3.53 as compared with £871,651 for the previous financial year. This increase is attributable to certain higher postal, telegraph and telephone tariffs introduced in 1952 together with increased business in general.

It is interesting to compare this state of affairs with that of the U.S.A. This has been described in an article in "The New York Times" as follows: "The United States Post Office takes in more money, spends more money, and loses more money than any other national postal system in the world." Its loss is stated to be 727 million dollars in a year that its neighbour, Canada, made a profit of fully 6½ millon dollars.

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BERMUDA 1873/5	1d. on 3d. S.G. 16 used	£4 15 0
B. GUIANA 1862	1c. S.G. 41 very fine used	£4 0 0
CANADA 1864	2c. S.G. 44 large part O.G.	£6 0 0
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE 1855/58	1/- S.G. 8 very fine used with large margins	£9 0 0
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE 1861	4d. S.G. 14 very lightly cancelled margins 2 sides, just touched on third side, a very attractive copy	£10 0 0
CEYLON 1863/66	2d. S.G. 79 superb used	£7 10 0
GOLD COAST 1876/79	4d. S.G. 7 mint	£2 2 6
GRENADA 1886	1d. on 1/- S.G. 38d mint	£6 15 0
HONG KONG 1863/74	96c. S.G. 18 superb U	£6 0 0
INDIA 1854	½ an. Die II, S.G. 7 superb UnU. shewing heavy re-touch to bust	£3 10 0
NEVIS 1882	4d. S.G. 27 brilliant mint	£2 17 6
NEW ZEALAND 1858/59	6d. S.G. 14 superb U.	£4 10 0
NIGER COAST 1893	½d. on 2½d. (green) S.G. 11 Mint	£4 0 0
ST. VINCENT 1881	½d. on half 6d. S.G. 30 Mint	£7 10 0
TRINIDAD 1859	1/- S.G. 29 superb mint pair	£8 10 0

B. J. Hunter

56a, EAST STREET, BRIGHTON 1, SUSSEX, ENGLAND.

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BRITISH SOMALILAND

By
J. FRANKLAND.

(Paper read before the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg.)

The British Postal system in British Somaliland, as was the case with Aden and the Persian Gulf in the early days, was operated as an offshoot of the Indian Postal Administration, and to begin with Indian stamps were used, only distinguishable by the postmark.

British Somaliland was settled only comparatively recently (in fact the final overthrow of the Dervishes dates as late as 1920) and in the 19th cent. the postal business was practically confined to the major towns of Berbera and Zaila. Postmarks of the 19th century and 1900/1 are rare. The operations of the Somaliland Field Force (1902-4) resulted in some military postmarks, the commonest being the Base Office, Berbera: there are several Field Post Office postmarks and a curiosity of the campaign is one of the Base Office, Obbia, this town being actually in Italian Somaliland but used as the Base for a punitive expedition to the interior by agreement.

The status as a British Protectorate dates from 1903, and with the new status it was decided to make provisionals by overprinting Indian stamps. The indents were wildly over-optimistic, and this was combined with a delay in starting up the new postal regime. Eventually a mixture of three indents, two on Queen Victoria types and one on Edwardians, all came on sale at once.

When the first definitives made their appearance in 1904, there were still enormous stocks of the provisionals, and an attempt seems to have been made to remainder them, but except for some Officials this came to nothing and the surplus was destroyed in December 1905. The actual numbers issued, where these are under 20,000, appear to be as follows:—

S.G. 4	19,851.	S.G. 18	12,079	S.G. 27	14,413
5	15,745	19	10,293	28	12,342
6	14,041	20	7,658	29	11,668
7	11,795	21	5,188	30	10,076
8	11,584	22	1,543		
9	10,706	23	1,485		
10	8,995	24	2,055		
11	4,132				
12	3,903				
13	3,777				

The first column includes catalogued varieties of which the separate numbers are:—

S.G. 14 less than 200
15 less than 200
16 less than 100
16a less than 90
17 less than 75
17a 240, of which most were used
17b 96, practically all mint.

A comparison of these figures with the catalogue prices may well make a collector rub his eyes, though I shall have even more startling information a little later, when we come to the Officials. As a group there is no doubt these stamps are now priced well below their proper value. Moreover, nearly all on the market are singles: even a humble pair is rarely found, and blocks or larger pieces are very seldom met with: they are worth a substantial premium.

These provisionals are not well printed: there are minor faults from which almost any single can be positionally identified. Two major errors are listed by Gibbons and several more by Robson Lowe.

The Inverted are great rarities; nearly all of the 12 annas known are used and only one mint example has been noticed in auctions in the last ten years. The 3 rupees is usually found mint: one sheet of 96 is known, most of which came into the hands of one W. H. Peckitt, who took it into his head to mark them on the back with his initials and a serial number as a precaution against forgery. It is curious to note that the inverted 3 rupees is actually also a double overprint, one albino, the second impression left in the paper by typography being very clear.

Of the host of minor varieties the ones most notable are the thick D, the round O, and the displaced D. The letter I wherever it appears is a frequent casualty and one setting for the high denominations seems to have been screwed up too tight in the forme as the lettering has buckled and gives the appearance of a curved overprint.

With the first definitive issue in 1904 we come to the usual pattern of Colonial issues. The first low values come on Crown CA paper with the larger high values on Crown CC; these being in due course replaced by the multiple Crown CA watermark. Very little progress had been made with the conversion to "universal colours" before the Georgian period.

The Georgian issues follow the normal pattern, first on multiple block CA, later on the script paper. The post-War issues, which include the three top values, exhibit marked shade changes all of which ought to be catalogued and there is a curious printing, the date of which does not appear to have been certainly established, of the ½ anna in deep green with inverted watermark.

The first general issue of George VI is of some melancholy interest as it was extensively looted during the troublous times of 1940-1 and it had to be demonetized on the re-occupation. Incidentally, I do not think most of the looting was done by Italians, as most of the dubious supplies which later came on the market did so in Egypt. I must mention in passing one of the rarest K.G. VI varieties: one sheet of the 5 rupees is known with a single line of vertical perforation missing, giving ten pairs imperf. between. For some unknown reason this variety is ignored by Gibbons but it is quite authentic.

In the Victory issue we have two perforations on the 1 anna. Most of the abnormals marketed were in poor condition (possibly from sheets which should have been rejected but for austerity reasons were sold) and a fine mint example is worth a good premium.

Latterly the territory has adopted East African currency and this has involved surcharging. There is an interesting shade variety of the 70 cents which was only on sale in Berbera.

The new Queen Elizabeth issues are an attractive pictorial set and have been well printed by Bradbury Wilkinson.

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We now come to the Officials. The provisionals, as happened with the ordinary issues, are a mixture of different indents far beyond the actual requirements of the new territory. The first type consists of Indian "On H.M.S." Queen Victoria types overprinted; then there is a Queen Victoria 1 rupee inscribed SERVICE; finally there are some Edwardians. The SERVICE 1 rupee is not an essay, as stated by Robson Lowe: it is a stamp prepared for use but not issued. There were no fewer than 24,000 of them, all remaindered.

The Edwardian provisionals have been the subject of some inaccurate remarks in Gibbons and Robson Lowe. They were all used, and it may be of interest to record the actual numbers, which are known.

	Number issued	Number Used
S.G. O1	7,200	760
O2	7,200	2,143
O3	4,800	614
O4	2,400	145
O5	2,400	321
O6	36,000	976
O7	36,000	496
O8	24,000	17
O9	24,000	16
These figures include:—		
O10	150	?
O11	150	?
O12	100	?
O13	100	?

S.G. O9 was not remaindered, and the number of surviving examples of O9 and O13 must be very much smaller.

If the ordinary issues are bargains at current prices, what is one to think of S.G. O1, 760 ever used, at 2/-? or S.G. O4 145 ever used, at £1? Not that **more** of S.G. O6 were used than of O1.

But there are yet more shocks in store for the Catalogue-bound! When we turn to the definitives, the above table continues as follows:—

S.G. O14	5,160	679
O15	4,800	2,323
O16	960	763
O17	1,080	164
O18	960	31
O19	960	?
These figures include:—		
O14a	86	
O15a	80	
O17a	16	
O17a	18	
O18a	16	

The O19 used figure is a query as one authority says 406 and another 554. One sheet of S.G. O16 is known with inverted watermark (60 stamps). Gibbons **reduced** the price of O19 in the 1954 catalogue!

O.F.S. STUDY CIRCLE.

We have been favoured with a copy of No. 2 Bulletin published by this circle.

It contains a number of answers to queries raised in No. 1, but the piece de resistance is a Check List of the Telegraph stamps by S. G. Lawrence, the Hon. Sec. of the circle. This is a tremendous piece of work listing no less than 170 items and there is a page with 24 full-sized illustrations.

SPERATI COUNTERFEITS.

The B.P.A. announces that it now has control of the whole of the Sperati stock. With this purchase the B.P.A. now either owns or has records of the ownership of over two-thirds of all that Sperati made.

This is going to save Expert Committees many a headache and will restore confidence in many a classic. Sperati was the master craftsman in the reproduction of old stamps; he kept within the limitations of French law in selling all his productions as imitations, but of course took no responsibility for what happened to them after he had sold them.

He is believed to have reproduced 558 different stamps, some of them many times, and often with varying postmarks, which he copied from genuine items. It is estimated that he produced material to have realised over 1½ million pounds sterling if genuine.

The B.P.A. is now preparing reference collections of Sperati forgeries, all stamps being marked indelibly as reproductions. These will be sold, at £20 each, but only 500 copies will be available and the offer is restricted to members of the B.P.A. and Fellows or Members of the Royal Philatelic Society of London.

Sperati's favourite field was among the foreign 'classics'; the only British stamp he copied was the 2/- brown of 1880, but amongst British Empire stamps he made reproductions of Australia (£2 1913), Gold Coast (20/- 1889), Cape of Good Hope (1), Mauritius (4), S. Nigeria (2), Transvaal (1), Uganda (1) and Newfoundland (12).

There appears to be considerable difference of opinion in the British Philatelic Press about the wisdom or otherwise of the B.P.A.'s action in putting Sperati's handiwork on sale.

The "Philatelic Trader" has an article on the subject headed "Burn these Reproductions" and Messrs. Stanley Gibbons have resigned from the B.P.A. as they were strongly against the B.P.A.'s action.

Viewing the matter from a distance, although probably without full knowledge, it would appear to us that the B.P.A. did a good thing in getting possession of the Sperati stock, thus preventing much of it getting loose on the philatelic world, although some of course is at large already.

Whether or not they should then have burnt the material may be arguable. But if what they are now selling is really indelibly marked as reproductions it seems to us that they may be putting knowledge in the hands of collectors which will save them from being deluded by these stamps.

NORTHERN RHODESIA.

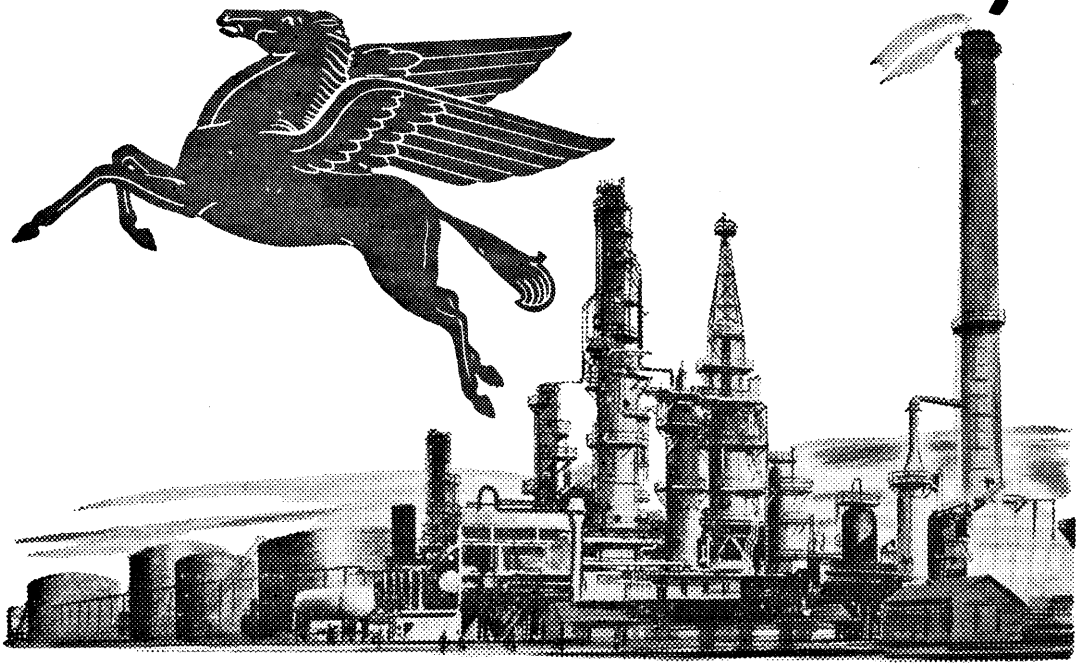
Mr. Salmon of Kasala reports that the 1½d. Coronation stamp has been put on sale again after having been withdrawn for some time.

EXCHANGE WANTED.

Mr. M. P. Hunkin, Maitland, S. Australia, a "medium" collector, wishes to exchange on a stamp for stamp basis, also can send F.D. covers if desired. He has numerous Australian and other stamps available.

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THE MULTOPOSITIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE 1951 BOOKLET STAMPS OF THE UNION OF S.A.

by
S. J. HAGGER.

The grateful thanks of all specialist collectors of Union stamps are due to Messrs. Sam Legator and W. N. Sheffield for their article on the plating of the current 3/6 booklets of stamps, which appeared in the March and April, 1953, numbers of "The S.A. Philatelist". When collectors who have all 30 of the booklets mount the panes of stamps in the order set out in the Plating Chart — "A", they will find a study of the multopositive flaws well worth while.

In the case of each of the three values it appears that the booklet stamp cylinders were etched from multopositives which have been used previously or since in etching the various cylinders utilized for printing the corresponding stamps in the 240 stamp sheet form. For etching the sheet stamp, or 240 image cylinders, however, it has been, except in one case only, the 1st and 22nd horizontal rows of the 22 row multopositives which have been masked, but for the booklet stamp or 180 image cylinders the following has been the procedure throughout. First of all strips of tape would have been pasted over the 11th and 22nd horizontal rows of the multopositives and then the remainder of the 1st, 5th and 9th vertical rows blanked out to allow for the binding and right hand margins of the booklet panes. This can be proved by a comparison of the position of the multopositive flaws on the sheets reconstructed from booklet panes with those on more recent sheet printings of stamps of the corresponding value.

Starting with the halfpenny stamps we find that the "Vertical line between springbok's horns" which is on R2/3 of the centre multopositive appears in Pane A1 on stamp No. 5. It should be noted that this is the first time we have seen this flaw in a second horizontal row of stamps, as most of the sheet printings have been taken from rows 2 to 21 inclusive of the multopositive so that this flaw was always on R1/3. The exceptions have been cylinder No. 11A—taken from rows 3 to 22 inclusive — and the 180 stamp sheets, for which the first three vertical rows were masked, on which it did not appear at all. Similarly the "Green mark on the ornament at top right corner and also short green mark in margin at right hand end of top bar" on R10/12 of the frame multopositive appears in Pane C5 on stamp No. 6. On the sheets of stamps of this format its position was R 9/12 (240) and R9/9 (180), but in the case of cylinder No. 11B, taken from rows 3-22 inclusive, it was on R8/12.

The multopositive flaws on the one penny stamps in these booklets are also found on the all-screened sheets printed from centre cylinders 76 and 70, and from frame cylinders 14 and 88, but before attempting to compare the reconstructed booklet sheet and a sheet of stamps from combinations 76/14, 70/88 or 70/14, allowance must be made for a most curious occurrence in the guillotining of these one penny booklet stamps into sheets.

In the article on the plating of the booklets mention is made of the fact that the language order of the 1d. stamps in the booklet panes differs from that of the ½d. and 2d. stamp panes in every booklet. The cylinders used for printing our stamps have a circumference of the exact length necessary to print 22 horizontal rows of stamps — with the necessary gutter between them for the perforation — at each revolution. For the booklet cylinders nothing was etched in the spaces for rows 11 and 22, so visualizing the strip of printed and perforated stamps before putting into sheets they would at a given point appear as a pane of 90 stamps in columns of 30, each starting with an Afrikaans inscribed stamp (let us call this "A"), a gutter (let us call it "1") and a pane of 90 stamps in columns of 30, each starting with an English inscribed stamp, which we shall call "E", and another gutter which we shall call "2", and the sequence Pane "A", Gutter "1", Pane "E" and Gutter "2" is continuous.

In cutting the web of ½d. and 2d. stamps into sheets the descent of the guillotine was set so that it fell in gutters "2"; but in the case of the 1d. stamps, probably by accident, as it is hard to imagine that there was an intention that the booklets should not be uniform, the cuts were made in gutters "1".

The effect of this difference in the cutting into sheets is that in the reconstructed 1d. booklet stamp sheet the panes above the centre gutter start with an Afrikaans inscribed stamp and those below it with an English; also the horizontal rows of images from the top portion of the multopositive are in the lower portion of this booklet sheet and "vice versa". Taking two centre flaws then: "Large black spot about middle of second sun ray," and "Black spot at top of second sun ray" which are on R8/11 and R17/11 respectively of the multopositive (one row higher on the ordinary sheets), are in C9 on stamp No. 5, and in C3 on stamp No. 5 respectively on the booklet sheet. Similarly the frame flaw "Red smduge across top portion of value tablet" is on R7/3 of the multopositive, R6/3 on the sheets, and in A9 on stamp No. 2 in the booklets.

So far as the 2d. booklet stamps are concerned, the centres are from the same multopositive as has been used in the preparation of all sheet cylinders in the reduced size, while the frames originate from the same multopositive as etched cylinders 18 and 46, therefore comparison can most easily be made with any sheet from combinations 30/18, 27/46 or 27/18. As the 2d. stamps appear sideways in the booklets, and in order to emphasize the similarity of the methods used for printing all three values of the booklet stamps, the comparison between the sheet of 2d. stamps and the reconstructed booklet sheet will be made with the stamps of both in the sideways position. This also lines up with Plating Chart—"A", but as these multopositive flaws have been fully described in recent issues of "The S.A. Philatelist", and the positions quoted when the stamps are viewed in their normal or upright format, these will also be given in parentheses. There are only two centre multopositive flaws, both minor ones, and not mentioned in Plating Chart—"A". They are "Dot to right of left hand tower" and "Small blotch above roof near centre". Their

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respective positions are: Multopositive—R4/2 and R5/7; Sheet R3/2 (R2/18) and R4/7 (R 7/17); Reconstructed booklet sheet A2/4 and B3/2. The frame multopositive flaws are numerous but it is quite sufficient to consider the most prominent one, "Group of purple smudge marks near centre of left hand frame" which is on R14/4 of the multopositive, R13/4 (R4/8) in the sheets and on A7/3 of the booklets.

I think students of the Union booklet stamps will agree that those of 1951 have as much of interest to them as any that have been issued since the hyphenated spelling of Suid-Afrika was adopted in 1935.

CORRESPONDENCE

Editor, "S.A.P."
Sir,

CAPE INVERTED WATERMARKS.

The reference by Mr. W. F. Michler in the January "S.A.P." to a Cape stamp with inverted watermark and your remarks thereanent, led me to believe that it might be of interest in view of the popularity of all South African issues both pre- and post-Union, to record the similar varieties in my own collection.

These consist of the following, mostly used:

Cape of Good Hope.

S.G. 24 4d. pale blue, Crown & C.C. Watermark inverted.
S.G. 26a 1/- green, Crown & CC. Watermark reversed.
S.G. 43a ½d. grey-black, Crown & C.A. Watermark inverted.
S.G. 50 2d. pale bistre, Anchor. Watermark inverted.
S.G. 69 1d. carmine (Table Bay) Anchor. Watermark inverted.
S.G. 71 1d. carmine King Edward, Anchor. Watermark inverted.
S.G. 71 1d. carmine King Edward, Anchor. Watermark inverted and reversed.
S.G. 72 2d. brown King Edward, Anchor. Watermark inverted.

(I showed the last four items to Mr. G. J. Allis shortly after the publication of his book and he considered that they must be very scarce as he had never come across them in his researches).

Orange Free State.

S.G. 248 1d. scarlet, Crown & C.A. Watermark inverted.

Transvaal.

S.G. 247 2½d. black and blue, Crown & C.A. Watermark inverted.
S.G. 265 4d. black and brown, Multiple. Watermark inverted.
S.G. 273 ½d. green, Multiple. Watermark inverted.

Natal.

I had several similar items but, unfortunately, they are not now in my possession.

Other varieties worth noting are:—
Transvaal.

S.G. 214 1d. on 2½d. without bar.

Orange Free State Official.

"In Dienst", with tall "R.D.M." (Not Robson Lowe's Type 18) with and without stop after the "V" of "O.V.S."

Cape of Good Hope "Military Telegraphs", (Robson Lowe's Type 13).

1/- value, with inverted "S" in "Telegraphs".

South Africa.

There have been quite a number of references recently to "Cracked plate" varieties, but I cannot recall any mention of a specimen I have of the Union 1/- K.G. (S.G. 19, U.H.B. 10) used, with what appears to be a distinct flaw or crack above and below the left value tablet.

Also Transvaal S.G. 274 1d. carmine K.E., of which I have two used copies showing a crack or damage to the cliche at right. I disposed of a similar mint copy but have recorded that it occurred on the 4th stamp in the 7th row of the right upper pane, Plate3.

Hoping that some of the items mentioned will prove of interest,

Yours, etc.,
T. A. HARPER.

Collectors' Wants & Offers

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

Collections and rarities especially Unions wanted for cash. Kindly contact—JOHN MENDELSSOHN, P.O. Box 1607, Johannesburg.

SOUTHERN NIGERIA. Full S.G. prices offered for superb used copies of S.G. 15, 17, and 28. — WILLIAM REDFORD, Box 1182, Johannesburg.

STAMPS.—Want lists invited for any country; specialities Union, S.W.A., British Africa. — LACY'S, Gilbern Buildings, cor. Plein and Mostert Streets, Cape Town.

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

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

URGENTLY WANTED INTERPROVINCIALS large variety on paper. — DR. MURRAY, Kuilsriver, C.P.

WANTED. Union Postal Stationery (**Mint only**) and Inter-Provincials.—S. J. VERMAAK, P.O. Box 4566, Johannesburg.

SUIDERTYDING, die versamelaar se kwartaalblad sal u in aanraking met seëlliefhebbers in ander gebiede bring. Stuur asb. 'n gefrankeerde koevert, vir besonderhede, aan: SUIDHOEK STOKPERDJIES (Afd. S.A.P.), Posbus 8, Observatory, Kaapland, Suid-Afrika.

AUSTRALIA — Will exchange 50/100 all different Australia for similar of your country.—K. McBRIDE, P.O. Angaston, South Aust.

THREE AIRMAIL ITEMS.

Mr. I. H. C. Godfrey has submitted three airmail items for inspection:—

(1) An official Royal Commonwealth Tour envelope from S.S. "Gothic", with a Melbourne Ship Mail Room postmark of 8th March.

(2) An aerogramme from the newly established base "Mawson" on the Antarctic continent. The postmark reads "Mawson A.N.A.R. E./Aust. Antarctic Terr." with date 15 F.E 54.

(3) A Burmese Air Letter salvaged from the Comet Crash near Elba on 10th Jan., 1954. It has an endorsement printed in red "Damaged by Sea Water/Comet Mail".

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BASUTOLAND—SOME HISTORICAL NOTES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO POSTAL MATTERS

By G. N. GILBERT.

(Continued from page 69 of April issue.)

CANCELLATIONS (Continued).

Type 3F.
25 x 17. Thin short bars, single row date, with month in Roman figures.

Type 3G.
25 x 17. Very heavy side bars close up to letters. Single row normal date.

Type 3H.
28 x 18½. Long thin side bars. Maseru narrowly spaced at top, single row date with month in Roman figures.

Type 4.
Double ring. 31½ x 21. Name in large letters at top. Single row normal date in middle, with SOUTH above and AFRICA below date. Heavy side bars and Maltese cross. Known only used at Maseru, Leribe and Thabaneng. There are three varieties of this type 4 canceller, viz.:

4. Large SOUTH close up to inner ring, and large AFRICA below. Heavy side bars.

4A, Slightly smaller SOUTH and AFRICA. A ruler placed across the bottom of letters M and U will just show the full letters of SOUTH. Slightly lighter side bars.

4B. Small SOUTH and AFRICA. Letters of SOUTH are higher up and the ruler test will show a space between the bottom of SOUTH. Side bars are still lighter.

Type 5.
Double ring. 25 x 17. Name and SOUTH AFRICA spaced between the rings. Maltese cross at bottom separated from the letters by very short thin bars. Known used at Maseru and Leribe.

Type 6.
Double ring. 29 x 19½. Name at top and SOUTH AFRICA at bottom. No side bars or Maltese cross. Single row date. Used at Maseru only.

Type 6A.
Similar to above but with S. AFRICA at bottom, and short bars or hyphen between name at top and S. AFRICA at bottom. Used at Roma Mission, Majara and Mafeteng.

Type 7.
Double ring. 28 x 17. Name at top and BASUTOLAND at bottom. Single row date. The inner ring in that used at Maseru is split at the sides opposite the date.

This type has been used at various other Postoffices in different sizes, some having short bars or dots between letters, and some with normal and Roman figure dates. Mohaleshoek has two, one with short bars or hyphens between letters and broken inner ring, the other full inner ring and no hyphens. Both with normal single row date.

Butha Buthe has three different, one with dots between letters and normal date, two others of different sizes with no dot or bars, and with full double rings, date showing month in Roman figures.

Mafeteng three sizes, no bars or stops, date in Roman figures. Leribe, and Maseru Location smallish double rings, no stops or bars, date in Roman figures.

Quthing, Teyateyaneng and Tsoloane similar but with normal dates.

Type 7A.
Used at Butha Buthe. BUTHABUTHE BASUTOLAND spaced round the rings, with short heavy bars between letters and Maltese cross at bottom. Two row date.

Type 8.
Single ring. 25 mm. Name at top and letters C.G.H. at bottom. Two row date. Used at Leribe and Qachas Nek approximately between 1895 and 1910.

Type 9.
Double ring, various measurements, with name at top and BAS at bottom. Some have normal dates, others with Roman figures.

Used at Lebihan Falls, Qachas Nek, Mohaleshoek, Mokhotlong, Morija and Lejones.

Type 9A.
Used at Qachas Nek. QACHASNEK, BAS. spaced round the double rings. Normal date.

Type 10.
Double ring. 25 x 17. Name in smallish letters on top, no side bars, but Maltese cross at bottom. Used at Maseru and Leribe. Similar type but much larger at Tlalis. Month in Roman figures.

Type 11.
Double ring, varying measurements with name only on top. Single row date with month in Roman figures, or normal. Commonly used by many of the Agencies.

Type 12.
Double ring. Name at top, with very heavy solid bars round bottom and no Maltese cross. Varying sizes, and with single row date. Used at Mafeteng, Markabeis, Mount Morosi (old) Qachas Nek.

Similar type but smaller, and with two row date at Sehlabathebe.

Type 13.
The special Royal Visit cancellers used at Maseru, in 1947. There were two of these, both double ring, with Royal Visit on top and Basutoland at the bottom. Single row date in middle with month in Roman figures.

Type 14.
Temporary cancellers. These are used when the normal ones have to be sent away for repair or replacement, and these have slots round in which letters can be inserted at will, as well as the date.

This has resulted in a wide variety of date-stamps.

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They are all single ring, usually with the name followed by BAS, BLAND, BASL, or BASUTOLD, and with a two row date in the middle in which sometiems the year appears above the month and day, and sometimes below. In one case it has appeared right at the bottom.

They can usually be recognised as the letters are much smaller and closer spaced than the normal date-stamps.

These can be found used by many of the main Postoffices and Agencies.

Type 15.

Single ring 24½ mm. with THLOTSE at top and HEIGHTS at bottom.

Two row date in middle.

This is a very scarce cancellation and was in use from the late 1870's until about 1892. The name was later changed to Leribe.

A similar type but measuring 23 mm. was recently discovered at Mohaleshoek. This has the name mis-spelt being MOHALIS at the top and HOEK at the bottom, and with two row date in the middle.

When and for how long this old canceller was in use is not known.

Type 16.

A very scarce date-stamp used at Leribe. Single ring with the letters very widely spaced round, and with two row date. Measurement is 28 mm. Date of one specimen seen was 1906.

Type 17.

The recently installed machine canceller at Maseru. Single ring, 21½ mm., two row date with time above.



Loading the Mail for the first flight of the Union-Basutoland Airmail Service inaugurated by the Drakensberg Air Services on June 2nd, 1950.

Airmails in Basutoland.

The first official airmail service was inaugurated on June 2nd, 1950, when the Drakensberg Air Service Pty. Ltd. started operating between Ladysmith in Natal and Mokhotlong and Maseru.

This service also takes light freight and passengers.

The only other known occasion on which letters were carried by air in Basutoland occurred on May 26th, 1934, when Dr. Vollet of Quthing received an urgent call to Maseru.

He chartered a private plane to take him there, and the Assistant Commissioner for Quthing, Mr. D. W. How, took the opportunity of sending a letter to the Resident Commissioner in Maseru. One other letter was carried on this flight, being one from a resident to her daughter at school, and this is in the writer's collection.

Postal Routes.

The writer has had access to some old maps on which old roads and tracks are shown, and from these and other references it is possible to get some idea of the routes taken in the early days.

Unfortunately in some cases there is no definite proof that such a route was in fact used for the postal service at the time, and these are mentioned but are open to correction. There was a track from Chief Molapo's village, where Mr. Coillard stated the second Paris Evangelical Mission in 1859, crossing the river Caledon at a point just below the farm Brindisi, and going across to Winburg, which it is fair to suppose was the route by which this Mission got its mail.

There is also a wagon road from the same spot down through Advance Post (Teyateyaneng), Berea to Maseru. From there it went almost due south, skirting Morija and passing close to the present site of Mafeteng.

The road branches, one going through van Rooyen's Gate across to the Blaasbalkspruit to Smithfield, and the other south to Sephapho's Gate and on to Bushman's Kop and Rouxville. This route is almost certainly the one taken by the first Postal service in 1870, going in that

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year by the branch which went through van Rooyen's Gate to Smithfield, and in 1871 by the south branch via Sephapho's Gate to Rouxville. According to the Gouverments Courant of 1871, there was a post service operating between Ladybrand, via Leeuw River, Thaba'Nchu to Bloemfontein, and it is known that mail for Basutoland also connected with this route, but the exact date is unknown. The writer has covers used in the 1880's which followed this route, having the Bloemfontein and Ladybrand postmarks.

At the same time a mailcart service was operating from Bloemfontein, via Reddersburg and Smithfield to Aliwal North, and one reference gives the cost of this and the names of the contractors. In the very earliest days, it is difficult to judge whether Quthing was connected with places further north, but it would appear likely in view of the contents of Mr. Bowker's letter to the High Commissioner mentioned earlier in this paper, and the old maps show two wagon roads from Bethesda, one going up through Cornet Spruit (Mohaleshoek) and joining the 'main road' Maseru-van Rooyen's Gate a few miles north of the present position of Mafeteng, and the other going across to Somerset Drift just outside Aliwal North.

It is known that at one period there was a postcart running from Quthing via Mohaleshoek, but this was discontinued — date unknown, and all mail went then via Tele drift across to Aliwal North, as some of the covers in the writer's collection show, taking in some cases up to ten days from Quthing to Morija.

To-day mail from Quthing goes by Road Motor Service to Zastron, and thence by train to Bloemfonteiin and back to Maseru.

Qacha's Nek sent their mail across the border to Matatiele in East Griqualand, which connected with Riverside which the railway reached in 1909.

During the Boer War, the regular services to Aliwal North were cut when Olivier occupied Aliwal, and communications were kept open by other routes and by a system of express riders carrying posts through the mountains to and from East Griqualand.

A few early Postal Rates.

1884 Basutoland, Cape Colony, Orange Free State 2d. per ½ oz.
Transvaal and Natal, 4d. per ½ oz.

1894 Basutoland, Cape Colony and Free State, 1d. per ½oz.
Transvaal, Natal and Bechuanaland, 2d. per ½ oz.
England and European countries, 2½d. per ½ oz.
Zambesi and Mashonaland, 4d. per ½ oz.

1907 Basutoland, Cape, Free State and Natal, 1d. per ½ oz.
Transvaal, Bechuanaland and England, 1d. per ½ oz.
Other European countries, 2½d. per ½ oz.
Zambesi and Mashonaland, 2d. per ½ oz.

Postal finances in recent years.

The following figures are taken from the Official Colonial Report on Basutoland, and are interesting as they show clearly how popular Commemorative issues increase the revenue, and how philatelists "keep the home fires burning."

In 1946-7, the year covering the Royal Visit issue, the revenue was £55,947, while the expenditure was £25,842, thus showing a very handsome profit.

The following year the Silver Wedding issue came out and the revenue shown was £50,386, and the expenditure £34,847, still showing a good profit.

In 1948-9 during which period the Universal Postal Union issue came out, the revenue dropped to £38,957, as for some reason this issue was not so popular, the expenditure being £35,021. Since then, with no special issues, the revenue has tended to drop and the expenditure to rise, as in 1949-50 the revenue shown was £36,181, with expenditure of £40,800, and in 1950-51 the revenue was only £30,291, with an expenditure of £34,117.

(To be continued.)

SHORT NOTICES.

West-End Philatelist. Congratulations to David Field Ltd. on their Golden Jubilee number. Their magazine is one of only four British philatelic publications which have had continuous issues over this period, the others being "The London Philatelist", the "P.J.G.B." and the "Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly".

In this Jubilee issue there are a series of articles by leading philatelists all over the world giving accounts of philately in their respective countries for the past 50 years; headed by an article "The Birth of a Veteran" by Bertram W. H. Poole, who was the first editor of the West-End Philatelist in 1904. It must be almost, if not entirely, a unique occurrence for an editor of No. 1 of a magazine to contribute to its Golden Jubilee issue.

Israel Catalogue. The Mosden Stamp Co., of 161 Strand, London W.C.2, announce the publication on 5 March of a 92-page catalogue at 12/6. They are also to have regular mail auctions of the stamps of Middle East countries; catalogues free on request.

NICARAGUA

The Philatelic Agency reports the issue on 30 April of two series of stamps honouring U.N.O. One air mail set of seven C 0.03 to 5.00 and one of five ordinary stamps C 0.03 to 1.00 In U.S. currency these have a face value of $2.35.

UNION "ANIMAL" STAMPS.

Since Mr. Gilbert expressed disapproval of the then rumoured new Union issue in our January number there has been an official statement that an animal series is under way. There has been mention of it in various Society "News Letters", but apparently so far no expression of approval or disapproval by any organised body of collectors. The only formal expression we have received is from a keen Union collector in Lancashire who write: "I am much concerned at the suggestion . . . I should be sorry indeed to see such a great Philatelic Country spoiled."

"Stamp. Collecting" has given a list of what animals are to appear on the various denominations, as supplied them by Mr. R. Axer of Cape Town. We have been informed by the P.O. Publicity Department that they have as yet no information on the subject.

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Annual Stocktaking Sale.

With the approach of Annual Stocktaking, I am offering a large quantity of redundant Approval Books at discounts varying from 25 per cent. to 50 per cent. off normal prices "to clear". Write at once, and name your country or countries, as this offer necessarily is of limited duration only. No Lists, please.

A. Lichtenstein
B.P.A.
Box 1117 ———— BLOEMFONTEIN

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SOCIETY NEWS.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN.

On the 25th February, 1954, the Annual General Meeting took place and the following office bearers and committee members were elected.

President: Mr. Geo. Petroulis; Vice-President: Mr. A. M. Jones; Hon. Secretary: Mrs. J. Hall; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. I. E. Hall; Hon. Exchange Superintendent: Mr. C. R. V. Solomon; Hon. Librarian: Mr. H. C. Berneaud; Committee: Mrs. J. Holz. Mr. R. Chapman, Mr. H. R. Savage, Dr. P. L. Vautier, Mr. A. V. Jacob (ex-officio).

Meetings:—

11th February, "Rhodesia", by A. V. Jacobs.
11th March, "Imperial Airways", by M. F. Stern.
25th March, Thematic Evening.

Thematic Stamp Club of Cape Town.

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 8th March and Mr. L. Simenhoff was elected for the ensuing year as President.

It was also announced that Mr. G. Petroulis had received the Rembrandt Trophy for his Thematic Collection "Art on Stamps".

On the 22nd March, Mr. M. F. Stern showed "The History and Development of African Airmails in 1932."

Other News.

There has been a considerable amount of renewed activity in Philatelic Circles in the Cape recently, and in addition to the Paarl and Wellington Societies, others are being formed at Beaufort West, Belville, and Somerset West. M.F.S.

ORANGE FREE STATE AND BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Attendance at our March meeting was encouraging. Dr. Freund gave a talk and display on the Booysen Essays and displayed some of these. These started off a thematic collection of Springboks. Another display was given by Mr. Roux of British Colonials and the specialised collection of German Buildings was given by Dr. van der Merwe, our country member from Viljoenskroon. This was an outstanding collection which consisted of only 23 stamps and please note — USED STAMPS. Many philatelists are under the impression that a specialised collection showing flaws can only be formed with mint stamps, and this has certainly been an eye-opener to them. Mr. Lichtenstein gave an interesting talk and demonstrated with one cover the so-called control of stamps from behind the Iron Curtain. The evening was closed with an auction sale. Numerous new issues were tabled by Mr. Denne and Mr. Lichtenstein.

NOTE. Our meetings are now to be held in the Methodist Hall, Charles Street.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF WESTERN RAND.

24 February.

At this meeting it was agreed to circularise every member to try and find a meeting night suitable to all. After the usual business had been concluded, Master David Crocker tabled Boer War Covers and Stamps and Master Sadie a pot-pourri of Canada, Coronations, New Zealand, etc. On behalf of the Society Mr. E. J. Sharpe thanked Master Crocker for his display and congratulated him on his knowledge, arrangement and the historic interest of the exhibit. Mr. B. Simpkins thanked Master Sadie on his maiden run and suitably commented on his layout and writing up. A really stout effort by the two Junior members.

24 March.

The usual meeting was held in the Parish Hall, Roodepoort, and in the absence of Mr. Keet, Mr. E. J. Sharpe took the chair. A discussion was held concerning the proposed change of meeting night. Charts showing the nights not suitable to members were handed round and in view of information shown, it was decided that the meeting night remain unchanged. Exhibits: Mr. E. J. Sharpe opened the ball by showing us a collection of British New Guinea and as a side line Mr. Keet's Union Postage dues were tabled. On behalf of the Club, Mr. J. T. Burrell thanked Messrs. Sharpe and Keet for their displays. He said that Digger's exhibit was not one of his larger ones but the condition was immaculate and the writing up was perfect. In the case of Mr. Keet, Mr. Burrell extended his appreciation of the exhibit of interesting specimens such as the double strike of the current 2d. Shifted head plates in earlier issues showed the improvements made in present printings. Condition and arrangement excellent. H.F.H.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The usual monthly meeting of the Society, that took place on the 10th March, did not break the run of well attended meetings that the Society has been enjoying. On this occasion well over thirty members and visitors were present to enjoy yet another excellent evening. One of the pleasing features of our gatherings is the little informal chat that the members seem to enjoy just before the meeting commences business, also the wonderful spirit that seems to exist between the members.

The exhibit for the evening came from Lieut. Richards, a member, who, notwithstanding the fact that he has only been with us for a short time, has quickly come to the forefront with some very good items of interest at our meetings. On this occasion his exhibit of his collection of "Queens" fully came up to the high standard that he has been setting, and provided the members with a real good show. The most outstanding feature arising from his exhibit was the fact that the "Queen Elizabeth" era seems to be going all out to provide us with the most colourful and best designed of the "British Empire" stamps. Lieut. Richards has certainly started his collection with a good foundation, and I would suggest that he gives us another showing of his collection at a later date. Mr. Walker, on behalf of the members, thanked Lieut. Richards for a very good evening, and I would like to endorse his remarks on an excellent show.

There has been quite a lot of speculation as to the thematic set of stamps to be issued in South Africa. It appears that they will definitely depict our range of wild animals, but the only authentic information that we can give our members is that the Philatelic Section of the G.P.O. at Maritime House will be giving us a bulletin quite soon.

Another successful evening was spent at the April monthly meeting of the Society, when Mrs. Keet entertained some 33 members with a very interesting exhibit. This consisted of a portion of her collection of "France", and what she did show was just enough to whet the appetite of the members, for more. Her selection of pre-stamp covers, together with some early issues on cover, was most interesting, and the essays, proofs and colour trials of many of the earlier French issues evoked many comments of praise from the members. Mrs. Keet also showed some miniature sheets, and a number of the commemorative issues. There was also another interesting item in the "Petain War Time" issues, which of course was while France was under German rule. Mr. Slater-Kinghorn expressed the members' thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Keet for putting on such an excellent show, and voiced the hope that we would have the pleasure in the very near future of viewing the balance of her collection.

After some discussion at the meeting it was decided that the Society would once again hold informal meetings, where the members could hold discussions, receive or give advice, and learn about the finer points of philately from experts who will be invited to attend. Auction sales will also be held, and the Exchange Supt. has promised to bring along all exchange books that he may have on hand, so that the members may go through them at their leisure and make whatever purchases they wish. Arrangements have therefore been made to give this type of meeting a trial for four months, and the first will be held on **Wednesday the 28th April.**

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

10th March, 1954.

At this meeting there were 17 members and 3 visitors present. Mr. E. Muller, on behalf of Dr. Kaplan who was unable to be present owing to illness, tabled Dr. Kaplan's collection of Canadian Air-Mail covers, which was very much appreciated by all the members and visitors present. Mr. Muller added to the interest of the evening by showing quite a number of his South African covers.

14th April, 1954.

14 members and 3 visitors were present to view the exhibits provided at this meeting by the members of the East Rand Philatelic Society who paid an official visit to our Society. This was the first occasion on which the Germiston Society had welcomed visitors from other Societies and it was a pity that only a few of our members were able to be present to view the most interesting collections tabled that evening. Mrs. Wood showed a collection of Costa Rica. Mr. Rigg tabled Mr. Slomawitz's extensive collection of mint King George VI, followed by his own collection of Sarawak. The final exhibit was by Mr. Finestein, a collection of, what he called, "The History of South Africa", in postage stamps. F.J.V.L.

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Dr. A. Kaplan, Mr. E. Muller and Mr. Retief spoke on the exhibits with a final vote of thanks by our Chairman, Mr. S. J. Hagger, who stated that our first visitor to Germiston had been Mr. Shepherd who had set a very high standard, and that this was continued by the members of the East Rand, who had provided excellent and most interesting exhibits, which he felt sure had been thoroughly enjoyed by all. More could be learnt of South African history by school-children in viewing Mr. Finestein's collection in one evening, than in months of study out of text-books.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG.

13th April. Dr. Kaplan was due to have shown his collection of British Q.V. 1d. Reds, but was unable to attend because of illness. Dr. Hesse at very short notice showed a portion of his collection of Art and Artists on stamps; his interpretation of Art was wide, but it led to a most interesting exhibit being shown to the meetaing and it was much appreciated.

The exhibits on the evening of **April 26th** were provided by the Afrikaanse Filatelistiese Vereniging. There were 4 exhibits altogether.

Mr. Henry Schwartz showed Ascension; Mr. Vermaak showed an exhibit called 'Collecting versus Philately". Dr. van der Merwe showed a study of West German Buildings Series and Mr. Froehlich showed an exhibit he called "Jeys Snacks".

Mr. Henry Schwartzz's Ascension was a fine exhibit from early times to the modern. The exhibit was chiefly fine mint, but included several fine used and some used on covers. There were some blocks.

Mr. Schwartz read a short paper on the exhibit in both Official langueges, giving a short history of the Island and its postal issues. Mr. Oppenheimer spoke on the exhibit. Mr. Vermaak gave a talk on his exhibit. The exhibit was in fact a highly specialised collection of the Cape Centenary Stamps of the Union. Every little flaw was pointed out. The exhibit was illustrated with some amusing cartoons. The exhibit was designed to show in an amusing manner to what extent a highly specialised collection could be obtained from two stamps, if a philatelist wished to take specialisation to the extreme. It was a highly entertaining exhibit for both the ordinary stamp collector and the serious philatelist. Mr. Vermaak in his talk said that he took his stamp collecting less seriously than most collectors and that was the reason for this exhibit. Mr. Sheffield spoke on this exhibit. Mr. Schubart read a paper on behalf of Dr. van der Merwe who was not present. His exhibit had been selected as the best of the year in the Afrikaanse Filatelistiese Vereniging. The paper explained the different stamps with varieties of watermark, etc. The exhibit consisted of fine used stamps of the West German Building series, in all varieties of watermark and perforation. There were several fine used in pairs and blocks. The exhibit was beautifully written up. Mr. Buchen spoke on this exhibit.

Mr. Froehlich read a very amusing paper on his exhibit which consisted of only 4 stamps — one German and 3 U.S.A. The German was St. Mary's Church at Lubeck — the U.S.A. were the Betsy Ross Anniversary,(the Washington portrait by G. W. Peale and the Washington Portrait by J. C. Stuart — all beautifully written up, and illustrated. Mr. Froehlich in his paper gave the history of the Church, and of Betsy Ross, George Washington, Mr. Peale and Mr. Stuart. Dr. Hesse spoke on this exhibit.

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Our April monthly meeting was a great success. We had a very good attendance, and the Johannesburg Society members came over on their annual official visit and brought along excellent exhibits which were enjoyed by the members. The exhibits were collections that are not very often seen, and there was nothing but praise as each exhibit was laid down. The first exhibit was by Mr. Giezendonner and consisted of an excellent collection of Swiss Charity stamps. This was followed up by Mr. Seligmann with an exhibit he termed "Science and Scientists". These were stamps of Scientists and with drawings and explanations as to what science they were interested in. This is a very large field if one has the time for the research in this branch of philately.

Mr. Joseph's exhibit was a very nice collection of New Zealand Charity stamps. There were several very rare stamps included in the Collection which were all mint.

Mr. Kleiner's collection of Seychelles was a very interesting exhibit. One would not think there were so many stamps from this country, until a collection of this nature was displayed and which was enjoyed by those present.

Finally there was Mr. Hesse's collection of "Art and Artists". This collection also required a lot of research. They were stamps dealing with Art from various countries.

Mr. Rubens and Mr. Sheffield spoke on the evening's exhibits, and thanked the exhibitors for the excellent collections they had brought over, and the East Rand members appreciate what they have shown this evening.

Each exhibitor then gave a short address on their collections.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

15th March: After formalities a lively interest developed in offering tips for investment which ranged from completing current S.W.A. issues which are thought to become obsolete soon, to K.U. and Tanganyika, perf. 12½, £1.

Two subjects occupied the evening: firstly we had a thought-provoking quiz evening run with his usual efficiency by Mr. Slater-Kinghorn — members enjoyed being "grilled". Then our hon. Curator, Dr. Reisener exhibited portions of our Society's Union collection which serves us all as a useful source of reference — he "shook" many of us by presenting the O.F.S. Centenaries all neatly mounted, whilst most of us have ours still in odd envelopes.

Mr. Hudson expressed the gratitude of those present in suitable terms, and an enjoyable evening terminated at 10.15 p.m.

5th April: Failure of power forced the venue to be transferred to the nearby Tilsim Hotel — which had its compensations. Three new members were formally elected and welcomed viz.: Messrs. P. H. Ebstein, J. P. Roux and M. Sacks.

An inter-society quiz competition with Mr. Ferguson as Question Master provided a stimulating evening — in perhaps a stimulating atmosphere! A last-minute replacement in the Pretoria Society team, Mr. Peisach, turned out a stroke of genius. The other two competing teams were Pretoria Railway P.S. and the Afrikaanse Filateliese Vereniging van Pretoria. A neck-and-neck struggle soon developed between the two older societies and despite added questions, a draw resulted between the two — but the audience scored most points. Some surprise answers had both Question Master and Adjudicators consulting works of reference. The good turn out accorded this metting was certainly justified.

B.W.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

16th March, 1954.

Members and visitors were given an exceptional treat by Mr. Price Jones in viewing his splendid collection of the stamps of Egypt. Mr. Jones formerly resided in Egypt and during those years brought together an outstanding collection, although he to-day no longer actively collects. We saw only part of his treasures — notably the early issues including many errors and varieties, some in blocks and even sheets. Pre-stamp covers served as an introduction to the collection and Mr. Jones gave a brief talk on the stamp displayed. The collection was well mounted, often in an unorthodox but pleasing manner, and well written up. Mr. Bülbring expressed to Mr. Jones the warm thanks of the Society for the memorable philatelic pleasure he had provided for the evening. After official business had been dealt with the meeting closed at a late hour.

7th April, 1954.

No doubt due to the fact that the meeting had to be moved to Wednesday (Tuesday the 6th being a Public Holiday) the attendance was not as large as usual. Those who were present though thoroughly enjoyed, after the customary auction, the Quizz of the evening. Two teams competed — Mr. G. K. Forbes acting as Quiz Master. Each member of the team had brought along two quizz questions and with much serious and fast thinking and amid fun and laughter the "victims" tried to answer them. Especial mention must be made of four juniors who posed some very tricky questions and they had the satisfaction of seeing their side win with 21 points to 14 points. Good show! The sweep of the evening was won by Mr. Abel, who is leaving shortly on a few months' trip to Europe, we wish him a pleasant time and look forward to welcoming him back in due course. An enjoyable evening ended well after 10 o'clock.

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PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL.

The advertised programme of the April meeting looked like providing an embarrassment of riches, with three displays and a quiz, in addition to the static items — Formal Business and Auction. Owing to unforeseen circumstances, only one display was offered, "Botany on Stamps", by Mr. Lionel Bevis. And even this display had twenty of its most interesting sheets doing protracted duty in Swaziland! What remained, however, was more than sufficient to ensure the interest and instruction of the members present — rather fewer than the average — and proved to be a display of outstanding beauty and masterly write-up.

Speaking to the exhibit, Mr. Selwyn Smith drew attention to the surprisingly large number of attractive trees portrayed. Referring to the write-up, he remarked that it was very easy to overlook the vast amount of reading and study necessary, preparatory to obtaining the exact amount of important information exactly to fill the space allotted for it in the lay-out of the page. In this case, it had been done with great skill.

Mr. Joe Lyle's quiz proved somewhat too difficult — indeed more than somewhat — and was won by Mr. Lionel Bevis with seven marks out of a possible twenty. In future, have a heart Joe!

An innovation in the form of an exhibit, shook the members from their usual habits at the mid-month swopping meeting. Even the most ardent George VI addicts postponed for a while their search for that elusive punctuation variety in order to enjoy the twofold display given by Mr. Seelig of Johannesburg: Swiss tete-beche pairs, and blocks (with a few complete sheets for variety) and Australian Imprint Blocks. While thanking Mr. Seelig for his displays, the speaker — bald as a coot — said that the catalogue value of some of the items made his hair curl. At the understandable raising of surprised eyebrows he explained that he was referring to the hair on his chest.

The Society is on its toes preparing for the Congress and Exhibition in the City Hall during the first week in June. Those who cannot attend, should make certain of getting a copy of the illustrated Brochure which, for one shilling, will provide a great variety of valuable information — repeat, valuable! Make sure that your Society orders plenty. The Secretary of the Exhibition is Mr. W. H. Winde, 25, Hunt Road, Durban.

AFRIKAANSE FILATELISTIESE VERENIGING.

Saterdag, 13 Maart. Hierdie byeenkoms het 'n mooi oplewing getoon — daar was byna tweemaal so veel versamelaars teenwoordig as met die vorige keer, en met die ruilery het dit sommer lekker gegaan! Die feilingtafel was egter taamlik kaal.

Ons herinner weer daaraan dat almal by hierdie informele samekomste baie hartlik welkom is.

Vrydag, 2 April. Ons boekjaar begin op 1 April, en hierdie was ons jaarvergadering. Na die voorsitter se toespraak het die penningmeester/rondsendbeampte en die sekretaris verslag gedoen, waarna tot die verkiesing van 'n nuwe bestuur oorgegaan is. Dit het uitgeloop op die behoud van die ou bestuur, n.l. voorsitter, lid J. W. Schubart, eresekretaris, lid S. J. Vermaak, erepenningmeester en rondsendbeampte, lid M. V. Mioch. Lid B. Slabber (Posbus 1001, Johannesburg), is as reklamebeampte aangewys. Bykomstige komiteelede is lede D. W. Rossouw, P. C. Seligmann en H. Schwartz.

Die uitnodiging van die Germiston Philatelic Society is aangeneem, en dus sal ons vir hulle gaan kuier op 13 Oktober a.s.

In die vereniging se jaarlikse seëlloting, het lid du Preez van Thabazimbi die eerste prys bekom, terwyl die loot mevr. Nolte en lid C. H. de Wet (Bethal) onderskeidelik tweede en derde begunstig het. Die spesiale troospryse het aan jongerlid D. Schmidt gegaan.

Lidmaatskap is aan die volgende vriende toegestaan: mnr. C. J. Diemont, Markstraat, Reitz (versamel in die algemeen), mnr. J. A. Engelbrecht, Pos Hlatikulu, Swasieland (Gt.-Brittanje en kolonies), mnr. H. A. Esterhuysen, Moncrieff 82, Bereaweg 106, Durban (Eerstedagse koeverte van die Unie, Gt.-Brittanje en kolonies), mnr. H. J. Scholtz, Georgeweg 208, Oudtshoorn (Unie — gespesialiseerd) en die dogter Elizabeth koops van't Jagt, O'Haraweg 8, Wes-Turffontein, Johannesburg (Elizabeth II en algemeen).

Die nuwelinge word baie hartlik verwelkom. Ons will hulle van diens wees en herinner dus aan twee voordele van lidmaatskap van die A.F.V.: As u dit verlang sal u dadelik per poskaart verwittig word van enige nuwe verskynsel van die Unie; die vereniging help u ook om „moeilike goed", sover moontlik, teen nominale waarde plus posgeld, te bekom.

Lid B. Seelig het 'n gedeelte van sy versameling van omtrent 300 blaaie oor Switzerland ingeskryf vir die Rembrandt Wisseltrofee, en kom op 7 Mei a.s. aan die beurt.

S.J.V.

FRANCE.

The Postal Administration report the "Day of the Stamp" as being honoured on 20 March by a 12 fr. plus 3 fr. stamp with a portrait of Lavalette, who was Director-General of Posts under the 1st Empire 1804-1815. His was the first appointment after the service becoming a complete state monopoly.

ABYSSINIA.

No. 3 of the "Aero-Philatelist Annals" has an interesting article on the country's first Air Mail issue of 1929.

These stamps were really issued as commemoratives of the acquisition by Ethiopia of two aeroplanes; their exact date of issue is not known, the date 16 August appearing on them was the date the aeroplanes arrived, not of the issue of the stamps. It was probably sometime between 16 and 24 August, 1929. The first actual flight, when the stamps were really used as air stamps, appears to have been on 26 Dec., 1929.

There were several printings of the stamps and the overprint is known in several different colours, violet, red, blue, black and green. There are also several errors and varieties.

The stamps remained on sale till about 17-6-31, when a definitive set arrived from Paris.

Much of the detail given has been hitherto quite unknown.

TRANSVAAL PHILATELIC BOWLERS.

Ten teams of bowlers from the Reef and Pretoria Philatelic Societies held their annual meeting at Balfour Park on 4th April; a lovely day and a most pleasant outing. As on previous occasions the Pretoria Post Office team came out the winners, but not far behind were the Philatelic Federation players, who had been used in the past to be nearer the other end of the list.

CANADA.

April 1st saw the appearance of 4 new stamps: A 4c. with a walrus; two of 5c., one with a portrait of Her Mapesty, the other with a beaver; and a 15c. with a gannet.

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SWAZILAND—POSTAL HISTORY and STAMPS

By
J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

(Continued from page 64 of April issue.)

MAJOR VARIETIES (Continued).

(2) Overprint Inverted.

This is known on the ½d., 1d., 2d. (both perf. varities), 1/- and 5/-, i.e. on all values except the 6d., 2/6 and 10/-.

It is not known definitely how many sheets there were with inverted overprints, but according to **The South African Philatelist** Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 5, 1895 there were 3 sheets of the 1/- and only 1 sheet of the 5/- so printed. Judging by relative commonness or scarcity and by catalogue prices of the other denominations, there must have been more of them, except in the case of the 2d. perf. 12½ x 12 which is very rare with inverted overprint.

(3)"Swazielan" Inverted.

Some of the sheets with overprint inverted must have been done in the early stage while the"Swazielan" error was still uncorrected, so that we get this error in inverted position in the three demominations, ½d., 2d. and 5/-. It has not been found definitely, however, on the 2d. perf. 12½ x 12; Basden in one of his writings records "a 2d. perf. 12½ x 12 with "Swazielan" inverted (doubtful)". He does not state where the doubt comes in, so it must be taken that there is no definite record of this variety on the 2d. perf. 12½ x 12.

The note in **"The South African Philatelist"** mentioned a little above says "The 5/- inverted with the final 'd' omitted is a unique stamp as only one sheet of the 5/- inverted was printed. This stamp is in the possession of a well known collector here." I wonder where it is now.

Knowledge of the existence of these Major Varieties was very slow in becoming generally known, as is shown in the following few extracts from journals published four to five years after the issue of the stamps:

"S.G. Monthly Journal", Vol. IV, 1894, p. 238. This mentions the 5/- with 'Swazielan' error and has the comment "This error has been already chronicled on the 2d. in the same position on the sheet. Does it not exist on some of the other values also?"

"S.G.M.J.", Vol. V, 1894, p. 38. "Our publishers have found the following errors of the carmine surcharge upon the ½d. stamp — Inverted surcharge and Double surcharge." (This is rather quicker work—only two years after issue.—J.H.H.P.).

"S.G.M.J.", Vol. VI, 1895, p. 20. "The **M.P.** reports that the 5/- stamp has been seen with surcharge inverted."

Minor Varieties.

There are some minor printing flaws and varieties, not given catalogue rank, although some of them are mentioned in one or other publication.

(a) Misplaced overprints. These appear to be most common on the ½d. and 1d. stamps and vary in degree from being, say, just touching one edge of the stamp to being about equally divided over two stamps, or even with only one or two letters on one of a pair of stamps. What is probably an extreme misplacement is a pair of stamps with the overprint completely missing one one of them, such as is recorded, for instance, by Basden. (S.A. Phil., July, 1936, p. 100).

(b) The 2d. (perf. 12½) is said to be known with a double overprint though I have not seen it personally.



"S" missing.



Whole Opt. missing.

(c) The 'S' or the 'Sw' ('w' in whole or in part) is mentioned in "Africa", Vol. III as being missing on a 2d. stamp. I have a specimen of this and have seen another in the Tapling collection in the British Museum.

(d) Basden recorded a 6d. stamp with "a" and "i" missing in the overprint. This is now in my collection, but it not a constant variety, nor is

(e) an overprint with the "i" like an "l" through the dot being joined on to the rest of the letter.

Variations in the characteristics of the letters of the overprint are not noticeable except in the case of the "e" and the "z". The top of the "e" varies from being practically a perfect semi-circle to having an outline like the thin end of an egg, i.e. being rather pointed or pyramidal in shape.

The "z" varies slightly in height, from being the same as the "a" alongside it, to slightly taller. The top limb also shows slight variations: it may be quite horizontal or it may tilt slightly upwards towards its tip.

There are various minor letter flaws which are constant or nearly so. I give the following eight as the most noticeable; the first six are all present on six complete sheets (one being the ½d. with the carmine overprint) which I have examined, the last two on three of the six sheets.

Stamp No. 2. A small dot below the bar of the "e".

Stamp No. 4. A prominent dot in the centre of the "d".

Stamp No. 10. The lower half of the "e" blocked.

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Stamp No. 20. Bar of "e" defective. Looks almost like a "c".
Stamp No. 21. "zi" slightly raised.
Stamp No. 42. Northwest part of "d" pared off.
Stamp No. 43. Thick first "a" and pared off "z".
Stamp No. 46. Defective "e".

B. CARMINE.

In August, 1842 the ½d. perf. 12½ was similarly overprinted in carmine, some 15,000 to 20,000 being stated to be done. Although the overprint is only listed as carmine I think a pale red overprint should be recognised as well.

Misplaced overprints are common, up to the extent of half the overprint on one stamp and half on its neighbour. Sometimes they are almost diagonal in position.

I have two pairs with the overprint missing on one of the pair; this variety is listed by Kohl. Sir John Wilson records such a vertical pair in The Royal Collection; mine are horizontal pairs.

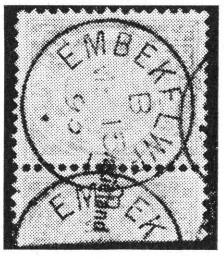
Varieties catalogued are (a) double and (b) inverted.

The speciments with double overprints show the two overprints in such a variety of positions relative to each other as to make one rather suspicious that they were made to order.



Double Overprints.

A variety listed by the Royal Society in Africa, Vol. III, and which I have a specimen of, is an overprint with the "S" and half of the "w" missing. The stamp is one of a strip of three, the overprints as a whole being somewhat diagonal and misplaced so that each "Swazieland" is divided over two stamps.



"S" and part "w" missing.

I have a pair showing offsets (or, as the Philatelic Congress' Glossary prefers to call them, set-offs) on the back. I have seen a large block of them, not far short of a full sheet.

Basden described a pair in the **"South African Philatelist,"** Vol. 16, 1940, p. 27, one with a double overprint, one with a single. This specimen is now in the Hunt Collection. The left-hand stamp has the double overprint, the right-hand one only a single. Both the single overprint and the upper one on the left-hand stamp have a slightly defective first "a" and Basden deduced from this that they probably came from the same type. If this be correct it would seem to indicate that the right-hand stamp had been on the extreme right of the pane and that when the second overprinting was done the registration was moved one stamp to the left. In that case there would have been six such pairs produced on the pane.

Bisects.

These are not uncommonly seen, of various denominations, but they were never officially authorised nor does there ever appear to have been any real need of them. They are usually seen "on piece" with what seem to be quite genuine postmarks, and were probably postmarked by complaisance. I have the 1d., 2d. (2), 6d. and 1/- with squared Darkton postmarks, cancelled on dates in Dec., 91 and Dec., 93.

Unoverprinted Z.A.R. stamps.

The occasional use of such stamps during this period has already been commented on in the Postal History section of this stage (March issue, p. 54).

(To be continued.)

AUSTRALIA.

The P.M.G. announces the issue on 9 June of a bi-coloured 3½d. stamp commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Australian Red Cross Society.

He also reports that approximately 23,000 covers (2,848 of them registered) were sent down with the Antarctic Research Expedition to the "Mawson" P.O. set up at the base on the continent. (See note on page 87 re Aerogramme received).

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THE

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Vol. 30. No. 6. JUNE, 1954. Whole No. 351.

UNION NOTES

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

Recent Printings.

The Publicity Officer of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs has kindly supplied the following information covering the period from the 22.10.1953 to the 21.1.1954. For the previous list see our January issue.

Ordinary Pictorial Postage Stamps.

1d.—Job No. 12748 contd. On an order for 1,000,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, 753,490 have been delivered to date. Same cylinders as before, No. 54 Interior and No. 53 Exterior.

2d.—Job No. 5906 contd. On an order for 1,000,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, 376,606 have been delivered to date. Same cylinders as before, No. 27 Interior and No. 18 Exterior.

3d.—Job No. 12743 contd. On an order for 100,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, 109,600 have been delivered to date. Same one colour cylinder, No. 17, as before. Final delivery date, 8.12.53.

6d.—Job No. 12745 contd. On the order for 50,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet noted in the January list, the number delivered to date is unchanged at 24,900 sheets. Cylinders No. 6930 Interior and No. 6 Exterior.

1/- — Job No. 12746 contd. On an order for 50,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, the number printed from the new cylinders No. 66 Interior and No. 3 Exterior has been increased to 55,887 sheets. Date of final delivery, 10.11.53.

1/3—Job No. 7203 contd. On the order for 60,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, 62,250 sheets were delivered up to the final date, 10.11.53. Printed from one colour cylinder No. 30.

1/6—Job No. 7204 contd. On the order for 100,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, 101,214 sheets were delivered up to the final date 18.11.53. Cylinders No. 21 Interior and No. 68 Exterior.

2/6—Job No. 12747. On an order for 15,000 sheets of 60 stamps per sheet, 9,850 sheets were delivered between 1.12.53 and the 3.12.53 Printed from new cylinders No. 5 Interior and No. 51 Exterior.

5/- — Job No. 14151/3. On an order for 10,000 sheets of 60 stamps per sheet, 9,300 sheets were delivered between the 29.12.53 and the 5.1.54. Printed from new cylinders No. 8 Interior and No. 72 Exterior.

O.F.S. Centenary Postage Stamps.

2d.—Job No. 11073/3. On an order for 300,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, 140,500 sheets have been delivered to date. Printed from new cylinders No. 1 Interior and No. 104 Exterior and first delivery on the 5.1.54.

4½d.—Job No. 11074/3. On an order for 12,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, 14,200 sheets werg delivered between the 5.1.54 and the 12.1.54. Printed from new cylinders No. 11 Interior and No. 104 Exterior.

Roll Stamps.

1d.—Job No. 4113 contd. On an order for 12,000 rolls of 506 stamps per roll, and 7,000 rolls of 1,012 stamps per roll, the number of the former delivered to date is unchanged at 8,973 rolls, and that of the latter has increased to 2,520 rolls. Printed in sheets of 264 stamps per sheet from same one colour cylinder as before, No. 97.

Air Letter Cards.

6d.—Job No. 4112 contd. On the order for 4,000,000 cards, 5,272,800 were delivered up to the final date of the order on the 8.12.53. New design Chambon Machine. New paper, new cylinders.

6d.—Job No. 8569. On a new order for 6,000,000 cards, the first batch was delivered on the 8.12.53 and the total to date amounts to 770,400 Same machine, paper and cylinders as above.

"Official" Stamps.

2/6—Job No. 16062/3. Supplied by the Postmaster-General 500 sheets of 60 stamps per sheet were overprinted OFFICIAL/OFFISIEEL and delivered on the 7.1.54.

Overprinted S.W.A.

6d. Air Letter Cards.—Job No. 62610. Supplied by the Postmaster-General, 21,600 air letter cards were overprinted S.W.A. and delivered between the 3.11.53 and the 5.11.53.

1d. Pictorial Postcards—Job No. 62196. Supplied by the Postmaster-General, 38,400 cards were overprinted S.W.A. and delivered on the 27.10.53.

Revenue Stamps. — The following Union revenue stamps were supplied by the Postmaster-General, overprinted S.W.A. and delivered on the 7.1.54. Job No. 63228.

2/6—300 sheets x 60: 5/- — 300 sheets x 60.
10/- — 200 sheets x 60: £1 — 200 sheets x 60.
£25 — 10 sheets x 60.

Customs Stamps.

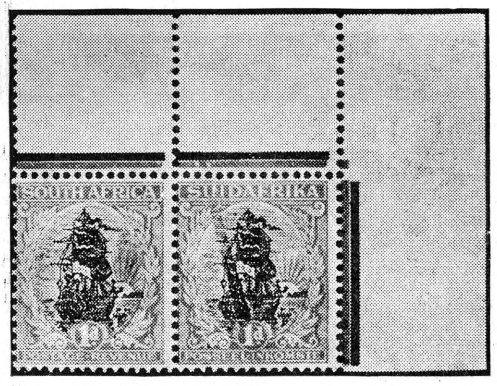
Supplied by the Postmaster-General and overprinted DOUANE. Job No. 13547/3.

½d. — 1,000 sheets x 240 — Delivered between 3/5.11.53.

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"Phantom Ladder" Flaw on 1d. Pretoria typographed Stamp.

We are indebted to Mr. M. J. Rall, now of Heidelberg, Cape Province, for showing us a top right hand corner stamp of the 1d. Pretoria typographed issue bearing the flaw illustrated below which is similar in appearance to the "Phantom Ladder" variety found on a 6d. stamp in the first rotogravure hyphenated printing, Handbook/Catalogue No. 49 Vc.



It is only with the appearance however that there is any resemblance, for as Mr. S. J. Hagger of Alberton points out the variety on the 6d. stamps is a cylinder flaw and was found on every sheet of the issue, whereas the flaw depicted above is of a non-recurring nature. He is of the opinion that it was caused by the intrusion of a piece of foreign matter, most probably a thin strip of loose paper, between this particular stamp and the "bed" while the centre was being printed and thereby giving a doubling effect. The surface of the paper where the "doubling" occurred would thus have been subjected to greater pressure from the printing plate and the consequent darker impression over this strip makes it stand out from the remainder of the vignette.

Pictorial Postcards in Green.

We have heard from various sources that the 1d. pictorial postcards are now appearing with the views and inscriptions produced in green instead of the sepia shade of the previous printing.

Mr. C. S. Kachelhoffer of Bloemfontein records that he possesses a copy of this new series showing the view "YACHTING — CAPE — SEILSPORT — KAAP" (Union Handbook PC. 41d.) but without the 1d. imprinted stamp on the card.

Variety on Current 5/- Postage Stamp.

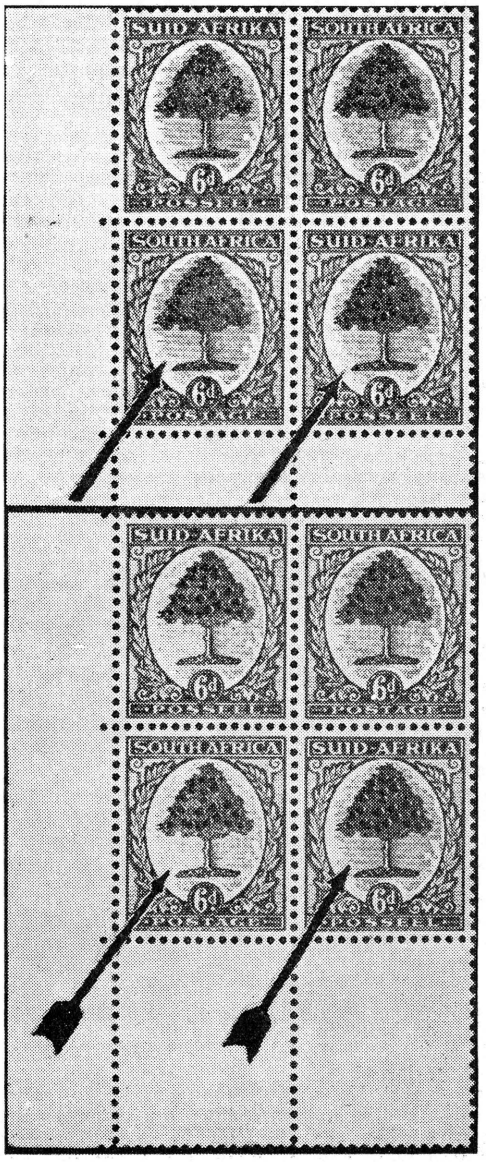
Mr. C. S. Kachelhoffer, Bloemfontein, notes that the left leg of the first "A" in AFRICA extends into the frame on the 3rd stamp, Row 4, of the new 5/- stamps printed from cylinders Nos. 8/72 (recorded in our February issue) now on sale throughout the Union.

"Official" ½d. Stamps with Missing "31" Cylinder Number.

At a meeting of the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg held on the 13th April 1954, Mr. H. A. Hofman showed a bottom right hand corner block of the current issue of the ½d. pictorial stamps — Cylinder Nos. 31/70 — overprinted OFFICIAL/OFFISIEEL and with the cylinder number "31" missing from the margin. An illustration of this variety as it appeared on a number of sheets of the basic stamps, and discovered sometime early in 1953, was published in our October issue last year.

Worn Cylinder Vignette Variety on 6d. Stamps -Cylinders 6930/6.

The advent of the new 6d. pictorial stamps printed from the cylinders 85 Interior and 32 Exterior, and recorded in our March number, has brought to light a worn vignette variety which Mr. R. B. Cronwright of Germiston notes



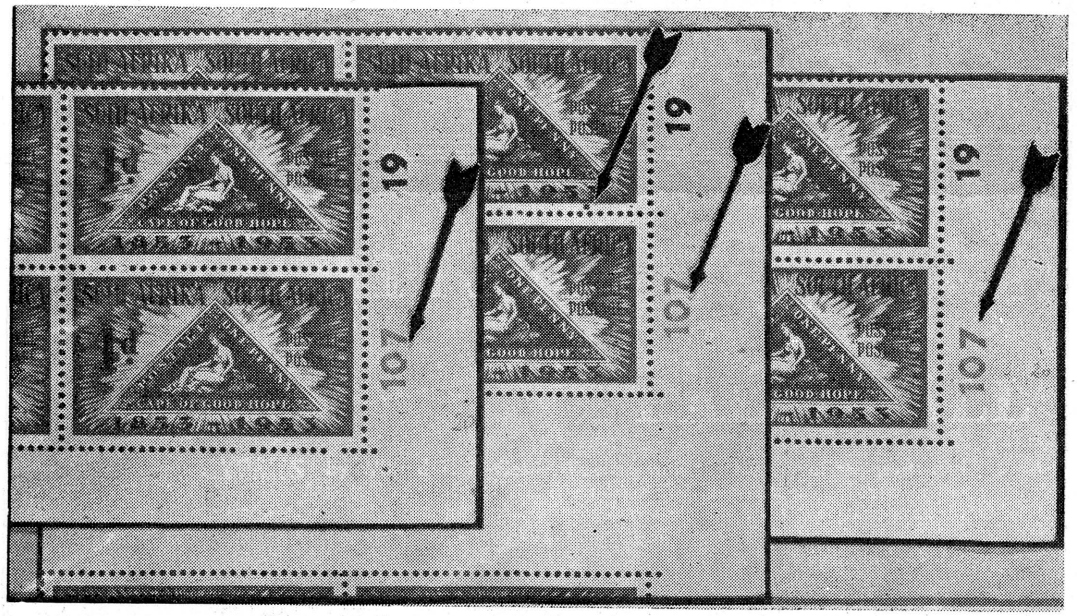
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as a defect that evidently developed towards the end of the life of the old interior cylinder No. 6930.

The feature appears on those stamps in the left hand vertical column of the sheets, i.e., No. 1 stamp of each row, and takes the form of a partial obliteration of the horizontal lines in that part of the design at the left hand side of the tree. Compared with the stamps in the second and other columns of the sheet, the background of the vignettes in column No. 1 is much lighter in general appearance and the threadbare effect in these particular copies was probably one of the reasons which led towards the recent production of the two new cylinders for this denomination.

block, and its absence in conjunction with the dented "0" of "107" iin the bottom blocks, clearly indicates that in this case the transposition was due to the repositioning of the two cylinders.

Mr. Cronwright points out that the scratched screen plate flaws illustrated in our October 1953 issue, and likewise some other exterior cylinder varieties, follow the position of the dented "0" in "107" to the top or bottom pane as the case may be and also, that in this new form of printing the sheets of the Union stamps, alterations in the relative geared positions of a dual cylinder production and variations in the guillotine action on the printing machine can result in four different combinations, or associations, of varieties.



Transposition of the Panes and Varieties in the Printing of the Cape Centenary Stamps.

The fact that at some stages in the printing of the Cape Centenary 1d. stamps the cylinders — Nos. 19 and 107 — were set to operate at two positions differing from one another by 180 degrees, is mentioned in some notes recently published by Mr. R. B. Cronwright of Germiston, Transvaal.

The accompanying illustrations show three cylinder number blocks of the Cape Centenary 1d. stamps, two from the bottom of the sheets and one from the centre portion, and it will be seen that the dent at about five o'clock in the outer line of the numeral "0", in the cylinder number "107", has appeared in both positions, an effect which could quite easily occur solely as the result of the machine guillotining action described in the July 1953 issue of this magazine.

But the presence of a constant flaw in the form of a sepia coloured spot resting on the frame line immediately below the numerals "53" on the 6th stamp, Row 9 (adjoining the interior cylinder number "19") of the centre

New Printing of the 1d. Van Riebeeck Postage Stamp.

We have been advised by the Publicity Officer of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs of the appearance of a new printing of the 1d. pictorial postage stamp.

It has been produced from a combination of the old interior cylinder No. 54 (employed for the "54/53 'issue) and a new exterior cylinder No. 48. The first consignment was delivered on the 27th of April 1954.

STUDY YOUR COUNTRY'S STAMPS

N.Z. INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

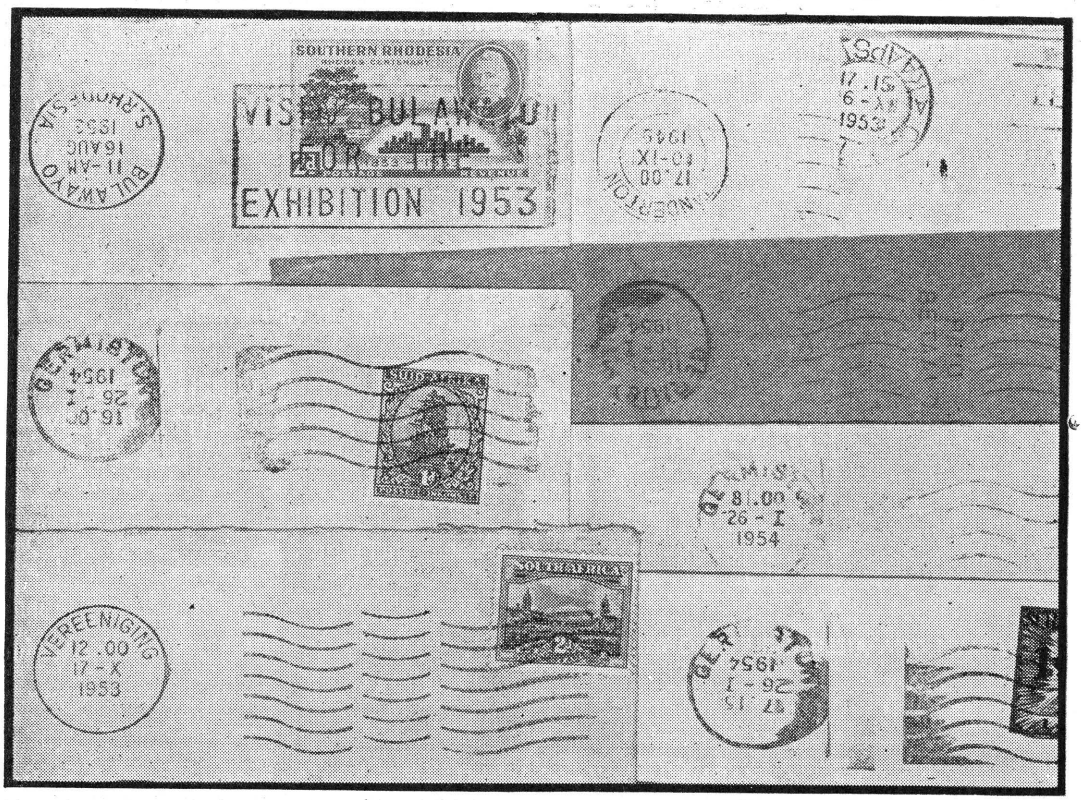
We have received a Prospectus of the International Stamp Exhibition to be held in Auckland, New Zealand from 16-22 July 1955. This gives all the necessary preliminary information ré Entry Forms, Classification of Exhibits, etc. Copies may be obtained from P.O. Box 1932, Auckland, C.1, New Zealand.

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Inverted Machine Cancellations.

A collection of nine machine cancelled covers with one or more portions of the postmarks set in an inverted position has been shown to us by Mr. T. F. Allpass of Johannesburg.

The different types are illustrated in the accompanying photograph and Mr. Allpass points out that the CAPETOWN/KAAPSTAD, STANDERTON and BULAWAYO postmarks are inverted, though in the case of Capetown the time and date are the right way up. The BETAAL/PAID postmark for GERMISTON is also inverted. The other three Germiston items show that on the 26/1/54 the date and time were all set correctly at 8.00 hours, but at 16.00 hours and 17.15 hours the times and dates were inverted although the place name GERMISTON was in a normal position. The VEREENIGING item merely shows part of the cancellation bars inverted.



New Definitive Series Depicting South African Wild Animals.

The following Bulletin giving particulars of the new series of postage stamps to be issued towards the end of the year, has been received from the Publicity Officer of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
NEW DEFINITIVE SERIES OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

The existing definitive series of fourteen Union of South Africa postage stamps will be replaced towards the end of 1954 by a series depicting South African wild animals. Each of the stamps will be bilingually inscribed.

Denomination.	Animal depicted.	Size of Stamp (in millimetres).	Format	Stamps per Sheet
½d.	Warthog	20.25 x 24.2	Vertical	240
1d.	Black Wildebeest	20.25 x 24.2	Vertical	240
1½d.	Leopard	20.25 x 24.2	Vertical	240
2d.	Zebra	20.25 x 24.2	Vertical	240
3d.	Rhinoceros	24.2 x 30.2	Vertical	120
4d.	Elephant	24.2 x 30.2	Vertical	120
4½d.	Hippotamus	24.2 x 30.2	Vertical	120
6d.	Lion	30.2 x 24.2	Horizontal	120
1/-	Kudu	24.2 x 30.2	Vertical	120
1/3	Springbok	30.2 x 24.2	Horizontal	120
1/6	Gemsbok	24.2 x 30.2	Vertical	120
2/6	Nyala	24.2 x 30.2	Vertical	60
5/-	Giraffe	24.2 x 30.2	Vertical	60
10/-	Sable Antelope	24.2 x 30.2	Vertical	60

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The head only will be depicted in the design of the ½d., 1d., 1½d. and 2d. stamps.

The date of issue and the colours of stamps will be announced later in the year.

Orders from stamp collectors or stamp dealers for unused stamps of the new series may be sent to the address given below and must be accompanied by a postal order, money order or bank draft the value of which must include the return postage on the order. Cheques and foreign coins will **not** be accepted.

Philatelic Agency,
c/o. Publicity Branch,
G.P.O., Pretoria.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

PERCY C. BISHOP — "P.C.B."

Few philatelists can claim to have been actively interested in stamps for more than 70 years, still fewer to have been in philatelic journalism for most of that time, and even fewer still to have had the honour of having their names enrolled on the "Roll of Distinguished Philatelists" of two countries.



Percy C. Bishop, familiarly known to his many friends as "P.C.B.", began his philatelic career at the age of 14 when he launched a schoolboy journal called the **Philatelic Exchange List** of which six numbers were issued. After some years of philatelic free-lancing, Mr. Bishop became, in 1894, joint editor with Harry Hilckes, of the **Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly.** The paper had many vicissitudes, even ceasing publication for a time, but was resuscitated by editor Bishop who, in its pages, introduced a new note of liveliness and daring into philatelic journalism. In 1912 he left the "Fortnightly" for other fields and was for several years managing director of the Adeline Publishing Co., which published the first issues of **Stamp Collecting.**

In 1920, P.C.B. migrated to Durban where for 25 years he was active both in journalism and philately. On several occasions he was elected President of The Philatelic Society of Natal, and he took a prominent part in the formation of the South African Philatelic Congress in 1928, and presided over the fourth Congress which was held in Durban from September 30th to October 2nd, 1933.

As news editor of the **Natal Advertiser** (now renamed **Natal Daily News)** "P.C.B." wrote a great many thousand words on the sins of omission and commission of the Durban Town Council. Feeling strongly as he did, it was not to be wondered that he was finally induced to stand for the Council. He was elected to the City Council but one year of local politics was enough for the journalist and he returned to his old love. After retiring from the **Natal Advertiser** he became editor of a monthly magazine for Servicemen and women, **Stand Easy,** a magazine which was to become familiar to many thousands of soldiers, sailors and airmen who were passing through South Africa to the several theatres of war. He also founded the "Stand Easy Club" which provided a welcome and a friendly meeting place for over a quarter of a million servicemen and servicewomen in Durban during the war years.

In 1936, "P.C.B." edited the Natal Philatelic Society's handbook "The Postage Stamps of the Union of South Africa" and in 1944 he was appointed chairman of a sub-committee of the Society to revise the handbook (subsequently issued as the **Standard Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of the Union of South Africa,** 1946, by The Philatelic Federation of Southerrn Africa), a position which he relinquished when he decided to return to England in 1945.

Soon after his return to England the veteran philatelic journalist re-entered the philatelic publishing business as editor of the journal **Stamp Values,** subsequently incorporated in the weekly newspaper **Stamp Mirror.** He also undertook the compilation of a **World Directory of Philatelists.**

In 1930 he was elected an Honorary Life Member of The Philatelic Society of Natal, and in 1947 his name was inscribed on The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa. Some years prior to his coming to South Africa he had the honour of being elected to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of Great Britain. He is also a Life Member of the Worthing Philatelic Society.

P.C.B.'s chief philatelic love was the stamps of Great Britain of which he possessed a very fine collection, though in later years he turned more and more to foreign countris.

Hundreds of philatelic articles have flowed from the pen of "P.C.B." and stamp collectors to-day owe a deeu debt of gratitude to him for the part he has played, as freelance, editor and publisher, in the building of a strong and lively Philatelic Press. M.B.B.

KENYA, UGANDA, TANGANYIKA.

We are indebted to Mr. W. Tunstall for a commemorative envelope bearing a portrait of Her Majesty on the occasion of her visit to Uganda. First day cover, dated 28 AP 54.

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CONDENSED TYPE "BLOEMFONTEIN ORANGE FREE STATE" POSTMARK.

Since the article headed as above was put to press by Mr. Newlands, more material has come into my possession which considerably enlarges the usage of these interesting postmarks.

This material includes in addition to the 1d. brown and the ½d. chestnut provisional Postcards, the following values:—

½d. chestnut, 1d. brown, 1d. purple, 2d. mauve, 2½d./3d. blue, 6d. carmine and 1d. Republican postcard.

The list now includes Type 2 letter "C", type 4, letter "B" and type 6 letter "A". This makes the **six types** all used with **all** letters A, B and C.

The following list shews the additional varieties and the stamps on which they have been found.

A.	B.	C.
	Type 1.	
	My. 19, 93 (pr. 1d. brown) My. 24, 93 (pr. 6d. carmine) My. 24, 93 (6d. carmine) My. 31, 93 (pr. ½d. chestnut) Jy. 1, 93 (2d. mauve)	Ju. 12, 93 (1d. P.C.) Ju. 16, 93 (1d. brown)
	Type 2.	
	3 Jy., 93 (2½d./3d. blue)	10 J-. 93 (2½d./3d. blue)
	Type 3.	
	Oc. 7, 93 (1d. brown)	10 Au., 93 (1d. brown) 18 Sp., 93 (1d. P.C.) 22 Ju.. 94 (2½d./3d.)
	Type 4.	
6 Fe., 94 (½d. chest.) 3 Ap. 94 (1d. brown) 6 Ap. 94 (1d. brown) 31 My. 94 (1d. brown)	16 Ap., 94 (2½d./3d. blue)	12 Mr., 94 (½d. chest.) 19 Mr., 94 (2½d./3d.)
	Type 5.	
	My. 7, 94 (1d. brown) 20 My., 94 (1d. brown) 30 My., 94 (1d. brown) 21 My., 95 (1d. purple)	25 No., 93 (1d. brown) Ju. 10, 94 (2½d./3d.) My. 14, 95 (2½d./3d.) 28 My., 95 (1d. purple)
	Type 6.	
21 Sp. 96 (1d. purple)	8 Ju., 96 (½d. chest.) 8 Ju., 96 (1d. purple)	6 Ju., 96 (pr. 2½d./3d.) 19 Ju., 96 (2½d./3d.)

This now gives the period of usage as follows:—

Type 1. 19-5-93 to 16-6-93.
Type 2. 10-6-93 to 9-12-93.
Type 3. 10-8-93 to 22-6-94.
Type 4. 16-12-93 to 31-5-94.
Type 5. 25-11-93 to 28-5-95.
Type 6. 6-6-96 to 21-9-96.

All the stamps mentioned above are in my collection, and are clear strikes.

A. CECIL FENN.

AFRICAN COLONIES

The numerous British Colonies in Africa have always been steadily popular with collectors. Ranging from triangular Capes to Zanzibar, they represent a varied and interesting group. We have just made up some fine Approval Books of these stamps. **They are worth seeing if you are interested.**

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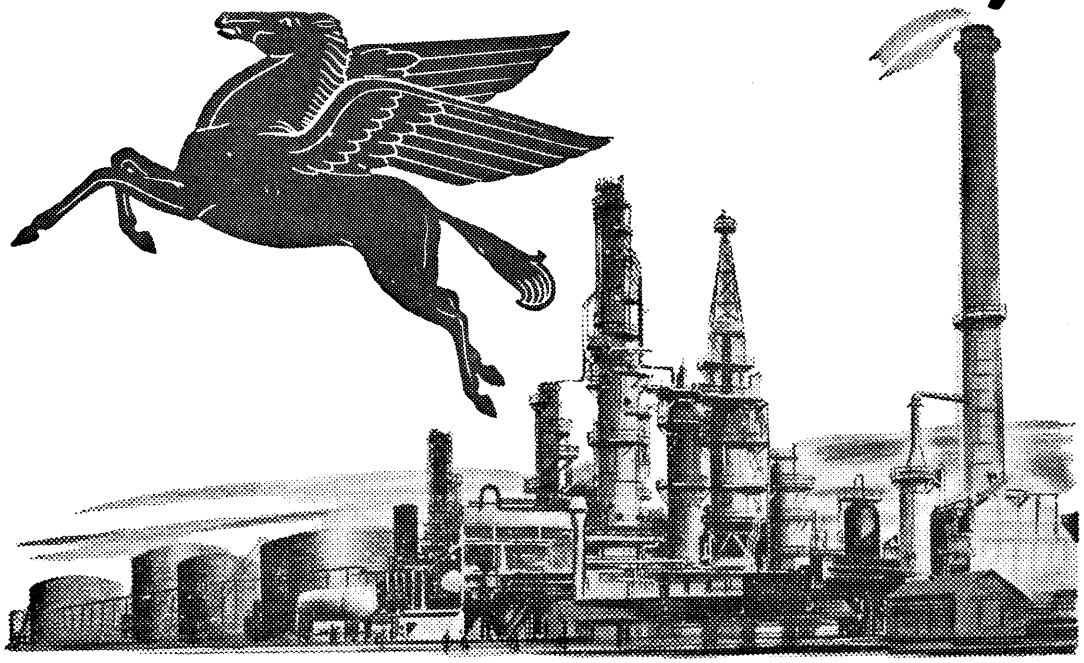
Available on approval, but please state clearly what type of covers are required.

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BOOMERANG OR ASSEGAI.

By
FRED WILDE, California.

(Mr. Wilde evidently believes, like Mr. Seelig, in not taking his stamp collecting too seriously, but rather in trying to make readers occasionally laugh, smile, or even grin.—Ed.).

It is rather unfortunate that Mr. Seelig's ("S.A.Ph." Nov., 1953, p. 200) reading on Australian stamps did not provide him with time enougm to give the complete tale. I would like to recount a few of the things he might have added, in the similar lighter vein that Mr. Seelig handled so well.

I did not realize their P.O.D. was so poor that they never tried multi-coloured stamps until 1953. Just think of all the fun they missed trying to locate the London Pictorials, with their oval perfs., the comb which moved up, the comb which moved down, the reversed perforations (in which the circular holes are turrned half way round), to say nothing of trying to distinguish between black and green, grey black and green, black and deep green, and grey and green.

Imagine, they have no unbroken jubilee lines, no missing Jubilee lines, no "dollar" variety, no shadowy horns, no horn re-entry (when the bull caught the matador a second time), no ship in mist, no frame missing from around the stamp, though they do have some with extra frame lines. How dull can they get? They have no grey and red purple, grey and purple, no guide dot one in each pair.

Then they suffer further by missing all the excitement of trying to locate the Pretoria Pictorials, with their double and treble perfs. perfs. through fold-overs, and further colour fun — olive grey and dull blue green, green and orange with small and large oranges (we give one large orange with each purchase of a dozen small), white oranges (what, no vitamins?). They sure are in a bad way, with none of these things. They even do not have a "black sail" nor a "starboard light" to guide them.

And arrows — oh how I miss those arrows on Aussie stamps. Thin, thick, wide, narrow, clean, fuzzy, long, short, dotted, solid, plain, fancy, coloured, uncoloured, splayed, unsplayed. My whole collecting life wasted — no arrows on my stamps. Then I miss the green, grey and dull mauve, green, slate and light mauve, slate grey and deep purple (I like Deep Purrple orchestrated), slate grey and slate purple, and just plain old slate grey and purple. They have no sepia and dull mauve, no dull bluish slate and pale violet, no reseda green and persimmon red — phew, I think I'll write their P.M.G. and see if he cannot pep up their stamps a little, at least in the colour department.

I do believe that, to make up for all this lost time, I should begin to collect Union issues, then I could hunt control letters, cylinder numbers, inverted watermarks galore, margins without arrows, hyphenated and unhyphenated issues, bilingual issues, together or singly, as I may prefer. I could be sure my coils — Australian coils are so uninteresting — I could be sure my coils would come in strips with two Suid and two South, or even three South consecutively, instead of alternating. So much more interesting, you know. The colours — an endless string of colours, while Aussie colours come in just one uninteresting colour indefinitely. How drab!

Booklets in Australia? Just plain one type booklets for each value used. Nothing to compare to the efficient folk at Pretoria, who prepare booklets with all sorts of advertising added around the margins. The collector gets something for his money here — what will you have? seeds, cigarettes, lighters, kolleges, tyres, tea (no buns to-day), or clothing, ladies or gents? Take your choice.

Again Australia has no semi-postals, with their added subscription for this memorial or other. Must be they do not have any memorials in Aussie land! They did not even have any bantam issues or large war pictorials, no rouletted pairs or triplets (er, should that be twins or triplets?), no double roulettes or marginal war slogans. My, what a country — they even do not change the size of their current lower values frequently.

I am sure Mr. Seelig is right — those surgical terms among Aussie varieties are comical — but those Union varities, ho, ho, ho, I'm laughing fit to bust my britches!

The above notes were not read at the meeting of the Compton Stamp Club, 1953, and there was no display. Apologies.

ANOTHER NYASALAND EXTRA-TERRITORIAL POSTMARK.

Well-known is the extra-territorial P.O. at Chinde which operated till rail communication was established from Beira via the Zambesi Bridge. Mr. G. S. Manners, in 'The Philatelist', April, 1954 has now discovered the marks of another service operating about 1918-1922 at the Sena Sugar Factory, Villa Fontes, across the Zambesi from Nyasaland in Mozambique Company's territory. Communication with Nyasaland was roundabout and slow. Nyasaland stamps were kept and the service was only on mail to there, being sent my runner to Chindio then on by rail. The postmark is a single-circle one with 'The Sena Sugar/Zambesi/River' in the top sector, Villa Fontes/Factory Ltd.' in the bottom sector. Horizontal lines cut off the sectors, the date being between them. Mr. Manners regards the cancellation as having the distinction of being both "Used Abroad" and a T.P.O. in its own right.

STOCKHOLMIA 55.

This is the title which has been adopted for the International Stamp Exhibition to be held in Stockholm, 1-10 July, in celebration of the centenary of the first Swedish postage stamps.

We have received a copy of their first 'magazine', giving rules, classes, entry form, etc.

Those wishing to exhibit please note that provisional entry forms are to be in by 1st August, 1954, giving various particulars; final entry forms to reach the organising committee by 1st March, 1955. The Secretariat address is 'Post Office Headquarters, Stockholm 1, Sweden.'

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*"ALL RISKS" does not include the development of "rust" or "oxidization" or damage while under treatment for removal of paper hinges, cleaning, testing of watermarks, etc.

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BASUTOLAND—SOME HISTORICAL NOTES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO POSTAL MATTERS

By G. N. GILBERT.

(Continued from page 90 of May issue.)

REVISED LIST OF MAIN POSTOFFICES AND POSTAL AGENCIES IN BASUTOLAND.

Main Offices which do full Postoffice work in Capital Letters.

Botsabelo Asylum
Bokong
BUTHA BUTHE
Corn Exchange
Cutting Camp
Jonathan's
Khabos
Kolonyama
Lebihan Falls
Lejones
LERIBE
Lesobeng
Linakeng
Litsoetse
MAFETENG
Majara
Makhoas
Mamathes
Mapoteng
Marakabeis
MASERU
Maseru Location
Mashai
Matelas
Matsaile
Mazenod Institute
Mekading
Mofokas
MOHALESHOEK
Mohlakoanas
Mohatlanes
Mohlalefis
MOKHOTLONG
Morunyaneng
Mount Moorosi
Nohanas
Peka
Phamong
Pitseng
QACHA'S NEK
QUTHING
Rankakalas
ROMA MISSION
St. Rodrique Mission
Sebapala
Seforong
Sehapas
Sehonghong
Sekakes
TEYATEYANENG
Thaba Bosigo (Thaba Bosiu)
Thabana Morena
Thaba Tseka
Thakabannas
Tlalis
Tlokoeng
Tsime
Tsoelike

Previous Agencies, since closed.

Khetisas
Khukhune
Kubung
Kueneng
Mokoalis
Mount Morosi (now re-opened and spelled Moorosi).
Qalo
Thabaneng
Thlotse Heights (now Leribe)
Tsoloane
Sehlabathebe
Setleketseng.

Note. **van Rooyens Gate** has been mentioned elsewhere as an Agency, but it is purely a Telegraph Agency and does not cancel mail.

A Few Notes of General Interest.

Leribe.

The actual Leribe was and still is the site of Chief Molapo's village, where the French Evangelical Mission was started in 1859.

The Mission was later shifted to its present position which is known to the natives as Maoana-Masooana — "the little white caves", and which lies about five miles north of the present Leribe Postoffice. The Revd. Mr. Collard named it Eben-Ezer but the name was never popular, and Leribe (the name of the district) was commonly used.

The Magistracy of Leribe was moved from near Molapo's to Thlotse or Hlotse Heights in 1876, and this name was used for the Camp and the Postoffice for some time, but was later changed to Leribe and to all Basutos it is still Hlotse. So actually the present Postoffice of Leribe is not the name of the place on which it stands. The Postal Agency on the site of the real and original Leribe is named Jonathan's.

Cornet Spruit, or its native name Makhaleng is the name of the river running through the district, just as the district in which Maseru now stands was known as Thaba Bosiu or Thaba Bosigo.

The Maseru Camp was started by Mr. Bowker in 1869 at the request of Mosesh, and was originally on the site of what is now the Officers' Mess.

The first mention of Jackman's Drift (Maseru) is in a letter from Wodehouse to the President of the O.F.S. dated March 4th 1869, and the first mention of Maseru is in a letter from Mr. Bowker to the High Commissioner dated Maseru March 28th 1869.

Mohales Hoek.

There are three different spellings of this, one a recently discovered old canceller which had MOHALIS on top and HOEK at the bottom, and which is wrong, the correct spelling being the second-Mohaleshoek or Mohales Hoek. The third was found on a reegistered letter cachet and read MOHALIES-HOEK.

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Quthing. There is a story that the name originated from the fact that during the rebellion of Chief Moorosi in 1879, the troops sent to quell it made a road from the present site of Quthing to Mount Moorosi on which the Chief had taken up his defence, and they had to make a cutting through a ridge near the mountain to bring up their guns. The headquarters camp was at this cutting, and it was known as "Cutting Camp". Later the camp was brought back to Moyeni, which was and still is the native name of the present Quthing, and this Camp was still known as "Cutting Camp." Hence Quthing.

It is highly probable however that this is just a picturesque story, as Ellenberger and Macgregor in their book mention the fact that Quthing and all places starting with Q are of Bushman origin, and this is borne out by Mr. Webb who is an authority on Basuto names, and who says it was from "the place of Quthi" (the Bushmen).

The original Residency at Quthing was at Alwyns Kop, later at Leloaleng, and finally at Moyeni.

Butha Buthe. In 1882 Moshesh was living in the Leribe district on the Hlotse river, but when his tribe were attacked by the Batlokwa he took his men to the top of a flat-crowned mountain, just behind the present Butha Buthe Residency. Upon the assault he gave the order to his men to "botha bothe"—i.e., to lie down flat." From that time on the place was known as Botha Bothe, which is the correct spelling.

Morija. In his references to early days at Morija, the Revd. F. Christol in his "Au Sud de l'Afrique" has the following picturesque item on postal matters there: "In the first days of the Mission, a letter was a moving event: the bearer would fix it at the end of a split reed and carry it like a banner."

Another reference to postal matters appears in the same book: "A native, having a contract with the Government is in charge of the postal service between Mafeteng and Mohaleshoek, and runs it with the greatest regularity twice a week — fully conscious of the responsibility he bears."

Mafeteng.

The following extract from "Among Boers and Basutos" written by Mrs. Barkly, the daughter-in-law of Governor Sir H. Barkly, gives a sidelight on the trials and tribulations of early postal work:—

"The express runners used to arrive in the middle of the night and tap on my window, when I had to take the bag, sort the letters and find express riders to go on to Aliwal North — a day's journey."

The Basutoland Coat of Arms.

It may not be generally known, but His late Majesty, King George VI granted Basutoland a Coat of Arms in June 1951.

This is a very handsome design, the crocodile "totem" being prominently shown on the shield, together with two sheaves of wheat and a sheep, representing the main agricultural interests of the country, while above is shown a native skin shield, flanked by a spear, arrow and a knobkerrie.

The motto below reads—"Khotso ke Nala", which being interpreted means — "Peace is Plenty".

Chronological Table.

June 28th, 1833. Arrival of first French Missionaries.

Feb. 3d, 1854. Sir Harry Smith proclaims Basutoland a Sovereignty.

March, 1858. Convention between Orange Free State and the British Government.

Aug. 19th, 1860. Moshesh goes to meet H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh at Aliwal North, and to ask protection from Queen Victoria.

March, 1866. Leribe district annexed to the Free State.

March 12th, 1868. Basutoland proclaimed a Protectorate.

Feb. 12th, 1869. Aliwal North Convention fixing boundaries. Ratified by the O.F.S. in May 1869 and by the British Government in March 1870.

March 11th, 1869. Mr. Bowker moves his camp to Maseru at the request of Moshesh.

March 11th, 1870. Death of Moshesh.

May 12th, 1870. High Commissioner's letters of appointments of Magistrates.

Division of country into three districts under Moshesh's three sons — Leribe in the north under Molapo, Thaba Bosiu in the centre under Masupha, and Cornet Spruit in the south under Letsie.

Mr. Bowker appointed first Governor's Agent, with two assistants Magistrates, Mr. Surmon at Leribe and Mr. Austen at Cornet Spruit.

July 1st, 1870. Start of first Postal Service from Leribe to Maseru, Mohaleshoek and Aliwal North.

August 1871. Basutoland placed under the Administration of the Cape Colony, and Col. Griffiths appointed first Resident Commissioner.

Major Bell goes to Leribe as Magistrate, and a new Magistracy opened at Berea under Mr. Surmon. Mohaleshoek made a Magistracy under Mr. Austen. The country is now divided into four districts to include Berea.

Mr. Surmon's headquarters for Berea was Advance Post.

Jan 1st, 1872. First Postoffice, Maseru, opened.

1874. Camp started at Butha Buthe by Mr. Kennan.

Camp started at Mafeteng under the Revd. Mr. Rolland.

Postal service started between Leribe and Bethlehem.

1876. Leribe Camp and Magistracy moved to Hlotse Heights.

1877. Camp started at Quthing (Moyeni) under Mr. Hope. At this time the Quthing district extended the whole length of the Orange River from its source to the Cape boundary.

1880. Gun War caused by the attempted compulsory disarming of the Basutos.

1882. The Revd. Mr. Mabille applies for a Postoffice at Morija.

October, 1883. Railway comes to Colesberg.

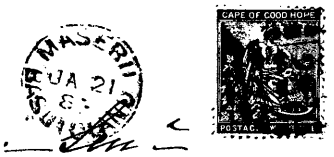
Feb. 2nd, 1884. Order in Council handing Basutoland back to the Imperial Government.

Oct. 14th, 1884. Bridge over the Caledon opened

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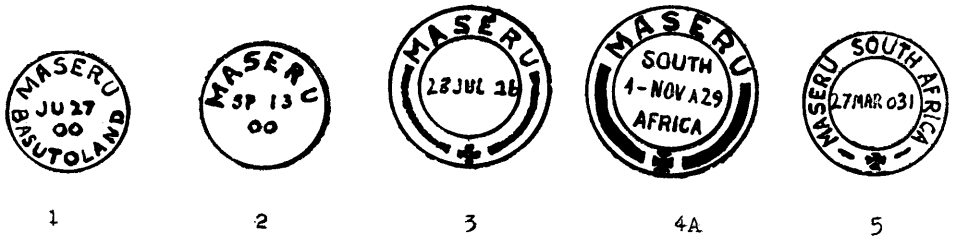
BASUTOLAND CANCELLATIONS
(Slightly reduced.)

Ring type 1



"Killer" No. 281

Types of Ring Cancellations
(numbers as in text)



1 2 3 4A 5



6 7 8 9 11



14 15



16 17

Types of Basutoland Postmarks.

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near Smithfield.
Sept. 2nd, 1885. Railway opened at Aliwal North.
1886. Camp opened at Teyateyaneng, replacing the old Advance Post closed during the "Gun War." Mr. Lagden as Magistrate.
1888. Police Post started by Mr. Kennan at Qacha's Nek.
1889. Telegraph communication established between Phatlalla near Palmietfontein in the south to Leribe in the north.
1890. Railway opened at Bloemfontein.
Nov. 14th, 1892. Camp started at Qacha's Nek. Mr. Griffith in charge.
Sept. 25th, 1905. Railway opened at Maseru. First train in. Opened to the public on Dec. 18th.
Feb. 2nd, 1925. New Maseru Postoffice opened by Sir. E. Garroway.

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G. Tylden's "The Rise of the Basuto."
Rev. F. Christol's "Au Sud de L'Afrique."
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Acknowledgements.

The writer acknowledges gratefully the assistance given by many friends and residents of Basutoland, and in particular the very valuable contributions given by the Revd. Mr. Brutsch of Leribe. Others who have materially assisted in the compilation of this paper are Capt. T. Kennan, C.B.E., who supplied notes from his father's diary, Capt. Webb of Paarl, Prof. van Rooyen of Bloemfontein, Mrs. A. Jacot Guillarmod om Mamathes, and the Senior Postmaster of Maseru, Mr. C. Williams.

Postscript.

Near the beginning of my paper I mentioned Leribe as being the place where the second Paris Evangelical Mission station was opened, in 1859. The Revd. Mr. Brutsch has corrected me on this point. Following is a list of their early stations with dates of opening:—

Moriija, 1833. Thaba Bosiu, 1837, Berea and Bethesda (now Maphutseng), 1843, Cana, 1846, Hermon, 1853, Leribe, 1859, Thaba Morena and Siloe, 1862 and Masitise, 1867.

There were also others in the conquered Territory, which was part of Basutoland in the early days, such as Beersheba, Hebron, Mabolela near Ladybrand, and Meknathing near Clocolan.

SWAZILAND.

The recently issued Union Aerogramme with lines on back for address horizontally has been overprinted for use in Swaziland, type of overprint being the same as on the first Aerogramme form of 1953.

OBITUARY.

MRS. RUTH ALABASTER.

It is with extreme regret that we have to announce the untimely death of Mrs. R. Alabaster. Mrs. Alabaster as you will remember, was President of our Society. For many years she was the East London correspondent of the "S.A. Philatelist". At our Annual Dinners it was Mrs. Alabaster who attended to our Floral and Decorative arrangements, and the menus she designed so artistically are souvenirs of her interest in our Society. Her happy and pleasant disposition are things we will greatly miss, but as a Philatelist we will always remember her. She inherited from her father all the love she had for stamps. Her collection of G.B., for which she received Philatelic Awards, was one of which she could justly be proud. The writing-up was done in her own hand in the most exquisite, beautiful printing imaginable. Her collection of Capes was similarly done. She was also on our panel of judges. She received our own medal for the best prepared paper in 1953 and the best display in 1952. To all of us who knew her it is difficult for us to realise that she has gone. We shall always remember Ruth Alabaster. May her dear soul rest in peace. To her husband Dr. Alabaster and son we extend our deepest sympathy.

L. HELLMANN,
President, E. London Philatelic Society.

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SHORT NOTICES.

New Australian Paper. We have received the first number of a new Australian monthly newspaper "Stamp News", published at 105-7 Macquarie St., Dubbo, N.S.W. Subscription for one year, 6/- sterling, post paid. It is not in any way a specialized Australian paper, but appears to be a chatty, even gossipy, paper dealing with stamps and personalities from anywhere and everywhere, with a bias towards Themately, if anything.

H. R. Harmer. The London house reports the finding of a cut-square example of the India 1954 "inverted" 4 anna. About 30 copies of this rarity are known, but this is only the third cut-square example. It was the only stamp of value in an otherwise worthless collection belonging to a New Zealand lady. It is expected to realise about £400 when it comes under the hammer in October.

The New York House recently sold a cover of the first attempted non-stop flight from New York to Rome, with the signatures of Mussolini and Marconi, also of Sabelli, one of the co-pilots. Its value is put at $500.

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OLD-TIME PHILATELY.

By Prof. A. F. HATTERSLEY, M.A., F.R. Hist. S.

(Address given as President, Maritzburg Philatelic Society.)

No one knows who was the first South African, or indeed the first British, collector of stamps. What, in any case, do we imply by the term 'stamp collector'? Does the lady who, having already assembled 16,000 used stamps, advertised in the London "Times" in 1852 for more in order that she could paper the walls of her dressing room with them, qualify? In more than one country of Europe genuine collectors of stamps had begun to interest themselves in the hobby in the early 'fifties, some years before the appearance (in Paris) of the first catalogue.

Serious collecting demanded a fairly widespread interest in postage stamps, and, at the same time, published accessories. For the stamp collector, the really essential tools of the trade were the album, the catalogue and the periodical journal devoted to study of stamps. Let us take first of all widespread interest. I can trace no signs of this prior to the 'sixties. On 20th August, 1853, the **South African Commercial Advertiser** printed a Government Notice to the effect that 'stamps of the value of fourpence and one penny (for newspapers) would be on sale on 1st September and that retail shops selling them would be allowed a discount of 2½ per cent.' When, a few days later, the lovely triangular stamps designed by Charles Bell made their appearance, there were no comments whatsoever in the colonial press. The first reference to stamp collecting in this country known to myself is in a letter written on 18 November 1861 from Simonstown by Lady Duff Gordon. She asked her correspondent in England, 'If you can find an old Mulready envelope, send it here for Miss Walker who collects stamps'.

1861 evidently is an important year in our hobby's annals. The **Monthly Advertiser,** Britain's first philatelic periodical appeared in that year in Liverpool. This was not the journal of a society, for even the present Royal Philatelic Society ('Royal' since 1906) did not come into existence until 1869. But its publication marked the advent of the dealer, and it is significant that it was quickly followed by the appearance of the first stamp album in 1862.

I have unearthed a description of this album in the **Bookseller** of that year. It throws some light on the public attitude to stamp collecting. 'A popular amusement amongst young ladies for some time past' announced the **Bookseller,** 'has been the collection of foreign postage stamps. An album has been published containing a description of every known variety of **timbre poste,** so that a partially obliterated stamp may easily be recognised, and, on the page opposite the collector may, at a glance, see all his deficiencies. We fear that there are not many persons who have succeeded in collecting all: for we find that about 1,100 varities have spaces allotted them, and there are also some blank leaves at the end for any that are not included. Two maps are also given'.

From that date dealers came into existence in ever increasing numbers to supply the wants of collectors, whilst societies such as our own were formed by collectors themselves to collaborate in the study of stamps.

In Natal, the issue of stamps excited no more newspaper comment than it had done at the Cape. The first comment that I have discovered on stamp design appeared in the **Natal Witness** on 7 April 1874. You will remember that 1874 (a 'bad year in stamp design' according to the expert, John Easton) marked the beginning of the replacement of the beautiful Chalon head stamps engraved by Perkins Bacon by a cheap typographed series. Easton calls the new Natal set 'nondescript'. But the editorial comment, announcing that 'a new penny stamp had been brought into use of a pink colour', surprisingly added 'in design and material a great improvement on the old stamp.' Modern appreciation follows John Easton, who unhesitatingly described the Perkins Bacon Chalon head stamp of Natal as, with one exception (St. Vincent) the firm's 'finest achievement'.

Stamp collecting was very different in these days from what it has become under the stimulus of scientific study Little was known of the methods of production of line-engraved stamps. Errors of judgment were frequent. Even so eminent a philatelist as Sir Edward Bacon once committed himself to the opinion that the so-called Cape 'Wood-blocks' of 1861, in reality steel-engraved, had been produced by lithography. As the majority of the early classics had not been plated, there was no certain means of detecting clever forgeries.

Most collectors throughout the nineteenth century valued beauty of design and what was thought to be neat mounting more than either quality or the interest to be derived from study. Neatness involved cutting round imperforate stamps closely to the design, which would now be regarded as unforgiveable vandalism. Stamps were usually gummed firmly to the album page, some of the rarities of the great Tapling Collection bequeathed to the British Nation in 1893 being glued down to cards. The loose-leaf album had not yet come into fashion and all early albums were printed with spaces for single stamps, so that strips and blocks, so useful in the plating of a stamp, were ruthlessly broken up, even by dealers, into singles. Well-to-do collectors were eager to obtain rarities, if possible unused, but they were prepared to display not merely indifferent specimens but stamps with obvious defects.

When, in due course, stamps came to be almost as safe an investment as gilt-edged stock, more attention had to be paid to condition and to the expert examination of stamps.

Encouragement to serious study and appreciation of stamps was the function of the philatelic society, which in South Africa began to appear in the 'nineties. On a previous occasion, I have referred to our own predecessor, the Maritzburg Philatelic Society of the middle 'nineties, which met monthly in the old Y.M.C.A. Hall. Study of stamps and the exchange of duplicates were not then thought sufficient to interest the average collector, and entertainment was introduced to attract new

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members. In September 1895 a stamp auction was held, but 'with musical selections'. At the social evening of that year, a gymnastic display was included in the programme. I find however that the inclusion of extraneous entertainment is not uncommon at the present day. Last year, a report from Torquay informed readers of the journal, **Philately,** that, after the business of the meeting, members were 'treated to a display of magic and mental telepathy'. At Normanshurst, at one of its monthly meetings, the Society listened to an address on British pre-adhesive marks, after which members were 'entertained to a fireworks display lasting nearly half-an-hour'.

In general, however, it may be said that there are so many shades of interest and so wholesome a variety of activities in philately itself that the scientific basis of the hobby can be said to be securely established. Collectors indeed tend to wander into ever fresh fields of philately, some of them perhaps savouring of the souvenir. Nevertheless, in South Africa as elsewhere, the sum total of accurate and specialised philatelic knowledge has steadily been increased.

Collectors' Wants & Offers

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AIR MAIL NOTES.

3rd April 1954 — CENTRAL AFRICAN AIRWAYS.

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To commemorate the inauguration of the first direct airmail service between Southern Rhodesia and Natal, **Central African Airways** issued souvenir covers suitably inscribed in dark and light blue printing. Official "Greetings" messages were enclosed, which read inter alia:

"The flight, which is initially being operated every Saturday by the well known British built Vickers Viking aircraft, is scheduled non-stop, and takes only four and a half hours each way.

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First Flight covers were postmarked at Salisbury at 6 a.m. and backstamped at Durban 12.30 p.m. April 3rd, the return flight covers being postmarked Durban 1.45 p.m. and backstamped at Salisbury the same day. The Pilot in charge of the flights was Capt. M. O'Donovan.

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AUSTRALIA.

A 3½d. stamp is due for issue on 9 June honouring the Australian Red Cross Society, and will be on sale for about one month.

The Society was founded as a branch of the British Red Cross Society in 1914, becoming an autonomous body in 1927 and in 1941 it was incorporated by Royal Charter. This is therefore the 40th anniversary of foundation and it also happens that this year is the 90th anniversary of the first Geneva Convention of 1864.

The new stamp will be bi-coloured; it comprises a representation of part of the Southern Hemisphere with Australia figuring prominently. The Red Cross emblem is in the top left corner, with a beam of light extending to the globe. The emblem is in scarlet with the rest of the design in blue.

The 2½d. and 6½d. of the regular Q.E. issue are announced for appearance on 23rd June. Design the same as the 3½d. which appeared in April.

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SWAZILAND—POSTAL HISTORY and STAMPS

By
J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

(Continued from page 96 of May issue.)

Postal Stationery.

No Z.A.R. Postal Stationery was overprinted "Swazieland" for use in the territory.

In The South African Philatelist, Vol. I, p. 5, 1895 it is stated that in 1893 a Transvaal Postcard so overprinted was announced by **Senf's Journal** to have been issued in Bremersdorp. The information is stated to have been supplied to Senf by the local postmaster. It turned out, however, to have been a **bogus** card not authorised by the authorities.

The So-called "Government Reprints."

I have long wondered why the Z.A.R. stamps bearing the overprint "Swazieland.", with a full stop after the word, have been termed "Government Reprints". A search through more or less contemporary philatelic publications gives, I think, a clue, and I hope to convince readers that the term is a misnomer given through a mistake, but once given it has stuck. There is still some mystery about them, nevertheless.

The earliest note about them I have found is in "The South African Philatelist", No. 1, Vol. I, p. 7, of November 1895. (This publication, be it noted, was the first of its name, owned, edited, practically entirely written, and published by Messrs. S. A. Klagsbrun and S. F. Epstein. It only had a lifetime of six monthly numbers).

The first note is one of warning about the four values of Swazieland stamps with a full stop after the surcharge, "of which I have seen a large quantity." They may have to be designated forgeries but the writer promises to make further enquiries at headquarters.

In the next issue, Dec., 1895, p. 12 there is quoted a letter from the P.M.G., Mr. I. van Alphen to the Postmaster of Johannesburg, the translation of which is:

"In response to your request, I have the pleasure hereby to certify that the stamps surcharged 'Swazieland" (with a full stop after it) bought by you from the Head Office, form portion of a supply of 10 sheets each of the ½, 1, and 2p., and one sheet of 10/-, of which the printing took place in the month of July, 1894.

"I gave instructions that these stamps should be printed from the old type, and the difference has only now been noticed by me, and grieves me."

Comment by the editors of "The South African Philatelist" is:—

"It will be seen from the letter that this printing took place in July 1894, **long after they were withdrawn from circulation.** In reply to my query why they were reprinted, I was informed that it was on account of political reasons which could not be divulged to me. **It is therefore evident that they are Official Reprints."** (Bold letters mine. J.H.H.P.).

Had the first phrase in bold letters been correct, the second sentence in bold letters would have been justified, but the first phrase is **not correct,** the ordinary stamps (without full stop) had **not** been withdrawn from circulation in July, 1894.

Proof of this is to be found in the Notice published in the Z.A.R. Official Gazette of 5 Sept., 1894 (quoted later) where it is made quite clear that the overprinted stamps were valid up till 7 Nov., 1894.

It may be mentioned that in the "S.A. Ph." No. 1, p. 6, in the article on Swaziland already referred to it is stated that in Jan. 1893 notice was given that Swazieland stamps would not be valid after 7 Nov., of that year. Either the editors slipped up a year over the date or the date 1893 was amended (unnoticed by them) to 1894. Anyhow, there is no question about 7 Nov. 1894 being finally correct.

In "Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal", Vol. IV, p. 157, 1896 the letter from Mr. van Alphen is quoted from "The South African Philatelist". The fact is noted that the ordinary Swaziland stamps **did not go out of use till 7 Nov., 1894** "and therefore, presumably, the stamps printed in the previous July might have been used. The small stock then surcharged does not, however, appear to have been intended for postal use, as it is stated to have been made for political reasons which could not be divulged. Influential Native Chiefs perhaps required them for Court Dress — or Court Plaster!"

They also say that if the printing had taken place 'long after the ordinary stamps were withdrawn from circulation' the difference which distinguishes the reprints from the originals could not be such a grief to philatelists as it was to Mr. van Alphen.

Apparently they accepted the stamps as "reprints" and as such they have been listed ever since.

I cannot agree that "Reprints" is a correct designation for these stamps, but just what they should be called defeats me. It depends, I should say, on the intention behind them.

If, as Mr. van Alphen says, they should have been printed from the old type, might they not quite well have been just a fresh printing to keep up stocks?

On the other hand, there may quite well have been some political reason behind them. At that date negotiations were going on over a new Convention about Swaziland and they might have been intended as stamps to be used either until the new Convention (by which Britain stepped out and Swaziland became a purely Z.A.R. Protectorate) came into force, or possibly even for use after the Convention was agreed upon and became operative. If the latter was the intention, then of course it was departed from as Z.A.R. stamps without any

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overprint were then used.

I may mention that A. E. Basden has stated that he had been informed on excellent authority that the so-called reprints had been prepared for use, but that with the coming into being of the next stage in Swaziland's history they were not required.

And there I think the question must remain in the hope that some documentary evidence may yet be found which will put the intention behind the stamps, and their proper status, beyond doubt.

Here follows a description of these stamps:—

The Government Reprints — so-called. These were made in July, 1894 on the ½d., 1d., 2d. and 10/- denominations. The overprint is of the same type as that of the 1889-92 issue but there is a stop after "Swazieland". The length of the word is, as before, 13 mm. but with the stop the overall length is 14 mm. There were 10 sheets of each of the three lower values so printed and one sheet of the 10/-.

At least two errors are known in these stamps (a) Stamp No. 13, the third in the second row, has in all values a fancy initial "S", and (b) the ½d. occurs with the overprint inverted. I have not seen or heard of inverted overprints in the other values.

There is some variety about the stops; some are round and some square, some are "on the line" and some are slightly raised. I have a block of 32 of the ½d. and on this there are 25 square stops, all on the line, 4 round stops slightly "above the line" and 3 round stops on the line.

Although these stamps were never issued for use there are in the Hunt collection the three lower values postmarked "Darkton/Swaziel—1 Aug. 94", presumably complaisance markiing for somebody who had managed to get hold of some of these stamps.

(To be continued.)

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Mr. D. C. Styles reports in "Stamp Collecting" new postmarks from the Falkland Islands Dependencies. These are of a common British type, single-circles of 23 mm. diameter and they now bear a local place name in addition to the territorial name. These recorded so far are Hope Bay/Graham Land, Port Lockeroy/Graham Land, Signy Island/South Orkneys, and Admiralty Bay/South Shetlands. The old rubber stamp type is said to be still in use in South Georgia.

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The Royal Philatelic Society announces the publication on 20th May of the 3rd part of this work, with numerous illustrations. It embodies the Embossed issues and the Surface-printed issues of Queen Victoria and King Edward VII. It is actually a new edition of the latter part of Seymour's Part 2, rewritten and extended from 1865 to 1910 by Major K. M. Beaumont and Mr. H. C. V. Adams in collaboration with Messrs. F. C. Holland, W. R. D. Wiggins and H. W. Eddison.

Price £1. Special Edition de Luxe limited to 100 numbered copies, price two guineas; this edition reserved for members of the Society until 31st May when copies unsold will be available to the public.

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SOCIETY NEWS.

FEDERATED SOCIETIES

Cape Town, Royal P.S. of, P.O. Box 1973, Cape Town	2nd & 4th Thursdays, St. Johns Church Hall, cor. Long & Waterkant Streets, Cape Town.
Copperbelt, P.S. of, P.O. Box 211, Kitwe, N.R.	3rd Thursday, Jewish Synagogue, Kitwe.
East London P.S., P.O. Box 925, East London	2nd Friday, Red Cross House, Commissioner Street, East London.
East Rand P.S., 157 Woburn Avenue, Benoni	3rd Tuesday at 8 p.m., Regent Hatel, Benoni.
Germiston P.S., 57 Driehoek Road, Germiston	2nd Wednesday, Volkskas Bank Building, Germiston.
Grahamstown P.S., 20 Market St., Grahamstown	2nd Friday, 1 Thompson St., Grahamstown.
Jewish Guild P. Section, c/o. P.O. Box 10, Jhb.	Last Thursday at Jewish Guild Memorial Hall, Jhb.
Johannesburgse, Afrikaanse Fil. Vereniging, 82 Kruger Avenue, Selwyn, Florida	1st Friday, 8 p.m., 2nd Saturday, 2.30 p.m., Room 91, Public Library, Johannesburg.
Johannesburg Phil. Society of, Box 4967, Joh'burg	2nd Tuesday, 4th Monday, Room 97, Public Library, Johannesburg.
Ladysmith, Colenso & District P.S., c/o. P.O. Box 109, Ladysmith	Women's I. Club, 350 Burgers St., Maritzburg.
Maritzburg P.S., P.O. Box 256, Pietermaritzurg	2nd Wednesday, Room 4, Salisbury Polytechnic, Salisbury.
Mashonaland P.S., P.O. Box 74, Causeway, S.R.	1st and 3rd Wednesday, 7.30 p.m., 31 London Assurance House, 319 Smith Street, Durban.
Natal, P.S. of, P.O. Box 588, Durban	4th Friday at Free State Technical College, Bloemfontein.
O.F.S. & Basutoland P.S., Box 702, Bloemfontein	2nd Wednesday, Paarl African Trust Building, Main Street, Paarl.
Paarlse Posseëlversamelaarsver., c/o. P.O. Box 528, Zuider Paarl	1st & 3rd Tuesday, Room 3, City Hall, P. Elizabeth.
Port Elizabeth P.S., P.O. Box 3, Port Elizabeth	1st & 3rd Monday, Council Chamber, Technical College, Pretoria.
Pretoria, Afrikaanse Fil. Ver. van, Box 281, Pretoria	2nd Wednesday, Railway Recreation Club, Berea Park, Pretoria.
Pretoria Philatelic Society, Box 514, Pretoria	1st Wednesday, Royal Hotel, cor. 6th Ave./Rhodes Street, Bulawayo.
Pretoria Railway P.S., Railway Recr. Club, Berea Park, Pretoria	2nd and 4th Monday, St. Johns Church Parish Hall, cor. Longmarket and Waterkant Sts., Cape Town
Rhodesia, P.S. of, P.O. Box 803, Bulawayo, S.R.	Arranged during Academic Year, Senior Common Room, Students' Union.
Springs & Dist. P.S., P.O. Box 688, Springs	4th Wednesday, Parish Hall, Amelia St., Roodepoort
Thematic Stamp Club, P.O. Box 4290, Cape Town	
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Western Rand, P.S. of, 157 Durban Deep, Roodepoort, Transvaal	

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG.

At the meeting of **March 11th** Commander C. E. D. Enoch showed an exhibit of stamps of the world in alphabetical order — each stamp being the first issued in the particular country. He described it as an alphabetical tour of the world. The exhibit was part of his "No. 1" stamp collection. The countries shown included Argentine No. 1 on cover, Australia No. 1. Bahamas S.G. 2 which he described as a rarity of S.G. 1, Bermuda, Barbados, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, G.B. 1d. Black in all plates.

In India he showed the Scinde stamp besides the first Indian stamp. There were also stamps of Israel, Jordan, Siam, South West Africa, Union of South Africa, White Russia and Zululand. All the letters of the alphabet were represented except "Q" and "X". Commander Enoch apologized for the absence of Queensland No. 1.

Many of the countries shown had different shades of the No. 1 stamp shewn. Some were mint, others fine used and some were in blocks. Commander Enoch read a paper on his exhibit.

Mr. Ferguson spoke on the exhibit which was much appreciated by the members and visitors present.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF WESTERN RAND

The regular monthly meeting was held in the Parish Hall, Roodepoort, on the **28th April, 1954,** and Mr. Keet presided with 8 members and 2 visitors present. After the usual business had been concluded, Mr. Henderson tabled a sideline of "Bits and Pieces" and was suitably thanked by Mr. O. Botha on behalf of the Society.

Following the tea interval, Mr. Bertie Simpkins displayed his Cayman Islands Specimens and in thanking him for his interesting exhibit, Mr. Jack Burrell stated that it was the first time any club member had shown Specimens of any country and the first time he had ever seen postal stationery marked Specimen. Mr. Burrell commented on the scarcity of certain items, especially the colour trial in red on thick paper. The display was in perfect condition and worth its money. H.F.H.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

April 5th.

Mr. F. C. Ferguson, the Convenor and Quiz Master for the evening's entertainment which was in the form of an inter-society quiz, once again was the inspiration behind a most entertaining programme. The two other Pretoria Societies, Railway and Afrikaanse, made up the participating trio. Two changes in the advertised personnel were announced at the meeting, Mrs. Pienaar replacing Prof. Gonin in the Afrikaanse Team and Mr. Peisach was vice Mr. Slater Kinghorn in ours. Mr. Bottomley deputised as adjudicator for Mr. L. E. Orkin who was out of town. After a series of very interesting and entertaining questions had been put to all the teams, Pretoria Railway and ourselves emerged as joint winners, which position did not become altered despite additional questions to both teams to attempt to obtain an outright winner.

April 20th.

Mr. J. E. Frankland of Johannesburg was responsible for the evening's fare and that he provided in the manner expected of him. His exhibit, preceded by a most informative short talk on his subject, was of the heads of Edward VII covering the period 1860-1919. The mint collection shown comprised a large number of "specimens" including several in strips and was superbly mounted and in beautiful condition. Numerous rarities were found scattered throughout the exhibit.

EIRE.

Two stamps of the 3d. and 5d. values were due for issue on 24th May to commemorate the Marian year. The main feature of the design is a pictorial representation of a Della Robia Madonna and Child in the crypt of San Guetano, Florence. "Eire" appears at the foot of the stamp and "Annus Marianus 1953-1954" at the top.

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THE

SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST

PROPRIETORS AND PUBLISHERS :

The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

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

Vol. 30. No. 7. JULY, 1954. Whole No. 352.

UNION NOTES

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

RECENT PRINTINGS.

The Publicity Officer of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs has kindly supplied the following information covering the period from 22.1.1954 to 21.4.1954. For the previous list see our June issue.

Ordinary Pictorial Postage Stamps.

½d. — Job No. 14150/3. On an order for 14,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, 14,500 were delivered on 11.3.54. Same cylinders as before, Nos. 31 (Int.) and 70 (Ext.).

1d. — Job No. 12478 contd. On an order for 1,000,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, the total supplied up to the final date of delivery on 13.4.54 was 1,125, 637 sheets. Same cylinders as before, Nos. 54 (Int.) and 53 (Ext.). Delivery on this order commenced on 11.6.53.

— Job No. 17426/3. On a new order for 650,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, the first delivery was made on 15.4.54 and 19,500 sheets have been supplied to date. Same cylinders as before, Nos. 54 (Int.) and 53 (Ext.).

4d. — Job No. 12744. On an order for 30,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, the first delivery was made on 18.3.54 and 36,500 sheets supplied up to the final date of 1.4.54. Same one colour cylinder, No. 103, as before.

6d. — Job No. 12745 contd. On an order for 50,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, 54,223 sheets were supplied up to the final date of delivery on 9.2.54. The same cylinders as before, Nos. 6930 (Int.) and 6 (Ext.), were employed for part of the final batch and then two new cylinders Nos. 85 (Int.) and 32 (Ext.) for those sheets delivered from 2.2.54 to 9.2.54.

1/- — Job No. 17558/3. On a new order of 50,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, the first delivery was made on 23.3.54 and 23,500 sheets have been supplied to date. Same cylinders as before, Nos. 66 (Int.) and 3 (Ext.).

O.F.S. Centenary Postage Stamps.

2d. — Job No. 11073/3 contd. On an order for 300,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, the total supplied up to the final date of delivery on 15.4.54 was 325,616 sheets. Same cylinders throughout, Nos. 1 (Int.) and 104 (Ext.).

Roll Stamps.

1d. — Job No. 4113 contd. On an order for 12,000 rolls of 506 stamps per roll and 7,000 rolls of 1,012 stamps per roll, the number of the former supplied up to the final date of delivery on 1.4.54 was 15,273 rolls and that of the latter, 7,312 rolls. Printed in sheets of 264 stamps per sheet from same one colour cylinder as before, No. 97.

Air Letter Cards.

6d. — Job No. 8659 contd. On an order for 6,000,000 cards, 2,084,400 have been delivered to date. New cylinders as in previous order.

Pictorial Post Cards.

1d. — Job No. 8570. On a new order for 2,720,000 cards, the first delivery was made on 10.12.53 and 137,280 cards have been supplied to date. Same printing on Chambon Machine.

"Official" Stamps.

The following were supplied by the P.M.G and overprinted OFFICIAL—OFFISIEEL on 18.3.54.

1d. — 499 sheets x 240 (Cyl. Nos. 54 Int./53 Ext).

1/- — 499 sheets x 120 (Cyl. Nos. 66 Int./3 Ext.).

5/- — 499 sheets x 60 (Cyl. Nos. 72 Int./8 Ext.).

Overprinted S.W.A. — Air Letters and Registered Envelopes.

The following were supplied by the Postmaster-General and overprinted S.W.A.:—

6d. Air Letter Cards — 28,800, delivered on 9.2.54.

4d. Registered Envelopes — 28,800 delivered on 23.3.54.

Customs Stamps.

Supplied by the Postmaster-General and overprinted DOUANE.

½d. — 999 sheets x 240 pictorial postage stamps, on 15.2.54.

Interesting Discovery of Inscriptional Variety on 1d. Bicoloured Roll Stamps.

From time to time we have drawn attention in these columns, to that curious feature, peculiar to Union stamps printed by rotogravure, where, due to the fact that they are inscribed in English and Afrikaans alternately, the same interior flaw has appeared in conjunction with frames inscribed in both languages. The most recent reference was in these "Notes" of January, 1953, the stamp being the current 2d. definitive, where the variety was shown to have

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appeared as a result of interior cylinders etched from the same multopositive being used in conjunction with frame cylinders produced from different multopositives, i.e., with a different language order. Before that, it was the ½d. denomination printed from the frame cylinders Nos. 7020B and 11B which were etched from different rows of the same multopositive. A previous occasion was in the large format 2d. roll stamps, but here the cause was connected with the manner in which the 21st and 22nd rows of images were etched on the centre and frame cylinders.

To Dr. T. B. Berry of Bryanston, Transvaal, now goes the credit for the latest discovery that this phenomenon is also found on the last of the 1d. bi-coloured roll stamps, but due to quite a different cause — one which he calls "mistiming" in the actual printing.

These particular stamps were the last of the 1d. bi-coloured roll issue in use between the middle of 1940 and the latter part of 1943 and were printed from cylinders 2? Interior and 24, Exterior. A small quantity was sold in the sheet form, which is most fortunate because an examination of one of these sheets indicates how this variety must have originated. In both of the side margins there is a short horizontal red line with a similar black line printed over and almost obliterating it. It seems obvious therefore that these lines were etched on the cylinders to be used as "timing" marks, so that in printing, as long as the cylinders were positioned for the marks to coincide, the relationship of the centres and frames would not vary, no matter how many printings were made.

Reference to the information about the quantities of stamps printed, published in "The S.A. Philatelist" between December, 1940 and August, 1942, shows that these stamps were in fact printed at different times and it is evident that in one of these printings, probably the first (which was part of a different job from the lateer ones) the setting was incorrect and the centre cylinder started to print one row of stamps too soon in relation to the frame cylinder.





A comparison between some strips taken from the rolls and the sheets shows that they fall into two groups. On some of the strips and the sheets, a particular centre flaw appears in conjunction with an Afrikaans inscribed frame, whereas in the other strips it can be shown, from a comparison of the various frame flaws, that this same centre flaw is in conjunction with the English inscribed frame immediately below.

Unfortunately is has not been possible to obtain examples illustrating the same flaw in all three forms, but the accompanying photographs show the variety as it appeared in the sheet form with the frame in Afrikaans, and in the "mistimed" rolls with an English frame.

New Issue of "Officials".

We have been advised by the Publicity Officer of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, Pretoria, that a new issue of the 1/-, 2/6 and 5/- "Official" stamps is now in use, but with overprints similar to those of the last issue.

The particular printings of the three denominations used for the new "Officials" are:—

1/- — Cylinder Nos. 66/3.
2/6 — Cylinder Nos. 51/5.
5/- — Cylinder Nos. 72/8.

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In the case of the 2/6 value, only the upper half of the sheets has been overprinted and therefore no cylinder blocks of these particular "Officials" are available.

New Printing of the 1d. Van Riebeeck Ship Postage Stamp.

In connection with the new printing of the 1d. pictorial postage stamps produced from cylinders Nos. 54/48, and mentioned on page 99 of our June "Notes", Mr. J. B. Levy of Bloemfontein has since shown us several copies of 1d. stamps taken from sheets of the previous cylinder combination "54/53", in which the white horizontal lines of the upper and lower inscription tablets in the frame design show distinct signs of cylinder wear.

These particular specimens evidently formed part of the final consignment of sheets produced from the "54/53" printing — which incidently made its first appearance in February 1953 — and indicates the reason for the introduction of the new frame cylinder, No. 48, in conjunction with the old interior cylinder No. 54.

There is little or no difference in the black and carmine shades of the new stamps to distinguish them from the final printings of the previous issue.

Missing Perforation Variety on the 1/- Pictorial (Plate V) Stamps.

Our accompanying photograph of a block of the 1/- pictorials illustrates a missing perforation variety which appeared on a number of sheets of the "6926/6935" (Plate V) printing of these stamps towards the end of 1952. They were reported as having been on sale at some post offices in the coastal areas and to the best of our knowledge were never found in any of the O.F.S. or Transvaal towns.



As indicated by the position of the top marginal arrow, the variety occurred at the junctions of the vertical and horizontal gutters between the 4th and 5th stamps in the row, and was present in every row including the top and bottom margins of the sheets.

The particular batch of sheets on which the missing perf. appeared formed part of that consignment which was current at the time with five-figure black sheet numbers, a characteristic indicating that the printing machine employed for their production was the one incorporating the single comb perforator as distinct fror the other type with the multiple (eleven-comb) perforating equipment. The result of one of the perforating pins breaking during the printing of some of the sheets has shown up in the variety now illustrated and which, incidetnly, only recently became available for reproduction.

Adhesive Parcel Labels.

To the post offices listed under Section 30 of the Union Handbook/Catalogue as having had National Cash Register (N.C.R.) parcel label machines installed, and also to those recorded in Supplement No. 6 (December 1952) and our "Notes" of August 1953, should be added the following list recently furnished by Dr. J. F. Fick of Goedgegun, Swaziland.

Benoni — Transvaal.
Boksburg — Transvaal.
Vereeniging — Transvaal.
Pietersburg — Transvaal.
West End, Durban — Natal.
Ladysmith — Natal.
Estcourt — Natal.
North End, Port Elizabeth — Cape.
De Aar — Cape.
Paarl — Cape.
Grahamstown — Cape.
Queenstown — Cape.
Kroonstad — Orange Free State.

Increased Air Mail, Registration and Postcard Rates.

Increased postage rates for the transmission of letters and postcards by air within the Union and to countries of the African Postal Union were introduced by the Postmaster-General on the 1st July, 1954.

With effect from that date the practice of charging the same postage for both air and surface mail was discontinued and the sender now has to affix an air mail label for conveyance by air and pay an dditional 1d. per ounce for letters and ½d. each on postcards and lightweight letter-cards.

The surface mail rate for postcards has also been increased from 1d. to 1½d. each, but lightweight air letter-cards can now be conveyed by ordinary surface mail for 1½d. instead of at the previous rate of 2d. One other change of importance to stamp collectors is the increase in the Registration fee from 4d. to 6d. per article.

The new rates are as follows:

Air Mail —

Letters, 3d. for the first ounce and 2d. for each additional ounce.

Postcards and lightweight letter-cards, 2d. each.

Surface Mail—

Letters, 2d. for the first ounce and 1d. for each additional ounce (no change).

Postcards, 1½d. each (increase of ½d.).

Lightweight letter-cards, 1½d. each (decrease of ½d.).

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Registration—

Increase in fee from 4d. to 6d. per article.

The countries of the African Postal Union are.—

Union of South Africa.
South West Africa.
Bechuanaland Protectorate.
Basutoland.
Swaziland.
Southern Rhodesia.
Northern Rhodesia.
Nyasaland Protectorate.
Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika.
Mozambique.
Angola.
Belgian Congo.
French Equatorial Africa.
French Cameroons.
Madagascar.

Union Handbook/Catalogue Supplement.

The work of compiling the Supplement to the "Handbook/Catalogue on the Union of South Africa Stamps "is making excellent progress and with the information already to hand the various Sections are now being reviewed one by one in preparation for the final stages of bringing the book up to date.

Zero hour for the receipt of further information is now rapidly approaching and those collectors who may still wish to forward any notes, corrections or subject matter which they consider might assist the Committee in their revision of the Van Riebeeck Tercentenary Edition of the Handbook are urgently advised to do so without further delay.

Please address all letters in connection with the Supplement to Mr. Sam Legator, P.O. Box 133, Brakpan, Transvaal, South Africa, and it will be appreciated by the Committee if it is understood that because of the considerable amount of work involved and the limited time at their disposal, they will be unable to enter into any correspondence on the matter.

Postal Stationery — Registered Envelopes.

We have been advised by Mr. S. J. Vermaak of Florida, Transvaal, that the latest registered envelope, which we recorded in our May "Notes" as having appeared on sale in March this year, actually became available early in November, 1953.

AUSTRALIA.

To mark the centenary of the issue of the first postage stamps in Western Australia the combined philatelic societies of that territory are holding an exhibition, **"Wapex" in** Perth on Aug. 2-6, 1954.

The P.M.G. has agreed to issue a special stamp for the occasion. In addition there will be Exhibition covers, labels and souvenir sheets, the last depicting three of the 1854 stamps in natural colour, 1d., 4d. and 1/- values. Covers at 3d., sheets of 12 labels at 1/- and the three souvenir sheets at 2/- each (plus postage) are obtainable from Mr. J. L. C'Zelinski 56 The Avenue, Nedlands, W. Australia.

The Philatelic Bureau, Melbourne is going right into the First Day cover business. Standard envelopes for philatelic purposes have been designed and will be suitable for all new stamps issued; they will be sold at 2d. each. Further, departmental officers will address covers at 2d. each and affix stamps for a further charge of 2d. (additional to the value of the stamps to be affixed). They will service any kind of previously addressed envelopes however, upon payment of the cost of the stamps and the service charge of 2d. So here is more collecting made easy for you!

SOME RECENT AUCTIONS.

Robson Lowe:

N.S.W. Sydney Views. 1d. Plate 2 carmine-lake £17/10/-.

2d. Plate 1 deep grey-blue, "3" doubly struck, £42.

Diadem issue 1855-56 Perkins Bacon Essay, £51.

3d. green with error wmk. '2' for '3', £225.

G.B. 1848 1d. rouletted 12 by Archer, £45.

1864-79 1d. pair imperf. between, £31.

1902-10 £1 green, strip of 3, £22.

1942 1d. aniline scarlet, block of 4, one with no cross on crown, £33.

1913 £1 green, corner block of 4, £75.

Pitcairn Is. 1891 cover franked with U.S.A. 5c., £42.

S. Georgia. Card with "Deutschland" sticker and cachet, £27.

Uruguay 1856 Diligencia 60c. (S.G. 2), £26.

N.Z. 1855 1/-, £60.

1862 1/- rouletted 7, £30.

1902 1d. carmine, mint pair perf. 11, £32.

1907 1/- Reefton Provisional, £22.

Lagos 1884-86 10/- purple-brown, £42.

Malta 1919-20 10/- black, £32.

Mauritius 1848 Post Paid 1d., £245.

H. R. Harmer:

Grenada 1938-50 10/- perf. 12, £16.

Kenya £1 (S.G. 143), £8.

Natal 1902-03 £20 and 1908 £1/10/- both "specimens", £5/10/-.

G.B. 1867-83 £5 with plate flaw, £34.

1873-80 2½d. with lettering error (S.G. 140), £150.

Sierra Leone, complete Wilberforce set, £31.

Gambia 3/- (S.G. 139), £12.

Cyprus £1 (S.G. 101), £18.

Leeward Is. £1 (S.G. 105), £20.

Canada 1897 $4 (S.G. 139), £11/10/-.

Newfoundland 2d. (S.G. 2), £42.

Do. 3c. 1937 pair, imperf. between, £70.

S. Nigeria £1 (S.G. 19), £11.

Egypt Port Fuad 50 pi. (S.G. 188), £28.

B. Guiana "Cottonreel" 4c. (S.G. 2), £105.

Bavaria 1849 6kr., pair, £400.

Brunswick 1852 1 sgr., pair, £525.

St. Helena 1863 6d., surcharge omitted (S.G. 6), £180.

Seychelles 18c. on 45c., surcharge double (S.G. 30a), £84.

6c. Jubilee, extra flagstaff, £16.

Belgian Congo 1886 5fr. mauve, block of 4, £110.

John H. Wicks:

Basutoland 1d. (S.G. 11) bisected and surcharged ½d| by a postmaster, 17/6.

Boer War, Machadodorp postcard £1/12/6.

Barbados 5/- (S.G. 64), £5/10/-.

Union Official Souvenir Card of 1925 Air Mails, £11.

Union Cover with 9d. air mail imperf. at left, £10/10/-.

Cape 6d. (S.G. 7a), £9/15/-.

Do. 1d. Woodblock (S.G. 13), £13.

Do. 4d. (S.G. 19b), slate-blue, £7.

Cape 4d. Woodblock, pale grey-blue, £10/10/-

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"FIT FOR A KING."

.....No, we are not offering any item from the Farouk collection, but just a few choice stamps which would add lustre to most collections:—

AUSTRALIA 1927 1½d. S.G. 105 a block of four showing marginal Nt. Plate 12 — rare	£4	0	0
BRITISH GUIANA 1862 2c. S.G. 117 with clear rouletting on three sides and good margin on fourth, fine used	£7	10	0
CANADA 1888/97 3c. S.G. 105 fine Mint copy with B.P.A. cert.	£12	0	0
CAYMAN IS. 1912/20 2/- and 3/- S.G. 49 and 50, Die Proof before hardening 17 Jan. '12 each **£6**; the two	£11	10	0
CEYLON 1863/66 2d. S.G. 79 an outstanding superb used copy	£7	10	0
GRENADA 1886 1d. on 1/- S.G. 38d, cat. £12 used and unpriced Mint—a fine Mint copy	£6	15	0
HONG KONG 1898 $1 on 96c. Chinese characters each side S.G. 52e	£5	10	0
MOROCCO AGENCIES 1907/12 12P. on 10/-, a superb used blk. of four on small piece	£9	0	0
NEVIS 1861 1/- S.G. 8 the rare unissued imperf. variety with "Royal" cert.	£35	0	0
NEW ZEALAND 1905/06 1d. Imperf. S.G. 422 a mint pair	£9	0	0
ST. HELENA 1908 10/- S.G. 71 superb used on piece	£8	10	0
SARAWAK 1869 3c. S.G. 1 blk. of eight with full gum	£4	0	0
SEYCHELLES 1901 3c. on 16c. a vertical pair, top stamp 3c. missing (S.G. 44f) lower stamp 3c. partly missing, with certificate	£24	0	0
SOUTH AFRICA 1927 6d. Pretoria printing (S.G. 32) colour trial, a fine marginal blk of 4	£9	10	0
SOUTHERN RHODESIA 1952 4d. Postage Due S.G. D5a	£2	0	0
TRINIDAD 1859 1/- S.G. 29 superb mint pair	£8	10	0
TURKS IS. 1881 ½d. on 1d. vertical pair, one stamp S.G. 21 and the other S.G. 24	£8	0	0
ZULULAND 1894/98 £1 S.G. 28, a superb used Plate copy	£6	15	0

All Mint except as stated.

B. J. Hunter

56a, EAST STREET, BRIGHTON 1, SUSSEX, ENGLAND.

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PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

16TH CONGRESS — DURBAN — 1-3 JUNE, 1954

(One motion before Congress was "that the full minutes be recorded in the S.A. Philatelist so that they are available to all philatelists". Congress decided that this was not advisable because (a) the length would make is prohibitively expensive (b) proceedings were often so discursive that a verbatim report would be difficult to follow (c) they would be boring to many readers, especially those overseas.

Congress was of opinion, however, that a fuller account of the proceedings might be given than had sometimes been the custom in the past; it was also suggested that the Congress Report might take the place for one month of the usual "Society News". The Editor agreed that this could be done, provided delegates would see to it that he would not get into hot water with their Societies for omitting their usual Society News items. So here is the Report.—Ed.).

This Congress, held under the auspices of the Philatelic Society of Natal, was fortunate in having been more or less adopted by the Durban Municipality as part of the celebrations of their centenary as a Borough. Congress was therefore given the use of a comfortable committee room in the municipal buildings for its meetings, whilst the host society had the magnificent City Hall for their Exhibition.

Congress was by far the largest ever held and of the 24 member-societies of the Federation only 3 were unrepresented, viz., the Copperbelt (N. Rhodesia), the most distant member; Lady-Smith, Colenso and District, the youngest member, their intended represenative having been prevented at the last moment; and the Springs and District Society.

The formal opening was by His Worship the Mayor of Durban, Councillor P. Osborn, at 2.30 p.m., 1st June. He postponed a meeting of his Council for a quarter of an hour to bid us welcome to Durban; in the course of his little speech he incidentally admitted that he knew nothing about philately, but he thought it must be an important subject as we looked to be a quite intelligent lot of people!

Mr. G. Milner Palmer, President of the Federation and of the Philatelic Society of Natal, then welcomed the delegates, reminding them of the birth of the Federation in Durban on 4 July, 1928, on the occasion of the International Philatelic Exhibition held in the city. After that we settled down to serious business, the first items being reports from various committees and sub-committees; most of these had been circulated beforehand.

The report by the **Executive Committee** was short, formal, and was adopted without comment.

The report of the **S.A. Philatelist Sub-Committee** revealed rather a sad state of affairs — a loss on the running for 1953 of £136 9s. 5d. This was not in any way due to a falling off in circulation, the monthly issue now being about 1,700 (it having steadily risen from about 1,000 several years back); the reason was mainly because of the steadily increasing rise in printing costs, together with a small falling off in the number of advertisements. The question to be faced was how to meet this deficit. Advertising rates had recently been raised and could not be put up any further. After discussion the following proposals put forward by the sub-committee were adopted by Congress; they did so regretfully, but there seemed to be no other way of keeping the journal running.

(1) That with effect from the 1st July 1954, the annual subscription for post free copies of the South African Philatelist should be increased:

(a) From 10/- to 12/- for subscribers in the Union and Southern Africa.

(b) From 10/- to 12/6 for subscribers in Great Britain, Europe and the rest of the world except America and Canada.

(c) From 10/- to $2 for subscribers in the Americas and Canada. Three-years subscription for $5.

(2) That the South African Philatelist committee be empowered to raise the retail price of single copies of the magazine from 1/- to 1/3 should it prove during the course of the second half of the year that such a policy was justified in order to avoid a heavy excess of expenditure over revenue.

(3) That delegates to Congress be asked to convey a message to their various Societies suggesting that all members should make fuller use of the Wants and Offers Column of the magazine in an endeavour to increase the number of small advertisements to the extent of at least one full page and by so doing to increase the advertising receipts and enlarge the scope and appeal of the magazine to all subscribers.

The Sub-Committee was of the opinion that with the adoption of the proposal dealing with the annual subscription there is every prospect of increasing the revenue by about £120 per year and with the support of members who use the "Wants and Offers" page there is every possibility of more than covering the heavier printing costs and loss of advertising which developed last year.

Congress further agreed to confirm the action of the Sub-Committee in advising the Prompt Printing Company (printers of the "South African Philatelist") that the type and blocks being used for the printing of the two articles on Swaziland and Basutoland by Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie and Mr. G. N. Gilbert respectively, and at present being published in serial form in the magazine, should be retained in its present set-up condition in preparation for reprinting both articles in booklet form.

Expert Committee. The work of this committee for the past year was one of consolidation, but its services are not yet being utilised to the extent it would like. The reference collection of forgeries is being steadily increased; with this to refer to and with the generous help it can get from its body of consultants, it feels that it is now fully in a position to report competently on stamps from 'Africa south of the

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Equator'. One group of stamps in particular which it feels might be submitted more often for opinion is the Cape Triangulars, there being so much material about which is either completely bogus or has been more or less extensively tampered with.

Handbook Finance Sub-Committee. A few months ago it was reported that there was a loss of some £108 in the publication of the Handbook although there were still quite a lot of copies of it on hand. Sales are still going on although the rate has slowed down considerably.

Congress agreed with the sub-committee's suggestion that the issue of a Supplement — a sort of Vol. II of the Handbook/Catalogue— bringing it up-to-date with issues since 1952 and making various corrections to the already published data, would be the best means of stimulating sales of the original Handbook.

Sales in the future will now all be sheer profit for the magnificent gift of £250 was announced from the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town. A special vote of thanks to the "Royal" was given by Congress for this truly regal gift. The money came from the profits of SATISE and the special Satise Committee was included in the vote of thanks. There were no tight leading strings attached to the gift, other than it was intended for the financing of publications by the Federation and particularly towards a Handbook/Catalogue Supplement.

The Editors of the Handbook were given a free hand towards such publication, but with the hope that they would push on with it as quickly as possible. They announced that it might be possible to get it out this year; they already had a lot of matter in hand, but there was still much to do. They re-iterated their invitation (which had been published in the S.A. Philatelist, but had not been much complied with) to any Union collector to send to Mr. S. Legator, P.O. Box 133, Brakpan any material which he might think worthy of inclusion; but they also stated again that it would be impossible for them to embark on any correspondence on the matter. The decision to include or not to include must rest entirely with them.

At this stage Dr. A. Kaplan tendered his resignation as one of the Handbook Editors. He was pressed not to do so as his services were considered too valuable to be lost, but he was adamant and so his resignation was regretfully accepted. Congress passed him a hearty vote of thanks for his most excellent services. Dr. T. B. Berry was appointed as 3rd Co-Editor.

This finished the first session of Congress, it being broken off early to permit individual members to go to the City Hall to assist in the fixing-up of the Exhibition. Because of a civic banquet the night before the hall had only become available that morning and it was an urgent matter to get the show ready for the official opening in the evening.

On resuming next morning (2nd June) the first matter to need attention was the question of Proxy Voting. It is already in the constitution that no one officially attending Congress may represent in person more than one member-society, for the simple reason that if he did so he might be required to put forward two completely opposite views. Proxies were also constitutionally allowed but there is nothing to say that a delegate may not hold these from two or more societies. It was agreed that this was quite an illogical situation and it was left to the Executive to draft the necessary amendment.

Report of the **Darmstadt Sub-Committee.** It had unfortunately not been possible to circulate this report beforehand as certain information from the Postal Authorities which the sub-committee considered vital for them to have, had only been received a few days before Congress. One society had intimated that it thought no action should be taken until all societies had received the report. After hearing the report, however, Congress decided that this would hold up things unduly and that an announcement should be made of its decisions in the matter. It will still be possible for any society to press for a revision of the decisions if it thinks fit to do so.

The Sub-Committee had at first been unable to come to a definite decision as to the status of the Darmstadt Trials through lack of information on certain points. The information desired was only obtainable from the Postal Authorities so a letter was sent to the Hon. The Minister asking for an answer to certain specific queries put to him.

The Minister kindly gave instructions to his Department to supply the information desired as far as possible. This meant a lot of searching through old files and took much time. We wish to express our great indebtedness to the officers of the Department for the immense amount of trouble they have gone to over this matter.

Here follows an official statement from the Postmaster-General answering the specific questions, and it is largely on these answers that Congress has based the opinions come to regarding the Darmstadt Trials:—

Official Statement.

"(1) The Union Government had agreed to purchase the Goebel A.G. machine for printing stamps by rotogravure before the Darmstadt Trials were made, subject to a satisfactory report being received on the machine from Messrs. Hunter, Penrose Ltd., their Agents in this matter and satisfactory operation after installation in Pretoria by Goebel.

(2) Messrs. Hunter, Penrose Ltd. were instructed to test various inks and papers in the machine and were specifically told to use the design of the current Union 1d. stamps for comparative purposes in this new system.

(3) They were instructed to test the official Springbok-watermarked paper made by Samuel Jones, in the final trials.

(4) Prints of the Union 1d. stamp made by the Government Printer from the Waterlow plates were employed by a printer in the Union's service to make a design for the cylinders made in Leiden for use on the machine at Darmstadt.

(5) After the Darmstadt trials were finished these cylinders were sent to the Union but they were found to be so worn that they could not be used for the preparation of actual stamps for postal use.

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(6) The same design as was employed for the cylinders made in Leiden was used by the Government Printer in Pretoria to make the cylinders for the 1d. rotogravure stamps first issued in April, 1930.

(7) These stamps made in Darmstadt can in no way be considered is an official stamp issue."

With the information in the above Official Statement available to it Congress came to the following conclusions:—

(1) The 1d. stamps made at Darmstadt in 1929 in the form of complete stamps resembling the then current Union 1d. stamp, also separate centre-plate and frame-plate printings of the same, must be regarded as authorised Trials or Proofs of the Union 1d. Rotogravure stamps as subsequently issued from Pretoria in April, 1930.

(2) The stamps did not appear under any official authority, but this does not affect their status as authorised Trials or Proofs.

This recognition of the Darmstadt Trials as fully authorised of course reverses the decision come to by Congress at its meeting in Cape Town in 1952. That decision and the decision of the Editors of the Handbook/Catalogue not to include them were based on information given to the Editors confidentially, but coming from a quarter which they could not ignore. That information, essentially to the effect that the Trials were in no way authorised by the Union Government, has now been shown to be completely erroneous.

Congress expressed the view that in the circumstances the Editors had made no error of judgement two years ago, but was of opinion that the Trials should now be included in the Handbook Supplement. The Editors concurred that this should be done.

The "Booysen" Essay — Union Handbook, p. 79. The Darmstadt Sub-Committee also submitted a brief statement about this, as it was germane to their subject, although it had not been specifically put in their terms of reference. Congress agreed to accept their statement for discussion.

The Postal Authorities stated that Mr. Booysen had not been sent to Darmstadt in the first instance by the Government Printer to study the working of the Goebel machine, but to Leiden to learn the process of etching plates for use on that machine. He had no instructions to print anything in particular.

He made an etching of the 'Essay' referred to and ran off copies of it on a small machine in Leiden. There was no Goebel machine there.

With that knowledge available Congress came to the view that the so-called 'Official Essay' was a purely private effort, that it did not represent a stage in the development of any Union stamp, and that the statement in the Handbook about it should be amended accordingly.

Amendments to the Constitution. Several put forward by the Executive Committee dealt with the putting forward of names for election to the Roll of Honour or for the Award of the Skinner Cup. It has been the accepted custom in the past for Societies putting forward names to submit also a citation setting out the qualifications of their nominees. This year at least one name had been submitted without any citation whatsoever. In future a citation **must** accompany the nomination; failing this the name will not be considered by the Executive.

Congress, or Executive, Committees or Sub-Committees have in the past been appointed without any term for their existence being specified. Now they will be subject to election annually at the first meeting of the Executive after Congress.

Roll of Honour. W. N. ("Bill") Sheffield was elected to the Roll of Honour of Distinguished South African Philatelists for his excellent work as one of the editors of the Union Handbook/Catalogue and as Sub-Editor for "Union Notes" in the South African Philatelist. His very extensive Union collections and wide knowledge of Union stamps amply qualified him for this honour. He subsequently signed the Roll at the banquet given by the host society.

Skinner Cup. This cup, awarded annually for the best work for philately done during the twelvemonth preceding Congress, was given this year to Mr. S. J. Vermaak of Johannesburg. His qualifications were (a) His large share in bringing the Afrikaanse Filatelistiese Vereniging to its present stage of excellency; (b) His work as principal organiser of the display given in the Johannesburg Public Library in connection with the Centenary of the Cape Trianguler issue; (c) His large share in the preparation of the English-Afrikaans Glossary of Philatelic Terms.

Venue of Executive Committee Meetings. A proposal came from Cape Town that these meetings should not be permanently in Johannesburg but that they should move round every three years to other centres by arrangement with the Societies in the various Provinces.

It was agreed that the proposal had much to recommend it as an ideal, as it would widen active interest in the Federation, but the practical working out of the scheme seemed to present insuperable difficulties. It was agreed that it might be workable so far as Cape Town itself was concerned, but in Natal, O.F.S. and Rhodesia there were in their societies simply not enough philatelists available to provide the necessary number of alternate representatives and quorums at meetings.

Federation Constitution. Although copies of this have fairly recently been sent to all societies and delegates, many seem either not to have received them or to have lost them. Fully revised, dated copies will be sent as soon as possible to all concerned.

Juries at Exhibitions. Although Bye-Laws for the running of National and International Exhibitions have been drawn up it was felt that more detailed instructions for juries should be prepared. The matter was left to the Executive for consideration.

Union New Issue Descriptions. Suggestions were made as to how the Handbook editorial committee could more quickly compile lists of flaws and errors for publication, but most of them on discussion proved to be quite impracticable. Actually there is as little delay as possible already, but the matter will not be lost sight of.

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At the final session of Congress on the morning of the 3rd June various requests or suggestions to the Postal Authorities were considered and here the attendance of officials of the P.O. Publicity Department was much appreciated.

Christmas Stamps as Semi-Postals. A proposal that the Christmas stamps should become semi-postals was not approved by Congress. The reasons were (a) Many collectors do not like semi-postal issues at all; (b) the Post Office does not like them because of the greatly increased amount of accounting they **en**tail; (c) Such a changeover would mean a great loss to the Anti-Tuberculosis Fund; that this would be the case was proved by the experience of the post office with other semi-postal issues.

Philatelic Cancelling. The Post Office does issue instructions how to do this nicely on First-Day covers and the like, but with the ever-present shortage of staff it is not infrequently necessary to engage temporary staff and they simply don't care. Also it has to be remembered that the prime object of cancellation is to render stamps useless for re-usage, not to provide pretty objects for collectors. In the permanent rush of mail handling the latter object has to take second place.

Stamps removed from Mail. This was reported to be much less frequently occurring now than it had been in the past. That it still occurs at all is probably again largely due to irresponsibles.

Special Post Offices. Here the equipment and staffing are sometimes very much at the mercy of the situation of the offices and beyond the control of the Post Office officials.

Generally speaking the feeling was expressed that the Post Office really treats collectors very well and that we were tending to become too exigent in our requests. Do we really want to become completely spoon-fed and off a silver plate at that? Where does the fun and excitement of hunting for first class material come in if everything is to be dished up to us in perfect condition so easily?

Unnecessary Issues. The hope was very seriously expressed that the forthcoming Union issue of animal stamps would not be too quickly followed by sets of bird, fish or plant stamps. That would ruin the reputation of Union stamps among collectors generally. Our barometer of popularity at present stands high, let us hope that it will remain at 'Set Fair' for a long time. Five to ten years would probably be a reasonable lifetime for any general issue of stamps.

Very strong feelings were expressed on the subject of **"Officials"**. Away with them! The possible original need for them departmentally disappeared entirely when (admittedly at the request of philatelists) they were made available to the public. To-day they practically duplicate the ordinary Union stamps so that we have two complete series on issue concurrently.

Congress was advised to communicate its views on this subject directly to the P.M.G. and this will certainly be done.

1955 Congress. The previous tentative request that it be held in Pretoria was now confirmed. The date will be sometime in the period 30th October to 15th November. Both Pretoria and the Transvaal are celebrating Centenaries next year so this will probably mean another issue of Commemoratives. Paarl was tentatively suggested as a venue for 1956. (There is some kind of a Wine celebration in view!) but the date suggested as sometime in February would be too soon after the Pretoria Congress.

Officers for 1954-1955. The following were elected: President, Mr. F. C. Ferguson; Vice-Presidents, Mr. J. D. Rossouw for the Cape; Mr. L. Buchen for the Transvaal; Mr. W. H. Winde for Natal; Mr. G. N. Gilbert for the O.F.S.: Mme. C. Birsen for Rhodesia. Mr. J. Michelson was re-appointed Secretary to the Federation and Business Manager for the S.A. Philatelist.

A change in the Constitution was agreed to by unanimous consent whereby the outgoing President should automatically be on the Executive for the ensuing year as Immediate Past President. Mr. G. Milner Palmer will therefore serve on the Executive until next Congress.

Congress Paper — "Philately by any other Name . . . ." This paper by Mr. W. G. Hesse, read in his absence by Mr. E. Schaiowitz, was given a Congress Award. It dealt with the various developments of Philately since it first came into existence, up to the latest one "Themately". The author pleaded for unity amongst all collectors however much diversity there might be in their specialisation. See the other fellow's point of view and all live amicably togetjher, was his plea. The article will appear in due course in the S.A. Philatelist.

SATISE Accounts. Mr. Hall explained how these had been kept, especially how the financial control came partly under the general Van Riebeeck Celebrations committee, and not entirely under the Cape Town Society. Congress expressed itself satisfied with the explanation, merely wondering why it could not have been given earlier. Mr. Hall had another very pleasant little surprise for Congress, announcing that the Satise Committee was to give a free gift of £25 to every member-society of the Federation. This was coming from the profits made at the Exhibition. His announcement was received with great acclamation, representatives of some of the smaller societies saying that they had never had such an amount to their credit throughout their existence.

Reference may be made to the entertainment provided for the visitors to Durban, but it must be brief for the statement was made that a long description of the lighter side of Congress was very boring to those who had not been there. There was an excellent banquet one evening and a cocktail party given by the Mayor on another. During spare hours of the day-time there were bowls, a visit to the Oil Refinery, stamp auctions to attend, the Stamp Exhibition to see (a little more about this anon). Also, of course, there was always the beach with bathing and surfing and the weather was very delightful, neither too hot, too cold, nor too windy. To sum up — a very very good time was had by all.

STAMP EXHIBITION.

In the City Hall the Society staged an Exhibition well worthy of its splendid venue, although they were somewhat hampered in getting it set out as they only had access to the Hall the morning of the day it was opened. With

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numerous willing helpers, however, all was ready for the Deputy Mayor to declare it officially open.

Entries were more numerous than had been hoped for, exceeding a hundred, but there was ample frame space without crowding. They came from all over the Union and several from Rhodesia.

Africa and Europe were well displayed, both old and modern issues, N. America and Australia figured in a few collections but S. America and Asia were practically unrepresented, except perhaps in some thematic collections. The last formed quite a feature in the exhibition and seemed to be specially favoured by the general public. Rumour hath it that the Jury had considerable difficulty in adjudication here. This is hardly to be wondered at; assessing those in any particular group may be easy enough but when it comes to determining which is the "best" among collections of, say, musicians, ships, plants and churches, how does one determine which has the greatest appeal or general interest?

Awards consisted of Silver and Bronze Plaques and Certificates of Merit. Eleven Silver Plaques were given, the winners being L. Buchen, B. Glassman, Mrs. G. Hunt, A. R. Kleiner, Dr. H. Pirie, C. Selwyn Smith, Capt. M. F. Stern, J. G. Walker and Dr. L. Young. Seventeen Bronze Plaques and thirty-three Certificates of Merit. It is understood that the Plaques run true to stamp production principles, and that there is a spelling error on them, but unfortunately they are all 'errors', with no 'normals'.

An excellent Catalogue was available. This, in addition, to listing the various exhibits, with short descriptions, contained (1) a Historical sketch of the Philatelic Society of Natal by Mrs. Lionel Bevis, from 1911 onwards. (2) An account of the early Postal History of Natal, by Prof. A. F. Hattersley. One particularly interesting item deals with a cancellation applied to mail picked up en route between Durban and Maritzburg by runners about 1858-1862. This consists of the three letters P R or P R U D (Per Runner Up or Per Runner Down). A specimen of the former came to light in London recently, but was quite unknown. (3) Lists of the early Natal Numeral Postal Cancellations and of Natal Post Offices Prior to Union, by J. H. H. Chamberlain. Most useful for reference purposes.

The Post Office Authorities provided a special Post Office with Canceller and Registration stamp. The Canceller was a beautifully produced one, giving a very clear, neat postmark. It will be noted that it was of fixed date (1-4 June) pattern, so there are no really First-Day covers.



The number of articles registered has been given as 714, but do not be surprised if your number is in the three thousands; they did not start with No. 1, but somewhere about No. 3,000.

In addition to the stamp exhibits there were also a few cases with coins and medals, mostly S. African but some from other parts of the world.

CENTRAL AFRICAN FEDERATION.

George v.d. Berg writes in "Stamps":—

Watch the rush for "Last Day" (June 30) covers from the two Rhodesias and Nyasaland which bid fair to be far more exciting than the new Central African Federation ones dated July 1st. As in the new Union of South Africa after 1910, "mixed franking" will doubtless be permitted, i.e. you can use any of the undemonitized stamps from all three of these states anywhere in the Federation. It will be much like Newfoundlands being valid in Canada now. What a stream of philatelic covers will result!!



We are indebted to "The Star", Johannesburg, for the accompanying illustration of the three types of the new Federation stamps. The set issued on July 1 comprises the same values as in the S. Rhodesia Elizabethan set, plus a 1/3 stamp.

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Musical Quotations

ADDITIONAL CHAPTER BY Dr. K. Freund.

"Music hath charms", as somebody named Shakespeare once fittingly remarked. So if you want to have a charming stamp collection for a change, you know what to do and what to collect.

My good friend, E. Schaiowitz, gave an interesting survey of some philatelic musical quotations in the October number of this magazine. His list however is by no means complete, as there are many further noteworthy philatelic music scores. Some have also appeared on stamps, others have featured in cancellations and in cachets, and they all should certainly not be overlooked in a collection of this type. In addition, some corrections have to be made in regard to items which were recorded in the October number.

MUSIC SCORES ON STAMPS.

A medieval Music Score. Music bars in a typical old church-music style appears on a stamp which was issued in a 1939 set by Hungary in aid of the Protestant Cultural Fund. On the 20f. value of this set, you can see a stern-looking gentleman (Molnar di Szenczi) busily scribbling "ecclesiastical scores" into a fat volume, using a goose-feather. A fine example of his efforts appears in the left top corner of the stamp, the opening bars of a psalm. This interesting old-style score has been unnoticed so far, as I have not seen it recorded anywhere It should, in fact, form a splendid opening item in your collection of philatelic musical quotations.

Germany-Finsterwalde. Like many other German towns, Finterwalde thought fit to issue an emergency post-war set on its own in 1945. This set — listed in Gibbons' Catalogue — consists of 12 stamps which show in their design a musical score with an interesting history. On top of the stamps, we find the legend "Sangerstadt", meaning the "town of singers." Immediately below the Town Hall in the centre of the stamp design, there are two opening bars of a music score which appear to have been also overlooked so far. In spite of the crude printing, a well-copied music quotation is clearly visible even without the aid of a magnifyer. Its origin is a theme from Beethoven's Trio, op. 11. The only fault of the extract is the omission of the time signature which should be "$\frac{4}{8}$"

Here is the story how Finsterwalde came to be connected with it: In the good old days, a travelling vaudeville-troupe — a male quartette from Finsterwalde — adopted this theme as their "signature tune", to use a modern expression. The tune became very popular and a sort of folksong. The opening words were: "Wir sind die Sanger von Finsterwalde", and ever since, Finsterwalde has always been associated with the tune. I remember it well, it used to be my grandfather's favourite melody (the only one he knew). At the slightest provocation he would burst into this song with a beautiful bass voice, though slightly off-key.

In addition to the set of 12 stamps, two Miniature sheets were also issued containing four of the stamps with the music score.

Cuban National Anthem. In 1952, Cuba issued a 10c. Special Delivery stamp (in a "5th Anniversary" set) which features prominently the opening bars (and words) of her National Anthem. There appears to be no musical error in this well-drawn score. I presume however that the note in the 4th bar is meant to be an open "minim", not a solid "crochet", as it frequently appears to be, due to overinking.

"Boogie-woogie" addicts may note that although the music is from Cuba, it does not resemble in this instance any Rhumba or Conga style, but has only a very ordinary 2/4 beat.

Composer Berlioz. An open music book is shown on two stamps which France has issued in commemoration of her composer Hector Berlioz (Intellectuals' Fund 1936, and do. 1938). The stamp designer was obviously no great shakes in music theory: He appears to have made some strained but not quite successful attempts of copying certain music notes and bars in the open music book, not unlike the type little Willie would produce in his first music theory lesson. Alas, no particular score can be deciphered. Still, it is a music score and as such to be included in our collection.

Corrections — Enescu. Schaiowitz lists three Roumanian stamps with extracts from Enescu's Roumanian Rhapsody, and he mentions also a miniature sheet which he obviously has not seen and on which, as he says, "the name of the composition is clearly mentioned". The fact is that Roumania has issued two miniature sheets (not listed by Gibbons owing to their policy of omitting miniature sheets), and what is more interesting, these sheets present in my opinion the most striking examples of philatelic music scores. They are in the form of realistic reproductions of actual sheet music in reduced size (2nd "Rapsodie Romana", op. 11 No. 2). Only the central part of the "pages" is obscured by the formation of a block of 12 perforated stamps and 4 souvenir labels.

Fibich. Nobody appears to have managed so far to trace the origin of the clear, but peculiar music score which adorns the two Fibich stamps issued by Czechoslovakia in 1950 (See Schaiowitz, p. 182). Well, after some fearless digging and scraping in stacks of music reference works, I am now happy to announce that it is from one of Fibich's operas, namely the "Blarnika", and that it forms the so-called "Leitmotif" of this opera (Wagnerian influence), in the bass-clef.

National Anthems. Here are some brief corrections and additions in regard to Anthems already listed by Schaiowitz:

Argentine: Besides the miniature sheet issued in 1940 in the 5c. value, a second one in different colours with a 5c. and 50p. value was also issued, showing 4 bars of the Argentine anthem.

Bolivia. In addition to the 6 stamps already listed, two miniature sheets were also issued, one containing the 30 cts., the other one the 2 Bs. anthem stamp. The sheets give also a brief history of the anthem.

Chile. Not two bars, but only one bar appears on the anthem stamp of 1947.

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Czechoslovakia. Schaiowitz mentions the music sheet with 15 stamps. To be exact, there are actually two of these large sheets, one of each value. The sheets are listed in Gibbons' catalogue and have come to be regarded as the "classic rarities" of musical philately. Dangerous forgeries of them are in existence, but can be detected by certain minute characteristics.

Luxemburg. A Luxemburg "Fine Arts" stamp supposed to have been issued in 1950 and to show a music score, is cited by Schaiowitz in error and does not exist. There are however two values of the "Intellectuals set" of 1953 in existence, the 10c. and the 2fr., which show a pronounced musical quotation of two bars in the left bottom corner.

Poland. There are altogether 3 stamps which have been issued by Italy in 1945 for the use of Polish Forces and which show in beautiful photogravure the first 4 bars of the Polish Anthem: (a) a brown "13 Centow" stamp; (b) a black "1 Lir." stamp from a different set; (c) a miniature sheet of the "1Lir".

MUSIC SCORES IN POSTMARKS.

Germany (Saar). When after a Plebiscite the Saar was returned to Germany in 1935, the general merriment turned even a postmark to become "musical". Mail posted in Saarbrucken at that time received a special pictorial cancellation, showing in a picture frame a well-copied beautiful music score and the opening words of the song "Deutsch ist die Saar."

Germany. During a "Singing Contest" which took place in Wiesbaden in July 1935, a special postmark was applied in this town featuring two outsize music notes, two joined "quavers" to be exact.

In recent years, various music festivals in several German towns were also the occasion for special postmarks featuring a symbolical solitary music note, usually a quaver.

Norway. A special musical band-cancellation was applied in Norway from the 30th September to the 6th October 1945, advertising the Norwegian Music Week. The music score consisted of a quotation from a march tune from Grieg's "Sigurd Jorsalfen".

Denmark. In 1951, several Danish post offices applied a pictorial postmark in an "anti-noise" campaign. The cancellation contained the words "Damp Radioen" and a sort of an irregular music score with a number of "quavers" and "semiquavers" liberally sprinkled about.

MUSIC SCORES ON SOUVENIR COVERS.

A very interesting supplement to a collection of musical quotations in philately can be provided by the inclusion of the various artistic souvenir covers which have been issued in many countries in connection with some musical event and which show extracts of well-known compositions. Pages with such covers showing in striking succession row upon row of prominent music scores, will give the collection just that finishing touch of a proper philatelic "music book".

It would go too far to enumerate all known officially, semi-officially and privately manufactured covers that have been issued in this regard. Here are just a few typical and striking examples, presented in music-chronological order:

Medieval church music style. Let us start off the musical programme on covers again with an early example of medieval church music. Italy issued a stamp in 1950 in commemoration of one of her early composers, Guido d'Arezzo, who died 900 years ago. The stamp was overprinted for use in Trieste (Amgot), and in conjunction with it Trieste issued also a special souvenir cover. The cover is adorned with an old print showing two church saints playing a one-stringed music instrument, below which there is an interesting music score of four large bars in typical old church-music style, presumable one of d'Arezzo's early compositions.

Old-English "Musical Envelopes". The next items in our musical performance on covers could be the classical and most elusive British "Musical Envelopes", those quaint pictorial covers which accompanied the issue of the Mulready envelopes. Suitable in this regard would be "Fores' Pictorial Envelope", No. 2 ("Music"), and the attractive Musical Envelopes published by R. W. Hume in 1840. The latter were issued in a set, and each different type was adorned on the cover flaps of the letter sheets with the complete music score of an old English song (sample No. 1: "O for Ane and Twenty, Tam").

A Chopin Manuscript. There is even the manuscript of a piano piece by Chopin to be found on an official cover which may be added next! It is a very attractive, fine-etched reproduction adorning a First Day cover issued by Czechoslovakia in connection with the 2 Chopin stamps of 1949. The manuscript shows the complete Piano score of one of Chopin's small Preludes, a "Largo", including Chopin's signature.

Beethoven's "Ninth". Extracts from the world's greatest music classic, Beethoven's "Ninth", have also appeared on covers. The first bars of the famous chorus "Freude schöner Göttterfunken" from this monumental symphony appear in the cachet of a First Day cover which was issued together with the "Berlin Philharmonic" set of two stamps in October 1950. This special cover was supplied and postmarked at the Travelling Post Office at the Titania Palace in Berlin at a concert conducted by Wilhelm Furtwängler.

Another excerpt from a later passage of this great chorus, four double bars in the violin and bass clef, appear on a First Day Cover which was issued in conjunction with the Beethoven issue of two stamps in 1952.

"The Blue Danube". Austria has issued First Day covers in connection with most of the composer stamps of recent years. These artistic covers were mostly designed by W. Dachauer who died last year and who is known mainly as the designer of many of the modern Austrian issues. Some of the covers have music scores, and particularly mentioned may be the Johann Strauss (Son) cover with its pretty "Blue Danube" score.

A special artistic post card was available in Austria at Christmas time in connection with the Christmas Carol stamp "Silent Night, Holy Night". The post card has a drawing of three singing "Sängerknaben", and below this picture the opening bars of that lovely world-famous carol.

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American music. Of interest are also the various sets of U.S.A. covers which were issued by several American art-printing firms in connection with the "Famous Composers" stamps of 1940 and with the "Francis Scott Key" stamp of 1948. They all show interesting extracts of various American songs and music pieces in their cachets.

A "final note". Lastly, there is the official souvenir cover which was issued by Israel at the occasion of the Music Festival at Ein-Gev in April 1950. This First Day cover features a huge, solitary "middle C" note, a "quaver", superimposed on the scene of the Festival.

With this "final note" let us "sound off" this philatelic musical programme.

Wants, Offers & Exchange

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

Collections and rarities especially Unions wanted for cash. Kindly contact—JOHN MENDELSSOHN, P.O. Box 1607, Johannesburg.

SOUTHERN NIGERIA. Full S.G. prices offered for superb used copies of S.G. 15, 17, and 28. — WILLIAM REDFORD, Box 1182, Johannesburg.

STAMPS.—Want lists invited for any country; specialities Union, S.W.A., British Africa. — LACY'S, Gillbern Buildings, cor. Plein and Mostert Streets, Cape Town.

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

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

WANTED. Union Postal Stationery (**Mint only**) and Inter-Provincials.—S. J. VERMAAK, P.O. Box 4566, Johannesburg.

SUIDERTYDING, die versamelaar se kwartaalblad sal u in aanraking met seëlliefhebbers in ander gebiede bring. Stuur asb. 'n gefrankeerde koevert, vir besonderhede, aan: SUIDHOEK STOKPERDJIES (Afd. S.A.P.), Posbus 8, Observatory, Kaapland, Suid-Afrika.

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

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

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

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

WANTED Mint sets of British Africa, Madagascar, Congo in exchange for recent Canada, U.S.A. (Collectors only) — WINSTON GRUSCYK, 56 Heathrow, Beverley Hills, Ontario, Canada.

THE GLORIOUS ISLANDS.

With reference to this litte group of islands, lying north of Madagascar, mentioned in our January issue p. 17, it is now reported in the "West-End Philatelist" that a meteorological expedition has recently surveyed them. A weather station, an airstrip, and possibly a post-office are to be established there this year and operated by the Madagascar authorities. Covers from the expedition had special hand-stamps and endorsements.

BASUTOLAND.

Mrs. C. Jacot-Guillarmod sends the following notes on several varieties in Basutoland stamps, not mentioned in Mr. Gilbert's recent articles.

"I have found the articles on Basutoland stamps and postal history, by Mr. Gilbert, most interesting, and I should like to add the following notes to his remarks on the definitive issues of Basutoland stamps.

First, in the K.G. V issue, there is, besides the two flaws he mentions, a further one on the ½d. issue. This is an extension of the middle fine border line on the right hand side of the stamp, to meet the bottom of the three fine border lines along the foot of the stamp. This extension is also considerably thickened. I have a block of mint stamps which shows on one stamp this flaw and as the block is from the left-hand edge of the sheet, the flaw must be No. 1 in the row, but I cannot locate the row, other than that it is **not** the last one (Row 10). I have two used copies also showing this flaw but these do not help to locate its position.

In the K.G. VI issue, there is at present on all sheets of the penny postage due stamps seen by me, a 'nicked D' on stamp No. 5, Row 7. This is clear to the naked eye.

Also in the K.G. VI issues, in the postal stationery, the issue of ½d. green postcards brought out about 1943 shows a much smaller format of the 'Post (arms) Card' across the top, than any other issue of postcards. This is on brownish wartime quality paper, and was probably a very small printing, as the postcard rate soon advanced to 1d.

A point of difference between the K.G. V and K.G. VI postcards, besides the obvious one of the change of sovereign's head, is the omission in the K.G. VI postcards of the G and R, one on either side of the crown in the arms, that were present in the K.G. V issues."

Elizabethan Issue. The Crown Agents have announced that a pictorial set incorporating the Queen's Head is on order from De La Rue. The stamps will be recess-printed, the values, colours and designs being as follows:—

½d. black and brown, Qiloane.
1d. black and green, Orange River.
2d. blue and orange, Mosuto horseman.
3d. green and red, Basuto household.
4½d. blue and ultramarine, Maletsunyane Falls.
6d. brown and green, Herdboy with Lesiba.
1/- green and mauve, Pastoral scene.
1/3 brown and blue-green, Lancers Gap.
2/6 blue and carmine, Old Fort Leribe.
5/- black and red, Mission Cave House.
10/- black and purple, Mohair.

No date of issue is as yet given. Aerogrammes have also been ordered, with the 6d. stamp in two colours.

Shades of the 6d. "Kendalian" states in the Stamp Magazine that although two shades of the 6d. are already listed in the Commonwealth Cat., the latest printing (released 17/3/54) is of a deeper shade of ochre than ever before.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Owing to increase in printing rates it has been necessary, regretfully, to raise the price of the S.A. Philatelist. For details see page 122.

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SHORT NOTICES.

LIFE International have intimated that their issue of 28th June will feature illustrations of a considerable number of the world's rarest stamps in full colour. To obtain the photographs they have contacted collectors the world over, and it is estimated that the current market value of the stamps shown is around a quarter of a million pounds.

Bernard Harmer gave a Television show of some of the highlights of this article, including an actual show of the block of the 24c. air mail invert.

Adventures in Stamps. Cambridge Productions of 17 East 45th Street, New York, announce the release of a series of 35 mm. colour filmstrip dealing with various phases of history, industrial development, etc., etc., as portrayed by stamps. The initial release will be "The Story of the Panama Canal"; later issues will include such subjects as Railroading in Stampdom, Discovery and Exploration of the North Pole, History of Aviation, Stamps cause Wars and Revolution, etc. The script is by Herbert Rosen, a well known columnist and lecturer on philatelic subjects. Such films should be popular at schools, community centres, etc.

Brapex III. This International Exhibition, being held in San Paulo, Brazil on 6-15 November, has issued its last information sheet. Entries must be in by 31 August. Thematic collections will be in a separate section from ordinary philatelic exhibits. Particulars and entry forms available on request.

Austrian Stamp Magazine. We have received several issues of this monthly (Vol. 4 Parts 1-4). It deals with philately (and themately) in general, but naturally with rather more emphasis on Austrian subjects. A useful magazine for readers familiar with German.

Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. The Year Book, published in connection with the Annual Meeting, held this year at Eastbourne, has as usual much detailed information about philatelists and societies in G.B. The following were elected to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists: L. J. Gilbert Lodge (Hon. Sec. of "The Royal") and Dr. H. Osborne, G.B.; A. G. Argyropoulus, Greece and W. S. Wolff de Beer (Holland). There are several short articles in the Year Book (1) Postal History of Eastbourne, by Mrs. I. M. Sharpin; (2) How can we improve the Philatelic Press, by Ian T. Hamilton; (3) The Society Newsletter, by J. F. Dight; (4) Philatelic Appreciation, by Capt. B. Rogers-Tillstone. R.N. (retired(.

Ultra Violet Rays. S.A. Philips (Pty.) Ltd. have issued a brochure on the use of their "Black Bulb" Ultra Violet Mercury Lamp. Copy on request from P.O. Box 7703, Johannesburg.

FRANCE.

A 15fr. stamp was issued on 22 May commemorating the jubilee of the Parisian Fair, which in itself was a rejuvenation of the fairs of the Middle Ages.

Another 8fr. appeared on 8 June of the current series. This depicts a view of the Seine valley at Andelys.

Also on 8 June, a 15fr. stamp commemorative of the Allies landings. It bears the word "Liberation' above a V and the Cross of Lorraine, and features the Allied Navies, a landing craft and a tank already ashore.

N. RHODESIA.

1d. Stamps O'ptd. "Postage Due".

Mr. J. F. Davidson of Nkana sends us for inspection a cover posted at Lusaka in July 1953 and franked with a 1½d. Coronation stamp. It was addressed to a native in Mkushi and there is an ordinary current 1d. stamp with a red overprint "Postage/Due/1d.", apparently applied by a typewriter.

The story goes that when the postage rate was raised from 1½d. to 2d. the Mkushi P.O. ran out of 1d. postage due labels, and the postmaster there was authorised by the P.M.G. to overprint the current 1d. postage stamp by typewriter and these stamps were used until the proper postage due labels became available.

The Copperbelt Philatelic Society, of which Mr. Davidson is the Hon. Sec. wrote to the P.M.G. about this matter, and in a letter dated 25.3.54 the P.M.G. stated that no stamps were overprinted to serve as postage due labels.

Where does the matter stand now? Such overprinted usage exists, but it is apparently not officially recognised as existing.

Mr. Davidson does not know for how long the usage went on, and covers with such usage are probably very scarce as the vast majority of the mail at Mkushi is African mail.

SOUTH AFRICA

1927 BRADBURY WILKINSON PRINTING.

S.G. 34-39, set complete 2d.-10/- at £12/10/-
S.G. 34 2d., mint at 5/-
S.G. 35 3d., mint at 10/-
S.G. 35a 4d., mint 15/-
S.G. 36 1/-, mint 25/-
S.G. 37 2/6, mint 50/-

All Perf. 14.

C. E. SHERWOOD,
"THE UNION SPECIALIST"
105 Marford Crescent, Sale, Manchester, G.B.

PHILIPPINES.

The Bureau of Posts announces the issue of (1) on 23 April of two stamps (5c. and 18c.) honouring the first National Jamboree of the Boy Scouts. They are stamps overprinted on older issues. (1) On 25 April 3 ordinary and 3 airmail stamps commemorating the centenary of the first Philippine stamps. The motif is a reproduction in the centre of the first stamp (Q. Isabella II 5c.) flanked by Magellan and a Filipino in native dress.

Both issues will appeal to thematic collectors.

Three further stamps were due for issue on 31 May (if they arrived on time from England) in honour of the 2nd Asian games being held in Manila.

A centenary Exhibition was held on 25 April-9 May.

We have received a copy of the year-book of the Philippine Philatelic Association, with a number of short articles, mainly dealing with local philately, about half of them in English and half in Spanish.

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A MYSTERY OF THE V.R.I. OVERPRINTS ON THE STAMPS OF THE O.V.S.

By
PETER SMITS.

In the following notes I will set out what appears as a mystery to me, as regards the setting of the "thick V's" in the reputed 3rd printing of the V.R.I. overprints.

Most collectors of the Orange Free State (including Orange River Colony) stamps are well acquainted with these three printings which are classified as follows:—

1. Level stops i.e. the periods are level with the bottom of the letters — V.R.I.
2. Mixed stops i.e. the periods are mostly raised above the bottom level of the letters —V·R·I:, but on some stamps level stops occur.
3. Raised stops and thick V's.

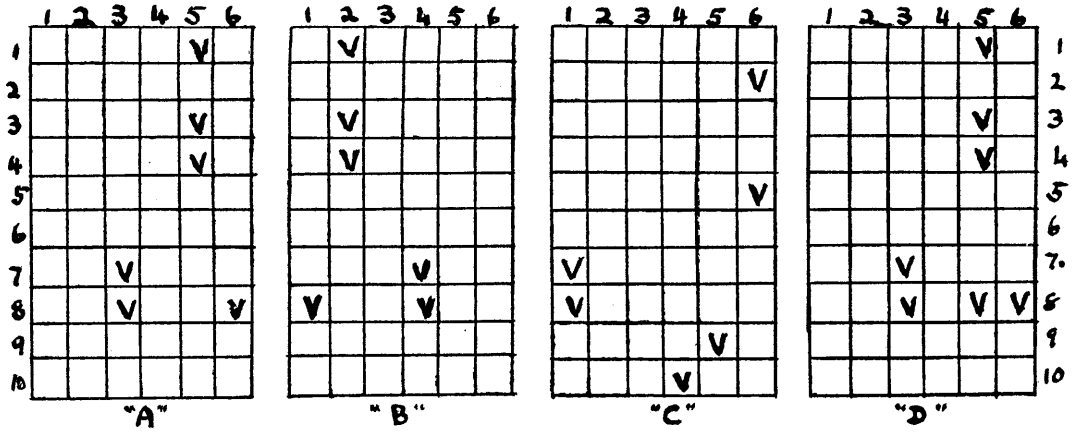
It is these last ones that worry me.

According to A. De Reuterskiold writing in Africa (Part III) published by the L.P.S. "All the surcharges (V.R.I.) made by the British Authorities on the stamps of its Orange Free State were set up in panes of sixty stamps, but in certain instances errors only exist on one or two of the four panes composing the sheet."

Are we to infer from this that each pane was surcharged with the same block setting and if so why do the errors (or varieties) only occur on some of the panes of each sheet?

Reuterskiold writing further states "Of this group there are numerous printings and they can be divided into four distinct settings, by the positions occupied by the stamps with the thick letter "V" on the panes.

The 4 settings he lists are as shown in the diagram. Geldhof repeats these.



The settings are said to have been used for the following **values:—**

A. ½d., (?), 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., (Ultramarine), 1/- and 5/-.

B. ½d., 1d., 2½d.

C. 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d. (Ult.), 6d. (Carmine).

D. ½d., 1d.

Reuterskiold also lists various errors which occur with each of these settings and for each of the different values. Geldhof confirms some of the error types and positions on panes but does not connect them with any particular setting.

However Geldhof gives our first discordant note. On page 28 of his book he states that "Curling's printing press was capable of printing only two panes at a time" whereas on page 30 he states that "the surcharging was done in panes of sixty". I cannot make out whether this second statement means that Curling's press, although capable of doing two panes, was only set-up to do one at a time or iif he is merely referring to the numbers of stamps per pane.

Whatever the meaning, we however form the opinion that—

(a) if the sheets were done two panes at a time **then there should be** two pairs of panes identically overprinted, i.e. in the panes

(1|2) 1 2 should correspond to 3 4

(3|4) or 1 3 should correspond to 2 4

and

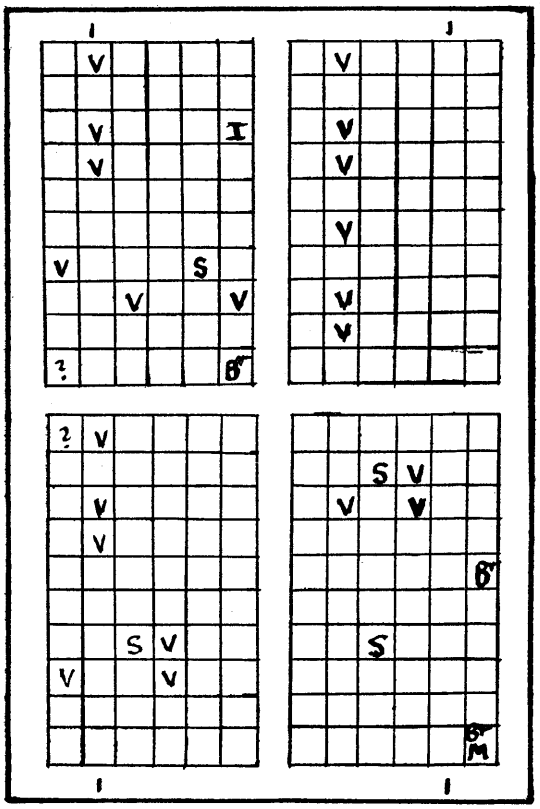
(b) if the sheets were done one pane at a time then each pane of a sheet should have a similar setting. I offer this argument as I feel that it would be unnecessary and costly to re-set the blocks when doing the top or bottom or individual panes of each sheet. It is possible however that sheets were folded to the size of one pane and inserted in this manner into the press and that after a series of panes had been done they were refolded to bring another pane into view and put through the press again — this press having meanwhile been re-set. As will be seen there are numerous possibilities but I can find no definite or really satisfactory answer.

This however is not the end for I have been shown a diagram of the settings for a whole sheet of the ½d. value. This diagram, which I reproduce below was made by Mr. Dodd of the Pretoria Philatelic Society from a complete sheet which was in his possession but which has since been broken up and disposed of so is no longer available for study or reference.

I am assured that this sheet was folded but whole when the diagram was made.

As will be seen only pane 3 confirms to a given setting — "B". Further this pane has only one of the errors or varieties recorded for this setting by Reuterskiold. His listing is as follows:

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V·R·I· ½d.
Plate 240 stamps.
V.—Thick V
S.—Small ½
M.—Mixed Stops V.R·I·
Br.—Broken V.
I.—No stop after I.

1. "each pane has the following variey", level stop after "V" 6th stamp, 10th row."
2. "Varieties found on some if not all panes"
   (i) Without stop after "V" 1st stamp 6th row.
   (ii) Wide space between "V" and "R". 1st stamp, 6th row.
   (iii) Small ½, 6th stamp, 10th row.

"On other panes this variety is found on the third stamp in the seventh row."

Here again we find disagreement with our specimen

sition and in addition iin two other posi-

(b) Error (2) (i) does not occur at all.
(c) Error (2) (ii) does not occur at all.
(d) Error (2) (iii) does not occur for the first position given but twice for the second position and in addition in two other positions i.e. 5th stamp 7th row, pane 1 and 3rd stamp 2nd row, pane4.

These observations bring to light many doubts and questions but the greatest of these are

(a) Why are the settings found on this sample sheet's panes 1, 2 and 4 not listed or
(b) Are we to take it that the settings listed by Reuterskiold (repeated by Geldhof) are only to be taken as representative of the sheets of the four settings of the so-called Third printing.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR THE MONTH.

AUSTRALIAN ROYAL VISITS MINT

3/6 PER SET.

QUEEN ISSUES.

ANTIGUA, complete mint	48	0
BAHAMAS, complete mint	51	0
BERMUDA, complete mint	51	0
BRITISH HONDURAS, complete mint	52	6
BRITISH SOMALILAND, complete mint	23	6
FALKLAND DEPENDENCIES, complete mint	50	0
GAMBIA, complete mint	54	0
GIBRALTAR, complete mint	45	6
HONG KONG, complete mint	31	0
KENYA, complete mint	46	6
LEEWARD ISLANDS, complete mint	49	6
NAURU, complete mint	10	6
RHODESIA AND NYASALAND (FED.) complete mint	50	0
ST. HELENA, complete mint	24	6
SEYCHELLES, complete mint	38	6
TONGA, complete mint	38	6
TRISTAN DA CUNHA, complete mint	25	0

Australia Telegraph Centenary, mint	0	4
Australia Red Cross, mint	0	4
Australia Van Diemen's Land Stamp Cent. mint	0	3

Canada New Queens 1-6c., mint	2	0
Canada New Animals, 4c., 5c. and 15c., mint	2	6

New Zealand Queens, mint	25	0
New Zealand New Officials	3	0

C. J. de Swart.

P.O. Box 281,
PRETORIA.

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SWAZILAND—POSTAL HISTORY and STAMPS

By
J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

(Continued from page 115 of June issue.)

CHAPTER 4.

Stages 3 and 4 of Swaziland's Postal History.

STAGE 3 1894-1899.

This stage of Swaziland's postal history corresponds with the status of the country as a purely Z.A.R. Protectorate The stamps used were the ordinary current stamps of the Z.A.R. without any overprint or other distinguishing feature, and their use in Swaziland is, of course, only recognisable by the postmarks.

The stage commenced in November, 1894, as is evidenced by a Notice published in the Z.A.R. official **Gazette** of 5 Sept., 1894, a translation of which reads:—

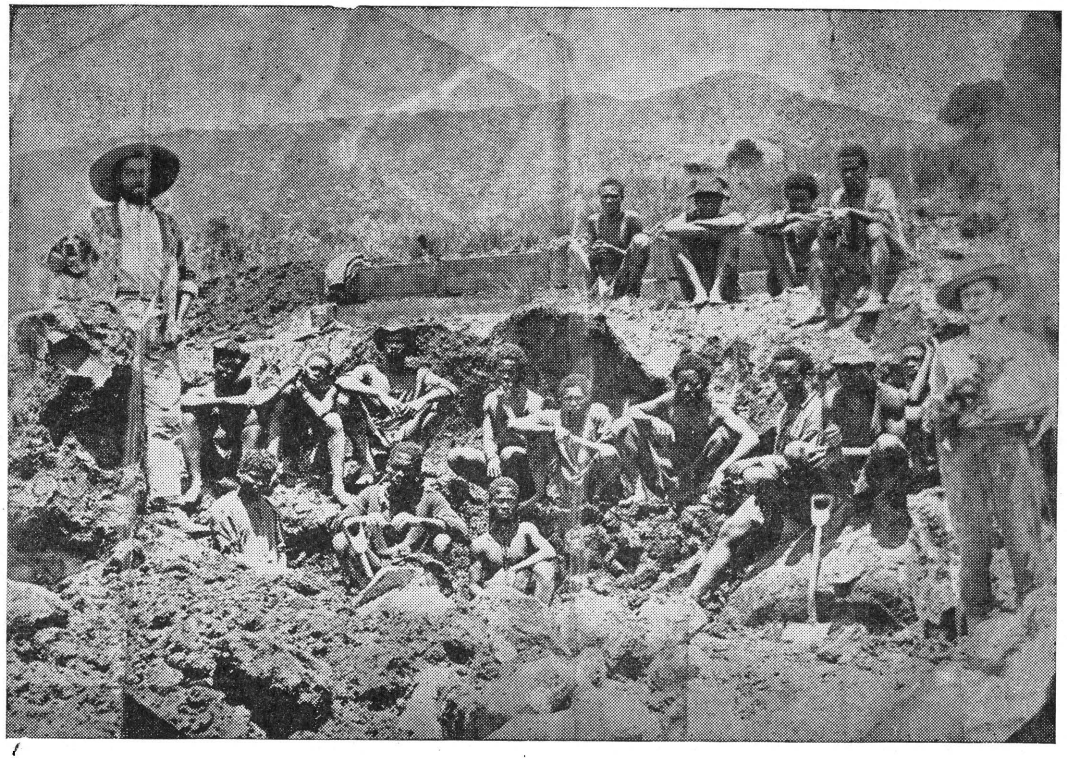
"It is hereby made known for general information that all postage stamps of the South African Republic overprinted with the word 'Swazieland' are hereby recalled, and after 7th November, 1894 are no longer legal payment for letters, papers, etc., or will be acknowledged or accepted for telegrams. Everyone, however, holding the demonetized stamps will be permitted to change them before the 7th November with the Postmaster of Bremersdorp for the usual stamps of the South African Republic, these stamps alone being valid."

The stage ended with the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War in 1899.

Postal Routes and Services.

Some information as to these is available from the official Z.A.R. Postal Guides ("Postgids") of the period and it is seen that there was some development from Stage 2.

In 1897 it is noted that telegraph offices were opened at Bremersdorp and Mbabane (or Embabaan, as it was spelled at first). Mbabane had come into the picture as a mining camp through the discovery of alluvial tin in the nearby river by Mr. S. T. Ryan.



Alluvial Tin Workings near Mbabane. Photo: S. T. Ryan.

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In the 1899 issue two routes are listed (a) Route 29 from Steynsdorp to Darkton, taking 2-3 hours twice weekly, and (b) Route 34 from Lake Chrissie to Darkton and on to Bremersdorp via Embabaan. The times given for this are 9 hours from Lake Chrissie to Darkton and on next day to Bremersdorp, 10 hours; twice weekly.

An accompanying map shews subsidiary routes (1) from Embabaan north to Pigg's Peak; (2) from Bremersdorp south-west to Mahamba; and (3) from Bremersdorp south-east to Umkwakweni. This is the only appearance of Umkwakweni in the postal history of Swaziland; there was definitely a Postal Agency there but whether or not it had its own canceller is not known. See map p. 142, "S.A. Ph.", 1953.

Post Offices and Postmarks of Stage 3.

(1) Bremersdorp. (A Money Order Office).

(a) Squared circle with "Bremersdorp/Swaziel" continued from stage 2.

(b) A squared circle of the same size as (a); the wording, however, is now "Bremersdorp/Z.A.R.". I have one of these with the year inverted so that it reads 14 Sept./86 instead of 14 Sept. 98.

(c) A double-circle mark of 24 mm. diameter, with "Bremersdorp/Z.A.R." and small stars separating the upper and lower letterings. Date in one line in the centre.

(2) Darkton. (A Money Order Office).

(a) Squared circle with "Darkton/Swaziel" as in Stage 2.

(b) Double-circle mark with "Darkton/Z.A.R.", also as in Stage 2.









(3) Embekelweni. (Not listed in 1899 **Postgids.**

(a) "718" as in Stage 2. In blue or in black.

(4) Mbabane. (Postal Agency. Agent, R. W. Thornton on 1-9-26).

(a) A squared circle, rather larger in size than those of Bremersdorp and Darkton and with only the upper half of the inner circle present. The date in 3 lines, thus "18/JAN/1898". In blue.

(b) Double-circle of 24 mm. diam, with "Embabaan/Z.A.R." and small stars separating the upper and lower letterings.

(5) "628" as in Stage 2.

All marks in black, except where blue is mentioned. A Postal Agency is definitely recorded as having been opened at 'Mdimba' (or 'Ndimba') on 1st Oct. 1897 but no postmark of it has been recorded. There were also Agencies at Pigg's Peak, Mahamba and Umkwakweni. The postmark of Umkwakweni, if any, is not known; those of Pigg's Peak and Mahamba only at a later stage.

The Stamps.

Z.A.R. stamps with Swaziland cancellations of this Stage are not readily come by; this is understandable, as except to someone interested in postmarks they would just be treated as ordinary Z.A.R. stamps.

Nor are covers much in evidence, certainly not so much as in Stage 2; I have one, however, practically certainly "philatelic" in nature, sent to an address in the Netherlands which is fairly commonly to be seen on covers and pieces with various overprinted stamps. This cover bears the following stamps: 'Halve Penny' on 2d. (S.G. No. 195), 1d. on 6d. (197), and 2½d. on 1/- (198).

Others which I have, not on cover, are:—

1885-93 issue ½d. (S.G. No. 175), 2d. (178), 4d. (181), 2/6 (184).

1894-95 issue (shafts) 1d. (201), 2d. (202).

1895-96 issue (disselboom) ½d. (205), 1d. (206), 2d. (207).

1895 provisionals 'Halve Penny' on 1/- (213), 1d. Commemorative (225), this latter is presumably used at this stage — the postmark is '718' with no date available.

1896-97 issue ½d. (216), 1d. (217).

Doubtless many others exist, submerged in 'Transvaal' collections.

Postal Stationery.

It seems quite likely that Z.A.R. postcards and possibly other forms of postal stationery, such as registered envelopes with embossed stamps and perhaps newspaper wrappers, were used during this period, but I have not seen any nor come across any record of such usage.

STAGE 4 1899-1902.

The postal history of Stage 4 is very easily described — there isn't any.

After the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer war in October, 1899 the Z.A.R. officials were withdrawn and the country was left without any postal services, or, indeed, any organised government, until a British administration took over after the end of the war in May, 1902. There are therefore no stamps or postmarks to describe or list.

(To be continued.)

S.W.A. AEROGRAMMES

The "Philatelic Magazine" reports three types of overprinted S.W.A. on South African Aerogrammes, both language varieties. The overprints are respectively (a) 12 x 3½ mm., (b) 14½ x 3 mm.; (c) 12 x 3 mm. These are on the latest type of Union Aerogramme.

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Sum insured under (A) is current value when cover effected. Items quoted in Gibbons at a price not exceeding £10 are taken at two-thirds the Gibbons price.

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Loss settlements under (A) or (B) at current value at time of loss or insured value where less: under (B) individually declared items at declared values.

Loss settlement under (D) is original selling price less sales before loss as recorded in Superintendent's accounts.

*"ALL RISKS" does not include the development of "rust" or "oxidization" or damage while under treatment for removal of paper hinges, cleaning, testing of watermarks, etc.

The use of some other standard catalogue as an alternative to Gibbons will be acceptable where appropriate.

The Provident Assurance Corporation of Africa Limited

PHILATELIC DEPARTMENT: P.O. BOX 2965, JOHANNESBURG.

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THE
SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST
PROPRIETORS AND PUBLISHERS:
The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

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

Vol. 30. No. 8. AUGUST, 1954. Whole No. 353.

UNION NOTES

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

Pictorial Postcard Plate Variations.

In the series of pictorial postcards catalogued in the Union Handbook/Catalogue under the numbers PC-25 to PC-40, Mr. E. Allison of Mowbray, Cape, records that at least three different sets of plates were used and furnishes details of the differences that exist in the four cards listed below. He states that others of the series show similar variations which in some cases are much more striking. His notes on the subject are as follows:

Plates "A" for PC-25 to PC-28.
Plates "B" for PC-29 to PC-30.
Plates "C" for PC-31 to PC-40.
("C" has better definition.)
"Height" means the height of the right hand part of the picture.

Measurements are usually to the nearest mm.
View "CANNON, OLD FORT, DURBAN."
Height — "A", 66mm., "B", 65mm.; "C", 63 mm.

Plate "A" shows the roof touching the top of the picture at the left, while Plate "B" shows it a couple of mm. below. The variations of the word CANNON are mentioned in the Union Handbook/Catalogue, but the following table, though incomplete, may be of interest:

Plate "A" — PC-25 or PC-27. The mistake on the inscription still shows as on page 288 of the Handbook. The word "CANNON" is 10 mm. long.

Plate "B" — PC-29. "CANNON" is 12 mm. long.

Plate "C" — PC-33. "CANNON" is 12 mm. long.

Plate "C" — PC-37 "CANNON" is 10½ mm. long. (Others not seen).

View "UNION BUILDINGS, PRETORIA."
Height — "A", 66 mm.; "B", 66 mm.,; "C", 63 mm.

The distance from the top of the flagstaff to the top of the picture is 1 mm. on Plate "A" and 2½ mm. on Plate "B".

View "WAR MEMORIAL, DURBAN."
Height — "A", 66 mm.; "B", 66 mm.; "C", 63 mm.

At the bottom of the view, Plate "B" shows fewer steps than Plate "A".

View "THE DROSTDY GATE, GRAHAMSTOWN."
Height — "A", 65 mm.; "B", 65 mm.; "C" 63 mm.

On Plate "A" the distance from the top of the caption to the bottom of the picture is 1 mm., while on Plate "B" it is over 2 mm.

In a subsequent letter recording the appearance of the current series of postcards printed in slate green (mentioned in our "Notes" last month) Mr. Allison gives the following measurements as being the same as the sepia coloured issue of the same series.

Height of picture from bottom to underneath POSKAART — 61½mm.
Width of picture — 44mm.
Address line — 62mm.

Protectorate Machine Cancellations.

Writing in connection with the MASERU postmark illustrated on page 78 of our May issue, Mr. D. Allison of Mowbray, Cape, mentions that this machine cancellation was noted in the South African Philatelist of July 1951, page 126, and the first date he has on record is 6.30/13-IV-1951.

He adds that he has not seen machine postmarks from any other Protectorate towns, but South West Africa now has five post offices using them — Otjiwarongo and Luderitz having been added to the list.

Coincidentally, a note from a Pretoria correspondent "TANDING" points out that the MASERU machine cancellation illustrated in the May number is no doubt that referred to by Mr. G. N. Gilbert, on page 89 of the same issue, as Type.17 in his paper on Basutoland postal matters.

East London Oval Cancellation Mark.

Mr. D. Allison confirms that the East London handstamp illustrated on page 79 of our May issue was one used on Registered Mail matter and the earliest specimen he has seen is dated in August 1951. He also has a poor specimen of an earlier double circle oval postmark with narrower lettering, used in 1947 on a Registered cover in the same town, but the bottom of the mark is illegible.

A Pretoria collector "TANDING" mentions that he has seen several impressions dated 1950, the earliest being in September of that year, and Mr. Calitz of Mossel Bay records that he has one of these oval cancellation marks on a non-registered cover of 1951.

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Orange Free State Centenary Issue—Transposition of Panes on Sheets of the 2d. Denomination.

Further to the notes on the transposition of the panes and varieties on some sheets of the Cape Centenary stamps in our June number it is of interest to record that a similar transposition occurs in the printing of the 2d. Orange Free State Centenary issue.

This feature in the latest commemorative was first brought to our notice by Mr. C. E. Kachelhoffer of Bloemfontein and an examination of a sheet showed, that as in the case of the Cape Centenary stamps, there had been occasions during the production period of the O.F.S. Centenaries when the interior and exterior cylinders had undoubtedly been set to operate at positions differing from one another by 180 degrees. In consequence, the interior cylinder flaws do not appear in the same positions on every sheet of the 2d. value and when not present on those stamps listed in the April 1954 "Notes", they will be found, if constant, in the positions located by adding ten rows to the top pane numbers, or subtracting ten rows from the lower pane numbers. Thus, the orange stroke variety at the top of the stamp and to the right of the flag may now be found on the fourth stamp of Row 1, or Row 11 and in the case of the scratched screen plate flaws (See March 1954 "Notes"), if not present on the first three stamps of Row 20 they should be looked for in Row 10.

"A Collector's Farewell."

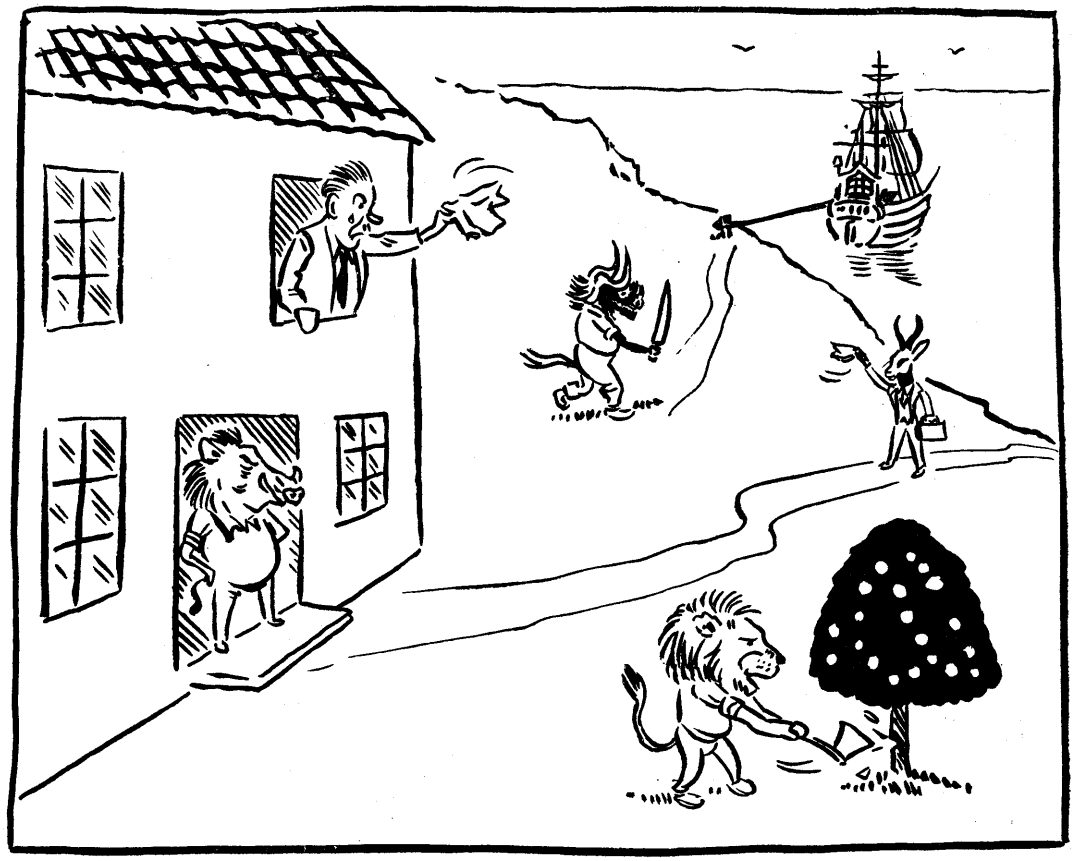
Following the recent official announcement that the existing definitive series of fourteen Union of South Africa postage stamps will be replaced towards the end of this year by a series depicting South African wild animals (South African Philatelist, June 1954), we are indebted to Mr. S. J. Vermaak of Florida, Transvaal for the accompanying sketch in which he drolly expresses the sad feelings of the many who have derived untold pleasure and interest from the collecting and study of the series that first made its appearance just on thirty years ago.

Different Types of Paper Used for 6d. Pictorial Stamps.

Further to our notes in the March 1954 issue on the two types of paper employed for the early sheets of the new 6d. pictorial stamps printed from cylinders Nos. 85/32, we reproduce below a translation of a letter received by Mr. S. J. Vermaak of Florida, Transvaal, from the Pretoria Philatelic Office in reply to his enquiry regarding the unusual gum on some of the current sixpenny stamps.

". . . I have to inform you that the paper used in the production of stamps is not necessarily always of the same thickness and texture.

Although the paper in each roll is supposed to be of equal quality, it very often happens that paper from various mills are joined by the over-



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sea distributors to make up the required length. It follows, therefore, that two or more types of paper may be found in one roll. As the thickness of the various strips (of paper) is usually very slight, the difference is not noticed whilst the paper passes through the press. It is also possible that the strips may not be of the same colour (white or cream coloured).

In the circumstances it is not possible to determine how many sheets of this 6d. stamp (cyls. 32/85) were printed."

Mr. Vermaak also mentions in his letter givinng the foregoing information that some of the 2d. O.F.S. Centenary and the current 1d. stamps are on paper with a gum very closely resembling that of the 6d. in question.

Joined Paper Variety on Recent 1d. Pictorial Stamps.

Under the heading of "Explanatory Notes" on page VI of the Union Handbook/Catalogue, mention is made of the fact that the joins in the rolls of paper used for the printing of the Union's stamps are now purposely marked with red ink by the manufacturers to enable any stamps printed on these particular portions of the roll to be easily detected and removed by the checking staff in the Government Printing Works. Consequently, nowadays, very few joined paper varieties ever get as far as the post office counters, but they still do show up on the infreqnent occasions when the broad red indicating marks have inadvertently been omitted from a join by the paper makers.

Mr. L. O. Bosse of Durban wrote in July that he had just purchased a block of eight of the then current 1d. redrawn stamps with joined paper, produced from cylinders Nos. 36/6925. He added that he had seen the rest of the stamps from the sheet and the join extended the full width and included the side marginal arrows. During a recent visit to Durban Mr. Bosse showed us another joined paper variety which he had recently purchased and which had obviously been printed from cylinder Nos. 54/53. In both cases the broad red ink mark was missing from the join.

Misaligned Perforations.

Apropos of the notes and illustrations in our February, March and May issues this year on the misaligned perforation variety which recently came to light on the current pictorials and also on the 1937 Coronation issues, Mr. C. Calitz of Mossel Bay, Cape, has written to say that he has found this same feature present on sheets of the 1d. and 3d. South West Africa Victory stamps.

A subsequent inspection of the copies we have shows that, like the Coronations, the same perforation plate was not employed throughout the complete printing of the Victory stamps, but we can now add to Mr. Calitz's information the fact that the misaligned perforations illustrated in March also appealer on the 2d. stamps of the Union Victory issue.

Mr. G. Sybersma of Piketberg, Transvaal, confirms that the misaligned perforation variety appears in the 1/- pictorials printed from cylinders Nos. 3 and 66. The staggered perfs .are located on the sheets in a similar position to those shown for the 3d. stamps.

Pictorial 1d. Stamps with Bluish Centres.

The recent appearance at some post offices of 1d. Van Riebeeck Ship pictorial stamps printed from cylinders Nos. 54/53 with centres tending towards a grey-blue colour has been brought to our notice by Mr. M. Sacks of Bloemfontein. Two blocks which he sent forward for inspection showed one with the centre portion in this shade and the other with centres, which by comparison, presented a marked sepia tone.

Missing Cylinder Number "31" on Current ½d. Pictorial Stamps.

The note on page 79 of our May issue in which it was mentioned that the question of the number of sheets printed with the numerals "31" missing from the bottom right hand margin, may have been much greater than was at first thought, has brought to light two notices of of recent purchases by correspondents. Mr. P. J. Urquhart of Somerset West, Cape, records that during May he bought ½d. stamps with the "31" missing at a branch post office near Cape Town, and Mr. I. A. Miller of Johannesburg has written to say that towards the end of June he purchased some sheets of ½d. stamps with this same feature at a Johannesburg post office. He gives the sheet serial numbers of those on which the "31" was missing as 1486 and 1500/1.

MULTO- OR MULTI-?

A writer in "The Springbok" has a tilt at the South African custom, when describing rotogravure printing methods, to write of the "multopositive" plate used in the process.

He claims that as the word should mean "many positives" (i.e. many positive photographic images), it should be "multipositive". "Multopositive", if it means anything at all, should (from its derivation) mean "much positive".

No other nation uses "multo" in the sense it is employed here.

What have our experts in printing methods, and/or grammar, to say to this?

FRANCE.

Three stamps were added to the current series during June, (a) a 6 fr. with a view of Lourdes, (b) a 12 fr. with a view of Quimper, and (c) an 18 fr. showing the Chateau de Cheverny; there were also two commemoratives, a 30 fr. on the occasion of the first conference of the International Centre for Romance Studies, and a 15 fr. commemorating the tercentenary of the re-attachment of the town of Stenay to France. In July there were two further additions to the current series of views, a 10 fr. with a view of the town of Royan, and a 20 fr. showing the Bay of Ajaccio in Corsica.

NORWEX.

Still another International Exhibition in 1955. Commemorating the centenary of the first issue of Norwegian stamps there will be an International Exhibition in Oslo on 4-12 June, 1955. It is being held under the auspices of the various Norwegian Philatelic Societies and of the Post Office.

It is co-operating with "Stockholmia 55", opening on 1st July, and all collections shown at "Norwex" will — if so desired — be sent from Oslo in due time for the Stockholm exhibition. Further particulars will be announced shortly.

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ANGLO-BOER WAR CENSOR MARKS & LABELS

By

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

It is intended to publish a list of the various censor marks used during the Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902 in three instalments:—

(1) British Censor Marks with place names.
(2) British Censor Marks without place names.
(3) (a) Prisoner of War Camp censor marks.
(b) Burgher and Refugee Camp censor marks.
(c) Censor's initials.
(d) Republican Censor Marks.
(e) Censor Labels.

Although we have spent a fair amount of time on research work and have examined many hundreds of covers we do not by any means claim that these lists are exhaustive. We will only be too pleased to receive particulars of censor marks not listed here.

The list incorporates those given by S. G. Rich in his "Philately of the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902" Chapters XI-XIII. This is the only extensive previous listing of which we are aware, but we have added very considerably to it.

In one respect we have departed from Rich's system of classification; we have not listed marks without place names by their shapes but have allocated them — we hope correctly — to their places of usage.

Censor marks were, in the great majority of cases, applied at the places of posting of the covers, so that is naturally where one should look first in our lists when trying to allocate any marks without a place name to its place of usage. Letters were sometimes also, or only, censored at the places of delivery. Marks applied in transit also occur, but these were generally at large centres and they have place names.

We have in many cases had a cross-check on the allocation of marks without place names. For example: Covers posted at "A" to "B" and to "X" both show the same Censor mark; we have taken this as conclusive proof of usage at "A".

It is possible, of course, that we may have slipped up on some of our allocations, and we will be grateful to any readers who can put us right on such cases as there may be.

The measurements given by us are well within the possible variations due to heaviness of the rubber impressions. They are in millimetres unless otherwise stated.

In giving the measurements of the triangle marks we have used the same method as Mr. Rich, namely, base by height.

As regards the colour of the censor marks that is termed "violet" in the listing there is actually a good deal of shade variation, some of it probably as a result of fading. The majority appear to come nearest to the colour listed as No. 48 in Stanley Gibbons' "Colour guide for Stamp Collectors" and termed "Reddish violet". The shades, however, range from their No. 47 (Violet) on the one hand to their No. 55 (Purple) on the other. For the sake of brevity these are all listed here as "Violet".

We would like to extend our appreciation to Messrs. W. Newlands of Pretoria, Dr. F. Drusinsky of East London, and N. Snowden of Manchester, England, from whose extensive collections we were able to obtain valuable data.

The accompanying illustrations of some censor marks are by Mr. N. Snowden.

(To be continued.)

EAST AFRICA.

The Elizabethan definitive issue for Kenya, Tanganyika and Uganda appeared on 1st June and we are indebted to Mr. W. Tunstall for an official first day cover with a number of the stamps and a descriptive pamphlet about them. The stamps are as follows:—

5c. Sepia/black vignette; 30c. light blue/black vignette; these have the Queen's Head in the top centre surmounted by a crown and flanked by a pair of wings. The vignette below is the Owen Falls Dam.

10c. red; 50c. purple; Royal portrait top right vignette a giraffe.

20c. orange/black vignette; 1/- maroon/black vignette; these have the Royal portrait surmounted by a crown at top right, the vignette shows a lion against a background of trees.

2/- green/black vignette. Royal portrait and Mt. Kilimanjaro from the Tanganyike side.

5/- steel grey/buff vignette. The central feature is a group of elephants.

10/- blue/black vignette. The central feature is the Royal Lodge at Sagana, with Mt. Kenya in the background.

£1 black/sepia vignette. A larger stamp with portrait of Her Majesty.

Booklets at 5/- with 5c. (4), 10c. (8), 20c. (4), and 50c. (4) stamps are on order.

Mr. W. Tunstall writes:—

Just before the K.G. VI stamps were withdrawn the £1 was so heavily tipped locally as an investment, that thousands of them were bought to put away. The printing was stated to be 15,000 but it is doubtful if they were all perf. 12½.

It was not intended to issue the Q.E. stamps until August, but someone ordered the official commemorative envelopes with the date as June, so the issue of the stamps had to be put forward.

A lot of stock of K.G. VI stamps had to be destroyed. There are said to have been some 15,000 1st day covers registered in Nairobi alone. What a game it is!

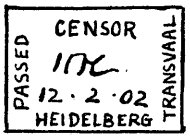
EIRE.

The centenary of the opening of the Catholic University of Ireland was celebrated by the issue on 19 July of two stamps (2d. and 1/3) featuring a bust of Cardinal Newman, who was its Rector from 1854 to 1859.

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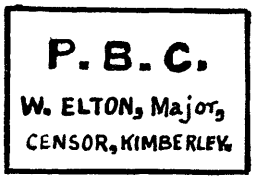
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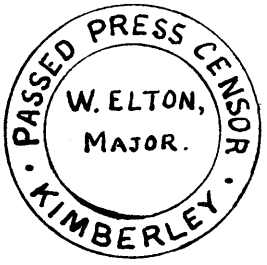
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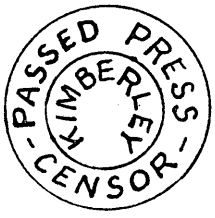
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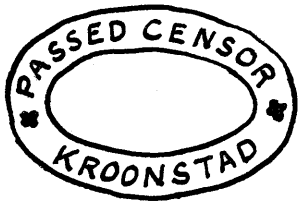
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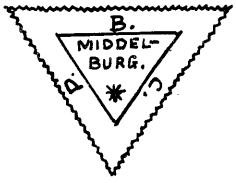
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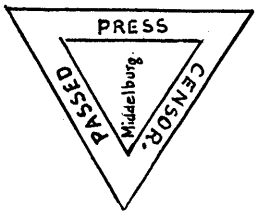
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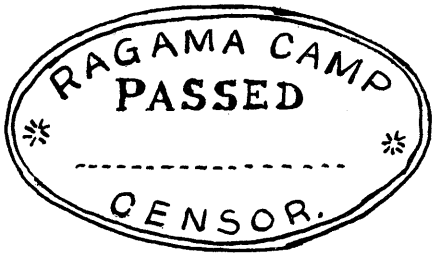
9.



10.



11.



12.

U.S.A.

The first stamp of the new regular series is an 8c. featuring the head of the Statue of Liberty, so well known to all entering New York harbour, with the motto above "In God we trust". It is being produced by the dry intaglio method in place of the wet method, and is being printed on pregummed paper. It will be printed from both flat-bed and rotary plates, so presumably there will be two varieties. The present Presidential series will gradually be replaced by the new issue.

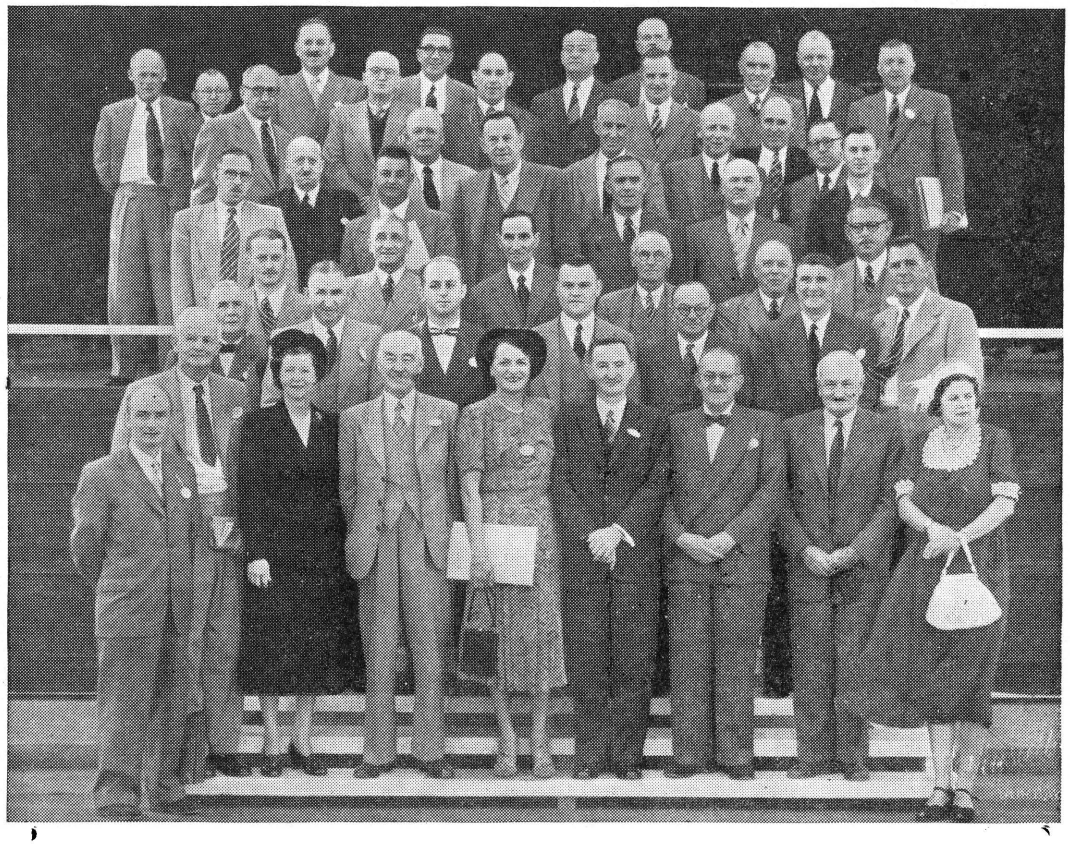
This appeared on 9th April. A 3c. of very similar design was issued in June, but it is monocoloured.

A 3c. commemorative marking the centenary of the establishment of the Nebraska territory was scheduled for issue on 7 May. It features "The Sower", so familiar on many French stamps.

A commemorative of the Kansas territorial centenary was due on 31 May. This has at the top a design reminiscent of "ghost riders in the sky", while below is a field of wheat and a Kansas farm.

Two more commemoratives are scheduled for July. One is to belong to the "Famous Americans" series, George Eastman of Kodak fame; the other is for the Lewis & Clark Expedition's 150th anniversary.

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16th PHILATELIC CONGRESS, DURBAN, 1-3 JUNE, 1954.

FRONT ROW: A. R. Kleiner, G. N. Gilbert, Mrs. G. Milner Palmer, Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie,, Miss Claire Birsen, Mr. G. Milner Palmer, Dr. Alec Kaplan, Mr. R. Morton, Mrs. K. I. Bevis.

SECOND ROW: F. Sinnott, F. C. Ferguson, B. Jos eph, J. P. Roux, J. B. Levy, E. Walker, W. Kriste.

THIRD ROW: F. G. Froehlich, W. N. Sheffield, I. Isaacs, A. G. Denne, J. H. H. Chamberlain, P. W. Spiller.

FOURTH ROW: J. Michelson, Jack Shepherd, Dr. T. B. Berry, E. Schaiowitz, J. D. Rossouw, F. van Rensburg.

FIFTH ROW: E. Hunt, J. Burrell, K. Cameron, G. Bulbring, K. I. Bevis, I. E. Hall.
BACK ROWS: H. O. Reisener, J. Lyle, L. Buchen, S. Legator, C. Selwyn Smith, J. G. Walker, Dr. J. W. Harris, T. I. Fereira, J. D. Field, H. F. Hender son, L. Bevis, L. Orkin, W. H. Winde.

REVIEWS

Catalogue of Forces Covers, 1900-1954. C. J. Curtis, 43 Showell Green Lane, Birmingham II, England. Price 3/6.

This is actually a price list of a dealer's stock of war covers, most of the material being items of World War II, a few being of earlier vintage. The majority of the listings are of British naval, military and air force covers with special postmarks and censor marks, with some from the other allied forces (no Americans). A useful catalogue, much of it of material not elsewhere listed; the prices are very reasonable.

Commonwealth Catalogue of Queen Elizabeth Stamps. The Commonwealth Stamp Company, 7 Leather Lane, Liverpool 2. Price 3/6.

It may surprise some readers that there are already a sufficiency of Q.E. stamps to justify a catalogue of them; this work will dispel that feeling. It is very well printed and illustrated. All the special issues (mostly with quantities printed) are included, as well as the definitive issues. Plate flaws, where important, have separate little sketches.

The listing runs on serially from the 1954 K.G. VI and Q.E. Cat.; the special issues having a separate numbering.

The Postage Stamps of Great Britain, Part Three, by K. M. Beaumont and H. C. V. Adams. Royal Philatelic Society of London, price 20/- net.

This is actually a revision of the late J. B. Seymour's "The Stamps of Great Britain, Part Two", who dealt with the surface-printed issues as far as 1865, but its scope has been extended so as to complete the issues of Queen Victoria and to carry on the story to the end of the reign of K.E. VII.

The larger part therefore covers new ground. The illustrations are beautifully reproduced and it need only be said of the text that both in material and style it constitutes a worthy successor to Mr. Seymour's classic volumes and will doubtless be accepted as the authoritative text-book on the stamps with which it deals.

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REVISED PRICES.

We are able to offer a selection of popular British Colonial stamps in complete sets at revised prices:—

ANTIGUA	1932	Tercentary Set S.G. 81-90	£ 9 10 0
ASCENSION	1924/33	Set S.G. 10-20 inc. 11a	£ 6 0 0
BARBUDA	1922	Set S.G. 1-11 comp.	£ 3 15 0
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BERMUDA	1918/21	Set S.G. 51b-55 comp.	£ 7 10 0
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A History of the Darmstadt Trials

Compiled by E. SCHAIOWITZ.

For nearly six years, these controversial items have engaged the attention of philatelists in South Africa and overseas. The open controversy — almost war — began in 1948 when there appeared a letter in the November issue of the S.A. Philatelist from the pen of Capt. J. A. B. van Wyk telling collectors something about certain unexplained so-called varieties of the Union 1d. roto stamp which had been appearing on the market. This war can be said to have ended with the publication last month, also in the S.A. Philatelist, of the report of the special sub-Committee appointed by the Philatelic Federation of South Africa last year to investigate these trials. The report, which included an official statement from the Postmasr te--General, was presented to the Durban Congress in June where it was fully approved. With its publication there can be no doubt that "finis" was written to a chapter of philatelic history.

But to thousands of Union collectors both in this country and overseas there will still be lacking full details about the Darmstadt Trials, how they same into existence, why there was such lengthy and sometimes bitter arguments, what all the 'pother' was about and how it was all finally resolved. The purpose of this article is therefore to tell whatever is known on the subject. The treatment is in narrative form, the article being divided into three sections, namely:—

1. The Appearance of 1d. Roto Varieties;
2. The Great Controversy;
3. The Story of the Trials.

Part 1. The Appearance of 1d. Roto Varieties.

Some time in the middle 1930's the American Catalogue Scott, chronicled the existence of 1d. Union roto stamps without watermark, numbering the items 81 and 82. At about the same time Gibbons began including the item as an unwatermarked variety under No. 43a. There was also some vague information that these items were known in an imperf. condition. The first publicity about these stamps in South Africa appeared in the October 1938 issue of the S.A. Philatelist under the heading: "Union 1d. Pictorial Without Watermark." This is what was written:—

"In a fairly recent number of Scott's Monthly Journal the publishers write: 'We have been repeatedly called to task for listing in the Catalogue Nos. 81 and 82, it being stated that these stamps do not exist. Our answer to all enquiries has been the simple statement that we have a pair of these stamps in our reference collection, these being forwarded to us at the time the stamps were chronicled in the Monthly Journal. More recent reports indicate that while the two stamps do exist, they were not regularly issued."

The then Editor of the Philatelist appears to have made some enquiries about the matter, and this is his comment on the above paragraph:—

"The numbers in Scott's Catalogue refer to the two language varieties of the 1d. pictorial. Referring this matter to one of our keen young Union specialists, Mr. S. Legator, he states that these stamps should certainly not be listed as they were never regularly issued. He states further that he knew of the existence of such items on plain paper, imperforate, which appeared illegitimately some time back but that he had not seen them perforate. In the circumstances we think that "Scott" would be well advised to delete these items."

The above thereupon started a spate of letters on the subject. In the next issue of the S.A.P., November 1938, there appeared a long letter on the subject from Mr. G. N. Gilbert. This read as under:—

"UNION 1d. WITHOUT WATERMARK.

Sir,—Just before the notes appeared in the last issue of the S.A.P. regarding the find of a pair of Union Pictorial 1d. with no watermark, I received a pair of Rotogravure Union 1d. from Mr. J. B. Levy, of Bloemfontein, who asked me what I thought about them, and if I had heard of any others.

Mr. Levy appears to have been under the impression that his pair were also pictorial, according to a letter he wrote to the S.A.P. noting his find, but there is absolutely no doubt about his pair being rotogravure. I examined the stamps very closely, and the first thing that struck me was the gum.

This is slightly yellowish in tinge, and much thicker and shinier than the gum which the ordinary rotogravure stamps have on the paper used for their printing.

A study of the stamps showed that, as far as one can judge, they can only be from the plate 7 cylinders, and for this reason.

As those who have read my article on the Union rotogravure stamps will remember, in the issue which came out in August, 1934, I illustrated the design characteristics, by which it is possible to tell whether a particular stamp came from the plates up to plate 6 as on every odd English stamp, and on every odd Afrikaans stamp there appeared their different design characteristics, viz., a tiny nick in the middle of the outside left-hand frameline in the case of the English stamp, and a missing line of shading, appearing like a tiny white spot immediately under the right-hand top scroll, on the Afrikaans stamp.

Mr. Levy's pair show neither of these, and as the Afrikaans characteristic did not appear in plate 7, while plate 8 was from a different design altogether, it seems almost certain that his pair came from the plate 7 cylinders.

It struck me that there are three possibilities regarding these stamps:—

(1) That they have been faked. This would require great skill, and it is, I think, very doubtful.
(2) That they were accidentally printed in the works on unwatermarked paper, which is usually used for Christmas stamps, etc., and that a few got out before the mistake was noticed.

Regarding the second possibility, as it seems pretty certain that these were from the plate 7, and as plate 7 stamps came out round about

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the end of 1931, by which time the person who was responsible for the other items had long since left the works, I cannot see how he could have been responsible for these.

Without a microscope it is difficult to be sure that the paper is similar to that used for the roto sheets, but from an examination with a fairly powerful glass it appears to be the same.

The paper used for Christmas stamps, at any rate the 1930-1933 printings, was thicker, and can, I think be ruled out. The gum, however, seems to be similar, and also similar to that used on the pre-roto 6d. dues. It is a real puzzle, and unless the printing works can assist us with any information, or anyone else can come forward with any suggestions, or report others similar, I am agraid we cannot get any further. Will anyone who can throw any light on this please come forward?"

In December 1938, Dr. K. Freund of Bloemfontein wrote to the S.A. Philatelist and gave some information on one of these 1d. roto varieties. His letter was in the following terms:—

"PENNY UNION WITHOUT WATERMARK.

I read with interest Mr. Gilbert's opinion about the Union 1d. pair without watermark. I bought the pair in question from a well-known London stamp dealer amongst a lot of other Union items, and passed it on to Mr. Levy who specialises in 'Unions.' In my opinion the pair can hardly be a fake, as the price I paid for it works out at little more than face value. It is unthinkable that a forger should go to the trouble of such skilful and laborious work without profiteering out of it.

I personally have the impression that they are a 'leakage' which emanated from the printing works. I also think that plate 7 is concerned according to Mr. Gilbert's deductions. That means that the stamps were printed at a time when a number of new trials and experiments were being made at the printing works. As a result of these trials, etc., the new printing from plate 8 cylinders appeared of a different design altogether (wider spacing between the horizontal frame lines, etc.). The 1d. pair in question is, in my opinion, a sort of gumming trial at that time, made in the course of new gumming experiments. It may be that the Government Printer tried to find out whether the gumming applied on the Xmas stamps would be practical for the postage stamps, too. Apparently the experiment with this shiny, yellow gum, which we notice on the 1d. pair without watermark, did not prove satisfactory, as since then even the Xmas stamps do not show it any more."

In March 1939 Mr. Gilbert wrote a further letter to the S.A. Philatelist giving some new information on the subject. His letter reads as follows:—

"Apropos of the 1d. Union roto on unwatermarked paper in Mr. J. Levy's possession which has occasioned a certain amount of correspondence in your paper, I have received information from a very well-known Union specialist in England that he was recently shown a portfolio containing complete sheets of various ink trials, imperforate sheets and 1d. on unwatermarked paper. All these sheets were Union trials and he naturally does not want to disclose the name of the dealer concerned. It would appear from this that here is a probable explanation of Mr. Levy's item. It would be interesting to know how these trials, etc. came into the dealer's hands in England."

It is pertinent to mention at this point that the specialist referred to by Mr. Gilbert was the late Mr. L. A. B. Sharpe and that this gentleman saw the portfolio mentioned by him at the offices of Messrs. Hunter-Penrose in London, as early as 1934.

From all the above correspondence it is quite apparent that at this period and even as late as 1944, these 1d. roto varieties were puzzling the specialists and no connection between them and any sort of trials was even thought of. The war years interfered with active research but the subject came to the fore again in 1944 with the appearance in the October issue of the S.A. Philatelist of the following paragraph:—

"1d. ROTOGRAVURE WITHOUT WATERMARK.

"We have recently been shown what corresponds closely in appearance with the early printings of the first 1d. rotogravure (S.G. 43), but on unwatermarked paper. There is this difference, however, that the shade is a pink rather than the familiar carmine or red of this issue. This is the first we have heard or seen of this error; can any reader throw light on where it has been hiding all these years and how or where it was found?"

In November 1944 Mr. Levy naturally replied to this query by a letter in which he referred to the 1938 correspondence and told the story of how he submitted his item to Mr. Gilbert for expertising, and how he obtained it from Dr. Freund ex London. He closed with the statement that everybody was still in the dark, no information having been tendered since it was requested in 1938.

It is an amazing thing to consider, but none the less true, that for more than 15 years operation "Darmstadt" was still unknown to Union specialists. As late as 1946 when the first Standard Catalogue of the stamps of the Union was published under the aegis of the Philatelic Federation, all that the Editors could say about these mystery items was this:

"Prints of the 1d. in shades of black and carmine, on unwatermarked paper, gummed or ungummed, and also on paper watermarked trefoil are known, and were possibly colour trials."

Perhaps the Editors had relied for the above statement on information contained in a letter in the S.A. Philatelist which appeared in March, 1945 written by the late Mr. Sharpe as some sort of answer to Mr. Levy's cry for information. This was the letter:—

"If Mr. Levy will refer to his "S.A. Philatelist" of March, 1939, he will find a letter from Mr. Gilbert drawing attention to a letter I wrote to him on this subject. It was shortly after the introduction of the photogravure process into South Africa that I made enquiries of a certain firm in London concerning the method of production. I was then shown the portfolio referred to in my letter. It was full of ink and colour trials, paper trials, etc., etc., and although I cannot precisely remember I have little doubt that some of the paper was unwatermarked.

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"In absence of proof to the contrary it would be wise to assume that the stamps now in question were derived from this or a similar source."

During the years 1947/48 there began to appear on the market fairly large quantities of the 1d. roto varieties as described in the 1946 Standard Catalogue, as well as stamps bearing images of either the head plate alone or the frame plate alone. That these emissions were some sort of trials or proofs was beginning to be generally recognised, and this was soon confirmed when in November 1948 there appeared in the S.A. Philatelist an article from the pen of Capt. J. A. B. Van Wyk, a well-known philatelist. This article was the first published information linking up the hitherto mysterious 1d. roto varieties with the trials at Darmstadt in 1929. This is what the article had to say:—

"THE ORIGIN OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN 1d. STAMP, 'TREFOIL' WATERMARK."

In 1928 orders for a machine and cylinders to print stamps were placed in London by the South African Government. The machine "The Goebel Rotary Stamp Printing Machine", was actually made by Messrs. Goebel Ltd., of Darmstadt, Germany.

The design of the then current 1d. postage stamp was completed in Holland, where the positives were made and the cylinders etched, and these were then despatched to Darmstadt, so that they could be fitted to the machine.

These cylinders were proved on the two-colour stamp machine, which had just been built. The proofs showed that the etching had not been too even, and the cylinders were taken to the Technical College, Frankfort, where they were fine etched and proved with satisfactory results.

The next step was the testing of various gummed papers in order to select a suitable paper for South African conditions. Four or five grades of paper, including some with the "Trefoil" watermark, were sent from London to Darmstadt, so that proofs of the stamps could be obtained. The proofs were duly made and forwarded to London.

It is known that most of these proofs were burnt, but some evidently escaped destruction, whether by accident or design. Stamps with the "Trefoil" watermark were sold in 1940, while others have recently appeared on the market (end 1947 and beginning 1948). Enquiries have shown that there are from 200 to 300 of the "Trefoil" specimens in existence. These are evidently some of the proofs which escaped destruction. Enquiries have also shown that none of these proofs were kept in Germany, and no blame is to be attached to Messrs. Goebel, Ltd.

It is in London that the leakage occurred.

It is, of course, quite legitimate for proofs to be made to test the efficiency of the cylinders. It is unfortunate, however, that proofs should eventually find their way on to the market.

It is true that proofs of stamps of different countries often come on the market and they seem to be legitimate objects of collection.

The fact that proofs are often eagerly sought after by collectors and that these "Trefoil" watermarked stamps are legitimate objects of collection as proofs does not alter the fact that the issue of such stamps was not authorised by the Union Postal authorities. It is a great pity that the countries of the Postal Union do not agree to pass uniform laws, making it essential that all proofs be clearly stamped across with the word "Proof". If laws were also passed making the possession of such proofs without a permit a criminal offence, it would not be detrimental to the hobby of philately.

Editor's Comment:

(Capt. van Wyk informs us that he knows the name of the individual, and his firm, responsible for the marketing of these stamps, but it is considered inadvisable to publish the names.

Although the marketing of these stamps, without making it known that they were proofs, may be — and is — considered philatelically as morally indefensible, no action could be taken on the grounds that it was legally a wrongful procedure.

Capt. van Wyk is a police officer and he ought to know!—Ed.).

By an amazing co-incidence, in February 1949, only three months after the Van Wyk article, an exhibit was given to the Royal Philatelic Society by Prof. V. W. Dix and a paper read by him. The title of this paper and exhibit was: "The Early Printing Trials of the Photogravure Penny Postage Stamp of South Africa." The gist of the paper and exhibit was published in the May issue of the London Philatelist. The full paper was only published in the October 1950 issue of the same magazine.

With the exception of Capt. Van Wyk's article and, perhaps, a few lines in an article written in 1935 by Col. J. J. Kruger (the then Government Printer) and published in the Penrose Annual and which merely referred to the proving of cylinders at Darmstadt in 1929, this paper by Prof. Dix was the first fully-detailed and authentic statement to appear anywhere about the 1d. roto proofs. It is not possible, on account of its length, to reprint the whole article here, but liberal quotations have been used for the various sections of this article, especially the third. It should be stated here that Prof. Dix obtained the data for his article from certain files made available to him by Hunter Penrose Ltd., and that his actual work on the trials themselves was based on a mass of material obtained by him in London. Students of the Darmstadt Trials would be well rewarded by reading and digesting the whole of Prof. Dix's article in the October 1950 issue of the London Philatelist.

(To be continued.)

ABYSSINIA—AIRMAILS.

Referring to our note about the first air mail issue of 1929, Messrs. Francis J. Field write: The writer of the article mentioned in your note does not appear to have been aware of our handbook "Abyssinia" published twenty years ago. This is now rare and we hace tried in vain for some years to acquire copies. That handbook would have solved some of the problems raised by the writer, although the article contains reference to other writers whose findings were based on some of the material in our handbook.

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DARMSTAD TRIALS.

A WARNING AND A REQUEST.

(The following note by Dr. K. Freund is only the final part of a resumé of the Darmstadt Trials. As the earlier, historical, part covered much the same ground as the article by Mr. E. Schaiowitz (also appearing in this issue) and as this had already been arranged for, the earlier part is, with Dr. Freund's agreement, omitted. —Ed.)

Warning. Now that the Darmstadt Trials have been recognised as officially authorised Proofs by a body representative of the general body of South African philatelists, I can picture already the general scramble to acquire specimens of them and fill up the sudden gap in one's Union collection.

In one's eagerness, one must not lose the proper perspective. Although of proper status, the Darmstadt Trials are certainly **plentiful**, as I have always tried to point out (see article, S.A. Philatelist, July 1953, together with statements in News Letters of my society). Prof. Dix has given us the particulars of the numbers of sheets printed. Whilst it may not be known exactly how many of these sheets are in "outside" hands or on the market for sale, it appears to be fairly clear that there are hundreds, if not thousands, of sheets available.

In my opinion, many of these items should fetch accordingly **only a few shillings**, not Pounds as has been the case in many past transactions. Having always been a protagonist **for** the Darmstadt Trials, it is at the same time my earnest desire to see that the interests of philatelists are not antagonised. Therefore I say, do not pay any fancy prices for Darmstadt Trials.

Request. The problem of the status of the Darmstadt Trials has been solved, but various minor problems in connection with them seem to emerge which are begging to be studied and investigated. Enlightenment for instance is necessary in regard to the distinguishing characteristics of certain types of Darmstadt Trials and similar-looking **major errors.** A case in point is the item S.G. 43a. Is this a real error or just one of the Darmstadt Trials? I know that some specialists have maintained that there is such an error, showing the plate characteristics of a later cylinder which are different from those of the early experimental cylinders as the Darmstadt Trials. Who is right?

Another problem worth investigating is connected with the information that some sheets of the Darmstadt Trials begin with an Afrikaans stamp and others with an English stamp. Was there a cylinder used that we have not heard about?

I should like to see some philatelists with access to a fair amount of material get down to making a study of these and other problems connected with the Darmstadt Trials, in the same manner as is being done in the case of all final Union issues.

K. FREUND.

CANADA.

Five new Q.E. regular postage stamps were due for issue on 10 June, 1c., 2c., 3c., 4c. and 6c., all with a portrait of Her Majesty, the same as on the 5c. issued on 1 April.

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SWAZILAND—POSTAL HISTORY and STAMPS

By
J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

(Continued from page 135 of July issue.)

CHAPTER 5.

Stage 5 of Swaziland's Postal History 1902-1910.

Postal History.

Although the war ended in May, 1902 it was not until August of that year that a British Administration was actually set up and Mr. F. Enraght-Moony arrived at Mbabane as Special Commissioner for the territory on 2nd September, 1902. Swaziland was not annexed as a British Colony, but was **administered as a Protectorate**, a status pertaining to the present day. (Further remarks ré status are given in Chapter 7).

Mbabane was chosen as the seat of the new government, being higher and healthier than Bremersdorp and outside the malarial zone; in any case Bremersdorp was practically a complete wreck and there were reported to be only four white residents there.

The setting-up of postal services did not go on too hurriedly, and here it should be mentioned that it had apparently been decided that the postal services of Swaziland would be operated by the postal administration of the Transvaal Colony. This would be in conformity with the policy laid down further in the Swaziland Order-in-Council of 1903 vesting control of Swaziland in the Governor of the Transvaal Colony.

The following telegram was sent from the postmaster of Barberton to the Special Commissioner on 28th October, 1902:—

"P.M.G. desires me inform you a postmaster will be sent to Embabaan at an early date and begs you be so good as to arrange for temporary office accommodation."

The reply on 1st Nov., was:

"There is no possible accommodation for proposed postmaster and no food supply available. Stop. I consider it unnecessary to appoint postmaster yet as there are no regular mail services also very few Europeans yet have returned."

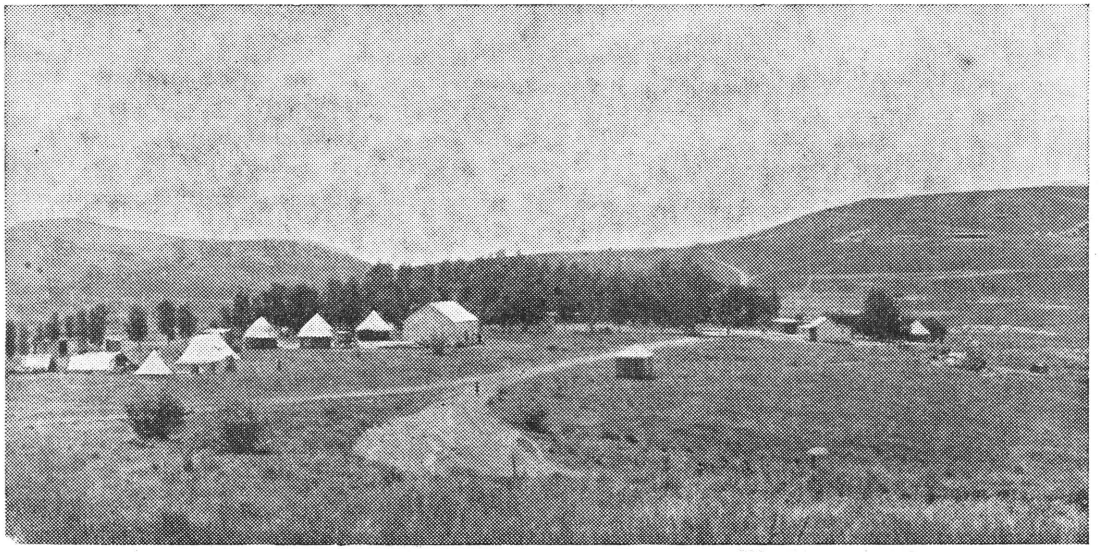
Nevertheless the postmaster materialised at Embabaan and the accompanying illustration shows his temporary office. Where he himself was accommodated has not been recorded; quite possibly it was in his "office".

Postal Routes and Services.

On 12 Nov., 1902 the following wire was sent by Special Commissioner to the P.M.G., Johannesburg:—

"'Repatriation' is running a weekly cart for mails to Wonderfontein. Will you please have bag made up for Mbabane and Bremersdorp mails sent to Wonderfontein. Stop. I shall arrange for receipt and making up of bag here."

This route evidently remained in use for a considerable period and I have seen a cover with the following postmarks: Wonderfontein, 21 June '06; Carolina, 22 June '06; Mbabane, 23 June '06; and Bremersdorp, 24 June '06.



Mbanane, 1902-03. Photo: "The Times of Swaziland."

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A note from the G.P.O., Johannesburg, dated 14 Nov., 1902 states:—

"A head P.O. will be established at Embabaan on the 19th inst. Weekly mail cart will leave Carolina on Monday morning, arriving Embabaan Tuesday evening. On return it will leave Embabaan on Thursday morning arriving Carolina Saturday morning and mail will reach Johannesburg on Sunday evening."

The following notes are gleaned mainly from the Annual Reports of the Transvaal Postal Administration ré postal routes, etc.:—

1902-03.

On 15 Dec., '02 Stamp Requisition forms were sent from Johannesburg to Mbabane.

On 24 Feb. '03 a minute was received from the P.M.G. stating that the Telegraph Line to Embabaan was expected to be working in about three months' time.

1903-04.

Mail Cart—Wonderfontein-Embabaan (twice weekly).

Native Runner—Barberton—Pigg's Peak.

Native Runner—Embabaan—Bremersdorp.

Native Runner—Komatipoort—Nomahasha.

Telegraph lines connecting Swaziland with the Transvaal were (a) Barberton — Pigg's Peak, and (b) Steynsdorp with Darkton, Embabaan and Bremersdorp.

1905-06.

As before but additionally a Native Runner between Mbabane and Forbes Reef.

1909.

Additionally a mail cart or Native Runner from Piet Retief to Sulphur Springs and Hlatikulu.

1910.

At about the beginning of this year the following services are reported as in operation:—

Mail Cart—Breyten—Mbabane.

Native Runner—Mbabane—Forbes Reef.

Native Runner—Mbabane—Bremersdorp.

Native Runner—Barberton—Pigg's Peak.

Native Runner—Bremersdorp—Stegi.

Native Runner—Piet Retief—Sulphur Springs—Hlatikulu.

Native Runner—Komatipoort—Nomahasha.

It may just be mentioned here that in 1907 a new Swaziland Proclamation was promulgated transferring control of the Protectorates from the Governor of the Transvaal to the High Commissioner for South Africa. This, however, did not affect the postal services, which were carried on by the Transvaal postal authorities as before and continued to be so run until 1910.

Post Offices and Postmarks of Stage 5.

(1) Bremersdorp. (A Postal Agency as at 30-6-03).

(a) Double circle of 25 mm. diameter with "Bremersdorp" at the top and small stars about 5 mm. below the beginning and end of the word. Date in one line in centre.

(b) "Bremersdorp" in M/S. twice, cancelling a strip of five penny stamps on what is obviously part of a registered cover.

(2) Darkton. (Only open for a short period in 1909-10, apparently because of there being a large Police camp near it).

(a) Double circle of 23-24 mm. diameter with "Darkton/Swaziland". Date in one line in centre. Small crosses level with the date line, separating the upper and lower wording.

(3) Ezulweni. (An Agency opened in 1909 or 1910).

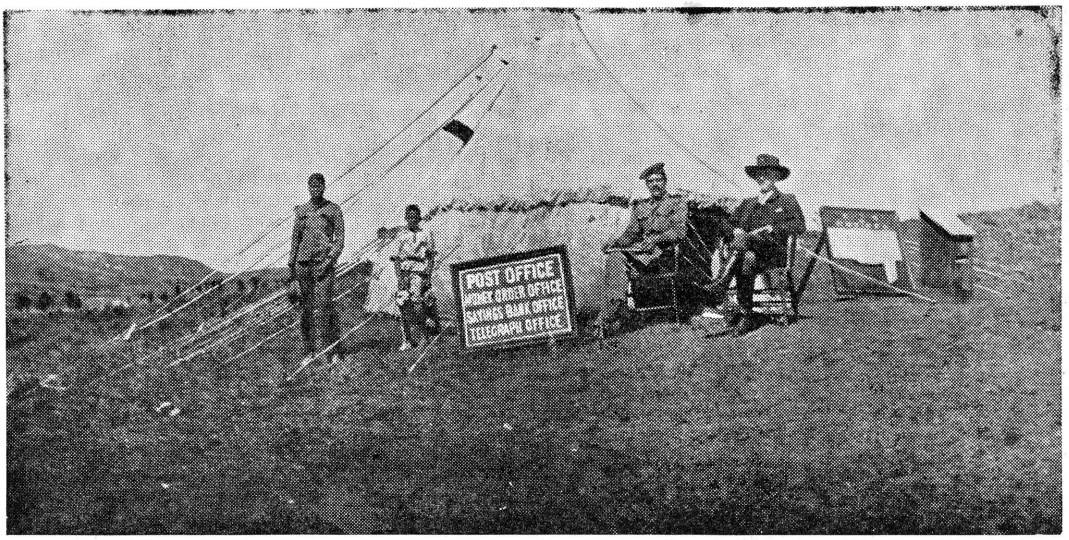
(a) Mark not known from this period, but probably the same as recorded for the next stage of the Postal History.

(4) Forbes Reef. Office opened in 1906. Mark not known from this period, but probably the same as recorded for the next stage of the Postal History.

(5) Hlatikulu. Office opened as an Agency in 1903. Mark a double circle one of 25 mm. diameter with "Hlatikulu" at the top and a medium sized asterisk or star at the bottom. This mark has remained in use to the present time.

(6) Mahamba. Office opened in 1909 but mark not known from this period. Probably the same as in the next Stage.

(7) Mbabane. (Embabaan up till about the end of 1904—Head Office).



Temporary Post Office at Mbabane, 1902. Photo H. J. G. Dumbrell.

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(a) Double circle mark of 23 mm. diameter. "Embabaan" at the top and a small dot at the foot. Date in one line in centre.

(b) Double circle mark of 32 mm. diameter, but inner circle cut by two chords, with the date between them. "Embabaan" at the top, small Maltese Cross at the bottom. The date shows hour as well as day, month and year.

(c) Single circle mark of 23 mm. diameter. Only "Embabaan" at the top. Date in two lines in ventre.

(d) Double circle mark of 23-24 mm. diameter, with "Mbabane/Swaziland". Date in one line in centre. Letters 2½ mm. high.

(e) Similar to (d) but 25-26 mm. in diameter.

(8) Mhlotsheni. Only opened in 1910 and mark not known from this period.

(9) Nomahasha. Operated during period 1904 to 1910, but postmark not known.

(10) Pigg's Peak. (An Agency in 1902).

Similar in character to (a) of Bremersdorp but 26 mm. in diameter, lettering rather larger, 3 mm., and the two stars lower down, about 9 mm. from ends of name.

(11) Sandhlan.

Opened in 1905, but postmark not known from this period.

(12) Stegi.

Opened in 1910. Double circle mark 26-27 mm. diameter with "Stegi/Swaziland" and date in one line in centre.

(13) Sulphur Springs.

Close to the Transvaal border, listed as a Swaziland Postal Agency from 1903 till 1919, after the latter date as a Transvaal office. (N.B. A similar uncertainty as to site appertains also to Mahamba). But, in any case, no postmark of Sulphur Springs is known.

(14) "718".

I have one specimen of this numeral killer on a 1/- Transvaal stamp but no clue as to where it was used. Embekelweni, to which it previously belonged, does not appear in the list of P.O.'s of this period.

It may be of some interest to know the expense of running the service and here is a list of the salaries paid to the staff, as given in the Estimates for 1910-1911:—

Postmaster, Mbabane	£447
Assist. P.M., Mbabane	222
Office Native, Mbabane	36
Linesman, Mbabane	42
Sub-Postmaster, Bremersdorp	84
Sub-Postmaster, Pigg's Peak	120
Agent, Nomahasha	12
Agent, Hlatikulu	12
Agent, Forbes Reef	12
Agent, Stegi	18
Agent, Mhlotsheni	36
Agent, Darkton	12
Agent, Mahamba	12
Provision for two new Agencies	24
Commission to Post Agents	25
Provision for Leave, Inspections, etc.	50
	£1,164

This figure was £55 more than for the year 1909-10.

(To be continued.)

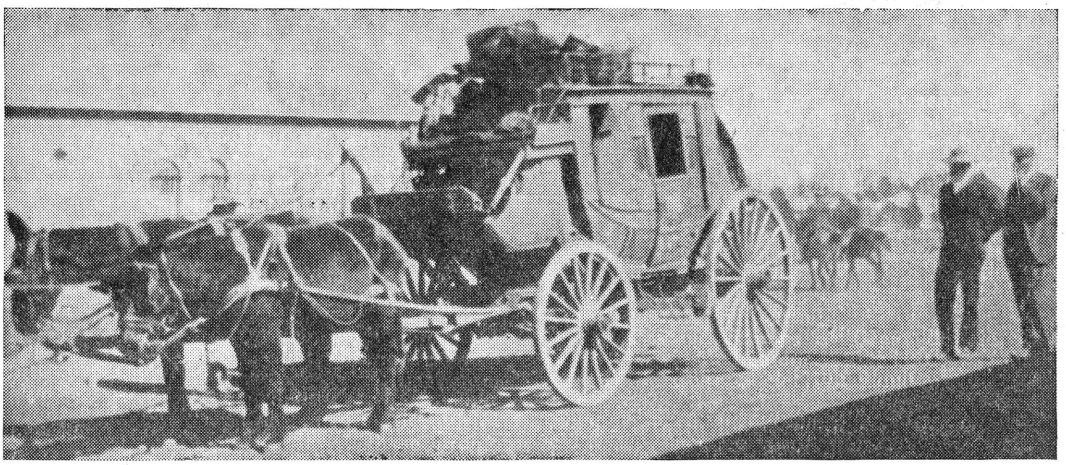
ISRAEL.

The following notes come from a Bulletin dated 1/6/54 issued by the Director of Philatelic Services:—

(1) There have been a few changes in the pictorial airmail stamps. The series now comprises 10, 70, 100, 150 (instead of 200), 350 (instead of 300), 500 and 1,000 pruta.

(2) New stamps foreshadowed (a) Herzl stamp (180 pr.), commemorating the 50th anniversary of his death; (b) a 300 pr. honouring the re-burial in Israel of Baron E. de Rothschild; (c) a 25 pruta for the New Year 5715. In consideration are two stamps for the National Stamp Exhibition in Jerusalem in October, 1954.

(3) There has recently been on the market a spate of bisected stamps said to have been "postally necessitated." There never was any shortage of stamps and the numerous covers with them are completely valueless.



Mail Coach, Carolina. Type desired on Swaziland route

BERLIN NATIONAL EXHIBITION.

Berlin is letting itself go over a National Stamp Exhibition on August 4-8. There will be a special 20 plus 10 pf. stamp, first-day covers and special air-mail forms. This is the first intimation we have received of it; accompanying are lots of details about the general attractions of Berlin and its importance as the political centre of the West in front of the Iron Curtain, but not really very much about philately except that it is hoped Berlin will re-attain its position as "The Heart of Philately."

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SPECIAL OFFER FOR THE MONTH.

GIBRALTAR ROYAL VISIT
BOTH SHADES MINT, 2/6 THE PAIR.

All Queen Issues available at the keenest prices in the country.

1933 Voortrekkers mint or used .... per set 8/-
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1938 Voortrekkers Centenary fine used on date of issue .... per set 10/-

1938 Voortrekkers (both sets) on official F.D.C. .... per set 12/6
1938 Voortrekkers (both sets) on official air-mail cover flown to Amsterdam ..... each 20/-
Van Riebeeck F.D.C. .... each 2/6
S.A.T.I.S.E-S.A.D.I.P.U. F.D.C. .... each 9d.
Cape Triangular F.D.C. with Cape Town exhibition Date Stamp .... each 9d.
With Johannesburg exhibition date stamp, each 9d.
O.F.S. Centenary Officials, F.D.C. .... each 1/6
Great Britain 1953 Coronation F.D.C. ..... each 7/6

F.D.C. for S.A. New Issues .... per dozen 3/-

Catalogues Gibbons Empire 1955, 17/6 plus postage.
Europe and Colonies 1955 .... 22/- plus postage.

ALBUMS:
Gibbons Plymouth .... 60/- plus postage.
Gibbons Senator Standard .... 32/6 plus postage.

All makes not in stock can be supplied within 5 weeks after being ordered.

HINGES:
American 100% peelable, per packet of 1,000 2/-

G. J. de Swardt.

P.O. BOX 281,

PRETORIA.

Wants, Offers & Exchange

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

Collections and rarities especially Unions wanted for cash. Kindly contact—JOHN MENDELSSOHN, P.O. Box 1607, Johannesburg.

SOUTHERN NIGERIA. Full S.G. prices offered for superb used copies of S.G. 15, 17, and 28. — WILLIAM REDFORD, Box 1182, Johannesburg.

STAMPS.—Want lists invited for any country; specialities Union, S.W.A., British Africa. — LACY'S, Gillbern Buildings, cor. Plein and Mostert Streets, Cape Town.

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

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

WANTED. Union Postal Stationery (Mint only) and Inter-Provincials.—S. J. VERMAAK, P.O. Box 4566, Johannesburg.

"SUIDERTYDING" the hobby quarterly, circulating in 120 countries, accept adverts and articles in Afrikaans, English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and Swedish. For information send a S.A.E. to: SUIDHOEK STOKPERDJIES (Dept S.A.P.), P.O. Box 8, Observatory, Cape, South Africa.

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

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

EXCHANGE with Penfriends. Worldwide philatelic contacts through "AFRICA-CLUB," Box 3515, Capetown. Send 5/-, particulars for yearly listing. Magazine quarterly.

REVENUE STAMPS, Union and four Provinces. Correspondence invited with view to Exchange or purchase. L. E. DODD, 895 Schoeman Street, Pretoria.

WANTED — Mint Unions — Arrows, Controls, Sheet number pairs or blocks — UHB. — ½d. Nos. 36-36D, 44 to 44B, 44E to 44F. — 1d. Nos. 37 to 37M, 45 to 45A — 2d. Nos. 38 to 38C, 47B to 47C. Submit offers to W. BROWN, Box 14, Queenstown.

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

For JIPEX mint 1d. panes No. 21 (Imperf. right margin U.H.B. 4/6). Apply J. MORUM, Standard Bank, Bloemfontein. Price 3/- each. (Postal Orders please). Postage extra. Registration (if required) extra.

WANTED — Forgeries and spurious items. Also a copy of Melville's "Phantom Philately" and "Know your Stamps" by Frank Aretz. W. N. SHEFFIELD, c/o. Box 99, Cleveland, Transvaal.

N. RHODESIA: I require fine used copies of the 7/6 and £1 values of the K.G. V. set. Write to E. SCHAIOWITZ, Box 6657, Johannesburg.

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

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"AEROGRAMMES" & THEIR PRECURSORS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

By I. H. C. GODFREY.

The hobby of collecting **"Active Service Letter Cards", Air Mail Letter Cards"** and **"Air Letters"** (now to be termed **"Aerogrammes"** to conform with the ruling of the 1953 U.P.U. Congress) is rapidly expanding among both collectors of Air Mails and of Postal History and, as this comparatively new sideline of philately has received little publicity in the Union of South Africa, the time seems opportune to review its development during the past twelve years.

As we all know, the popular light-weight Air Letter sheets, which are now used by nearly all countries of the world, are a direct result of the restrictions on air mail carrying which had to be imposed during the 1939-1945 War. In 1941, the Union of South Africa, Southern Rhodesia and British East Africa quickly followed Great Britain's lead by issuing light-weight sheets bearing imprinted stamps which could be conveyed by air to and from their troops scattered abroad at reduced rates of postage and, in some instances, postage free. The hobby of collecting these wartime sheets did not attract many philatelists in the early days with the result that, by the time dealers, especially in the United States, found it necessary to cater to the needs of their clients, many issues were quite unobtainable and others existed in insufficient quantities to satisfy the growing demand. Even at this late date unrecorded items are being unearthed and considerable research still needs to be done.

The hobby has a definite future and the AMERICAN AIR MAIL SOCIETY deserves full credit for encouraging it. In 1949 their first edition of the **"Catalogue of Air Letter Sheets"** consisted of 56 pages, listing some 200 different issues of the world, of which 97 or nearly a half emanated from Southern African Territories. In the 1953 edition the number of pages had increased to 147 and the number of items listed to 590 (excluding minor varieties) of which Southern Africa had contributed 206.

Sheets that do not bear imprinted franking are so numerous that they are ignored in this article excepting for **Emergency Printings** made locally.

The end of 1953 found all African Territories south of the Equator using Air Letter sheets with imprinted stamps, except for the Belgian Congo, French Equatorial Africa, Madagascar and Dependencies, Seychelles and Tristan da Cunha, although Kenya ceased using forms with imprinted stamps in 1944.

Collectable items at the close of the year numbered no less than 229 major types:—

	Year of 1st issue	No. of Types up to 31.12.53
Union of South Africa	1941	27
South West Africa	1941	23
Southern Rhodesia	1941	12
British East Africa	1941	14
Basutoland	1944	5
Bechuanaland	1944	5
Swaziland	1944	14
Mocambique	1948	80
Northern Rhodesia	1949	3
Angola	1950	42
Mauritius	1953	1
Zanzibar	1953	2
Nyasaland	1953	1

PORTUGUESE COLONIES.

It is remarkable that although Portugal has printed Air Letter sheets "Bilhete Carta/Por Avio") for all her Overseas Possessions, the Mother Country has so far issued none for herself, despite the fact that her neighbour Spain has been the most prolific producer of Air Letter sheet varieties in the world. Conversely, Belgium has been using forms with imprinted stamps since 1948 but has not yet issued any for her African Colony.

(Grateful acknowledgement is made to Snr. Virgilio Netto, formerly of Lourenco Marques, and to the Editors of the American Air Mail Society's "Catalogue of Air Letter Sheets" for certain data used in this article).

ANGOLA.

This territory was a very latecomer into the field but has already issued no fewer than 42 varieties of "Bilhete Carta/Por Avio" since 25 October 1950. In common with other Portuguese Colonies the number of varieties is due to different colour combinations in printing and paper, which present very attractive sets.

1st Issue. 25.10.50—Printed by Lito da Portugal.

Holy Year Commemorative stamp of vertical format. Pink paper watermarked "GRAHAMS BOND REGISTERED".

1. 1.50 Ags. Gray green stamp. 75,000 issued.
2. 2.50 Ags. Brown stamp. 50,000 issued.
3. 4.50 Ags. Red stamp. 25,000 issued.

2nd Issue. 1951—Printed by Lito Nacional, Portugal.

Each of the undermentioned sheets appear in the following colour combinations of printing and paper, thereby forming twelve complete sets:—

(a) White paper with blue, light blue, apple green or gray overlay.
(b) Gray paper with blue, light blue, apple green or gray overlay.
(c) Cream paper with blue, light blue, apple green or gray overlay.

The imprinted stamps depict Lobito Post Office, Luanda Post Office and the Benguela Palace of Commerce respectively.

4 to 15 1.50 Ags. Black and Brown stamp.
16 to 27 2.50 Ags. Gray blue & orange red stamp.
28 to 39 4.50 Ags. Black and green stamp.

3rd Issue. 1953. Printed by Lito Maia, Portugal.

Small sheets measuring approximately 5 x 3¼ in. folded; with elaborate overall design on reverse in brown, green and gray respectively. The imprinted stamps depict (No. 40 — Liceu Diogo Cao (sa da Bandeira) (No. 41—Liceu Salvador Correia (Luanda) and (No. 42—Colegio de S. Jose de Cluny (Luanda).

40 1.50 Ags. Brownish gray stamp.
41 2.50 Ags. Greenish gray stamp.
42 4.50 Ags. Gray stamp.

(To be continued.)

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SOCIETY NEWS.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Meeting 20th April:

The first part of the evening was devoted to a display by Mr. A. T. Kennedy, who showed a fine lot of covers of a varied nature. He has collected these over years and is to be congratulated in not letting anything slip past which might prove of interest. The second part of the evening was filled with official matters and the ever popular auction, which affords many members an opportunity of adding to their collections at reasonable prices.

Meeting 4th May:

The attendance was particularly good and a brisk auction at which especially Union Stamps were keenly bid for ended at 8.45. Mr. E. Baer who is becoming one of our keenest members afforded us an opportunity of participating in his joy of bringing together a very representative collection of Denmark's stamps. His display, which was supported by an explanatory talk far above the average included many of the first Danish Issues in excellent condition (including S.G. No. 1 and varieties of others) as well as an almost complete range of 20th Century stamps. Newspaper, Official and Postage Due Stamps were also well represented. In addition Mr. Baer rounded off his display by showing an interesting lot of postal stationery of Denmark. Mr. G. Bulbring thanked him on behalf of those present and for the display and the enjoyable entertainment.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG.

At the meeting held on May 24th, Mr. A. Brasch showed an exhibit entitled "Errors in Design". The exhibit consisted of stamps in which either the artist or the issuing Government had made some error either deliberately or accidentally. Amongst the examples shown was the St. Kitts Nevis stamp of 1903 which shows Christopher Columbus with a telescope, an instrument which was not invented until long after the death of that explorer. There was also the Argentine stamp with the map showing Falkland Islands as a part of Argentine territory — an error purposely made for political purposes. There was also the Newfoundland stamp with the seal having paws. There were in all nearly a hundred stamps shown.

Mr. Brasch read a paper on his exhibit. Dr. Walker spoke on the exhibit.

At the meeting held on June 8th, Mr. Williams showed an exhibit of Rhodesian post marks, showing many errors. The rest of the evening was devoted to exchange and sale of stamps amongst members.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL.

An experiment was made at the **May** meeting. Normally, the auction is the last item (barring tea) on the agenda. Following on complaints from some members that they often had to leave before this took place, it was decided to commence the meeting promptly at 7.45 p.m., and to allot the first half-hour to the auction. Any items unoffered in that time would be dealt with, as usual, at the end of the meeting. The idea obviously met with the approval of the majority and by "getting a move on", the auctioneer finished within the 30 minutes.

The two displays of the evening were easily up to the high standard that one has come to expect month by month. The first, an entry for the Maynard Cup, was another instalment of Mr. R. A. Gilzean's huge collection of Personalities: this time "Rulers and Presidents". Mr. Gilzean, individual in all departments of his collecting, does not use the normal commercial album leaves, but mounts his stamps on hand-made plain paper of horizontal format; does not use albums, but keeps his pages in self-made cases; and uses the UNO stencils in his write-up. The unusual leaves and the characteristic write-up, added to his flare for the artistic arrangement of the stamps on the pages, combine to give a most pleasing result.

Mr. J. G. Walker, in proposing a vote of thanks to the exhibitor drew attention to these points and had but one criticism to offer: some of the pages, in the speaker's opinion, were over-crowded.

Then followed Mr. K. I. Bevis' "George VI West Indies," an entry for the P. C. Bishop Cup, which, in addition to showing a collection virtually complete and in first-class condition, illustrated a second medium of mechanical write-up: the miniature type-writer of which most skilful use had been made.

Mr. Selwyn Smith, speaking to the exhibit, said that the two methods of write-up illustrated during the evening cut right across the oft-heard excuse for the lack of any write-up: "You know, my handwriting is atrocious."

A discussion that sought to discover the reason for the seeming reluctance of so many members to show their collections, preceded the exhibits. The majority opinion appeared to attribute this to diffidence on the part of comparative beginners who form a goodly part of the membership of the Society. It was suggested that special evenings be set aside for beginners' exhibits.

C.S.S.

O.F.S. & BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The **April** meeting was one of the most enjoyable evenings to all members who were present, as it was the first meeting held at the Methodist Hall. No meeting in the past has been so sociable, and we only hope that still more members will arrive at our next meeting to see for themselves.

Our Society had a visit from Mr. Ferguson of Johannesburg who brightened up the evening still more with a new very interesting talk. Another distinguished visitor was our Postmaster, Mr. Hill, who paid us a surprise visit. The frames bought by our Society for displaying, were put into use and three displays were seen. The first was by Mr. S. F. Kachelhoffer of Modern Southern Rhodesians showing the rare and much sought after Postage Due colour error. Next came Mr. Levy with an astounding collection of Union 6d. stamps, and Mr. Morum, a new member, of Union War Covers. To add more interest to this collection of his, he added some photographs taken up North during the last War.

New issues were displayed by Mr. Lichtenstein.

The **May** meeting was again very well attended and shows an improvement in the attendance of a few months ago. We hope you will maintain this spirit throughout this year. So again, please bring along all your philatelic-minded friends.

Three displays were again given. The first by Mr. de Graaff was a collection of "1937 and 1953 Coronations" combined. The second display was given by Mr. J. Hodgson of "Princess Elizabeth". The last display was a specialised collection of "The Halfpenny Springbok" by one of our Union specialists, Mr. M. Sachs. This was an outstanding collection showing all possible varieties. Several new issues were tabled by Mr. A. Lichtenstein. Several items were brought along for auction but bidding was not what is could have been.

Please note that the meeting place of the Society is in the Methodist Hall, Charles Street, at 7.30 p.m. on the fourth Fridays, not in the Technical College.

AFRIKAANSE FILATELISTIESE VERENIGING.

Saterdag, 15 Mei. Hierdie byeenkoms was nou nie die grootste nie, maar dié wat hulle die moeite getroos het, het van 'n gesellige samekoms getuig. Die ou staatmakers het weer hulle voorradeboeke te voorskyn gehaal met die gevolg dat heelwat seëls nuwe base gekry het.

Vrydag, 4 Junie: Met dié geleentheid het 'n paar lede van die Germiston Philatelic Society vir ons kom kuier. Mnr. E. Muller, die besoekende adjunkvoorsitter, het die woord gevoer en gesê dat waar hulle as die jongste vereniging van die Rand in getalle te kort skiet, hulle nietemin vir enige sodanige gebrek kan vergoed omdat hulle oor groot en invloedryke versamelaars beskik. Dit was dan ook nie baie lank nie, of dit het al te duidelik geblyk die geval te wees.

Eerstens het mnr. Christophers met sy St. Vincent aan die beurt gekom. Weer eens iets heel nuuts vir ons. Hierdie gebied het nog nie veel seëls uitgereik nie (soos die uitstaller verduidelik het, word net noodsaaklike seëls uitgereik), maar dit is 'n groepie wat groot kopseer kan veroorsaak en die vriend het dit blykbaar oorlewe. Mnr. Hagger die bekende Unie-spesialis en die lyngegraveerde seëls van G.-Brittanje, wat in die eienaar (mnr. Picton) se afwesigheid deur mnr. Muller uitgestal was, was eintlik oorsaak dat daar nie tyd was om die twee ander uitstallers met Nederland en Gibraltar ook 'n kans te laat kry nie.

Mnr. Hagger het die rol- en boekieseëls van die Unie vertoon, en al die Unie-versamelaars op die plek laat vasys met die uitgebreidste versameling van dié aard wat seker in die land te sien is. Die G.-B. seëls van mnr. Picton was in baie opsigte oorweldigend. Daardie ou honderdjarige seëls kry mens nie aldag in so 'n mooi skoon en verfrissende toestand nie. Ook wemel dit van die Malteserkruisstempels! Aldrie puik uitstallings.

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Ons verstaan dat ons die eerste vereniging is wat van Germiston 'n kuiertjie ontvang het. Ons is trots daarop en sien uit na die volgende besoek oor 'n jaar. Dankie Germiston.

S.J.V.

CAPE TOWN.
ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

8th April: All Members: A dozen exhibits were shown ranging from Cape Triangulars to Modern Commemoratives.

22nd April: Visit from the Paarl Society: The Paarl Society exhibited the following: U.S.A. Commemoratives (A. de Villiers Minaar); Abyssinia (N. C. Combrink); Study of Van Riebeeck Issue (T. Beukes); The Pietersburg issues of 1901 and Cape of Good Hope overprinted stamps (J. D. Rossouw); Queen Elizabeth stamps (L. D. Brink); Modern Netherlands (A. Singles). This proved a most interesting evening which included a good talk by J. D. Rossouw.

13th May: Visit to University of Cape Town Philatelic Club. This is an annual outing and on this occasion members of the Royal showed the following: Egypt (Mr. Savage); George VI Issues (I. Hall); Ascension and St. Helena (Dr. Follen); Postally used Fiscals (A. M. Jones); New Zealand (N. Axer); Nepal (E. Blum); Modern France (M. F. Stern).

Publicity: For over two months a weekly column is devoted in the "Cape Argus" (Weekend) and "Die Burger" (Fridays) to Philatelic News. These have done much to stimulate public interest in philately. Other centres could also employ this method and it should not be difficult to find a member to write up such a column. It has been found that not only philatelists but also others have read with interest all about new issues and the write up which appears in the stamp column.

THEMATIC CLUB.

12th April: Mr. A. Sydow exhibited his "Shakespeare on Union Stamps", which was the clever use of quotations as applied to the stamps of the Union.

26th April: W. G. Combrink exhibited his "Nyasaland" collection. As usual this was a fine specialised one.

10th May: N. Axer showed his interesting "New Zealand" covers.

24th May: All Members: The following were exhibited:

Thematic: "Transport" (Mrs. D. Flint); "Architecture on Stamps" (M. F. Stern).

Philatelic. Italian Colonial Airmail Stamps (G. Petroulis); Union Postcards (N. Axer); Old Transvaal and Natal (Mr. Enslin); Commemorative Issues of Roumania 1891-1939 (W. G. Combrink). A fine wide variety was thus seen. These All Member evenings are proving very successful and it is found that they draw a number of visitors. M.F.S.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

April, 1954.

A well attended meeting was this month entertained by Mr. A. Clapham who showed his collection of China. In his paper Mr. Clapham gave a wealth of information about the country detailing many great historical events, old and modern, sovering the old dynasties as well as the events leading up to the birth of the Chinese Republic. His exhibit proved to be a most representative one including many of the old overprints as well as the later pictorial issues. Nice work, Mr. Clapham, we all enjoyed the show.

It is with real regret that I inform members that our old friend, Frank London, has tendered his resignation as Scribe to the Society. Frank has felt the urge of the Rhodesias and will be leaving Pretoria shortly. We are going to miss him and the Society's loss will surely be felt by all members who have enjoyed his snappy monthly bulletins. On behalf of all members of the Society I would like to wish Frank and Mrs. London a pleasant and happy future in Rhodesia.

The informal meeting held on the 28th April proved to be a huge success and an excellent attendance was achieved. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, availing themselves of the opportunity to go through a big stack of Exchange books brought along by the Exchange Superintendent and many purchases were made. A number of discussions on philatelic matters took place and our old friend, Dr. Berry of Johannesburg, has promised to give an interesting talk to members at the next such informal meeting. Members are therefore invited to attend and bring along all their friends and enjoy themselves. This will also be a golden opportunity to dispose of surplus material either by auction or by swapping. The date of this meeting is **Wednesday, 26th May,** so ignore all other appointments and come along.

The usual monthly meeting of the Society, that took place on the 9th May, once again proved to be a most enjoyable evening for the 26 members and 9 visitors who attended. We had been looking forward to a visit from the East Rand Philatelic Society but as they were unfortunately unable to visit us this month Mr. Castignani deputised with a very fine exhibit of Union stamps and photoproofs. Although he emphasized that this was merely a "novelty" collection and more in the nature of a side line of his there were many Union collectors who cast envious eyes at the photoproofs that were exhibited alongside the actpal stamps. Amongst others there were very good photoproofs of the 1929 airmails, large and small wars, royal tour and the three recent 4½d., 1/3 and 1/6 issues. A number of photoproofs of rejected designs were also shown and Dr. Berry, commenting on the display, praised its excellence and stated that he had seen material that he never knew existed. Our heartfelt thanks to Mr. Castignani for his unusual and most interesting exhibit.

The Society expressed its appreciation of the sterling work done by Mr. Frank London in his capacity as scribe to the Society and to Mr. A. E. Oliver for the interest and enthusiasm that he has shown in his work for our library. Both members are leaving us, Mr. London for Rhodesia and Mr. Oliver on transfer to Johannesburg. They carry the Society's best wishes with them in their new spheres.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF THE WESTERN RAND.

The May meeting of the Society was held on Wednesday the 26th, in the Parish Hall, Roodepoort, and with the Johannesburg Philatelic Society paying us their annual visit, a very interesting and enjoyable evening was spent. After the usual business had been concluded, the Chairman handed over to the visiting Chairman Mr. Joseph, who in a few words introduced the exhibitors and their displays. These exhibits were very interesting and one could learn much from viewing them. Mr. Joseph donated a mint 2/6 Southern Rhodesian Coronation stamp to be raffled and this was won by Mr. Michelson (No. 13) who kindly gave it back to be raffled again in the future. After tea, Mr. Keet called on Mr. Vermaak to comment on all the exhibits, a difficult task as one person cannot do justice to six different items.

Regarding **Mr. Duigan's** Architectural feature, Mr. Vermaak stated that it was a short but interesting one and somewhat new to us. It was well written up. **Mr. Joseph's** New Zealand Health; uncommon to see pairs of Smiling Boys. A mint of information in a well balanced exhibit. **Mr. van der Poll,** 1st Day covers and special flights from the Netherlands showed the modern trend. Commemoratives well represented. Date cancellations an object lesson to Union Post Offices. **Mr. Brasch's** Errors in Design, well thought out and shows deep study as a lot of the information is not generally known. Plenty of scope in this type of display.

Mr. Schubart's Australians, Impressive imprint blocks. An excellent show, but only part of a good collection. Some elusive items, common but not easy to get. **Mr. Michelson's** Latvia, revealed a lot of postal history, and some very interesting items such as pre-stamp covers. Mr. Vermaak thanked the exhibitors for their delightful variety, there was something for everybody.

H.F.H.

UNION STAMP EXHIBITIONS WITH SPECIAL POSTMARKS.

A reader has a collection of these and wishes to know if the list is complete.

He has E. London 1927, Durban 1928, Pretoria 1934, Johannesburg 1936, E. London Jan. 1948, Pretoria Oct. 1948, Johannesburg 1950, Cape Town 1952, Johannesburg 1953, Cape Town 1953 and Durban 1954.

He also wishes to know the date of the first Phil. Exhibition in the Union.

That we think can be answered — it was in 1913 June 30 to July 5, at Durban, and we believe there was a special postmark. Can any reader confirm this, or otherwise add to the list?

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THE
SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST
PROPRIETORS AND PUBLISHERS:
The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa
Honorary Editor: Dr. J. H. HARVEY PIRIE
Business Manager: Mr. J. MICHELSON.
P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.
Vol. 30. No. 9. SEPTEMBER, 1954. Whole No. 354.

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

Current 3d. Pictorial Stamp in Deep Blue Shade

Mr. J. B. Levy of Bloemfontein records that the current 3d. postage stamp printed from Cylinder No. 17 is at present appearing in a very deep blue colour which he considers is worthy of catalogue rank.

They were first noticed on sale towards the end of July and are undoubtedly much darker and have a comparatively brighter general appearance than the 3d. stamps previously available.

Watermark Variety on O.F.S. Centenary 2d. Stamp.

Missing and broken horns in the design of the Springbok Head Watermark on the Union stamps have been recorded on a number of occasions throughout the years, but a complete small circle resting on the head of the Springbork where one of the horns should be is, to the best of our knowledge, a new variety in the watermark category.

Mr. J. S. Morum of Bloemfontein found it on one stamp of a block of eight of the 2d. O.F.S. Centenary stamps purchased at the main post office in the city during February this year and judging by his description and sketch it would appear that a piece of the watermarking wire forming one of the horns in the multiple Springbok Head design, curled up to take the shape of a circle about one-eighth inch diameter. His particular copy came from the left hand side of the sheet — Stamp 1/Row 14 — and looking at the face of the item, the defective watermark is also towards the left of the stamp, but it is the right hand horn that is affected.

To date we have no confirmation of its constancy, but if the variety is due to a dandy roller defect then it can be expected to show up again on one or the other of the Union's stamps.

New Postal Slogan in use at Durban.

A new postal slogan, the English portion of which reads:—

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS
15.V.54 — 15.VIII.54.

is reported by Mr. B. L. Cairncross of George, Cape Province, to have been in use at Durban during July.

At the time of writing he had only seen one copy, dated 13.VII.54, and the Afrikaans unfortunately was illegible, but he considers probably read:—

EEUFEES VIERING
15.V.54 — 15.VIII.54.

Printing Flaw Varieties on the Current 1d. Stamps — Cylinders 54/48.

The following varieties on the current 1d. postage stamps printed from Cylinders Nos. 54/48 have been listed from notes submitted by Mr. Edward Dee of Durban, Mr. J. B. Levy of Bloemfontein and Mr. I. A. Miller of Johannesburg. Mr. Miller has also shown us a block of six of these stamps of which the first three items of Rows 14 and 15 are distinctly smudged in the area along the bottom inscriptional tablet and at the lower portion of the value oval.

The issue of this printing was recorded in our June and July numbers.

Row—
- 1/3 —Break under left hand ornament below "S" of SOUTH.
- 5/1 —Red spot inside oval at top left.
- 5/9 —White break in frame line under "R" of AFRICA.
- 5/10—Black spot at top left of oval (on line).
- 6/5 —Black spot in sky top left of oval.
- 7/7 —Dent in frame under first "E" of REVENUE and also thin red line below "EN" of REVENUE.
- 8/1 —White break beneath "K" of INKOMSTE.
- 13/6 —Reversed "F" above "U" of SUID.
- 15/12—Red spot in "K" of AFRIKA.
- 16/1 —Red smudge outside the design at top left.
- 16/11—Red marking in form of a "U" between stamps Nos. 11 and 12, near bottom.

Missing Perforation Variety on 1/- Pictorial (Plate V) Stamps.

Referring to our notes on page 119 of the July issue where we mentioned that no reports had come through of the above variety having appeared at any post offices in the O.F.S. or Transvaal, Mr. J. B. Levy of Bloemfontein has written to the effect that a couple of sheets of these particular 1/- stamps were found at one of the sub-offices in the city and that he himself was fortunate in spotting the variety and obtaining his copies at Dealesville in the O.F.S.

Nothing further has so far come through about the post offices in the Transvaal.

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Adhesive Parcel Labels.

Further to the list of towns using N.C.R. Parcel Labels published in the July "Notes", Dr. J. F. Fick of Goedgegun, Swaziland, reports the following additional towns.

Beaufort West — Cape.
Harrismith — O.F.S.
Port Shepstone — Natal.
Saxonwold (Johannesburg) — Transvaal.
Stellenbosch — Cape.
Terminus Street, East London — Cape.
Worcester — Cape.

"Central Street, Pretoria," reported previously, now appears in Afrikaans as "Sentraalstraat, Pretoria."

Dr. Fick also records the use of a new type of N.C.R. Parcel Label on yellow paper on which the lettering is still "PAKKETPOS — PARCEL POST", but the word "BETAAL" is now printed above, instead of below, the word "PAID". The lettering is also much smaller and there are no ornaments in the corners. So far, he has Durban (yellow) and Johannesburg (white).

We have received the following Bulletin from the Publicity Officer of the G.P.O., Pretoria.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.
ILLUSTRATIONS OF POSTAGE STAMPS, AND USE OF LABELS OR "STICKERS."

In terms of Section 93 of the Post Office Act, No. 10 of 1911, it is an offence to make, or engrave, upon any material, stamps in imitation of or resembling postage stamps, unless the prior authority of the Postmaster-General has been obtained.

The Postmaster-General does, however, permit — and this without reference to him — (a) the reproduction of illustrations of postage stamps, and (b) the printing and distribution to the public for use on mail matter of advertising, commemorative or other labels or "stickers", **provided the following conditions are complied with:—**

(a) **Illustrations of postage stamps.**—Reproductions in colour (other than black and white) must be at least 25 per cent. smaller or 50 per cent. larger than the actual stamps. Reproductions in black and white only are permissible in any size.

(b) **Labels or "stickers".**—The size and design must not resemble those of Union or pre-Union postage stamps. If square or rectangular no side should be less than 1¼in.

When used on postal articles it is desirable that the labels or "stickers" be affixed to the backs of the covers.

Philatelic Agency,
c/o. Publicity Branch,
G.P.O., Pretoria.

Further to our previous notes on the subject, we publish on the two following pages the latest Bulletin and illustrations of the new definitive series of postage stamps as supplied by the Publicity Officer of the G.P.O., Pretoria.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.
NEW DEFINITIVE SERIES OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

As already announced, the existing pictorial stamps of the Union of South Africa are to be replaced by a series depicting South African wild animals. The new stamps, details of which are given herewith, will be placed on sale at all post offices as from the 14th October, 1954. Postal agencies will receive supplies of the new stamps later.

First-Day Covers.

Envelopes for use as first-day or commemorative covers will **not** be provided by the Post Office. Covers for registration or date-stamping, on the first day of issue, may be handed in at main post offices up to 3 p.m. on the 14th October, 1954.

Order for the servicing of first-day covers which it is particularly desired should be dealt with at the Philatelic Agency, c/o. Publicity Branch G.P.O., Pretoria, should reach that address not later than 13th October, 1954. The covers will be postmarked "Pretoria". Such orders must be accompanied by addressed envelopes of suitable size and a remittance to cover the cost of the stamps to be affixed to the envelopes.

Requests for more than one particular postmark on an envelope will not be entertained.

Remittances.

Remittances must be made by means of International Money Orders, South African or British Postal Orders, or Bank Drafts, made payable to the Postmaster-General, Pretoria. Those in respect of orders for unused stamps must include an amount for return postage, plus 6d. for registration. **Cheques, foreign bank notes, foreign coin and foreign postal orders will not be accepted** and orders will not be sent C.O.D.

Despatch of Orders.

Every effort will be made to despatch orders as soon as possible after the date of release of the stamps, but in view of the large number of orders expected and the consequent volume of work involved, delay in some cases will be unavoidable. Applicants are therefore advised to withhold any enquiries or reminders relating to their orders until the beginning of January, 1955.

SOUTH AFRICA ESSAYS

from 35/-

Other Specialist Material often in stock — record your requirements.

W. L. FRESHWATER

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

SHIPS.

If it is your theme and you are not a sailorman familiar with the names of all the various rigs, then see 'Le Philateliste Belge' of July-August for a nice page of sketches of 14 different rigs with their names, sloop, schooner, barque, etc., etc.

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NEW DEFINITIVE SERIES OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

Denomination.	Animal depicted	Colour. Animal	Colour. Background	Size of stamp (in millimetres)	Stamps per sheet
½d.	Warthog	Deep green	(monocolour)	20.25 x 24.2	240
1d.	Black Wildebeest	Brick red	(monocolour)	20.25 x 24.2	240
1½d.	Leopard	Sepia brown	(monocolour)	20.25 x 24.2	240
2d.	Zebra	Dark violet	(monocolour)	20.25 x 24.2	240
3d.	Rhinoceros	Red-brown	Sky-blue	24.2 x 30.2	120
4d.	Elephant	Black-blue	Light green	24.2 x 30.2	120
4½d.	Hippopotamus	Black-blue	Blue-grey	24.2 x 30.2	120
6d.	Lion	Brown	Orange	30.2 x 24.2	120
1s. 0d.	Kudu	Warm brown	Madder-brown	24.2 x 30.2	120
1s. 3d.	Springbok	Brown	Blue-green	30.2 x 24.2	120
1s. 6d.	Gemsbok	Red-brown	Light Crimson	24.2 x 30.2	120
2s. 6d.	Nyala	Black-brown	Yellow-green	24.2 x 30.2	60
5s. 0d.	Giraffe	Sepia brown	Chrome orange	24.2 x 30.2	60
10s. 0d.	Sable Antelope	Black	Blue-grey	24.2 x 30.2	60

NOTES:

(a) The wording on each stamp will be in English and Afrikaans.

(b) All the stamps will be printed in vertical format, **except** the 6d. and 1s. 3d. which will be printed in horizontal format.

(c) The designs for the 1½d. and the 6d. stamps will also be used for postcards and registered envelopes, respectively, when existing stocks of these items have been exhausted and fresh stocks are printed.



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Wants, Offers & Exchange

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

Collections and rarities especially Unions wanted for cash. Kindly contact—JOHN MENDELSSOHN, P.O. Box 1607, Johannesburg.

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

STAMPS.—Want lists invited for any country; specialities Union, S.W.A., British Africa. — LACY'S, Gillbern Buildings, cor. Plein and Mostert Streets, Cape Town.

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

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

WANTED. Union Postal Stationery (**Mint only**) and Inter-Provincials.—S. J. VERMAAK, P.O. Box 4566, Johannesburg.

SUIDERTYDING, die versamelaar se kwartaalblad sal u in aanraking met seëlliefhebbers in ander gebiede bring. Stuur asb. 'n gefrankeerde koevert, vir besonderhede, aan: SUIDHOEK STOKPERDJIES (Afd. S.A.P.), Posbus 8, Observatory, Kaapland, Suid-Afrika.

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

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

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

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

REVENUE STAMPS, Union and four Provinces. Correspondence invited with view to Exchange or purchase. L. E. DODD, 895 Schoeman Street, Pretoria.

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

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

UNION STAMP CO., 23 Midland House, 102 Fox Street, Johannesburg. Union Stamps, British Empire Stamps, Foreign Stamps: we sell all stamps, we specialize in nothing! Any general collector will find something he needs at moderate prices. Price list issued regularly: write Box 10225 for that free list.

K.U.T. — WANTED. Collector wants offer or report of S.G. 111a Geo. V., 5 cent "short rope" in perf. 13 x 12 in a pair or more. Mint or used. — JACK BURRELL, Box 303, Krugersdorp.

READERS interested in opening exchange relations with collectors in Australia, New Zealand, Pacific Islands, write: WALTERS, "Loombah," Cumnock, N.S.W., Australia, enclosing 6d. unused stamps for return postage.

N. RHODESIA: I require fine used copies of the 7/6 and £1 values of the K.G. V. set. Write to E. SCHAIOWITZ, Box 6657, Johannesburg.

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

SPECIAL OFFER FOR THE MONTH.

Kenya George VI 2/-, 3/-, 5/-, 10/-; and £1 fine used for £1 1s. 0d.

or

Australian arms 10/- — £1 and £2 fine used, 17/6 per set.

Only one set of each per customer.

New Zealand healths mint:

1929	8/6
1930	13/-
1932	21/-
1933	16/-
1934	11/-
1935	3/6
1936	3/-
1937	3/-
1938	3/6
1939	5/-
1940	6/-
1941	3/-
1942	1/3
1943	9d.
1944	9d.
1945	6d.
1946	6d.
1947	6d.
1948	6d.
1949	6d.
1950	1/3
1951	6d.
1952	1/-
1953	6d.

G. J. de Swardt.

P.O. BOX 281,

PRETORIA.

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A History of the Darmstadt Trials

Compiled by E. SCHAIOWITZ.

(Continued from page 146 of August issue.)

Part 2. The Great Controversy.

This portion of the history of the Darmstadt Trials is somewhat difficult to relate chronologically on account of the mass of reports, enquiries, arguments, statements and articles which appeared every now and then between the years 1950 and 1953. The situation during this period can best be described by saying that there emerged two schools of thought on the status and/or merits of these items. The matter was brought to a head early in 1952 with the publication of the new Union Handbook Catalogue and the omission of any mention of the Darmstadt Trials. The 1952 Congress of the Philatelic Federation held in Cape Town in March of that year confirmed this action of the Editors after it had received a report from a Sub-Committee.

Strong opposition to the exclusion was then encountered, and the Federation again investigated the matter. A private meeting took place at which the Police attended and certain confidential information was given; a report of this meeting was then submitted in general terms to an Executive meeting in November 1952 at which one of the main protagonists in favour of the inclusion of the D.T. in the Handbook was present and allowed to state his case.

In February 1953 the Federation Executive appointed a special sub-committee to prepare an article for publication in the S.A. Philatelist to finally dispose of the matter. This was done, and the article after careful thought, many discussions and amendments, was finally hammered out and published in the June issue of the S.A.P.

The Editors were vindicated in their standpoint and no doubt correctly, because of the very confidential information they had been given concerning Police investigations and also by reason of the fact that the official postal view was so clearly indicated in a letter to the Editors from the Government Printer. This read:

"In reply to your letter of the 5th September relative to the above mentioned subject (Early Printing Trials of the First Rotogravure Penny Stamps of South Africa), I have to advise you that the stamps in question were evidently printed with a view to testing out the suitability of the machinery purchased at the time. In the circumstances they cannot be regarded as an official issue and any reference thereto or description thereof in the proposed handbook is therefore not favoured."

To indicate the strength and seriousness of the controversy, it has to be said that the above did not satisfy the pro-Darmstadt faction, and the matter was again raised and debated at the Bulawayo Congress of the Philatelic Federation in July 1953. Congress, in an endeavour to arrive at a final and fair conclusion, instructed the Executive to appoint a Sub-Committee to conduct a further investigation especially as a leading Society indicated that it had important new evidence to submit on the subject.

This Sub-Committee was appointed in September 1953 and it went to work immediately. All Societies were circularized and asked to submit evidence having any bearing on the issue, oral or written. A meeting was held at which the Editors were present and gave their views. A long memorandum and questionnaire was submitted to the Department of Posts and Telegraphs through the Minister. The Minister co-operated most willingly and appointed a special internal investigating Committee to assist the Federation Sub-Committee. A long correspondence took place with Prof. Dix on certain aspects of his article and searching questions were put to him and information sought. He aso co-operated splendidly. All-in-all this Sub-Committee went about its work in a thorough and workmanlike manner and left no avenue unexplored in a endeavour to arrive at the truth. Finally, just before this year's Durban Congress in June, three members of the Sub-Committee — all who could be mustered together at short notice — together with one of the Editors of the Union Handbook, went to Pretoria for a conference with the Postal authorities. At this conference replies were given to the Sub-Committee's questionnaire and full information and data supplied from the official files, all of which finally cleared up much which had up to then been unknown. The Postmaster-General issued an official statement at the Sub-Committee's request and this was incorporated in the Sub-Committee's report (as given to Congress) published in the July issue of the S.A. Philatelist.

Part 3: The Story of the Trials.

This is the story which was gathered and learned by the Sub-Committee from numerous sources, but chiefly from the official files mentioned above, from the article by Prof. Dix and correspondence with him and also from evidence given to it in various forms. On this story the Sub-Committee based its report. It makes most interesting reading.

In 1928 Col. J. J. Kruger, the Government Printer, toured Europe, Canada and the United States to study modern methods of stamp-printing. After a careful survey he came to the conclusion that a process in which photogravure predominated, would be the most suitable for conditions in South Africa. As a result of this a complete Goebel plant which printed by this process from a cylindrical plate, was ordered from the firm of that name in Darmstadt, Germany, costing approximately £15,000. As is usual with Government orders of this nature and especially as the machine had to be specially manufactured, the contract provided for half the purchase-price to be paid with the order, and the balance on completion and after satisfactory proof that the plant could perform the work for which it had been specifically ordered and manufactured.

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It was found difficult to secure the services of an expert well versed in this then not too well-known type of rotogravure printing. The services of a technician, a certain Mr. Pegler, were finally secured and he was engaged on a two-year contract but as a measure of insurance, an apprentice was sent overseas from South Africa early in 1929 to be trained in the process in general and in postage stamp production in particular. The apprentice chosen was a young Pretoria lad J. L. Booysen who studied in London and then in Holland where he was taught a secret screenless process.

The special Goebel machine was completed and ready for testing about the middle of 1929. A well-known London firm Messrs. Hunter-Penrose Ltd. was engaged to do the proofing and it was this firm that obtained the services of Pegler to assist with the testing and subsequently, to go to the Union for two years. Hunter-Penrose also engaged the services of a Mr. Standidge, a former employee of Waterlows, to act as security officer on behalf of the Union Government. These two gentlement went to Darmstadt to supervise the thorough tests which Hunter-Penrose arranged with Goebel, and in respect of which they laid down certain very strict criteria.

From the files of a three-cornered correspondence between the Government Printer, the Union High Commissioner in London and Hunter-Penrose, it is clearly established that the Government Printer insisted that for testing purposes, the new machine was to print one of the designs of the then current Union pictorial stamps. Hunter-Penrose had suggested printing dummy labels only, but by letter and cable it was stressed by the Union authorities that a design actually in use had to be produced by the new system for comparative purposes with existing stamps. The 1d. design was finally decided upon and Pegler was sent to Leiden to prepare the cylinders.

These cylinders were at the time being etched by the secret screenless process known only in Holland, by a Company known as the N.V. Nederlandsche Rotogravure Maatschappij of Leiden. The original design was prepared by Pegler from a "black print" made by the Government Printer from the Waterlow plates then in Pretoria, and in conjunction with the Leiden firm two cylinders (head and frame) were etched in September 1929, certain supplementary etching being done on the 12th of that month by Mr. Teller of the Leiden firm. The two cylinders were then sent to Darmstadt and put into the machine for the beginning of proofing. It was found that the etching had not been too even and so on the 16th the cylinders were taken to the Technical College at Frankfurt, some 15 miles away, where they were fine-etched. Booysen happened to be present at this fine-etching as a spectator. During this process the cylinders were spoiled and so there began a rush job to have them re-etched. Pegler and Standidge immediately left for Leiden and the former did the new etching on the 18th and they both left for Darmstadt the same night taking the cylinders with them as personal luggage.

The proofing began on the 20th September and lasted till the 8th October. The plant was put through a most thorough test and every conceivable printing test was applied. Hunter-Penrose had insisted that a variety of papers had to be used and this was done. There was plain paper, an esparto paper, paper with and without gum, paper with the trefoil (clover leaf) watermark and also with the official Union Government watermark. The last two types of paper, 3 reels and 2 reels respectively, were forwarded to Darmstadt on the authority of the Union Government, by the official suppliers Messrs. Samuel Jones & Co. Different inks were tried out, both black and red, and this led to a number of difficulties and even to some friction between the German firm and the Union's representatiyes. English and German inks were thoroughly tried out and the merits of each were the source of much argument, Goebel evidently trying to stress the advantages of the German product so as to make its use essential, and also no doubt trying to have the proofing over and done with and get the machine accepted.

Hunter-Penrose, however, stuck to their task and called for more and still more trials. From each printing of every kind, one out of every batch of 50 sheets had to be selected at random and sent to them for examination. In addition to the full stamps on different papers and with different ink combinations, printings were made of the head and frame cylinders only, also in different inks and on various types of paper. These were not perforated. The final test was to have been a printing of 1,000 sheets on watermarked paper, but owing to some misunderstanding or possibly a breach of instructions, the watermarked paper was used up in earlier trials. The actual final run was done with esparto paper, and because the cylinders had by then become somewhat worn, the final run was of less than the stipulated 1,000 sheets. The samples from this evidently proved satisfactory and Hunter-Penrose had by then already made up their minds as to the best ink combinations. They accordingly accepted the machine as being up to standard and wired instructions on the 11th October to dismantle the machine and to have it shipped.

In addition to the actual replica of the Union 1d. stamp, printings were made of cigarette labels and of a dummy stamp. The latter had a portrait which was at one time believed to be a reproduction of one of the directors of Hunter-Penrose. This theory has since been disproved and official information is to the effect that it was done from a sketch of nobody in particular. The labels and dummy stamps were printed chiefly for the purpose of testing the machine for size.

To assist in the erection of the machine when it arrived at Pretoria early in 1930, Goebel sent out two fitters from their staff. Together with Pegler who was now in South Africa, and the works engineers, they took three weeks to accomplish the job and the first run in Pretoria took place on the 10th March 1930. The Darmstadt cylinders had also been sent on to Pretoria but they were too worn to be used for actual postage stamp production. Pegler accordingly etched two new cylinders using the same original design as for the trial cylinders. This accounts for the absolute similarity between the Darmstadt Trials stamps and the

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first Union 1d. Rotos which appeared in rolls in April 1930 and in sheets on the 1st May.

In conclusion, the writer would like to acknowledge his indebtedness to Prof. Dix for the great help received from a study of the Professor's article and from information given during the course of a lengthy correspondence. Acknowledgments are also due to the office of the Postmaster-General in Pretoria, to the article by Col. J. J. Kruger and to the Editors of the Union Handbook for their willing help at all times in answering all sorts of questions.

BADEN-POWELL LAND SCOUT STAMPS.

By J. L. MOSS.

It is just on fifty-three years ago that the late Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scout Movement, had his portrait placed on a special issue of Mafeking stamps, without his knowledge.

When Mafeking was besieged during the Boer War in 1899-1900 it was eventually found necessary to produce some special postage stamps for local use in the town. There were two values, a 1d. showing a sergeant-major on a bicycle, and the 3d. portraying Baden-Powell.

There was a lot of controversy over the B-P stamp, and it was stated that the Queen was much annoyed about it. According to Baden-Powell, he said that the Queen bore him no ill-will and later helped him to the peerage.

These stamps of Mafeking, incidentally, were the first ever to be produced by a photographic process. The 3d. Baden-Powell stamps were made in two sizes, and altogether a total of 9,108 were printed.

In August 1953 the portrait of Baden-Powell, dressed as a Scout Leader, appeared in a series of four values in a new issue by Liechtenstein. In addition to the Chief Scout's portrait, the design included a hand giving the Scout's three finger salute and a spread of Scout badges.

With this Scout issue, to commemorate a gathering of Rover Scouts, the border surrounding the sheet of perforated stamps was decorated with the hand salute and knots.

The use of Scouts and Girl Guides on stamps is becoming quite a popular feature. In 1948, Australia issued a 2½d. stamp to coincide with the Pan-Pacific Jamboree held in Victoria. A total of 90,307,000 of those stamps were issued over a period of three months.

The very latest Scout and Guide stamps are the 1953 issues in the New Zealand Health stamp series. These were issued last October. The design of the Scout stamp shows a Scout boiling a billycan of water, with two companions at their tent in the background.

Two attractive stamps were issued to commemorate the 1st Caribbean Jamboree held in Jamaica in 1952. A Nicaragua Scout stamp was issued in 1948.

The United States has also issued at least one Scout stamp, showing three boys and bearing the Scout badges and part of the promise—"On my honour I will do my best."

As reminders of the world wide growth of the Scout Movement, Siam issued three sets of stamps with the special tiger overprint which raised funds for the Wild Tiger Scouts' Organization. Rumania also issued Scout stamps showing camping scenes and a boy signalling.

Even Russia found inspiration in the Scouts for stamp designs. It brought out two stamps in 1929 showing a Scout blowing a trumpet at a rally of boys. These stamps commemorated the first All-Russian rally of the Young Pioneers, a Communist organization. In 1936 Russia brought out some more stamps which showed the "pioneers" doing various good deeds.

Scouting was honoured by Czechoslovakia when its first stamps were used in connection with a post run by Scouts just after the country declared its independence.

England has yet to overcome its traditional conservatism in this respect; but it is quite likely that in 1957, when the Movement will hold a World Jamboree in England to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Baden-Powell and mark the 50th year of Scouting, a special Scout and Guide stamp series will appear.

BASUTOLAND.

The Controller of Posts, Maseru announces that the new pictorial series will be placed on sale during October, 1954. Particulars of the scenes, etc., were given in our July issue, together with a note of the new Aerogramme form.

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ANGLO-BOER WAR CENSOR MARKS & LABELS

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

(Continued from page 141 of August issue.)

BRITISH CENSOR MARKS WITH PLACE NAMES.

Place.	Shape.	Size mm.	Colour.	Wording, Etc.	Dates of Use.
ABERDEEN	Double border, double oval	48 x 29	Red	Passed Press Censor. Dated.	14/1/1902
ALIWAL NORTH	Double triangle	25 x 22	Red	Script. Censor Aliwal North. Dated.	December, 1901.
ALIWAL NORTH	Double oval, double border	50 x 30	Violet	Shield with A.R. in wreath in centre. Dated.	5/3/1902.
ALIWAL NORTH	Double oval, double border	49 x 29		Passed Press Censor/Aliwal North. Date in centre.	16/6/1902.
BALMORAL	Double triangle inverted	28 x 23	Blue-Black	P.B.C. Balmoral in centre.	19/11/1901.
BALMORAL	Double equilateral triangle inverted	35 x 29	Blue-Black	P.B.C. Balmoral in centre.	21/12/1901.
BARBERTON	Double border, double oval	49 x 34	Violet	Censored. Initialled.	16/8/1901.
BARBERTON	Double triangle inverted	33 x 25	Red	P.B.C. between triangles.	8/12/1901.
BARBERTON	Double triangle	52 x 30	Violet	Name in triangle.	7/9/1901 and 27/3/1902
BELFAST	Double triangle	50 x 25	Violet	Belfast struck separately.	25/8/1901.
BELFAST	Double oval, double border	52 x 62	Violet	Dated.	28/3/1902.
BEACONSFIELD	Double triangle inverted	63 x 33	Violet	N. Elton, Major in centre.	16/12/1901, 27/1/1902.
BETHULIE	Double oval, double border	50 x 31	Red	Passed Censor/Bethulie O.R.C.	23/9/1901.
BETHULIE	Double triangle	52 x 30	Violet	Bethulie in centre.	Feb., 1902.
BOKSBURG	Oval double border	49 x 30	Violet	Dated.	25/5/1902.
BOSHOF	Double border circle	28	Violet	Censored Boshof.	22/5/1901.
BRANDFORT	Double oval, double border	42 x 27	Violet	Passed Press Censor. Dated.	11/3/1902.
BRANDFORT	Double border circle	35	Violet	Passed Press Censor. Dated.	19/3/1902.
BURGHERSDORP	Double triangle	50 x 37	Red	Script monogram in centre.	13/8/1901.
BURGHERSDORP	Double line	58	Red	Passed by Censor.	23/1/1902.
CAPE TOWN	Double circle. Metal	31	Black	Empty centre.	16/10/1901.
CAPE TOWN	Double circle	30	Black	Name of town in centre.	21/6/1902.
CAPE TOWN	Double triangle	50 x 30	Violet	Name in centre.	13/1/1902.
CERES	Double triangle	53 x 29	Violet	Name in centre.	11/4/1902.
CRADOCK	Oval	51 x 28	Red	Dated. Passed Press Censor.	6/4/1902.

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Place.	Shape.	Size mm.	Colour.	Wording, Etc.	Dates of Use.
CRADOCK	Double triangle	50 x 28	Red and Black	Passed Press Censor. Office of the O.OLE. Dated in centre.	17/8/1901, and 29/5/1902
CRADOCK	Double oval	38 x 28	Red	Passed Press Censor. Cradock	8/4/1902, and 17/6/1902
CRADOCK	Double triangle	57 x 32	Black	Name of town inside triangle.	30/5/1902.
DE AAR	Double oval, double border	41 x 31	Red. Violet	Dated.	20/6/1901.
DE AAR	Double triangle	53 x 30	Violet	Name of town inside triangle.	9/7/1902.
DURBAN	Rectangle	49 x 13	Red, Black	P.B.C. Durban in one line Gothic bold capitals.	11/1/1902. 10/6/1902.
DURBAN	Double triangle	40 x 50	Violet	Passed censor Durban between lines.	19/3/1902.
EAST LONDON	Double oval, double border	39 x 27	Violet	Passed Press Censor. Initialled.	28/10/1901.
EAST LONDON	Double circle (metal)	30	Black	Name of town inside circle.	14/6/1902.
EAST LONDON	Double oval, double border	50 x 33	Violet	Passed Press Censor. Dated.	10/11/1901.
EDENBURG	Straight lines	63 x 4	Violet Red. Blue	Condensed Gothic capitals.	Dec. 1901., 9/9/1901 and 20/12/1901.
ELANDSFONTEIN	Double triangle inverted. Fancy border	35 x 26	Violet, Red	P.B.C. between triangles. Town's name in centre.	1/10/1901. 10/4/1902.
GERMISTON	Double triangle inverted	37 x 28	Blue	P.B.C. Germiston in centre.	19/12/1901.
GERMISTON	Double oval, double border	44 x 35	Black	Germiston in inner oval. Dated.	17/3/1902.
GERMISTON	Double oval, double border	44 x 35	Black	Germiston in inner oval. Dated. F. Howe. Captain at bottom.	8/11/1901. 17/3/1902.
GRAAFF REINET	Double oval, double border	42 x 30	Violet	Dated.	7/2/1902.
GRAHAMSTOWN	Double circle. Metal	27	Black	P.B.C. Grahamstown between circles.	25/4/1902.
HEIDELBERG, TVL.	Oval double border	47 x 36	Violet	Dated and monogram in centre.	31/10/1900. 21/12/1901.
HEIDELBERG, TVL.	Rectangle	26 x 19	Violet	Passed censor Heidelberg Transvaal along inner side of rectangle.	6/3/1902. 12/6/1902.
HEIDELBERG, TVL.	Double oval, double border	46 x 35	Violet	Dated. Initialled below date.	9/5/1901.
HOPETOWN	Double triangle	50 x 30	Violet	Town's name in centre.	10/2/1902.
JACOBSDAL	Double border circle	26	Violet	Censor, O.R.C. Jacobsdal.	17/1/1900. Oct. 1901.
JANSENVILLE	Double oval, double border	42 x 26	Black	Passed Press Censor Jansenville. Dated in centre.	6/12/1901.
JOHANNESBURG	Oval double border	40 x 23	Blue	P.B.C. above. Johannesburg below. Dated.	7/9/1900. 10/1/1901.

(To be continued.)

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"AEROGRAMMES" & THEIR PRECURSORS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

By I. H. C. GODFREY.

(Continued from page 154 of August issue.)

MOCAMBIQUE.

Mocambique has been the most prolific of all African territories in issuing Air Letter sheets ("Bilhete Carta/Por Aviao") though, as in the case of Angola, the varieties are mainly due to combinations of different coloured paper and inks. The later issues, printed by Lito Nacional, Porto, are exceptionally beautiful and colourful.

When the air letter service was first introduced in the Colony the rates of postage were 1 Escudo for internal mail and 2E. 50c. for Portugal. As from 15th April 1949 the internal rate was increased to 1E. 20c. and additional adhesive stamps had to be affixed.

1st Issue. — 1948 — Printed by Bertrand (Irmaos) Lta., Lisbon.

This series comprises thirty-eight recorded varieties and three known errors. Initial printings of 200,000 of the 1 Esc. and 250,000 of the 2E. 50c. were made, but only 47,592 and 75,102 respectively had been sold by the end of 1950 when the sheets were superseded by a new issue and all remainders destroyed.

Each sheet has an airmail insignia at top left and vertical lines at right in green and red, and bears a photograph, approx. 2¼ x 1½in. at the left, printed vertically. The sheets are large (6¾ x 4⅜in.) and cumbersome for mounting in a collection.

The views depicted are all of Lourenco Marques, excepting (k):—

(a) Civil Servants' Quarters.
(b) Native Maternity Hospital.
(c) Monument to de Albuquerque.
(d) Polana Beach.
(e) Native Hospital Wards.
(f) Avenue da Republica.
(g) View of Docks.
(h) Malavane Airport.
(i) Municipal Offices.
(j) Council Offices.
(k) Church at Angoche.
(l) Technical School.

Notes.

(a) It is possible that sixteen other varieties exist in this series although they do not yet appear to have been reported — namely, sheets depicting the views omitted under Items 1, 2 and 3.
(b) Item 2 — the set on Oyster white paper is rare.
(c) The following errors have been reported: Item 4, view a—all green printing omitted. Item 1, view e, and j, double impression of stamp and inscription.

Horizontal stamp (Goverment House, Lourenco Marques).

		Paper	Stamp and Other Printing	recorded Views
1- 7	1 Esc.	Buff	Light blue	d, e, h, i, j, k, l.
8-13	1 Esc.	Oyster	Light blue	d, e, h, i, j, l
14-20	1 Esc.	Buff	Purple	a, b, c, f, g, i, k.

Vertical stamp (Monument to de Albuquerque)

21-26	2E. 50c.	White	Brown	a, b, c, d, e, f.
27-32	2E. 50c.	White	Dark blue	g, h, i, j, k, l

Horizontal stamp (Quelimane Post Office).

33-38	2E. 50c.	White	Dark blue	g, h, i, j, k, l

2nd Issue — 3 Nov. 1950—Printed by Lito da Portugal.

Holy Year Commemorative stamp of vertical format on PINK PAPER watermarked "GRAHAMS BOND REGISTERED."

39 1 Esc. 20c. Bright Blue. 75,000 printed.
40 2 Esc. 50c. Red. 50,000 printed.
41 3 Esc. 50c. Gray green. 35,000 printed.

3rd Issue — 30 Nov. 1951 — Printed by Lito Nacional, Portugal.

42-53 1Esc. 20c. Black and Green (Polana Radio Station).

54-65 2 Esc. 50c. Gray blue and orange (Telephone Building).

66-77 3Esc. 50c. Black and brown (View of Lourenco Marques).

TWELVE sets of these sheets exist in the colour combinations detailed under the 1951 series of ANGOLA.

4th Issue — 1953 (No. 13 and 14—31 Aug. No. 15—12 Sept.).

Printed by Lito Nacional, Porto on white paper.

The sheets are bordered with green and red intertwined lines and the backs are covered with solid designs in light blue, yellow green and brown respectively.

78 1 Esc. 20c. Black and light blue (Mocambique Chapel).

79 2 Esc. 50c. Yellow green and black (Mocambique Fort).

80 3 Esc. 50c. Black and brown. (Hospital, Lourenco Marques).

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Other Mozambique and Angola Aerogrammes are somewhat similar.

BASUTOLAND, BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE AND SWAZILAND.

The Union of South Africa issued its first series of **"Active Service Letter Cards"**, prepared by the Government Printer, Pretoria, on 28th July, 1941 for use only to and from Forces serving in East and North Africa. On 12 November, 1941 His Majesty's High Commissioner, in a Government Gazette, authorised the use of these Cards WITHOUT OVERPRINT in the three Protectorate Territories, but the concession seems to have been withdrawn, or the stocks exhausted, by early 1942, for the Union **"Active Service Letter Cards"** issued in March 1942 and December 1943 (PAL 5 to 8) are not known with Protectorate postmarks. These "Used Abroad" items can only be identified by the postal cancellations and are of considerable rarity.

Commencing in 1944 the stamps of Union Airmail stationery were overprinted in Pretoria with the names of the respective Territories.

The publication of this article should coincide with the release by the Crown Colony Agents, in October 1954, of the first definitive "Aerogramme/Air Letter" sheets (printed by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co., London) for the three countries and thus write "Finis" to an interesting era in which the Union assisted the British Government in providing postal stationery. Further research may reveal that the listing hereunder is incomplete, in that certain basic "other language" sheets were overprinted but have not yet come to light.

If the advance publicity given to the new "Aerogramme/Air Letters" comes up to expectation, they promise to excel in attractiveness anything hitherto produced in the way of postal stationery and will act as a stimulus to this comparatively new hobby of Air Letter Sheet collecting. The description given by the Basutoland Postal Authorities reads: **"It can be said without hesitation that in quality of paper, workmanship and artistic layout, the new form will be difficult to excel. The reproduced 6d. stamp appears in green and light brown on a background of light blue and the wording on the form is executed in a light brown similar to one of the colours appearing on the stamp."**

(Note: PAL numbers quoted refer to Union sheets listed in the "Handbook/Catalogue — Union of South Africa Stamps (1952).)

BASUTOLAND.

1st Issue—12 November 1941. Union **"Active Service Letter Card"** without overprint.

1 3d. (PAL 1) Light blue—English stamp—used as above.
2 3d. (PAL 2) Light blue—Afrikaans stamp—used.
3 3d. (PAL 3) Light blue—English stamp—used.
4 3d. (PAL 4) Light blue—Afrikaans stamp—used.

2nd Issue—1944. Identical to first issue of Union **"Air Mail Letter Card"**, but gummed at **base** instead of flap of sheet.

O/p. "BASUTOLAND" in black—17.5 mm.

5 3d. (PAL 9) Light Blue—English stamp.
6 3d. (PAL 10) Light blue—Afrikaans stamp.

3rd Issue—Oct. 1944. Union **"Air Letter/Lugbrief"** sheet with two 3d. Bantam War stamps (large value tablets).

O/p. "BASUTOLAND"—20 mm.
"BASOETOELAND"—23.5 mm. in black.

7 6d. (PAL 17) Deep blue on buff paper.

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4th Issue—1946. **"Air Mail Letter Card"** re-introduced. Same as 2nd Issue (gummed at base of sheet) but on smooth buff paper.
8 3d. (PAL 13) Bright blue—English stamp.
9 3d. (PAL 14) Bright blue—Afrikaans stamp.

BECHUANALAND.

Identical to Basutoland Issues except for ever-prints:

Items 1 to 4—no overprint, but postally used in Bechuanaland.

Items 5, 6, 8 and 9 — O/p. "BECHUANALAND" in black—21.5 mm.

Item 7—O/p. "BECHUANALAND" — 18.5 mm. "BETSJOEANALAND" — 21 mm. — in black.

(To be continued.)

REVIEWS

Forged Stamps of Two World Wars, by L. N. and M. Williams, obtainable from the authors at 30 Dunstan Road, London N.W.11. Price 6/- net.

This is a fascinating book to read, even if you do not collect, and perhaps have never even seen, any of the stamps described in it.

It deals with the stamps made for either postal or propaganda purposes by various contestants, on a small scale in World War I, on a much more extensive scale in the 2nd War.

Full details of their manufacture are still largely unknown and probably never will be revealed. The authors, however, have gathered together many scraps of evidence about the numerous stamps concerned and compiled an absorbing story about them. Details are given for the recognition of these forgeries and the copious illustrations help in making the distinguishing easier.

Tibet — Further Discoveries, by H. D. S. Haverbeck. Collectors Club Philatelist, 22 East 35th Street, New York 16, N.Y.

In our issue of Dec., 1952 we reviewed a booklet by this writer, entitled "Postage Stamps and Postal History of Tibet", which we described as practically a Handbook of Tibet. This little 2-page pamphlet records some very interesting facts which have come to light since the earlier publication.

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.

With reference to the 'Morokwen B.B.' postmark in our Dec. 1953 issue, p. 234, Mr. Paul A. Dorn of Los Angeles sends the following list of Post Offices in operation in British Bechuanaland at 16th October, 1895, the date of its annexation to Cape Colony. The list is taken from a U.P.U. announcement, that this territory, being now part of Cape Colony, was also in the U.P.U.:—

Bailey Brith	Maritzani
Devondale	Mier
Dry Hartz	Morokwen
Geluk	Mosita
Groot Chwaing	Setlagoli.
Genesa	Taungs
Keimoes	Taungs Station
Kuruman	Vryburg
Mafeking	Vryburg Station
Maribogo	Zwart Modder.

FRANCE.

A veritable spate of stamps appeared in July. Firstly, a set of six with surcharges going to the Red Cross; these featured celebrated distinguished personages of the 13th-20th centuries. They are King Louis IX (1215-1270), later canonised as Saint Louis; Bossuet (1627-1704), prominent churchman; Sadi Carnot, President of the Republic; A. Bourdelle, sculptor; E. Roux, bacteriologist; P. Valery, poet. Secondly, a commemorative of four centuries of gardening, representing the Chateau de Villandry. Two more commemoratives in August honour respectively the 150th Anniversary of the Military School of St. Cyr, and the presentation by Napoleon of the first Legion of Honour at Boulogne Camp in 1804.

ISRAEL.

The Ministry of Posts announces the issue in September of a 25 pruta stamp in honour of the New Year 5715. It features two persons carrying a huge bunch of grapes on a staff.

Collectors of Israeli stamps will be interested to hear of the appearance of a monthly magazine "The Holy Land Philatelist", first number to appear in October, 1954 on the occasion of the Jerusalem Exhibition for the Centenary of Postal Services in that city. It will be under the editorship of Mr. F. W. Pollack, F.R.P.S.L., and the annual subscription has been priced at £1, post free.

U.S.A.

Only one Commem. to be noted this month! A 3c. honouring the 150th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition, the first crossing of the U.S.A. to the Pacific: Issued 28 July.

To be issued soon in the new regular series will be a 1c. (Washington), 2c. (Jefferson), and 4c. (Lincoln).

AUSTRALIA.

On 13th September the centenary of the first steam railways in Australia will be honoured by a 3½d. stamp of a design contrasting a modern diesel with the first type of steam locomotive.

A new direct air service between Sydney and Christchurch, N.Z. was started on 28 June, 1954. A special cachet was used on first flight mail.

W. Australia Centenary stamp. A 3½d. stamp, closely resembling the first black swan stamp of 1854, was issued on 1/8/54, the date coinciding with the opening of a Philatelic Exhibition in Perth.

K.G. VI "SPECIMENS".

Mr. H. Moreton Black has an article on these in a recent number of "Stamp Collecting". "Specimens" in general were stamps, about 400 in number, sent to the U.P.U. at Berne whenever there was a new issue. Originally such stamps were overprinted with the word "Specimen" but this practice was changed during the reign of K.G. V, and from about 1929 onwards they were perforated with the word instead of being overprinted. Each of the four firms responsible for the colonial issues had its own design of perforation; these are illustrated.

Most foreign countries and all the Dominions had been in the habit of sending ordinary stamps to the U.P.U. as specimens of their new issues, and after October, 1948 this practice was adopted by the colonial authorities also, so that no "Specimens" were produced of any issue after that date.

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THE SNOWMAN WALKED HERE!

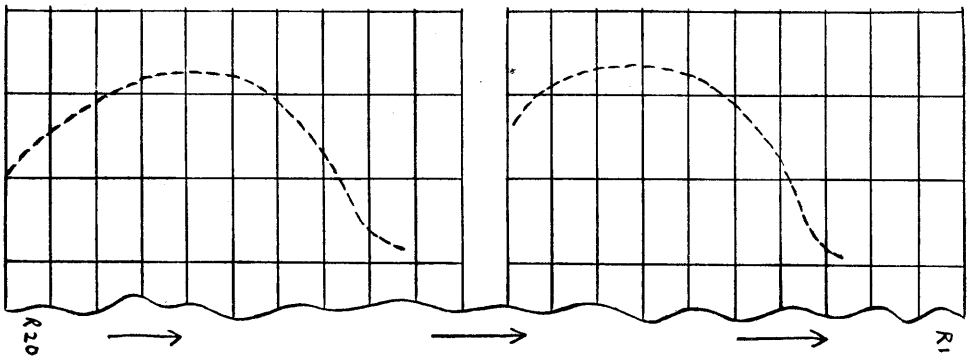
By S. J. VERMAAK.

[This is a description of a part of a sheet of the 1d. (first colour) Cape Centenary stamps. It looks as if "The Abominable Snowman" had meandered or dragged his way over the first three rows of the left-hand half of the sheet, leaving his trail behind him in the shape of smears in the colour of the triangle, etc., as per the accompanying diagram.

The drag takes the form of smudges varying in size from microscopic to about 4 mm. wide and the depth of the stamp in length. Mr. Vermaak has stated that the sheet is definitely **not** printer's waste, but was obtained in the Johannesburg post-office. Two other sheets were obtained at the same time; they were similarly smudged, though not so markedly, and in different positions. How such smudged sheets escaped the eye of the examiner is anybody's guess. Mr. Vermaak does not venture on any explanation as to how these peculiar markings were made on the sheets.

We do not as a rule illlustrate printing flaws which are inconstant or only occur on a few stamps or sheets, but this occurrence is of such an unusual nature that we have departed from our usual custom.

Following the course of the "drag", the smudges are as follows:—Ed.]



R20/2 Faintly affecting PO of Postage, P of Posseël and S of South. (This is the smallest defect in this category).
R19/2 From F of OF, across Hope's knee, TA of Postage on triangle and -AF and into margin below 1 of 1853, continuing upwards as in R18/2.
R/182 From 1 of 1853 and left tip of triangle.
R18/1 From EEL of Posseël through AFR of Africa, ending in the margin below 53 of 1953 in the stamp above.
R17/1 Vertically from 95 of 1953 (about 4 mm. wide, thinning out towards the top), across OPE of Hope, ENNY of Penny, the P's of Postage and Posseël and H of South, through margin in one faint line to 5 of 1953 in stamp above to start as in R16/1.
R16/1 Vertically from 5 of 1953 across E of HOPE, NY of Penny, PO of Postage and P of Posseël; AF of Africa also affected. A neat dot below R of Africa also added.
R15/1 Faintly from top of 3 of 1953 through right tip of triangle.
R14/2 From foot of K, upwards through A of Afrika.
R13/3 1 of 1d. given a neat serif (extra) and line through AFR of Afrika.
R13/2 From 5 of 1953 across left tip of triangle.
R12/3 Faintly from first O of Good, across anchor and E of One, affecting also T of South.
Central gutter: mark about 5 mm. long.
R10/2 From hyphen between dates, across PE O of Cape Of, across left end of triangle obliterating P of Postage on triangle and through 1 of 1d.
R10/1 From foot of C backwards across AFRIC into margin (faintly) to continue at 9 of 1953 as in R9/1.
R9/1 From 9 of 1953 sweeping behind HOPE (2 mm. wide), across One and SO of South ending as one faint line in perf. hole below 1 of 1953 of stamp above to continue as R8/1.
R8/1 From 1 of 1953 sweeping across HOPE (2 mm. wide), through apex of triangle and S of South, terminating as two faint lines in perf. hole.
R7/1 From top of G of Good, obliterating anchor and partly wiping out E of One and P of Penny.
R5/2 From arm of HOPE, through E of One; TH AF of South Africa also affected.
R4/3 From G of Postage on triangle, up and across SOU of South.
R3/3 From 5 of 1953 across right tip of triangle, thinning out and affecting AGE of Postage and L of Posseël.
R1/3 Across A of Postage on triangle.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Monthly Notes
of Information and Offers.
2/6 per annum.
4/- Air Mail.

C. E. SHERWOOD,
"The Union Specialist"
105, MARFORD CRESCENT, SALE, MANCHESTER

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SWAZILAND—POSTAL HISTORY and STAMPS

By
J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

(Continued from page 152 of August issue.)

Stage 5 (Continued).

POSTMARKS

Stage 5 1902 - 1910

MBABANE

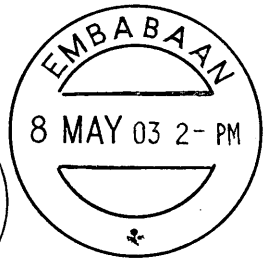




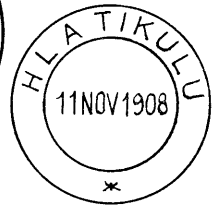


PIGG'S PEAK





MBABANE



Hlatikulu

DARKTON





BREMERSDORP



Stegi

Other Post-Offices or Agencies operating during this period were: Ezulweni, Forbes Reef, Mahamba, Mhlotsheni, Nomahasha, Sandhlan, and Sulphur Springs. The barred oval with "718" is also known, as in Stages 2 and 3, but where it was used is not known. The postmarks of Nomahasha and Sulphur Springs are not known at all; those of the other five mentioned are known from the next stage.

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The Stamps.

Although the Administrator of Swaziland as a British Protectorate arrived at Mbabane on 2nd Sept., 1902, it was not until 19th Nov., 1902 that the Head P.O. was established there. The postal services were operated by the Department of Posts of the Transvaal Colony and the stamps used were the ordinary Edwardian stamps of that colony. They are therefore only recognisable as used in Swaziland by postmarks.

All the Transvaal Edwardians may be considered as having potentially been used in Swaziland, but actually specimens so used are hard to come by, probably simply because few people were on the look-out for them and those found have mostly been rescued from Transvaal collections. I have or have seen the following:

½d. both bicoloured and monocoloured.
1d. both bicoloured and monocoloured.
2d. bicoloured.
4d., 6d., 1/-, 2/-, 2/6, 5/- and £1.

Kohl reports the use postally about 1905 of K.E. VII Transvaal 1d. and 6d. stamps (Mult. C.A. Wmk.) overprinted in black "Swaziland/ Revenue/Only" I have not seen these postally used nor do I know of any official authorisation for such usage.

In 1908-09 there was seriously considered the overprinting of Transvaal stamps with "Swaziland", for postal purposes, similarly to what had already been done for some time for revenue stamps, and it was actually agreed to in principle. Then the P.M.G. of the Transvaal said the overprinting could not be satisfactorily done in Pretoria (He must surely have had the "Swazieland" overprints in mind!) and suggested in 1909 that it be done in England. The matter was then hung up because of the possibility of the Transvaal stamps going out of use.

Postal Stationery.

It seems highly probable that the postal stationery of the Transvaal Colony was used in Swaziland, to a reasonable extent, but very little seems to have been preserved. The only actual specimen I have been able to find, or have seen; is a 'cut-out' 1d. embossed stamp with the **head** of King Edward VII, from an envelope; it is postmarked "Embabaan, Aug. 03."

CHAPTER 6.

Stages 6, 7, 8 and 9. 1910 to Present Time.

Postal Routes, Communications, Etc.

Although this period, during which the postal services of Swaziland have been operated until quite recently by the Postal Administration of the Union of South Africa, is philatelically divided into 4 Stages according to the Stamps used in each of them, from a postal history point of view it is more conveniently treated as one Period.

It is a period during which there has been a large expansion in Swaziland in the way of land settlement, agriculture, forestry, stock raising, mining, road extensions and improvements, and modes of transport.

Witout going into year by year developments in the postal services it will suffice to show (a) a list of those operating in the 1920's, with their frequencies, times taken and mode of transport employed, and (b) a map showing the routes covered at the present time, mainly by motor.

Present-Day Mail Routes.

It will be noted that the northern part of Swaziland still appears to be rather cut off from the administrative centre at Mbabane.

Actually there is (sometimes!) quite a fair motor road connecting Mbabane with Forbes Reef, Piggs Peak and Barberton but Floods in the Komati River are liable to cut it between Forbes Reef and Piggs Peak so that sometimes mail from the latter place to Mbabane has to travel by Pack Donkey to Emlembe, thence by Aerial Railway to Barberton, by railway to Machadodorp and Breyten, and finally by S.A. Ry. Motor Bus to Mbabane.

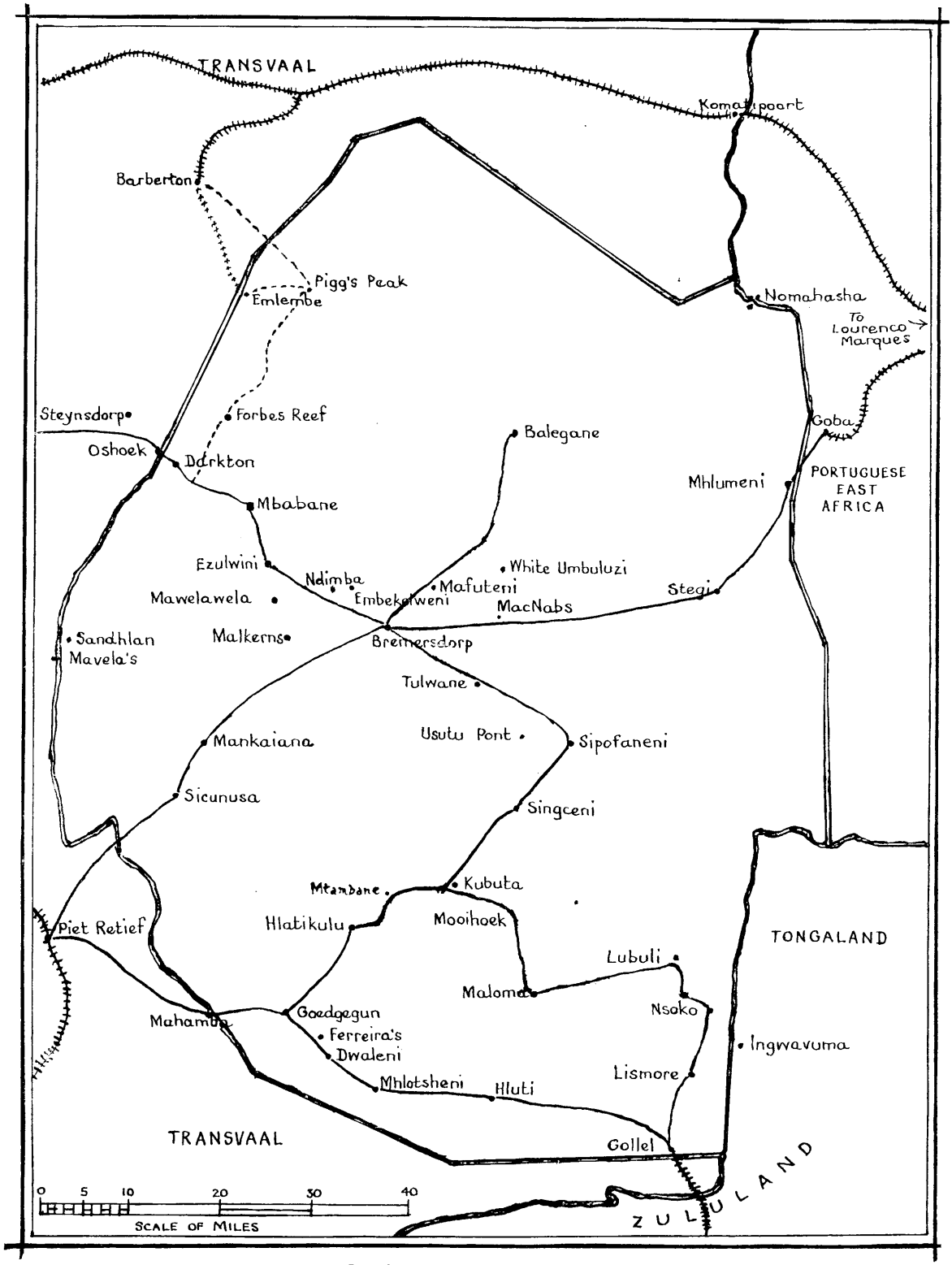
The north-eastern part of Swaziland is the least occupied portion. A mail route is shown on the map going as far as Balegane from Bremersdorp but there is no actual P.O. at Balegane, the furthest out one in this direction being Mafuteni.

Nomahasha, or Namahasha is a very cut-off police post on the border, facing a post of the same name on the Portuguese side. There has been no postal agency there during this period and mail from it now comes via Stegi.

Mail Services in the 1920's.

Route.	Times Weekly	Hours	Conveyance
Breyten-Bremersdorp via Oshoek, Mbabane and Ezulweni	2	10½	Motor
Ezulweni-Malkerns	2	4	Foot
Bremersdorp-Stegi	1	30	Pack Donkey
Bremersdorp-White Mbuluzi	2	6	Foot
Stegi-Portuguese Border	3	6	"
Mbabane-Forbes Reef	2	4	"
Barberton-Piggs Peak	3	14	"
Amsterdam-Sandhlan	1	6	"
Piet Retief-Mankaiana	2	12	"
Piet Retief-Hlatikulu	2	5	Motor
Hlatikulu-Mooihoek	2	4	Foot
Dwaleni-Berbice	2	4	"
Mhlotsheni-Berbice	2	4	"
Hluti-Mhlotsheni	2	9	"
Maloma-Mooihoek	2	8	Cart and Foot

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Postal Routes at the present time.

(To be continued.)

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SOCIETY NEWS.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

14 July:

Mr. Hagger presided over a well attended meeting, at which there were 4 visitors present.

Mr. Hagger, on behalf of the Society, welcomed Dr. Kaplan back from Durban, where he had won a high award for his collection displayed at the Centenary Philatelic Exhibition.

Dr. Kaplan than thanked the Society for their congratulations, and at the same time urged members to start preparing their displays for the next year's exhibition, which was to be held at Pretoria.

At this point, Dr. Kaplan donated a selection of 1st day issues of the Durban Centenary Celebration covers to be sold in order to increase the Society's funds.

Mr. Retief then gave a most interesting and constructive talk and display on American and New Zealand stamps.

Mr. Pitcon thanked Mr. Retief for his interesting talk, from which he felt sure that the members of the Society had gathered a great deal of useful information.

AFRIKAANSE FILATELISTIESE VERENIGING VAN PRETORIA.

Met die maandelikse vergadering gehou op **23 Junie** was die opkoms goed, veral daar sommige van ons lede wat die perlementsvakansie geniet het weer terug was in ons midde. Sal dit nie 'n goeie gebaar wees as die filateliste by die owerhede daarop aandring om die vakansie te skrap en sodoende 'n klompie geld te bespaar. Wie weet, dalk kan die staatsdrukker dan 'n nuwe drukpers kry om mooi tematiese seëls te verskaf, wat is dit tog om 'n ou vakansietjie prys te gee vir mooi posseëls.

Na afhandeling van die gewone besigheid is die vasvra wedstryd gewen deur Dr. Reisener.

Daarna het mnr. J. van Proosdy 'n baie leersame praatjie gelewer oor die posseëls van Turkye en 'n bykans volledige versameling van die land tentoongestel. G. J. DE SW.

O.F.S. & BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Die bywoning van ons vergaderings het die laaste paar maande geweldig verbeter en indien ons op u almal kan staatmaak kan ons dit 'n nog groter sukses maak en 'n veel aangenamer aand saam deurbring. Ons het op die laaste vergadering weer soos gewoonlik drie uitstallings gehad. Die eerste was deur een van ons Unie spesialiste, Mnr. O. T. Kachelhoffer, wat die nuutste posseëls van die Britse Koninkryk, naamlik die Koninklike Besoek om die wêreld, vertoon het. Mnr. Rennie het 'n pragtige versameling van Groot Brittanpje vertoon met die reeks Plaat Nommers van die Rooi Pennies byna volledig. Derdens het Mnr. Price aan die beurt gekom met 'n algemene tematiese versameling.

Mnr. Levy het 'n verslag gelewer van die onlangs gehoue Kongres in Durban wat almal geniet het. Mnr. Lichtenstein het weer volgestaan met etlike nuwe uitgawes aangesien Mnr. Donne nog steeds met vakansie weg is.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

14 July.

This was greatly enjoyed by the 30 members and 8 visitors who attended. The highlight of the evening was the very fine exhibit of the Rhodesias that was put on by our old friend Mr. E. C. Wright. It is seldom that we have the opportunity of seeing such an excellent selection of the stamps of our Northern neighbours, which included many fine varieties and some outstanding examples of the British South Africa Company "double heads". Dr. H. O. Reisener, in summing up, expressed the sentiments of all present when he stated how much he had enjoyed viewing such an attractive display. Thank you very much, Mr. Wright.

Considerable interest was aroused when Mr. M. Peisach requested the approval of the Society to the formation of a study circle, which would undertake the study of the new Central African Federation stamps. The object of this circle would be to provide accurate and complete information on the stamps of this country, which started its first issue with a set depicting the Queen's head on 1st July. Good luck to the study circle in their efforts.

P.M.J.M.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

July 5th:

Mr. D. Slater-Kinghorn convened an evening of philatelic jostlings supported by the following exhibitors:—

Mr. Newlands, who showed pre-Union postal history.

Mr. L. Dodd, who brought along his Argentine.

Dr. Reisener, who exhibited Danzig and the Saar.

Mr. Ferguson read a most interesting prepared paper on behalf of Mr. Newlands, whose exhibit was of immense philatelic and historic interest besides comprising some really choice covers and cancellations. Mr. Dodd's exhibit was, as always, very pleasing and coupled with Dr. Reisener's again helped to stimulate interest in fields which have not always been popular with our members

July 19th:

Dr. H. O. Reisener was the speaker this evening when members were treated to a most interesting and informative talk on the mechanics of stamp collecting. Special emphasis was laid on the quartz lamp and its particular uses and advantages to the more advanced collector. Examples were shown of stamps that seemed perfectly genuine and normal to the naked eye, and which were shown to have been tampered with and forged when subjected to the quartz lamp. Startling colour changes were also noticed in what seemed to be identical King's heads Unions when examined under the light of the lamp. Members are not generally aware that the Society possesses a quartz lamp which may be used by those interested who have only to contact Dr. Reisener. J.M.W.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN.

10th June: "Sarawak", by A. M. Jones.
24th June: "Germany and old German Estates," by R. Putzel.
8th July: "British West Indies", by M. Shifrin.
22nd July: "Switzerland," by C. G. Mummery.

In connection with the above four meetings these were all of a very high standard and it was of interest to record that Mr. Shifrin made his first showing and is one of the recent members of the Society.

THE THEMATIC STAMP CLUB OF CAPE TOWN.

14th June: Exhibits by lady members. This consisted of exhibits by Mrs. J. Hotz, Mrs. D. Flint and Miss C. Simenhoff. Miss Simenhoff exhibited for the first time.

28th June: "King George VI. A-J", by A. Simson.

12th July: "Music and Philately," by A. Hilton-Sydow.

This was a clever combination of Shakespearean quotations applied to music and philately.

26th July: "King George VI. Union of South Africa", by A. Simson.

These four meetings were well attended and certainly gave a considerable amount of variety. The ladies evening is invariably a good one.

M.F.S.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF WESTERN RAND.

The **July meeting** will be remembered by those who attended as the coldest night of the year.

After the usual business had been speedily dealt with Mr. Jack Burrell displayed his Kenya etc. (K.U.T.). This exhibit was given a Bronze Award at the Exhibition held in Durban and Jack proudly showed us his S.G.'s 111a and 111c. Mr. Digger Sharpe suitably thanked Mr. Burrell on behalf of the Club and mentioned that he had a hand in helping Jack to locate the two outstanding items. The collection was very interesting and nearly complete from 1935 to date. It showed great detail, variety, colours and perfs. Also many stamps cancelled from Travelling Post Offices.

As a sideline, Mr. S. J. Vermaak, the winner of the Skinner Cup until next Congress, gave many of us our first view of this trophy when he brought it along to the meeting. Heartiest congratulations, BREI, on attaining this honour.

Although refreshments induced a little warmth, all of us were glad to hurry home to thaw out when the meeting closed at 9.50 p.m. H.F.H.

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PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

6th July, 1954:

Well over 30 members and visitors attended. On behalf of the Delegates, the President, Mr. G. Bülbring, presented a detailed report of the proceedings at the annual Congress of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Affica, which took place at Durban at the beginning of June and the Stamp Exhibition organised by the Philatelic Society of Natal at the same time. An excellent auction of good material followed and plans for the participation of the Society in the Hobby's Exhibition were discussed. Mr. A. C. Geard entertained us during the last part of the evening by showing a "Pot-pourri" of stamps, which included many beautiful stamps from most countries of the world. He had mounted them in a very unusual but most effective and pleasing manner and the exhibit was greatly enjoyed by all present.

20th July, 1954.

In spite of bitterly cold and rainy weather about two dozen people appeared at the second Junior's evening of the year. Half of this number were girls and boys, the other adults. Once again Mr. G. Bülbring had been asked by the Committee to give a talk for the benefit of the young collectors. He selected as his subject "Philatelic Terms" and roamed at random over his field, which created much interest. Mr. G. K. Forbes provided some very fine stamps as prizes for the winners of a raffle — the successful young collectors being most excited at their luck. Finally each young enthusiast was presented with an envelope of assorted stamps by way of a free gift and as an encouragement in the hobby.

3rd August, 1954:

In spite of another night of really bad weather many members foregathered and enjoyed immensely a most interesting display by our stalwart Mr. G. K. Forbes, entitled "Bits and Pieces". The sheets on the tables were filled with exciting stamps, labels, seals, covers etc., from the four corners of the earth; anything unusual not normally included in collections seemed to be there in abundance besides many very interesting historical items. To mention just a few: stamps of Local Posts, Exhibition Labels and Covers, Christmas Seals, Crash Covers, Ship Wreck Letters, Boer War Passes, Airmail labels etc., in infinite variety. It was really an outstanding show and Mr. Forbes was most heartily thanked for a wonderful evening, which writer thinks he enjoyed with complete abandon, lovely to behold. Such are the joys of the bye-ways of Philately. Tea and another good auction concluded a very happy and successful meeting.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG.

At the meeting of **July 26th** members of the Philatelic Section of the Jewish Guild provided the exhibits for the evening. There were 3 exhibits in all.

Mr. L. Buchen showed the first coin issue of Israel. This was a specialised collection including imperf. varieties, Plate Blocks,, Booklet Panes and many varieties. Mr. Buchen read a paper on the exhibit. Mr. Hirschman spoke on it.

In the absence of Mr. B. Glassman, Mr. Nathanson showed a portion of Mr. Glassman's collection of the stamps of Queen Elizabeth II and read a paper on the exhibit. The exhibit consisted of the issues of all colonies, agencies and dominions except South Africa and South West Africa. There were 87 pages in all of fine mint items.

Mr. Viner spoke on the exhibit.

Mr. I. Isaacs showed a small collection of 19th Century covers, most of them being non-philatelic in the sense that they were not specially prepared for philatelists. The exhibit included some Great Britain 1d. Blacks and early German states.

Dr. Pirie spoke on the exhibit.

At the meeting of **August 10th,** the exhibit was provided by Mr. Hagger who showed unusual Union items. He read a paper on the exhibit which included the 5/- and 10/- King's Head inverted watermark with controls, King's Head offsets, several items with double perforations, others with perforations missing, joined paper varieties and many other rarities.

Mr. Lydall spoke on the exhibit.

At the meeting of **August 23rd,** the exhibits were provided by the East Rand Philatelic Society who paid an official visit to the Johannesburg Society.

Mr. Feinstein showed a Thematic Exhibit entitled "The Birth and growth of the Union." This consisted of stamps and covers illustrating the Postal History as well as the general history of the Union. He gave some notes on the exhibit. The exhibit included some Cape Triangulars, Early Transvaal stamps, New Republic stamps, Mafeking besieged stamps and also currency notes issued during the South African war. There were also covers of the first and second world wars.

Dr. Pirie spoke on the exhibit.

Mr. Clements showed Canada. The exhibit included some fine used pence issues as well as several mint blocks of Queen's Heads. The exhibit showed a complete range of issues to the most recent.

Mr. R. Buchen spoke on the exhibit.

Mr. Suklje showed used King George VI Southern Rhodesia in a variety of singles, pairs, strips and blocks of all sizes. There was a block of 28 of the 5/- and 24 of the 2/6 all fine used.

Mr. Schaiowitz spoke on the exhibit.

Mr. MacArthur showed a variety of sheets of foreign stamps of countries A. to G. The exhibit included some Austrian, Belgian, French, and German pictorials all in fine mint condition as well as stamps of other countries.

Mr. W. Oppenheim spoke on the exhibit.

A SERIOUS RACKET.

'Gibbons Stamp Monthly' draws attention to the flood of Bogus Issues coming from the U.S.A. These 'stamps' have been prepared by private printers for the so-called Governments of 'Free Albania', 'Free Croatia', and 'South Moluccas.'

If they were purely propaganda labels for 'exiled governments' (if such really exist) one could not cavil at them, but they all embody the word 'Postage', or some equivalent.

But as there are no postal services for which they can be legitimately used, to sell them as 'postage stamps', which is being done, savours of sharp practice.

Even the now-famous front cover of **Life** comes in for castigation as having featured several stamps of doubtful origin (including what is frankly called an 'unrecognised South Moluccas').

FIRST MAJOR Q.E. VARIETY.

'The West End Philatelist' illustrates a pair of G.B. ½d. overprinted 'Bahrain 1½ anna' with the '½' omitted. It is stated that there was one sheet of 240 stamps of this variety, sold over the counter. How did this variety occur — on every stamp of the sheet?

NETHERLANDS.

From 23 Aug.-9 Oct. there will be two stamps on sale, with Surtax for the benefit of the National Aviation Fund. One is a 2c. plus 2c. representing a boy with a model plane. the other a 10c. plus 4c. featuring Dr. A. Plesman, aeronautic pioneer. They will be valid for postage till 31-12-55.

"EXTRA FLAGSTAFFS".

Scacity of some of the Silver Jubilee stamps with the extra flagstaff variety, has attracted the attention of the faker. Mr. E. Bloch, in "Stamp Collecting" draws attention to constant hairlines on adjoining stamps (these varieties are usually collected in blocks of 4). If they are not present, be suspicious of your extra flagstaff. Stamp No. 50 has a vertical hair line just to the left of the main tower, and stamp No. 56 one about 0.5 m.m. to the right of where the extra flagstaff would be if it were on that stamp instead of on No. 49.

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THE
SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST
PROPRIETORS AND PUBLISHERS :
The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa
Honorary Editor: Dr. J. H. HARVEY PIRIE
Business Manager: Mr. J. MICHELSON.
P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.
Vol. 30. No. 10. OCTOBER, 1954. Whole No. 355.

UNION NOTES

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

RECENT PRINTINGS.

The Publicity Officer of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs has kindly supplied the following information covering the period from 22.4.1954 to 21.7.1954. For the previous list see our July issue.

Ordinary Pictorial Postage Stamps.

1d. — Job No. 17426/3 contd. On an order for 650,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, 43,500 sheets were delivered up to the 22.4.54 from the old cylinders Nos. 54 (Int.) and 53 (Ext.). On the 27.4.54, the first sheets of a new printing produced from the old cylinder No. 54 (Int.) and a new cylinder No. 48 (Ext.) were delivered for the same Job No. and the total supplied to date from the new combination of cylinders amounts to 325,500 sheets.

2d. — Job No. 5906 contd. On an order for 1,000,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, 722,606 have been delivered to date. Same cylinders as before, No. 27 Interior and No. 18 Exterior.

3d. — Job No. 17412. On a new order for 30,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, 34,330 were delivered on the 8.6.54. Same one colour cylinder, No. 17, as before.

6d. — Job No. 17442. On a new order for 20,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, 18,172 were delivered on the 17.6.54 from the same cylinders recorded in our July issue — Nos. 85 (Int.) and 32 (Ext.).

1/- — Job No. 17558/3 contd. On an order for 50,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, the first delivery was made on the 23.3.54 and the order completed on the 4.5.54 with a total of 52,153 sheets. Same cylinders recorded in our July issue — Nos. 66 (Int.) and 3 (Ext.).

2/6 — Job No. 17443. On an order for 5,000 sheets of 60 stamps per sheet, 4,800 were delivered on the 8.6.54. Same cylinders as before, Nos. 5 (Int.) and 51 (Ext.).

Air Letter Cards.

6d. — Job No. 8659 contd. On an order for 6,000,000 cards, a total of 3,506,400 has been delivered to date. Same machine and cylinders as before.

Pictorial Post Cards.

1d. — Job No. 8570 contd. On an order for 2,720,000 cards, the total delivered to date amounts to 2,154,880 cards. Same printing on Chambon Machine.

S.W.A. Air Mail Letters.

6d. — Job No. 62941. On an order for 150,000 there was a delivery of 57,600 on the 10.6.54 and a total of 164,400 up to the final date of delivery on the 15.6.54.

Overprinted S.W.A. — Air Letter Cards.

6d. — Job No. 300223. Supplied by the Postmaster-General and overprinted S.W.A., 35,999 Air Letter Cards were delivered between the 6.5.54 and the 11.5.54.

Customs Stamps.

½d. — Job No. 103403. Supplied by the Postmaster-General and overprinted DOUANE, 1,999 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet were delivered on the 1.6.54.

New Animal Stamps

National Parks Board First Day Cover and Special Datestamp for the New Animal Series.

We have received a pamphlet from the National Parks Board giving details of a special first day envelope which will be on sale at the Kruger Park and throughout the Union for use with the new series of animal stamps to be issued on the 14th October, 1954. It is stated in a covering letter that the money accruing from the sale of the envelopes will be used for the erection of water works in the various Parks.

The special datestamp mentioned in the pamphlet will not be restricted to use on covers issued by the National Parks Board, but will be available for postmarking any addressed first day covers which are sent to the Philatelic Agency in Pretoria with a request for this special postmark. A Bulletin to this effect, received from the Publicity Officer of the GP.O., Pretoria, is published below in conjunction with the announcement of the special envelope which the Parks Board is putting on sale.

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY.

The series of postage stamps currently in use in the Union of South Africa is to be replaced by a new series of 10 stamps as from **14th October, 1954.** Each of these stamps will bear the representation of a South African wild animal. The National Parks Board, to which has been entrusted the pleasant task of game conservation, feels that the issue of this new series offers a unique opportunity for the development of a love of our fauna, whose continued existence depends entirely upon the goodwill of the civilised community. To further the good cause, the Parks Board has also issued a special envelope which will be of interest to the animal-

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lover and philatelist as a first-day-issue of the new series of animal-stamps. The issue promises to be something special and its value should increase in course of time. An opportunity such as this, should not be missed by the visitor to the Kruger National Park.

The envelopes are obtainable at only 1/- each from the tourist officials and the shops in the Kruger Park and also from the Central News Agency throughout the Union and the Rhodesias. An order for the same envelope may also be placed with the Director, National Parks Board, P.O. Box 787, Pretoria, at 2/6 each, plus an amount to the value of stamps desired. The Director undertakes to buy, on your behalf, the stamps indicated, to affix them to the special envelope, and to mail them to you from Skukuza on the first day of issue, 14th October, 1954. A special postmark has been designed which will be used exclusively at Skukuza for first-day-issues only. **A unique opportunity indeed!**

(Cheques to include bank commission).

SPECIAL DATESTAMP: KRUGER NATIONAL PARK.

With reference to an announcement concerning the issue of first day sovers by the National Parks Board, the Postmaster-General desires to state that the special datestamp with the wording Kruger National Park/Nasionale Krugerwildtuin, Skukuza, will not be restricted to use on covers issued by the National Parks Board, but will be available for postmarking any addressed first day covers which are sent to the Philatelic Agency, Publicity Branch, G.P.O., Pretoria, with a request for this special postmark.

Requests for more than one particular postmark on an envelope will not be entertained.

Envelopes for use as first-day covers will **not** be provided by the Post Office or purchased for applicants from outside sources. Orders sent to the Philatelic Agency should be accompanied by addressed envelopes and a remittance to cover the cost of the stamps to be affixed.

Cheques will **not** be accepted.

South West Africa

South West Africa—New Issue in November.

We have received from the Director of the G.P.O., Windhoek, and also from Mr. R. Jaacks of the same town, the following pamphlet giving particulars and illustrations of the new series of postage stamps which will be issued in South West Africa on Monday the 15th November, 1954.

SOUTH WEST AFRICA.
DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

A new series of postage stamps will be introduced in South West Africa on Monday the 15th of November, 1954. The series consists of twelve denominations with bilingual inscriptions on each stamp and is divided int four groups, namely:—

1. Rock Paintings.
2. Karakul Industry.
3. Native Studies.
4. Wild Animals.

ROCK PAINTINGS: 1d. Reddish Brown, 2d. Sepia, 3d. Plum, 4d. Olive.



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The rock paintings bear witness of the habitation of South West Africa by unknown tribes. Not only are ahe paintings of great historical value but also highly artistic. The painting of the two small buck depicted on the penny stamp is to be found in the cave of the "White Lady" in the Brandberg on the edge of the Namib desert and is unusual in so far that the buck are drawn en-face, whereas most known rock paintings are in profile. The charm of these graceful animals is well expressed and show the masterly execution by this unknown artist. The "White Lady' is the best known of all rock paintings in South West Africa. The figure, two feet high, is painted in tone variations of rose, ochre and white showing clothes and "jewels" of distinctive nature and the dignity of the figure and beauty of her face are in complete harmony with the paintings surrounding her. The Rhino hunting scene on the 3d. stamp is to be seen at Nautzerus, west of Rehoboth, and leads us right into the middle of the activities of a tribe planning a careful attack. The figures are about the size of a human hand.

The White Elephant and Giraffe of Philip's Cave at Ameib, Usakos, are exceptionally large paintings. The size of the Elephant's back alone is over two feet. The red antelope superimposed on the side of the Elephant is a painting of a later age.

KARAKUL LAMB: 4½d. Indigo.

The Karakul sheep is bred mainly for the valuable and unique pelt of lamb which is used chiefly as a fashionable fur. Good pelts may be worth up to £6 or more but the average value is about £2 per pelt. The home of the Karakul is Bokhara from where the German Government imported 23 rams and 255 ewes into South West Africa in 1909. Today the number of Karakul sheep in South West Africa is in the vicinity of 3½ million and over 2½ million pelts are exported to various parts of the world annually. According to some authorities the name Karakul means "Black Rose".

NATIVE STUDIES: 6d. Bottle Green; 1/- Magenta; 1/3 Cerise; 1/6 Violet.

Of the various native tribes in South West Africa, the Ovambo is the largest. Their territory stretches from the Kaokoveld in the West, to the Okavango in the East and borders on Angola in the North. The Ovambo nation consists of 8 tribes of which the Ukuanjama or "tribe of the meat" is the largest. It is the women of this tribe who are depicted on the 6d., 1/- and 1/6 stamps. On the 1/6 stamp the headdress of a young girl is shown and on the 1/- stamp that of a mature woman. The horn-blower — a woman — on the 6d. stamp is an integral part of the traditional "coming of age" feast at which the headdress of the young Ukuanjama girl is changed. The feast is announced by blasts on the Kudu horn. There are nearly 200,000 Ovambos of all sections.

From the wives of German Missionaries who arrived in South West Africa in the latter half of the 19th century, the tall Herero women adopted their picturesque style of dress which today is still a feature of females of that tribe. Anything up to 14 yards of material, mostly bright floral prints, is used to make one of the full length dresses. The wide skirt and flowing style accompanied by the elegant headdress as depicted on the 1/3 stamp add to the stately bearing of these women. The Hereros, numbering nearly 32,000, are acommodated in various reserves in the Territory but a large number live in towns.

WILD ANIMALS: 2/6 Yellow Brown; 5/- Royal Blue and 10/- Black Green.

The last three stamps of the series depict a Lioness, a Gemsbok (known as the Aristocrat of the desert) and an Elephant; but a few of the large variety of wild animals still to be found in the game reserves of South West Africa. In the North of the Territory, roughly within a triangle bordered by the Southern border of Ovamboland, the copper mining town of Tsumeb in the East and Outjo to the South-West, lies the Etosha Pan which covers an area of roughly 80 x 40 miles. This vast pan, which in rainy seasons is filled with water which flows from the great flats of Ovamboland and the Kunene River basin, is incorporated in a 26,000 square mile game reserve with 20 permanent water holes. The reserve can be entered from Outjo by way of Okaukuejo and from Tsumeb via Namutoni, the old German fort which stands at the gateway to Ovamboland. At both these points rest camps have been provided.

The artist for the Rock Paintings is Mr. Otto Schroeder of Windhoek and Mr. Mark Vandeneschen, also of Windhoek, was responsible for the remaining nine designs. The printing of the stamps is being undertaken by the Government Printer, Pretoria.

A new series of pictorial Post Cards depicting South West African scenes as well as a new Air Letter form, both with special stamp designs, are also now available. There will, however, be no special first day issue arrangements for the Post Cards and Air Letter forms.

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE 15th NOV., 1954.

1. Orders must be addressed to the Director of Posts and Telegraphs (Postage Stamp Section), P.O. Box 287, Windhoek, South West Africa.

2. Orders for First Day cancellations accompanied by the necessary number of suitably addressed envelopes and remittances must reach the Director of Posts and Telegraphs on or before Saturday, the 13th of November, 1954. **Envelopes will not be supplied or purchased by the Post Office.**

3. Each sheet will consist of 120 stamps and each stamp measures approximately 24.2 x 30.225 mm. Sufficient space must be allowed on the front of each cover for the number of stamps required.

4. Remittances must be made by Money Order, Postal Order or Bank Draft. Foreign coins and foreign bank notes are not accepted and cheques will only be accepted if endorsed by a bank to the effect that funds are available.

5. Remittances in respect of mint stamps must include an amount sufficient for return postage and registration.

6. Only stamps affixed to mail matter genuinely committed to the post for transmission in the ordinary way, will be cancelled and requests for such articles to be returned under special cover cannot be entertained.

7. Orders will be executed in order of receipt and should be placed early.

8. Requests for First Day Covers received after the 13th of November will ont be entertained.

9. The price of a complete set of single stamps is £1 2s. 11½d.

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10. The new series of post cards comprises 24 different pictures and cost 2d. each or 4/- for a packet of 24. The design of the 1½d. stamp on the cards depicts a Klipbokkie (Chamois).

11. The 6d. Air Letter form is sold at face value and the motif of the stamp is a pair of ostriches running at full speed.

Commemorative Postage Stamps for Pretoria Civic Centenary next year.

The following Bulletin announcing the issue of two postage stamps to commemorate the Pretoria centenary celebrations in 1955 has been received from the Publicity Officer of the G.P.O., Pretoria.

CIVIC CENTENARY: PRETORIA, 1955. COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMPS.

It is notified that two commemorative postage stamps will be sold at all post offices in the Union for a period of approximately three months from the day on which the Pretoria centenary celebrations begin in 1955.

From the 31st October, 1955 to the 5th November, 1955, a stamp exhibition will be held under the auspices of the philatelic societies in Pretoria. On that occasion a specially designed date-stamp will be used at the temporary post office which will be in operation at the exhibition.

Details of the denominations, designs, colours and sizes of the postage stamps and the wording of the date-stamp will be announced later.

SHORT NOTICES.

H. R. Harmer, Ltd. The 1953-54 auction season ended up with a total of £275,400 for the London Sales, this being £37,610 up on the previous season. In addition £115,000 was realised for the Palace collection sold at Cairo. It is reported that British collectors competed more successfully with the considerable overseas competition; chief buyers abroad were America, Switzerland, Italy, France and South Africa. Germany has returned as a buyer, competing keenly for old German States.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. announce publication on 1st October of a "Two Reigns" catalogue. K.G. VI issues will be listed as before, but Q.E. issues will be dealt with much more fully with greater detail as regards shades, sheet sizes, imprints, plate numbers, quantities sold, errors, varieties and booklets. Prices vary with different bindings: 5/- limp cover; board binding 6/6; interleaved, 10/6.

1855 TEPPEX 1955.

To coincide with the celebration of the Centenary of Pretoria and as an integral part of the official festivities, a stamp exhibition will be held in Pretoria in 1955. It will be the largest and most comprehensive display of stamps ever to be shown in the administrative capital of the Union. Important aspects of the exhibition are:—

As is usual in the case of important exhibitions a code name has been coined for the exhibition which will be known as TEPPEX.

It is under the aegis of the Pretoria Philatelic Society, the Pretoria Railway Philatelic Society and the Pretoria Filatelistiese Vereniging.

There will be approximately six main groups under which stamps can be entered for competition and exhibited to the public view. These sections are again divided up into some 40 subsections.

Valuable prizes and awards will be given to successful exhibitors.

Entries will be confined to residents of Southern Africa or members of Societies affiliated to the Philatelic Federation of South Africa, which has approved the exhibition and will hold its 1955 Congress in Pretoria at the same time.

In addition to the competitive exhibits a Court of Honour will display one of the best known and most valuable collections of Transvaal stamps plus representative collections of other South African colonies and the republics with the emphasis on 19th century material.

School children will be given unusually wide facilities for exhibiting their collections for which there will be numerous classes and awards.

For the first time special encouragement will be given to colle,ctions written up in Afrikaans.

A special section with six or seven sub-divisions will be devoted to the popular type of stamp collecting known as Themately i.e. collecting by themes instead of countries. Sub-divisions will include biology, i.e. flora, fauna etc., geography, transport and communications e.g. ships, railways, aeroplanes, etc., etc., architecture and engineering, art and science, and history.

Interested persons are invited even at this early date to make contact with the Chairman of the Exhibition Joint Committee, Mr. D. Slater-Kinghorn, 406 Luttig Street, Pretoria, who will be glad to provide further details.

The date has been fixed for 31 October—5 November, 1955.

£10,000 SALES IN 27 MONTHS.

B.P.A. Trade Section — British Philatelic Association

MONTHLY SALES

Supported by Collectors all over Southern Africa.
It is usual for about half of the lots to be bought by postal bids.

John H. Wicks B.P.A. STAMP AGENCY

CATALOGUES

With list of prices realised available on subscription of 10/- per year.

PTS

P.O. BOX 784, DURBAN.

(Walter Kirby Advtg.)

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REVIEWS

Deutschland Spezial-Catalogue, 1955. R. Wrona, Neue Winterfeldstr. 26, Berlin, W.30. Price 2 DM (approx. 3/-).

This is a very handy pocket sized catalogue which should be most useful to collectors of German stamps, especially of modern issues. It gives brief listings, but without any varieties, of old German states and former colonies. but for the more recent stamps it covers all parts of Germany and includes plate numbers, booklets, tete-beche stamps, town and district issues, etc. — lots of information not available in most general catalogues.

Gibbons 1955 Catalogue, Part II, Foreign Countries, Europe and Colonies. Price 21s., postage 1/5.

This has increased nearly 100 pages since the last edition, nearly two and a half years ago, but the price has not been raised.

No country has been completely rewritten, except Azerbaijan, but there are many relatively minor revisions of lists, in old issues as well as in more modern ones. Perhaps the most notable of these, is the complete rewriting of the Hradcany issues of Czechoslovakia.

There has been abundant price revision, always, of course, open to criticism, but the (new) editor thinks it is realistic and really representative of market value.

Gibbons 1955 Catalogue, Part I, British Empire. Price 16s. Postage 1/1. Stanley Gibbons Ltd., 391 Strand, London W.C.2.

The publishers report that the demand for both new and older issues steadily increases and that they are often unable to complete orders. Prices, as reflected in this issue, are steadily rising for many of the older classic stamps, especially those of Australia, Canada and West Indies.

There has been a fair amount of revision of listings, perhaps most marked in Australian Commonwealth, New Guinea and some of the Indian States, a group which incidentally has had a big revival in general popularity. In Africa, the most obvious change has been the re-writing of the previously unwieldy list of the New Republican stamps; the various handstamp dates now being given in small type so that much space is saved.

Under Transvaal Locals, 'Wolmaransstad' is now spelled correctly—Cheers!

MEDIUM COLLECTORS.

I don't stock stamps priced in £££s, and don't offer rubbishy so-called "bargains" but I can give the serious medium collector good service at reasonable prices. Send details of countries, etc., of interest for an approval selection by return. References or deposit from new customers, please.

JAMES TUDGE

(Dept. S.A.P.)

3 HILL VIEW ROAD, BOTLEY ROAD, OXFORD, ENGLAND.

MULTO- OR MULTI-?

We have gone inta the local history of the use of the term "Multopositive" in connection with the Rotary Photogravure. We find that the writer in the "Springbok" is completely wrong in saying that this term originated in, and is used only in South Africa. (See our August issue).

Actually we are inclined to agree with him that "Multipositive" is grammatically better than "multopositive", and the former word was the first used here.

The changed usage by our writers came about after reading "Postage Stamps in the Making"; the original volume of this name was written by Fred J. Melville, but a re-written and brought-up-to-date edition by John Easton appeared in 1949. Mr. Easton is probably the leading authority in Great Britain to-day on stamp printing, and in Chap. 18, dealing with Rotary Photogravure he uses the term "multopositive" repeatedly.

We came to the conclusion that "multopositive" was, or had become, the trade technical term, and therefore adopted it.

So the "Springbok" had better fight this matter out on British soil with Mr. Easton. In other words we do not accept the blame (if blame there be) in South Africa, but pass the buck to him.

AUSTRALIA.

A 3½d. "Antarctic" stamp is to be issued on 17 November, significant of the country's interest in the Antarctic, with three stations there.

Covers with these stamps will, if sent already addressed and with sufficient to cover postage, be forwarded to any of the 3 stations by the Philatelic Bureau, G.P.O., Melbourne, but this will only be done as opportunity offers and there may be considerable delay.

GERMAN ANTI-COMMUNIST 'STAMPS'

The U.S. Information Service has sent us photographs of 'stamps' which have been made by a resistance movement in East Germany. The general designs are similar to current stamps.

One is a 12 pf. stamp with 3 workmen and the inscription "Arbeit Langsam in der Undeutschen Undemokratischen Republik" (Work slowly in the un-German, un-democratic Republic). Some 800 of these passed through the mails from the P.O. at Gera before the Russian officials noticed them.

The other is a faked 24 pf. stamp put into circulation on 17 June 1954, the anniversary of the workers' rising in 1953. This shows a street and at the top 'Berlin Stalinallee/Strasst des 17 Juni'; at the bottom 'Undeutsche Undemokratische Republik'.

OBITUARY.

MAJOR J. A. B. VAN WYK.

We regret to see the sudden death reported of Major J. A. B. van Wyk of the S.A. Police. A keen philatelist and a cheery, pleasant individual, he was well-known in stamp circles in Pretoria and the Reef when stationed in the Transvaal. He was fairly recently transferred to Grahamstown on promotion. One of the younger members of our fraternity who will be sadly missed.

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THEMATICS,

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

(Paper read to the Philatelic Society of Natal)

By MARGARET BETH CUTHBERTSON

(Mrs. Lionel Bevis, Durban.)

The recent Philatelic Exhibition held in Durban has proved that Thematic exhibits are popular with Press, public and philatelist alike. The Press reporter and photographer finds something to report in the colourful and interesting displays of thematic collectors. The public are thankful to find something they can understand, and the stamp collectors find plenty to ponder as they pore over these gay displays of art and music and industry.

But the recent exhibition raises several questions in the minds of thematic collectors.

It is obvious at once that the judges were faced with a big problem when they turned from the study of philatelic exhibits to the thematic section. Few of the philatelic considerations apply to thematic displays, and the judges at this recent exhibition are to be congratulated that their decisions met with approval from exhibitors and public alike.

During the past few years, while Thematic Collecting has been growing steadily in strength and popularity, thematic collectors have maintained their right to please themselves, and some of them have contrived to please others at the same time. But now that Thematic Collecting has invaded the realm of Exhibitions, collectors find that they must please not only themselves, but the judges as well, if they are to reap the rewards of exhibition.

The judges, most of whom are drawn from the ranks of philatelic aristocracy, are men who have devoted years to the study of stamps as stamps. Now they are called upon to judge the work of men who see stamps as pictures or as illustrations. There is a subtle difference, which is only apparent when viewing a number of thematic collections side by side.

Exhibitors and judges must therefore come to terms, find some common ground upon which they can speak the same language.

An exhibition such as was held in Durban in June 1954 affords the onlooker an opportunity to explore some of the avenues open to thematic collectors.

Problems of Presentation.

The most popular thematic collection is one which takes some subject, whether ships or books or waterfalls or birds, and gathers together every possible stamp depicting a ship or a book or waterfall or bird. The write-up of such a collection may be of the briefest, merely the name of the object upon the stamp, with a date or a place-name; or it may take the form of several paragraphs, giving a considerable amount of information about the object shown.

At a first glance such a collection is not so different in appearance from a philatelic collection. The main stress is upon the stamp, and the onlooker is at liberty to read the write-up or not, just as he chooses.

But such collections tend to look somewhat mediocre in a Thematic exhibition where collections with a strong artistic bias are on show. The artistic collection does not necessarily have art for its subject. But every page of an artistic collection is designed to capture the eye. There may be a lavish use of colour, or illuminated initials, of underlining and outlining, all designed to display the stamps and stress the theme.

Or the collection may be embellished with pictures culled from a dozen different sources, colourful postcards, reproductions of famous paintings, photographic enlargements, all sorts of pictorial material which in some way develops the theme of the collection. The chief drawback to such collections is that the stamps tend to become lost and overlooked in the welter of pictorialism.

Then there are collections in which the theme even dominates the stamps. Such collections are first and foremost 'write-ups' illustrated by appropriate stamps.

Viewing a number of thematic collections displayed side by side the onlooker comes to the conclusion that the two qualities that are going to win the most attention at stamp shows are originality and showmanship. This is not to say that they will win the most marks from the judges, for the judges will see the collections one by one and will base their decision upon a number of considerations. But the collection that will draw the largest public is the one which combines originality and showmanship with due regard for the proper display of the stamps.

Too much write-up is better than too little. The public do not need to read all that is shown upon an album page, but where some detail captures the imagination they want immediate enlightenment. For instance, there is a 2 escudos stamp of Mocambique with a picture of a church upon it. The caption on the stamp merely refers to the river in the foreground of the picture. To include such a stamp in a collection of Churches needs more than the caption, "Church at Beira", and the public will be more likely to remember both stamp and church if they are told that the church is dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary, and that stones which were brought from Portugal in 1505 to build the fortress of Sofala have been incorporated in the structure of the church.

Write-up in fine handwriting is most pleasing, but it is not every collector who can aspire to copperplate or an Elizabethan hand. But the use of stencils or a typewriter produces reasonably pleasant text.

One type of embellishment should be avoided by 99 per cent. collectors. Amateur drawings straggling across an album page, whether in would-be wit, or in serious desire to stress the theme, invariably suffer by comparison with the meticulous drawing of most stamps. The collector who must be artistic is far safer to confine his artistic aspirations to lettering and decorative borders.

Problems of Judging.

Now that the Durban Exhibition is over and plans are already in hand for next year's stamp show in Pretoria it seems a good moment to reflect on the scoring basis for thematic collections, for the consideration of judges and exhibitors alike.

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The scoring basis which has been in use at several large stamp shows in America is given as follows:—

Philatelic knowledge	40
Condition of material	20
Originality and showmanship	15
Completeness and rarity	15
Research	10
	100

According to this American scoring basis **'Philatelic knowledge'** is described as "the answer to the question why is this feature shown upon this stamp?" But on occasions even this information might be irrelevant to the theme, and the exhibitor would be penalised for not including what he knew, but did not choose to include, in the write-up of his display.

Thematic collecting falls into two broad groups: the first in which we get a subject on stamps, as Books on Stamps, Birds on Stamps, in which case the **'philatelic knowledge'** of why the book or bird is shown is relevant. The second group is that in which a theme is illustrated by stamps, and in which the theme is of primary importance and the stamps are purely pictorial. In such cases **'philatelic knowledge'** as described above might be quite irrelevant.

Again, according to this American scoring basis **'Research'** is defined as "demonstration of new material not hitherto published or shown." According to this method of judging no information culled from any reference book, stamp magazine, or other printed source is to be regarded as research. But if anyone remarks that in some particular stamp there is some small detail of design, related to the theme, but not hitherto commented upon by any observer, that is to be accounted **'research'.**

Originality and showmanship under this scheme of judging are to win up to 15 points. Completeness and rarity another 15. Yet in thematic collecting it is often the artistic presentation that gives the greatest value to the collection, and what constitutes completeness only the collector can say. Judging should be on what **is** shown, not upon what it might have been shown. Rarity of stamps should not enter into consideration at all. The whole point about thematic collecting is that it can be the poor man's outlet; for the time has definitely arrived when the ordinary collector can no longer compete in philatelic fields with the 'millionaire collector' whose exhibit sparkles with thousand-pound-rarities.

Entries for the 1954 TOPEX, the third American Topical Association International Convention and Topical Stamp Exhibition held in Ohio in June this year were judged according to the following formula:

General interest	25
Originality and presentation	20
Arrangement	20
Completeness of topic	15
Philatelic interest	10
Scarcity of material	10
	100

This scheme is not highly satisfactory from the collector's point of view. Certainly the stress is removed from philatelic knowledge to the general interest of the theme, and there is scope for a variety of ways of presenting material, and a maximum of points can be obtained for presentation and arrangement. But completeness and rarity of material now claim 25 per cent. of the available marks.

The basis of judging at the Durban Exhibition was simple and straightforward and has much to recommend it. This scheme was as follows:—

Thematic Interest	50
Presentation and Condition	30
Research on Theme	20
	100

What must be remembered is that the judges are working at high pressure, and scoring should be simple. Thematic exhibits should be designed to make an immediate and definite impression. There is no time for the judges to assess the value of the information given, nor yet to judge whether the collector is displaying philatelic knowledge or the fruits of research. If the theme grips the imagination; if it is presented neatly and artistically; if the write-up develops the theme; then it should make an impression on the judges and win points.

The Durban Exhibition showed that the judges were impressed with artistic presentation, by subtle stressing of the theme, rather than by a large body of pictorial matter that detracted attention from the stamps themselves: that they appreciated write-ups that showed a close study of the theme, and that they were prepared to enter into enjoyment of this rapidly growing branch of stamp collecting.

It would be interesting to learn the views of thematic collectors and judges on this problem of a scoring basis for future exhibitions and the relative importance of such aspects as thematic interest, presentation, originality, philatelic knowledge, research, completeness, rarity, and the use of pictorial matter, other than stamps, in the development of the theme.

Indeed, the time is almost ripe for an international formula for scoring thematic collections, which will be both a guide to judges and an inspiration to collectors.

(An article entitled **"Judging of Topical Exhibitions"** by Stephen G. Rich, putting the American point of view, appeared in "Topical Time" (the bi-monthly journal of the American Topical Association) May-June 1954. Vol. 5. No. 3. p. 88.)

PAARL VINTAGE FESTIVAL.

Next year, 23 Feb. to 5 March, a national Vintage Festival is to be held in Paarl. The local Philatelic Society will be staging an Exhibition in connection with it and they would welcome collections dealing with the Wine Industry or with Agriculture in general. Special souvenir envelopes will be prepared for the occasion and application is being made for a special P.O. and canceller — the name suggested for this being "Berg Rivier Vallei/Berg River Valley". Fuller details will be announced in due course.

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ANGLO-BOER WAR CENSOR MARKS & LABELS

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

Continued from page 167 of September issue.)

BRITISH CENSOR MARKS WITH PLACE NAMES.

Place.	Shape.	Size mm.	Colour.	Wording, Etc.	Dates of Use.
JOHANNESBURG	Double oval, double border	47 x 35	Black	Johannesburg above. C. C. Newland. Capt. below. Dated.	13/2/1901.
JOHANNESBURG	Oval Metal	34 x 27	Black	Censor in centre.	16/5/1902.
JOHANNESBURG	Double triangle equilateral. Metal.	30 x 26	Black	P.B.C. between triangles. Town's name in centre.	30/3/1902.
JOHANNESBURG	Oval, Metal	35 x 26	Black	Dash in centre.	20/6/1901.
JOHANNESBURG	Double oval, double border	47 x 35	Violet	Passed by Censor. Johannesburg, V. Ferguson, Capt. Dated.	18/5/1901.
JOHANNESBURG	Oval	29 x 19	Blue Black	P.B.C. Johannesburg inside oval.	17/6/1901. 20/6/1901.
JOHANNESBURG	Double triangle (inverted)	36 x 28	Violet	P.B.C. Johannesburg.	28/12/1901.
JOHANNESBURG	Double border oval	45 x 34	Violet	Johannesburg above. F. A. Jones. Lieut. below. Dated.	30/11/1901. 4/4/1902.
KIMBERLEY	Double circle	29	Black	Passed Press Censor between circles.	13/6/1902.
KIMBERLEY	Double metal circle	38	Black	Passed Press Censor Kimberley between circles. W. Elton, Capt. Censor in centre.	7/11/1901.
KIMBERLEY	Double circle	36	Black	W. Elton. Major in centre.	Nov., 1901.
KIMBERLEY	Double triangle	50 x 32	Black	W. E. Kimberley in centre.	12/7/1901.
KIMBERLEY	Double circle. Metal	36 and 38	Black	W. Elton. Major in centre.	21/9/1901. 30/1/1902.
KIMBERLEY	Double circle	31	Black	Empty centre.	26/5/1902.
KIMBERLEY	Rectangle	36 x 24	Black	P.B.C. W. Elton, Capt. Censor, Kimberley.	9/12/1901. 1/3/1902.
KINGWILLIAMSTOWN	Double triangle	54 x 31	Violet	Name of town inside triangle.	20/4/1902.
KINGWILLIAMSTOWN	Rectangle	55 x 20	Black	Passed Press Censor.	2/1/1902.
KINGWILLIAMSTOWN	Double oval, double border	50 x 32	Violet, Red	Passed Press Censor King Williams Town.	21/3/1902. 2/6/1902.
KLERKSDORP	Double circle, double border	36	Violet, Black	Separate date stamp (in Dutch).	13/3/1902. 29th May, 1902. 20th June, 1902.

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Place.	Shape.	Size mm.	Colour.	Wording, Etc.	Dates of Use.
KNYSNA	Double triangle	55 x 30	Violet	Town's name in centre.	15/5/1902.
KOMATIE POORT	Double triangle inverted	35 x 28	Blue	P.B.C. between triangles. Name in centre.	2/2/1902.
KROONSTAD	Double oval	44 x 28	Black	Passed Censor/Kroonstad.	April, 1901. 22/6/1902.
KROONSTAD	Double oval	55 x 27	Black	Passed Censor/Kroonstad. Two lines in centre.	10/6/1902.
KROONSTAD	Double oval	43 x 27	Black	Passed Censor/Kroonstad.	Feb., May, 1902.
KROONSTAD	Double triangle	50 x 30	Black	Passed Censor/Kroonstad, between triangles.	25/1/1902.
KRUGERSDORP	Oval double border	28 x 18	Violet	P.B.C. Krugersdorp.	30/4/1901.
KRUGERSDORP	Oval double border	48 x 30	Violet	P.B.C. in centre. A. E. Mainwaring at bottom.	5/12/1901. 22/6/1902.
LAINGSBURG	Double triangle	53 x 29	Violet	Name of town in centre.	14/4/1902.
LADYBRAND	Oval double border	50 x 31	Violet	Passed Censor/Ladybrand. Space for signature.	22/4/1901. 23/4/1902.
LYDENBURG	Double triangle. Fancy border Inverted	35 x 28	Greenish Blue	P.B.C. between triangles. Town name and star in centre.	19/2/1902.
MALMESBURY	Double triangle	54 x 30	Red	Name of town inside triangle.	27/1/1902.
MAFEKING		55 x 30	Red	Passed Press Censor Mafeking in centre.	April, 1902.
MEREBANK	Diamond	25 x 25	Violet	Passed Censor.	8/11/1901.
MIDDELBURG, TVL.	Rectangle	37 x 25	Green	Dated.	21/6/1901, 7/1/1902.
MIDDELBURG, TVL.	Double triangle, serrated border	25 x 33	Black	P.B.C. Town's name in centre.	Sept., 1901.
MIDDELBURG, TVL.	Double triangle inverted	35 x 30	Grey-black	P.B.C.; Middelburg in centre	Aug. & Oct., 1901.
MIDDELBURG, TVL.	Double triangle	35 x 29	Blue, Violet	Passed Press Censor.	Feb. & June, 1902.
MIDDELBURG, TVL.	Rectangle	37 x 25	Violet	Assistant/District/Commissioner/6 Nov. 1900/Middelburg.	6/11/1900.
MIDDELBURG, CAPE	Double triangle	50 x 30	Violet	Passed Press Censor.	9/5/1901.
MONTAGU	Double oval, double border	50 x 31	Red	Passed by Censor/Montagu.	Nov., 1901.
MOSSELBAY	Double triangle	50 x 30	Red	Passed Press Censor Mosselbay in centre.	11/5/1902.
NORVALSPONT	Single triangle	30 x 17 and 34 x 17	Violet Red	Passed Press Censor on outside; Town's name inside triangle.	8/11/1901. 5/6/1902.
NYLSTROOM	Double triangle	35 x 26	Red	P.B.C. Nylstroom.	3/7/1901.
ORANGE RIVER	Double triangle	53 x 30	Red	Name of town inside triangle.	2/7/1902.

(To be continued.)

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EXCHANGE: Send 250-1,000 mixed used good quality African, Portuguese Colonies, African Queens, Foreign, for New Zealand, Australia. Quality for Quality. Satisfactory Exchanges. Send often, avoid delays. KELVIN WHERBY, Box 37, P.O. Lidcombe, N.S.W., Australia.

WILL GIVE stamps, books, pocketbooks, magazines, Nylon stockings and household articles for good used and mint stamps of British Empire countries. Write first giving details of your needs and stamps available.—WILLIAM BUTT, 249 Garfield Place, Brooklyn 15, N.Y., U.S.A.

WANTED: Bechuanaland, Nyasaland, Basutoland, Swaziland. Also Union and Rhodesian commemorations, S.W.A. Quote per hundred or thousand.—MARAIS, 3 Short Street, Bloemfontein.

SEND 100, receive Australian and New Zealand stamps. Also mint.—L. PULLMAN, 386 Torrens Road, Kilkenny, South Australia.

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

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"PENNY POSTS" of the CAPE of GOOD HOPE 1854-65

By JACK SHEPHERD.

Soldier's Letters.

In 1854 the Cape of Good Hope postage rate for internal letters was 4d. per ½ ounce and for letters to England 6d. per ½ ounce. The Cape Government saw fit to grant certain postage concessions to garrisons who occupied strategic "forts" or military stations. No war, or even state of war, existed, but small numbers of British soldiers were stationed at points such as Fort Murray, Fort Beaufort, Fort Peddie, etc. The Commanding Officers, apparently had to pay the regulation rate but other ranks were privileged to post letters, even to Great Britain, at the reduced rate of 1d. per ½ ounce. To obtain this concession, letters had to contain, at the top on the front thereof, the name, number or rank and regiment of the sender, and the Commanding Officer had to endorse the letters in the left hand front corner.

Such covers are scarce. My collection contains two such items, details as follows:

1. From S. Doyle, Cr. Sgt. 45th Reg., written from Fort Beaufort, Kaffirland, and addressed to Bridget Doyle, No. 31 Silver Street, Stepney, near London, England. It is endorsed by R. Bates, Captain 45th Reg. and bears the following postmarks:—
(a) Small triangle defacing mark in black on the front, over a 1d. brick red on slightly blued paper triangular stamp.
(b) Grahamstown Oval date stamp of 9th May, 1854, in red on the back.
(c) Cape Town Circular date stamp of 18th May, 1854, in red on the back.
(d) I.F. Circular mark dated 4th July, 1854, in Black on the back.
There is also a figure 2 in manuscript on the front.

2. From No. 3806 Hugh Moose, 6th Regiment, written from Fort Peddie and addressed to James Hegan, Esquire, Mill Street, Newry, Co. Down, Ireland. It is endorsed by Wm. Lee, Captain, Commanding Det. 6th Regt. and bears the following postmarks:—
(a) Small triangle defacing mark in black on the front, over a 1d. pale brick red on blued paper triangular stamp.
(b) "Fort Peddie" dated Oval Oct. 1857.
(c) Cape Town Circle dated Oct. 17th, 1857.
(d) London single line circle, Dec. 10th, 1857.
(e) Newry Double Line Circle Dec. 11th, 1857.
There is a large figure 3 in black superimposed on the front.

I also have a cover front bearing a 6d. slate lilac on blued paper triangular from L/T. Henry P. Harris, 96th Regt. addressed to Mifs T. Harris, No. 23 Devonshire St., Queens Square —? bearing a Devonport Cape Packet date mark in red circle of 16th Nov. 1860. I presume L/T. Harris was the C.O. but cannot be certain as the front is not complete.

Local Penny Posts.

Jurgens says in 1860 the postage on letters addressed to any place within the boundaries of the City of Cape Town was reduced to One Penny per ½ ounce or fraction thereof.

The earliest example in my collection is an entire dated 12th October, 1861, addressed to L. P. Cauvin Esq. and bearing a 1d. Deep rose-red No. S.G. 5b cancelled with a triangle defacer in black and backstamped Cape Town Oval in Red.

I also have an entire from Cape Town addressed to The Widow C. Ross. Salt River, Cape District, dated 1st March, 1864 and bearing a 1d. deep rose red No. S.G. 5b. cancelled with the black triangle. This appears to indicate that the Penny Post was extended to Salt River by 1864. I have found no authority confirming this but the cover is the evidence. Jurgens mentions that the Penny Post was extended on 15th December, 1864, to Bellville, D'Urban, Eerste River, Somerset West, Stellenbosch, Bennettsville (later known as Klapmuts), Paarl and Wellington, but he does not mention Salt River at this date. In any event the date 1st March, 1864, is 9½ months earlier than the recorded date for the other towns mentioned.

My next cover is a Cape Town local addressed to L. P. Cauvin, Darling Street, bearing a 1d. deep carmine red No. S.G. 18, De La Rue printing, cancelled with the barred oval with central figure 1, date 14th September, 1864. This is the earliest date I have on the De La Rue Penny.

My next is a local Cape Town entire dated 31st December, 1864, bearing a similar 1d. stamp, No. S.G. 18 — carmine red, also cancelled with the barred oval with figure 1. It is also addressed to L. P. Cauvin, Darling Street, and is endorsed "Immediate."

I also have a local Cape Town entire dated 1st June, 1865, bearing a single copy of the 1d. brownish red De La Rue, cancelled with the barred oval with figure 1. This letter is addressed to Monsieur Heritte, Consul de France, Cape Town. I think it can safely be assumed that the carmine red was the first De La Rue Penny stamps to be released. Stevenson (page 97) says this sequence is "supposed".

Another local cover is dated 14th September, 1865, addressed to Revd. G. Morgan, Scottish Church, Cape Town. It is franked with a 1d. Deep Rose Red No. S.G. 5b (Perkins Bacon Printing) and cancelled with the barred oval.

Last but not least is an entire from Paarl addressed to Den Heere L. P. Cauvin, Kaapstad, Callidan Street, dated Paarl 13th September, 1864, and Cape Town 14th September, 1864, franked with the 1d. deep carmine red No. S.G. 18 and cancelled with the small triangle in black. This seems to indicate the extention of the Penny Post to Paarl by 13th September, 1864, which is over three months earlier than the date mentioned by Jurgens.

Newspapers were carried for the Penny rate as well. I have a 1d. deep brown red De La Rue used on a piece of original newspaper, cancelled with the barred oval with figure 1, but unfortunately there is no date. These stamps only appeared in 1864, but newspapers may have been carried at that rate prior to that year.

The writer would like to hear from any collector who has other covers or entires bearing single One Penny Cape Triangulars, in an effort to compile as complete a list as possible of these interesting stamps.

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ADDENDUM.

Since preparing the original notes for this article, the writer has acquired information in regard to the following additional 1d. Post items:—

Soldier's Letters:

1. Cover franked with a 1d. Red, sent from Line Drift on the 27th May, 1856, by Pte. William Moores of the 6th Royal Regiment, and addressed to Mr. James Moores, 131, Broadlane, Chectwood, Manchester, England. It bears the following marks: Black triangle defacer, Grahamstown Red Onal dated 27th May 1856, Cape Town in red circle,—(Manc?)hester, 26th August, 1856 in black circle. There is a figure "2" in ink on the front of the cover.

2. Cover from S. Doyle, 45th Regiment to Miss Bridget Doyle, No. 31 Silver Street, Stepney, London, England. The cover bears the following marks: A figure "2" in manuscript on the front of the cover, Cape Town Red Oval dated ?? 1855, Cape Town unlined circle in red dated 15th December, 1855, London single lined circle in red, Liverpool Ship MR 1856 B in single lined black square.

3. Cover from Cpl. Moores, 12th Co. R.E. to Mr. James Moores, Boot and Shoemaker, Hampton Wick, Middlesex, England. No dates or marks reported.

4. Cover from 3806 Hugh Moose, 6th Regiment addressed to Mr. James Hegan, The Gas Works, Newry, Co. Downs, Ireland. The cover front bears the "Soldiers and Seamans letter by ship" mark.

1d. Post Letters:

1. A local cover from George dated 24th December, 1866, bearing a 1d. pale rose addressed to Mr. William Robertson, Lancewood, F Cornetey of Lakes, George.

2. Mourning cover from Port Elizabeth dated 6th October, 1865 bearing 1d. brownish red Dela-Rue, cancelled with circular Town postmark and numeral defacer — number not visible. The cover is addressed to Reverend W. Holford, Wesleyan Missionary, Grahamstown. The cover is marked "paid 4d." in pen and ink, but it is only franked with a 1d. stamp. It also bears a Grahamstown postmark dated 7th October, 1865.

Newspaper:

1. Copy of the Eastern Province Herald dated 15th March, 1864, franked with a 1d. deep rose red which is cancelled with the black triangle defacer. The newspaper is marked "for transmission to England per R.M.S. "Roman".

CAPE & GRIQUALAND POSTMARKS.

Mr. F. W. Collins of Stoborough Croft, St. Cross, Winchester, England, writes regarding Jurgens' listing of these in his book pp. 100-101:—

I have two 1d. rectangulars and a pair of the 1/- rectangular S.G. 23 and 26b, all cancelled with Jurgens' type 28, Fig. 311 DE BEERS N.R. July 4th, 1872. On page 101 Jurgens states that this type of date-stamp was brought into use in Griqualand in 1873, but this cancellation I have, now establishes their first use to be 1872. I also have a copy of the 4d. rectangular S.G. 24c, cancelled by the oval date-stamp (Jurgents' type 25) of DU TOITS PAN instead of the normal cancellation Jurgens' type 200. This of course is only a misuse of the despatching or receiving office stamp as a defacer.

SOME VARIETIES.

SOUTH AFRICA 1913/21:
1½d. S.G. 9b, pair with coil join, **15/-**
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1928/29 6d. S.G. D46a in positional blk. of 6 (No stop after A), **£2 5s. 0d.**

MALTA:
1925 2½d. Postage Due S.G. D5a in blk. of four with D5, **£9 10s. 0d.**
1928 6d. S.G. 185 Plate blk. of four, one stamp with full stop after Postage, and 2 stamps with broken D in "and", **£1 10s. 0d.**
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1912 1d. S.G. 345a in vertical pair with S.G. 345 (No Cross on Crown), **£2 10s. 0d.**
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B. J. Hunter

56a, EAST STREET, BRIGHTON 1, SUSSEX, ENGLAND.

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"AEROGRAMMES" & THEIR PRECURSORS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

By I. H. C. GODFREY.

(Continued from page 170 of September issue.)

SWAZILAND.

First seven items similar to those of Basutoland except for overprint.

Items 1 to 4—no overprint, but postally used in Swaziland.

Items 5 and 6—O/p. "SWAZILAND" in black—17 mm.

Item 7—O/p. "SWAZILAND" — 18 mm. "SWASIELAND"—20 mm.—in black.

4th Issue — 1946. Second Issue of Union

"Air Mail Letter Card" smooth buff paper—gummed on flap.

O/p. "SWAZILAND" in red — 16.5 mm.

8 3d. (PAL 13) Bright blue—English stamp.

9 3d. (PAL 14) Bright blue — Afrikaans stamp.

5th Issue—1948. Union **"Air Letter"** sheet with "Globe" stamp.

O/p. "SWAZILAND" in red — 22 mm.

10 6d. (PAL 23) Deep blue on pale plue paper. English text first.

11 6d. (PAL 24) Afrikaans text first.

6th Issue—1949. Union **"Air Letter"**; "Globe" stamp; blue parallelograms around borders. "Sender's Name and Address" HORIZONTAL.

O/p. "SWAZILAND" in red — 28 mm.

12 6d. (PAL 29) Dull blue on bluish white paper. English text first.

13 6d. (PAL 30) Afrikaans text first.

7th Issue—1949. Similar to previous issue, but "Sender's Name and Address" VERTICAL.

O/p. "SWAZILAND" in red—23 mm.

14 6d. (PAL 31) Bright blue on bluish white paper. English text first.

15 6d. (PAL 32) Afrikaans text first.

8th Issue—1951. Union **"Air Letter"**; Flying Springbok stamp.

O/p. "SWAZILAND" in red — 23.5 mm.

16 6d. (PAL 39) Blue (shades) on greenish white paper. English text first.

17 (6d. (PAL 20) Afrikaans text first.

9th Issue—1953. First Union "Aerogramme" tri-lingual sheet (June 1953 emission).

O/p. "SWAZILAND" in red — 27.5 mm.

18 6d. (—) Blue on greenish white paper. French/AFRIKAANS / English sheet only.

Note: Four dots above the word "AEROGRAMME", caused by wear of the plate, are discernable.

10th Issue—1954. Third type of Union "Aerogramme" sheet on blue paper. "Sender's Name and Address" HORIZONTAL.

19 6d. (—) Blue on blue paper. French / ENGLISH / Afrikaans sheet only.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA, NORTHERN RHODESIA and NYASALAND.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

The Military and Civilian Air Letters of Southern Rhodesia issued between 1941 and 1953 have been, without exception, not only well printed and colourful but they combined those features with utility. It is apposite that the publication of this article should coincide with the end of an epoch, for the name "Southern Rhodesia" will no longer appear on the "Aerogramme" forms shortly to be issued for the three Territories in the Central African Federation.

Readers are referred to the excellent and compehensive article on the wartime issues of this self-governing Colony written by Major L. E. Creasy in the South African Philatelist, Vol. 23, 1947, p. 92.

KING GEORGE VI's REIGN.

"Active Air Service Letter Cards."

1st Issue—17 Nov. 1941. For use only TO Members of the Forces serving in East, West and North Africa.

Replica of Victoria Falls 3d. stamp. White paper inscribed on inside centre vertical panel "Southern Rhodesia Government" in blue micro-print. No watermark.

1 3d. Blue on white paper (blue overlay on inside).

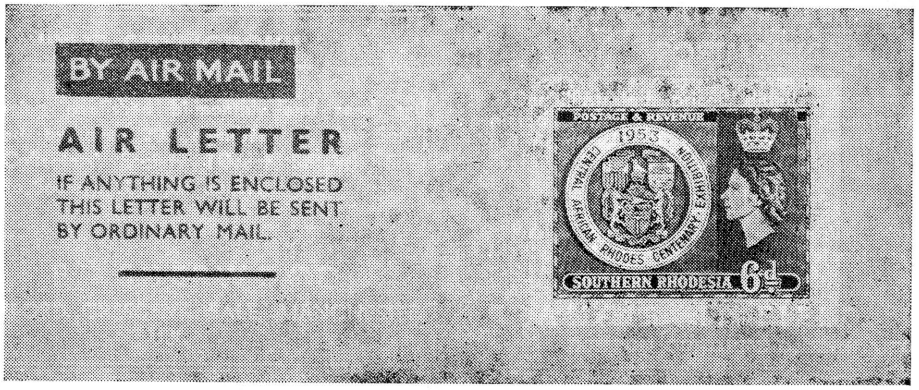
2nd Issue—27 July 1942. As before, but on different paper and micro-printing omitted.

2 3d. Blue on rough buff paper (no overlay inside).

3rd Issue—25 March 1914. As before, but change of paper.

3 3d. Blue on smooth white paper (no overlay inside).

4th Issue — June 1944. Similar to earlier issues, but service extended to include Civilians FROM Forces on Active Service. Card now in-



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scribed **"If anything is enclosed, or if it is addressed by a civilian to a civilian, this card will be sent by ordinary mail."**

4 3d. Blue on white paper (no overlay inside).
5 3d. Blue on rough buff paper.

"Air Letters".

1st Issue—25 Oct. 1944—Printed by the Southern Rhodesia Lithographic Department.

Light gray paper with overall micro-printing "Southern Rhodesia Government" in light green. King George stamp with simulated perforations. SINGLE gummed flap—sheet measures 5 x 4 in.

Watermark: "KENT VALE/W2/PARCHMENT", "2" signifying paper made in 1942.

6 6d. Gray and light green on gray paper.

2nd Issue—December 1946—Emergency printing, produced locally, in use 3 months only.

Printed on standard Crown Colony type sheet with Control No. 51-5829 on inside. King's head stamp without perforations. No watermark.

7 6d. Gray on dark gray.

3rd Issue—25 March 1947—Printed in Great Britain.

White paper with light blue overlay. "Sender's Name and Address" VERTICAL.

Two gummed flaps — sheet measures 4¾ x 4in.

Watermark: "KENT VALE/PARCHMENT /7"—i.e. paper made in 1947.

8 6d. Gray on light blue.

4th Issue—April 1949—Printed in Great Britain.

"Sender's Name and Address" VERTICAL.

SINGLE gummed flap—sheet 4⅝ x 3¾in.

"By Air Mail" shaded gray.

Watermark: "KENT VALE/B/PARCHMENT", i.e. Paper made in 1948.

9 6d. Greenish gray, blue overlay.

5th Issue—1950—Printed in Great Britain.

Sender's Name and Address "HORIZONTAL

TWO gummed flaps—sheet 4¾ x 4in.

"By Air Mail" shaded gray.

Watermark "KENT VALE/B/PARCHMENT"—1949 paper.

10 6d. Pale greenish gray, blue overlay.

6th Issue—? 1953. Printed in Great Britain.

Almost identical to 1950 issue, but with minor printing flaws and **changed watermarks.**

Watermark: "KENT VALE/E/PARCHMENT" (1952).

"KENT VALE/F/PARCHMENT" (1953).

11 6d. Darker greenish gray, blue overlay (1952).
12 6d. 6d. Darker greenish gray, blue overlay (1953).

Queen Elizabeth II's Reign.

7th Issue—30 May 1953—withdrawn 29 August.

Commemorative Issue for **Central African Rhodes Centenary Exhibition.** Total printing 508,000.

Stamp bears Queen's portrait facing a medallion of the Arms of British Central Africa.

Gray overlay on white paper with dark gray wording. TWO gummed flaps—sheet 4¾ x 3⅝in.

Watermark: "KENT VALE/PARCHMENT/E"—1952 paper.

13 6d. Purple, light gray overlay.

8th Issue—12 October 1953, printed in Great Britain.

Basic sheet similar to 5th Issue but larger.

Stamp: Baobab Tree and vignette of Queen's Head.

TWO gummed flaps—sheet 4⅞ x 4in.

Watermark: "KENT VALE/E/PARCHMENT—1952 paper.

"KENT VALE/F*/PARCHMENT — 1953 paper.

14 6d. Bistre, blue overlay (Wmk. E).
15 6d. Bistre, blue overlay (Wmk. F)*
16 Used in Northern Rhodesia (1954).
17 Used in Nyasaland (1954).

Note. **All the sheets which normally bear watermarks can be found entirely unwatermarked due to incorrect cutting of the paper.**
*Reversed "F".

(To be continued.)

BASUTOLAND WATERMARK ERROR.

Mr. G. N. Gilbert writes:—

With reference to the recently discovered error of watermark in certain postage due stamps, one of which noted was the 1d. Basutoland on chalk surfaced paper, this also is found in the Basutoland 2d. postage due.

I have seen two pairs of each, the two 1d. showing the different shaped crown watermark on one of the stamps, and the 2d. in one block showing this at the bottom in the margin.

These I have seen are all in the left hand pane, and apparently occur approximately between the last two stamps on the right of the pane, but the position may change vertically, depending on how the paper was fed into the press.

As the Swaziland dues are on the same paper, this error will undoubtedly be found in these.

As far as one can gather from overseas information, this error will occur once in approximately every twenty eight panes. This chalky covered paper makes the detection of the watermarks a very difficult business, especially where the crown falls in the printed portions. If you are lucky to find it in the figure of value oval or in the margin, then the error shows up quite distinctly. Illustrations of this are shown in the September issue of "Gibbons' Stamp Monthly."

[Mr. C. P. Rang, who discovered this error — one crown of quite a different type in the multi-crown C.A. watermark — has seen it so far only on the 1d. Basutoland Postage Due of the printing of 24.10.51, the 2c. British Guinea Postage Due of 30.4.52 and the St. Lucia 16c. Postage Due of 27.11.52. He considers it likely to occur on many other stamps; search for it should begin on chalky-surfaced typographed and photogravure stamps issued since about 1951, and not only on Postage Dues. Similar stamps on ordinary paper should be the nex line of search. He is of opinion that there was only one crown of wrong type per dandy roll and that it should appear approximately in the proportion of 1 in 1,700 stams.—Ed.]

FIRM PERFORATIONS.

'Mijn Stokpaardje' of June, 1954 has an article by mnr. V. J. van Lint illustrating stamps of various countries perforated with the initials of firms. This practice is officially authorised in many countries and America has a PERFIN club (PERForated INitials).

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SOCIETY NEWS.

PAARLSE POSSEËLVERSAMELAARSVERENIGING.

July.

The monthly meeting of the Society was held for the first time in the newly hired German Church Hall, off Mill Street. The hall is well lighted and most suitable for the Society's meetings.

The meeting was well attended and the Chairman thanked Mr. J. D. Rossouw for the loan of the board room of the Paarl African Trust Co. where the Society met during the past three years free of charge. The building is now demolished to make room for new premises.

Members showed keen interest in the activities of the Society, the main topic of the evening being a Stamp Exhibition to be held from 23rd February, 1955 to 5th March, 1955, in conjunction with a National Vintage Festival at Paarl to commemorate the 300 years of vine culture in South Africa.

The Society has been invited by the Festival Committee to arrange for a special cover and to approach the Post Office with the view of providing a special post mark for the occasion. Attractive stickers will also be made available for sticking on to envelopes.

Committees were appointed to deal with covers, the postmark, catalogues and the Exhibition itself. It was decided that the three best exhibits of the year, by the three Afrikaans Societies competing for the Rembrandt Floating Trophy, will also be shown at the Exhibition.

The evening ended with exhibits of not more than ten pages each by the following members:—

P. v.d. Poel—South West Africa mint, overprinted for Cigarette duty.

D. L. Brink—Queen Elizabeth issues complete and neatly arranged.

N. C. Combrinck—Religion on Stamps. A new selection.

THE O.F.S. & BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

July:

The number of members present at our last meeting was a record in the history of our Society. Mr. Lewis, who returned after a few months of holiday, gave his famous report of Philatelic News, which have proved very useful and interesting, especially to those who do not get any magazines. Mr. Lichtenstein, our new-issue member, gave his usual monthly display after which the three main exhibits of the evening followed. First of all Dr. Freund showed his famous collection of Pin-ups. This display proved to be so popular that an admission of 2/6 will have to be asked next time he displays, to preveint such a terrible traffic jam as we had. Members eventually had to be chased away so that Dr. could get his Pin-Ups to safety. A page needing special mention was the one having the Austrian Diaper pin-up together with the world-famous Goya!—both in exactly the same position. Then came Mr. Meyburgh with his outstanding collection of Post Cards including a number of very scarce covers. Mr. Sachs tabled his collection of Lithuania and mentioned that some European countries provided some very interesting material for collectors. The tendency lately was to collect Great Britain and Empire. This collection contained everything a collector wanted viz., perfs., imperfs., triangulars, rectangulars, ancient and modern issues. H.J.N.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

August 2nd:

This was the annual occasion for Ladies' Night, and the enjoyable entertainment to which we have been accustomed from them was once again maintained. Mrs. Keet acted as convener and exhibits were shown by herself (Malta), Mrs. Newlands (Channel Islands and Tuberculosis Stamps) and Mrs. Reisener (Royal Tour Covers, 1953-1954). The standard shown was high and coupled with the excellent fare provided for the teas made the evening one that all present thoroughly enjoyed.

August 16th:

Contrary to the advertised programme, Dr. T. B. Berry kindly consented giving a display and brought along his Union booklets and coils. Their arrangement and writing up was magnificent and the collection tabled was as complete as is possible. The major and rarer varieties were all shown as well as completely plated sheets of most of the issues. Evidence of considerable research, indeed, was it our privilege to observe.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

11th August, 1954.

Present 13 members and 2 visitors. At this meeting we were privileged to view an extensive collection of mint and used stamps of the reign of King George VI, provided by Mr. I. W. K. Rose, who, in his short explanatory address stated that nearly all of these stamps had been collected through exchange and the cost to him had not been in L.s.d. but only in the work and time taken to write up. A hobby and a great pleasure to himself. Mr. Bompas, on behalf of the members and visitors present at the meeting, thanked Mr. Rose for his most interesting tour of the British Empire.

8th September, 1954.

Present 9 members and 1 visitor. One of the poorest attendances we have had for a long time. However, it had to be noted that the Secretary had received 5 apologies for non-attendance from members who were away on holiday. At this meeting the exhibit was provided by one of our new members, Mr. B. Eilers, who tabled a very extensive mint and used collection of the stamps of Norway and Sweden. The collection was much admired by all present and Mr. R. Retief, on behalf of the Society, thanked Mr. Eilers for his display. It was noticed that Mr. Eilers was not afraid to show the many gaps in his collection, but at the same time he would only collect perfect specimens of the stamps in his exhibit, whether they were in mint or used condition. J.S.B.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The August monthly meeting once again drew a good attendance when twenty-six members and four visitors spent a most enjoyable meeting. We were entertained by our worthy member, Mr. W. Newlands, who exhibited a selection of stamps from some of the Islands of the British Commonwealth. In a brief informative talk, Mr. Newlands mentioned that while philatelic publications are quick to condemn foreign countries who issue unnecessary stamps, there are quite a number of territories to be found in Stanley Gibbons "Red Catalogue", that should fall in the same category. He then tabled his superb collection of the stamps, both mint and used of the following British Islands: Ascension, Pitcairn, St. Helena, and Falkland Islands and Dependencies. Mr. Newlands was thanked for his entertaining evening by our old friend Dr. H. O. Reisener, who commented on the display in his usual able manner.

Now that the Committee has had an opportunity to examine all the material donated to the Society for its library, by Mr. H. Endemann of Pretoria, we realise the wonderful gift which we have received and we would once again like to express our sincere thanks to Mr. Endemann. Efforts are to be made to ensure the library will be properly housed in the Society room and the tabulating of the library volumes has been commenced.

The Society has been fortunate in obtaining a Post Office box, so in future all correspondence to the Society must be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, P.R.P.S., P.O. Box 2388, Pretoria. W.K.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

10th August.

The exhibitor was Mr. J. S. Hagger who showed a crowded and appreciative audience that part of his collection of the stamps of the Union which he has termed "Flaws and Freaks". Well — quite a number of the stamps shown were such flaws, or contained them, but many a member and visitor would have refused to have them called "freaks", at least, had he himself been as lucky and circumspect as had been Mr. Hagger, and been able to obtain them for himself. When Mr. Lydall thanked the exhibitor after the display had been admired by all, he could find fault only with the Government Printer to have let slip by so many double and treble and even "reversed" perforations, so many missing centres and slogans printed on the bantam stamps, and so on; Mr. Hagger could only be highly praised for apparently having "cornered" them all, even if he refused steadfastly to divulge how he had done that.

23rd August.

This meeting was devoted to the annual visit of our friends from Benoni, the members of the East Rand Philatelic Society. And they did not disappoint the expectations of a large meeting but, once more, turned up in numbers and with beautiful and varied displays. Mr. H. Suklje, who led the delegation, showed a huge collection of used George VI Southern Rhodesians; Mr. L. Feinstein covers and other items of postal history of Pre-Union days, a collection all too modestly called

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"Birth and Growth of the Unions" (how many people have even only seen a cover with a double V.O.C. impression?); Mr. J. H. Clement a highly specialised collection of lovely early Canada issues; and Mr. MacArthur that part of his vast Foreign Collection that could be squeezed into letters A to G of the alphabet. Had there still been time, we would have been shown even more, for there had been prepared still a fifth exhibit, that of Mr. R. Reckling; but we have the best intention not to have to wait for another year to see this but to book this exhibitor much earlier.

14th September.

Mr. E. Schaiowitz showed his "Music and Musicians" again, by request; this collection has grown so much since its last showing that it fully made up for the exhibitor's decision not to perform actual music this time with it.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

17th August:

Our meeting room was well filled with a happy throng when the evening proceedings were opened by attending to official matters. The President was able to welcome three new adults and four junior members. He gave a brief report on the Club's participation in the recent Hobbies Exhibition and thanked all those who had contributed towards it's success. Dr. J. W. Harris entertained those present with a very interesting display of Swiss stamps, showing Health and Holiday Resort Publicity postmarks in great variety and fine condition. He explained in a very informative talk the origin, use, etc., of these advertising postmarks, which form a side line to his well known thematic collection, of Medical stamps. Mr. G. K. Forbes voiced the thanks and appreciation of Members at the display. An auction lasting until 10.15 p.m. filled the second part of the evening.

7th September:

Once again a score and a half of our members and some visitors came to enjoy themselves. The treat for the evening was a fine display by Mr. T. Winsley of the stamps issued by countries formerly belonging to the Ottoman Empire and using the Arabic script. The exhibitor has lived in and knows intimately many of the countries comprising this group and hence the paper which he read proved most interesting and personal as the historical background was developed and he was able to describe many of the scenes and buildings appearing on the stamps of the Near East. Intriguing names like ancient Palmyra, Baalbek, Jerasch, Antioch fell on our ears and many unusual stamps from Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Saudi-Arabia, Sandjak of Alexandretta, Hatay, etc., could be admired. Mr. G. Bulbring thanked the exhibitor for his fine effort and unusual display. The evening again was rounded off by a very successful auction.

A report on the activities of our Society would be incomplete unless another very enjoyable event was reported upon. Your correspondent refers to a visit of 8 members and wives to the East London Philatelic Society during the weekend 4th—6th September.

The visit had been contemplated for a considerable time and no doubt inaugurates a closer personal contact between collectors of our two towns, which should help greatly in forming valuable ties of friendship and contribute to the development of our hobby. East Londoners did us proudly, we enjoyed their hospitality and company and are looking forward with great pleasure to their return visit in the future.

CAPE TOWN.

Thematic Society.

9th August: All Members' Evening: As usual this proved what variety of subjects can be shown: "Flood Stamps and Marion Island" by Mrs. R. M. Scott; "Made by Man", a thematic subject by Miss C. Simenhoff; "Modern Austria and Belgian Congo" and "Afghanistan" by Dr. P. L. Vautier; "Souvenir Covers of the opening of Parliament at Cape Town by King George VI, 21st February, 1947" by Mr. L. Simenhoff; "Presentation Books, 1947, U.P.U., Great Britain and U.S.A." by Mr. G. Petroulis; "Arctic and Antarctic Airmails and Global Flights" by Capt. M. F. Stern; "First day covers, Australia" by Mr. M. T. Scott.

23rd August: The evening was devoted to showing of "African Airmails of 1933", by Capt. M. F. Stern. This meeting was well attended.

Royal Philatelic Society.

12th August: This meeting was a visit from the University of Cape Town Philatelic Society. Mr. M. Hotz introduced the University exhibition which included Israeli, King George V and VI Empire stamps, a thematic subject and interesting airmail covers and air letter sheets and covered a wide field. This visit is now an annual affair.

26th August: Capt. M. F. Stern showed his complete and unique Airmail Covers of Ethiopia, Somaliland, Madagascar, Reunion, Mauritius and Seychelles. A good talk on the History and Development was given by the exhibitor, who is an authority on this subject.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF WESTERN RAND.

The August meeting was held on the 25th at the Parish Hall in slightly warmer conditions. Mr. J. Keet presided and as we were hosts to the Afrikaanse Philatelistiese Vereniging, he quickly dealt with the current business. The meeting was then handed over to Mr. Schubart, Chairman of the visiting Society who stated that they were not going to exhibit in the usual manner, but would give a lantern show depicting various stamps and their errors. As each stamp was projected on to the screen, Dr. Hesse gave a running commentary on its history, and pointed out the particular error which could be plainly seen on the enlarged image. His commentary was clear, concise and humorous. Everyone present enjoyed the display and on behalf of our Society Mr. H. F. Henderson thanked Dr. Hesse for his excellent demonstration.

The meeting ended at 9.45 p.m. with a vote of thanks to Mrs. Henderson, who served the refreshments.

H.F.H.

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CROATIA — BOGUS STAMPS.

The Postal Administration of Jugoslavia has notified the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union that postage stamps named "Croatia" and bearing the inscription "N. D. Hrvatska" are being fraudulently issued. The nominal value of these false stamps is not indicated by a monetary unit, but only by a figure which, in any country, can have an arbitrary interpretation. This can be misleading and the Postal Administration of Jugoslavia wishes to warn philatelists and stamp dealers against the fraudulent issue. The "stamps" have no connection with the regular or commemorative postage stamps issued by the Postal Administration of Jugoslavia.

TRANSVAAL.

Mr. Chas. Jewell (55 Pall Mall, London S.W.1) has a letter in Stamp Collecting, asking for particulars of covers of the period 1881-1885 bearing Republican stamps in combination with Queen Victoria Transvaal stamps. (The usual combination on covers to G.B. is 4d. Z.A.R. plus 6d. Q.V.). Would any reader having such covers please send particulars direct to Mr. Jewell?

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SOME RECENT AUCTION PRICES.

H. R. Harmer.

Oil Rivers, Essay for 2½d., 1892, £25.
½d. on 2½d., double (S.G. 17a), £20.
½d. on 2½d. (S.G. 22), £95.
½d. on 2½d. (S.G. 34), £36.
½d. on 2½d. (S.G. 36), £36.
5/- on 2d. (S.G. 40), £60.
5/- on 2d. (S.G. 40b), £72 10s.
1/- on 2d. (S.G. 39b), £160.
G.B. Used in Malta, 1d. 1855 (S.G. Z1b), £26.
Used in Gibraltar 2½d. 1875 (S.G. Z105), £13.
Used in St. Vincent 1/- 1856 (S.G. Z594), £16
Used at Buenos Aires 9d. 1865 (S.G. Z754) £18.
Used at Valparaiso 2/- 1880 (S.G. Z810), £18.
Used at Hong Kong 1/- 1867 (S.G. Z1539), £33.

Robson Lowe.

Entire Montreal to Edinburgh 1777, £65.
Entire Gambia to England 1840, £10.
Entire England to S. Australia with 7 embossed 1/- stamps 1853, £42.
4d. 1876 cancelled "C86" (Porto Plata), £24.
G.B. 1d. black AL Plate 1a used, £50.
G.B. 10d. red-brown AH 1865-7, used, £46.
Brazil 600R 1845-6, £34.
Switzerland 1850 Vaud 5c. used, £24.
U.S.A. 10c. black 1847 used, £29.

J. H. Wicks.

Union
£1 King's Head, used, 25/-; another £2.15/-.
9d. Air Var. Vb, £6.10/-.
5/- K.H. mint, £2.12.6.
10/- K.H. mint, £3.15.0.
Z.A.R. 1878 cover with 6d. (S.G. 132), £6.10/-.
Cape 1d. (S.G. 18a), £6.

Richard R. Currie:

Cape of Good Hope, 1/- Perkins Bacon, unused, 170/-.

Great Britain Silver Wedding £1 in mint sheet of 20 with 20 2½d., £21.

Nyasaland 1951 Diamond Jubilee set in mint corner blocks of 4, 52/6.

Orange Free State MCA 4d. IOSTAGE error in mint block with 3 normals, 65/-.

South Africa 1935 Jubilee set in used blocks of six showing Cleft Skull and other varieties, 110/-.

South Africa 1925 3d. Air Mail imperf. proof, £13.

South Africa ½d. Tête-bêche, S.G. 42b, in a mint strip of five, £24.

South Africa 1d. Tête-bêche, S.G. 43aa, in a mint strip of four, £32.

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ALSATIAN LOCALS.

Not all collectors of stamps of either France or Germany are aware that a large group of "locals" were issued in Alsace during the period 1886 to 1897 when the country was under German administration.

A paper on these stamps by W. Dennis Way is published in the "German Philatelic Review" for March, 1954. There is very little literature available on these issues, but there is detailed information in the Glasewald catalogue of German Locals.

These stamps were issued by four cities: Colmar, Metz, Mulhouse and Strassburg. Between them over a hundred and fifty stamps were issued, most of them coming from Metz and Strassburg.

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SWAZILAND—POSTAL HISTORY and STAMPS

By
J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

(Continued from page 174 of September issue.)

Stages 6-9, 1910 to present time, continued.

Post Offices and Postmarks.

The names of P.O.'s with known postmarks and which have functioned during this period are given in alphabetical order. Unless it is stated otherwise the postmarks are all from metal handstamps and impressed in black. To save repetitive description, they may be taken as all double-circle marks unless otherwise stated, also with the date in one line in the centre. All that is ordinarily given therefore is the diameter of the outer circle in millimetres and the wording, etc. between the circles.

Several non-circular postmarks are shown; these are all from offices which are only for Telegraph and Telephone purposes. Such offices are not supposed to cancel stamps on letters. but they occasionally do so and marks which have been seen so used are illustrated. The marks of a few other Telegraph and Telephone offices have not been seen cancelling stamps and are therefore not recorded here.

Bremersdorp.
(a) 25 mm. "Bremersdorp" and two small stars. This is (a) of Stage 5 continuing.
(b) 25-26 mm. "Bremersdorp" only. Letters 3 mm. high.
(c) 29 mm. "Bremersdorp" only. Letters 2½mm. high.

Dwaleni. Opened 1918.
(a) 25 mm. "Dwaleni Swaziland" above, curved bars on either side of a Maltese Cross below. Letters 2½ mm. high. Note the reversed "Z" in "Swaziland".

Emlembe. Opened 1938.. In that year's Official List of Post Offices it is incorrectly given as in the Transvaal, but in subsequent lists is correctly given as in Swaziland.
(a) 29-30 mm. "Emlembe" at top, thin curved bars on either side of a Maltese Cross below. Letters 3 mm. high. This is the P.O. for the large Havelock Asbestos mine.

Ezulwini.
(a) 28 mm. "Ezulweni/Swaziland". Letters 3 mm. high. Note earlier spelling.
(b) 25 mm. "Ezulwini/Swaziland." Letters 2½ mm. high.

Forbes Reef.
(a) 25-26 mm. "Forbes Reef" above, medium thick curved bar below. Letters 2½ mm. high.
(b) 25 mm. "Ezulwini/Swaziland." Letters 2½ mm. high.

Goedgegun. Opened 1925.
(a) 27 mm. "Goedgegun" only. Letters 2½ mm. high.

Hlatikulu.
(a) Same mark as in Stage 5. 25 mm. "Hlatikulu" at top, Cross at bottom. Letters 2½ mm. high.

Hluti. Opened 1912.
(a) 26 mm. "Hluti" at top, thick curved bars on either side of a Maltese Cross below. Letters 3½ mm. high.

Kubuta. Opened 1916.
(a) Similar to Hluti, but letters only 2 mm. high.

Lismore. Opened 1934.
(a) Double-lined oval from a rubber stamp, approximately 45 x 25 mm., with small pyramids pointing outwards from the outer line. In violet. "Lismore" at top, nothing below, date in one line in centre.
(b) Plain double-lined oval with "Lismore" at top, date. in one line in centre, 6-rayed stars at either end.

Lubuli. Opened in 1941 or 1942.
(a) Double-lined oval from a rubber stamp, in violet. "Post Office Poskantoor" at top, date in one line in centre. "Lubuli" at the bottom.
(b) Double-lined oval approximately 55 x 35 mm., from a rubber stamp, in violet. "Swaziland Police" at top, date in one line in centre, "Lubuli Swaziland" at bottom, 6-rayed stars at either end.

Mahamba. 1899 and again 1908-1925, since then listed as in the Transvaal.
(a) 24 mm. "Mahamba" at top, "Swaziland at bottom; small crosses between these words. Date of only specimen seen 12 Mar. 1915. The name is used both by a mission station on the Swaziland side of the border and a native village on the Transvaal side; the P.O. was moved in 1925 from the former to the latter.

Malkerns. Opened 1914.
(a) 25 mm. "Malkerns" only. Letters 2½ mm. high.
(b) Temporary "Relief" mark used in 1939 of same character as that described as (h) under Mbabane.

Maloma. Opened 1926.
(a) Single-line oval from a rubber stamp, approximately 45 x 25 mm. In violet. "Maloma" at top, "T.O./T.K." at foot, 6-rayed stars at either end, date in one line in centre.

Mankaiana. Opened 1913.
(a) 28 mm. Only "Mankaiana" at top, but with two short lines below the beginning and end of the word. Letters 2½ mm. high.

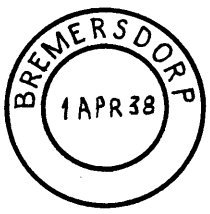
Mbabane. The marks listed here are approximately in. the order of their period of usage, but there was some overlapping and more than one type was sometimes in use at any one date.
(a) 23-24 mm. "Mbabane/Swaziland". This is (d) of Stage 5 continued.

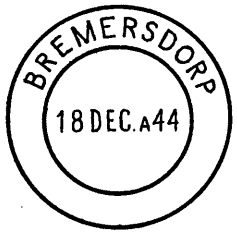
(To be continued.)

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POSTMARKS

Stages 6 - 8 1910 - 1954



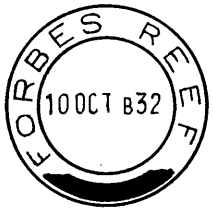


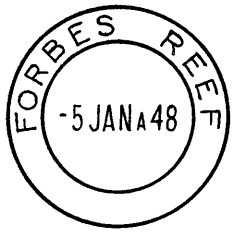




















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THE

SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST

PROPRIETORS AND PUBLISHERS :

The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

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

Vol. 30. No. 11. NOVEMBER, 1954. Whole No. 356.

UNION NOTES

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

The New Definitive Series of Postage Stamps.

With the introduction of the new definitive series depicting South African fauna, on the 14th October 1954, we commenced a new philatelic era in the Union and the stamps which have formed the subject of eager anticipation in stamp collecting circles for some time, are now available for all to acquire.

For despite the interest which has continued for so long in the old "Pictorials", it had become increasingly evident during recent years that a change in the Union issue would be welcomed by the public and collectors alike and but for the work and many difficulties involved in its preparation the set would probably have appeared at a much earlier date. We believe the selected theme is one that has had prior consideration for a considerable time and in adopting a set of designs portraaying some of the better known animals roaming the National Parks of the Union the authorities have undoubtedly chosen a subject that will have a popular appeal and at the same time maintain the high status of this country's stamps.

And now we have had an opportunity of studying the new set it can be said that though the four lowest values would have been all the better for being in two colours, instead of one, and the choice of some of the less handsome looking of the animals is rather open to criticism, the series as a whole is an aattractive one and will certainly put South Africa on the map as a country that has something special to show in the way of wild animal life. The various species depicted on the series are typically representative of this part of the world, a feature we would not have had otherwise, and to those whose interests, like our own, lies mainly in "Unions" and who naturally mourned the passing of the old issue, we can now say "dry those tears" for you are going to find a new and absorbing interest in this new animal set and before very long will be loving the ugly old Warthog on the ½d. stamp with the same devoted philatelic feelings that were previously bestowed on the world renowned head of its graceful predecessor, the "Springbok".

General details and illustrations of the new stamps, as furnished by the Publicity Officer of the G.P.O., Pretoria, were published in our September issue and we now give below a list of the cylinder numbers and other philatelic features.

Watermark: Multiple Springbok's Head—Upright on stamps in vertical format and facing left on the horizontal denominations, 6d. and 1/3.

Perforations: ½d. to 2d.—15 x 14. Multiple comb. 3d. to 10/-—14. Single comb.

Marginal Arrows: ½d. to 1/6—Four per sheet; one at the centre of each margin.

2/6 to 10/- — Two per sheet of 60 stamps, located between 3rd and 4th rows in side margins. There are no arrows in the top and bottom margins of these particular sheets.

All arrows are printed in the same colour as the animals, i.e., Interior cylinder.

Sheet Numbers: ½d. to 2d.—Four figure red numerals.

3d. to 10/- — Five figure black numerals. Imprinted twice per sheet on values up to 1/6 and once per sheet on the three higest values.

Sheet Format: ½d. to 2d.—240 vertical stamps set out in 20 rows of 12 stamps per row.

3d. to 1/6 (Excluding 6d. and 1/3 values) — 120 vertical stamps in 20 rows of 6 stamps per row.

6d. and 1/3 — 120 horizontal stamps in 6 rows of 20 stamps per row.

2/6 to 10/- — 60 vertical stamps in 6 rows of 10 stamps per row.

Cylinders: Fine mesh-type (cross-lined) screened cylinders have been employed throughout the production. Their numbers have been imprinted once on each sheet of the respective 60, 120 or 240 stamps. In the case of the four lowest values — ½d., 1d., 1½d. and 2d. — the designs are monocoloured and only one cylinder has been used for each. All other denominations are bicoloured and the numbers of the two cylinders employed for each are imprinted in the sheet margin in the same colour as the respective interior or exterior part of the design for which they were prepared.

The numbers of the cylinders are tabulated in the accompanying table.

Inscriptions: All bilingual and like the arrows on the sheet margins are printed by the interior cylinder in the same colour as the animals. The word "Posgeld" is now used instead of "Posseel."

Shades: This interesting feature of the Union issues has alreaady shown up on three of the low values and we are indebted to Mr. J. H. Clement of Benoni, Transvaal, for an opportunity of seeing two quite distinctive colour variations in the ½d., 1d. aand 2d. stamps.

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CYLINDER NUMBERS

Value	Interior (Animals)	Exterior (Background)
½d.	84	Monocoloured
1d.	12	
1½d.	36	
2d.	56	
3d.	16	107
4d.	53	93
4½d.	76	47
6d.	1	121
1/-	94	104
1/3	106	38
1/6	21	78
2/6	66	23
5/-	118	4
10/-	44	6

Varieties: A number of printing flaws in the form of minute dots and small spots appear on the stamps of the four monocoloured denominations and a list of some of the more prominent and constant of these varieties, as compiled by Mr. I. A. Miller of Johannesburg, is published below.

½d. Cyl. 84.

Row—

4/ 6—Green dot at left nostril to right bottom of left tusk.
5/ 1—Dots above "ika" of Afrika.
5/ 8—Inverted "U" at foot of "U" of South.
6/ 1—Green spot opposite 3rd perf. top left.
7/ 1—Curly hair on head below first "A" of Africa.
8/ 8—Green spot below "d" of Posgeld.
8/11—Green spot above "N" of Revenue".
10/ 4—Green spot in left tusk.
12/12—Green smudge below "U" of South.
14/10—Green spot right of second "A" of Africa.
20/ 8—Green spot over second limb of "U" in Suid.

1d. Cyl. 12.

Row—

1/ 2—Dark spots below Afrika.
1/ 8—Dot above "D" of Suid.
2/ 1—Dot below "I" of Afrika.
3/ 1—Dark dot below "ve" of Revenue.
6/ 4—Light zig-zag mark in hollow of neck above Postage.
8/ 3—Dot below "D" of Posgeld.
12/ 8—Dot between "id" of Suid.
12/10—Dot above "ko" of Inkomste.
14/ 4—Dot above "r" of Africa.
16/12—Apostrophe after "L" of Posgeld.
17/ 1—Mark below "S" of Suid.
18/ 3—Dot top left of right horn.
18/10—White spot middle of left jaw.
19/ 5—Maroon dot in gutter between this stamp and the one below in Row 20.

1½d. Cyl. 36.

Row—

3/ 1—Spot half way up stamp on right margin.
4/ 7—Small break in "d" of Suid.
6/ 3—Spots to left of mouth.
9/ 5—Dot below large "1" of value.

2d. Cyl. 56.

Row—

2/ 4—Spot above first "A" of Africa.
3/ 2—Dot on Zebra's nose.
3/ 4—Blob on numeral "2" of value.
3/ 8—Dot on "i" of Afrika.
3/12—Blob joining left ear of Zebra with "i" of Afrika.
4/10—Dot in front of "P" of Postage.
8/ 1—Dot to right of Zebra half way up stamp.
8/ 3—Dot in front of first "A" in Africa.
12/ 3—Dot below "P" of Postage.
13/ 1—Dot above "r" of Afrika.
13/ 4—Dot joining "Po" of Postage.
14/ 4—Short stroke below second "a" of Africa.
15/ 3—Spot between "ri" of Africa.
19/ 2—Spot below "P" of Postage.
20/ 9—Mark half way up stamp on right frame line.
20/10—Extension to second leg of "h" in South.
20/12—Malformed "d" in Posgeld.

STOP PRESS.

Arrangements for publication of the Supplement to the 1952, Handbook/Catalogue Union of South Africa Stamps, have now reached the stage, where **Pre-Publication** orders can be taken.

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The Three Top Values of the New Definitives—Identification Marks.

The Pretoria Union Study Group, a circle of Union enthusiasts consisting of Dr. C. Been, and Messrs. M. Peisach, J. P. Roux and E. Walker, has lost no time in settling down to the study of the new stamps and just prior to going to Press we received the following interesting information on the research work they have already carried ont on the three top values. We shall look forward to receiving further reports on their good work in due course.

With the issue of the third definitive series of Union stamps our studies have started on the three top values, 2/6, 5/- and 10/-. These values were selected because they are the only ones issued in sheets of 60. Since, however, the printing cylinders are the same size as was originally used for the 120 sheet, we reasoned that one complete revolution of the printing cylinder would produce two sheets that would later be separated by guillotine. It was necessary, however, to alter the arrangement on the cylinder so that it could print 10 rows of stamps separated by one blank row rather than as was the case of the 120 sheet, 20 rows separated by 2

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blank rows. Our reasoning was based primarily on the last printing of the 5/- oxwagon stamp, where the altered language setting of the panes could only be explained by having the rows in a 10-1-10-1 arrangement of the cylinder.

Because most collectors would start by procuring the cylinder block of four, we have concentrated our attention on the cylinder blocks comprising stamps 5/1, 5/2, 6/1 and 6/2. We were able to obtain cylinder blocks of each of the panes A and B of the three top values and below are listed differentiation marks which make identification of the panes possible:

2/6 Pane A:
- 5/1 Large number of black dots around A of Africa. Black dot between hyphen and A of Afrika.
- 6/1 Dot in left horn. Full stop between Posgeld and Postage.
- 6/2 Dot between legs of A of Africa.

2/6 Pane B:
- 6/1 Comma between Posgeld and Postage. Black dot on edge of frame to left of D in Suid.
- 6/2 Dot behind rump of Inyala.

5/- Pane A:
- 5/2 Squared outer right edge of O of South.
- 6/1 Dot in A of Africa.

5/- Pane B:
- 6/1 Dot above hyphen of Suid.

10/- Pane A:
- 5/1 Thin upper sloping arm of K of Afrika.
- 6/2 Dot below horns of buck.

10/- Pane B:
- 6/1 Dot at left of 1 of 10/-.

In addition to the above flaws, differences in the cylinder numbers may be found as follows:

2/6: A tiny dot to the left of each 6 of 66, as figure 1.

5/- B: Chip off first 1 and off 8 of 118, as figure 2.

10/- A: Broken top to second 4 of 44.

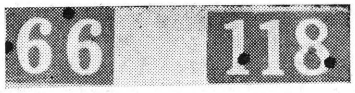


Fig 1. **Fig 2.**

Blocks in here Figs. 1 and 2.

In view of the fact that the two cylinders of each value can have the centres and frames transposed relative to each other, it may be that varieties of say, frame A can appear with centre B. Thus, there may be the following combinations:

(1) Frame A, Centre A
(2) Frame B. Centre B.
(3) Frame A, Centre B.
(4) Frame B, Centre A.

Although numbers 3 and 4 have not as yet been found, philatelists should be on the lookout for such varieties.

Orange Free State Centenary Issue—Transposition of Panes on Sheets of the 2d. Denomination.

Referring to the notes on this subject in our August 1954 issue (page 138), Mr. H. J. Scholtz of Oudtshoorn, Cape, has written to say that we make no mention of the "broken top arrow" which is constant and therefore very useful in determining whether the cylinder printing the centres of these stamps was always started in the same position in relation to the cylinder printing the frames. He adds that bearing in mind that the "broken arrow" variety is an interior cylinder flaw and the prominent "orange mark" on these stamps, an exterior cylinder flaw, he has succeeded in procuring the following diff,rent combinations of these cylinders.

(1) Broken arrow above row No. 1.
Orange stroke on stamp 4, row No. 1.
(2) Broken arrow above row No. 11.
Orange stroke on stamp 4, row No. 1.
(3) Broken arrow above row No. 1.
Orange stroke on stamp 4, row No. 11.

Mr. Scholtz has not heard if the fourth possible combination exists and it would be interesting to hear if it is known to anyone.

Cylinder Numbers of the Pictorial Stamps.

A recent letter from Mr. I. A. Miller of Johannesburg mentioned that now the new stamps were on sale it might be possible to obtain from post offices the stamps with cylinder numbers that have for some time been unobtainable, and as a matter of interest we publish below a list of the pictorial stamps which had the cylinder numbers printed on the margin of the sheet and were on sale during the period from the 1st January 1953 up to the appearance of the new issue.

The cylinder numbers of the 10/- stamp are 6918 Interior and 6934 Exterior, but they were never imprinted on the margin of the sheets.

1d.	54/53	Int./Ext.
½d.	31/70	"
	54/48	"
1½d.	6931A/6931B	"
2d.	30/18	"
	27/46	"
	27/18	"
3d.	17	Single
4d.	103	"
4½d.	76/47	Int./Ext.
6d.	6930/6	"
	85/32	"
1/-	6926/6935	"
	66/3	"
1/3	30	Single
1/6	21/68	Int./Ext.
2/6	3/51	"
	5/51	"
5/-	36/6925	"
	8/72	"

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U.N.O.

United Nations Day, 25 October, is being celebrated as usual by the issue of a commemorative 3c. stamp. This year it features the European office of the Organisation, in Geneva.

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BASUTOLAND WATERMARK ERRORS

By G. N. GILBERT.

Since the short notes appeared in last month's issue, further discoveries have been made, and the watermark errors in the Postage Due Stamps must now be described in the plural; there is more to it than merely the "wrong type of crown."

Missing Crown and Constant Flaws on other Crowns.

A completely missing crown has been found in both the 1d. and the 2d. values of the postage dues, and this invariably falls in the same position in which the "error of crown" is found. Proof of this is found in three other constant flaws in the watermarks, which are always found in the same position above and below the "error of crown" or the "Missing crown". These are:

(1) A damaged crown with portion of the top and inner lines missing, found on the fifth stamp or the margin, above either the error of crown or missing crown.

(2) A crown with a small break in the top, found two stamps above either of the major errors.

(3) A somewhat similar break in the crown two stamps below one or other of the major errors.

It is apparent from the foregoing that the missing crown is where the "bit" fell off the dandy-roll in the course of the paper's manufacture and was replaced by the wrong shaped crown.

Frequency with which the "error of crown" occurs. This requires some amplifying.

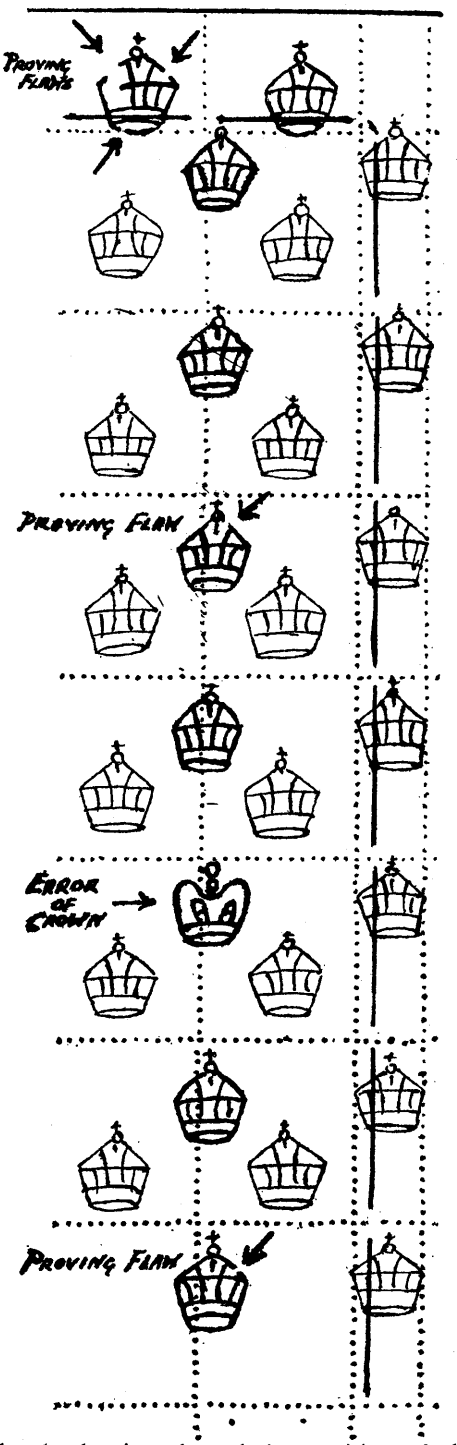
According to overseas advice, given on the measurements of the dandy-roll, this error will occur only once in every 1,700 odd stamps, but it is quite apparent that more than one pane of these postage dues is printed in one operation — how many is not at present known. Supposing that, say, six panes are printed at once, perforated and then cut up, only those panes which were printed from that portion of the paper roll which had the error, will have both the errors, and the remaining panes will not have them at all. If therefore Basutoland has been fortunate in getting this particular batch of panes, one may expect to find one of the errors on every other pane, or once in every 120 stamps, i.e. taking the circumference measurement of the dandy-roll at 20⅝ inches.

This ratio has been confirmed up to a point by examination of the panes in various post-offices, but here a curious fact emerges and that is that the ratio is not constant in regard to the 1d., some batches having the "error" in every other pane, while others only have it once in every four or five panes.

The 2d. does not conform at all, and this is hard to explain as both denominations were printed from the same roll of paper, and one would expect to find the "error" in the same relative frequency in both, but this is not so as far as I have found. I would put the ratio as four or five of the 1d. to every one of the 2d. "errors of crown" found.

As regards the "missing crown", this seems to occur once in about ten panes of the 1d., but the 2d. is extremely scarce, only four or five having been so far found to my knowledge.

One explanation may be that when the paper roll was made, the first portion was entirely normal, with no errors, then "bit"



Sketch showing the relative position of the "error of crown" **or** the missing crown to the proving flaws.

In this case the "error of crown" appears on row 5, and two stamps above and below the crown has a small break as shown by arrow.

Four and a half above the "error of crown" the normal crown is broken in three places, the largest on the top left, with portions of the

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and a portion was made with the "missing crown" before it was spotted, and finally the wrong shaped crown was inserted. It would then follow that the panes printed from this part of the roll would have (a) panes with no errors at all, then (b) panes with the "missing crown", and finally (c) panes with the "error of crown."

Whether this particular batch of panes then got mixed before delivery or subsequently to account for the irregularity of the ratio, is anybody's guess.

I am indebted to the Revd. A. Brutsch of Morija, and Mrs. A. Jacot-Guillarmod of Mamathes who have both confirmed the positional flaws in both denominations and have informed me of their findings.

THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE "SEAL" DEFACER.

An Interesting Discovery.

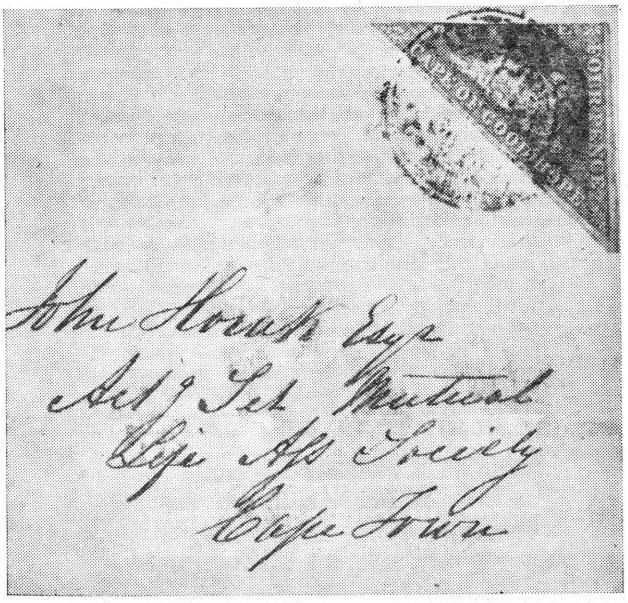
From time to time one has read of Cape Triangular stamps being cancelled with a "seal defacer." How many collectors know what is meant by this term, and how many specimens are known with this type of cancellation? Not many collectors have seen the actual cancellation and specimens are no doubt exceptionally rare.

In fact it has been reported that only four stamps are known to exist with this cancellation. Whether this information is correct or not is a matter of conjecture, but to date the writer has only heard of four items.

One copy of a 6d. stamp (S.G. 7c) is known. It was sold by H. R. Harmer Limited in the "West" sale, and was illustrated in their sale catalogue. It is a single stamp without any cover or wrapper, and was described as "apparently incorporating the words 'Post Office'."

In the Stevenson sale at H. R. Harmer's in 1950 two specimens were included. One was a single copy of the 1d. (S.G. 5b), and one was a 4d. (S.G. 6) on entire dated 28th January, 1859 and sent from Port Elizabeth to Cradock.

I recently acquired the fourth copy which is also a 4d. (S.G. 6a) on an entire sent from Port Elizabeth to Cape Town also dated the 28th January, 1859 — see photograph.



Allis in his book on Cape Triangulars does not mention this defacer, nor does Jurgens in his magnificent and comprehensive work on the postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope. Stevenson does mention the item. This is only natural as he had two specimens in his own collection. However he was not able to decipher the wording on the seal and in his book he refers to the seal as containing the words "Post Office" or "Official". This description was included in Harmer's sale catalogue.

From the illustration in the "West" and the "Stevenson" sale catalogues and with the help of my own cover I am now able to state that the wording on the seal defacer reads:—

Post Office/Port Elizabeth/Cape of Good Hope.

The illustration hereunder indicates how the seal is composed.

It is difficult to understand how this defacer came to be placed on stamps at all, as it was obviously not a date stamp, nor was it one of the recognised cancellers. It has been suggested that a few letters were handed to the Sorting Clerk after the closing of the Poht Office at Port Elizabeth on the 28th January, 1859, and that he used this canceller in order to cancel the stamps and have them sent off on the same day, the correct defacer having been locked up or not being handy. Whether this theory is correct or not will probably remain unknown. Both known covers have the same date and this does lend some substance to the story. In the meantime it can now be stated that the mystery of the wording on the seal defacer has at last been solved.

The specimen has been seen by the Federation's Expert Committee, and the members thereof agree with the described interpretation of the wording on the seal.

JACK SHEPHERD.



SHIPPING POSTMASTER, CAPE TOWN.

In our issue of Nov., 1951 (Vol. 27, p. 199) there was recorded what was then the earliest known date (20 SEP 1910) for a Cape Town Shipping Postmaster cancellation. This was in the collection of Mr. E. Lauder of Glasgow.

I have been fortunate enough recently to find similar marks of a still earlier date, 18 AUG 1909. They are of the same type as Mr. Lauder's, viz., a double circle of 40 mm. diam., outer circle double lined. "Shipping Postmaster" at the top, "Cape Town" at the bottom, and the date in one line in the centre. Maltese Crosses between upper and lower lettering. The marks are on blocks of 12 of Cape Edwardian ½d. and 1d. stamps, the colour being a faded violet or purple.

J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

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"AEROGRAMMES" & THEIR PRECURSORS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

By I. H. C. GODFREY.

(Continued from page 191 of October issue)

NORTHERN RHODESIA.

KING GEORGE VI's REIGN.

1948 January.

Emergency printing due to no standard Crown Colony sheets being on hand. Printed locally on ungummed white paper, with space for adhesive stamp and inscribed, inter alia, "Affix gummed strip here" at top and right borders. Address panel 4 x 3.5in.

1a. (Adhesive) Blue on white paper.

1st Issue—4 June 1949. Printed by McCorquodale & Co., England.

Basic Crown Colony sheet, WIDE SETTING — i.e. Three lines of text below BY AIR MAIL. Stamp: King's Head.

1 6d. Reddish brown, dark blue inscriptions on cream paper with gray overlay.

2nd Issue—1952. As before but NARROW SETTING—four lines of text below BY AIR MAIL.

2 6d. Reddish brown, dark blue inscriptions on cream paper with gray overlay.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II's REIGN.

3rd Issue—1953. The same basic sheet with WIDE SETTING. Similar stamp bearing Queen's Head, and slightly embossed.

3 6d. Reddish brown, dark blue inscriptions on cream paper with gray overlay.

4 Used in Southern Rhodesia (1954).

5 Used in Nyasaland (1954).

NOTE. The next issue for this Colony will no longer be inscribed "Northern Rhodesia".

NYASALAND.

Early in 1954 stocks of the standard Crown Colony "Air Letters" had been used up and, pending the arrival of further supplies from London, the Government Printer at Zomba issued two emergency forms which were sold at a farthing each.

1945—15th January.

First Emergency Printing. Address panel 5 x 3¾ in. Space for adhesive stamp, and Control No. 1599 imprinted at bottom left.

a. (Adhesive). Black on white paper, ungummed.

1945—6 March.

Second Emergency Printing. Same as previous issue but Control No. 1712—S.87.

b. (Adhesive). Black on white paper, ungummed.

1952—Christmas.

Special Greetings Air Letters. Crown Colony sheet—WIDE SETTING — illustrated by Government Printer, Zomba, in red, blue and green. Adhesive stamp required.

c. (Adhesive). Map of Nyasaland/"Christmas Greetings"/Bell/House and Trees, in design.

d. (Adhesive). Christmas Greetings/House and Trees/Candle, in design.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II'S REIGN.

1st Issue with imprinted stamp—26 Nov. 1953. Blue Crown Colony sheet without watermark. Stamp: Vignette of Queen's Head and view of Tea Estate, Mlanje.

1 6d. Purple on blue paper.

2 Used in Northern Rhodesia (1954).

3 Used in Southern Rhodesia (1954).

NOTE. The next issue for this Protectorate will incorporate the word "Rhodesia".

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

As the "Air Mail Letter Cards" and "Air Letter" sheets issued to personnel of the East African Forces during the War were fully described in an article by the writer in the October and November 1948 issues of the **"South African Philatelist"**, only the locally printed emergency "Air Letters" for civilian use are described herein.

No sheets with imprinted stamps have appeared in Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika since the short lived Military issues of 1941/1944, and Zanzibar only issued her first sheets as late as 1953. However, British East Africa, besides the emergency forms already referred to, has issued some collectable items in the form of illustrated Christmas Greetings "Air Letters".

KENYA.

When the Air Letter Service was made available to civilians on 2 September 1944 insufficient supplies of the Crown Colonies type forms were on hand to supply the demand so, until fresh supplies were received from London, improvised Military cards were issued to the public. These crudely printed Air Letters originally appeared with the words "Ceylon Army Command" at bottom right, which were obliterated in black ink before being passed over the Post Office counter at Nairobi. Various other crudely printed Air Letter sheets subsequently made their appearance in the Colony but it cannot definitely be ascertained that they were printed locally, and if they were, they were probably printed by commercial firms, and therefore unofficial.

1944—2 September.

Emergency issue (as described). Address panel 123 x 110 mm.

a. (Adhesive). Pale Blue on thin rough paper.

1950—Christmas.

Special Greetings Air Letter. Crown Colony sheet—WIDE SETTING—illustrated by Government Printer, Nairobi, in black, green, yellow and red.

b. (Adhesive). Bow and Bells/Santa Claus, sled and "Christmas Greetings"/Holly leaves. Light green.

c. (Adhesive). Same but Dark green Holly leaves.

1951 and 1952—Christmasses.

Special Greetings Air Letter. Crown Colony sheet (bluish overlay) — WIDE SETTING — Illustrated in brown, red, green and black.

d. (Adhesive). Bow and Bells/Holly & "Christmas Greetings"/Sled.

TANGANYIKA.

For some unknown reason this Colony and Uganda extended the Air Letter Service to civilians a day before Kenya—1 September 1944.

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1944—1 September.
Emergency Issue. 100,000 printed by the Government Printer Dar-es-Salaam. Ungummed poor quality buff paper, inscribed in margin "Fold and Gum". Address panel 110 x 96 mm.
e. (Adhesive). Light blue on rough buff paper.

UGANDA.

1944—1 September.
Emergency Issue. White paper with blotchy mottled green overlay. Address panel 126 x 98 mm.
f. (Adhesive). Light blue on mottled green-white paper.
NOTE: This form was later in use in Kenya.

ZANZIBAR.

This Protectorate issued the first definitive East African Air Letter sheets during the first half of 1953, in two denominations — 20 cents for local and 50 cents for Foreign airmail.
The basic sheet resembles the standard Crown Colony type, on blue paper, but its texture is inferior and the top address line consists of 69 dots compared with the usual 114.
First Issue—1953. Portrait of Sultan Kalif bin Harub. No watermark.
1 20c. Red on blue paper.
2 50c. Purple on bule paper.

MAURITIUS.

The first "Air Letter" sheet, with imprinted stamp, was issued early in 1953. The form is similar to the blue Crown Colony type but both the paper and the printing are very inferior. The final "L" of "Mail" in the text is misformed. As in the case of the Zanzibar issues the top address line comprises 69 dots.
1st Issue—1953. Stamp: Government House and vignette of King Georxe VI. No watermark.
1 35c. Purple on blue paper.

(To be continued.)

ZANZIBAR.

Mr. R. Eldon Ellison has a valuable article in the June number of Gibbons' Stamp Monthly on the postmarks on Indian stamps used in Zanzibar. He maintains that all published lists are unreliable, including some types that do not exist, and omitting others that do.
He describes a mark of the first period, 1868-69, a type which Jal Cooper has never seen, and apparently doubts its existence. From the period 1875-95 he describes eight types, of which two remained in use for a short time after the transfer of Zanzibar to East African administration on 10 Nov., 1895.

TRIANGULARS.

Mr. W. B. Calder, in the Stamp Lover, has an article on Triangular stamps and he reckons he has about 95 per cent of all in existence. He states that there are 656 listed in the various standard catalogues (not including varieties such as imperf. between), etc. In addition there are others not listed in all catalogues; these include 92 issued but not listed in S.G.; 79 locals; 11 airmail labels and 8 rocket stamps. This makes a grand total of 846. Many are quite cheap, but even some of these want a lot of hunting for, and this is where the fun of collecting comes in.

SHORT NOTICES.

Green Isle Philately. We have received a copy of this monthly magazine, published by Shanahan's Stamp Auctions, of 38 Corrig Avenue, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin. A considerable part is taken up with a catalogue of the publisher's auction lots, but there are a number of general philatelic articles of a non-specialised character.
Military Air Posts 1793-1954. Alfred Clement is publishing about the end of the year a Handbook of the military air mail of all countries from 1793 to the present time. There will be about 160 pages with 300 illustrations. Copies may be obtained from the author, Graz/Austria, Schwimmschulkai 6/11. Price 3 U.S. Dollars or 30 International Reply Coupons.
H. R. Harmer Inc., N.Y., on 1-3 November are selling the late A. F. Lichtenstein's collection of 20th Century Canada.
India Postage Stamp Centenary. In connection with the Exhibition held in October to celebrate the centenary of Indian stamps there were four special stamps issued, also various letter cards, embossed and registered envelopes. There was also to be held a Philatelic Symposium for the recording of papers and discussions. We received an invitation to participate in this, but unfortunately too late for notice of it to be given.
Portuguese Philatelic Federation. This body with headquarters at Avenida Almirante Reis, 70-3 Dto, Lisbon, was constituted on 1-7-54; it has taken the place of the former Clube Filatelico de Portugal, and is affiliated to the F.I.P.
The St. Gabriel International Union of Christian Stamp Collectors, on the occasion of this Marian Year is taking a vote (open to any philatelist) as to what is the most beautiful stamp with the Madonna. Send your vote to "Union St. Gabriel, Zollergasse 34, Vienna, Austria. The Postal Administration receiving the most votes will be given a Medal of Honour.
Beira Philatelic Exhibition. The local Philatelic Club is sponsoring an exhibition from 1-10 December. Entry would have been open to anyone in Southern Africa, but unfortunately we did not receive notice of the exhibition in time to give our readers notice. Information may be had from the Secretary, Mr. A. L. Ramos, P.O. Box 480, Beira.

AUSTRALIA.

We seem to be able to count on at least one new stamp per month from Australia now. The 1st December will see a 2/-, designed to draw attention to the Olympic Games to be held in Melbourne in 1956. The design of the stamp is based on a poster which won the prize in a competition.

ICE ISLAND — NORTH POLE.

In our April issue we referred to a 'North Pole' cancellation, which was that of a town in New York State.
It now appears, however, that there is actually such a cancellation from the North Pole. It is described by Harry A. Gordon in a recent issue of 'Stamps'. It reads 'Ice Island (T-3/ North Pole'.
It comes from the weather base set up by U.S.A. on a floating ice island (T-3 or Target 3. There are also T-1 and T-2 somewhere around). The staff have been temporarily withdrawn, owing to Soviet scout planes having displayed an interest in them.

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A Modern Classic

By STEPHEN G. RICH.

(Printed with permission from the S.P.A. Journal.)

The word "classic" as applied to a stamp does not imply that the piece mentioned is expensive. But it does carry the idea that it is desirable, interesting, and worthy of your best efforts in collecting that piece of postal paper. Most of the time it signifies one of the more highly esteemed stamps issued before 1875 or 1880. Typical of "classics" are the U.S. 10c. 1847, any one of the Cape of Good Hope Triangles, the Penny Black of the United Kingdom, almost any stamp of Oldenburg or Brunswick, or Tuscany.



One modern stamp which qualifies on every count is Union of South Africa No. 1, the 2½d. deep blue issued on Nov. 4, 1910. Even if rather heavily cancelled, it still is a thing of beauty. It is interesting in both its story and its design. There are possibilities of interesting collecting, since it is not excessively scarce. It normally sells in 1954 at arount 25 cents for a used copy and 50 cents for an unused one.

"Union No. 1" as it is named, was for nearly three years the only stamp issued by that new Free Kingdom. It was not the only stamp in use within that country, as during that period the regular stamps of the four former British Colonies which became original provinces of the new Dominion, supplied the need for all other values of adhesives. Thus it cannot be put quite on a par with Poland No. 1, the lone issue of the Kingdom of Poland in 1860, in respect to usage.

"Union No. 1" though designed as a commemorative, was nevertheless the regular 2½d. stamp, for the single international letter rate, from its issuance to the end of 1913. Hence, covers of it are not too hard to find. As the registration fee appears to have been 5d., covers with three No. 1's or with a block of four if a double weight letter, can be found. Furthermore, there is always the lure of covers showing it in combination with the various colonial stamps of other face values then current.

"Union No. 1" is a beautifully produced stamp, showing the old process of line-engraving well applied on a design well fitted for production by that method. The arms of the four former colonies in the four corners are really little gems of this sort of work. It was the first stamp issued that showed George V as king—not as King of England, but as King of the new free Crowned Republic, Union of South Africa. The new Dominion had been established on May 3, 1910. Its first stamp commemorated the opening of the first parliament, Nov. 4, 1910. The stamp was issued on that day.

First day of use can be found. Actual first day covers are known from the Cape, Natal and the Transvaal provinces. These lack the fancy pictorial additions of later first day covers, and can be recognized by date only. Loose singles of the date, from all parts of the Union are known; and loose blocks of four from at least the Cape and the Transvaal. Most first day covers are not "philatelically" made on purpose.

"Union No. 1" does not offer a great range of varieties save in colour. The range of colour, all from one printing and used without any time sequence, is from a very deep blue, almost the "indigo" of the U.S. 5-c. 1887, to a blue almost as light as that of the current U.S. 5-cent Presidential. The deeper shades, especially that not quite the deepest, show up with a bluish colouring over the surface of the paper. This is not a deliberate variety, nor yet anything peculiar to the paper. It is the result of the earliest printing from the single plate used. That plate, after manufacture, had been "steeled" or "nickeled", by electroplating with iron or nickel. Until the plating had been rubbed smooth, it retained in its invisible pores a film of ink, which was deposited on the paper in printing like the ink in the design lines. As this was in the period before chromium was used on engraved plates, it was not a chrome plating, but one of nickel or iron as formerly used, that caused this variety.

"Union No. 1" has a few actual varieties. The one first discovered, as late as 1938, was "BF" for "OF" in the province name "Cape of Good Hope." Later discoveries are: O and F tied together; UF for OF; O and O of "Good" tied together; portions of G of "Good" missing.

What may or may not turn out to be unerased remnants of layout lines, through the right hand oval with value 2½, and extending below that, have recently been found. Likewise, a "dry print" variety, in which the background of the figures of value appears as horizontal lines, is now known.

Unusual usages known are: misuse as a revenue stamp; cancelled with a numeral cancellation of Natal or the Cape; cancellation showing part of a slogan postmark; cancelled abroad with a "Paquebot" postmark of a port of arrival. However, any cancellation showing any 1910 date may well be cherished as an interesting, if not an unusual usage. The great bulk of used copies show 1911 and 1912 year dates.

Die proofs are known, as are the special presentation sheets with two unused copies stuck down on them. Such essays as are known are "one copy only" items, which all of us (myself included) have to represent in our collections by pictures.

Statement that Union No. 1 was the regular 2½d. to end of 1913 is based on material seen by me—the 1913 2½d. stamp was very sparingly used till about Feb. 1, 1914. S.G.R.

HITLER WAS A COLLECTOR.

The Australian monthly "Stamp News" has published information that Hitler was a secret stamp collector. The disclosure was made recently when a prominent Canadian dealer revealed that after World War II he bought (and subsequently sold) Hitler's private stamp collection, retaining only a few special items. The news has been kept secret for so long because the collection was looted from Germany, taken to America and sold there through private channels.

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Wants, Offers & Exchange

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

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

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

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

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

WANTED. Union Postal Stationery (**Mint only**) and Inter-Provincials.—S. J. VERMAAK, P.O. Box 4566, Johannesburg.

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

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

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

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

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

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

UNION STAMP CO., 23 Midland House, 102 Fox Street, Johannesburg. Union Stamps, British Empire Stamps, Foreign Stamps: we sell all stamps, we specialize in nothing! Any general collector will find something he needs at moderate prices. Price list issued regularly: write Box 10225 for that free list.

WANTED: Bechuanaland, Nyasaland, Basutoland, Swaziland. Also Union and Rhodesian commemorations, S.W.A. Quote per hundred or thousand.—MARAIS, 3 Short Street, Bloemfontein.

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

SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST—New reduced prices for back numbers. Limited stocks of complete volumes for the years 1934-1942 inclusive are available at 12/- per volume. Odd numbers for these years 1/- per copy.
Copies of Volume 9 (1933) are available at 1/- per copy except for the July issue. Odd numbers of the first 8 volumes (Nos. 1-8) 1923-1932 are available at 6d. per copy. Complete volumes for these years are sold out. 1934-1954 odd numbers are available at 1/- per copy.
Arrangements can be made to bind back-numbers at an additional charge of 2/6 per volume. On orders under 10/- please add postage. Early application is strongly recommended.—Business Manager, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

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

WANTED.—S.A. Philatelist, October and November 1943. Particulars, T. B. BERRY, Box 31, P.O. Bryanstown, Transvaal.

WANTED.—1d. tête-bêche strip, preferably of six, showing margin.—M. J. RALL, Dassieklip, Heidelberg, Cape.

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Mint Set (20 values) -- -- -- £1 10 0

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2/6, 5/-, 10/-, £1—Mint -- -- -- £2 0 0

NEW ZEALAND, 1953 HEALTH:
Mint. The Pair -- -- -- -- -- £0 0 6
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Catalogue -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- 5/6

THE NEW "S.G." SIMPLIFIED CATALOGUE WILL BE AVAILABLE EARLY DECEMBER.

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

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ANGLO-BOER WAR CENSOR MARKS & LABELS

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

(Continued from page 185 of October issue)

BRITISH CENSOR MARKS WITH PLACE NAMES.

Place.	Shape.	Size m.m.	Colour.	Wording, Etc.	Dates of Use.
OUDTSHOORN	Double triangle	55 x 30	Red	Passed Press Censor.	30/4/1902. 11/6/1902.
PAARL	Double triangle	56 x 29	Violet, Blue	Name of town inside triangle.	24/7/1902. 17/3/1902.
PEARSTON	Double triangle	50 x 30	Violet	Name of town inside triangle.	29/5/1902.
PIETERMARITZBURG	Double oval, double border	53 x 31	Blue	Dated.	23/12/1901.
PIQUETBERG	Double triangle	50 x 30	Red	Name of town in semi-circle inside triangle.	18/8/1901.
PORT ELIZABETH	Double triangle	54 x 21	Violet	Passed Press Censor/Port Elizabeth in centre.	
POTCHEFSTROOM	Two straight lines	55 x 4 45 x 4	Black	Passed Press Censor/Potchefstroom.	7/6/1901.
POTCHEFSTROOM	Double oval, double border	48 x 29	Violet	Dated.	17/7/1901.
PRETORIA	Double triangle	34 x 27	Red Violet Green	Name of town inside triangle (Fullstop after town's name)	16/7/1901 & 3/6/1901 & 18/8/1902. 8/7/1901.
PRETORIA	Double triangle, metal	26 x 36	Black	Name of town inside triangle.	14/9/1901.
PRETORIA	Double triangle. Equilateral	35 x 30	Violet	Name of town inside triangle.	22/5/1902.
PRETORIA	Double triangle	35 x 25	Black	Name of town inside triangle.	17/1/1902.
PRETORIA	Double rectangle double border	58 x 40	Faded Violet	Passed by Censor. Dated. Signature L. Heymann.	9/5/1902.
PRIESKA	Double oval	42 x 26	Blue	Passed Press Censor Prieska.	27/3/1902.
QUEENSTOWN	Double oval	50 x 30	Violet	Passed Press Censor/Queenstown.	31/1/1902.
QUEENSTOWN	Double triangle	50 x 31	Violet	Passed Press Censor/Queenstown outside triangle.	2/11/1901.
RIETFONTEIN	Equilateral double triangle	30 x 25	Violet	P.B.C. Reitfontein in centre.	25/4/1902.
RIVERSDALE	Double triangle	53 x 29	Red	Name of town in centre.	26/2/1902.

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Place.	Shape.	Size mm.	Colour.	Wording, Etc.	Dates of Use.
ROBERTSON	Double triangle	55 x 29	Red	Name of town inside triangle.	13/3/1902 & 29/5/1902.
RONDEBOSCH	Double triangle	50 x 30	Violet	Passed Press Censor Rondebosch in centre.	Oct., 1901.
ROSMEAD	Double triangle	55 x 30	Red	Name of town in centre.	27/2/1902.
ROUXVILLE	Double border, double circle	41 x 27	Violet	Dated in centre.	Dec., 1900.
RUSTENBURG	Double triangle (inverted)	25 x 35	Violet	P.B.C. Name in centre.	
SPRINGFONTEIN	Double border. Double oval.	59 x 30	Violet	Press Censor Springfontein.	17/3/1902.
STANDERTON	Double oval	57 x 29	Blue Violet	Dated.	3/5/1902.
STANDERTON	Double circle, double border	35	Blue	Pass Censor Standerton.	22/3/1902. 9/6/1902.
STANDERTON	Double triangle	28 x 35	Violet Green Blue	Name of town vertical inside triangle.	27/8/1901. 29/5/1902. Aug., 1901.
SOMERSET	Double triangle	55 x 30	Violet	Passed Press Censor Somerset in centre.	14/5/1902.
SWELLENDAM	Double triangle	50 x 30	Red	Name of town in centre.	27/5/1902.
THABA 'NCHU	Three straight lines	15, 22, 12 x 3	Violet	Censored Thaba 'Nchu/ O.R.C.	12/3/1901.
UITENHAGE	Rectangle bevelled corners	52 x 15	Violet	Passed Press Censor, Uitenhage.	Jan,. 1902. 24/11/1901.
UITENHAGE	Double oval, double border	51 x 35	Violet	Name of town between ovals. Dated.	26/5/1901.
UMTATA	Double triangle	52 x 30	Black	Centre empty.	4/6/1902.
VEREENIGING	Double border oval	34 x 44	Violet	Passed Press Censor Vereeniging. Dated.	1/6/1902.
VICTORIA WEST	Double triangle	50 x 28	Red	Name of town inside triangle.	17/6/1902.
VOLKSRUST	Double oval	52 x 30	Red	Passed Press Censor/Volksrust. Dated.	5/6/1902.
VRYBURG	Double oval, double border	42 x 30	Violet	Press Censor/Vryburg. Dated in centre.	15/9/1901.
WARMBATHS	Double triangle fancy border	33 x 26	Magenta	P.B.C. between triangles. Name of town and star in centre.	28/9/1901.
WARRENTON	Single circle	22	Blue	Censor Warrenton inside circle.	31/1/1901.
WATERVAL BOVEN	Double triangle inverted	35 x 25	Blue-black	P.B.C. Name of town in centre	16/12/1901.
WATERVAL ONDER	Double triangle inverted	35 x 29	Blue	P.B.C. Name of town in centre	3/12/1901, 23/6/1902.

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Place.	Shape.	Size m.m.	Colour.	Wording, Etc.	Dates of Use.
WELVERDIEND	Double oval, double border	37 x 23	Violet	P.B.C. Welverdiend.	17/8/1901.
WEPENER	Single line	43	Violet	Censored Wepener.	24/12/1900.
WILLOWMORE	Double oval double border	50 x 30	Violet	Name of town between ovals. Dated.	9/10/1901.
WONDERFONTEIN	Double oval	35 x 22	Violet	P.B.C./Wonderfontein.	6/6/1902.
WYNBERG	Double triangle	54 x 30	Violet	Passed Press Censor Wynberg in centre.	April, 1902.
ZEERUST	Rectangle bevelled corners	50 x 21	Violet	Passed Press Censor/Zeerust.	6/12/1900.

BRITISH CENSOR MARKS WITHOUT PLACE NAMES.

ABERDEEN	Diamond, double border	29 x 53	Violet	Passed Press Censor. Overstamped W.A.S.	19/6/1901
ALBERTINA	Double triangle	53 x 30	Blue-Black	Passed Press Censor.	30/12/1901
ALIWAL NORTH	Double triangle	50 x 25	Violet	Passed Press Censor with monogram in centre.	17/4/1901 15/4/1902
BETHULIE	Two lines. Metal	23 x 11	Black	Passed Censor.	11/11/1901
BEAUFORT WEST	Double border circle	31	Red	Passed Censor between circles A.G. in centre.	17/2/1901
BEAUFORT WEST	Double oval	49 x 31	Red	Passed Press Censor between ovals. S.L. and date in centre.	27/2/1901
BEACONSFIELD	Double triangle	53 x 32	Blue	Passed Press Censor.	11/10/1901
BLOEMFONTEIN	Double triangle	56 x 30	Red	Passed Press Censor.	20/3/1902.
BLOEMFONTEIN	Single line	35 x 4 & 32 x 4	Violet	Passed Press Censor.	6/12/1900.
BLOEMFONTEIN	Two lines	26 x 38 & 50 x 2	Violet	Censored A.C., Bloemfontein Dist.	Oct., 1901.
BRANDFORT	Single line	50 x 3 & 41 x 3	Violet	Passed Censor H.T.H.	17/3/1901.
BRANDFORT	Single line	52 x 3	Violet	Passed Censor L.G. between stars.	26/10/1901.
BREDASDORP	Double triangle	50 x 30	Violet	Passed Press Censor with monogram in centre.	17/2/1902.
BRITSTOWN	Double triangle	60 x 25	Violet	Passed Press Censor with monogram in centre.	2/10/1901.
CAPE TOWN	Double triangle	50 x 30	Violet, Black, Blue	Passed Press Censor.	Dec., 1901. Mar., 1902.
CAPE TOWN	Single line	17 x 4	Green	Censor.	6/11/1899.
CAMERONS GLEN	Double oval double border	49 x 30	Violet	Press Censor Passed. Dated.	10/3/1902.
CERES	Double triangle	55 x 30	Faded Violet	Passed Press Censor.	17/5/1902.

(To be continued.)

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SOCIETY NEWS.

AFRIKAANSE FILATELISTIESE VERENIGING.

Saterdag, 12 September: Die Saterdagmiddag-byeenkomste wen steeds veld, soos weer eens uit die opkoms met dié geleentheid geblyk het. Die bywoning was maklik die beste wat ons nog op 'n Saterdagmiddag gehad het. Hierdie vergaderings word nou eintlik 'n bedreiging vir ons gewone vergaderings, want die een-vergadering-per-maand mense skyn nou skielik Saterdae te verkies.

Soos met hierdie informele byeenkomste te wagte kan wees, is daar altyd hoe meer mense hoe meer seëls. By gevolg is daar dan ook altyd groot bedrywigheid en word daar ook meer en meer materiaal vir die veiling aangebied. Dit alles maak die middag lewendig en interessant.

Ons herinner net weer daaraan dat alle blankes welkom is.

Vrydag, 1 Oktober: Êrens moet daar 'n misverstand gekom het. Volgens staande reëlings ontvang ons gewoonlik gaste op hierdie aand en toe dit blyk dat hulle nie kom nie, het dit ter elfder ure op ons voorsitter berus om 'n vertoning vir die aand te voorsien. Gelukkig is mnr. Schubart 'n versamelaar wat sy goedjies agtermekaar het, en het hy toe 'n deel van sy gespesialiseerde Unieseëls meegebring en so 'n onvoorsiene leemte mooi aangevul. En soos dit maar gewoonlik met hierdie soort goed gaan, was dit weer duidelik dat versamelaars nooit genoeg na die seëls van hul eie land kan kyk nie, veral as die seëls van verskeie plate afkomstig is.

Op Vrydag, 5 November, ontvang ons lede van die Philatelic Society of the Western Rand en Vrydag, 3 Desember, kom kuier mnr. F. C. Ferguson, die nuwe president van die Federasie, vir ons.

Met hierdie byeenkoms het ons 3 lede en 4 jongerlede armer geword, dog 3 verdere aansoeke om lidmaatskap is goedgekeur, terwyl nog 8 geesdriftiges aansoek gedoen het. S.J.V.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG.

The meeting on **Monday, 27th September,** was made one of the finest and most instructive by the three exhibits which the Germiston Philatelic Society members brought along. We have seldom seen more valuable and enjoyable displays, and if this was that Society's first official visit, we have good reason to expect a like quality when its members come to us again next year. The "Gibraltar" display of Mr. S. Wilson contained, beautifully arranged on black sheets, such rarities as the "no value" stamp and many a £1 and £5 value. Mr. L. J. Picton's "Postal History and Line Engraved Great Britain", with a paper read by Mr. I. S. Burniston for him, showed matched pairs of the pennies, imprimatur corner pairs and a reconstructed plate of 240 choice copies of Die I, Alphabet III, Plate 27. Mr. S. J. Hagger, who lead the delegation, showed with his "Union Postage Dues", that all the parts of his Union collection are equally stocked with every variety imaginable. Messrs. Lilley, Enoch and Sheffield voiced in their votes of thanks the appreciation of the meeting and the amazement of everyone at what such a young society had been able to get together.

12th October. Dr. A. Kaplan showed his collection of France, mounted on special printed sheets. This was a very beautiful exhibit, but much discussion took place as to whether it was or was not the best way of mounting a collection. The general impression seemed to be that it was quite a good way if you were content to have one mint stamp of each kind, but not a suitable method if you wanted to specialise at all, in shades or in other ways.

25th October. Mr. W. N. Sheffield displayed his collection of the Christmas stamps of the Union. He was very much against the idea of these stamps becoming semi-postals, preferring that they should be sold entirely for Anti-tuberculosis Funds and not partly for postal purposes. His collection of these stamps was practically complete; some of the earlier issues, particularly 1931-33 are now very scarce and are almost unobtainable to-day.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

8 September. Annual General Meeting. The proceedings indicated a flourishing state of affairs. The past-President, Mr. L. L. Brown ("Pop" to his many friends) was presented with the Society's first Life Membership certificate; in returning thanks he recalled the early days of the Society, when critics gave it a life-time of 3 months — now they were even discussing the possibility, of having to limit membership!

Office-bearers for 1954-55 were elected as follows: President: Mr. L. B. MacLachlan; Vice-President: Mr. W. Howie; Hon. Secretary: Mr. W. Kriste; Asst. Hon. Secretary: Mr. G. Norval; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. J. P. Roux; Exchange Supt.: Mr. P. K. Brown; Asst. Exchange Supt.: Mr. L. J. van Eijk; Stamp Supt.: Mr. E. Walker; Librarian: Mr. M. Peisach; Scribe: Capt. P. M. J. McGregor.

CAPE TOWN.

Royal Philatelic Society.

9th September: Mr. I. E. Hall showed a mixed exhibit of U.P.U. issues, Queen Elizabeth Coronation and Royal Visit stamps and King George VI booklets. Several new methods of presentation were shown and a good talk was given.

23rd September: Mr. R. Putzel gave a very fine showing of "Modern Austria", which included covers and in particular balloon flights. This member can always put on a fine exhibit. The Society was indeed fortunate in the two evenings, especially as Mr. Hall deputised at the last moment for Mrs. Hotz who was to have shown her collection "Women on Stamps". This it is hoped will be seen later on.

Thematic Stamp Club.

13th September: Mr. K. Cameron exhibited a very well written up and interesting collection "Overprints on Great Britain". This member gave a very good talk on the subject. The range was wide and the evening thoroughly enjoyed.

27th September: Mr. J. D. Rossouw showed his wellknown "Boer War Censor Marks". Needless to say from such a specialist, a fine talk was given and one seldom has the opportunity to see such a collection.

Western Province Philatelic Association.

The Annual Meeting was held on the 16th September and the following elected for the forthcoming year:—

Chairman: Mr. G. Petroulis; Vice-Chairman: Capt. M. F. Stern; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: Mr. I. E. Hall.

A unanimous vote of thanks was accorded the retiring chairman Mr. M. Hotz, who has put in so much work and organisation during his year of office.

The idea of a permanent philatelic home for the Cape Town Societies was put forward by Mr. Hotz and approved. The Royal Society is active in this matter.

Paarlse Posseëlversamelaars Vereniging.

There is information that an exhibition is to be held at Paarl in conjunction with the Vintage Festival from Feb. 23 to March 5 next year. The Rembrandt Trophy will also be held then and there is the possibility that a special cancellation will be used at a Special Post Office to be called "Berg Rivier Vallei". The Society will issue for sale a specially designed envelope for the 10 days of the Festival. M.F.S.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

A well attended meeting on the **21st September** agreed to dispose of Official business first. Two new members were enrolled and an Exchange Packet Service under the direction of Mr. E. Baer was started. It is hoped that this further service to members will find good support and will prove an entire success. The usual auction filled in the time until tea interval. Mr. G. Bülbring followed with a display entitled "Between the Orange and Kunene" covering the stamps of South West Africa from the "Vorläufer" period via the German and Occupational Issues to the present day. A representative collection was on view and in order to make the evening as informative as possible the exhibitor gave a talk on this interesting country, covering geographical, historical, economic and other aspects, an effort which met with a good reception. Mr. Forbes, when thanking on behalf of those present, rounded off the evening by some amusing experiences, which befell him during his stay in S.W.A.

October 5th: Once again a pleasant evening for all who attended. Our always popular auction was conducted by Mr. Leale in the absence of our regular auctioneer. Mr. G. K. Forbes for the rest of the evening very ably conducted a Quizz, which was much enjoyed by both the victorious and vanquished teams.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

At the monthly meeting of the above Society at the Inspan Buildings, Germiston, on Wednesday the 13th October, 1954, fifteen members and seven visitors turned up to view the excellent exhibits provided by four members of the Afrikaanse Filatelistiese Vereniging, who had travelled out to pay us, what

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we all hope will be an annual, visit. Mr. H. Neckler showed a small but very complete exhibit of South West Africa Officials. Mr. F. Burnard tabled an extensive number of South African Airmail covers. Mr. J. W. Schubart brought out his most interesting collection of the Australian stamps issued during the reign of King George V; and the final exhibit was by Mr. W. Lambert who had sheet after sheet of airmail stamps from most of the countries of the world. Mr. Hagger, Mr. Bompas, Mr. Christopher and Dr. A. Kaplan, on behalf of everyone present, expressed our thanks to the visitors who had provided such an interesting and most enjoyable evening. Before the meeting closed at 10 p.m., Dr. A. Kaplan tabled a number of sets of coins etc., issued during the time of Paul Kruger. Mr. J. W. Schubart, the Chairman of the Afrikaanse Filatelistiese Vereniging, on behalf of everyone, expressed thanks to Dr. A. Kaplan for this very special treat. Mr. Deverell on behalf of the Germiston Society endorsed the words spoken by Mr. Schubart and added that this surprise coin exhibit was a most fitting ending to a most entertaining evening, especially as Paul Kruger celebrations were being held at Pretoria. I.S.B.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF THE WESTERN RAND.

There was a fair attendance of members at the September meeting and the idea of instituting a Floating Trophy for exhibit competition among members was discussed at length. Mr. J. T. Burrell gave us some interesting information in regard to Kenya S.G. 111a and 111c. From replies received from correspondents, he knows of 2 mint and 7 used copies of 111a and 3 mint and 6 used of 111c.

The main exhibit for the evening was provided by Master David Crocker who displayed his early Great Britain which won the Society's certificate at Durban in June. In thanking David on behalf of the Society, Mr. Jack Burrell congratulated him on an excellent show. Fine copies and the 2d. blue a perfect specimen. It takes courage to leave a blank space for No. 77. He hoped that David would find No. 121 and 122 in time to exhibit at Pretoria next year.

The side line, a reconstructed sheet of Union coils, displayed by Bill Yelland, provided discussion and questions. Mr. S. J. Vermaak, in commenting on the exhibit, stated Bill was a true philatelist, always trying to prove something and going to a lot of research and trouble with his reconstruction. He thanked Bill for his stout effort. After this there was a general discussion on stamps and queries until 10.15 p.m. when the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the lady serving tea. H.F.H.

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A UNION CRASH COVER.

Mr. J. H. H. Chamberlain, of Durban, has shown us a cover with a "Crash" endorsement which we think has not been previously recorded. It is on a cover posted in Cape Town 14-10-51 for Durban. The Skymaster plane crashed near Kokstad. The cover has an endorsement, presumably applied at Durban, from a rubber stamp, in violet, reading "Salvaged Crashed Plane 15-10-51"; this is in one line 94 mm. long, in block letters 3 mm. high.

WALVIS BAY.

Mr. E. Lauder has an interesting summary of the Postal History of Walvis Bay in "The Springbok" of March/April, 1954. Cancellations are not common, but for one little place there is a considerable variety of them.

Recognised as a British possession in 1878, it and various islands off the coast were agreed with Germany to be enclaves in G.S.W.A. The earliest known postmark was an oval shaped barred one with the number 300 in a central rectangle, the regular Cape type.

The German headquarters, including the P.O., had to take refuge there because of Herero attacks, from Otyinbingue in 1889, so possibly German postmarks, recognisable by the date, may have occurred.

The British P.O. later had postmarks with the name 'Walfish Bay' included in them, Cape stamps being used.

During World War I, South African Army Base postmarks (No. 5) were used there, later a metal die with 'Walvis Bay' and 'S. Africa/ Z. Afrika' in the centre with the date; also a scarcer one with only 'Walfish Bay'.

After 1922 the territory was administered as if part of the Mandated Territory of S.W.A. and Union stamps ceased to be valid after 31-1-23.

Two types of Paquebot marks are known; one with 'Walvis Bay Paquebot' at the top, the other with 'Walvis Bay/Baai' at the top and 'Paquebot' below.

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S.W.A. FORGERY.

The B.P.A.'s Expert Committee has issued a warning about various fakes or forgeries of modern British Empire stamps that they have had before them. Amongst them are forged overprints of "Officials", including various bogus varieties of the 1929 op't., and of the 1938 1½d. in pair with one "official" double (S.G. O17.).

DURBAN 1913 EXHIBITION.

In connection with the note in our August issue about special postmarks of stamp exhibitions in the Union, Mr. W. Kriste of Pretoria writes that he has a specimen of the mark of the Durban Exhibition held June 30-July 5th, 1913. It is a double circle mark of about 31 mm. diameter; wording between circles is "S.A. STAMP EXHIBITION/DURBAN", with the date, "3—JUL—13" in one line in the centre. An interesting feature is that the "N" in "Exhibition" is reversed.

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BASUTOLAND.

SOME HISTORICAL NOTES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO POSTAL MATTERS.

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SWAZILAND—POSTAL HISTORY and STAMPS

By
J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

(Continued from page 196 of October issue.)

STAGES 6-9, POST OFFICES AND POSTMARKS, Continued.

(b) 25-26 mm. "Mbabane/Swaziland". This is (e) of Stage 5 continued.
(c) 28 mm. "Mbabane" above, separated from "Swaziland" below by short bars. Letters 4 mm. high.
(d) Single circle mark of 25 mm. diameter, with "Mbabane Swaziland" and date in two lines in centre.
(e) 30 mm. "Mbabane" at top, medium thick bars on either side of a Maltese Cross below. Letters 2½ mm. high.
(f) 25-26 mm. "Mbabane" at top, thin curved lines on either side of a Maltese Cross below. 2½ mm. letters.
(g) 25 mm. Same type as (a) and (b). 2½ mm. letters.
(h) "Temporary Relief" mark such as is used throughout the Union of South Africa when a stamper has to be sent for repair, or at some very temporary office. A single circle 24 mm. mark with crude, rather irregular lettering of "Mbabane" at top. Date in two lines in centre. Two occurrences seen, one with 'MY—/1937', the other with '5 X/43'.
(i) Used on parcels, from a rubber stamp, in violet. "Mbabane" in letters 5 mm. high and with an overall length of 34 mm. Three thick bars above and below, the whole having the outline of a circle flattened at top and bottom.
(j) Double-circle mark, 30 and 20 mm. circles; "Mbabane" at top and "Swaziland" at bottom in fine lettering 2½ mm. high (introduced 3-6-53).

Mhlotsheni.
(a) 25 mm. "Mhlotsheni" only at top. Letters 2½ mm. high.

Mhlumeni. Opened 1947.
(a) Mark like that of Maloma but with "Mhlumeni" at top.
(b) A rectangular mark used as a customs and /or immigration cachet has also been seen cancelling stamps on letters.

Mooihoek. Opened 1918.
(a) 31 mm. "Mooihoek" at top. Lower half filled in by a very thick curved bar. Letters 3½ mm. high.

Nsoko. Opened 1927.
(a) 26-27 mm. "Nsoko" at top, lower part medium thick bars on either side of a Maltese Cross. 3 mm. letters.
(b) Oval mark in violet from a rubber stamp 41 x 22 mm. "Nsoko, Swaz." at top, "T.O./T.K." at bottom and date in one line in centre.

Piggs Peak.
(a) 26 mm. "Piggs Peak" at top in 3 mm. letters, stars on either side about 9 mm. below the ends of the name. This is the Stage 5 mark continued.

Sandhlan.
(a) 24 mm. "Sandhlan/Swazieland" with two small stars separating the top and bottom lettering. 2 mm. letters. This is probably the mark as used in Stage 5. Note the old High Dutch spelling "Swazieland".

Sicunusa. Opened 1913.
(a) 28 mm. "Sicunusa" at top, lower part filled in with medium thick bars on either side of a Maltese Cross. Letters 2½ mm. high.

Singceni. Opened 1929.
(a) Double-lined oval 48 x 30 mm. from a rubber stamp, in violet. "Singceni" at top, stars at either end opposite the date line.

Sipofaneni Bridge. Opened 1936.
(a) Rectangle of 50 x 25 mm., from a rubber stamp, in violet. In three lines "Swaziland Police/(date)/Sipofaneni Swaziland."

Stegi.
(a) 26-27 mm. "Stegi/Swaziland." Letters 2½ mm. high. This is the Stage 5 mark continued.
(b) 30 mm. "Stegi" at top, "Swaziland" at bottom, with medium thick bars separating them. Letters 2 mm. high.
(c) 25 mm., otherwise like (a).
(d) Temporary "Relief" mark similar to that described as (h) under Mbabane, dated 6 OC 1937.

White Umbuluzi. Opened 1922, closed in 1935 as a P.O. Now only a Telephone office.
(a) 25 mm. "White Umbuluzi" at top in letters of 3 mm. height.

Royal Visit.
Mark used for a very few days only at Mbabane during the occasion of the Royal Visit in 1947. 27-28 mm. "Royal Visit/Swaziland" in letters 3 mm. high.

A Puzzle.
What appears to be quite definitely the single-circle mark of "Embekelweni" as used in Stage 2 cancelling a Union 6d. stamp, the date being JA 29/29. The only unusual feature about the mark is that it has the Index letter "A" above the two-line date. This mark has otherwise only been recorded from the 1889-95 period with the Index letter "B" or with no Index letter.

Otherwise this mark has not been recorded of later usage than Stage 2, although the "718" killer used at Embekelweni is known somewhat later. Also be it remembered that Embekelweni disappeared from the official lists of post offices after 1895.

(To be continued)

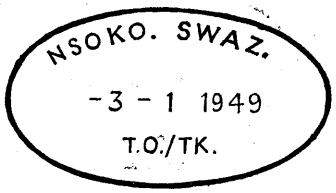
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POSTMARKS

Stages 6 - 8 1910 - 1954

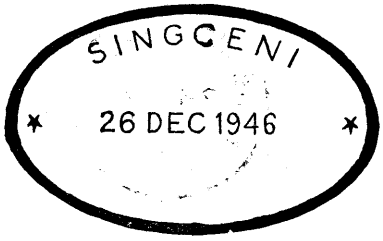


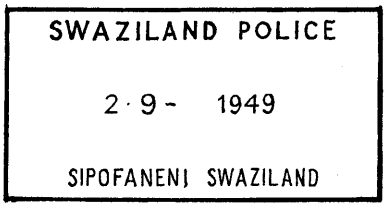






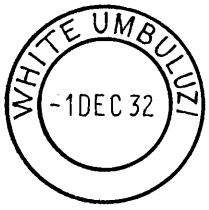












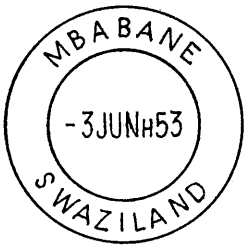


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ADDITIONAL POSTMARKS

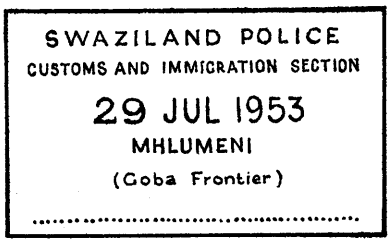
Stages 6 - 8 1910 - 1954

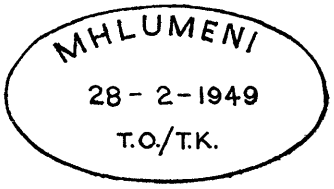












CHARLES DAVIDSON BELL

Designer of the Cape Triangulars.

In the June 1954 number of "Africana Notes and News", the Journal of the Africana Museum, Johannesburg, there is a chronological account of the life of Charles Bell, long known to philatelists as the designer of both the triangulars and the first rectangular stamps of the Cape of Good Hope.

The account starts off with the following: In preparing the Johannesburg exhibition on 1 September, 1953 to mark the centenary of the Cape Triangular stamps, an attempt was once again made to discover some details about the life of the designer of these famous and beautiful stamps, but with little success — Charles Bell, Government Surveyor and versatile artist remains almost as elusive as ever. His name appears in all kinds of official publications of the period; nineteenth-century travellers in South Africa record their gratitude for his assistance; on ceremonial occasions he generally appears as one of the organisers; he is recorded as a prominent Freemason; a Chairman of the directors of an insurance company, and as a member of many public committees; but one searches in vain for contemporary information about the man himself.

Here are a few items from the chronology:—

Born 1813, but exact date or place not known.

1830 at the Cape. Possibly his uncle, Sir John Bell, Secretary to the Cape Government 1828-41, was instrumental in bringing him out.

1834-36. Accompanied Dr. Andrew Smith on an exploring expedition to the interior. Many of the water-colours and drawings of scenery and Natives made on this trip are now in Johannesburg.

1840. Appointed 2nd Assistant Surveyor-General.

1848. Became Surveyor-General.

1848. As member of a Postal Enquiry Board he prepared the sketch for the Triangular stamps issued on 1-9-1853. The original design is now in the archives of the Colonial Office together with an alternative design for a five-sided stamp.

1854. Designed a magnificent silver epergne for presentation to A. G. Bain for the discovery of Bain's Pass.

1854-55. Spent 3 months in Namaqualand investigating its copper and other resources. Three of his drawings reproduced in a Bluebook.

1859. His are in yet another medium shown in engravings on metal for the wooden coverings of the MS of the Gospel of St. Matthew in the Hottentot Language.

1862. Prepared the design for the first rectangular Cape stamps.

1868. Illustrations of Chapman's "Travels in the interior of South Africa."

1872. Retired as Surveyor-General.

1873. Apparently left the Cape.

1882. Died in Edinburgh on 7th April.

Two great-grandsons have informed the writer of the chronology (A.H.S.) that they have a booklet, privately printed by Saul Solomon, entitled "Memorial of the Clan of Bell." Charles Bell is considered to be the author of this.

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The Humorous side of Philately

By the late A. J. COHEN.

(A. J. Cohen was a prominent philatelist in Johannesburg in the early years of this century. He was very fond of playing on words, and here is an example of his humour taken from a paper read to the Transvaal Philatelic Society in July, 1907. The paper may now date a little, but not unduly.—Ed.)

The paper that I propose to read to you tonight I have entitled "The Humorous Side of Philately" an "Olla Podrida" — and as it is a "humorous" paper I must ask you to give me plenty of **elbow** room.

I feel sure that some of you will agree, although Philately is such a very serious and expensive subject, that there is a humorous side to it, and to any one that says there is not I should certainly contradict him **ph(i')lat'ly.**

Now as regards stamps, there are many kinds of stamps to be found in this city — we have battery stamps, india-rubber stamps, out-of-temper stamps, trading stamps (although these are always collected for exchange purposes) and last but not least postage stamps.

Of all these stamps I think that you will readily admit that the most profitable are the Battery stamps, as the possession of a mere Two hundred or so is able to pay large dividends, whilst in Postage Stamps the person who owns say Five or Six thousand cannot be considered to be very rich or a man to be envied.

I have made very deep researches into ancient manuscripts in the archives of ancient and mythological history, and it is only in the book of Holy Writ that I have been able to discover who has been handed down to posterity as the first collector, and this I find to be a no less personage than the patriarch Noah. We find recorded that he **collected in pairs,** and took them into the ark in **block** — (hence the term "perce en arc" —) and in the same ancient and historical record we find that Noah was continually looking out for the **water-marks,** which conclusively proves him to be the first collector.

Now we have several kinds of collectors; some old maids collect cats and puppies, some broken china and walking sticks or even jewelled snuff-boxes (which are not to be sneezed at) whilst I, myself, tried to collect bank notes, but soon had to exchange them for various sovereigns. I have now taken to collect old postage stamps, that is if I can get them, and as regards a rare stamp and early issues I am said to be like the boy in Pears' Soap advertisement, "He won't be happy till he gets it."

I also find that at times some people devote themselves to collect their thoughts, these I denominate as **recollectors.**

I shall now endeavour to show you some of the curiosities of Philately — take the British stamps for example, you will find that our beloved Queen had almost as many different faces as the Madonnas in the Vatican. I here show you Queen Victoria with thirty-two different profiles. (Plate 1). The Queen Isabella of Spain has nine (Plate 2) but there is no doubt she was a woman of very many different faces — if you consider her character.

If you look at the stamps of Portugal you will find Queen Maria with a large Adam's Apple in her throat and a short curl to her hair, and in another specimen a small Adam's Apple and a long curl to her hair. King Pedro V is found with straight hair and curly hair, and Prince Charles of Roumania with whiskers and without whiskers, with a beard and without a beard, and with whiskers and beard combined and a moustache thrown into the bargain. The Death's-Head stamps of Servia are certainly a comic adjunct to the serious nature of Philately. Again President Rivadavia of the Argentine Republic is drawn in collar and out of collar — which is not to be wondered at in that changeable republic — and if you examine the latest issue of St. Kitts you will find an anachronism — Columbus holding a telescope — an instrument not invented till one hundred years after his death. Now I must admit that a great deal of information is to be obtained from the study of Philately. I am acquainted with more polyglot language than any Professor of Oxford or Cambridge can boast of; Chinese, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Hindoo, Dutch, Japanese, Greek, Swedish, are only a few of the languages that I have become conversant with since I began to collect stamps. My Geographical knowledge has been greatly extended and I am sure that I deserve to have the title "F.R.G.S." conferred upon me Honoris Causa.

Some years ago I did not know
The lessons in Geography
Though I could spell and read quite well
And cipher too, I could not tell
The least thing in Topography.

But what a change! How passing strange!
This stamp collecting passion,
Has roused my zeal, for woe or weal,
And lists of names I can now reel
Off in amazing fashion.

You hear me speak of Mozambique,
Heligoland, Bavaria,
Cashmere, Japan, Thibet, Soudan,
Sumatra, Spain, Waldeck, Kokan,
Ceylon, Siam, Bulgaria.

Schleswig Holstein — (Oh stamps of mine,
Genius without a teacher),
Wales, Panama, Scinde, Bolivar,
Jellalabad and Kandahar,
Cabul, Deccan, Helvetia.

And now I long for more Hong-Kong
A Fiji, a Mauritius,
Greece, Borneo, Fernando-Po,
And where I'll stop no one can know
I've grown so avaricious.

I must not forget my experience in numismatics. Look at the coins I have collected, at least on my stamps — annas, bani, bolivars, candarins, chuckras, cowries, crazies (enough to drive you crazy), dinars, fillers, hellers, krans, pukrams, shahis, stotinkis, ticals (now don't laugh) and yens.

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THE
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UNION NOTES

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

Interesting King's Head Varieties.

During our Congress visit to Durban in June this year Mr. J. B. Levy of Bloemfontein showed us a mint copy of a 1/- King's Head Union stamp with several of the horizontal lines at the back of the neck thickened and darkened to the extent of giving that portion of the design the appearance of having been retouched. A close scrutiny however subsequently revealed that no retouching process had taken place and we are indebted to Mr. J. S. Hagger of Alberton, Transvaal, for the following explanation of a variety that not infrequently shows up on different values of the Union's first definitive issue.



"The flaw on the 1/- K.G. stamp of the Union sent in by Mr. Levy, was, I feel sure, caused by a small piece of loose paper getting under the sheet of gummed paper while the stamps were being printed. The extra pressure exerted by the printing plate at that point due to the extra thickness, would give rise to a darker impression (heavier printing) than the surrounding portions of the design. This is borne out quite clearly on the 4d. stamp of this issue which I am submitting. It will be seen that the flaw is common to both the centre and frame showing that the loose paper adhered to the sheet or bed plate during the printing of both. The two remaining possible causes are thus eliminated—it is hardly likely that a thickening of the ink or damage to the printing plates would have occurred in conjunction like this."

The other three examples of this type of flaw illustrated in the accompanying photograph, fully bear out Mr. Hagger's point that some small piece of foreign substance was in contact with the gummed side of the paper during the printing process and we consider the best specimen we have so far come across is that of the "ring" mark shown on the 2d. stamp. This item recently appeared in a sales packet designated as Handbook No. 5 Vd, but what appealed to us about it was that the thickening of the lines around the circumference of the "ring", as shown on the front of the stamp, was clearly explained by the circular indentation still present in the fibres of the paper on the back of the stamp where a thin band of something or other had been pressed into that particular copy at the time of printing.

Protectorate Machine Cancellations.

Writing in connection with our note on the above matter on page 137 of the August issue, Mrs. C. Jacot Guillarmod of Mamathes, Basutoland, mentions that the earliest machine cancellation bearing the MASERU postmark in her possession is dated the 24.1.1951.

1954 Christmas Stamps.

This year's Christmas Stamps appeared on the 8th November and will remain available until the 24th December 1954. They are sold at one penny each in the yearly fund-raising campaign for combating tuberculosis in the Union and are used by the public as seals on letters during the festive season. They are of no value for postal purposes.

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The design in red, white and black on a blue background, of Father Christmas carrying his usual sack of presents and the Cross of Lorraine showing as the principle gift, has resulted in a most attractive stamp and one which will undoubtedly appeal during this particular period of the year. The sheets of this latest issue are printed in the usual format of 120 stamps with the three top rows tete-beche to the bottom three rows for making up into booklets. The margins, it may be noted, are free from either slogans or arrows and the paper used has no watermark. The stamp design, as in the case of the last two years, bears no figure of value, a feature which is probably just as well since it is less likely to be considered as an official issue for the franking of mail matter.



The booklets are made up in six-stamp panes to the value of 6d., 1/-, 2/6, 5/- and 10/- and bound between soft card covers with a coloured design on the front and back, and anti-tuberculosis slogans in English and Afrikaans printed on the inner surfaces. The stamps themselves are not bilingual and are best collected in pairs.

We were recently asked if there had been any particular reason for the adoption of the Cross of Lorraine as an emblem on Christmas Stamps and so far we have been unable to answer the question. However, the following information on the history of this particular cross may be of interest, and is taken from the July-Aug. 1954 issue of "Topical Time", the official organ of the American Topical Association.

"The Cross of Lorraine dates back to the ninth century, when it was made the emblem of the Christian Church.

It was brought back to Europe from the Holy Lands by the returning Crusaders.

Godfrey, Duke of Lorraine, adopted it as his standard when he was elected Christian ruler of Jerusalem in 1099; and it is from this that it received the name of the "Cross of Lorraine."

In 1920 the National Tuberculosis Association secured the registration of the Lorraine Cross as its emblem or trade mark, which it uses extensively on its seals; the money derived from their sales being used to combat the spread and cure of tuberculosis."

Missing Perf. in the 1d. Pictorial Issue — Cylinders 54/48.

Mr. W. T. Brown of Queenstown, Cape, records that several sheets recently purchased at the local post office showed a "Missing Perforation" between the last stamps of Rows 10 and 11, directly opposite the arrow. He adds that this variety did not appear in earlier printings of the issue.

Postage Due Toned Paper and 10/- "Official" —A Query from the U.S.A.

A letter received from Mr. Andrew Grantzow, Irvington 11, New Jersey, U.S.A., queries the existence of two of the toned paper postage due stamps and one of the 10/- "Official" overprinted items listed in the Union Handbook/Catalogue of 1952.

Mr. Grantzow has built up an extensive collection of the mint and used stamps of this country and made quite a study of the many issues, but after a wide search, in which he conducted a number of the largest dealers in the world, he has come to the conclusion that apparently the three following stamps listed in the Handbook do not exist.

O76—10/- Ultramarine and olive sepia. Overprinted with Type 6 OFFICIAL/OFFISIEEL reading downwards and spaced 19 mm. (OFFICIAL on left).

D19—2d. Black and purple on **toned** paper.

D20—3d. Black and pale blue on **toned** paper.

We asked Mr. J. S. Hagger of Alberton, Tvl., to comment on the matter and publish below his interesting reply to a question which may also have puzzled other collectors.

"As far as the 10/- stamp with "Official" overprint is concerned, I must agree with Mr. Grantzow. The first reference to this overprint on the 10/- stamp was in the "S.A. Philatelist" of August 1940, and in the following issue it was confirmed that 300 sheets of 60 stamps per sheet had been overprinted on 28th March, 1940. This is the stamp listed in the Catalogue as O61. For these "Official" overprints 18,000 of the 10/- stamps were quite a large quantity and could be expected to last for many years. It is not surprising, therefore, that there should be no reference to further overprinting of the 10/- stamp until June 1948 when we read that 100 sheets of 60 had been delivered on 6.4.48. This must have referred to the overprint in which "Offisieel" was on the left and which is listed in the Catalogue as O86.

It must be obvious I think that as all the 10/- stamps having the overprint with "Official" on the left were from the same batch of 300 sheets, it is most unlikely that the colours would have varied from electric-blue and sepia to ultramarine and olive-sepia. All that I have seen have been very much alike, showing only the slight variation such as is found in stamps of the other values known to have been overprinted at the same time.

Coming to the Postage Dues, your correspondent is not on nearly such firm ground, as the 2d. and 3d. values of the third issue of Union postage dues most certainly do exist on the toned paper. There are several examples of the 2d. and a few of the 3d. in my collection. The fact that examples of these are so hard to obtain today, although they were comparatively common a few years ago, does emphasize how well so much of the better class Union material is 'held' nowadays."

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BASUTOLAND'S NEW STAMPS.

By A. F. HEAN.

With all the excitement of the hunt for missing watermarks and St. Edward's Crown errors in, among others, the Basutoland postage due stamps, not much attention has been given to the new issue of stamps for this country. Perhaps as well — they do not serve as a successful advertisement for either the designer or the country and are disappointingly far from the glowing description given in the official notice — "one of the most attractive to appear in the philatelic field of the British Empire for many years."

The King George VI issue followed in design the 1933 definitive series of King George V, so that for twenty years Basutoland had a clear, simple, descriptive and pleasing set of stamps showing the King's head: the totem of the ruling tribe (a crocodile, for the people of the crocodile); a river, typifying the many which have their source in this country; a few trees, such as one sees occasionally in the lowlands; a mighty range of mountains overshadowing all, so characteristic of this rugged land; the value in two tablets, the words 'postage' and 'revenue' and the name of the country appeared with the crown above the King's head—all one would wish for in a stamp and nothing to excess.

The photographs from which the designs of the present issue were taken, are by C. D. Stenton: they are clear and clean in composition, open in aspect and show the firm, even lines so characteristic of Basutoland. It is sadly depressing to have seen them: one likes the stamps the less because one realises what could have been done to produce a series of beautiful views worthy of the country whose ambassadors they are. What is left to like on the stamps is the Queen's head, a charming study, and the quality of the printing — rumour had it that stamps might have been printed in South Africa, to have confusion worse confounded!

In this new issue, much has been cut out, including the word 'postage' and 'revenue', and there is only one figure of value. This should have been to the good as simplification can lead to improved design, but why, oh why, in a country where a tree is a rarity, was the designer allowed to surround and smother each central portion of the stamps with a jungle of trees, name unknown? Luxurious, tropical, oppressive jungle, through which one must peer darkly at a tiny glimpse of the free, open countryside. Foreign and unfitting to this cool, clean land, the jungle hides even Her Majesty's crown and leaves no room on stamps comparable in size with the old issues, for strong lines and firm design. That is why, uninspired though the subject is (shearing goats), the ten-shilling stamp stands easily first in order of merit: it is the only one without a forest of trees: instead, it has a border of classic simplicity that would have suited all the other values well, if anything other than the Basutoland scenes were needed.

The rampant jungle covers so much of the paper on the values from ½d. to 5/- that the value figure itself has to be placed slightly off centre in the already too small portion of sky showing in each design. In the ½d. stamp the value overshadows and almost obliterates the needlepointed mountain, Qiloane: in the 1d. the rank forest shoots forth and apparently epiphytic aloe — South African botanists might find it interesting, but on the original photograph it grows naturally and with dignity from a towering cliff, above the mighty Orange River, now, in the stamp, dwarfed to a dwindling trickle through lack of space. For 2d. one has a splendid Mosuto horseman crushed by the weight of the value figure above him, and for 3d. one has a distant view of a subject that would repay more generous treatment, if the trees could be cleared away. On the 4½d. value, the tremendous depth of the Maletsunyane Falls, with their awe-inspiring gorges, is dwarfed and made ridiculous by the unwelcome border of trees and on the 6d. stamp and the aerogramme the herdboy can scarcely find room to play his instrument — this in a land where the winds roam freely for hundreds of miles with only grass to whistle through! The 1/- value is more spacious and perhaps the 1/3 is a sign of things to come, for the Morris Minor of the air, a Piper Cub, is more common over Basutoland than an airliner, for airstrips are measured in inches almost, amoung the mountain. The Old Fort shown on the 2/6 value has more dignity than most of the other scenes, for the trees are not inappropriate here in a 'camp' (magisterial centre of a district), and the Old Cave House at Masitisi is softened and graced by the border, which does not obtrude, but both these could have done without the trees.

I mourn the passing of the old design.

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"AEROGRAMMES" & THEIR PRECURSORS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

By I. H. C. GODFREY.

(Continued from page 203 of November issue.)

SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

The **"Active Service Letter Cards"**, **"Air Mail Letter Cards"** and **"Air Letters"** of South West Africa form a somewhat complicated group for the collector of Air Postal Stationery owing to the various types and sizes of overprints applied to the basic South African sheets by the Government Printer, Pretoria. During the period 10th November, 1941 to 15th Nov., 1954, when the country's first **definitive** issue made its appearance, 15 out of the 47 different basic sheets of the Union of South Africa were overprinted with the initials "SWA" in black in no fewer than 14 types and sizes of script, thereby providing 25 collectable "normal" items.

There is undoubtedly scope for much fuller research into the issues of the Territory and further varieties may eventually come to light. The list given here closely follows that compiled by **The American Air Mail Society**, to whom acknowledgements are also made for an illustration which appeared in this magazine's issue of February 1948. There are one or two items catalogued in America which have not, apparently, been seen in this country — e.g. Items No. 5 and 6. Likewise, on page 42 of the "Handbook/Catalogue, Union of South Africa Stamps" PALS No. 1d and 2d (the first issue of "Active Service Letter Cards") are shewn as having been used in South West Africa **without overprint** in 1941. If the writer's memory serves him correctly, it was he who was mainly responsible for the inclusion of those items in the Handbook, on hearsay. They are not, however, being included in the following check list as he has never seen them nor, apparently are they known in the United States. Can any reader prove that these cards were authorised to be used without overprint in South West Africa, as in the case of the three High Commission Territories where such authority was granted on the 12th November, 1941, two days after cards overprinted "S.W.A." were first placed on sale at Windhoek?

The first issue of overprinted sheets are known used in Occupied Abyssinia in December 1941, but they can only be detected by identifying the Army Post Office number in the datestamp, and are of considerable rarity.

NOTE: PAL numbers of the basic Union sheets are those on pages 42/7 in the Union "Handbook".

"ACTIVE SERVICE LETTER CARDS"
(For use to Forces serving in East and North Africa.)

1st Issue—10th November 1941.

Imperial Airways (BOAC) "Speedbird" insignia over "Par Avion, By Air Mail, Per Lugpos" in centre of three lined inscription. Address panel 5 x 3¾ in. and paper blued on inside.

Stamp: Groote Schuur — tree touching top of frame.

Overprint: Type I—small sans serif letters.

Union Basic sheet.

1 (PAL 1) 3d. Light blue — English stamp.
1a Used in Abyssinia.
2 (PAL 2) 3d. Light blue—Afrikaans stamp.
2a Used in Abyssinia.

2nd Issue—1941.

Same sheets Overprinted Type II—Letters with serifs.

3 (PAL 1) 3d. Light blue—English stamp.
4 (PAL 2) 3d. Light blue—Afrikaans stamp.

3rd Issue—1942.

Second issue of Union ASLCs—paper not blued and tree does not touch top of frame in stamp design.

Overprint Type II — Slanting letters with serifs.

5 (PAL 5) 3d. Deep blue—English stamp.
6 (PAL 6) 3d. Deep blue—Afrikaans stamp.

4th Issue—1942.

Same sheets Overprinted Type IV—Large upright sans serif letters.

7 (PAL 5) 3d. Deep blue—English stamp.
8 (PAL 6) 3d. Deep blue—Afrikaans stamp.

"AIR MAIL LETTER CARDS"
(For use to members of the Forces serving in Africa, the Middle East, Ceylon, India and Burma.)

5th Issue—1944

"Speedbird" insignia over "Par Avion, By Air Mail, Per Lugpos" in centre of two lined inscription. Address panel 5 x 4¼in. Gummed at **base** of sheet, not on flap. Overprint Type V—Large narrow sans serif letters.

9 (PAL 9) 3d. Light blue on buff paper—English stamp.
10 (PAL 10) 3d. Light blue on buff paper—Afrikaans stamp.

6th Issue—1944.

As before but overprinted Type VI—Large wide spaced sans serif letters.

11 (PAL 9) 3d. Light blue on buff paper—English stamp.
12 (PAL 10) 3d. Light blue on buff paper—Afrikaans stamp.

7th Issue—1944 and 1946.

Same sheets overprinted Type VV—small sans serif letters without full stops.

13 (PAL 9) 3d. Light blue on buff paper—English stamp.
14 (PAL 10) 3d. Light blue on buff paper—Afrikaans stamp.
15 (PAL 13) 3d. Bright blue on smooth buff paper (1946)—English stamp.
16 (PAL 14) 3d. Bright blue on smooth buff paper (1946)—Afrikaans stamp.

Note. The two latter items were reprinted when the first Civilian "Air Letter" sheets of 1944 had been used up.)

"AIR LETTERS".
(For General Use.)

8th Issue—3 October 1944.

"Speedbird" insignia over "Par Avion, By Air Mail, Per Lugpos" in centre of single lined inscription. Pair of small "War Effort" stamps, English on top. Numeral "3" on stamps 3 mm. high. Address panel 5 x 4¼in. Two small overprints measuring 8 x 2 mm.

17 (PAL 17) 6d. (2 x 3d.) Deep blue on buff paper.

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9th Issue—1949.

Stamp depicts the "Flying Springbok" of South African Airways, and the "Speedbird" of BOAC no longer appears in the design of the sheet. Clouds, birds, mountains and sea border the address panel. Blue mottled overlay on outside only. Overprint: Large broad letters with serifs — 14 x 3 mm.—no full stops.

18 (PAL 35) 6d. Bright blue—English first.
19 (PAL 36) 6d. Bright blue—Afrikaans first.

10th Issue—1951.

As before, but on greenish white paper. Overprint similar to No. VII—small sans serif letters without full stops measuring 12 x 3.5 mm. Known only on the "English First" basic sheet.

20 (PAL 39) 6d. Blue on greenish white paper —English first.

11th Issue—1952.

Same basic sheet, overprint more widely spaced 14.5 x 3 mm. Known only in the one language arrangement.

21 (PAL 40) 6d. Blue on greenish white paper —Afrikaans first.

12th Issue—1952.

As before, but overprint more closely spaced 12 x 3 mm.

22 (PAL 40) 6d. Blue on greenish white paper —Afrikaans first.
22a Error: Double overprint.

13th Issue—1953.

Blue paper. Sheet now incorporates the words "Par Avion" and "Aerogramme". Stamp design retains the "Flying Springbok" of South African Airways with simulated perforations in solid blue. "Sender's Name and Address" on back arranged VERTICALLY.

Known only on sheets with English text first. Overprint 13.5 x 3 mm.

23 (PAL —) 6d. Bright blue on blue—English first.

14th Issue—early 1954.

Identical in all respects to previous issue, but "Sender's Name and Address" on back arranged HORIZONTALLY.

Known only on sheets with English text first.

15th Issue—mid 1954.

Same basic sheet but overprint in heavier type with letters closer together 12.5 x 3 mm.

Known only on sheets with English text first.

25 (—) 6d. Bright blue on blue—English first.
25a Error: Inkless overprint (impression shows on back).

"LETTER CARDS".
(Limited Air Mail Usage.)

On 13th August, 1948 "Letter Cards" were issued in the Union of South Africa and subsequently overprinted for use in South West Africa. The penny-halfpenny postage rate preuaid their conveyance either by surface or by Air, whichever was the speedier, to Internal destinations, the Union, Southern and Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, British East Africa and all other territories within the African Postal Union.

The postage rate was increased to 2d. as from 1st April, 1950, a halfpenny adhesive stamp requiring to be affixed to the forms. And from 1st April, 1954 the sheets were no longer valid for airmail unless airmail labels were affixed and the appropriate increased postage stamps ffixed.

August 1948.

Paper greenish blue (shades) with microprinting inside in bright green. Stamp: General Botha's statue at Pretoria, horizontal format. Overprinted SWA in small type.

26 (PL 6) 1½d. Reddish purple on greenish blue —English first.
27 (PL 7) 1½d. Reddish purple on greenish blue —Afrikaans first.

This concludes the check list of the known War and Peace time Air Letter sheets of Africa South of the Equator (excluding those of the Union of South Africa which have been, and will subsequently be fully recorded in the "Union Handbook" and its supplements). As mentioned, however, at the commencement of this article, unrecorded items are still being unearthed, and the latest which has been brought to the writer's notice is an uncatalogued variety of the 1944 **"Active Service Letter Card"** of Southern Rhodesia. It is in every way identical to No. 5 of that Colony but bears returning instructions on the reverse — the date of issue is unknown.

As the overprinted sheets of South West Africa and Basutoland are already obsolete and those of Southern and Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland obsolescent, a new era in collecting can now be said to have opened. An appeal is therefore made by the writer for information regarding any new discoveries.

In conclusion, readers may have noticed one remarkable fact about the sheets of Southern Rhodesia. Without exception every issue was apparently valid for fiscal purposes, but how the Revenue Office in Salisbury would react were a sheaf of Air Letter sheets to be gummed to an important document in lieu of Revenue stamps is a matter for conjecture! This error, which also occurs only on the sheets of British Guiana, Fiji, Grenada and St. Kitts-Nevis, will surely not be perpetuated in the forthcoming issue for the Central African Federation.

U.S.A.

The special delivery stamp design has been in use since 1925, but an attractive new issue (20c.) appeared on 13 October. The new design shows a letter being delivered hand to hand by the messenger to the recipient. The 4c. of the new Presidential series was due for issue on 19 November; it features a new portrait of Lincoln; and the 5c., with Monroe, on the 2nd December.

U.N.O.

The tentative programme for stamp issues in 1955 is: ICAO stamp on 9 Feb., UNESCO stamp on 11 May, U.N. Day stamp on 24 Oct., and Human Rights stamp on 9 Dec.

MOZAMBIQUE.

This territory has made a change from its colourful fish set of 1951 with every denomination different by issuing a set of eight (10c. to 20E) all of the same design and colour, except that the name 'Mocambique' is in a different colour on each value.

COMORO ISLANDS.

This French colony has issued a stamp featuring the famous 'living fossil' fish, the Coelocanth. It was near this group that Prof. Smith of Grahamstown found the first specimen of this relic of the long long past.

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AUSTRALIAN TERRITORIES' STAMPS.

By K.A.

The Australian Government issued a new 3½d. stamp in November to mark its scientific interest in the Australian Antarctic Continent.

The stamp features a map of the region in which Australia is especially interested, with zoological specimens forming part of the border.

Australia's territories have been featured in several stamp issues:

The Australian Capital Territory in which lies Canberra, the national capital, has been featured twice. A special 1½d. which appeared in 1927 to mark the transfer of the Federal Parliament from Melbourne to Canberra, featured Parliament House, The 1/6 denomination included in a series struck in 1951 for the Jubilee of Federation, also showed Parliament House.

Stamps in use in Papua and New Guinea now bear the names of both territories. The present series was appropriately issued on October 30, 1952, the anniversary of the re-establishment of civil administration, following the defeat of the Japanese, but the stamps themselves form a definite set and are in no sense commemoratives.

Papua comprises the eastern part of the island of New Guinea and was earlier known as British New Guinea. Its first stamps were issued in 1901.

The territory of New Guinea was formerly German and from 1897 to 1914 had its separate stamp issue. Following its capture by Australian troops in 1914, overprinted Australian stamps were in use for some years. A distinctive pictorial series was provided in 1925.

The Pacific island of Nauru, best known for its phosphate industries, has been issuing its own stamps since 1924 under its own title. The stamps of Great Britain specially overprinted were used in 1916.

It was not until early in 1954 that Nauru produced a set of pictorial designs representative of the 5,936-acre island. Only the third series since 1916, nine values are included.

Off the east coast of New South Wales, the former penal colony of Norfolk Island did not become part of the stamp album until 1947. A series of 12 denominations, all featuring a view of Ball Bay, with the famous Norfolk Island pine trees, was then released.

A second pictorial sequence was added in 1952, with designs of six picturesque landmarks on the Island.

The Antarctic issue will be most welcome. Previously, the Commonwealth Postal Authorities had made available specially prepared postmarks for use on mail sent from its bases on Heard Island and Macquarie Island and at Mawson.

CROWN WATERMARK ERRORS.

According to overseas papers Seychelles appears to be now the most fertile field for finding these errors. Either a "St. Edward's Crown" or a completely missing crown has been reported on the 2c., 3c., 9c., 15c., 18c., 20c., 25c., 45c., 50c., 1R and 5R values of the 1952 issue, but not on the Postage Dues. The crown error has been reported, however, on the following Postage Dues; Br. Guiana 4c., Barbados 1c. and N. Rhodesia 3d.



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ANGLO-BOER WAR CENSOR MARKS & LABELS

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

(Continued from page 208 of November issue.)

BRITISH CENSOR MARKS WITHOUT PLACE NAMES.

Place.	Shape	Size m.m.	Colour	Wording, etc.	Date of Use.
CHARLESTOWN	Double triangle	52 x 30	Red	Passed Press Censor.	5/12/1901.
CHRISTIANA	Double triangle	55 x 28	Red	Passed Press Censor, in centre date, also initials in black ink.	24/5/1902.
COLESBERG	Double triangle	53 x 30	Violet	Passed Press Censor.	18/11/1901.
COLESBERG	Double triangle	50 x 30	Violet Blue	Passed Press Censor, Similar, but with initials E.H.v.S.	19/8/1901. 15/2/1902.
CRADOCK	Double triangle	50 x 27	Blue	Passed Press Censor.	18/7/1901.
DE AAR	Double triangle	53 x 26	Violet	Passed Press Censor.	13/2/1901.
DOUGLAS	Double triangle	50 x 29	Violet	Passed Press Censor.	20/10/1901.
DURBAN	Double triangle	50 x 29	Violet	Passed Press Censor.	24/8/1900.
DURBAN	Double triangle	46 x 32	Black, Red	Passed Press Censor.	3/7/1901 and 13/10/1901.
FAURESMITH	Two lines (bracketed)	25 x 3 & 6 x 22	Violet	Censored R.M.	3/4/1900.
FORT BEAUFORT	Double triangle	55 x 30	Violet	Passed Press Censor.	December, 1901.
FRASERBURG	Double triangle	50 x 29	Violet	Passed Press Censor.	6/8/1901.
FRASERBURG ROAD	Double triangle	49 x 27	Violet	Passed Press Censor.	30/4/1901.
GORDONS BAY	Double lined rectangle	53 x 17	Blue	Passed by Censor. Initials E.S. in red.	11/10/1900.
GRAFF REINET	Double triangle	50 x 32	Blue, Red, Violet	Passed Press Censor (dated separately). Initials in black in centre).	18/4/1901. 30/8/1901.
GARIES	Single line	60 x 4	Violet	Censored and Passed.	30/5/1901.
GERMISTON	Double triangle	45 x 30	Black	Pashed Press Censor	25/3/1901
GRIQUATOWN	Double triangle	50 x 29	Red	Passed Press Censor	6/8/1901
HARRISMITH	Double oval	36 x 25	Black, Violet	Passed Censor	21/5/1900, 18/11/1901
HARRISMITH	Double triangle	45 x 31	Violet	Corners opened lines slightly curved	
HARRISMITH	Double triangle, outer wavy	42 x 25	Black, Violet	Passed Press Censor	1/10/1900.

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Place.	Shape	Size m.m.	Colour	Wording, etc.	Date of Use.
HARRISMITH	Single line	42 x 4	Black	Passed Censor	24/4/1901.
HARRISMITH	Double triangle	50 x 27	Black	Passed Press Censor	1/10/1900.
HANOVER	Double triangle	50 x 29	Green	Passed by Censor	12/7/1901.
HEILBRON	Single line	47 x 5	Blue, Violet	Passed Censor. Initialled and dated in ink	30/7/1901, 27/12/1901.
HERMANUSPETRUS-FONTEIN	Double triangle	57 x 27	Violet	Passed Press Censor	12/4/1901.
HOPETOWN	Double triangle	53 x 27	Violet	Passed by Censor	4/6/1901.
HUMANSDORP	Single triangle	47 x 24	Violet	Passed Press Censor	1/6/1901, 18/4/1902.
JAMESTOWN	Double triangle	53 x 32	Violet	Passed by Censor	27/12/1901.
JOHANNESBURG	Rectangle, double lined	52 x 16	Blue	Passed by Censor, C. v.d. Spuy in Red M/S.	
JOHANNESBURG	Rectangle, double lined	48 x 28	Violet	Passed Press Censor	1/6/1901, 18/4/1902.
KENHARDT	Double triangle	50 x 29	Violet	Passed by Censor. Initialled.	23/5/1901.
KLERKSDORP	Single line	42 x 3	Violet	Passed Press Censor. Date added in black M/S.	23/4/1901.
KOMATIPOORT	Equilateral triangle	30	Violet	Mark hand-drawn in indelible pencil, with P.P.C. initials and date.	9/11/1901.
KROONSTAD	Single line loose type	64 x 14 47 x 9 46 x 14	Violet	Passed Censor. C.W. dated.	9/11/1901. 21/9/1901. 4/10/1901.
KROONSTAD	Single line	45 x 3	Violet	Passed R.B.C. Censor.	29/4/1901.
KROONSTAD	Three lines	25 x 16	Violet	Passed/R.B./Censor.	7/8/1901.
KROONSTAD	Single line	46 x 4	Violet	Passed C.E.B. Censor.	12/3/1901.
KROONSTAD	Two lines	50 x 10	Violet	Passed Press Censor. F. R. de B.	11/1/1901.
LADYSMITH	Double triangle	50 x 30	Violet	Passed Press Censor.	3/9/1901.
LADISMITH (Cape)	Double triangle	53 x 30	Violet	Passed Press Censor.	30/12/1901.
LADY GREY	Double triangle	48 x 27	Violet	Passed Press Censor. Initialled.	29/8/1901.
LAINGSBURG	Double triangle	50 x 29	Blue	Passed Press Censor.	29/5/1901.
LERIBE (Basutoland)			Black	In M/S censored. V.M. J.P.	30/4/1901.
MAFEKING	Two lines	25 x 44 38 x 3	Violet	Passed Press Censor.	26/3/1900. 18/4/1900.
MALMESBURY	Double triangle	55 x 30	Violet Blue	Passed Press Censor. Initialled J.B.	2/12/1901.
MARAISBURG	Double triangle	50 x 32	Violet	Passed Press Censor.	5/7/1901.
MATJESFONTEIN	Double triangle	48 x 27	Violet	Passed Press Censor	4/6/1901, 27/2/1902.
MIDDELBURG (Transvaal)	Double triangle	47 x 32	Black Violet	Passed Press Censor. Initialled.	8/5/1901. 25/12/1901.

(To be continued)

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FOUR STAMPS AND THEIR STORIES.

By F. G. FROEHLICH.

(The information used in this article has been taken from the following non-philatelic sources: America's Old Masters by James Thomas Flexner, Adventures of a Treasure Hunter by Charles P. Everitt, and in the case of the German stamp from various reports in the "Samler-Lupe.")

As usual I have made an endeavour to show you some stamps in a manner only faintly connected with Philately. There will be four and each of them tells a little story.

1. The first one deals with forgeries. The stamp is perfectly genuine but the work of art illustrated on it is not. There is some similarity between forgeries of stamps and that of art and also a certain coincidence in the uncovering of their makers, who got into trouble not for any lack of quality but on the contrary; their works were regarded — and were almost proved to be genuine. The modern craftsman SPERATI manufactured stamps which he always sold with the clear understanding that they were imitations. Some of his clients lived abroad and one day the customs stopped his parcels under currency regulations. The experts on the staff of this department could not be convinced that the stamps were not what they looked to be. Philatelic experts were called in and although they rescued SPERATI from the customs, managed nevertheless to help him to a short vacation.



The famous artist and art dealer HAN VAN MEEGEREN who sold an until then unknown work by VERMEER to Airmarshall GOERING was at the end of the war accused by his Government of dealing with the enemy. He pacified his countrymen in a way by painting the very same VERMEER all over again. Now our much troubled world is richer by two Vermeers, but the mural to be seen on the German stamp is unique. Traces of it came to light after heavy bomb damage had freed a hereto invisible part of a wall inside the church of Mary in Lubeck. A painter by the name of FEY got the commission to restore the somewhat faded fresco. The re-opening of the church became an event and the Director of the Lubeck Museum published a fine book stressing the qualities of this wall painting. The German post agreed to issue special stamps which in accordance with the importance of the occasion were printed outsize — two millions apiece. The Chancellor of the Federal Republic granted the eminent artist an audition. That in turn gave Fey's assistant the needle. He accused himself and his master of forging, but nobody believed him. It took two specially appointed committees to convince the experts that the fine example of Gothic art is a modern masterpiece.

2. The second stamp shows BETSY ROSS (1752-1836) displaying the first American flag, which she is supposed to have designed and made. Charles P. Everitt, the well-known Rare Book dealer and student of American history wrote that he was willing to send anyone who could produce the slightest evidence that Betsy Ross ever saw an American flag a genuine BAY PSALM BOOK with a presentation autograph by STEPHEN DAYE (1594-1668), who printed it. Let me explain Mr. Everitt's wager. The Bay Psalm Book, the first book ever printed in .....New England is an extreme rarity of Americana. It was published in 1640, at a time when no printer dreamt of signing a copy of his work. Besides, Mr. Daye was an almost illiterate man. Being a locksmith he was given the job to set up the press and for lack of anyone more suitable was in the end commissioned to manage it.



Speaking of books I take this opportunity to mention their importance in philately. By that I do not have in mind a certain publication which, although not written by Dickens, could easily be called "Great Expectations", but I think of many other books from which we can gather better information than from reading price quotations. Even a stamp album is after all a book.

Coming back to Betsy Ross, whom the Dictionary of American Biography calls the "Legendary Maker of the first Stars-and-Stripes" we have to admit that so called historical facts are sometimes based on nothing but popular imagination.

(To be continued.)

NORWEX—OSLO—1955.

We have received a prospectus of the International Stamp Exhibition to be held in Oslo from June 4th to 12th, 1955 to celebrate the Centenary of Norwegian stamps.

Entry forms must be in by 1st March. Correspondence and enquiries to "Norwex—Oslo 1955, Postboks 104, Oslo, Norway."

Exhibits will either be returned to the exhibitor, or, if desired, forwarded to Stockholm, if the exhibitor has also entered his collection for "Stockholm 55," July 1st to 10th.

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Gibbons 1955, Simplified Catalogue 19/6

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SOCIETY NEWS.

(We have much pleasure this month in including in this column the following report, although the Society is not actually a member of our Federation. —Ed.).

SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY.

The Annual General Meeting of the above Society was held at the Cora Hotel, London, W.C.1, on Saturday, 16th October and following a lively discussion on the organisation of the Society the following officers were elected. Society Chairman, Mr. R. D. Allen Snr., Hon. Sec./Treasurer and Hon. Editor of Society's Magazine "Springbok", Mr. C. E. Sherwood, 105, Marford Crescent, Sale, Manchester. Executive Committee, Mr. F. C. Abell, Mr. E. Lauder and Mr. W. A. Page. Reports were given of the activities of the subsidiary London and Glasgow Groups and the meeting was followed by an auction, at which nearly 150 lots were offered for sale.

Coupled with the meeting, a display of Union issues was staged by the members of the London Group and it proved to be a most successful venture. It was the first All Union exhibition in the Metropolis and extended to nearly 200 sheets covering all issues except the commemoratives.

There was a representative selection of all issues including interprovincials, die proofs, essays and specimen stamps as well as numerous errors and varieties. Memorable pieces included a mint pair of the 1d. K.G. V issue from Plate II showing the two nicks in the bottom jubilee line and a control pair of the £1 green and red. Others noted were Plate Proofs of both the 1925 and 1929 air mail sets and tete-beche pairs of the ½d. and 1d. typographed issues from sheets prepared for booklets. The display concluded with examples of Union Stamps used abroad and a selection of Shipping Postmaster cancellations. W. PAGE.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

September 7th. The Society's Certificate of Merit Competition was held and, true to tradition, produced exhibits of an exceedingly high standard. The following members exhibited in the categories shown:—

1. Mr. W. Newlands—Mafeking.
2. Dr. T. Berry—A study of the unused King's Head issue of the Union of South Africa.
3. Mr. R. Castignani—South African Commemoratives in Photoproofs and Stamps.

After members present had been treated to a veritable feast of philatelic gems, the appointed judges announced that in terms of the rules the Mafeking collection was that considered to be of the highest standard and Mr. Newlands was duly declared winner of the competition for 1954.

September 20th: Members were again entertained by Mr. Newlands who brought along his Orange Free State collection. This is a Gold Medal Collection of unique completeness and worth in this country, and certainly provided those present with an exhibit containing material, a considerable amount of which is known to be extremely rare. The original award-winning collection has been added to since 1952 and we are told that Mr. Newlands has not yet attained the completeness in it that he desires.

October 4th: This was the annual occasion of the visit of the East Rand Philatelic Society. Their contingent was led by their President, Mr. Sukleje, and Messrs. Clement, Johnson, MacRrthur and himself, brought along material to display. As usual a very interesting series of exhibits was shown and members spent a most enjoyable and informative evening.

October 18th: Our friends from the Johannesburg Philatelic Society were our guests this evening and, as usual, honoured us with a strong delegation. Mr. Joseph was supported by Messrs. Glassman, Oppenheim, Seligman, Commander Enoch and Dr. von Varendorff who supplied the exhibits. The Philatelic Calendar tabled by Mr. Seligman certainly aroused particular interest and the curiosity of our members.

Teppex:

The Pretoria Centenary Philatelic Exhibition will portray in its Court of Honour selections from collections of the Orange Free State, Natal and Cape Triangulars, which are of gold medal standard. The main Court of Honour exhibit consists of Transvaal, New Republic and Pietersburg stamps. The venue of the exhibition will be the Supper Hall of the Pretoria City Hall.

Philatelists who are in Pretoria during the Centenary year have been given the courtesy of its course by the Pretoria Golf Club, and the exhibition Committee is appreciative of this gesture and conveys its thanks to the Club. The Committee also wishes to acknowledge and express its grateful thanks for assistance, etc., given by Mr. S. Dockray in connection with the block for its letterheads and envelopes.

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Our forty-five year old Society is still going strong although monthly reports to the "S.A. Philatelist" have lagged behind. This report goes back to June and details the highlights of the various meetings. **June:** Mr. Leo Hellman reported on the Durban Congress and in particular the historic decision to accept the Darmstadt Trials and Proofs. Major Turner appealed for surplus stamps from members. After cleaning and sorting the Major sold all such stamps and the proceeds were handed over to Santa Funds.

July: No monthly meeting was held, but members displayed interesting stamps at a Special Society Stall during the eight days of the Hobbies Unlimited Exhibition. Each year the Exhibition grows larger and it is not possible to assess the missionary value of our stamp displays.

August: The President, Mr. W. J. Gillespie, read a letter from Dr. George Alabaster in England offering a donation of £100 in memory of his late wife, Mrs. Ruth Alabaster. The Doctor felt the money should be invested in permanent Building Society Shares and the interest of £5 devoted to the purchase of prizes for junior stamp collectors in annual competitions. It was decided the Executive should investigate the best ways and means of implementing the Doctor's wishes.

Mr. Gillespie was requested to write to Dr. Alabaster thanking him for his magnificent gesture which would encourage young collectors in the hobby, which Mrs. Alabaster loved so well and in the Society in which she had spent many, many happy hours and was President for two years.

A varied display of Thematic stamps concluded a very pleasant evening — one of map designs was outstanding.

September: This meeting took the form of a Social Evening and displays by no less than eleven members of the Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society. Mr. Gustav Bülbring led a very strong contingent of keen collectors, whose displays and comments were greatly enjoyed by the very good attendance in the Lecture Hall of our local Museum. It was the long holiday weekend so other smaller gatherings were held in private homes. This intertown meeting proved very enjoyable and we hope to arrange a return visit early next year.

October: Owing to inclement weather, the attendance was not as large as usual. However four interesting displays of O.F.S., Egypt, Israel and West Indies were provided by members and a kindly visitor, Mr. Price of the O.F.S. and Basutoland Society, from Bloemfontein. It is a long time since members were last shown O.F.S. stamps and Mr. Price's gesture was much appreciated. J.P.S.

CAPE TOWN.

Royal Philatelic Society.

14th October: This was Ladies' Night and as usual drew a big crowd. There were three exhibits namely: "Women on Stamps" (Mrs. J. Hotz); "Ascension and St. Helena" (Mrs. D. Flint); "Canada" (Miss C. Ellefsen). All three were of a very high standard and the judges had quite a job deciding on the award of the Simenhoff Cup. This went to Mrs. D. Flint, whose collection is a really fine one, and who is to be sincerely congratulated.

28th October. It is seldom that the Society has spent a more interesting evening. Dr. P. L. Vautier showed his collection of "France". This covered from the beginning up to the latest issues and included early pre-stamp covers and later covers, as well as early issue proofs and colour trials. In addition it was well written up and the later issues set out thematically. The meeting was well attended.

Thematic Stamp Club.

11th October: Mr. L. Simenhoff (President) showed pre-stamp covers of the Cape (including ships letters, letters to Governors and also letters to persons of historical interest such as G. Maritz, the Voortrekker leader, and one bearing the seal of Nicolaas Waterboer, the Griqua chief, Cape triangulars, the detailed cancellations of the Cape, and a selection of Mafeking and Griqualand stamps. Needless to say this member can always hold attention both with his collection and also in a very fine and interesting talk.

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25th October: This was the Ex-President's night and Mr. J. P. Enslin brought along recent Unions and also an interesting collection of British Empire (Islands). He gave a good talk and the evening was really enjoyed by the members. A number of items such as corner blocks of the 1/- Union London printing and 10/- of the same issue were also shown. Mr. Enslin can always give a variety from his extensive collection.

Paarlse Posseëlversamelaarsvereniging.

October 13th: The Royal Cape Town Society paid its first official visit to the Paarl Society and the Royal supplied the exhibits, these being: "Cape of Good Hope" (L. Simenhoff)—a repeat of that shown on the 11th October in Cape Town; "George VI Booklets" (I. E. Hall); "Dantzig" (H. C. Bernaud); "Bohemia and Moravia" and "Old German Colonies" (J. P. Enslin); "Pre-stamp covers and proofs of Turkey" (W. G. Combrink); "Union unhyphenated ½d. to 2/6" (R. I. F. Axer); "King George VI" (E. O'Brien); "Israel" (M. F. Stern). All the exhibits were of a high standard and were of an interesting variety. There was an excellent attendance by both members of the Paarl and the Royal Cape Town Societies. This meeting was held in the German Church Hall, Paarl and it is quite on the cards that this will now be a regular outing. Mr. J. D. Rossouw, in a good speech, thanked the Royal for the exhibits, which were suitably spoken on by the various exhibitors. M.F.S.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The **October** monthly meeting was well attended there being 28 members and 8 visitors present. This was particularly gratifying in view of the visit paid to us by our old friends of the East Rand Philatelic Society, whom we last had the pleasure of seeing in Pretoria in February of last year. Three exhibits were tabled and catered for all philatelic tastes.

The first exhibit to be shown was that of Mr. Clements who displayed a really outstanding collection of Newfoundland stamps, commencing with the early issues of 1857. Dr. Reisener, commenting on the display, stated that it was a pleasure to see such a complete collection in excellent condition. Newfoundland issued some of the first thematic stamps in the Empire depicting such subjects as scenery, ships and animals all of which were very attractive. There were some very good items displayed including the Wilberforce set, transatlantic airmails and the Balboa issues which, together with the excellent display of the early issues, made this an exhibit that was a pleasure to view.

The second exhibit was that of Mr. MacArthur who showed us some very nice new issues many of which had originated from behind the Iron Curtain and could only have been obtained by exchange. Dr. Reisener, commenting on the display, expressed the views of those present when he said that the exhibits showed how attractive modern stamps could be when depicting such subjects as flowers, animals and historic occasions.

The third exhibit tabled was that of our old friend Jack Shepherd who showed us an outstanding collection of Cape triangulars including Crawford proofs, dies and re-entries as well as many forgeries and some excellent entires. Mr. Coombe-Martin, our own expert on the old Capes, stated that he had been collecting Cape stamps for 50 years and yet there were some items in this ixhibit which he had not previously seen. Jack must have one of the finest collection of Capes in the world which is a tribute to the patience, research and experience that must have been put into the collection. Our admiration and thanks to Mr. Shepherd for showing us a collection of this exceptional calibre and to Mr. Clements and Mr. MacArthur for their very fine exhibits. Our thanks also go to those members and their wives who so generously contributed cakes, scones, etc., for the tea.

AFRIKAANSE FILATELISTIESE VERENIGING.

Saterdag, 9 Oktober: Hierdie byeenkoms het weer eens getoon dat die Saterdag-byeenkomste steeds in gewildheid toeneem. Die opkoms was weer fluks, maar daar was minder materiaal vir veiling aangebied. Die ruilhandel-barometer het egter weer omhooggegaan, sodat 'n groepie geesdriftiges na sluiting agtergebly het om hulle ruilery voort te sit.

Woensdag, 13 Oktober: Ons eerste besoek aan die vriende van Germiston was besonder aangenaam. Hulle het ons dadelik laat tuisvoel en met groot belangstelling gekyk na die vertonings wat deur lede Schubart, Burnard, Lambert en Nöckler verskaf was.

'n Besondere eer het ons te beurt geval toe dr. Alec Kaplan, daardie kranige versamelaar wat ook een van die grootste versamelaars van muntstukke is, ons op 'n uitstalling van President Krugermuntstukke en medaljes getrakteer het. Hy het gesê dat hy dit as 'n baie geskikte geleentheid beskou het om, te midde van die feesstemming en met die eerste besoek van 'n Afrikaanse vereniging, dié deel van sy versameling saam te bring. Daar was vier laaie met al wat bestaan, behalwe een stuk, van die vroegste tot dié wat op 11 Oktober (twee dae van tevore) uitgereik was.

Mnr. Schubart het namens ons almal gepraat toe hy die dokter vir sy pragtige gebaar bedank het.

Vrydag, 5 November: Ons glo nie dat die voorsitter dit ernstig bedoel het toe hy die swak opkoms van tien lede met hierdie vergadering aan 'n sekere Guy Fawkes toegeskryf het nie. Veeleer moet die rede daarvoor by die heerlike reënbui wat uitgesak het, gesoek word.

Stortreën of te nie, die Wesrand het nie teleurgestel nie, en sy kontingent het ons vergas op 'n uitstalling van drie puik versamelings. Mnr. Digger Sharpe kon ongelukkig nie kom nie, maar hy het nie versuim om sy seëls van die Nieu-Seelandse Afhanklike State aan te stuur nie. Mnr. I. H. C. Godfrey, die bekende baanbreker op die gebied van lugposstukke, het dié deel van sy versameling wat hy „Die oorbrugging van die oseane" noem, vertoon en mnr. J. Keet het die voëlhokke van sy „Dieretuin" oopgegooi.

Alhoewel die Wesrandse vereniging een van die kleinstes is, slaa gsy lede altyd daarin om 'n mooi vertoning te lewer. Daar is altyd iets nuuts, altyd 'n lessie te leer. Dankie, Wesrand.

Jongerlede kry Saterdag 19 Februarie 1955 die kans om teen mekaar te staan te kom. 'n Wedstryd is vir daardie middag gereël, e ndie drie wenners sal goeie albums of iets dergeliks ontvang.

Nuwe Aansoeke: Mnre. J. Bogner, Benoni, J. de Graaff, Bloemfontein en F. C. Eloff, Mosselbaai.

S.J.V.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

On **12th October,** Dr. A. Kaplan showed us his extensive collection of "France", ranging from pre-stamp covers to the most recent emissions, and containing many a "de luxe" item, sometimes even labelled as such, as are the "proofs". And the second meting of the month, **25th October,** brought out one more section of Mr. W. N. Sheffield's vast collection of "Unions", the Christmas Seals this time, not only complete, as is self-understood with Mr. Sheffield, but also bautifully arranged and displayed, together with the colourful posters which the organisers issue to advertise these charity issues.

The great interest which the audiences displayed in both these exhibits could not be proved better than by the long and animated discussions which they evoked, and by the amount of information which both exhibitors had to add to their papers at question time. Especially interesting were, for example, the different theories propounded for the origin of the association of the "Cross of Lorraine" with the drive against tuberculosis, and the many strange errors made in inscribing the seals were also related. Again, in any case, the thematic display held its own against the "purely" philatelic one.

At the meeting held on **November 9th, 1954,** Mr. R. Duchen showed an exhibit of Canada. The exhibit consisted of stamps of the 20th Century Issues including all the latest issues. There was also a complete set of the Queen Victoria Jubilee issue of 1898. All the stamps were in fine mint condition The exhibit included complete booklets including rarities. There were many imprint blocks and several rare varieties.

Mr. Duchen read some notes on his exhibit. Mr. Glassman proposed the vote of thanks.

At the meeting held on **November 22nd** there were several exhibits of about 10 sheets each from several members.

The exhibits included: Bits and Pieces—(Rev. Loxley Chamings). Centenary Issues—(Mr. Henochsberg). Union Halfpennies—(Mr. Hagger). Heraldry on Stams—(Mr. Fraser). Brunswick — (Mr. Froehlich). Architecture on Stamps—(Mr. A Duigan). U.S.A. — (Mr. Economides). Something Novel — (Mr. Kupferman). Swiss — (Mr. Guizendonner). Quotations — (Mr. I. Isaacs). Philatelic Exhibition Labels — (Mr. Lilley). New Zealand Health Stamps — (Mr. B. Joseph). Modern Pictorials — (Mr. B. Glassman). Siam — (Commander Enoch). Book Titles — (Mr. Schaiowitz). Republican Locals — (Dr. Harvey Pirie). General issues — (Mr. Viner) and Luxemburg — (Dr. Van Varendorf).

On a vote of all present the Book Titles Exhibit was given first prize.

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PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The Meeting on the evening of **19th October** proved a most pleasant one. Several factors contributed to this; a record attendance of both members and visitors, as also a delightful display of one of our keenest lady-members, Mrs. Douglas. She treated us to a first class show of British Empire Stamps, very well and attractively mounted, which must have given her endless joy. She was thanked by the President, who handed her a bouquet of flowers as also to the other lady-members who supported her by providing excellent refreshments. Official business and a lively auction filled the rest of the evening.

2nd November. The Meeting room was again well filled and we had a very successful auction of much attractive material, ably conducted by Mr. Leale. Our new venture—Exchange Packets—is getting well under way. Mr. T. Winsley, supported by other members with material gave us a fine show of various themes of subject collecting. Among them I mention, Horses—his pet subject—Arms, Flowers, Costumes, Ships, Insects, Mammals, Birds, and Waterfalls. The display was further enlivened by a well prepared talk on thematic collecting, which all present apprciated very much, the speaker expressing his thanks to fellow-members Youngleson, de Spaa and Franz, for their aid in the display. Mr. Youngleson spoke on the exhibit and conveyed the thanks of the meeting to the Exhibitor. A very entertaining evening ended, later than usual.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF WESTERN RAND.

November. After a discussion on the coming November visit of the President of Federation, Mr. F. C. Ferguson, and the Union Hand Book, Mr. O. Botha tabled a collection of Queen Elizabeth's Royal Tour. Mr. Digger Sharpe suitably commented on the exhibit and thanked Mr. Botha on behalf of the Society. Mr. Jack Burrel then gave a lantern slide display of "Union Stamps in the Making", being a series of photographs taken at different stages in th progress of making stamps at the Government Printing Works, Pretoria. These photographs and a running commentary gave those present a good idea of what happens, and the show was greatly appreciated. Mr. Bill Yelland thanked the exhibitor for the excellent manner in which he was able to convey to those of us who have never visited the Printing Works, a clear picture of the progress steps, especially the use of the step and repeat camera for duplicating the original design to make a negative of a complete sheet of stamps for etching on the printing cylinder. The meeting closed at 10.30 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the lady who served the refreshments. H.F.H.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Attendance at the meeting on **10th November** was most encouraging, there being 17 members and **2** visitors present. After the usual business had been concluded, Mr. J. Burrel of the West Rand Philatelic Society very kindly provided the display for the evening. This was something very different from the usual. Mr. Burrell head a paper "A conducted tour through the Government Printing Works," illustrated with lantern slides. He showed and described how the U.P.U. and the Voortrekker stamps of South Africa and South West Africa were printed—from the artist's design to the completed sheets. It was a very fine talk and the slides made it so much easier to understand; everyone present was most interested in the subject. Mr. L. J. Picton expressed the thanks of the meeting to Mr. Burrell, and stated that it had been one of the most interesting evenings the Germiston Society members had had this year. He hoped that it would not be long before Mr. Burrell again came out to Germiston as a visitor to our Society. I.S.B.

BECHUANALAND.

It is reported that the Q.E. set of stamps will be put on sale on 1st Jan., 1955. No details given of values or designs.

THE OLD COUNTRY

The Hobby of Stamp Collecting arose out of the issue of the world's first postage stamp in 1840 — the 1d. Black of Great Britain. There are innumerable collectors throughout the world who specialize in the stamps of Great Britain and so for a change we are offering a small selection here.

1840 1d. black from Pl. 5 lettered TH, the H being double—a fine used copy, **£3.**
1d. black from Pl. 6 lettered FH—very fine used on cover, **£3.**
1841 2d. blue S.G. 14 bc lettered EK with re-entry to base line, very fine, **£2/10/-.**
1854 6d. S.G. 19 used together with 2d. S.G. 58 on cover and very fine, **£2/10/-.**
1954/57 2d. S.G. 20a fair used **£4;** 2d. S.G. 27 superb used, **£5.**
1858/64 Set of 2d. Plate numbers complete used, picked copies **£1/5/-**
2d. S.G. 45 Pl. 12 large part o.g., **£2/10/-.**
1870 Set of ½d. Plate Numbers complete mint, **£20.**
1902/10 ½d. S.G. 218, **£2/-10/-;** ½d. S.G. 218, two copies used on cover and very rare thus **£4.**
2/6 S.G. 260, **£1/15/-;** 2/6 S.G. 262, **£1/10/-;** 5/- S.G. 263, **£2;** 5/- S.G. 264, **£2/17/6;** 10/- S.G. 265, **£5/10/-;** £1 S.G. 266, **£6/15/-.**
1911/12 2/6 S.G. 315, **£3;** 5/- S.G. 318, **£2;** 1d. S.G. 333, **£4/10/-.**
1912 1d. S.G. 345a, **£2/10/-.**
1912/22 1½d. S.G. 362a, **£2/15/-;** 1½d. S.G. 364a, **£2.**
1913 2/6 S.G. 399, **£2/7/6;** £1 S.G. 403, **£15.**
1915/18 2/6 S.G. 405, **£1/10/-;** 2/6 S.G. 406, **£1/10/-;** 2/6 S.G. 407, **£1/5/-;** 2/6 S.G. 408, £1/2/6; 5/- S.G. 409, **£2/5/-;** 5/- S.G. 410, **£2/5/-.**
1918/30 2/6 S.G. 413a, **17/6;** 2/6 S.G. 414, **15/-;** 5/- S.G. 416, **£1/5/-;** 10/- S.G. 417, **£1/15/-.**
1929 P.U.C. £1, S.G. 438, **£7.**
1939/48 2/6 S.G. 476, **13/6;** 5/- S.G. 477, **7/6;** 10/- S.G. 478, **£4;** 10/- S.G. 478a, **£2/5/-;** £1 S.G. 478b, **£1/7/6;** U., **12/6.**

All mint except as stated.

If you do not see our fortnightly lists of fine British Colonial stamps which we have in stock, why not write to us for a specimen copy?

B. J. Hunter 56a, EAST STREET, BRIGHTON, SUSSEX, ENGLAND

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REVIEWS

New Commonwealth Catalogue, 1955. Commonwealth Stamp Co., 7 Leather Lane, Liverpool. Price 7/6, Postage extra.

In keeping with previous editions this compact little book excels in up-to-date information and knowledgeable statistics. It is interesting to read a note by the publishers that they intended separating the new Q.E. issues from the K.G. VI stamps. The overwhelming response from their clientele resulted in keeping the combined volume. It is a strong pointer towards the unceasing popularity of K.G. VI issues.

For the specialist of stamps of both reigns in question the CW. catalogue is a "must". Shades and varieties are listed in ever increasing numbers and exploring continues along these lines. Values are mostly realistic and differ in many instances considerably from Gibbons.

Amongst possible improvements the writer could suggest, the publishers might consider listing the "booklets" complete and in individual panes from every colony and GB. as well as the dominions where such were and are being issued since 1937. They are extremely popular and in many instances rare and deserve catalogue status the same as Canada which is already listed. — Seeing that besides Australia again Canada has pride of place by way of listing so-called Imprint blocks the publishers may go a step further and subdivide this list into various plate numbers and even positional imprints which are collected in a big way in America and are coming rapidly into their own elsewhere.

Summing up, the publishers deserve every praise for this volume sold at a reasonable figure, commendably printed on good quality paper and admirably illustrated. W.O.

Gibbons 1955, Two Reigns Catalogue. Stanley Gibbons Ltd., 391 Strand, London W.C.2. Price (limp cover edition), 5/-.

Going carefully through this book, one cannot help feeling that Gibbons has at last come to recognise the demands of the vast army of collectors of the stamps of K.G. VI and Q.E. Here and there informations and listings, together with prices, are creeping in which were previously denied recognition and catalogue status. There still remain the enigmatic facts that the traditional "red" Gibbons omits such items but sooner or later it seems inevitable that one catalogue must conform to the principles of the other.

Prices are in line with the fact that Gibbons quotations are really price lists of the publishers depending on their own judgment of supply and demand. Discrepancies are many and how Gibbons arrives for instance at quotations of 25s. mint and 31/6 used for a set of SWA coronations is not easy to fathom — Our own South African stamps are still a bad jumble of incorrect listings and in their admittedly complex multitude of printings, shadings and what have you Gibbons' list presents little help to the uninitiated. In contrast the never ending list of controls of practically every British issue is astounding.

All in all, the publishers are now on the right track. They must realise that the customer is nearly always right and today collectors demand a little more from a catalogue than stereotype listing and pricing. The age of highly specialised collecting of stamps in one form or another has not yet reached its peak and philatelists love to dabble in shades, varieties, perforations etc., etc., but they want it "black and white". Within reason, this demand, if acknowledged, will be Gibbons' gain. W.O.

SOME RECENT AUCTION PRICES.

Robson Lowe.

Australia 1919 Ross Smith label as complete miniature sheet, £170.

Bahrain Olympic Games 2½a. on 2½d. double surcharge, £32.

Barbados ½d. 1892 on 4d., double surcharge, £27.

Egypt Port Fouad set of 4 mint, £45.

France 1869 5f. lilac-grey mint, £60.

G. Britain. 1d. black, Plate II RF with line outside R, £23.

2d. blue wmk. large crown, perf. 16 JI, £35.

H. R. Harmer.

Australia £1, 1915-28 (S.G. 45a), £9.

Barbados 1918 3/- (S.G. 200a), £7 10s.

Bechuanaland £1 1887 (S.G. 20), £6.

19 Plate Proofs 1887, 1d. to £20, £8 10s.

Natal 6d. 1857 (S.G. 5), bisected on piece, £20.

Rhodesia £1 (S.G. 279b), £5 10s.

Vryburg, S.G. 1A, 2A, 3B, 4A used on cover, £16.

J. H. Wicks.

Gold Coast 1928 Set S.G. Nos. 103-112, £2 5s.

Jamaica 10/- (S.G. 8a), £1 7s. 6d.

Newfoundland 5c. (S.G. 38), £2 10s.

Nyasaland £1 (S.G. 14), mint, £3 10s.

Cape ½d. on 3d. (S.G. 41), £7.

G. Britain 2/- (S.G. 118), £6.

Transvaal 1/- Red surcharge (S.G. 89), £3.

Union £1 (S.G. 24a), £12.

Richard R. Currie.

Austria 10s. Dollfuss suberb used, 110/-.

Basutoland 1953 K.G. V set, mint, 75/-.

New Guinea 1939 £1 mint, 72/6.

Rhodesia, Admiral's Head ½d. perf. 15 in a complete mint sheet, 80/-.

South Africa Harrison Essay in mint block of 4 (two stamps creased), 150/-.

South Africa 1930 1d. with partly printed frames, mint pair, 110/-.

South Africa 1d. Trefoil wmk. Mint pair showing frames only, 85/-.

South Africa Proof of 3d. Postage Due in block of four, 150/-.

ORANGE FREE STATE.

Mr. A. Cecil Fenn reports finding a postcard which locates still another of the "letter in barred oval" postmarks. This is the letter "Y" in an 11-bar oval; it cancels a ½d. chestnut stamp on a postcard sent from DeWetsburg on Dec. 7 94 (circular date stamp) to Edenburg, of which the postmark is dated Dec. 11 94. There is also a transit mark of Bethulie (De. 9, 94) on the card.

SWAZILAND.

We are informed on very good authority that a careful search has been made of sheets of the Postage Dues, but no watermark errors have been found.

The new Queen Elizabeth stamps are reported to be going on sale early in 1955, but a definitg date is not yet available nor are details of the design or designs obtainable so far.

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SWAZILAND—POSTAL HISTORY and STAMPS

By
J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

(Continued from page 215 of November issue)

THE STAMPS OF STAGE 6. "INTERPROVINCIALS."

When the four main South African Colonies merged into the Union of South Africa on 31st May, 1910, the postal services of Swaziland were taken over by the Union Postal Administration and this arrangement pertains at the present time, at any rate, to some extent.

This period is conveniently divided into three stages, however, according to the stamps employed and Stage 6 is the period of the Union's "Interprovincials". Except for the large 2½d. commemorative stamp issued on 4th Nov., 1910 the Union had no stamps of its own until the Georgian issue of 1 Sept., 1913.

A Government Notice of 15 Aug., 1910 recognised from the 18th Aug., 1910, all stamps in authorised use in the former Colonies as available throughout the Union and their use was no longer limited within the territorial boundaries of the original colonies of issue. The stocks of Edwardian stamps of the four former colonies were issued indiscriminately throughout the Union, including of course Swaziland.

This Interprovincial period is taken as lasting from 18 Aug., 1910 to 1 Sept., 1913. The term "Interprovincials" is commonly restricted to the Edwardian stamps on issue during this period, but of course any stamps of the four former colonies (except those which had been demonetised) were valid for use during this stage and actually up till the beginning of 1933 when Swaziland got its own definitive issue.

Swaziland Interprovincials **(sensu strictu)** are scarce to rare; the following have been recorded, though probably others exist.

Cape: 1d. (S.G. No. 58), 1d. (69), 1d. (71), 2d. (72), 2½d. (73). One of the star items in the L A. B. Sharpe collection belonging to R.P.S., London is recorded in "The Springbok" of July/August, 1954 as a 5/- Cape used at Mbabane.

Natal. 1d. (128), 4d. (133), 6d. (135), 6d. (165).

O.R.C. 2d. (249), 2½d. (250), 3d. (251), 6d. (253), 1d. (257), 4d. (258).

Transvaal. 6d. (250), 2/6 (253), 3d. (264), 1/- (?267), 2/- (?), 10/- (271), £1 (272), ½d. (272), 1d. (274).

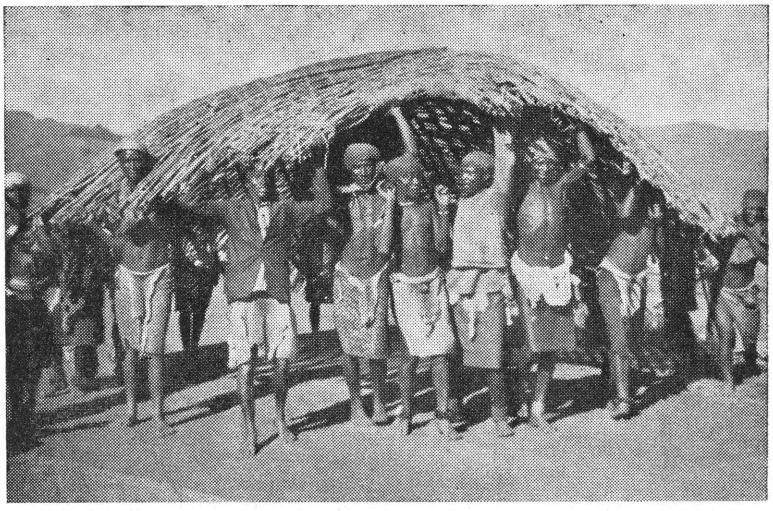
For a stamp to be admitted to this select 'Interprovincial' coterie it is essential that it should show the date clearly as well as at least sufficient of the place name to identify it definitely as a Swaziland postmark.

I have a number of older colonial stamps used, some of them in this stage, some of them in next, but do not propose listing them. They were legitimately used though 'philatelically' and are not really of great interest except as illustrative of a phase of postal history.

THE STAMPS OF STAGE 7. UNION STAMPS.

All Union stamps issued before the end of 1932 were potentially Swaziland stamps also, but naturally they are only collectable in used condition (with recognishable postmarks) to qualify as such.

This applies even to Union stamps not actually on sale in Swaziland, e.g. "Officials", which even in the Union itself were only obtainable by the public at Pretoria. The use of such stamps and of many Union varieties was probably



Moving House in Swaziland.

Photo: E. N. Hall.

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largely "philatelic" in character; nevertheless they were valid for use and appear quite legitimately in a Swaziland collection.

The Postal Stationery of the Union (postcards, letter cards, registered envelopes, newspaper wrappers and embossed envelopes) was also in use in Swaziland.

Reference has already been made under Stage 6 (See page 234) to the fact that all non-demonetised stamps of the four colonies which merged into the Union of South Africa were also valid for use up till the end of this stage.

CHAPTER 7.

STAMPS OF KING GEORGE V — STAGE 8 1933-1937.

A proposal that Swaziland should have its own stamps was first officially raised by Mr. Alastair Miller in the Advisory Council in 1931, though it is regrettable to have to report that one argument he raised in favour of his proposal was that he estimated the sales of such stamps to philatelists might amount to as much as £10,000. The possibility of making the proposed issue a pictorial one was also discussed at this meeting.

In February 1932 the issue of a definitive set was considered by the Colonial Authorities and appears to have been decided on, for the next thing was that a design was submitted to H.M. the King and was approved by him in August, 1932.

On 22 September a three years' supply of stamps was ordered from the printers together with stocks of 1d. postcards, registered envelopes (two sizes 6in. x 3½in. and 9in. x 4in.), and 1d. and 2d. Postage Due stamps.

The Stamp Design. The design for the stamps (one common design for all denominations) was made by the Rev. C. C. Tugman, a clergyman resident in Swaziland at the time. Here is an extract from a letter written by him to an enquirer about the design; it would appear from his description that slight alterations were made on his original drawing:—

"I was concerned more to achieve a pleasant formal design than to make it symbolic. However I had in mind the 'natural' things to be found in the veld — reims and sticks and skins. Thus I meant the stamps to show a framework of sticks with a circle slung on reims inside it and supported from the bottom on two uprights.

Between the two uprights a skin was stretched with a map of the territory drawn on it and the value superimposed. The two shields at the side and the beehive huts at the bottom were introduced to give it an African flavour and the mountains on either side were supposed to be reminiscent of Sheba's breasts. I grant you that they are never seen like that from above Ezulweni, they are so (here is a little sketch), but I believe they are the originals of Rider Haggard's description of Sheba's breasts in 'King Solomon's Mines', and I needed something like that to fit into the space so — there you are.

The Crown and the two tablets carrying the words 'Postage' and 'Revenue' fitted comfortably, in fact the reims at the top corners almost outlined the crown before it was put in.

A further reason for the lattice work was that I was interested at the time in Celtic interlaced ornament and I thought it would look well on a stamp — that was before Ireland left the Empire!

If you want any more information I can make up reams of it; the above, however, is all that is authentic. The design was worked out and put on paper light-heartedly one rainy Saturday afternoon and I was as surprised as I was delighted when it was accepted."

The only record I can find of any preliminary stage in the making of these stamps is in Sir John Wilson's magnificent volume describing the Royal Collection. This contains an artist's drawing by De La Rue of a 2d. stamp for the 1933 set. This is in blue watercolour on a white card.

It will be observed in the design of the King George V stamps as issued that Swaziland is designated as "Swaziland Protectorate", and this raises the interesting question as to whether Swaziland is officially a Protectorate, or if not, what is its status.

In South Africa it is common usage to speak of the three territories, Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland as "The Protectorates" although in British official circles they are collectively termed "The High Commission Territories".

The term 'Protectorate' is correct as regards Bechuanaland; for Basutoland it is just as definitely wrong, the status of that territory being that of a Crown Colony; what of Swaziland?

This question was raised in an acute form among philatelists when the King George V stamps were issued in 1933 as they bore the inscription "Swaziland Protectorate". Some thought a mistake had been made; that this would soon be corrected, and that the life of the issue would therefore be a short one. A letter was addressed to the Swaziland Administration by Mr. Percy C. Bishop, the then President of the Philatelic Society of Natal asking for clarification on this matter. Here is the gist of the reply from the Act. Govt. Secretary, slightly shortened, as publish in the "South African Philatelist", Vol. IX, 1933, p. 53:—

"Up till now official documents have generally spoken of 'the territory known as Swaziland', the term 'Protectorate' being rarely used.

Two factors appear to indicate a status approximating to that of a Protectorate. These are (1) The absence of any definite Act of Annexation by the Imperial Government, and (2) The use of the Foreign Jurisdiction Act in applying Imperial Statures to Swaziland.

It may, therefore, be said that the use of the word 'Protectorate' on the new issue stamps is not incorrect".

This official pronunciamento might, I think be paraphrased to read "Swaziland is not officially a 'Protectorate' but it is administered as such." Actually that is nearly the answer given officially to an enquirer about 1903 as to what was the status of Swaziland; He was told "it is administered as a Protectorate".

Nevertheless, when the King George VI stamps came to be issued the use of the word 'Protectorate' was dropped.

The Stamps. These were recess printed by Messrs. De la Rue, perf. 14 on paper with Mult. Script C A watermark. The denominations and colours were ½d. green, 1d. carmine, 2d. brown,

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3d. blue, 4d. orange, 6d. bright purple, 1/- olive, 2/6 bright violet, 5/- grey and 10/- sepia.

The stamps were put on sale on 2 Januarry 1953 but for one month, i.e. till 2 February, 1933 any stamps previously valid could still be used and as curiosities I have (a) a "sunset" cover (as opposed to a "first-day" one) with cancellations of 2 Feb., 33 on stamps of 7 different territories, Cape, Griqualand West, Natal, Orange River Colony, Transvaal and the newly issued Swaziland; and (b) Two old Cape of Good Hope postcards used on the last day of validity, also (c) Union and Swaziland Postage Due stamps used togther to make up the rate due, during the month of January, 1933.

"Specimens". The "specimen" stamps of this issue had the word perforated, the letters being arranged as in the top half of a circle.

Plate Numbers. These numbers are to be found in the sheet margin at the bottom as is also the printer's inscription; they are printed in the same colour as the stamps themselves. In all values only No. 1 is known; this persisted throughout the life of the issue.

The actual numerals "1" vary in size in the different denominations. On the ½d., 1d. and 3d. sheets they may be described as small; on the 2d., 4d. and 6d. as of medium size, and on the 1/-, 2/6, 5/- and 10/- as large. The serifs at the top of the "1" are horizontal in the case of the three highest demonimations, sloping in all the others.

Shades. There is wonderfully little shade variation in this issue right throughout its life and none are actually listed in the ordinary catalogues. Some slight differences in depth or brightness of shade are certainly to be found, perhaps particularly in the 1d., 4d. and 10/- although none worthy of separate listing.

(To be continued.)

SHORT NOTICES.

Spain and Colonies. We have received from the Casa Filatélica Hevia, Mayor 13, Madrid, copies of their 1955 catalogue of Spain and of Colonies and ex-Colonies. In the case of ex-Colonies the issues are carried on to the present day, not stopping when the territories ceased to be Spanish. The price of each catalogue is 4 Pesetas.

Greece. We are getting used nowadays to stamps being used more for propaganda purposes than for paying postage, but Greece has struck a really new line. To stimulate 'Enosis' (the transfer of Cyprus from British to Greek sovereignty) Greece has issued a set of 6 stamps with a large part of the Cyprus debate in the House of Commons reproduced on them, some 49 lines of reading. Although the lettering of this is very minute, it can be clearly read with a magnifying glass. Three of the stamps have the extract in English, two in French and one in Greek.

H. R. Harmer, Inc., N.Y. This firm reports that at recent sales they have had a marked increase in overseas buyers. At one recent auction over 30 per cent. of lots went outside the U.S.A.

NE PAS LIVRER LE DIMANCHE.

An American paper, which shall be nameless, recently informed its readers that this "inscription which appeared on a detachable portion of certain Belgian stamps of about 1905-1912, meant "Philatelic Mail, Please Cancel Lightly".

RHODESIA AND NYASALAND.

The following Federal Postal Notice was published on 15th October:—

With effect from the 1st January, 1955, the following denominations of postage stamps will be demonetized and will no longer be valid for postal jurposes:—

Southern Rhodesia

1931 "Victoria Falls" (small) issue of 2d. and 3d. postage and revenue stamps.

1935 "Victoria Falls" (large) issue of 2d. and 3d. stamps, not bearing the words "postage and revenue."

1935 "Victoria Falls" (large) issue of 2d. and 3d. postage and revenue stamps.

Northern Rhodesia

"King George VI", "Victory Commemoration", "Silver Wedding of King George VI", "75th Anniversary of the Universal Postal Postal Union", "Centenary of the birth of Cecil Rhodes", "Rhodes Centenary Exhibition" and "Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II" issues.

Nyasaland

"Coronation of King George VI", "King George VI", ("Leopard" and "King's head"), "King George VI" (pictorial design including the 1d. "leopard" design issued in 1947 to replace the "Kings African Rifles (Askari's head)" design withdrawn in that year, "Victory Commemoration", "Silver Wedding of King George VI", "75th Anniversary of the Universal Postal Union", "Diamond Jubilee of the Nyasaland Protectorate", "Rhodes Centenary Exhibition" and "Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II" issues.

CANADA.

Two additions were made on 1 Nov. to the series of Prime Ministers stamps, those honoured on this occasion being Sir John Thompson, 1892-94 (4c. stamp) and Sir Mackenzie Bowell, 1894-96 (5c. stamp). Previously appearing on stamps were Borden, Mackenzie-King, Abbott and Mackenzie.

INDIA.

United Nations Day Commemorative. We are indebted to Asiatic Hobbies, Ghatkopar, India, for special cover with a 2a stamp issued on 24-10-54. In jade-green it features the UNO emblem and date, also a lotus in full bloom.

We have also received a first-day cover of the Postage Stamp Centenary Exhibition, the stamp being cancelled with a special "Philatelic and Postal Exhibition" postmark.

FRANCE.

The Postal Administration reports the issue on October of a 30 fr. stamp commemorating the introduction of the metric system of weights and measures, legalised by the French Government in 1795. The stamp features a female figure measuring on a globe a meridian arc between Dunkirk and Barcelona; the metre, adopted in the standard measure of length was a definite fraction of this arc.

HOBBIES EXHIBITION— JOHANNESBURG.

A Hobbies Exhibition, sponsored by "The Star" newspaper is being held during the first days of 1955, the proceeds going to various charities. A number of local philatelists are organising a combined display to show various aspects of stamp collecting, aiming at interesting the general public rather than advanced stamp collectors.

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