

# The South African Philatelist

*All about stamps*



THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1923

Volume 101:1. 988

[www.stampssa.africa](http://www.stampssa.africa)



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## Promoting Philatelic Events Through Themed Activities

Promote philately by tapping into upcoming historical and philatelic anniversaries. Aligning activities with key dates brings fresh energy and adds variety beyond standard alphabetical themes. Each year brings milestone anniversaries, from historic events to stamp releases. A club calendar of these dates will inspire themed presentations.

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**Please note:** Publication closing dates for **FINAL** submission of Advertising Material for *The SA Philatelist*.

**ARTICLES should be submitted in the month prior:**

Volume 101:2 989 - The **APRIL 2025** issue:  
**15 March 2025**

Send your contribution to [adelbulpitt@gmail.com](mailto:adelbulpitt@gmail.com)

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# FEDERATION NEWS

André du Plessis RDP SA, Chief Operating Officer of the PFSA,  
+27 (0) 83 399 1755

<https://www.stampssa.africa>

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Society membership lists were distributed to Society Secretaries during December 2024 to confirm their home memberships. If any of the members want to resign or terminate their membership for some other reason, please persuade them to continue their membership. Looking at the membership numbers for the past three years, we maintained a slight growth in membership. This figure most probably will change after receiving feedback from all Societies.

	Paid Subscribers*	SAPDA Members	Society Members	Total
2023	84	11	518	613
2024	91	11	520	622
2025 (20 Jan)	103	13	525	641

\*Direct subscribers belong to the PFSA Virtual Society and is registered as a member on application and after paying the affiliation fees as determined by Congress.

Inquiries have been received with regards payment of the PFSA affiliation fee. It seems the perception is still around that the fees are for the subscription to *The SA Philatelist*

and, also usage of the website members area. The fact is that the journal is, as always, provided free of charge to members.

As with all other clubs and societies, members are required to pay an affiliation fee to a regulating body which, within our organisational framework, is the PFSA. Societies, and for that matter, home members of a society pay an affiliation fee of R150.00 per member per annum to cover administration costs and to enjoy PFSA benefits which, inter alia, include the SA Philatelist and website. Comparing with other recreational clubs, I do not think it is too high an amount.

I am delighted to announce a new event on the horizon of South African Philately for 2025 - THE WORLD'S BEST STAMPS COMPETITION. The competition is for stamps issued in 2024 in eight categories.

It is open to Post Offices or Postal Administrations of Member Countries of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and other recognised stamp issuing authorities responsible for the issue of Postage Stamps. PFSA would like to congratulate the organisers with this initiative. For more information, please visit the PFSA website - <https://stampssa.africa/>



## THE WORLD'S BEST STAMPS COMPETITION

Under the auspices of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa



### EDITORIAL POLICY

The Editorial Board reserves the right to accept or decline any articles, letters or any other material submitted for publication, and reserves the right to effect minor changes of spelling, punctuation, grammar and word choice without requesting prior permission from the author(s). For more substantial revisions, such as shortening or restructuring, either the Board will request the author(s) to effect such changes or will propose amendments to the author prior to publication - if no agreement can be reached then publication will be declined.

### DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy and honesty in the editorial columns of this magazine, the publisher and editor cannot be held responsible for inaccurate information supplied and consequently published. Publication of articles is subject to availability of space and cannot be guaranteed in each edition. Copyright for material published in this magazine is strictly reserved. Illustrations are not necessarily actual size because of space constraints.

The PFSA encourages participation in both this journal - *The SA Philatelist*, as well as, the electronic newsletter, '*Keeping in Touch*'. Regular and new readers who will ensure that the social media activities and publications continue to support stamp collecting in South Africa. Contact the Chief Operating Officer of the PFSA, André du Plessis RDP SA, +27 (0)83 399 1755. <https://www.stampssa.africa> email: [pfsastamps@gmail.com](mailto:pfsastamps@gmail.com)

**PUBLICATION:** *The South African Philatelist*, a bi-monthly stamp journal, is published by the Philatelic Federation of South Africa (PFSA). This is one of the oldest running stamp magazines in the world and was founded in 1923.

#### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:

• Affiliation fee: RSA and World Wide: R150.00 (Electronic only).

**PLEASE NOTE:** The PFSA affiliation fee inter-alia offer six copies of the electronic journal and electronic newsletters annually.

• Enquiries regarding subscriptions and PFSA membership can be addressed to the C.O.O. André du Plessis RDP SA at [pfsastamps@gmail.com](mailto:pfsastamps@gmail.com) Tel: +27 (0)83 399 1755

**Contributions and letters** for the publication must be forwarded to the Editorial Board of *The SA Philatelist*, email: [adelbulpitt@gmail.com](mailto:adelbulpitt@gmail.com)

**Advertising Rates** available from the C.O.O. André du Plessis RDP SA,

[pfsastamps@gmail.com](mailto:pfsastamps@gmail.com) or email the Editorial Board: [adelbulpitt@gmail.com](mailto:adelbulpitt@gmail.com)

## New features of *The SA Philatelist*

*The SA Philatelist* has new electronic features to enhance your reading experience. The Editorial Board, faced with the challenge of saving money while producing a journal readers enjoy, evaluated software packages and publishing systems. A template was created from an Open Source typesetting system, which was tested with input from fellow philatelists and three months of parallel production.

The new template eliminates licensing fees for the PFSA. The Production and Layout Team uses the Cloud to create issues, allowing multiple people to work simultaneously. This approach ensures smooth production while keeping costs and risks low.

Excitingly, the 24-page limit per issue is lifted, but preferably not exceeding 40 pages. Longer philatelic articles and long-format occasional papers are welcome and will be published as addendums to issues, using the provided Microsoft Word template available from the Editorial Board by emailing [adelbulpitt@gmail.com](mailto:adelbulpitt@gmail.com). This template is crucial as it helps our volunteers to typeset articles quickly.

A graphics designer is no longer part of the production process. Instead, we use a computer algorithm that creates an acceptable good-enough page layout for printing. This algorithm is used by the new template, the go-to for *The SA Philatelist*. This ensures our journal's look and feel is acceptable to most philatelists interviewed during development. We use the T<sub>E</sub>X and L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X typesetting system used for many scientific journals worldwide.

You are seeing the results of the new template on your screen now!

The functionalities built into *The SA Philatelist* are:

- Linking to websites on the Internet
- Linking to documents on the Internet
- Internal linking in the journal.
- Linking to email addresses.
- Linking to phone numbers.

### Linking to websites on the Internet

Links are indicated in two ways: Underlined website address (e.g. [stampssa.africa](http://stampssa.africa)) or website address indicated in a different colour (e.g. [stampssa.africa](http://stampssa.africa) or <https://stampssa.africa>), usually blue.

ferent colour (e.g. [stampssa.africa](http://stampssa.africa) or <https://stampssa.africa>), usually blue. If you hover with your mouse cursor over a link, a tooltip <https://stampssa.africa> address that will be opened on the Internet if you click on the link, as

Fig.1: Example of a tooltip.

If you hover with your mouse cursor over a link, a tooltip will appear to indicate the address that will be opened on the Internet if you click on the link, as shown in Figure 1.

### Linking to documents on the Internet

Links to documents on the Internet are indicated in a different colour than the text, as shown in Figure 2. If you hover over the link with your mouse cursor, a tooltip will appear as well as shown in Figure 2.



Fig.2: Link to document on Internet and associated tooltip.

### Internal linking in the journal

You will find these links typically on the front page and in the table of contents.

You can click on the 'page #' on the front page, as shown in Figure 3, to go directly to the headline article.

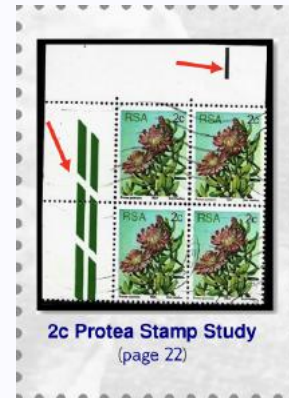


Fig.3: Headline article with the page link between brackets.

In the table of contents, you can click on the title of an article to go directly to the article, see Figure 4.

Click on an article title:	
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Fig.4: Links to articles in the table of Contents.

### Linking to email addresses

Links are indicated in two ways: Underlined email address (e.g. [pfsastamps@gmail.com](mailto:pfsastamps@gmail.com)) or email address indicated in only a different colour (e.g. [pfsastamps@gmail.com](mailto:pfsastamps@gmail.com)), usually blue. If you hover with your mouse cursor over a link, a tooltip will appear to indicate the email address that will be

opened in your default email client if you click on the link, as shown in Figure 5.



Fig.5: Link to email address with associated tooltip.

## Linking to phone numbers

Links are indicated in two ways: Underlined telephone number (e.g. [+27 55 001 0810](tel:+27550010810)) or telephone number indicated in only a different colour (e.g. [+27 55 001 0810](tel:+27550010810)), usually blue. If you hover with your mouse cursor over a

link, a tooltip will appear to indicate the telephone number that will be dialled with your device if you click on the link, as shown in Figure 6.

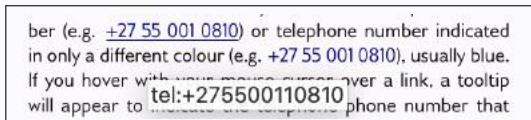


Fig.6: Link to telephone number with associated tooltip.

## Conclusion

Try out the links in *The SA Philatelist*. Let us know what you think about the new layout and functionality. Send your feedback to the Editorial Board: [adelbulpitt@gmail.com](mailto:adelbulpitt@gmail.com).

## FUTURE EXHIBITIONS

EXHIBITION	DATE	PATRONAGE	COMMISSIONER / CONTACT	LINK
URUGUAY 2025	17-22 Feb 2025	FIP	Vernon Mitchell <a href="mailto:vjm@telkomsa.net">vjm@telkomsa.net</a>	<a href="#">Uruguay 2025</a>
EuroPhilEx BIRMINGHAM 2025	7-11 May 2025	FEPA	N/A	<a href="#">Europhilex 2025</a>
GAUTENG REGIONAL EXHIBITION 2025	8-11 May 2025	Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria	Louwrence Erasmus <a href="mailto:louwrence@erasmus.org.za">louwrence@erasmus.org.za</a>	<a href="#">AFRIKAANS 100</a>
SAVPEX 2025	June 2025	PFSA	Emil Minnaar RDPSA <a href="mailto:emil@minnaar.org">emil@minnaar.org</a>	<a href="#">PFSA</a>
NATIONAL STAMP SHOW 2025	3-6 Sep 2025	PFSA	Gawie Hugo <a href="mailto:gawiehugo@gmail.com">gawiehugo@gmail.com</a>	<a href="#">PFSA</a>
NORDIA 2025	12-14 Sep 2025	FEPA	N/A	<a href="#">Nordia 2025</a>
PHILAKOREA 2025	17-21 Sep 2025	FIP	Gary Pienaar <a href="mailto:pienaargary@gmail.com">pienaargary@gmail.com</a>	<a href="#">Korea 2025</a>
BOSTON 2026	23-30 May 2026	FEPA	N/A	<a href="#">Boston 2026</a>





## President Ramaphosa 2024

by Dineo Poo, Philatelic Services, South African Post Office



*Commemorative Stamp Card for the Presidential Inauguration 2024.*

The South African Post Office stamp for 2024 is the 'President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa' issue. The Stamp Issuing Policy requires that a stamp be issued in honour of the State President for each new term of office, hence the second President Ramaphosa stamp issue. The initial one was issued in 2019.

His Excellency President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, became the President of the seventh administration of a democratic South Africa when he was inaugurated on 19 June 2024. Ramaphosa is the fifth president of the country since 1994 and he is in his second and final term as the country's first citizen.

The sheet of six B4 rate stamps was adapted by Thea Clemons, Senior Graphic Designer, SA Post Office from the image supplied by the Government Communications and Information Systems. The image and layout are in accordance with the overall design style of the 2024 Inauguration. There will be no commemorative envelope or First Day Cover, there is a Commemorative Stamp Card instead.

### Costs:

6 B4 stamp x 1 sheet = 6 x R15,45c = R92,70c  
1 Commemorative Stamp Card = R18,45c

In a history making first for the Post Office, the stamps were printed by Mortimer Printers, a South African company selected for its excellent printing capability and secure processes.

16 November 2024 – PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA SECOND INAUGURATION 2024 Note: The inauguration took place on 19 June 2024. This issue only became available on

20 January 2025. The stamps became available at Philatelic Services from 20 January 2025 and may be ordered from:

- [sa.stamps@postoffice.co.za](mailto:sa.stamps@postoffice.co.za),
- [Proof.Manganyi@postoffice.co.za](mailto:Proof.Manganyi@postoffice.co.za) or
- [Mmama.Phalatse@postoffice.co.za](mailto:Mmama.Phalatse@postoffice.co.za)

### Technical Data\*

- Denomination: B4 (R 15,45)
- Designer: Thea Clemons, from a photograph supplied by the Presidency and also featuring the RSA Flag.
- Printer: Mortimer Offset (Pty) Ltd., Germiston – this is the first time that this company has printed postage stamps.
- Process: Offset lithography
- Stamp size: 34 x 35,5mm
- Sheetlet size: 96 x 148mm, comprising six stamps in three rows of two
- Quantity: 125 000 sheetlets
- Cylinder numbers: 8806 (cyan), 8807 (magenta), 8808 (yellow), 8809 (black) and 8810 (gold)
- Paper: 6 Vellum Extra (uncoated)
- Gum: Self-adhesive
- Perforation: Simulated serpentine kiss-cut. Stamps are separated by 4mm gutters in the centre of which are roulettes to aid separation of the individual stamps. These roulettes extend through the sheetlet margins and also through the backing paper.
- Phosphor: none
- Printing sheet size: 495 x 348mm comprising eight sheetlets arranged in two rows of four
- First Day Cover: none but a Commemorative Stamp Card (No.8.003) was produced.
- Cancellor: No. 8.136 – 'PRETORIA 2024.11.16' / 'PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA 2024'

\*Information supplied by Jan de Jong and Robin Messenger, of the RSA Stamp Study Group, who examined six uncut printing sheets.

## Nelson Mandela Stamp

I have sneaked the Nelson Mandela stamp into the new stamp issues section despite the fact that it is not necessarily new. The miniature sheet is part of the Nelson Mandela souvenir folder which is still available in its original format. We have had requests for the miniature sheet to be made more accessible to our clients, hence the decision to sell it as a separate product. The miniature sheet is available at SAPO branches and from Philatelic Services.

## Philatelic Services, Museum and Graphic Design Staff

The year 2024 has not been easy for us but I can assure you that you can still expect the good service that you have always received either when visiting us or communicating with us via other means. Ashraf Ali, Charl Poole, Florence Tshabangu, Ophoniel Kgosana, Govan Kgaphola and Ruth Makwela are no longer with Philatelic Services and the Museum. The familiar faces are Dineo Poo, Talita Fourie, Mmama Phalatse and Thea Clemons. We have been joined by a talented duo of Proof Manganyi and Simphiwe Zungu, who are both from SAPO Operations. We also welcome Ms Dina Putter, MD Docex and Head of Specialised Services under whom we report. Ms Putter is an experienced member of SAPO.

## Take Note: Year Pack

Kindly note that the last Year Pack was issued in 2019. The 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 Year Packs are not yet available due to the limited number of stamps issued but they shall be combined into one pack in 2025.x



*Sheetlet of the 2024 Presidential Inauguration stamps.*

In honour of Richard and Deborah Johnson.  
With our deep respect and love.



We shall miss you.

With sincere condolences from  
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## End of an Era: Janice's Farewell after 125 issues of *The SA Philatelist*



Janice Botes.

Back in April 2004 Janice took on the production of *The SA Philatelist*, together with Dr Alan Rose as Editor. At the time philately was a complete enigma to Janice, and thus started a steep learning curve. Despite this, a fresh new look to the journal was introduced, including the first use of colour. So marked a long and winding road over a twenty-year period that at times was exasperating and challenging which saw Janice turn out a phenomenal one hundred and twenty-five issues of *The SA Philatelist*. Often burning the midnight oil while multitasking, chasing up authors – some who could best be described as temperamental, sourcing advertisers – some of whom could be equally as difficult, and trips to the printers, not to forget the odd (and frustrating) computer malfunction and Eskom's load shedding – sorry chaps, the projector's not working again!

just quietly got on with the job. Despite the often arduous work load, Janice always treated us to delicious refreshments at our Board meetings, at which point work on that issue quickly converted into a convivial chit-chat. However, by the end of the meeting, we were allocated our homework with instructions to report back ASAP, PDQ. Yes, there were times when we disagreed; but always agreed to disagree. The Board could be described as a small orchestra; each of us knowing the part we had to play, with Janice taking on the role of the conductor, and keeping us together, in time, and on time. But always with bonhomie. Turning out a new issue of *The SA Philatelist* every second month was definitely not for the faint-hearted.



Vol. 930, June 2015.



Vol. 987, December 2024.



Vol. 863, April 2004.



Vol. 928, February 2015.

Janice willingly turned her hand to all aspects of producing *The SA Philatelist* even to stuffing and labelling envelopes – in the days when we still sent out printed copies. She

The onset of Covid in 2020 brought about a sudden and dramatic change in the way the Editorial Board could work – meetings were no longer part of our weekly routine. Once restrictions were lifted and we could get together again, change became inevitable: a point which often dominated Board meetings. Inevitably Janice took the decision it was time to step back from production of *The SA Philatelist*. We all owe Janice a debt of gratitude for the tremendous effort she put in to ensure there was a *SA Philatelist* every second month. We wish her a well-deserved break from the chaotic and frenzied activities of producing the journal which surely dominated her life, endlessly. In retrospect, it was an honour and a privilege to work with her.



### NATIONAL STAMP SHOW 2025 3 to 6 September 2025

Hosted by the Paarlse Filateliste Vereniging  
Venue: Paarl Golf Club, Boschenmeer Golf Estate,  
Paarl

[Entry form](#)

[Prospectus](#)

Contact:

- Gawie Hugo – [gawiehugo@gmail.com](mailto:gawiehugo@gmail.com)
- André du Plessis RDP SA – [pfsastamps@gmail.com](mailto:pfsastamps@gmail.com)



# Looking Back a Century: Highlights from *The SA Philatelist* - January and February 1925

by Louwrence Erasmus, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria

This is the first in a series of articles. They explore the fascinating world of philately through summaries of *The SA Philatelist* that were published a century ago. Who knows, you might just discover a hidden passion for philatelic research!

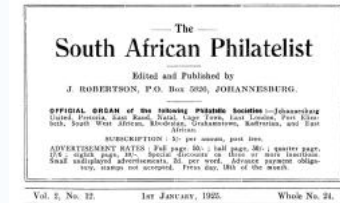
During this period, philatelists were abuzz with discoveries. The Union of South Africa had planned a commemorative 2d. stamp for the Prince of Wales' visit on 30 May. Concurrently, a Cape Town collector unearthed an imperforate block of 2d. stamps, while Southern Rhodesia revealed albino impressions and misperforated strips. Mozambique turned its existing stamps into provisional postage dues, and South West Africa dazzled collectors with its myriad overprint varieties, including missing letters, stray stops, and faint barring errors.

New subscribers to *The South African Philatelist* were also in for a treat, receiving a copy of Mr. G.W. Reynolds' acclaimed handbook, *The Postage Stamps of the Union of South Africa*, as a token of appreciation.

In February 1925, *The SA Philatelist* [2] celebrated its 13th issue, a number that seemed to bring success to the thriving publication. The Editor thanked readers for their festive cheer and introduced South West Africa's Type 1 stamps. Mr. Emil Tamsen also contributed an insightful piece on the elusive Mount Currie locals, complete with rare illustrations. The Pretoria Philatelic Society held its 25th annual meeting, with Major Booth as president. South African stamp auctions were highlighted as a promising opportunity for collectors. Rhodesian enthusiasts were promised articles from Mr. J.E.M. Coch in the next issue.

Readers of the *SA Philatelist* were asked to provide names and addresses of non-subscribing stamp-collecting friends for a complimentary specimen copy. The Editor also reminded readers to mention the *S.A. Philatelist* when replying to advertisers.

Emil Tamsen explored the history of the Mount Currie Express stamps from East Griqualand, highlighting their rarity and unique status in South African philately. Issued in the late 19th century under Griqualand Chief Captain Adam Kok, these early "local" stamps were created for local postal use, Figure 3. Despite their rarity and early use between



In January 1925, *The SA Philatelist* [1] marked a poignant editorial transition. Mr. H. Blom bid farewell as editor, expressing heartfelt gratitude for the steadfast support of subscribers and advertisers during his tenure. He handed over the reins to Mr. J. Robertson, a distinguished figure in South African philately and founder of *The Union Philatelist* and *The Quarterly Review of Philately*. Both gentlemen acknowledged

our new editor. When I assumed the editorship of this journal I little thought that before long it would be my turn, too, to send a personal message to supporters of this magazine. The occasion has arisen, and the month I have to introduce a new editor and publisher to you. Increasing pressure of work has made it impossible for me to control the destinies of the *South African Philatelist* any longer. During the brief period that I edited this journal, I received the warmest support of subscribers and advertisers alike, and it is with considerable regret that I sever my connection with it. The hard work put in by Mr. Reynolds has helped to make this magazine one of the leading British Colonial philatelic journals. South African philatelists owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Reynolds for all he has done on their behalf. I wish to sincerely thank all those who have helped to make the *Philatelist* the success it is, and take this opportunity of wishing them health and prosperity in the year which has just opened. The new editor, Mr. J. Robertson, is known to all readers. The founder of the *South African Philatelist* and the *Quarterly Review of Philately*, the predecessor of the *South African Philatelist*, he has laboured much in the cause of philately in South Africa, and his long history in editing this journal has made his name a household name. In conclusion, I wish to add that I shall always welcome private communications, which should be addressed to St. Billewus Street, Trevoort, Johannesburg. H. BLOM. I have to thank Mr. Blom for the kind way in which he has introduced me to the readers of the *Philatelist*, and I am sure that they will always be glad to produce a British magazine, worthy of the period of all times of philately. It would be failing in my duty if I did not pay a tribute to the work done by him and Mr. Reynolds in the cause of philately. However a philatelic journal is published, there is considerable activity in the stamp world, and the active state of South African philately bears tribute to the energy displayed by these two men. If what I can do is of benefit to philately, I shall be amply rewarded. Sincerely yours, your devoted and loyal supporter, who will always receive from them the same hearty support which they accorded to me. My best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year to you all. J. ROBERTSON.



**TOPICS OF THE MONTH.**

Owing to Christmas Cards, etc., arriving too late to be acknowledged in this January issue, the Editor wishes to take this opportunity of thanking readers for their kind expressions of goodwill.

**Unlucky Thirteenth?**

Thirteenth is usually regarded as an unlucky number, but as far as the "South African Philatelist" is concerned, this issue is the thirteenth number of this journal, and one hardly grows so soon of 13th's, since we possess in a stronger and more flourishing position than ever previously. For other journals it may have proved an unlucky number, since thirteenth is a number of which we are aware. We have, therefore, succeeded in beating previous records, and shall continue to do our best to maintain as high a standard as possible. With an increased circulation, and more advertising enquiries, a much larger journal can be produced. Will you help us to achieve this?

**Articles on S.W.A. Stamps.**

As promised in the January issue of the "S.A.P." an article on the stamps of South West Africa has been written by our Editor (Mr. G. W. Reynolds), but this proved a task too long to be published in full in this issue. Elsewhere, the first portion will be found dealing with the issues, errors, varieties, etc. of Type 1 only, while the remaining instalment, dealing with Types 2 and 3, will appear in the March issue.

**Rhodesian Articles by Mr. J. E. M. Coch.**

The usual instalment could not be included in this issue, since Mr. Coch has not had sufficient time to prepare it owing to heavy pressure of private business. The articles will, however, be continued in our next issue.

Readers of the "S.A. Philatelist" are asked to kindly send us the names and addresses of any stamp-collecting friends who are not subscribers, so that we may send them a free specimen copy. Please be sure to always mention the "S.A. Philatelist" when replying to advertisers.

Fig.2: SAP of February 1925.

Fig.1: SAP of January 1925.

their predecessors, particularly Mr. Reynolds, for elevating the journal's reputation. Mr. Robertson embraced his new role with enthusiasm, vowing to uphold the magazine's prestige and wishing readers a prosperous New Year. Major L.J. Worthington offered a fascinating glimpse into South West Africa's postage due stamps, which had garnered attention for their distinctive charm. These overprinted stamps, produced in smaller batches, boasted consistent varieties that made them accessible and rewarding to collect. Worthington meticulously catalogued these quirks, from amusing overprint settings to flaws like inverted 'p's masquerading as 'd's, presenting collectors with a detailed guide to this intriguing niche.

The story of Gambian philately began in 1869 with its first modest set of stamps: two values featuring Queen Victoria's coroneted head in white relief. Produced by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. on imperforate sheets of 15, these stamps were unique, particularly the famous "sloping label" variety, where the top row appeared taller than the others. Overprinted 'Specimen' versions, minor hair detail variations, and forgeries added to their allure. In 1874, the introduction of Crown and C.C. watermarked paper brought further anomalies like inverted and reversed watermarks, enriching this captivating chapter in philatelic history.

1874 and 1877, Tamsen's discovery brought them to the attention of South African collectors. These typographed green stamps with distinct varieties were issued in small sheets. Tamsen's analysis provided valuable insights into these historic stamps.

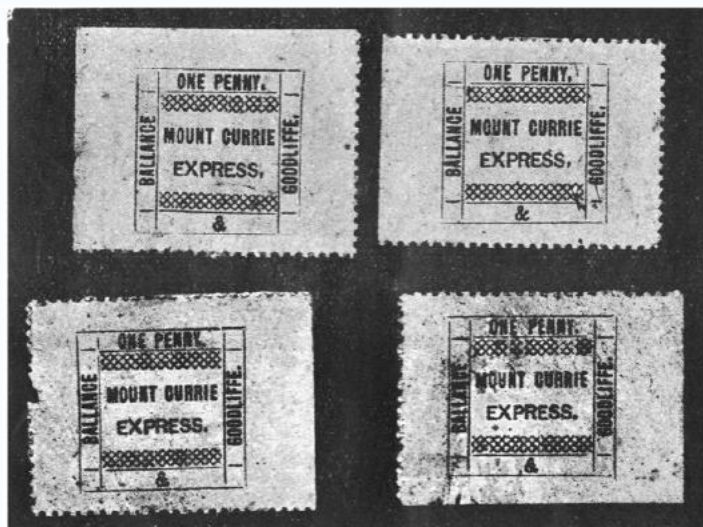


Fig.3: Four different types of rare East Griqualand Stamps.

The philatelic report highlighted new issues and varieties from the Union of South Africa, including peculiar 6d. postage stamps with wavy lines across the King's head and a printing imperfection resembling a fern leaf. Some sheets of the 6d. stamp were missing the Jubilee line. Postage dues were scarce, with only 200 sheets of the 1s and 320 sheets of the 6d. printed. Of these, 220 sheets were issued to Union post offices and 100 were overprinted for South West Africa.



Fig.4: 1 1/2d. postage due stamp.

The 1 1/2d. postage due stamp, perforated 14 and shown in Figure 4, was well printed but contained minor errors, including missing perforations.

For South West Africa, 100 sheets of the 6d. postage due were overprinted with type 1 in Figure 5, featuring some varieties such as a missing "t" in "West."

In Rhodesia, no new issues were confirmed in January, despite expectations for a January 1st release. Foreign issues were also noted, including a special "war" stamp in Latvia for invalids, stamps from various agencies in Africa, and stamps from Zanzibar with varying watermarks and designs.



Fig.5: 6d. SWA postage due stamp.

The South West Africa stamp issue, overseen by G.W. Reynolds, provided a checklist of overprinted stamps

after the Union of South Africa took control of German South West Africa in 1915. Overprints began in January 1923, following the expiration of Union stamps on 31 January 1923. The first overprint type used a type-set forme, causing varieties like broken or shifted letters. Notably, the "Wes" and "Africa" varieties arose from faulty printing. Some stamps had inverted overprints, which were quickly destroyed. The checklist detailed stamps and errors, such as the missing "t" in "West" or the incorrect spelling of "Africa" in Figure 6. Certain issues, like the 1 1/2d. and 2 1/2d. values, weren't overprinted due to rate changes, while others, like the 3d. blue stamp, maintained standard colors. The checklist also included rarities like inverted overprints, missing stops, and misprinted "Africa" or "Afrika." Postage dues had these errors, affecting various values, like the 6d. with the "Wes" error. These errors were rare, so collectors should pay attention to them when adding to their collections.



Fig.6: Type 1 Overprint, also the "Wes" and "Africa" varieties.

Johannesburg United Philatelic Society, led by President Mr. C.W. Reid and Hon. Secretary Mr. M.P. Vallentine, met biweekly on Thursdays in the Trust Buildings. They discussed new stamp issues and heard a paper on fine specimen collecting. Some disagreed, advocating inferior specimens to avoid gaps. Pretoria Philatelic Society, led by Major Booth, held monthly meetings. Mr. Van Maarsen praised the society's growth and member involvement at their 25th annual meeting. They elected new officers and set their annual dinner date. Rhodesia Philatelic Society, led by Mr. L.H. Whitmore, held a meeting in December where his paper on "Specialising and Its Dangers" sparked discussion. East Rand Philatelic Society, led by Mr. C.E. Donne, had a successful meeting where Mr. A.F. Johnstone exhibited his Union of South Africa stamp collection. Cape Town Philatelic Society held a junior competition in December where Master H. Scott won the prize. Mr. C. Smithers exhibited his impressive South West African stamp collection with errors like "Wes" and misplaced letters.

Happy researching our rich philatelic heritage in South Africa. Just remember to always enjoy your stamps!

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# Union of South Africa Stamp Varieties

by André du Plessis RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society

## PRETORIA CENTENARY, 1955 (UHB Index 31, Stamp numbers 137 and 138)

Two special 3d. and 6d. stamps were issued on 21 October 1955 to commemorate the centenary of the city of Pretoria and were on sale for approximately three months.

The inscriptions are bilingual and embody the portraits of President S.J.P. Kruger on the 3d. and that of President M.W. Pretorius on the 6d. values. These were provided by the Postmaster-General for the designer, H. Kumst. The design measures 21 x 37,5 mm perforation 14 x 15 and the watermark facing left.

The sheets consisted of 120 stamps in 6 rows x 20, with arrows on all four margins, double broken bars on left and right, and four-figure red sheet numbers on the bottom one. The numbers of the cylinders did not appear on the sheet

margin but were recorded as: 3d. – No. 74 and 6d. – No. 119.

### UHB 137 to 138



Slate Green  
UHB 137  
(SG 165) (SASCC 164).



Dark Chocolate  
UHB 138  
(SG 166) (SASCC 165).

### SELECTED VARIETIES

(As listed in the Union Handbook (UHB - 1986)

#### UHB 137 - 3d.

Cylinders no. 1 (Interior) and 104 (Exterior)

"Pimple" on bridge of nose (ex-Row 1/12) UHB 137 - V1	Dot under second "R" of PRETORIA (ex-Row 2/8) UHB 137 - V2	Heavy green blob under "19" of 1955 (ex-Row 5/20) UHB 137 - V3

#### UHB 138 - 6d.

Cylinders no. 11 (Interior) and 104 (Exterior)

		IMAGE UNAVAILABLE			
White spot under "18" of 1855 (ex-Row 1/3) UHB 138 - V1	Scar on chin (ex-Row 1/7) UHB 138 - V2	White dot under "AF" of AFRICA (ex-Row 3/18) UHB 138 - V3	White mark under "55" of 1955 (ex-Row 4/1) UHB 138 - V4	White dot under "T" of SOUTH (ex-Row (5/20) UHB 138 - V5	Short line and dot on forehead (ex-Row 6/20) UHB 138 - V6

Thank you to Lieb Venter from Port Elizabeth for providing some of the images.

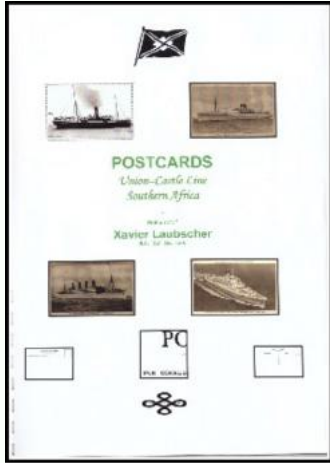
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## Book by Xavier Laubscher: Postcards of the Union Castle Line

by Adél Bulpitt, Editorial Board



This document delves into the history of the Union-Castle Line, through the lens of a meticulously organized catalogue of postcards and the ships they depict. It details the history of each ship, including construction, service, and eventual fate. The catalogue includes images of the postcards and ships, along with specifications and historical data.

The Union-Castle Line was formed in 1900 from the merger of the Union and Castle lines, focusing on connecting Britain and South Africa for mail, passengers, and trade. These ships were essential lifelines for communication and commerce, embodying Britain's global reach. The document examined is a detailed catalogue of ships, including launch dates, sizes, routes, and variations in postcards used to represent them. The author's meticulousness is highlighted by the use of an unusual RXR coding system. This level of detail reflects both the increasing importance of data collection in the early 20th century, and the author's deep personal interest in preserving history. Postcards served as mini marketing campaigns, showcasing the grandeur of the ships and the allure of far-off destinations. They evolved alongside the company and ships, reflecting an interplay of art, commerce, and technology, and providing a glimpse into an aspirational lifestyle. These ships were more than just transportation; they were symbols of technological innovation and witnesses to historical events.

Technical details of the ships reveal the evolution of shipbuilding, such as the use of steam turbines, which were more efficient and faster than older reciprocating engines. Gross tonnage is a measure of a ship's internal volume and provides an idea of its capacity. The ships themselves are seen as dynamic entities, adapting to the changing needs of the time, moving from luxury liners to troop transports. They are not just steel and steam but vessels of history, carrying stories of innovation, conflict, resilience, and human connection.

Key aspects of the catalogue:

- **Organisation:** The catalogue provides detailed information about individual ships, including their names, original and relisted displacement, dates of service, and other relevant details. There is a clear attempt to provide a chronological history of each ship's service, which includes

maiden voyages, sales, and other notable events.

- **Postcard Details:** The catalogue provides information about the postcards themselves, such as the text on the obverse and reverse sides. It notes variations in the postcards, such as registration, printing, and cut.
- **RXR Codes:** The catalogue uses RXR codes to describe the postcards. These codes are used to identify the code type, ship, and printing variations. The RXR code system provides a way to standardise information about the postcards for data distribution and identification.
- **Vessel Identification:** There is a section on how to identify a vessel on a postcard, which includes noting the direction the ship is facing, the number of funnels, and other specific details.
- **Image Analysis:** The catalogue details how images are treated on postcards including how they are cropped, positioned, and their colour.
- **Additional Information:** The catalogue includes sections on bell times, a chronological history, and a bibliography. It also includes a list of common abbreviations used throughout the catalogue.
- **Chronological Data and Historical Context:** The catalogue includes timelines of each vessel, marking significant events in their service such as maiden voyages, transfers, and if applicable, when a ship was scrapped, wrecked or sunk. The catalogue also notes several historical events, such as World War I and World War II, and how they impacted the service of UCL ships. For example, many ships were appointed as troopships during the world wars.
- **Postcard Production:** The catalogue includes a table of companies that produced the postcards, including their names and addresses. It explains that postcard text is located on the obverse, reverse, or both, with detailed rules for the placement of the text and other design elements.

The catalogue discusses how different printing and colour variations were used. In summary, this catalogue is a detailed guide to Union-Castle Line postcards. It is intended to be used by collectors and historians who are interested in this specific shipping line. It is a source of information on individual ships, their history, and the specifics of the postcards that represent them, while also acknowledging that the catalogue is a work in progress.

The author's passion for the subject is inspiring and serves as a reminder that anyone can contribute to our understanding of history, but most importantly to PHILATELY.

*You can get your own copy from Xavier at any of the Gauteng stamp fairs.*



## The 1925 Experimental Air Mail Service

by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society

The story of the 1925 Experimental Air Mail Service needs a little background. In the early 1920s aviation gained in popularity across South Africa but was limited to joy rides and weekend flights. On 1 February 1920 the South African Air Force (SAAF) was formed from the existing, but small, South African Aviation Corps, with the gift of 113 surplus World War I aircraft from the British government. This included 49 De Havilland DH-9s.

It soon became apparent that an administrative structure was needed to regulate aviation. Thus, the Union Air Act was passed in 1923 which granted licences to pilots, aircraft, and airports and was administered by the Post Office. A Civil Air Board was established to advise the Minister of Post and Telegraphs, Tommy Boydell. The first recommendation made by the Board was to start an air mail service, initially from Cape Town to Johannesburg.

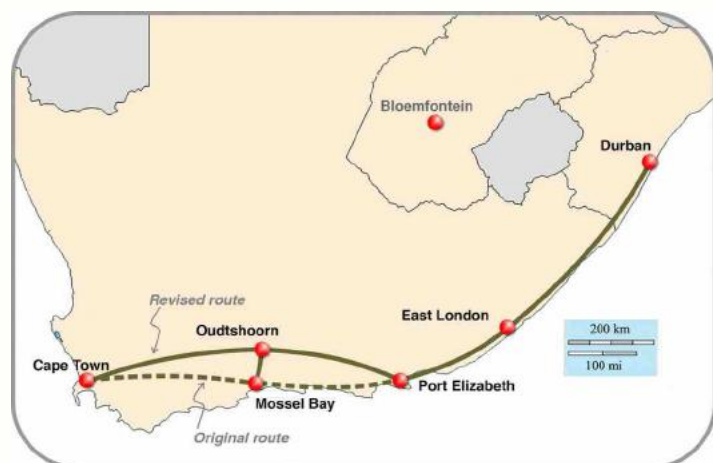


Fig.1: Routes taken by the experimental air mail service.

The State resisted the request based on cost, but was eventually pressurised by the Board to conduct a feasibility study, headed by Sir Pierre van Ryneveld, then head of the SAAF. At the time, the Air Force was the only organisation capable of undertaking the flights. If successful, it was hoped the Government would subsidise a private company to operate the service. The reason that air mail was so important to early aviation is that most aircraft could not carry enough people to make a passenger service economical. Instead, airline development was driven by the carriage of airmail, heavily subsidised by the post office. An amount of £9000 (roughly worth R15-million today) was allocated for the experiment. International mail, particularly that from the UK, entered through Cape Town carried by the Union Castle Steamship Company, a journey of two weeks. Flights were scheduled to connect with the arrival of the Union Castle mail ship early on Monday morning and its departure on Friday at 4 p.m. The purpose of

the proposed service was to expedite mail between Cape Town and Durban as there was no direct rail link between these two cities. The route Cape Town - Durban was via Oudtshoorn, Mossel Bay, Port Elizabeth and East London as shown in Figure 1.

Frequently landing at Mossel Bay proved problematic because of fog and dense sea mist, so this transit point was moved inland to Oudtshoorn. A feeder service was introduced between Oudtshoorn and Mossel Bay when weather and mail permitted. Flights to Mossel Bay only connected with the Cape Town - Durban service, Figure 2. The feeder service left Oudtshoorn at 09:45 immediately on arrival of the aircraft from Cape Town. It arrived in Mossel Bay at 10:55 and was back at Oudtshoorn by 12:15. Illsey says that the mail was dropped by parachute. This is probably correct as Wyndham suggests that mail from Mossel Bay was sent to Oudtshoorn by rail to connect with a flight there. However, there is no evidence to support these views, Figure 3.



Fig.2: Carried on the last flight, Cape Town - Durban, transferred at Oudtshoorn to the Mossel bay feeder service. Correct franking of 3d airmail plus 2d ordinary mail. No arrival mark.

There is some confusion about how many De Havilland DH9 aircraft were involved. Friedberg says eleven. Illsley says ten. Blake says it could be ten or eleven. This discrepancy can be explained by the loss of an aircraft during a trial flight on 28 February 1925, when a DH9 had a landing accident at Oudtshoorn. Each aircraft had its own pilot while 18 mechanics were posted along the route. Each trip was operated in four stages by two aircraft. Mail was transferred to a second pair of aircraft at each stop with very little time between landing and take-off, Tables 1 and 2. The DH9 had a maximum speed of  $\pm 185$  Km/hour with an endurance of five-and-a-half hours, covering roughly 850 kilometres.

On arrival at Cape Town early on a Monday morning, the mail was the first to be offloaded from the mail ship and

transferred to the Central Post Office for processing, Figure 4. Then it was dispatched to Wynfield for loading onto the aircraft for departure, Figure 5. The trip to Durban was completed in one day, Table 1, except for three occasions when weather required an overnight stop.



Fig.3: Mail from Mossel Bay, postmarked 4 March 1925, connected with the first return flight from Durban at Oudtshoorn, 6 March 1925. Airmail fee over franked by 3d. No arrival mark.



Fig.4: Incoming international mail on the first flight, carried on the Windsor Castle to Cape Town. The British air mail fee was 6d plus 1½d per ounce for regular postage. Parcels were excluded from the service.



Fig.5: Loading mail bags into the open space reserved for a passenger.

Cape Town	Depart	07:40
Oudtshoorn	Arrive	09:45
	Depart	09:57
Port Elizabeth	Arrive	11:53
	Depart	11:58
East London	Arrive	13:15
	Depart	13:20
Durban	Arrive	15:55
Flight time: 8 hours 15 minutes		

Table 1: Timetable for the first Cape Town – Durban flight, 2 March 1925. International mail received from the Windsor Castle.

The first return flight, 5 March 1925 Figure 6, set off from Durban at 12:55. Within five minutes one of the aircraft had to return due to engine problems. A spare aircraft had to be brought into use and the flight recommenced at 13:50, reaching East London an hour behind the first aircraft. The flight resumed the next morning, see Table 2.



Fig.6: Postcard carried on the first return flight, Durban – Cape Town. A concession was made for the first flights where the airmail stamps could be omitted, pending their availability.

Durban	Depart	Thursday	12:55
East London	Arrive	Thursday	15:30
	Depart	Friday	06:40
Port Elizabeth	Arrive	Friday	08:28
	Depart	Friday	08:32
Oudtshoorn	Arrive	Friday	11:12
	Depart	Friday	11:16
Cape Town	Arrive	Friday	13:57
Flight time: 9 hours 38 minutes			

Table 2: Timetable for the first return flight Durban - Cape Town, 5 March 1925. International mail transferred to Armadale Castle.

To finance the experiment, special air mail stamps were issued on 26 February 1925 [7, p. 18], see Figure 7, together with a black on orange air mail label. After the final flight of 15 June 1925, the air mail stamps were invalidated. However, the stamps remained on sale until the end of October 1925 after which remaining stock was destroyed. Some 67 per cent of the air mail stamps that were issued were eventually destroyed.

The airmail fee had to be prepaid in addition to ordinary postage at the following rates:

- Postcards: domestic 1d, international 3d.
- Letters: domestic 3d per ounce, international 6d per ounce.
- Parcels: domestic 6d per pound, international 9d per pound.

Why international mail had to have a higher rate is not clear as the aircraft did not fly any further than Cape Town while the regular fee still had to be paid.



Fig.7: Air mail stamps, issued 26 February 1925.

A detailed discussion of the air mail stamps in Figure 7 can be found in references [3], [4], [5] and [9].

A special rubber air mail cachet with a date was provided to each station on the route. Items received from the mail ship also received the cachet at the Central Post Office in Cape Town before being taken to Wynfield. Within a few weeks of use, the Durban cachet showed signs of deterioration, Figure 8. It is thought this was caused by using India ink on the stamp pad.



Fig.8: Double flown cover showing the deterioration of the Durban air mail cachet (on the right-hand side). Carried on the second flight Cape Town – Durban, 9 March 1925, from Port Elizabeth. Arrival delayed by one day. Returned to sender on the third return flight, 19 March 1925, having missed the second return flight by one day.



Fig.9: Replacement metal die for the Durban air mail cachet.

The Durban rubber cachet was replaced by two smaller metal cachets with a diameter of 26 mm. In addition to the date an “A” and a “B” were added, Figure 9: “A” indicated the morning, while “B” was for the afternoon. The original cachet was last used for flight five which left 2 April 1925.

The afternoon cachet, “A,” on the right in Figure 9, shows the numerals for the year slightly raised. This is consistent on all covers with this cachet.

To promote the use of airmail, a special slogan canceller was used on ordinary mail from Durban and Cape Town, see Figure 10. For more information on the slogan cancellers, please refer to a detailed discussion in *The SA Philatelist* [1].



Fig.10: Slogan cancellers used in Cape Town and Durban to promote the use of airmail. Some cancellations were applied in red.

By June 1925 the scheme had already run over budget by £5000 (roughly worth R8-million today). The Civil Air Board decided the service should be closed as the Government did not want to subsidise the flights any longer. After the first flight, loads carried fell off considerably in size despite the air mail stamps selling well. By April 1925 it was already clear that the venture was a losing business. The very purpose of the experiment, to expedite mail from the UK, was not realised. UK mail accounted for only four per cent of all mail carried.

The last flight was from Cape Town to Durban on 15 June 1929, Figure 11, after which the aircraft returned to their base in Pretoria. A total of 276 bags of mail was carried on 31 flights; containing 57,418 letters 5,509 postcards and 719 parcels. It is rather paradoxical that the public was reluctant to pay the extra fee for airmail, despite that the service was efficient and incident free. Yet the issuing of the airmail stamps played a significant role in promoting the event. Most of the mail carried was of a philatelic nature, often evidenced by over franking of the airmail stamps, Figure 12. In the June 1925 issue of *The SA Philatelist*, it was reported that 95 per cent of the mail was from stamp collectors; “... were it not for the collector, the Air Mail would have [been] an absolute fiasco as far as the loads carried [were] concerned.” Yet, in an editorial comment in *The SA Philatelist* of December 1929, it was stated that “the issue of special air mail stamps was the outstanding philatelic event of the year, and it directed considerable attention to South African philately.”

In Figure 11, despite being postmarked Cape Town, 15 June 1925, this cover never made the last flight. The cover has

the correct additional franking of 3d for airmail and 2d for regular mail. The cover did not receive the airmail cachet; no arrival mark applied. The cover is addressed to a prominent philatelic dealer of the time.



Fig.11: This cover never made the last flight, cancelled at Cape Town, 15 June 1925.

With the end of the experimental flights, a German company proposed starting an airmail service in 1926 using all-metal Junkers. However, nothing came of this as it failed to meet Government requirements. It was to be another four years before an airmail service was operated by Union Airways, starting 26 August 1929.



Fig.12: Over franked cover.

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# South African Scout Philately : A Listing 1936 - 2007 (Part 4: Cinderella Stamps)

by Gary Pienaar, Philatelic Society of Johannesburg

This is a continuation of the series of articles on South African Scout Philately. The previous articles covered the commemorative stamps in [1], a listing of the commemorative postmarks in [2]; and a listing of the Semi-Official Cards and Covers in [3].



Fig.1: Two labels advertising the 'Scout Week' of the Natal Division of the Boy Scouts Association of the Union of South Africa. The date of the first is unknown, but the second relates to the event held in September 1948.

This final article covers the often-neglected field of 'Cinderella Stamps' or labels. In philately, a cinderella stamp is a label that resembles a postage stamp, but which is not issued for postal purposes by the Postal authorities. These generally include items like poster stamps, propaganda labels, commemorative stickers, stamps issued by non-recognised countries or governments, charity labels like

Christmas seals and Easter seals, and purely decorative items created for advertising or amusement. Cinderella issues are usually printed for promotional or fundraising purposes by businesses, churches, political or non-profit groups.

Over the years several cinderella stamps have been issued in South Africa related to a Scouting theme (Figures 1 and 2).

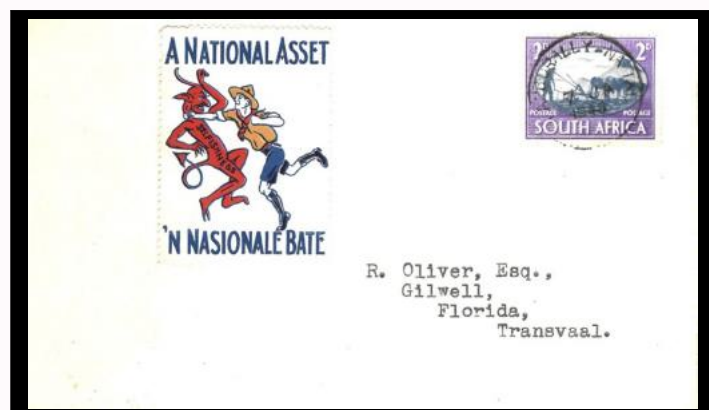


Fig.2: Cover posted from the Natal Jamborally, cancelled with the special relief type canceller dated 7th January 1948. .

The cover in Figure 2 has a special label illustrating that Scouting encourages selflessness as one of the core values contained in the Scout Promise and Law. Addressed to Gilwell Florida, a Scout campsite in Johannesburg still in use today.

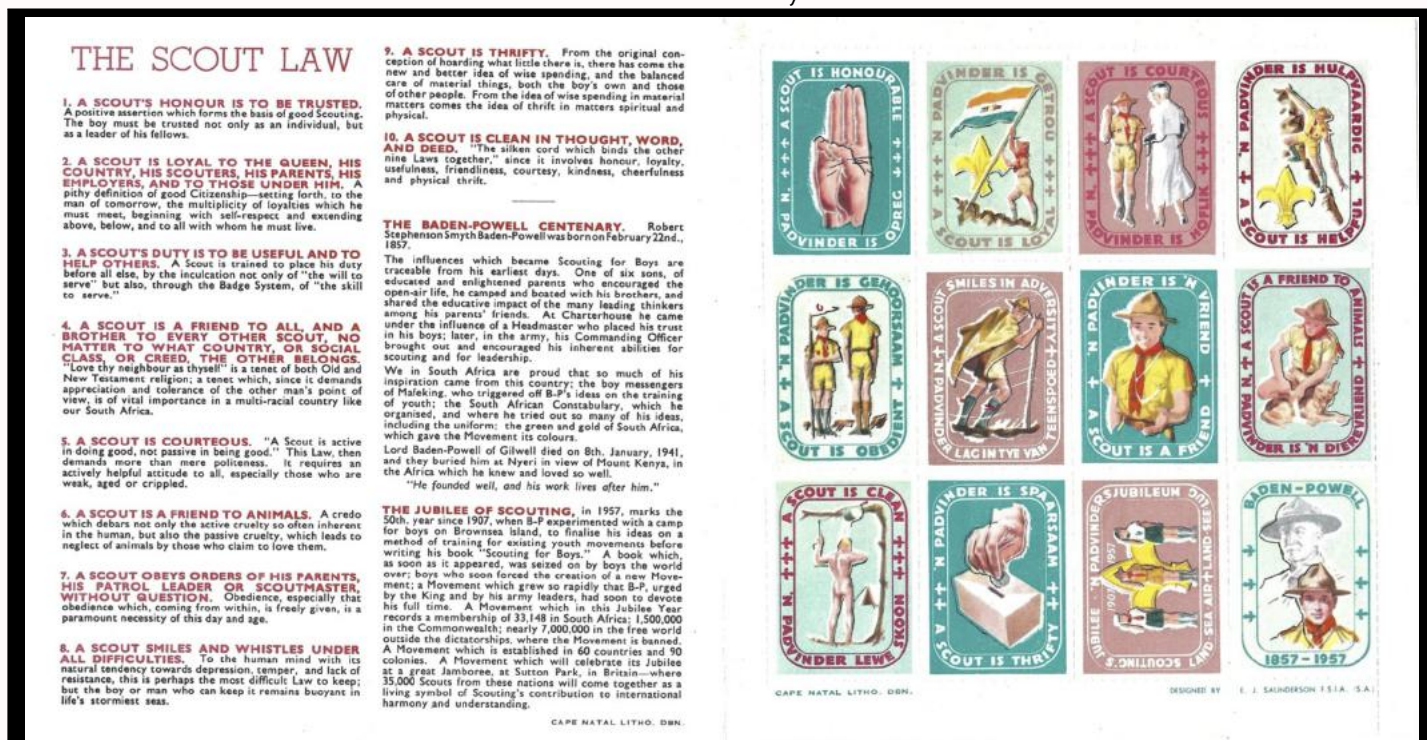


Fig.3: Sheet of the 12 labels with explanation on the inside left flap of the souvenir booklet.

The most well-known is the 1957 Baden-Powell Centenary and 50 Years of Scouting issue.

Other labels have also been issued, advertising various regional activities or events, or for specific fundraising activities even at local or Scout Group level. This is by no means a complete list of all the Scouting related cinderella's but is limited to those seen by or in the authors collection.

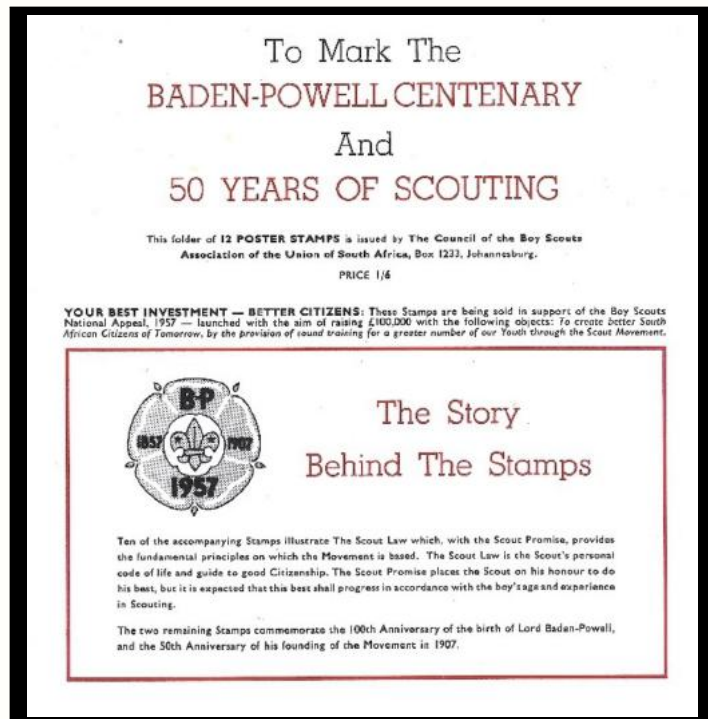


Fig.4: Booklet front cover, with Afrikaans text on the reverse side.

## 1957 Baden-Powell Centenary and 50 Years of Scouting

The Council of the Boy Scouts Association of the Union of South Africa issued a sheet of 12 labels, to mark the Jubilee of Scouting. These depicted scenes illustrating the ten Scout Laws. The two remaining labels commemorated the 100th

anniversary of the birth of Lord Baden-Powell and the 50th anniversary of his founding of the Scout Movement.

These labels were sold in a booklet for 1/6, with the aim of raising £100,000 from the public, in support of the local Scout Movement.

The outside cover of the booklet explains its purpose 'Your Best Investment - Better Citizens' and the story behind the stamps and contains an image of the badge from the 1957 Jubilee Jamboree, held at Sutton Park in England, see Figure 4. On the inside cover, the Scout Law appears along with an explanation of the Baden-Powell Centenary and the Jubilee of Scouting. The labels were designed by E.J. Saunderson and printed by Cape Natal Litho, Durban.

It is hoped that this brief article will raise awareness of the existence of these Scouting related labels and will assist in compiling a more complete record. Collectors with other examples are encouraged to share these details with the author.

## References

- [1] G. Pienaar, "South African Scouting Philately: A Listing 1936 - 2007 - Part 1: Commemorative Stamp Issues", *The SA Philatelist*, vol. 100, no. 3, pp. 66-67, Jun. 2024. [Online] Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/SAP-JUNE-2024.pdf>
- [2] G. Pienaar, "South African Scouting Philately: A Listing 1936 - 2007 - Part 2: Commemorative Postmarks", *The SA Philatelist*, vol. 100, no. 5, pp. 120-121, Oct. 2024. [Online] Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/SAP-Oct-2024.-p105-126.pdf>
- [3] G. Pienaar, "South African Scouting Philately: A Listing 1936 - 2007 - Part 3: Special Cards and Covers", *The SA Philatelist*, vol. 100, no. 6, pp. 135-137, Dec. 2024. [Online] Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/SAP-December-2024.-p127-157.pdf>

## EXHIBITS

# The Revenue Stamps of the Union of South Africa: A Usage Analysis

by Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society



Page 1 from exhibit. Research was extensive for this Gold Medal

This exhibit illustrates basic Union revenue stamps and their use in paying duties or fees on various documents. It also shows overprinted stamps for Penalty, Consular, Customs Duty, Assize, and other

Exhibit at SAPDAPEX 2017.

Gerhard has collected Union Revenue stamps and related documents for 30 years. He has previously published a series of articles about the Union Revenue stamps .

The 8 frame exhibit can be viewed as a video here: <https://www.facebook.com/1534186205/videos/1702941960436854/> A PDF version can be viewed on the PFSA Website: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/UnionR evpage1-001.pdf>



# The Battle of Grahamstown

by Andrew Briscoe RDPSA, FRPSL, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society



Fig.1: The Address Panel of the Letter.

The battle of Grahamstown was fought on 22 April 1819, during the Fifth Frontier War. Grahamstown (now known as Makhanda) had been founded in 1812 by Colonel John Graham as a frontier garrison post following the expulsion of the Xhosa chief Ndlambe and his followers from their ancestral lands in the Zuurveld. By 1819, the frontier settlement of Grahamstown comprised about 30 buildings, including a military barracks. Apart from a few hundred civilians, there were about 350 soldiers from various regiments stationed in Grahamstown under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Willshire.

In addition to the issue of land ownership, the battle of Grahamstown was precipitated by a dispute over cattle, see Figure 1. In terms of one of their treaties with the Xhosa, the British instituted a so-called spoor law, which allowed the colonialists to enter the Xhosa areas in search of stolen cattle. This was often used as an excuse for cattle raids on the Xhosa areas. As most of the cattle recovered were in fact not stolen, tensions rose, and in early 1819, a British-led force seized some 23,000 head of cattle from Xhosa ownership. This prompted Makhanda, a Xhosa prophet, to urge all the Xhosa to unite to drive British forces out of Xhosaland once and for all. Makhanda advised that the gods would be on their side if they chose to attack the British garrison in the settlement of Grahamstown, and promised that the British 'bullets would turn to water'.

On 22 April 1819, a force of between 6,000 and 10,000

men led by Makhanda, launched a daylight attack against Grahamstown. The main battle lasted no more than an hour, leaving at least 1,000 Xhosa and three British soldiers dead. Makhanda later surrendered to the British and was imprisoned on Robben Island. He subsequently drowned on Christmas Day, 1819, whilst attempting to escape captivity.

The illustrated letter was written three months after the battle of Grahamstown, on 30 July 1819, by a conscript, Ernst du Toit, stationed in 'Grijhamstad' (Grahamstown), see Figure 2. It is addressed to Kleinbosch in the Drakenstein Valley. The address panel was signed and underlined by Du Toit to ensure free postage. The letter, written in High Dutch, gives details of various commanders arriving in and leaving Grahamstown. Du Toit was serving with the Uitenhage and George burghers under Major Fraser. He reports that the commander recently left with the death certificate of a burgher who had died in an accident, and refers to other burghers from the Cape District, Stellenbosch and Zwelendam divisions, who arrived with the post.

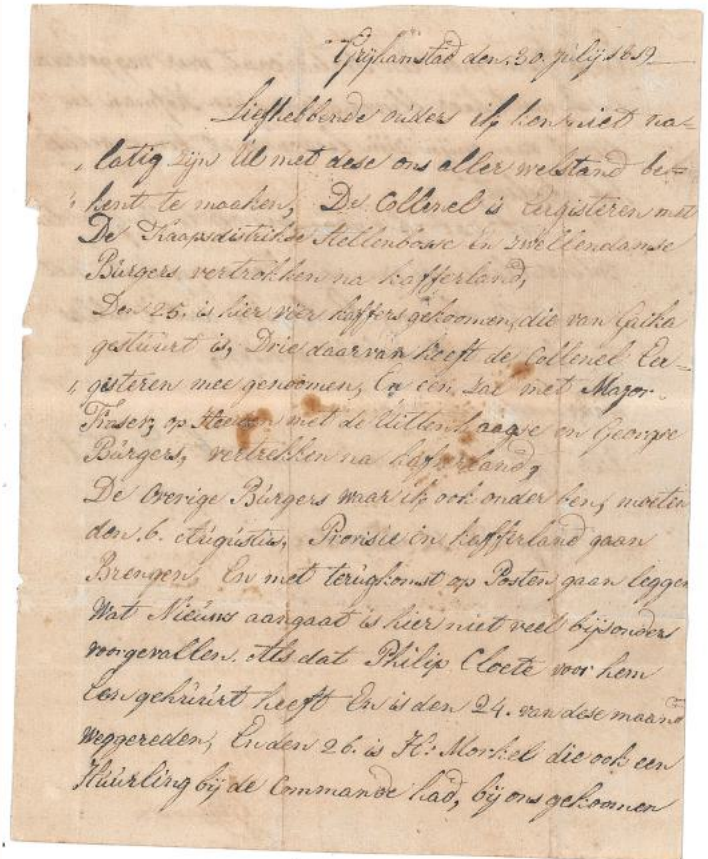


Fig.2: Extract from the Letter.

**Invitation:** Send us 300dpi scans of your Gold or Large Gold exhibit, so that we can share it on the PFSA website and as a video on the PFSA Facebook page and in a short feature in *The SA Philatelist*: [adelbulpitt@gmail.com](mailto:adelbulpitt@gmail.com).



## Union Kings-Heads Shifted Medallion - New Moon Variety

by Louwrence Erasmus, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria

I have noticed that some *New Moon* varieties of the Union Kings Heads issued from 1913 to 1926 are offered on various platforms, but they are just poorly centred exemplars that typically should be sold for much lower than catalogue value.

I heard and read many arguments on what is a *New Moon* variety, but I always rely on Hagger's definition [1, p. 10]: *The "New Moon" variety is one on which the head is shifted so much that it actually touches or even overprints part of the frame design.* He also referred to this variety as the *shifted medallion*.



Fig.1: *New Moon* variety.

A shifted medallion *New Moon* variety on the 3d King George V, blue and blue colour shades, first issued on 4 October 1922, is shown in Figure 1. The vignette is clearly touching the frame at the top. This variety can touch on any side. It is a result of the paper stretching during the printing process of the vignettes after the frames were printed. I have seen blocks of these varieties where one row has several shifted medallion varieties and the following row has varied gradings from poorly to well centred stamps.

As a stamp collector/philatelist, I'm always on the lookout for the best stamps I can find.

When it comes to other than *New Moon* shifted vignette varieties on the Union Kings Heads stamps, like the £1 King George V printed in olive and red, first issued in 1926, shown

in Figure 2, I do not prefer them in my collection. They're usually lower grade and I am willing to pay far less than catalogue value and if the frame is excellently to perfectly centred between the perforations. A single stamp like in Figure 2 falls short of my standards to be included in my stamp collection. I only consider such stamps for research purposes.

The shifted medallion, *New Moon* exemplars can be found in all the stamp values where a head plate and vignette plate were used to print them in two steps. Thus, if you want to collect the *New Moon* varieties, you can find them on the 2½d blue and blue, 3d black and orange, 3d blue and blue, 4d orange and green, 6d black and violet, 2/6 purple and green [2], 5s purple and blue, and £1 green and red [1].



Fig.2: *Poorly centred vignette.*

### References

- [1] S.J. Hagger (Ed.), *The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910 - 1961: Handbook Catalogue*, Cape Town, South Africa: Def. Ed., Reijger Publishers (Pty) Ltd, 1986. [Online] Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Hagger-Group-3-Kings-Heads.pdf>
- [2] *The South African Colour Catalogue, 2023-25*, 37th Ed., Johannesburg, South Africa: Tracinda Publications (Pty) Ltd, 2022.

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For more information contact Louwrence Erasmus: [louwrence@erasmus.org.za](mailto:louwrence@erasmus.org.za)



# World War 2: A New Censor Mark Used by the South African Post Office

by Jim Findlay RDP SA, Philatelic Society of Johannesburg

## Introduction

During World War II, the Union Defence Force (UDF) issued cachets for military mail censorship and these have been recorded and described previously in [1], [2], and [3]. There are three types, namely SA 100, SA 101 and SA 102 which are illustrated below. In addition there is a censor cachet that appears to have been used exclusively by the South African Post Office and, to date, appears to be only used on telegrams and a single cover.

At the outbreak of war, the Prime Minister General J.C. Smuts appointed Mr. H.J. Lenton, the Postmaster General, as Chief Censor with the rank of Brigadier. War-time civilian postal censorship, the responsibility of the Postmaster General, was implemented in 12 centres – Bloemfontein, Cape Town (head office), De Aar, Durban, East London, George, Johannesburg, Kimberley, Pietermaritzburg, Port Elizabeth, Pretoria and Windhoek (Mullins).

In Brig. Lenton's memoir he indicates that Post Office staff were not used for censorship purposes, so censorship staff were specially recruited and organized for the purpose but were housed in post office premises. Brig. Lenton was responsible to the Minister of Defence, General Smuts, and not the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs (Mullins). At the height of activities there were nearly 800 censors and it was possible to cover every European and many eastern languages. In Lenton's brief memoir in the Mullin's article, there is no mention of the Post Office censor mark as discussed below.

Censorship of civilian mail is indicated as being opened by the censor and re-sealed with a UC 8 label (Passed by Censor) and a 'Coat of Arms' cachet. This form of censorship is not included in this article.

## Military Censor Mark Types

There are three types of South African Union Defence Force censor cachets recorded as used in World War II that are associated with South African formations and units in the East and North Africa campaigns (Daynes, 1987). These are:

1. Type SA 100: PASSED BY CENSOR / M.F.F. No. 123 U.D.F. / GOEDGEKEUR DEUR SENSOR The Afrikaans is in a single line. Box shape; 43 x 22 mm. (Figure 1).
2. Type SA 101: PASSED BY CENSOR / M.F.F. No. 123 U.D.F. / GOEDGEKEUR DEUR / SENSOR The Afrikaans is in two lines. Box shape; 42 x 24 mm. (Figure 2).
3. Type SA 102: PASSED BY UNIT CENSOR / GOEDGEKEUR EENHEIDSENSOR / U.D.F. / U No. / U.V.M. Diamond shape. (Figure 3).

shape. (Figure 3).

\* (MFF = Mobile Field Force; UDF = Union Defence Force; UVM = Unie Verdedigings Mag [= UDF])



Fig.1: An example of South African censor mark Type SA 100.



Fig.2: An example of South African censor mark Type SA 101.



Fig.3: An example of South African censor mark Type SA 102.

These three censor mark types were issued by the UDF to the various formations and units. There are other military censor marks used by individual units and locations that were either locally made or privately made.

## The South African Post Office Censor Cachet

In Figure 4, all the examples of the Post Office censor cachets seen are on the Post Office Form T 27 (Telegram) with the heading 'POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS - POSKANTOOR-TELEGRAAFDIENS' and the standard form layout allowing for the sender details, receiver details and the message. There is a single cover recorded with a cachet as indicated below. All the telegrams seen to date received a censor mark applied by the Central Telegraph Office (C.T.O.) with the relevant town post office datestamp.

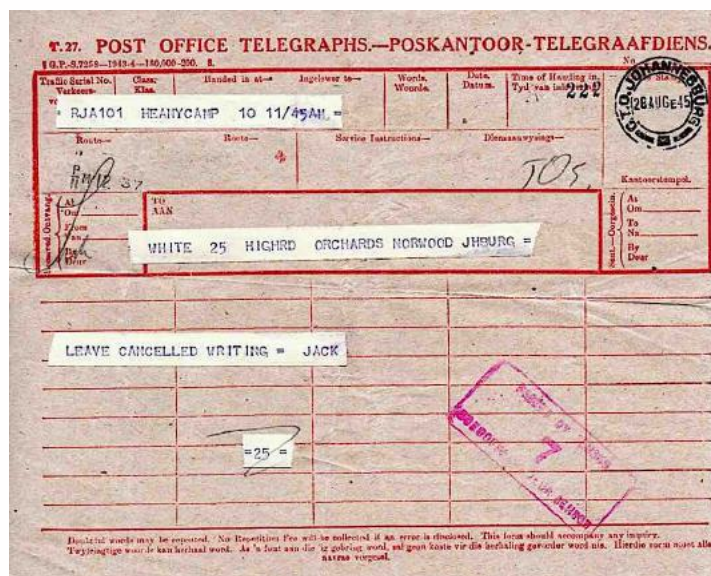


Fig.4: Johannesburg Central Telegraph Office  
'Passed By Censor 7' cachet.

It is proposed that the cachet illustrated in Figure 4 is designated as South African Censor Mark Type SA 103.

The wording on the cachet in Figure 4 is 'PASSED BY CENSOR - (a number) - GOEDGEKEUR DEUR SENSOR'.

Dimensions: Rectangular box: 52 mm (wide) x 23 mm (high).  
Number: 8 mm (high).  
Letters: 2 mm (high).  
PASSED BY CENSOR: 33-34 mm (length).

Type Reference: SA 103.

In the table below are the numbered censor marks on a telegram form with the Johannesburg C.T.O. datestamp recorded in the author's collection.

The post offices most likely to have used the SA103 censor mark are those 12 designated by the Postmaster General. The excellent reference books on post marks by Putzel and Visser record a Central Telegraph Office at Bloemfontein (C.T.O. recorded 1905-1915; 1922-25), Cape Town (English

only as C.T.O. and bilingual Afrikaans CTK or STK) and Johannesburg (as above) but dates do not necessarily correspond to the World War II period.

Censor Mark Number	C.T.O. Post Office	Date	Origin
7	Johannesburg	3 Feb 1941	Stirling, Scotland.
7	Johannesburg	6 Feb 1941	Rutherglen, Scotland.
7	Johannesburg	22 May 1945	England (GB).
7	Johannesburg	21 Jul 1945	England (GB).
7	Johannesburg	28 Aug 1945	Heany Camp, Southern Rhodesia.
8	Johannesburg	3 Feb 1941	Leeds, England.
8	Johannesburg	3 Feb 1941	Glasgow, Scotland.
9	Johannesburg	4 Feb 1941	Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.
11	Johannesburg	29 April 1945	England (GB).
11	Johannesburg	24 May 1945	London, England.
11	Johannesburg	19 Jul 1945	Southampton, England.
21	On Cover; Windhoek*.	25 Feb 1941	Nairobi, Kenya.

\* Jamie Smith Collection; no CTO cancellation; addressed to Windhoek.

The Telegraph Office, designated with a 'T' or 'TO', locations with a censor cachet can be expected at Durban (T.O. only), East London ('T'), De Aar, Durban, George, Kimberley, Pietermaritzburg, Port Elizabeth, Pretoria (T.O. only) and Windhoek. [Certain dates on the telegram datestamps are not clear and may not have been in use during World War II].

Other telegrams during the war period seen are (i) Cape Town C.T.O. with no censor mark, dated 19 November 1941, originating from Pretoria to Three Anchor Bay and (ii) Johannesburg C.T.O. with no censor mark, dated 17 September 1945, originating from Pietermaritzburg to Johannesburg.

## Conclusions

In conclusion, the following was discussed in this article:

- (i) A previously unrecorded censor cachet, designated Type SA 103 and used by the South African Post Office, is described.
- (ii) The censoring of telegrams took place from 3 February 1941 to 21 July 1945 (earliest and latest recorded dates).
- (iii) It appears that only telegrams originating from outside the Union were censored and received the SA 103 cachet.

- (iv) To date, the censor cachet Type SA 103 has been seen from the Johannesburg Central Telegraph Office and probably Windhoek.
- (v) Confirmed censorship by the Post Office of telegrams with the SA 103 cachet can be expected to be found on telegrams originating from foreign territories for delivery within South Africa and being routed via one of the 12 selected post offices indicated above.

Should any reader be able to expand the information on the use of this censor cachet, please contact the author by email [agrecon.rsa@gmail.com] preferably with a pdf scan of the item and any additional details.

## References

- [1] J.A. Daynes, *World War Two Censor Marks*, 3rd reprint, The Forces Postal History Society, 1987.
- [2] J.B.R. Findlay, "World War 2 South African Censor Types and Numbers and their Allocation; Part 1", *The SA Philatelist*, vol. 90, no. 3, pp. 87-101, Jun. 2014. [Online] Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Volume-90.-No-3.-June-2014.pdf>
- [3] J.B.R. Findlay, "World War 2 South African Censor Types and Numbers and their Allocation; Part 2", *The SA Philatelist*, vol. 90, no. 4, pp. 134-135, Aug. 2014. [Online] Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/SAP-August-2014.pdf>
- [4] T. Mullins, *Censorship of Civilian Mail in South Africa during World War II*, privately published, 2001.
- [5] R.F. Putzel, *The Postmarks of South Africa and Former States and Colonies*, Tokai, South Africa: Ralph Putzel, 1994.
- [6] R.F. Putzel, and A.T. Visser, *The Postmarks of South Africa and Former States and Colonies - Addendum*, Philatelic Federation of South Africa, 2024. [Online] Available: <https://stampssa.africa/postmarks-2/#South>



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Wed	12 Mar	Annual General Meeting
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Wed	14 May	Favourite Cover/s
Wed	11 Jun	First Competitive Evening
Wed	9 Jul	No Rules One Frame Evening
Wed	13 Aug	All-African Material
Wed	10 Sep	One Frame Evening
Wed	8 Oct	Second Competitive Evening
Wed	12 Nov	Invited Exhibitor
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Mar 19:	Open Class, all categories & postal stationery
Apr 16:	Anything relating in any way to the letters T &/or U &/or V
May 21:	British Commonwealth
Jun 18:	Mini Exhibits, 1 to 16 pages
Jul 16:	Foreign, the art of philately & philately as art
Aug 20:	Preview of National Exhibits, World at war & back of the book
Sep 17:	Southern Africa
Oct 15:	My favourite (Maximum of one frame) + thematic exhibits
Nov 19:	As you like it
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# A Study of the 2c Protea Stamp

by Vic Sorour RDP SA, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

The 2c Protea stamp was issued as part of the Protea Definitive Series on 27 May 1977. Initially only one issue was recognised in [1] and [2]. Thirty-eight years later a second issue was identified in [3].

Issue 1 was printed on 30 September 1976 and has the correct suffix (-0). Cylinder 722, State 2 (Government Printer No 32) was used to print Issue 1. On 24 March 1977 the second issue of the two cent Protea was printed. Cylinder 722, State 4 (Government Printer No 66) was used to print Issue 2. The Government Printer did not regard this as a new issue but as a "Supplementary Printing" and erroneously did not change the date (30 September 1976) or the suffix (-0). The Government Printer regarded a printing that was interrupted but was completed before the date of issue as "Supplementary", see [4, p. 152].

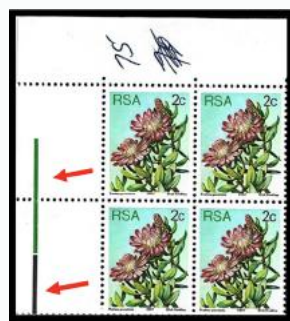
With further study and research, it is now possible to identify and allocate the eight key pieces of a sheet (the four corners and the four arrows) to their respective issues and panes.

## Top Left Corner (TLC)

Issue 1. Pane A.



Issue 1. Pane B.



Pane A:	There are two green marginal bars on the left margins of rows 1 and 2. There is a black Basic Colour Bar on the top margin above stamp 2.
Pane B:	There is a green Segmental Colour Bar on the left margin of rows 1 and 2 and a black one on row 2.

In Issue 1 the two green marginal bars are the same colour. In Issue 2 the outer bar is paler.

Pane	Pos.	*Coor.	Description	Scan	1	2
A	R1/2	4x28	Green dot below "n" of "punctata" (I I V)		-	+
B	R1/2	6x4	Tiny green dot below the left leg of "A" (I I V)		+	-

\*Coor.: Coordinates. This shows the exact position of the flaw. It is expressed as 12x10. The first number is the horizontal distance from the top left corner of the stamp. The second number is the vertical distance from the top left corner of the stamp.

## Top Arrow (TA)

Issue 1. Pane A.

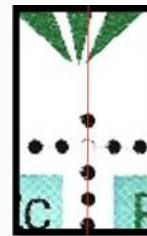


Issue 1. Pane B.

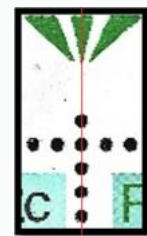


In Pane A the arrow is displaced to the left.

Pane A.



Pane B.



Pane	Pos.	*Coor.	Description	Scan	1	2
A	TA	19x-9	Tiny white spot in upper part of left barb (I I V)		+	-
A	TA	19x-9	Re-touched (I I V)		-	+
A	R1/6	11x24	Tiny dot between the leaves above "1977"		+	+
A	R2/6	17x27	Red dots below "k" of "Dick"		+	+

## Top Right Corner (TRC)

Issue 1. Pane A.



Issue 1. Pane B.



Pane	Pos.	*Coor.	Description	Scan	1	2
A	R5/1	23x27	Miniature "2c" in the gutter		+	+
A	R5/1	21x26	Green mark after "Findlay" (I I V)		+	-
B	R6/1	14x27	Tiny green dot between 1977 and Dick. Issue 1 only. (I I V)		+	-

Pane A: There is a yellow segmental colour bar on the right margin of rows 1 and 2.

Pane B: There are two green marginal bars, 14 mm from the right edge of stamp 10, on the right margin of rows 1 and 2. In Issue 1 the marginal bars are the same colour. The outer bar is paler in Issue 2.

Pane	Pos.	*Coor.	Description	Scan	1	2
A	R1/9	-1x19	Dot left gutter. (I I V)		+	-
A	R1/9	5x23	Dot between the leaves, above the 'ct' of punctata.		+	+
B	R1/10	8x4	Dot below right leg of "A" of "RSA" (I I V)		-	+
B	R1/10	40x14	"Lightning" Flaw (I I V)		-	+

## Left Arrow (LA)

Issue 1. Pane A.



Issue 1. Pane B.



Pane A: There are two green marginal bars on the left margin of rows 5 and 6.

Pane B: There is a magenta segmental colour bar on the left margin of row 5 and two green marginal bars on the left margin of row 6.

## Right Arrow (RA)

Issue 1. Pane A.



Issue 1. Pane B.



Pane A: The pane has a yellow segmental colour bar on the right margin of row 5 and two green marginal bars, 7 mm from the right edge of stamp 10 on row 6.

Pane B: The pane has two green marginal bars, 14 mm from the right edge of stamp 10, rows 5 and 6. These marginal bars are the same colour in Issue 1 but the outer marginal bar is paler in Issue 2.

Pane	Pos.	*Coor.	Description	Scan	1	2
A	R6/9	10x5	Blue dot below and to the right of "A" of "RSA"		+	+
B	R6/10	35x15	White flaws in inner margin bar (I I V)		+	-

## Bottom Left Corner (BLC)

The information printed on the cylinder blocks below is incorrect and misleading. The date (30 September 1976) and the suffix (-0) are the same on all four blocks suggesting that there was only one issue, but Cylinder 722 State 2 was used for Issue 1 printed on 30 September 1976 and Cylinder 722 State 4 was used for Issue 2 printed on 24 March 1977.

The panes are easily identified by the pane letters A and B printed on the left margin of row 10. The two issues can be identified by the sheet numbers. In Issue 1 the A Pane has even sheet numbers and the B Pane has odd sheet numbers. This is reversed in Issue 2.

Issue 1. Pane A.



Issue 1. Pane B.



Issue 2. Pane A.



Issue 2. Pane B.



### Bottom Arrow (BA)

Issue 1. Pane A.



Issue 2. Pane A.



These two pieces are from Pane A because there are two marginal bars on the right margin, 7 mm from the right edge of stamp 10. The MB on the RM of Pane A, rows 6 - 10 do not change colour in Issue 2.

Pane	Pos.	*Coor.	Description	Scan	1	2
A	R9/6	4x-1	Blue dot in gutter above "S" of "RSA"		+	+
A	R10/5	7x-1	Green dot above "A" of "RSA" (I I V)		+	-
B	R9/6	14 x0	Tiny green dot TM left of 2c (I I V)		+	-
B	BA		Magenta dots at point of arrow		+	+

Pane	Pos.	*Coor.	Description	Scan	1	2
A	R8/10	30x2	Green dot below top inner margin bar (I I V)		+	-
A	R9/9	17x23	Dot in leaf above "F" of Findlay		+	+
A	R9/10	20x13	White spot in the lower inner margin bar		+	+
A	R10/9	20x27	Broken "dl" in "Findlay"		+	+

### Bottom Right Corner (BRC)

Issue 1. Pane A.



Issue 2. Pane A.



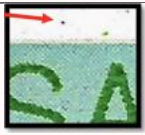

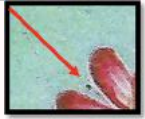
Issue 1. Pane B.



Issue 2. Pane B.



These two pieces are from Pane B because there are two marginal bars on the right margin, 14 mm from the right edge of stamp 10. The bars are the same colour in Issue 1. In Issue 2 the outer bar is paler.

Pane	Pos.	*Coor.	Description	Scan	1	2
B	R10/9	6x0	Tiny green dot above "A" of "RSA" (I V)		+	-
B	R10/9	12x4	Two small dots to left of top protea		+	+
B	R10/10	7x7	Dot below "A" of "RSA"		+	+

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## EXHIBITION REPORT



### China 2024 Asian International Stamp Exhibition

by Emil Minnaar RDPSA, China 2024 Commissioner for South Africa

As the South African Commissioner, I attended the China 2024 Asian International Stamp Exhibition held in Shanghai, China. Dr Neil Cronje RDPSA participated on the jury. The exhibition opened to the public on the 29th November 2024 and closed on the 3rd December 2024. It was organized under the patronage of the Federation of Inter-Asian Philately (F.I.A.P.) with recognition of the Federation Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (F.I.P.)

The exhibition celebrated the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and the 50th anniversary of the founding of the F.I.A.P.



China 2024 featured 5 theme days: Opening Day, Shanghai Culture Day, Youth Day, Palmares Day and F.I.A.P. Day. Unserviced envelopes featuring

these themes were made available and could be cancelled with a different canceller for each day. The stamp shown above was issued to commemorate the occasion.

34 Countries were represented with 323 exhibits (1617 frames)

and 49 Literature exhibits on show. 21 Large Gold medals and 40 Gold medals were awarded. The Grand Prix D'Honneur was awarded to the exhibitor Ding Jin Song (China) for his exhibit titled "The 1897 Red Revenue Surcharges of China". The Grand Prix International was awarded to the exhibitor Eddy Charnchai Karnasuta (Thailand), for his exhibit titled "Death Railway POW & Civilian Labourer Mail and Thailand Internee Mail" and the Grand Prix National was awarded to the exhibitor, Sun Jiangtao, for his exhibit titled "The First Chinese Issue - Customs Large Dragon stamps 1878 to 1885".

Walking through all the exhibits on show is inspiring and one can only observe with awe.

A special privilege was to be in the court of honour where the first three Chinese stamps from 1878 were displayed. These Chinese Customs postage stamps feature rivers, mountains, clouds, and a loong pattern. They were printed in three colours. The Shanghai Customs Registration Office had print these stamps in three issues. The second issue, released in 1882, was named "Large Dragons, Wide Margin".



*Large Dragons, Wide Margin.*

Russell Boezak	1910 South Africa Union #1	Traditional	81 Vermeil
Ian Matheson	The First Town and Village Posts of British Honduras	Postal History	91 Gold
Hugh Amooore	South African Postal Rates and Charges in the Period of Union: 31 May 1910 to 30 May 1961	Postal History	90 Gold
Danna Strydom	The V R I Overprint Varieties on Transvaal Postage Stamps	1 Frame Traditional	82
Danna Strydom	Otto's Printings of Stamps for the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (Transvaal)	1 Frame Traditional	85
Andre du Plessis	The Covers of the SA Van Riebeeck Festival, 1952	1 Frame Traditional	63

*Table 1: Results of the South African exhibitors.*

## Obituries: Richard Johnson RDPSA, and Johan Joubert

### Richard Johnson RDPSA

18 October 1958 to 2 January 2025



Richard Johnson and his wife Deborah (Debra) tragically passed away from carbon monoxide poisoning due to a gas leak at their home in Estoril, Portugal on 2 January 2025. A State Judicial prosecution case as well as a civil case against those parties responsible will follow.

Richard was an international stamp dealer, philatelist, and member of the Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society (PEPS) since 14 October 1980, where he also received an honorary life membership award in March 2023 for long and valuable services to the society. As a "finem respice", honorary life members of PEPS do not pay its annual society fees but can make a donation in lieu of subscriptions should they wish to do so. On 27 December 2024, six days before passing away, Richard Johnson, as was his nature and kind, made his subscription payment donation of society fees for 2025.

Richard started school at the St George's Preparatory School in Port Elizabeth and completed his matric at St Andrews College in Grahamstown. Thereafter, he followed national service in the South African Police and attended Witwatersrand University, enrolled for a Bachelor of Speech-Language Pathology degree. However, any future career in logopaedics was dealt a terminal blow when he accompanied his dad, Colin, to the London 1980 stamp exhibition. Walking along all the stands, he suddenly realised this was what he wanted to do.

The resultant Johnson Philatelics was thus established in 1980 and together with his father became one of the premier stamp dealers in South Africa, and ultimately the world. Richard Johnson and Johnson Philatelics became synonymous with being expensive. But.... they were the ones that had the "good stuff" with associated client service. Richard believed that certain items demanded certain prices and became very successful in following that motto. Once told about a successful website sale by a newbie on the stamp dealers' block, his quip was "you priced it too low", typical of the man. In 2014, Richard became a board member and part owner of the Swiss firm Filat AG based in Zürich.

Richard exhibited various Cape of Good Hope collections to a large gold level and was a national accredited judge. He was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of Southern Africa (RDPSA) in 2004. He was a Chairman

of Management Committee of the Philatelic Federation of Southern African, a director of the Philatelic Foundation of Southern African, a past president of the South African Philatelic Dealers Association (SAPDA), board member of the International Federation of Stamp Dealers Associations (IFSDA) since 2007, president of IFSDA during 2012 - 2018, and honorary president of IFSDA since 2018. In addition, he had memberships of the American Philatelic Society (APS), Australasian Philatelic Traders' Association (APTA), Philatelic Traders Society (PTS) in the United Kingdom, SAPDA, and the Swiss Stamp Dealers Association (SBHV).

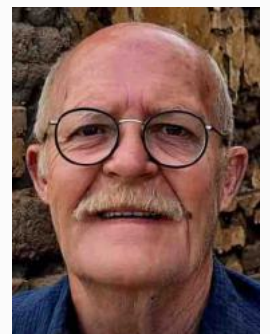
In among all this, Richard got married to Deborah (better known as Debra), that he affectionately called "Home Office." Well, it was the "Home Office" that ensured her Richard became one of the coolest-dressed men to walk the planet. Together, they formed a real power couple that was oh so colourful, both on the outside and within. They had an unprecedented joie de vivre that rubbed off on anybody within a ten-mile radius of them. Their two children, son Evan and daughter Callan, are today a testament to what great parents they were.

Richard Richie RJ Johnson was a great man, son, husband, father, philatelist, stamp dealer, philanthropist, friend, road trip companion, lunch/dinner date, and overall cool gentleman. Deborah Debra Debs Johnson was a great lady, wife, mother, friend, garden tinkerer, and the bubbling life of any get-together. Combined, they were the ultimate awesome friend package that anyone would have wished to encounter. Richie, I hope where you two are, there are nice stamps to play with and a nice garden for Debra to tinker with. Rest in peace, you lovely people. So sad.

### Johan Joubert

4 March 1958 to 14 January 2025

Johan Joubert, after a long battle with cancer, closed his stamp album for the last time on 14 January 2024 at 08:10 in his home in Rietondale, Pretoria.



*Johan Joubert.*

Johan was a dedicated teacher who later focused on educating children with special learning needs. He retired from Via Nova School in Pretoria. He was also an enthusiastic athlete and sportsman who competed at a national level from his school years and, after matric, played rugby for Eastern Transvaal. He was an outstanding and qualified

sports coach who positively influenced the lives of many schoolchildren through his approach to coaching.

Johan's passion for philately began during his school years in Balfour, Mpumalanga, where he matriculated in 1975. As a student at the Potchefstroom College of Education (1977-1979), he founded and developed the philatelic society into one of three active stamp clubs in Potchefstroom. He played a significant role on the organising committee of the Potch 78 National Stamp Exhibition.

Johan made a significant contribution to the development and promotion of South African philately through exhibitions, publications, and presentations, both locally and internationally. He will be remembered for his legacy of exceptional collections, which he compiled from "scrap bin" material in which others showed little interest. These collections preserved and unlocked the philatelic history of Southern Africa for the enrichment of fellow philatelists. In recognition of his achievements, Johan was elected an honorary member of the Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria (AFP).

Among his most prominent national and international exhibits were a Large Gold Border War postal history collection, supported by an extensive library of books on the subject, as well as collections on Undelivered Mail, RSA mailbag tags, Speed Mail, and Certified Mail.

He also conducted detailed research on stamps from Speed Mail Services, Hybrid Mail, PKZ Permit Mail, and Permit Mail. Additionally, Johan collected various philatelic

artefacts used within the postal system, along with a collection of revenue stamps on documents. He assembled a comprehensive collection of stamps and postal items from 1910 to the present and also curated a single-frame exhibit studying philatelic adversities. His postal history archive was extensive.

With his wife, Karen, Johan travelled extensively across South Africa, uncovering unique philatelic treasures. He had an in-depth knowledge of South African philately and its historical context, which he generously shared with others.

Johan received numerous national awards, medals, and trophies for his exhibitions. He played an active role in organised philately and served on the Management Committee of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa (PFSA) several years ago. He regularly attended meetings of AFP, where he made regular contributions.

To Johan, philately wasn't just a hobby. He often found himself deep in thought about it, and the act of collecting and studying philatelic material was a therapeutic outlet for him in our tumultuous world. In some of his final words, Johan expressed his gratitude to fellow philatelists for enrichment his life.

Johan is survived by his wife, three children from a previous marriage and their spouses, two stepchildren and one's spouse, and four grandchildren.

His kindness and captivating stories will be missed. Rest in peace, Johan.



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In Memoriam

### Death of our President

It is with great sadness that I have to announce the death of our President, Mike Roberts. He died on Wednesday, 25 December 2024.

Mike, as we all know, had been battling with cancer for some months, however on Wednesday he suffered a heart attack from which he was unable to recover.

We have already offered our condolences to Alison, Mike's wife and their family. We will of course be offering any support we can provide in the weeks and months ahead.

When funeral arrangements have been finalised details will be circulated.

Council will be meeting as soon as possible to consider the next steps for the Society, but in the meantime the programme of presentations will continue as advertised.

Steven Harrison FRPSL  
Honorary Secretary

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Robert Harm: 082 925-7103, [robertharm9@gmail.com](mailto:robertharm9@gmail.com)

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*Contact:*

Ken Joseph: 072 5971287, [ken@philatelicfriends.com](mailto:ken@philatelicfriends.com)

### Natal Stamp Fair and Auction (Durban)

**Second** and **last** Saturday, every month. **Classic Motorcycle Club**, 137 Tara Road, Bluff, Durban

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*Contact:*

Zbigniew Kawecki: 079 465 7468, [z.kawecki57@gmail.com](mailto:z.kawecki57@gmail.com)

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*Contact:*

Kim Breytenbach: [sunbird.stampauction@gmail.com](mailto:sunbird.stampauction@gmail.com)



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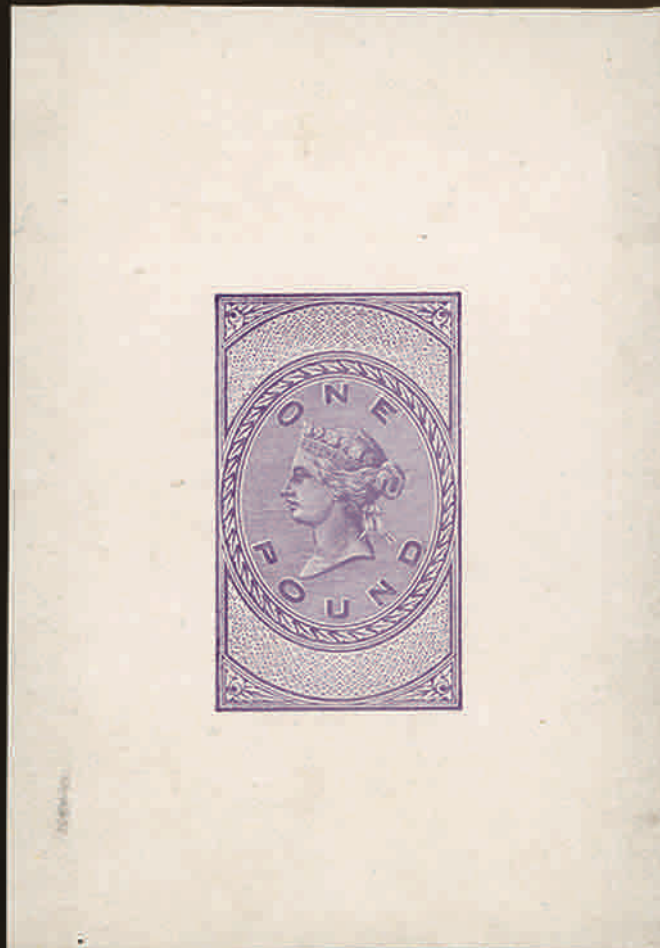
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*All about stamps*



THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1923

Volume 101:1. 988 Supplement

[www.stampssa.africa](http://www.stampssa.africa)

## Occasional Paper: Cape of Good Hope Revenue Stamps

by

Oscar van der Vliet



In honour of Richard and Deborah Johnson.  
With our deep respect and love.



We shall miss you.

With sincere condolences from  
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The South African Philatelist

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Volume 101:1. 988 Supplement

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The South African Philatelist is proud to publish the following paper on

## Cape of Good Hope Revenue Stamps

by

Oscar van der Vliet

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# Experience All Elements of Nature, With Cape of Good Hope Revenue Stamps

by Oscar van der Vliet, Filatelistenvereniging Zuidelijk Afrika

Collecting revenue stamps is an experience rich with various elements for many people. Some of these elements evoke feelings, while others are physical components. For instance, studying a collection can provide a breathtaking experience. By examining a piece of paper that was once a small part of a tree growing from the earth, you may feel a thrill, as if you've pulled it from the soil, realizing you have found something remarkable.

In this instance, you briefly experience the elements of air, fire, and water. If it pays off in clean and shiny cash, the elemental line, including metal, is complete. However, the true philatelist—or should I say “fiscalist”? —is often less interested in the latter. For him, the process begins with examining the image, followed by checking visual aspects such as measuring its perforation and size. A check of the back is limited to discovering a watermark.

You can follow this procedure for Cape revenues, remaining calm and patient with the available catalogue, and you will be ready in the time it takes to drink a cup of tea. For me, this is not something to get heated over. There are several varieties that remain unrecorded. Most discoveries arise from the first perforated series. The number of findable variants diminishes as the series changed until they were withdrawn on 1 April 1914.

The first perforated series was issued in 1865, with values ranging from ½d to £50. Some stamps can be identified by the inscription surrounding the medallion of the Queen, stating STAMP ACT 1864, while others read GOVERNMENT OF CAPE OF GOOD HOPE. These stamps are watermarked with a Crown CC, as indicated by the small crown and two capital Cs. You can observe a mirror image of it on the back.

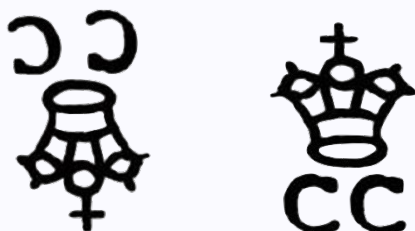


Fig.1: Variety watermarks - inverted and upright.

Sherwood [3] reports inverted and reversed watermarks. In this case, you should find three different watermark varieties, but nothing is quite as it seems. These versions have unique varieties. Certain positions of the sheet show watermarked lines on the left, right, top, bottom, and sometimes even corner impressions. In other instances, there are visible varieties, such as connection lines between the Crown and the capitals, malformed letters, varying sizes, or slanting lines through a capital letter.

The appearance of these varieties on a sheet measuring 10x6 stamps depends on how the watermark and perforations were positioned on the paper. This variability allows for different line appearances in various positions on a stamp. I do not have proof of the existence of a sheet that contains all corner and line positions on the same sheet.

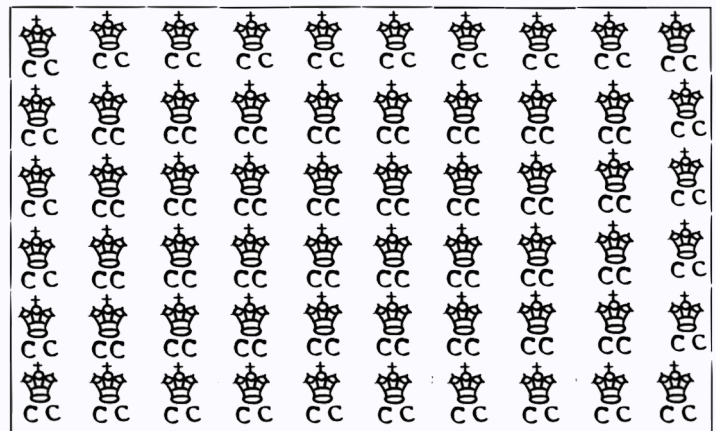


Fig.2: Impression of watermark on entire pane (assembled).

The following varieties for watermarks with imperfections are shown:



Fig.3: Examples of varieties from series 1865 for (f.l.t.r.) ½ d; 9/-; 7/-; 2/6; ½ d: Connection lines “C” left only; line left and right; inverted and slope through “C” left..

With the appearance shown in the sheet example, the following varieties are possible:

Sheet 6x10	%	Sheet 12x10	%
Top Corner left (NW)	1x	1,67	1x
Line on top (T):	8x	13,33	8x
Top corner right (NE)	1x	1,67	1x
Line left (L):	4x	6,67	10x
Line right (R):	4x	6,67	10x
Bottom corner left (SW):	1x	1,67	1x
Bottom line (B):	8x	13,33	8x
Bottom corner right (SE):	1x	1,67	1x
Without lines:	32x	53,33	80x
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>60x</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>120x</b>
<b>Number of varieties</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>

Table 1: A table of possible varieties.

It is also possible that due to a shift, only one or two of the corners will appear within the sheet margins, combined with vertical, horizontal, or no lines on the stamps against the sheet margins. In that case, there will be a different result. No varieties of this kind will appear if the watermarked lines are on the sheet margin itself.

There is a maximum of nine possible varieties with the watermark on a sheet, regardless of the number of perforations. There are two perforations, which means 18 possible varieties.

Then there is the possibility of an inverted watermark and a reversed watermark. This means another 36 possible varieties per value. For the record, I have not counted the small imperfections of the watermark.

I also considered a small variety for the reduced-sized stamps, which are found in an unknown position on the sheet. This stamp, combined with a postal cancel or overprint, forms a new series of varieties for this series.



Fig.4: Postal triangular cancels (postally used during 1853-1864).



Fig.5: Postal use with a BONC 9-bar 923 (Zuurberg Sanatorium 1895-1897) and reduced size variety.



Fig.6: Several types of hand stamped SPECIMEN overprints.



Fig.7: Double red hand stamped; one inverted, used on a Bill of Lading in 1865. (ex-collection Sherwood/Putzel).

(After purchase and sharing this and other pictures with SPECIMEN on the document or fragment, comments were made that they were forged overprints. The story of using SPECIMEN stamps due to a shortage of stamps was not plausible).

Some values of this series were used in Griqualand, with several types of 'G' capitals mixed throughout the sheet. The overprint was made in red and black, with inverted overprints and other small varieties for the black overprints. There are at least twelve different types of fonts known on the sheet. If you take an average of three different fonts for the stamps against the sheet margin and the rest, another ten varieties can be added. Most of the time, as in this

series, only one perforation is known to be used with the overprints. The highest number of varieties is only possible for the 1d value: 18 varieties without overprint; 18 with a red overprint; and 18 with a black overprint.

These overprints were introduced in March 1877 for values up to £10. You can find them on some values of the 1865 series, 1873 series and 1878 series up to £2; and even on the smaller issues of series 1870 and 1877/79. In October 1880, Griqualand was incorporated into the Cape Colony. The remaining stock went back from Kimberly to Cape Town and was used again throughout the Colony until it was exhausted. Examples of usage have been found by me up to 1886 and may even exist

beyond that year. Since several fonts were used on the same sheet, it is possible to find combinations with different fonts.

The tables below describe the following types and varieties:

**Perforation:** 1: 15½ x 15; 2: 12½; 3: 14

**Watermark varieties:** A: Inverted; LRTB: Line Left; Right; Top; Bottom; Corners NW-NE-SW-SE; J connected crown. K: slope through 'C'; L: shifted anchor; M: shifted 'C' right; N: short corner line; O: CG-size vary;

x: known; \*: not listed in Barefoot [1].

G type								
value	A2	A4	A5	A6	A7	B	C	J*
1d	1	1	1x	1x	1	1x	1x	1x
3d	1x2	1x	12	1x2	1x2	1	1	1
1/6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
£3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
£4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
£10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Table 2: Overprint varieties combined with RED overprint for Griqualand on series 1865.

G type									
value	A1	A4	A6	A8	A10	C	D*	E	
1d	1	1	1x	1	1x	1	1x	1x	
3d	1	1	1x	1x	1	1x	1x	1x*	
G type									
value				A8i			Di	Ei*	F2i*
1d				1x			1x	1x	1x

Table 3: Overprint varieties combined with BLACK overprint for Griqualand on series 1865.



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As yet, I have not found watermark varieties for these 'G' overprinted stamps but it's likely that the same watermark varieties are to be found in due time.

In 1870, a small type format revenue stamp was issued, with most values not found in the larger series. These revenue stamps have the same colours as those issued in 1865. There is only a perforation 14 available for the values 2d, 4d, and 8d. A proof issue made on carbon paper was standard for all values.

There are no known watermark varieties. There are several 'G' fonts used for Griqualand in red and black, but their recorded types are quite limited compared with the records made on the 1865 issue. Most of the fonts were the same as the ones used for the 1865 series. Some fonts are quite large and were inappropriate for usage. Instead, a smaller font in black was found in upright and inverted positions.



Fig.8: Series 1870 with 8d; proof; red; black and inverted font of overprint type 'G'.

### Summary of findings

**Perforation:** 1: 15½ x 15; 2: 12½; 3: 14;  
x: known; \*: not listed in Barefoot [1].

G type							
value	A3	A4	A5	C	F3*	H*	Hi*
2d					2x		
4d		2x		2x			2x
8d	2x		2x			2x	

Table 4: Overprint varieties combined in black and red for Griqualand on 1870 series.

In 1873, a new series of revenue stamps became available. There were three colour groups: deep lilac for the penny values, green for shilling values, and dark purple for all pound values up to £50. There were three different perforations possible for the 2/6 value and the others with one or two. If you follow the history of the Cape revenue stamps, you will notice that perforation 12½ is discontinued first, followed later by perforation 15½ x 15. The 1/- is the only other value besides 2/6 with perforation 14, until the Barefoot issue of 2019 [2], when this perforation was removed from the listing.

The watermark remained unchanged, with the difference being the connection lines between the crown and capitals are gone. Sherwood [3] and Barefoot [1] [2] do not mention watermark varieties, but they do exist. An inverted watermark was found on a 6d value, and there are also varieties of watermark lines and corners in various positions on the stamp. More recent discoveries include other

varieties of overprints. The 1d and 3d values overprinted 'G' type C in black seem to have the same varieties.



Fig.9: Some examples seen on the back: inverted; top line; line left and right from Crown CC.

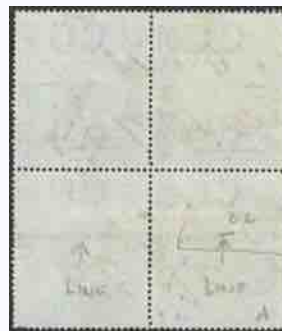


Fig.10: Block of 1 penny values with line below Crown CC in lower block row.



Fig.11: 9-BAR No1 = Pretoria.



Fig.12: variety G-type C (also for 3d).

Combinations of different G-types in pairs, blocks, etc., have been found from series 1873 and series 1878. Examples include vertical/horizontal pairs; strips of three to five in both directions; and blocks of four, six, and nine. An even larger one was seen on a document for sale on eBay a few years ago. So far, series 1873 has 39 red overprints in six groups, 21 black overprints in nine groups, and from series 1878: 50 stamps in 19 groups. Most of these combinations have no data from the back and therefore no chances to position them against any edge if visible. It will become a study of its own and is therefore outside the scope of this article. If possible, owners of such combinations can send scans (1200dpi) of the front and back to me [vliet307@planet.nl](mailto:vliet307@planet.nl).



Fig.13: Part of Schedule 2 of Ordinance 29 of 1874; permit to introduce guns +ammunition; signed March 11th, 1877.

**Summary of reported varieties:**

**Perforation:** 1: 15½ x 15; 2: 12½; 3: 14;

**Watermark varieties:** A: Inverted; LRTB: Line Left; Right; Top; Bottom; corners NW-NE-SW-SE;

x:known ; \*: not listed in Barefoot [1]

G type										
value	A1	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A7 bold*	A11	B	C
1d	1	1x	1xB	1	1x	1x	1	1x	1x	1x
6d	1	1	1	1	1x	1	1	1	1	1
1/-	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
2/-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3/-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
5/-	1	1	1x	1	1x	1	1	1	1	1x
7/6	2	2	2x	2	2x	2	2	2	2	2
10/-	1	1	1xB	1	1x	1	1	1x	1x	1x
15/-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12x*
£1	1x	1	1x	1x	1x	1	1	1x	1	1x
£3*	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
£4*	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2x	2
£5	1	1	1x	1	1	1	1	1x	1	1x
£10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1x

Table 5: Overprint varieties combined with RED overprint for Griqualand on series 1873.

The numbers of values and varieties have increased for use in Griqualand. Overprints in black and red exist, as do most of the various fonts throughout the sheet. I assume that these overprints, together with the 1865 and 1870 issues belong to the first printings for Griqualand. I have no proof yet for finding the same overprint errors and fonts. It remains a fact that only the black overprints exist with inverted fonts. The specific purpose for using different colours is also unknown.



Fig.15: Example of a £10 PENALTY (1911); BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE (1901) and SPECIMEN.



Fig.14: Examples of a red overprint; combination in black and a watermark variety: line top.

**Perforation:** 1: 15½ x 15; 2: 12½; 3: 14;

**Watermark varieties:** A: Inverted; LRTB: Line Left; Right; Top; Bottom; corners NW-NE-SW-SE.

x: known; \*: not listed in Barefoot [1]; +: type E exist as regular or bold overprint.

Finally, there are other sorts of overprints and hand-stamped markings. The PENALTY overprint only exists for the £10 value. It was issued in 1911 during the interprovincial period and was based on the Stamp Act of 1911 of the Union of South Africa. This stamp was used when affixed taxes were paid too late. You had to pay extra depending on the amount and time you were late. It went up from 50% to 300%, with a minimum of 2/6.

G type									
value	A1	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	A9	A10
1d	1x	1x	1x	1x	1xA	1x	1x	1x	1x
3d	1x	1	1x	1x	1x	1	1	1	1
6d	1	1	1	1	1x	1	1	1	1
1/-	1	1x	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1/6	1	1	1	1	1x	1	1	1	1
2/-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3/-	1	1x	1x	1	1	1	1	1	1
4/-	1	1	1	1x	1	1	1	1	1
£1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1x
£2	1	1	1	1	1x	1	1	1	1
£4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
£5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
£10	1x	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
G type									
value	A12	A13	B	C	Cx	D*	E+-	F1	F2
1d	1	1x	1x	1x	1x	1x	1+	1x	1x
3d	1x	1	1	1xT	1x	1	1	1	1
6d	1x	1	1x	1x	1	1	1x	1	1
1/-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1/6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2/-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2/6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1x
3/-	1	1	1	1x	1	1	1	1	1
4/-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
£1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
£2	1	1	1	1	1	1x	1	1	1
£4	1	1	1	1	1	1x	1	1	1
£5	1	1	1	1	1	1x	1	1	1
£10	1	1	1	1	1	1x	1	1x	1
G type									
value	A1i	A6i	A8i	A9i	A13i	Di*	Ei +	F1i	F2i
1d	1x	1x	1xT	1x	1x	1xB	1+-	1x	1x
3d	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
£10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Table 6: Overprint varieties combined with BLACK overprint for Griqualand on series 1873.

I have not found a used copy yet. This is a scarce stamp and the chance of finding watermark varieties makes this collecting area even more complex. A different overprint was known for use in Bechuanaland. This is also a £10 value and was issued as the 1901 series. You can find a fine description of this type in the work of Trotter and Midwood [4]. These examples are difficult to find.

Thus, a watermark variety for the regular types is even more rare. It remained the only £10 issued for Bechuanaland. SPECIMEN hand-stamped examples should exist in several fonts, but used on documents is quite unusual. It remains a wild guess why civil servants started to use these values, usually found on an entire sheet or bottom row.

In 1873 there was an issue of a small format valued at 8/-, printed with two colours and perforated 12½. The reason for this issue is unknown. I have found an example on a Deed of Transfer, but the total amount of taxes did not make this value a necessary one.

The series of 1876 was limited to a top value of £6. The design is similar to that of the former issues, but every value had its own colour or exists with other colour(s) like the 12/-, £1, and £5. The penny and pound values have different colours of paper. Perforation 12½ has become obsolete, leaving only 15½ x 15 and 14. Apart from their fiscal use, examples were reported for postal (or telegraphic?) use. The 1d value was found with changed colours and may be a colour proof. The stamp appears in blue on white paper instead of green on yellow paper.



Fig.16: 8-shilling 1873 in lilac and green.



Fig.17: Colour change of the 1d\*; postal- or telegraph use with 3d. 9-barred BONC 5 (Avontuur) and Kamastone.

\* According to an exhibit, seen at Essen, Germany in 2023, this is due to chemical treatment.

Inverted watermarks are rarely found in this series. I have found only a 1d value. Varieties with watermark lines also exist for this series.

This series was also found overprinted with several fonts for the capital 'G' for use in Griqualand. It was also used for values up to £2. Watermark varieties include an inverted copy for a 6d with G-type A6 and a corner line for a 1/- with inverted G-type D. This overprint was found only in black, and in my opinion, this must be a second issue of the series for Griqualand. Several G-types were no longer found, and new types appeared. Also, a colour change was found for a 1/- in grey instead of brown.



Fig.18: 1d with lower right corner (front view), 2/- pair with different G-types (A6 and F2); 5/- with double G type D (exist also on 10/-; G more drifted!).



Fig.19: 6d with inverted watermark; G-type A6 and colour change 1/- with corner line watermark and inverted G-type D.

There are cases of forged 'G' overprints on postage stamps. There is no information about these revenue stamps. The question is how to distinguish forged overprints from genuine ones. Unless there is proof of evidence, my assumption will be that the G-types on revenues are genuine. This series also has overprint errors such as a double 'G'.

In October 1880, Griqualand was incorporated into the Cape Colony. The remaining overprinted values were returned to Cape Town and from there distributed throughout the Colony. This makes it possible to find copies far into the 1880s used outside Griqualand.

**Invitation:** Send us 300dpi scans of your Gold or Large Gold exhibit, so that we can share it on the PFSA website and as a video on the PFSA Facebook page and in a short feature in *The SA Philatelist*: [adelbulpitt@gmail.com](mailto:adelbulpitt@gmail.com).

Perforation: 1: 15½ x 15; 3: 14;

Watermark varieties: A: Inverted; LRTB: Line Left; Right; Top; Bottom; corners NW-NE-SW-SE;

x: known; \*: not listed in Barefoot [1]; GG: double G on the 5/-; 10/- values.

G type									
Value	A1	A6	A8	A10	A13	A14	A15	A16	A17
3d	13	1x3	1x3	1x3	13	1x3	1x3	13	13
6d	13	1Ax3	1x3	13	13	13	13	13	1x3
1/-	13	13	13	13x	13	13	13	13	13
1/6	3	3x	3	3	3x	3	3	3	3
2/-	3	3x	3	3	3	3	3	3Bx	3
3/-	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3x	3
4/-	3	3	3	3x	3	3	3	3x	3x
5/-	3	3x	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
10/-	3	3x	3	3	3x	3	3	3Bx	3
£1	3B	3x	3	3	3	3x	3	3	3x
£2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3x
G Type									
Value	A18	A19	A20	A21	D*	E	F1	F2	
3d	1L3	13	1x3	13	1x3	1x3	1x3x	13	
6d	13	1x3	13	13	1x3	1Lx3x	1x3	13x	
1/-	13	13	13	13B	13	13	13	13	
1/6	3	3	3	3	3x	3x	3x	3	
2/-	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3x	
3/-	3	3	3	3	3x	3	3x	3	
4/-	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
5/-	3	3	3	3	3GG	3x	3	3	
10/-	3x	3	3	3x	3Bx	3Lx	3x	3x	
£1	3	3L	3	3	3	3	3Rx	3	
£2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
G type									
value	A6i	A17i	A18i	A19i	A21i	Di*	Ei	F1i	
3d	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	
6d	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	
1/-	13x	13x	13x	13x	13x	1SE3x	13	13	
1/6	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
2/-	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
3/-	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
4/-	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
5/-	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
10/-	3	3	3	3	3	3B	3	3	
£1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
£2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	

Table 7: Overprint varieties combined with BLACK overprint for Griqualand on series 1878.

On 30 September 1885, Stellaland was proclaimed as British Bechuanaland. The first changes were made by omitting the former name and adding a small handstamp. Some of the lower values probably ran out of stock and new ones had to be distributed. A provisional issue was arranged by a hand-stamped overprint called BRITISH BECHUANALAND on 6d and 1/- values of series 1876. A total of 1560 of the 6d and 2040 of the 1/- were printed. I found a Cape Revenue Stamp from Stellaland which is believed to be one of three known copies.



Fig.20: Overprint; Stellaland revenue and on Cape revenue with earliest known date of issue (16/4/1870).

They became obsolete in 1888 when the Bechuanaland Protectorate was formed. In 1906, the remaining 1419 copies of the 6d and 1448 copies of the 1/- were destroyed. This means there are less than 10 sheets of 60 stamps of the 10/- shown below. Imagine what this means for possible watermark varieties.

Finally, there are horizontal purple handstamps for use in Basutoland. Trotter and Midwood [5] report a £1 and £2 (5.3 and 5.4 of series 5, ca. 1900), but there is also a £5, previously unrecorded and first listed in Barefoot [2] as No. 18. A nice detail was the discovery of a watermark variety. At the back, there is a vertical line to the left of the crown and CC.



Fig.21: Watermark variety and example of previously unlisted value for Basutoland used on 31/12/04.

In 1877, the small format stamps were issued in different colours. The Crown CC watermark remained and was perforated 14. This series also included an 8/- value. In 1879, a 4d value was issued in red. Some values were overprinted for use in Griqualand, in black or red. A double impression of the overprint was reported on a black 4d.



Fig.22: Several types and use of series 1877.

**Perforation:** 14

x: known; \*: not listed in Barefoot [1]. GG: double G.

G type			
Value	F	G	H
2d lilac	3	3	3
4d lilac	3	3	3
4d red	3GG	3	3

Table 8: Overprint varieties combined with BLACK overprint for Griqualand on series 1879.

The last of this series was issued from 1885. The watermark was an anchor, and the perforation is 14. The values from this series go up to 12/-. Several colours exist for a couple of values, such as a 3/- in red and pale blue from 1896, and a 10/- in violet, lilac (1891), and green (1896).

A colour change was also found for a 1d value, similar to the value from series 1876. There are also postal (or telegraphic) cancels found on copies and letters, for instance, during the Boer War.



Fig.23: Examples of series 1885 with newspaper cancel on right. (for the record: the rope from the anchor continues below the anchor itself and not as shown).

The varieties so far found for the 6d value include an inverted watermark, part of the printer's initials (OP) reported on the top side of the sheet margin and a major watermark shift. So far, only one example of this shift has been found in the 1865 series. The shift results in parts of the Anchor watermark appearing on opposite sides of a stamp. Watermark lines do not appear anymore due to the use of a large frame which overs the entire sheet. However, small corners up 1 inch in size are normally found on the sheet margin. Extreme shifts of the watermark can result in the appearance of part of a corner on the back. So far, I have not found an example. The only result of such an extreme shift found is two parts of an anchor on a 6d value.



Fig.24: Watermark varieties: inverted watermark 6d and extreme watermark shift.

SPECIMEN overprints like the hand-stamped example below, are rarely found. It's even more unusual to find examples used on documents. The seller of these examples told me that they came from the collection of Sherwood. Being so rare, I shall have these expertised.



Fig.25: Fragment of 1/- SPECIMEN cancelled copies.

Basutoland was annexed by the Cape Colony in 1871. In 1884, this changed, and it was placed directly under the Imperial Government, under the administration of a resident commissioner. The result of this measure was the need for revenues for this territory. The first issue in 1889 used Cape revenues of the 1885 series overprinted 'Basutoland' in black. The only known values for this series are 1d, 6d, and 1/-.

In 1891, a new series was issued with a diagonal overprint in purple for 1d and 5/-. In 1893, a new horizontal overprint was made for 1d and 3d etc. Six different series are known with their specific overprints to provide revenue stamps for the largely white population of Basutoland, which comprised of several hundred whites compared to the approximately 200 000 natives in those days.



Fig.26: Examples listed in Trotter and Midwood [5] as series 2-1891. The ONE SHILLING not listed in this work.



Fig.27: Only values of this type, now with dot. (Trotter and Midwood [5] [6] series 3-1893) (Notice on the right hand stamp SMAZIELAND).



Fig.28: Fragment from an insurance document pen-cancelled 8/6/93 (Trotter and Midwood [5] series 4-1893).

Other overprints exist for use in Basutoland. The work of Trotter and Midwood [5] shows several series, each with a different type of overprint varying from horizontal to vertical. Varieties exist due to imperfections in the overprint. The data found from cancellations strongly depends on the reported copies because the first days of the issue are often unknown. Even their reported period of use may change due to new discoveries.



Fig.29: Examples of series 8, issued 1902 with two of so far seven recorded overprint errors: Left: Short right foot of "N"; Right: Narrow top right leg of "N".

So far seven different varieties are known from which six are listed in the work of Brian Trotter and Midwood [5].

After the Boer War, the name of the South African Republic was changed to Transvaal. At that time, there were no stamps and revenues with this name. The remaining stock of ZAR revenues was overprinted with V.R.I. (Victoria Regina Imperatrix) and, for a short period, even with E.R.I. (Edward Rex Imperator) for postage stamps. In 1902, the values of 6d, 1/-, and 2/- ran out of stock. Cape revenue 1/- remainders of the 1885 series were overprinted "TRANSVAAL." The work of Drysdall mentions usage from March until June 1902, but I have found a copy used on 7 August 1902.



Fig.30: Overprinted example of 1/- dated "7 AUG (1902).

In 1887, the last stamp was issued for the small revenue type. This time, only 2d and 4d were issued and the watermark was Crown CA. Please note that these are the only Cape revenues watermarked Crown CA. Its perforation was 14.



Fig.31: 2d green with watermark Crown CA.

In 1898, Standing Hope was introduced with values from 1d to £20. The watermark remained the Anchor type, and the stamps were perforated 14. Varieties of this watermark are scarce. So far, a shifted watermark is all I have found. Quite recently, I discovered part of a watermark line from a corner on a block of four for use in Basutoland. Due to a watermark shift, the vertical line of approximately 1 inch was visible on the corner stamp.

Postal use of these revenues exists, for example, British Field Post Office cancels during the Boer War. Even telegraphic use can be found but is scarce. Furthermore, a colour change was found for a £1 value. The colour was originally used for the £4 value.

An overprint for use as a PENALTY stamp exists only for a £5 value. This stamp was created after 1911 due to the Stamp Act of 1911 of the new Union of South Africa. During

that period, interprovincial use throughout the Union was possible.

Hand-stamped SPECIMEN copies were found recently, but their status is uncertain.

Overprints for other areas exist, with several overprints for use in Basutoland and Bechuanaland. Varieties include those with or without a stop and errors of the overprints.

Finally, there is an overprint for use in Transvaal, issued in 1902 for a 6d, 1/-, and 2/- . The 2/- is rare.



Fig.32: Postal use during the Boer War (19th brigade, from March 3 - October 26, 1900).



Fig.33: Error of colour found on a £1 value.



Fig.34: Watermark variety at corner; line from corner found on Basutoland block of series 7, issued 1901.



Fig.35: Interprovincial use in Transvaal (Natal?) and SPECIMEN examples.

These stamps were overprinted for use in Transvaal:



Fig.36: Military Telegraph: unlisted Belfast cancel dated "3 XI 01".



Fig.37: Rare 2/- value.



Fig.38: Overprinted for use at Basutoland (1901; 1913) and Bechuanaland (1914).

The final series showing Edward VII was issued in 1903. For the first time since the series of 1865, a ½d value was reintroduced, along with other values up to £20. Due to the large stock of higher values, a £10 value was never issued, and the £5 and £20 values are hard to find in mint condition, not to mention as used copies. They were not used for non-postal purposes, so I believe they were returned before 1 April 1914, and destroyed. Some colour shifts can be found, but due to the sensitivity of the inks to immersion in water, colours can be washed off. This applies to all issues of Cape revenues.

The watermark remains a cabled Anchor and perforated 14. I have not seen postal-used examples yet. According to Barefoot [1], the 1d and 6d should also exist without a watermark. Recently, I found proof of a 1d value. The watermark is not always distinct, so the difference is hard to prove. What I noticed later was that there is a difference in appearance from the back of the paper. In my opinion, the watermarked paper has a fine diamond-woven, creamy white-looking background and is thicker. The unwatermarked paper, in my opinion, is quite bright white and transparent. A watermark variety is hard to find. So far, a shifted anchor on a 1d has been my only discovery.



Fig.39: Watermark variety and stamp without watermark (whiter and smoother paper).

After the creation of the Union in 1910, examples of interprovincial use can be found. There is an overprinted series of PENALTY stamps up to £1 in red, due to the Stamp Act of 1911. So far, two documents have been reported with Cape Penalty stamps. Mint copies were offered in a Sandafayre auction, and some have shown up on eBay recently.



Fig.40: Interprovincial usage in Natal with RD-perfin (Registrar of Deeds); Orange Free State and Transvaal.

me that the hand stamp had been added by a collector or trader, whose name I can't recall now.



Fig.42: Examples SPECIMEN with single and double overprint.

Cape revenues of this series exist with different overprints for Basutoland (4), Bechuanaland (1), and Swaziland (1). People should note that the ½d is very rare, but the copy for the catalogue was sold at Stanley Gibbons in 2024 for less than the catalogue value.

There was no publication demonetizing these stamps in these colonies. They remained (together with previous issues) in use when South Africa took them out of circulation on 1 April 1914. Only Swaziland issued such a publication, but it was for the Union revenues overprinted for Swaziland. The other colonies gradually changed to Union revenues with overprints when Cape (and other) overprinted stocks got exhausted. Only a few values were used in these colonies due to smaller demand.



Fig.41: PENALTY (1911) examples, used in Cape Province, mint and used in Natal province.

Hand-stamped examples marked SPECIMEN were recently found. Their status is uncertain. I have shown examples in exhibits, and it took several years before someone told

### Brief Summary

	BASUTOLAND	BASUTOLAND	BASUTOLAND	BASUTOLAND	BECHUANALAND	SWAZILAND
½ d				S.14 (1913)		
1d		S.12 (1909-191x)	S.13 (1912-1922)			S.7 (1913)
6d		S.12 (1909-191x)	S.13 (1912-1922)			S.7 (1913)
1/-		S.12 (1909-191x)	S.13 (1912-1922)			
2/6			S.13 (1912-1922)			S.7 (1913)
3/-	S.11 (1907-1909)		S.13 (1912-1922)			
5/-			S.13 (1912-1922)		S.6 (1914)	
10/-			S.13 (1912-1922)			
£1			S.13 (1912-1922)		S.6 (1914)	S.7 (1913)
£2	S.11 (1907-1909)	S.12 (1909-191x)				

Table 9: Extract from Trotter and Midwood [4], [5], [6].



We would love to hear from you! If you have any thoughts or comments about this occasional paper in this supplement to *The SA Philatelist*, please send your letter to the Editorial Board before 15 March 2025 to appear in the April 2025 issue of *The SA Philatelist*. Just click on the email address: [adelbulpitt@gmail.com](mailto:adelbulpitt@gmail.com)



Fig.43: Examples for use in Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland.

Minor varieties are known for Basutoland series 12 and 13, with examples without a dot after the overprint. Based on a proof sheet of the overprint, a few stamps may be printed without a dot for series 12.

Series 13, however, has more varieties, combined with the dot variety. By comparing a couple of examples, I noticed that there is a difference in the width of the 'B' of BASUTOLAND and a slight variation in the length of the word BASUTOLAND. These variations require more study by comparing many more stamps. It may have been caused by the setting of the word and the choice of the capitals.

For Bechuanaland, the overprint BECHUANALAND exists with a sliced section of some capitals. The Union issue of 1914 has the same overprint and is known for its "sliced B" variety. Trotter and Midwood [4] have recorded 2/6, 5/-, and 10/- values, but there is also a 3d value. More is to be discovered in the future as the complex jigsaw puzzle for Cape revenues is not complete.



Fig.44: Basutoland series 12: pair of 1/- on a fragment showing no dot at the right.

In 2023, I noticed some variations in the overprint of series 13 (1912). Besides the existence of examples with or without a dot, there are examples with a narrow 'B' and/or a variation in the length of the word BASUTOLAND. Trotter and Midwood [4] reports 22mm for normal cases without a dot and 23mm with a dot.

I must rectify the variation in length because scans can be influenced. Therefore, I measured them with a scaling bar and noticed the length without a dot is about 22mm. When enlarging the overprints to

approximately 600% and placing them underneath each other, a different picture emerged.

The 3/- is rather blurred due to over inking, rather than being a smaller B. The 'A' is also almost filled up. The widest 'B' seemed to be on the 1d. The 1/- has some printing stains creating small spots above the capitals or a double appearance as seen for the 1/- in the lower row. Details are shown at 500%.



Fig.45: Wider B, No dot Smaller B, no dot Normal B, accents above capitals Normal B, "doubly D".

Finally, the overprint for Bechuanaland (Series 6-Cape / Series 7-Union) was found with some imperfections. For the Union issues, the so-called shaved 'B' varieties are reported. Listed are 2/6, 5/-, and 10/- values, but this example on a 3d pair also exists, although somewhat different from the others. The variety I found is for a Cape 5/- value was an overprint with a shaved NA of BECHUANALAND.



Fig.46: Examples of damaged overprints for Bechuanaland.

All these discoveries depend on what is reported by collectors. Therefore, the complex jigsaw puzzle for Cape revenues is not complete.

I will finish summarising most of the aspects found from all series. One could summarise from various points of view, but this is unnecessary.

The regular revenues and their watermark varieties for Cape of Good Hope can be summarized as below:

**Perforations:** 1: 15½ x 15; 2: 12½; 3: 14

**Watermark varieties:** A: Inverted; BCDE/FGHI: Line/corner left; right; top; bottom; NW-NE-SW-SE; J: connecting crown; K: line in capital; L: shifted anchor; M: shifted capital C right; N: short corner line; O: C-differences.

Value	1865	1870/73	1873	1876	1877/79	1885	1887	1898	1903
Watermark	Crown CC	Crown CC	Crown CC	Crown CC	Crown CC	Anchor	Crown CA	Anchor	Anchor
½ d	1K	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
1d	1AM	-	1E	13BDE	-	3	-	3N	3
2d	12	3	-	-	3	-	3	-	-
3d	2A	-	1	1 3BHM		3	-	3	3
4d	-	3	-	-	3 (2x)	-	3	-	-
6d	1CM 2	-	1AD 2	13E	-	3A	-	3	3
8d	-	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
9d	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1/-	1J	-	13	1 3BEO	-	3	-	3	3
1/6	1	-	1D 2	1 3	-	-	-	-	-
2/-	12	-	12	13E	-	3	-	3	3
2/6	1AK	-	1C 23	1 3E	-	3	-	3	3
3/-	1	-	1	13 3	-	3	-	3	3
4/-	1	-	12	13E	-	3 3	-	-	-
4/6	1K	-	-	13E	-	-	-	-	-
5/-	1	-	12	13	-	3 3	-	3	3
6/-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
7/-	1C	-	-	3D	-	-	-	-	-
7/6	1C	-	12	13	-	3	-	3	3
8/-	-	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
9/-	1B 2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
10/-	1	-	1	13B	-	3 3 3	-	3	3
12/-	12	-	1	13 13	-	3	-	3	-
12/6	12	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
15/-	12	-	1 2D	13	-	-	-	-	-
£1	1	-	12	13DE 3	-	-	-	3	3
£1/5/-	12M	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
£1/10/-	12	-	1 2B	-	-	-	-	-	-
£2	12	-	12	3	-	-	-	3	3
£2/5/-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£2/10/-	12K	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
£3	12	-	1 2D	-	-	-	-	-	-
£4	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	3	-
£5	1C	-	1 2D	1 3E	-	-	-	3	3
£6	1D	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-
£9	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£10	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
£20	1B	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
£30	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
£50	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 10: Watermark varieties.

**Series reported watermark varieties:** A:1865; B: 1873; C: 1878; D: 1885 E: 1898 F: 1903 (small format no varieties found)

**Perforations:** 1: 15½ x 15; 2: 12½; 3: 14

**Watermark:** line Left Right Top Bottom; corner NW; NE; SE; SW If found with Griqualand-G; type in small capitals in black or red (r) (example: 1873 3d line top G-A8 perf 1= BIT-a8)

Type	Series	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Value	Existing	Inverted	Lines	Corner s	Drifted right C	Connected C - crown	Slope right C	Closed C into O	Various others
½ d	AF							A1	
1 d	ABCDEF	A1 B1-a6 C3 E3	B1B B1T-d B1B-a4 B1B-di C3TB		A1				F3 shifted anchor
3 d	ABCDEF	A1 C1- a6	B1T-c B1T-a8i C3LR C1L-a18	C3- SW					C3dropped right C
6 d	ABCDEF	B1 D3	A1R B1T C3B C1L-e		A1				D3 shifted anchor
9 d	A								
1/-	ABCDEF		C3LB C3B-a21 C3B-di	C3SEdi		A1			C3narrow right C
1/6	ABC		B1T						
2/-	ABCDEF		C3B C3B- a16						
2/6	ABCDEF	A1	B1R C3TB				A1		
3/-	ABCDEF								
4/-	ABC	A1*	C3B						
4/6	AC					A1			
5/-	ABCDEF		A1R C3B						
6/-	AC								
7/-	AC		A1R C3T						
7/6	ABCDEF		A2R						
8/-	A								
9/-	A		A1L						
10/-	ABCDEF		B1B-a4r C3L C3L-e C3B-a21						
12/-	ABCDE								
12/6	AC								
15/-	ABC		B1T						
£1	ABCEF		C3TB						
£1/5/-	AC				A2				
£1/10/-	AB		B1L						
£2	ABCEF					A2			
£2/10/-	AB								
£3	AB		B1T						
£4	ABCE								
£5	ABCEF		A1R B1T C3LB						
£6	AC		A1T						
£9	A								
£10	AB								
£20	AEF		A1L						
£30	AB								
£50	AB								

Table 11: Watermark varieties.

\*seen on internet auction BidorBuy.

A listing of reported Griqualand overprints will be shown first.

*B*: Black    *Bx*: Black variety    *Bi*: Black inverted    *BB*: Black double

*R*: Red    *Rx*: Red variety    *GG*: double print    *Gx*: broken top

**Watermark:** *N*: Normal; *A*: Inverted; *BCDE/FGHI*: Line/Corner

*Gb*: bold G

Left; Right; Top; Bottom; LT-RT-LB-RB































Type of	Year of issue	Recorded Colour	1865	1870/73	1873	1876	1877/79
G-overprint	Watermark	Watermark positions	Crown CC	Crown CC	Crown CC	Crown CC	Crown CC
	A1		B N		BR, Bi N	B N,E	
	A2		R N				
	A3			R N	BR N		
	A4		BR N	R N	BR N, E		
	A5		R N	R N	BR N		
	A6		BR N		BR, Bi N, A	B, Bi N, A	
	A7		R N		BR+Rb N		
	A8		B, Bi N		B, Bi N, Di	B N	
	A9				B, Bi N		
	A10		B N		B N	B N	
	A11				R N		
	A12				B N		
	A13				B, Bi N	B N	
	A14					B N	

Table 12: Watermark varieties.

	A15					B N	
	A16					B N,E	
	A17					B, Bi N	
	A18					B, Bi N, B	
	A19					B, Bi N	
	A20					B N	
	A21					B, Bi N, E	
	B		BR N		BR N		
	C		BR, Rx N, Gb	R N	BR, Bx N, D		
	D		B,Bi N		B, Bi N,Gx,Gb,Gbi	B, BB, Bi N, E, GG, Ii	
	E		B, Bi N,		B+Bi+ N, Ei	B, Bi N, B	B, BB
	F1				B, Bi N	B, Bi N, C	B N
	F2		Bi N		B, Bi N	B N	B N, GG?
	F3			B N			
	H			B, Bi N			B N
	J		R N				

*Watermark varieties (continued).*

To improve the different results of the scans, the measuring results found on scans that were exploded to 1200dpi. (approx. 12,5 mm = 1 mm).

There are more aspects to compare but, in this research, I opted to measure it on seven aspects. Only the Gothic 'G' cannot be measured using all aspects.































Type of	Measured parts	Height x Width	Width Arm l.	Width Leg R.	Leg height	Roof line Leg	Space Leg to level
G-overprint	Approx. mm	Approx. mm	Approx. mm	Approx. mm	Approx. mm	Approx. mm	Approx. mm
	A1	47 x 60	13	11	31	34	2
	A2	48 x 60	12,5	8,5	29	30	0
	A3	55 x 68	13	10,5	35	35	3
	A4	58 x 69	16	14	36	38	5
	A5	41 x 63	10	10	30	32	0
	A6	56 x 80	17	13	30	38	2
	A7	36 x 64	7,5	6	31	18	4
	A8	45 x 55	10	10	27	30	0
	A9	50 x 55	13	13	29	33	0
	A10	48 x 57	10	8,5	28	30	2
	A11	60 x 69	17	14	31	39	4
	A12	61 x 68	19	16	36	39	2
	A13	47 x 52	12	12	29	29	2
	A14	46 x 57	12	10	26	29	2
	A15	45 x 53	10	9	24	24	1,5
	A16	45 x 55	10,5	10,5	27	30	0
	A17	46 x 53	12	10	24	27	1

Table 13: Watermark varieties.

	A18	47 x 54	13	13	22	32	4
	A19	45 x 56	12,5	11	27	31	1
	A20	48 x 57	14	14	25	32	1
	A21	48 x 58	14	11	30	32	1
	B	38 x 64	8,5	7	32	30	2
	C	60 x 68	11	11	36	25	2
	D	35 x 40	9	8,5	19	24	0
	E	50 x 57	10	10	30	31	0
	F1	40 x 56	10	9	24	28	0
	F2	45 x 52	12	15	25	32	0
	F3	42 x 56	16	13	26	29	1
	H	31,5 x 38	10	8	18	15	1
	J	42 x 45	6	8,5	x	x	x

*Watermark varieties (continued).*

This story is not finished yet. More varieties and errors are waiting to be discovered. The next step is up to you. Good luck!

### Important notice

As referenced before in this article where these specimen overprints were shown, please note that All RED SPECIMEN overprints are philatelic productions. See the pictures below of known samples that were reproduced.



*Fig.47: With and without the SPECIMEN overprint.*



Fig.48: With and without the SPECIMEN overprint.

## References

- [1] J. Barefoot, *Commonwealth revenues*, 8th edition, York, UK: J. Barefoot Ltd, 2008.
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- [7] O. van der Vliet, Private notes of own investigation and valuable help from Bram Leeftang for explaining several postal cancels. 



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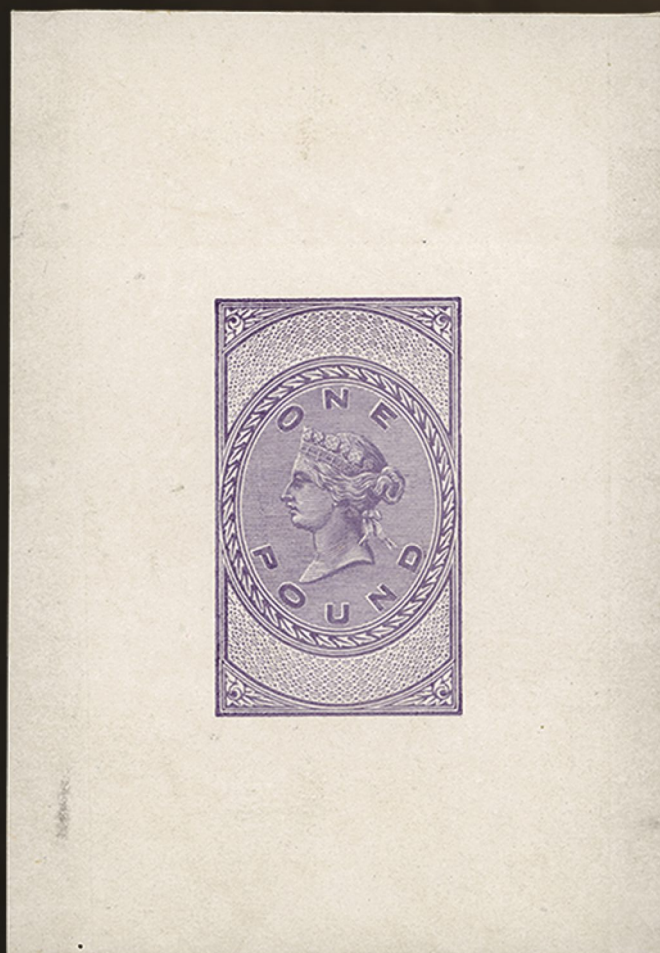
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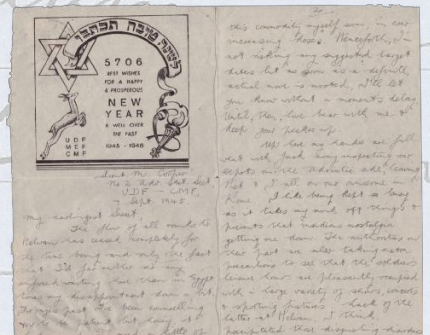
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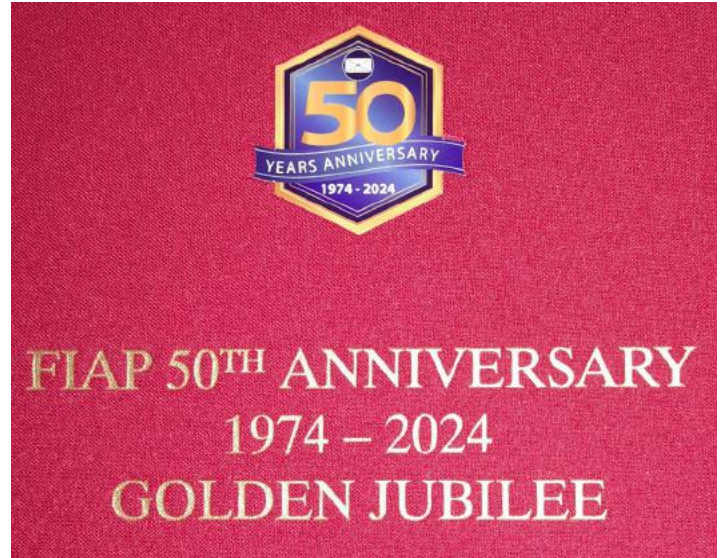
Virtual stamp exhibitions have evolved significantly since their inception, which can be seen when looking at the 266 frame India 1st International Virtual Aero - & Astrophilately Exhibition held from 15 - 23 February 2025. The 81 exhibits are available for viewing on the India Air Mail Society website at <https://www.amsipex.com>.

Interesting to note is that one of the first (if not the first) Virtual Exhibitions at National level in the world was the Bloemfontein One Frame Virtual Exhibition (BOFEX) held on 22 - 23 July 2016. It was introduced as: This VIRTUAL exhibition is in lieu of the One Frame Class normally offered at the National Exhibition - this class will therefore not be offered at the SAPDAPEX 2016 Exhibition. Presented by the Free State Philatelic Society in Bloemfontein, it attracted 45 entries, five from New Zealand, three from the USA, one from Britain, two from Australia and the balance from South Africa.

This experiment was initiated by the PFSA some years before, led by Emil Minnaar RDPSA who set the technical standards. This virtual approach allowed international participation without all the commissioning and other processes, while ensuring exhibitors' material remained safely in their own care.


In 2018, the name was changed to the South African Virtual Philatelic Exhibition (SAVPEX).

The Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) are currently exploring avenues to formulate guidelines for Virtual Exhibitions.



The Federation of Inter-Asian Philately (FIAP) marked its 50th anniversary at the China 2024 exhibition. To commemorate this milestone, a special book was produced documenting FIAP's history, including notable philatelists and all Grand Prix winners. Those who received copies were surprised by its weight of around 4.5 kg, along with another lighter copy of Mr Tay Peng Hian's stamp collection of the Netherlands East Indies (Indonesia) 1655 - 1870.

The organisers of the book devoted significant effort, as the book was completed in less than six months. It deserves to be placed in philatelic libraries globally.

As an affiliated member of FIAP, the PFSA are fortunate to receive a complimentary copy of both publications. 

### EDITORIAL POLICY

*The Editorial Board reserves the right to accept or decline any articles, letters or any other material submitted for publication, and reserves the right to effect minor changes of spelling, punctuation, grammar and word choice without requesting prior permission from the author(s). For more substantial revisions, such as shortening or restructuring, either the Board will request the author(s) to effect such changes or will propose amendments to the author prior to publication - if no agreement can be reached then publication will be declined.*

### DISCLAIMER

*The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy and honesty in the editorial columns of this magazine, the publisher and editor cannot be held responsible for inaccurate information supplied and consequently published. Publication of articles is subject to availability of space and cannot be guaranteed in each edition. Copyright for material published in this magazine is strictly reserved. Illustrations are not necessarily actual size because of space constraints.*

The PFSA encourages participation in both this journal - *The SA Philatelist*, as well as, the electronic newsletter, '*Keeping in Touch*'. Regular and new readers who will ensure that the social media activities and publications continue to support stamp collecting in South Africa. Contact the Chief Operating Officer of the PFSA, André du Plessis RDPSA, +27 (0)83 399 1755, <https://www.stampssa.africa> email: [pfsastamps@gmail.com](mailto:pfsastamps@gmail.com)

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• Affiliation fee: RSA and World Wide: R150.00 (Electronic only).

**PLEASE NOTE:** The PFSA affiliation fee inter-alia offer six copies of the electronic journal and electronic newsletters annually.

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**Contributions and letters** for the publication must be forwarded to the Editorial Board of *The SA Philatelist*, email: [sap@stampssa.africa](mailto:sap@stampssa.africa)

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## From the Chairman's Desk

by Louwrence Erasmus, Interim Hon. Chairman of the Editorial Board

We bid *adieu* to Adel Bullpit, outgoing Honorary Chairman of the Editorial Board: *The SA Philatelist*. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for her dedication and invaluable contributions she made to the Editorial Board. Her positive influence on the production of *The SA Philatelist* will be deeply missed.

We also express our gratitude to Peter van der Molen RDPSA, FRPSL for his unwavering dedication and invaluable contributions to the Editorial Board over the years. His expertise and experience remain accessible to us as he assumes the role of an Editorial Consultant. We extend our sincere appreciation to Peter for his continued support.

Over the years, *The SA Philatelist* has established itself as a publication that upholds high standards and presents a diverse range of philatelic content. This reputation is supported by the nine awards it has received in the literature category at international philatelic exhibitions.

To maintain the high standard of producing the esteemed publication, *The SA Philatelist*, we seek your valuable contributions as a reader. We are inviting you to *volunteer* for any of the following roles:

- If you have a philatelic collection you have studied for enjoyment or exhibition, we invite you to share your knowledge with readers of *The SA Philatelist*. We seek diverse authors to cover various exhibition categories. If you're not proficient in writing, contact the Editorial Board for assistance.
- If you're an experienced philatelist with a publication record, we'd like to invite you to join our Editorial Board. You'll review articles for relevance and accuracy, and

attend editorial board meetings every second month to finalise issue content and layout for *The SA Philatelist*.

- If you are a native English speaker with a passion for literature and a keen eye for linguistic accuracy, we would appreciate your assistance in editing *The SA Philatelist* for correct language usage while adding warmth to the tone. While AI can handle many language-editing tasks, it lacks the unique soul necessary to craft a truly well-written piece.
- If you are proficient in computer programming or can create macros, we would appreciate your joining of our production team. We use  $\LaTeX$ / $\TeX$  with a custom template for *The SA Philatelist* and edit in  $\TeX$ studio. To succeed, you will need internet access, Microsoft 365, OneDrive, Teams, and a willingness to learn and contribute. We aim for a minimum of three team members to minimise risks.

We encourage you to submit your feedback electronically by clicking on the following link: [Letters to The Editorial Board](#).

As we navigate the future of *The SA Philatelist*, we remain committed to upholding its legacy of excellence while embracing new voices and fresh perspectives. The continued success of our publication depends on the passion, knowledge, and generosity of our readers and contributors. Whether through sharing your philatelic expertise, lending your editorial skills, or assisting with the technical aspects of production, your involvement will help ensure that *The SA Philatelist* remains a cornerstone of philatelic literature in South Africa and beyond. We look forward to your participation and thank you for your unwavering support.

Remember to always enjoy your stamps!



### South Africa's Tenth Virtual Philatelic Exhibition (SAVPEX)

June 2025

Get your narrow theme exhibits of 1-2 frames ready and enter!

[Entry form](#)

[IREX](#)

#### DEADLINES:

- Receive exhibition entry form and payment by **30 APRIL 2025**
- Receive uploaded exhibit by **25 MAY 2025**

#### Contact:

- Emil Minnaar RDPSA – [emil@minnaar.org](mailto:emil@minnaar.org)
- Joof van der Merwe RDPSA – [josuav528@gmail.com](mailto:josuav528@gmail.com)

## Exhibition Calendar

EXHIBITION	DATE	PATRONAGE	COMMISSIONER / CONTACT	LINK
EuroPhilEx BIRMINGHAM 2025	7-11 May 2025	FEPA	N/A	<a href="#">EuroPhilEx 2025</a>
GAUTENG REGIONAL EXHIBITION 2025	8-11 May 2025	Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria	Lourence Erasmus <a href="mailto:lourence@erasmus.org.za">lourence@erasmus.org.za</a>	<a href="#">AFRIKAANS 100</a>
SAVPEX 2025	June 2025	PFSA	Emil Minnaar RDPSA <a href="mailto:emil@minnaar.org">emil@minnaar.org</a>	<a href="#">PFSA</a>
NATIONAL STAMP SHOW 2025	3-6 Sep 2025	PFSA	Gawie Hugo <a href="mailto:gawiehugo@gmail.com">gawiehugo@gmail.com</a>	<a href="#">PFSA</a>
NORDIA 2025	12-14 Sep 2025	FEPA	N/A	<a href="#">Nordia 2025</a>
PHILAKOREA 2025	17-21 Sep 2025	FIP	Gary Pienaar <a href="mailto:pienaargary@gmail.com">pienaargary@gmail.com</a>	<a href="#">Korea 2025</a>
AUSVIPEX 2025	From 27 Nov 2026	APF	<a href="#">Online Form</a>	<a href="#">AUSVIPEX 2025</a>
BOSTON 2026	23-30 May 2026	FEPA	N/A	<a href="#">Boston 2026</a>



### NATIONAL STAMP SHOW 2025

3 to 6 September 2025

Hosted by the Paarlse Filateliste Vereniging  
Venue: Paarl Golf Club, Boschenmeer Golf Estate, Paarl

[Entry form](#)

[Prospectus](#)

Contact:

- Gawie Hugo - [gawiehugo@gmail.com](mailto:gawiehugo@gmail.com)
- André du Plessis RDPSA - [pfsastamps@gmail.com](mailto:pfsastamps@gmail.com)

**New function in *The SAP*:** When you click on an advertisement, you will be redirected to the advertiser's website.



# Union of South Africa: Jewish New Year Military Air Letters

by Cedric Roché RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society



Fig.1: Used 1943 Bilingual inscription in red printed underneath the stamp: With best wishes from S.A. Gifts and Comforts Fund.

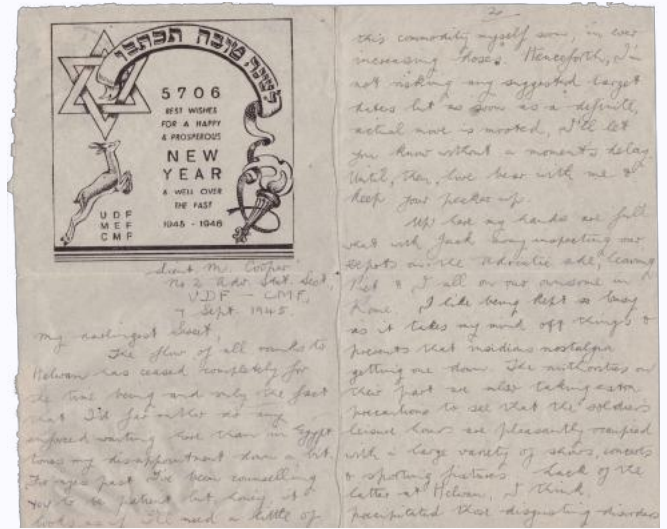


Fig.4: Used 1945 GB issued airmail letter.



Fig.2: Used 1944 Bilingual inscription in red printed on the RHS flap: With best wishes from S.A. Gifts and Comforts Fund.



Fig.3: mint 1944 presumed trial printing.

During World War II, the South African Jewish community made significant contributions to the Union Defence Force (UDF), with approximately 10% of Jewish South Africans volunteering for military service, surpassing the national average of 7% [1].

Jews served in all the various sections of the Union Defence Force and in all different regiments, notably in the S.A. Irish, Rand Light Infantry, Imperial Light Horse, Transvaal Scottish, Engineers and the S.A. Air Force. One of the puns which circulated about the Imperial Light Horse, known as the I.L.H., is that *there were so many Jews in the I.L.H. that it was [sic] became known as "Israel's Last Hope!"* [1].

The *South African Gifts and Comforts Fund* was a charitable organization that sent gifts to South African soldiers fighting in World War II. The fund was created by Field Marshal Jan Smuts, and his wife, "Ouma" Smuts, administered it. They ensured that there was one airletter given to each soldier to enable him to write to his family back at home, Figure 1.

Jewish letters and other sacred texts are buried in a *genizah* as a sign of respect and honour. The word *genizah* is Hebrew for "hidden" or "reserved". Not everyone adhered to this guideline.

With the 1944 issue the inscription: *With best wishes from SA Gifts and Comforts Fund* is in red and appears on the side flap (Figure 2).

Figure 3 is a presumed trial printing in 1944 by the South African Personnel on GB Stationery. Lee [2] identified a category 'J', with serified letters for 'Air Letter', and the boxed 'By Air Mail' to the left. Lee [2, p. 50] states, "The only service form printed with AIR LETTER centrally in two lines was category J". The first examples of Category J were

seen in use in August 1944. This example additionally bears the Hebrew New Year's Greetings used specifically for Union Defence Force Troops. No mention is made of this in [2].

Figure 4 depicts a 1945 GB issue used by the South African Union Defence Force in the Middle East and the Mediterranean.

## References

- [1] W.J. Bergman, *The Jewish contribution to South African military history and other interesting facts*, 2020. [online]. Available: <https://www.chol.website/memoirs/PICTORIAL%2001%20A5%20table%20%20FINAL%20ReV%209.pdf>
- [2] O.R. Lee, *British Forces Air Mail Letter Cards & Air Letters, 1941 – 1982*, 2nd Revised Ed., The Forces Postal History Society, 1988. 

## TRADITIONAL PHILATELY

# Union of South Africa Stamp Varieties

by André du Plessis RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society



### Covenant Commemoration, 1955 [1]

On 1 December 1955, a 2d. stamp was issued to commemorate the Voortrekker Covenant of Blood River and remained on sale for approximately three months.

The design, by H. Kumst, measured 27 x 21 mm. and embodied a portrait of Andries Pretorius, the hero of Blood River, with an outline of the Church of the Vow, and the flag of the Republic of Natalia in the background.

The sheets consisted of 120 stamps in 20 rows x 6 and inscribed alternately in English and Afrikaans with arrows in blue on all four margins, double broken bars in the same colour on the top and bottom, with red four-figure sheet numbers on the right.

Perforation, which gauged 14, was by two different appliances, so some sheets had small holes, while in the others they

were larger and with “Drunken Perfs”.

Numbers of the cylinders did not appear anywhere on the sheet margins, but they were recorded as: interior No. 17 and exterior No. 14.









Rose and blue  
UHB 139  
(SG 167) (SASCC 166) .

### SELECTED VARIETIES

(As listed in [1])

UHB 139 - 2d.

Cylinders no. 17 (Interior) and 14 (Exterior)

					
Blue dot under third “E” of HERBEVESTIGING (ex-Row 1/5) UHB 139 - V1	Blue spot at bottom left next to Church (ex-Row 2/6) UHB 139 - V2	Blue spot in bottom right of Church (ex-Row 4/5) UHB 139 - V3	Blue spot in left gable (ex-Row 11/1) UHB 139 - V4	Blue spot in hat brim above right eye (ex-Row 12/6) UHB 139 - V5	Blue spot after “d” of 2d. (ex-Row 20/2) UHB 139 - V6

## References

- [1] S] Hagger (Ed.), *The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910 - 1961: Handbook Catalogue*, Def. Ed., Reijger Publishers (Pty) Ltd, Cape Town, 1986. [online]. Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Hagger-Group-12-c.pdf> 



# The Colonial Bacteriological Institute

by Andrew Briscoe RDP SA, FRPSL, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

This Institute was established in Grahamstown in 1891. It was housed in a two-storey building that had previously been the depot of the Royal Engineers, and before that an agricultural college. The original mandate stated that it had been established "in order to investigate some of the more important diseases affecting stock, which have of late years increased so seriously that stock farming has become a most precarious pursuit." Although the Institute was initially undertaking veterinary work, it soon assumed medical duties and became the first public health laboratory in South Africa.

In 1893, the Colonial Government requested the Institute to arrange for the manufacture and storage of calf lymph for vaccination against smallpox. Figure 2 illustrates an Advice of Despatch of Lymph for the supply of 15 tubes of fresh calf lymph and two needles to Mafeking. Figure 1 illustrates a registered postal stationery envelope of 1902 posted at Mafeking and addressed to the Institute. The envelope bears no datestamp of receipt in Grahamstown other than the oval hand stamp struck in the lower left corner that shows the initials 'C.B.I.' Did the Institute have its own post office?

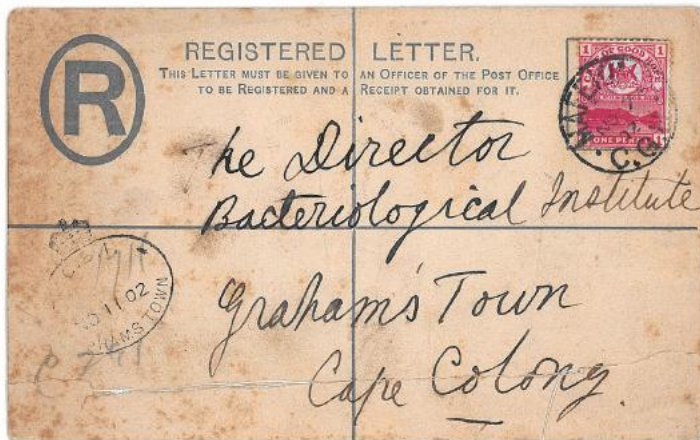


Fig.1: Registered postal envelope.

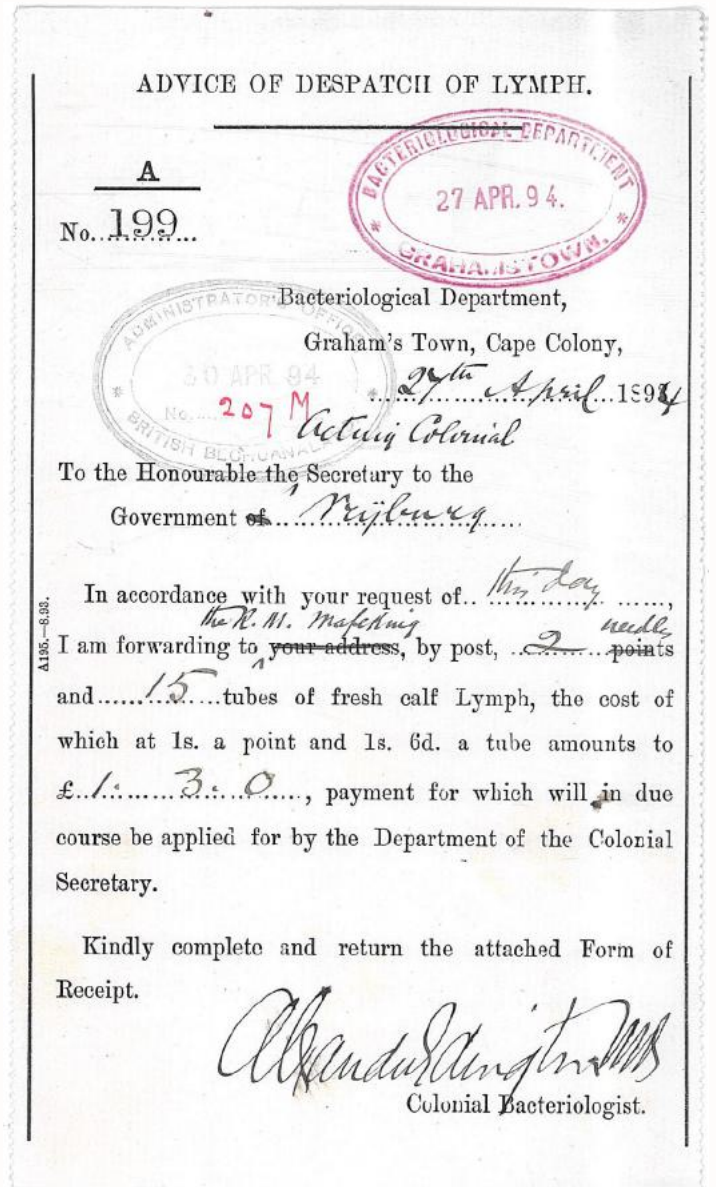


Fig.2: Advice of Despatch of Lymph.

## STAMP ISSUE ERRATA

### President Cyril Ramaphosa Second Inauguration 2024

by Robin Messenger, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society



I have now acquired examples of this issue and I wish to make the following changes to the Technical Data, given on page 7 of February 2025 issue of *The SA Philatelist*.

Stamp size: 32 x 33.5mm. The size of 34 x 35.5mm given is the size of the design.

The stamps are separated by 6mm gutters in the centre of which are roulettes.

The print order for the Commemorative Stamp Card was 500.



# Looking Back a Century: Highlights from *The SA Philatelist* - March and April 1925

by Louwrence Erasmus, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria

This is the second instalment in a series that delves into the captivating realm of philately by presenting concise summaries of *The SA Philatelist* of a century ago. Who knows, you might just ignite a hidden passion for philatelic research!



## THE AIR MAIL.

The first flight in each direction of the Capetown-Durban Air Mail was a complete success, the messages being delivered well within the scheduled time. Weather conditions have been satisfactory, and during the flight no machines were wrecked. Owing to fog, Mossel Bay has been cut out of the route, and the aeroplanes returned to Oudtshoorn. Mails between every five points possible on the route were carried on the initial flight.

The government will not, of course, derive any profit from the Air Mail, the service being, as stated before, purely experimental. The public has shown great interest in the venture, and members of Parliament are asking for services from Capetown and Durban to Johannesburg.

Capetown and Durban post offices are advertising the Air Mail by means of an advertising postmark, which reads "Air Mail Save Time" "English Republic Post". A specimen of an airmail stamp appears under the English inscription and also under the Afrikaans version.

The Air Mail agents are now on hand for particulars see Now Issue Chronicle. The illustration shows the new stamps, and also the stampette (printed in black on orange) issued by the Post Office. A large number of these stamps has already been sold, and they have been much discussed.

**A COMPETITION.**  
Readers all have their views on these stamps. Some will, no doubt, maintain that no ordinary postage stamps are available for payment of Air Mail, but their time is so precious, and others will be pleased at their own needs to have been recognized. In a number of cases stamps will be used in the form of airmail stamps, and in the future of stamps will be available in the form of airmail stamps. The use of the Air Mail stamps, only registered subscribers to the airmail service, in their letters, and should they be successful in winning prizes their subscriptions will be extended to the value of prizes won.

Letters should be as brief as possible, and entries must be received by the Editor not later than April 5th. The results and winning specimens will be published in our next issue.

Fig.1: SAP of March 1925.

and Durban post offices used a special advertising postmark, new airmail stamps and etiquettes that caused debate. *The SA Philatelist* ran a competition for arguments about their necessity, with free subscriptions.



Fig.2: Illustration of a cover carried on the first flight-2nd March, 1925, Capetown-Durban-of the new Union Air Mail. The special (violet) postmark reads: "S.A. Air Mail, S.A. Lugpos," and date.

**New issues:** Colour changes were noticed across territories. Belgian Congo introduced new shades, including olive and orange-brown stamps. The 40c mauve stamp featured a male native head profile. The Gold Coast and Mauritius updated with script watermarks and detailed printing information. Northern Rhodesia prepared for a new issue

starting 1 April 1925, featuring a King's head medallion with local flora and fauna. Old stamps became invalid after 30 September 1925.

Rhodesia, Nyasaland, and Sierra Leone had notable varieties, including colour shifts and overprint quirks. A peculiar 2½d "Rhodesia" overprint with a comma replacing a dot intrigued specialists. Southern Rhodesia found imperforate finds, while South West Africa was a treasure-trove of postage due varieties. Different overprint spacings, unique letter shapes, and incorrect fonts sparked philatelic discussion.

South Africa's postal scene was abuzz with the release in limited quantities of the new airmail stamps on 25 February 1925.

Recent discoveries on South African stamps include a printing mishap creating a white stripe on a pane of 1d postage stamps (King's Heads) and a missing frame portion on a 1d postage due issue. Collectors were encouraged to report any new varieties to the editor.

South West Africa's unique overprinted stamps, known for their printing quirks, fascinated collectors. The first overprint featured errors like an inverted ½d and a misaligned 5d Transvaal overprint, likely due to setting issues. The second overprint, introduced in April 1923, narrowed spacing and separated "Zuid-West" into two words. Despite official records denying a 1d Pretoria rouletted stamp with this overprint, a few examples exist.

The second issue of overprinted stamps appeared in two main settings: (F) with consistent flaws like missing stops and raised letters, and (G) possibly type-set or stereotyped with fewer distinct flaws. Their sharp, greyish-black ink with minimal impression led to beliefs they were lithographed, but evidence suggests type-setting and stereotyping. Recurring flaws indicate only three fundamental rearranged formes were used. The exact printing methods remain debatable, but these stamps hold a special place in philatelic history.

The first-ever auction dedicated solely to airmail stamps and covers took off on 19 January 1925 under the hammer of Mr H. R. Harmer, attracting keen specialists. Highlights included a flown 1919 Newfoundland "Hawker" cover fetching £45, a rare 1924 Russian consular set selling for £36, and a superb 1913 Swiss Vevey-Villeneuve flown card soaring to £25. Other notable sales included a 1919 US "R.34" Trans-Atlantic flight cover at £32 and a unique 1921 French Guiana tête-bêche pair going for £18. The event proved that demand for rare airmail philately remained sky-high!

Cyprus faced a shortage of ½d stamps in 1881, leading to a rushed local overprint of "Halfpenny" on 1d red stamps. The first surcharge, a rough lithograph measuring 18½ mm, was often misaligned. A revised steel hand-stamped version measuring 16–16½ mm was introduced two months later, followed by a final lithographed 13 mm version. Printing errors, including double, triple, and quadruple surcharges, occurred, but these flawed stamps were never used and rather sold as collectibles.

Exciting rumours abound in the philatelic world! Penny postage was reinstated in the Union on 30 April 1925, coinciding with the Prince of Wales' arrival in Cape Town. The Minister of Posts remained tight-lipped, but speculation suggested a special 1d commemorative stamp. Meanwhile, a new pictorial stamp issue was delivered but shelved for another design set to debut later this year.

The Pretoria Philatelic Society's annual dinner on 16 February 1925 was lively with toasts, anecdotes, and humour. Mr. Westbrook received the "Chas. Hand" Cup, and the Secretary was surprised with cigars. In East London, collectors admired rare stamps, including Cape triangulars and a Rhodesian colour error. A spotting competition entertained everyone. Johannesburg discussed the Union Air Mail and displayed British Colonials. The East Rand Society explored Newfoundland's stamps and postal history. Philately flourished nationwide!



Fig.5: The distinctive set of stamps and postal stationery was duly issued on 1 April 1925.

In London, South-West African varieties fetched strong prices, with inverted overprints attracting bidders. In Mauritius, a new philatelic club was founded, and a rare "Post Office" stamp caused a stir. However, the postal service burned 125,000 stamps due to resemblance and quickly sold 20,000 older stamps. Back in South Africa, the Air Mail service struggled with shrinking mail loads and a hangar fire. Despite these challenges, the Air Mail stamps sold well, engaging collectors in the unfolding postal drama.

Mozambique issued an 80-centavos pink Ceres stamp with a green overprint last December to commemorate Vasco da Gama's death. Northern Rhodesia introduced a striking new stamp series on 1 April, designed by De La Rue & Co., featuring a common design across all values, with lower denominations closely following the Universal Postal Union colour scheme.



Fig.6: Type VI.

South West Africa saw fascinating varieties, including a ½d Pretoria-printed stamp with a double overprint and a 2d stamp with a double impression of its value. Collectors were also intrigued by shifting text on the "Africa" overprint and a new Type VII overprint classification. Some of these overprinted issues were reportedly heading to London dealers rather than local post offices.

South Africa's Air Mail stamps appeared in various shades and had minor printing flaws like unexpected dots and white lines. The "Cape Times" printed new batches as needed, with three 1d stamp printings completed. However, there was no special stamp for the Prince of Wales' visit. Philatelist H. Mallet-Veale tracked down varieties like misplaced text and missing perforations, while classification debates continued. Collectors had much to keep track of with these new finds and updates.

In 1899, South Africa's Postmaster General, Mr. I. van Alphen, proposed printing postage and revenue stamps locally on special watermarked paper. Designs were prepared in Pretoria:



Type I. Type II.

One with President Paul Kruger's bust for lower denominations, and the other with the Republic's Coat of Arms for higher values. These stamps, designed for both postage and revenue, improved



In April 1925, *The SA Philatelist* [2] reported that a Pretoria postal clerk had a bit of a mishap on 26 March when letters were mistakenly stamped with the date "37 Mar. 1925"!

Meanwhile, South Africa was set to restore penny postage for local mail from 1 January next year, though international rates would remain unchanged. To celebrate, a new pictorial stamp set would be issued, which, as usual, would alternate between English and

**TOPICS OF THE MONTH.**  
**Some Dates!**  
 There was trouble for a postal clerk in the Pretoria Post Office on March 26th last. Letters postmarked (by hand-stamp) at 6 p.m. on that day bore in the cancellation the date "37 Mar. 1925".  
**Penny Postage and New Stamps.**  
 In introducing the Budget this month the Minister of Finance for the Union stated that penny postage would be restored on January 1st next. This rate would only apply to letters addressed to places in the Union and S. W. Africa. Letters for stations outside the Union will have to be stamped as at present. The rate for inland postcards will be reduced to 1d. on the above date. The return to penny postage would, said the Minister, result in an annual loss of £200,000. But the first year's loss would be only £100,000, as the Minister of Posts proposed to celebrate the return by the issue of a special set of stamps. This statement will be of interest to philatelists who, apparently, are expected to provide the difference of £200,000! In this connection it must be remembered that the stamps will be alternate English and Dutch in the sheets, as is done in South West Africa. The new set will be an expensive one for philatelists!  
 It will take some months to prepare the new stamps, but they will be on issue by January 1st next.  
 The forwarding rate on newspapers weighing up to 5 oz. posted in bulk is being restored this month.  
**Our Competition.**  
 A number of subscribers were prevented from entering our competition through unusual circumstances. Owing to severe floods in Northern Natal and South West Africa at the end of last month, their entries were cut off from the Union for several weeks. In order to allow all subscribers in South Africa to enter our competition on the issue of the air mail stamps, the closing date for entries has been extended to May 15th. Full particulars were given in our last issue, and if you have not sent your entry in, there is still time.  
**A New Club.**  
 The Mauritius Philatelic Exchange Club was recently founded, and it is hoped that it will shortly develop into a Society. The Hon. Secretary is Mr. J. F. Tomkins, Victoria. We wish the Club all success.

Fig.3: SAP of April 1925.

and Dutch in the sheets — something that would keep philatelists busy (and out of pocket). A farthing rate for bulk newspaper postage was also making a return. On the competition front, severe floods in Northern Natal and South West Africa delayed mail, so the deadline for the airmail stamp contest has been extended to 17 May 1925.



Fig.4: Slogan postmark used in Durban and Cape Town Post Offices.

upon the 1896 issue. The State Printing Works was ready to print them, but the Second Anglo-Boer War halted plans in October 1899. The new stamps never circulated, and by 1901, the Republic used overprinted 1896 stamps and Pietersburg stamps.

Gambia's 1886-87 stamps, printed on different colours and paper from earlier issues, introduced various varieties. Most stamps feature a sideways watermark, sometimes inverted or with pane division lines. Double embossing was present in the ½d and 1s values, with one inverted in some cases. Perforation was 14, but imperforated stamps exist. A new 2½d value was introduced for the U.P.U. foreign postage rate. Colour variations and distinct printing defects, like variations in the M of Gambia, enhanced the issue's interest. While the 1d values could be plated, further examination might reveal additional useful plating features.



Fig.7: 4th, 5th and 6th Overprint.

The Postage Due stamps of South-West Africa underwent several distinct overprints between 1923 and 1924. The second overprint misaligned the 3d stamp, while the third introduced a compact "Zuidwest" inscription on ½d, 1d, and 6d with minor defects. The fourth overprint widened the spacing, while the fifth accentuated printing errors. The sixth overprint introduced even narrower spacing, affecting the 2d and 5d values. These overprints, applied to uncut sheets, evolved in style and introduced various printing flaws, making them significant to South-West African postal history.

On 30 January 1925, Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. boldly bought the entire front page of the *Daily Mail* for £1,450. This massive advertisement showcased their stamp-related services and

boosted stamp collecting. It featured a history of the hobby, the firm's 70-year journey, and an invitation to experience the joy of collecting stamps, backed by a special booklet titled *The Lure of the Postage Stamp*. It cleverly captivated a wide audience and promoted the hobby.

The East African Philatelic Society was holding 5 p.m. meetings to encourage attendance before members leave. The 16 January meeting cleared business, but a paper reading was postponed due to early departures. Some members were absent, but attendance was expected to improve. Articles, including Mr. Donne's Cyprus piece and book reviews, would be presented next month.

The Johannesburg United Philatelic Society held its second March meeting, discussing airmail. Final plans for the annual dinner on 6 May were set. The East Rand Society showcased exhibits, including Mr. Wood's Newfoundland and Colombia collection and Mr. Robertson's quirky envelope display. The Cape Town Society featured Mr. Smithers' impressive Australasian and New Zealand stamps at their February meeting, followed by Central European stamps at their March meeting.

The Philatelists' Exchange Club's South African Sales Packet Branch, managed by Louis Gillen, circulated 25 packets from December 1923 to November 1924, with detailed sales and values.

Happy researching our rich philatelic heritage in South Africa. Just remember to always enjoy your stamps!

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## South African Adhesive Parcel Post Labels 1935-1968

by Trefon Katakuzinos, East Rand Philatelic Society

What motivated me to collect this unusual field is the challenge of finding these items and then putting the information with the item. Arie Bakker [1] mentioned this area of collecting and described these pieces of paper as postal receipts. So, one could say that these labels were the forerunner of the postal receipts that the post office used in lieu of issuing stamps for postage. These were mainly used to indicate postage paid on registered mail in the 1960s.

This accumulation originally started as a collection of Frama labels and postage receipt labels. *The Union Handbook* [13, p. 314] which refers the Post Office Notice of 19 August 1935 which states *that it is notified for general information that a Parcel Franking Machine has been introduced experimentally at Pretoria*. This information set me looking for these elusive parcel postage labels.

There are a few reasons why Parcel Post Labels (PPL) were introduced. Firstly, as parcels sent through the post were of non-standard size and of varying shape and weight, this meant that a large numbers of postage stamps were required. As the surface area of many parcels was restricted and uneven, it was difficult to cancel the stamps on the parcels. It seemed a good idea to use a till receipt that could be printed by a National Cash Register (NCR) and applied to parcels instead of postage stamps. Secondly, it was not necessary for the Post Office handling the parcels to have a large stock of postage stamps.



Fig.1: A fine example of a parcel label tied to piece by a straight-line Johannesburg parcel canceller. This is a unique item, dated 28 January 1947, as it includes postage stamps to make up the rate.

The challenge in collecting these parcel labels is to try and assemble a collection. Why this is challenging is that most recipients threw this type of material out with the parcel wrapping as it did not have any collecting appeal.

No catalogue has ever listed these PPLs, and there is no published information available on these labels, even by the Post Office. Thus, I decided to write up what information I had accumulated on the adhesive PPLs.

The PPLs were only permitted for parcels. As a result, these items are rare and obviously only found on a parcel. Finding one with remnants of the wrapping makes them extremely rare and thus are collected loose. It is very unusual to see the parcel label tied to the wrapping. Figure 1 illustrates a very fine example of a parcel label tied to a piece by a straight-line "Johannesburg" parcel canceller. In this article, I show a variety of labels that were printed by cash registers.

### PPL1. Experimental Trial Use: Ohmar Fare 1936

Only a single loose tape/slip is known to have survived (Figure 2). It is a borderless franking with a large "PARCEL POST / PAKKETPOS" / "PRETORIA" in the top half. Below "PRETORIA" is a line across the label with "DATE", "PAID/BETAAL", "ASS'T", and "NO.". Along the bottom are the date, value figures, "M5" (clerk identification), and a 3-digit transaction number. It is printed in violet on green paper. One machine is known to have been used experimentally. Strangely, it is dated 2 IV 1936 although the announcement was made in 1935, and green paper was used.



Fig.2: First experimental parcel label, [3].

Ohmar Fare was a subsidiary company of NCR. They made cash registers that provided receipts for passengers on buses and metered taxis. The first test parcel label was printed on the only machine that was available in South Africa at the time and was never used again.



Fig.3: An example of an early usage of a PPL, dated 5 February 1936, printed on a NCR machine in Cape Town.

## PPL2. Parcel Post Paid label – N.C.R.

### Yellow / Ochre paper 1936-1958

The earliest machine brought into service was in Pretoria. This was the NCR machine used in 1936, which printed labels using a violet ribbon on gummed paper varying in shades from pale yellow to deep ochre (Figure 3) and later onto white paper (Figure 6). A range of designs was produced. These consisted of borderless impressions with the date at the top, "PARCEL POST/PAKKETPOS" in the centre, and the machine number on the left with the value and transaction sequence number on the right in amounts from 1d to £99/19/11. The earliest recorded label is 5 February 1936. Of interest is that the date is earlier than the experimental label shown in Figure 2.

### White and Buff paper 1944-1968

From 1944, white or buff paper was introduced. The same range of designs, as with the yellow paper, are found. Occasionally, yellow paper was also used in this period, as in Central Street, Pretoria, during 1949.



Fig.4: NCR Types 1.



Fig.5: NCR Types 2.



Fig.6: NCR Types 3.



Fig.7: NCR Types 4.



Fig.8: NCR Types 5.

### Typical Details found on a PPL

1. The date of posting appears at the top with the month in Roman figures.
2. Below the date is "PAKKETPOS — PARCEL POST" or "PARCEL POST — PAKKETPOS" in a curve with

ornaments above.

3. Through the centre is the value line (machine number on the left, amount paid, transaction counter on the right) (often found without the machine number).
4. Below the value figures are "PAID / BETAAL" or "BETAAL / PAID" usually with a line above.
5. At the bottom is the town name curved or straight with or without ornaments.

### NCR machine types

There were five basic NCR machine label types:

NCR 1: PARCEL POST—PAKKETPOS / PAID (Rare) (Figure 4)

NCR 2: PAKKETPOS—PARCEL POST / PAID (Rare) (Figure 5)

NCR 3: PAKKETPOS—PARCEL POST/ PAID BETAAL (Figure 6)

NCR 4: Bilingual town names (Figure 7)

NCR 5: Town names straight instead of curved, PAKKETPOS, PARCEL POST PAID- BETAAL in small font (Very Rare) (Figure 8)

A range of designs was produced. Durban used a machine that printed only English labels. There were many machines in the various centres, with Pretoria having nine terminals, Johannesburg had seven and East London nine. During this period several of the smaller offices also received terminals. When decimalisation took place on 14 February 1961, the £sd was converted to Rc. The dot between s and d became a decimal point between R and c.

Below is a brief description of the various designs that were produced indicating the varieties that have been seen so far.

- Date at top, followed by "PAKKETPOS — PARCEL POST" or "PARCEL POST — PAKKETPOS" in a curve with ornaments above.
- Date reversed from day/month/year to month/day/year.
- A value line through the centre (clerk/machine number, value figures, transaction counter number) often found without the clerk/machine number.
- Below the value figures, "PAID", "PAID / BETAAL", or "BETAAL / PAID", usually with a line above and with "PAID" and "BETAAL" not always the same width.
- The town name at the bottom, either straight or curved (Figure 8).
- Labels are printed in violet on orange/yellow-orange paper (early use) and later on a creamy off-white paper.
- Without an identification number.

Figures 9 to 17 shows typical varieties of the PPLs.



Fig. 9: "PAKKETPOS — PARCEL POST" with triangular ornaments with three prongs, "PAID" only and no "BETAAL" below the value figures, bilingual town name with a short-curved line and small circles below the name.



Fig. 10: As for Figure 9, but with "PAID / BETAAL" below the value figures and without ornaments below the name.



Fig. 11: As for Figure 9, a line above "PAKKETPOS — PARCEL POST", "PAID" / "BETAAL" below value.



Fig. 12: As for Figure 9 but with inscribed "PARCEL POST — PAKKETPOS".



Fig. 13: As for Figure 11 with "BETAAL" and "PAID" the same width.



Fig. 14: With curl ornaments above "PAKKETPOS — PARCEL POST" and at the sides of the town name which is not curved, "PAID" / "BETAAL" below the value.



Fig. 15: As for Figure 10, "PAID" and "BETAAL" are the same width, no ornaments at the side of town name



Fig. 16: Without ornaments at both top and bottom, "BETAAL" above "PAID" below value, small font.



Fig. 17: As for Figure 16 with "PAID" above "BETAAL"

A more in-depth study needs to be done on the various designs that were produced.

Figure 18 below is a very rare example of a Parcel Post Label tied to a letter addressed to Melbourne, Australia, posted from Germiston in 1939.

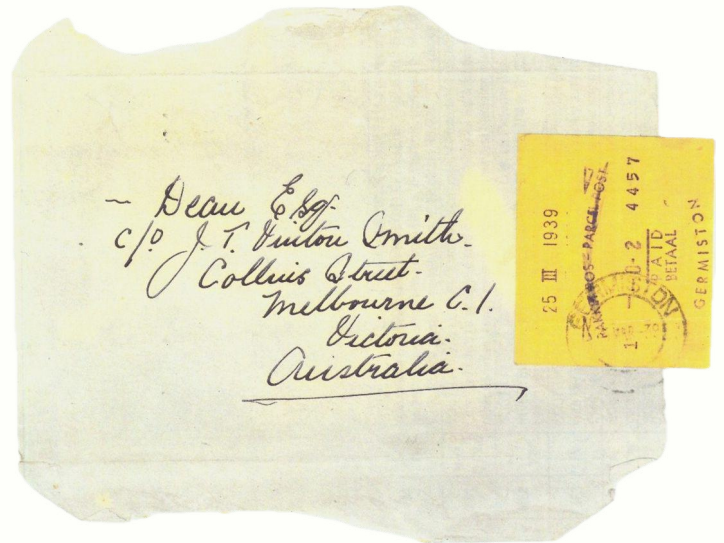


Fig. 18: Parcel Post Label tied to a letter.

Table 1 shows the towns that were using Parcel Post labels, with the earliest known dates recorded. To date 56 towns and suburbs that used the labels are known; possibly there are a lot more. If you have any in your collections not mentioned here, can you please send a high-resolution scan to me at [trefon@telkomsa.net](mailto:trefon@telkomsa.net).

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No	Town	Earliest usage date	No	Town	Earliest usage date
1	Beaufort West	30 December 1953	29	Siemend Jhb	8 January 1958
2	Benoni	15 December 1953	30	Kimberley	17 January 1941
3	Bethal	5 July 1957	31	Kokstad	6 May 1964
4	Bloemfontein	27 February 1940	32	Kroonstad	15 October 1953
5	Boksburg	22 December 1953	33	Krugersdorp	18 January 1950
6	Brakpan	11 February 1952	34	Ladysmith	7 October 1953
7	Cape Town*	15 January 1936	35	Paarl	9 November 1953
8	Caledon Square CT	14 November 1949	36	Pretoria*	14 November 1937
9	Leeusig CT	23 May 1960	37	Arcadia Pta	7 October 1951
10	Paarden Eiland CT	14 February 1966	38	Central Street Pta	12 December 1950
11	De Aar	31 November 1953	39	Sentraal Straat Pta	7 December 1953
12	Dundee	11 May 1950	40	Pietermaritzburg	26 April 1941
13	Durban	1 December 1942	41	Church str Pmb	7 July 1952
14	-West End Dbn	27 November 1953	42	Port Elizabeth*	4 June 1938
15	East London	18 December 1941	43	Donkin Hill PE	14 March 1957
16	Oxford Street EL	18 December 1952	44	North End PE	14 November 1953
17	Terminus Street EL	15 December 1953	45	Sydenham PE	14 June 1968
18.	Estcourt	7 October 1953	46	Pietersburg	3 December 1953
19	George	26 June 1952	47	Port Shepstone	??
20	Germiston*	25 March 1939	48	Queenstown	9 November 1953
21.	Grahamstown	9 November 1953	49	Springs	6 October 1953
22	Harrismith	24 December 1953	50	Stellenbosch	17 October 1953
23	Johannesburg*	4 December 1938	51	Uitenhage	3 March 1952
24	Commissioner str Jhb	18 January 1956	52	Vereeniging	14 October 1953
25	Jeppe Jhb	18 August 1949	53	Vryheid	14 August 1951
26	Motor Town Jhb	14 February 1951	54	Vryburg	6 January 1963
27	Rissik Street Jhb	3 July 1952	55	Witbank	1 November 1957
28	Saxonwold Jhb	29 May 1954	56	Worcester	15 December 1953

Table 1: Parcel Post Labels used in the following Post Offices (\*\* Earliest known Dates, \*Early Usage).



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## Union-Issued Edwardian Stamps

by Louwrence Erasmus, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria

I am investigating the King's Heads postage stamps issued by the Union of South Africa's Postal Authority of the Union during the Inter-provincial Period (1910-1913). Initially, I, like many others, believed that the only Union-Issued Edwardian stamps (UES) were the ½d and 1d values, see Figures 1 and 2. During a discussion between Emil Bührmann RDP SA and myself in 2023, he mentioned that more Edwardian stamp values were ordered during the Inter-provincial Period. Emil referred me to [6], which is also accessible to PFSA members on the [PFSA Website](#). I have included the complete UES for the first time as part of a Union King's Heads exhibit in 2024.



Fig.1: ½d Green Control No. 2.



Fig.2: 1d Red Control No. 3 & 4.

For our younger readers and those unfamiliar with the British Royal Family's history, let's delve into the life and reign of King Edward VII first.

King Edward VII, born Albert Edward on 9 November 1841, was crowned king after Queen Victoria's death in 1901. The eldest son of Prince Albert and Queen Victoria, he studied at Oxford and Cambridge but was denied a military career, despite honorary promotions. In 1863, he married Princess Alexandra of Denmark, with whom he had six children, including the future King George V [1].

If you believed that only contemporary celebrities and royals indulge themselves in earthly pleasures, you'll be astounded to discover that Prince Edward's personal life was marked by numerous extramarital affairs, frequently involving actresses and other prominent women, like Winston Churchill's mother.

His hedonistic behaviour strained his relationship with his mother, who blamed him for his father's death. During Queen Victoria's prolonged period of mourning, Prince Edward's political influence diminished, and he immersed himself in London's vibrant social scene [1].

Prince Edward, when duty called, embraced the responsibilities of kingship with renewed dedication in August 1902. His proficiency in French and German bolstered his diplomatic efforts, particularly in forging the Triple Entente, a pivotal alliance that significantly influenced the trajectory of World War I. His reign, known as the Edwardian era (1901-1910), witnessed prosperity for the affluent, albeit accompanied by substantial social transformations brought about by industrialization. While he vehemently opposed women's suffrage and the redistribution of wealth, he remained a beloved monarch to his subjects. [1].



Fig.3: Portrait of King Edward VII with the Robes of the Order of the Star of India [3].

King Edward VII's reign witnessed a pivotal moment in South Africa's history with his signing of the South Africa Act 1909 on 20 September 1909. This legislation amalgamated the British colonies of Cape, Natal, Transvaal, and the Orange River Colony into the Union of South Africa, which officially came into effect on 31 May 1910. The South Africa Act laid the groundwork for the contemporary South African state and profoundly influenced its political framework until today [7].

By 1910, the effects of King Edward VII's over indulgent lifestyle throughout his life had severely impacted his health, resulting in multiple heart attacks. He died on 6 May and was buried at Windsor Castle. His legacy remains a subject of debate — some view him as self-indulgent and pleasure-seeking, while others acknowledge his diplomatic skills and contributions to Britain's global influence [1].

After King Edward VII's death, new King George V (KGV) definitive stamps could not be prepared in time for the Union's official founding on 31 May 1910. A commemorative stamp with KGV's head, see Figure 4, was released in time with the opening of the Union Parliament on 4 November 1910 [5].



Fig.4: KGV Stamp.

The stocks of stamps of all the four colonies were moved to Pretoria, and distributed centrally and a Government Gazette notice on 19 August 1910 allowed Edwardian stamps from former colonies to be used throughout the Union [5], [6].

A stamp shortage emerged after 31 May 1910. To address this issue, the Union's postal authority placed five separate orders for various denominations for further prints of Transvaal stamps from Thomas De La Rue & Co. of London from 1910 to 1913.



Fig.5: UES watermark.

The design of these stamps was based on an original drawing by Emil Fuchs. It featured an Imperial crown in the border, commanded by King Edward VII in 1901. The stamps were printed on paper with the Multiple Crown CA watermark, see Figure 5, and perforated at 14. They were all produced with typographic printing in sheets of 240 stamps (4 panes of 60 stamps, in 10 rows of 6 stamps per pane), except for the 1d plate, that was produced in sheets of 480 stamps.

The three low values were printed in universal colours. The Universal Postal Union (UPU) colour convention standardised postage rates across member countries, regardless of currency differences. Green was designated for international printed paper rate, red for international postcard rate, and blue for international letter rate. This system ensured that postal authorities could easily verify correct postage, even without knowing the sender's currency or exchange rates.



Fig.6: A rare 2½d UES on cover.

The first order, issued on 3 June 1910, with Requisition No. 52/10 was for 360,000 x 2½d blue stamps, see Table 4. In Figure 6 a 2½d UES is used in Cape Province on a closed envelope to Southampton, England. It is machine cancelled in Cape Town at 14:00 on 7 August 1912. The British Empire letter rate was 1d per ½ oz, thus the postage was overpaid. The weekly Union-Castle mail steamer, Balmoral Castle, to Southampton departed from the Cape Town Docks at 16:00 that day and arrived in Southampton on 24 August 1912 [2].

The other four later orders, that was Requisition Nos 1475, 2681, 3301, and 5222, are summarised per denomination

values in Tables 1 to 13.

The identifiable mint UES are ½d with control 2 and 1d with controls 3 & 4, see Figures 1 and 2, as well as, the 1d roll stamp Type II from Requisition No. 3301, see Figure 7(a). The other UES values need date stamps for positive identification. Usage in the Orange Free State and Natal is more rare than the other two provinces.

The UES roll stamp, first issued in 1911, is considered the rarest stamps of the Union [3], with the mint exemplar in Figure 7 regarded as very rare. The Type II roll stamps were the only UES roll stamps ordered for printing by the Union postal authorities.



(a) (b)

Fig.7: UES type II roll stamps (mint & used).

#### Postage and revenue stamps

Order no.	Date	Amount	Parts
1475	22 Feb 1911	60 000 000	12
3301	3 Jan 1912	43 500 000	7
<b>Total</b>		<b>103 500 000</b>	

Table 1: ½d Green.

Order no.	Date	Amount	Parts
1475	22 Feb 1911	76 800 000	14
2681	14 Sep 1911	36 000 000	6
3301	3 Jan 1912	106 500 000	11
<b>Total</b>		<b>219 300 000</b>	

Table 2: 1d Scarlet.

Order no.	Date	Amount
1475	22 Feb 1911	3 600 000
3301	3 Jan 1912	1 500 000
<b>Total</b>		<b>5 100 000</b>

Table 3: 2d Purple.

Order no.	Date	Amount
52/10	3 Jun 1910	<b>360 000</b>

Table 4: 2½d Bright-blue.

Order no.	Date	Amount
1475	22 Feb 1911	3 600 000
5222	23 Dec 1912	1 500 000
<b>Total</b>		<b>5 100 000</b>

Table 5: 3d Black and sage-green.

Order	Date	Amount
1475	22 Feb 11	600 000
2681	14 Sep 11	600 000
3301	3 Jan 12	3 000 000
<b>Total</b>		<b>4 200 000</b>

Table 6: 4d Black and brown.

Order no.	Date	Amount
1475	22 Feb 1911	1 200 000
2681	14 Sep 1911	1 200 000
3301	3 Jan 1912	4 250 000
<b>Total</b>		<b>6 650 000</b>

Table 7: 6d Black and orange-brown.

Postage stamps

Order no.	Date	Amount	Parts
1475	22 Feb 1911	4 200 000	2
2681	14 Sep 1911	1 200 000	-
3301	3 Jan 1912	6 500 000	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>11 900 000</b>	

Table 8: 1/- Black and red-brown.

Order no.	Date	Amount
1475	22 Feb 1911	270 000
3301	3 Jan 1912	250 000
<b>Total</b>		<b>520 000</b>

Table 9: 2/- Black and yellow.

Order no.	Date	Amount
1475	22 Feb 1911	120 000
3301	3 Jan 1912	120 000
<b>Total</b>		<b>240 000</b>

Table 10: 2/6 Prints.

Order no.	Date	Amount
3301	3 Jan 1912	<b>360 000</b>

Table 11: 5/- Prints.

Order no.	Date	Amount
2681	14 Sep 1911	<b>240 000</b>

Table 12: 10/- Prints.

Order no.	Date	Amount
1475	22 Feb 1911	180 000
3301	3 Jan 1912	60 000
<b>Total</b>		<b>240 000</b>

Table 13: £1 Prints.

Other Examples of Use



Fig.8: UES 1d and 2d Stamps Used on Registered Cover.

In Figure 8, two 1d and three 2d UES were used in the Cape Province for registered mail to Berkley, CA, USA. The cover is hand-cancelled with an oval registered cancelled in Port Elizabeth 10 August 1912.

In Figure 9 a 10s UES used in Natal for registered mail to Bombay, India. It is hand-cancelled in Durban on 10 June 1913.



Fig.9: UES 10s Stamp Used on Registered Cover.

In Figure 10 a £1 UES used in the Cape Province. It is hand-cancelled in Cape Town on 5 November 1913.



Fig.10: £1 used in Cape Town.

Conclusion

Although the following prints were issued after 31 May 1910, they were not ordered by the Union postal authority [6]:

- The Cape Government reorder 18,000,000 x ½d stamps under Requisition No. 4949 issued on 4 May 1910, just before the formation of the Union of South Africa on the 31 May 1910. Estimated to be issued in October 1910.
- The Natal half-yearly supplies as indicated in the De La Rue records were for 3,083,760 x ½d stamps. There is no specific requisition for these but they were invoiced in the Private Day Book on 3 June 1910. Estimated to be issued in October 1910.
- Transvaal Requisition No. 29/10 dated 8 April 1910. the following number of stamps: 6,000,000 x 1/2d; 12,000,000 x 1d; 480,000 x 2d; 150,000 x 3d; 360,000 x 4d; 480,000 x 6d; 1,200,000 x 1s; 12,000 x 10s; and 72,000 x £1. Estimated to be issued in September 1910.

The UES were replaced by the King George V King's Heads issue on 1 September 1913, except for the £1 stamp, which continued until July 1916, and the 2s stamp, used until the demonetisation of all UES and colonial stamps on 1 January 1938.

With this article, a specialised collection field for Inter-provincials has emerged. Therefore, keep an eye out for UES, that is, Transvaal stamps, that were cancelled between

the dates per denomination as summarised in Table 14.

Denomination	Issue Date	End Date
½d	Aug 1911	31 Aug 1913
1d	Aug 1911	31 Aug 1913
2d	Aug 1911	31 Aug 1913
2½d	Nov 1910	31 Aug 1913
3d	Aug 1911	31 Aug 1913
4d	Aug 1911	31 Aug 1913
6d	Aug 1911	31 Aug 1913
1s	Aug 1911	31 Aug 1913
2s	Aug 1911	31 Dec 1937
2s6d	Aug 1911	31 Aug 1913
5s	Jul 1912	31 Aug 1913
10s	Mar 1912	31 Aug 1913
£1	Aug 1911	1916

Table 14: UES Inter-provincials Dates.

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1958	Leo Buchen*	1989	Mike J Nethersole (USA)*	2017	(no nomination)
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		1990	Robson Lowe*	2018	Lars Jørgenson
		1991	Ralph F Putzel*	2019	Roger Porter
		1991	George van den Hurk*	2020	André du Plessis
		1992	Cedric Roché	2020	Dr Christopher Board
		1992	Gunter von Schumann (Namibia)	2021	Dr Keith Klugman
		1993	Dr Gerrit H Jonkers*	2022	(no nomination)
		1993	Howard Green	2023	Dr Vic Sorour
		1994	Wilhelm Grütter*	2023	Brian Trotter
		1994	Dr JR (Achi) Frank (UK)	2024	Andrew Briscoe
		1995	Dr Alan Drysdall (UK)*	2024	Joshua van der Merwe





# Protea definitive series: The 'Club Foot' Variety – The missing common cylinder

by Vic Sorour RDPSA, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

The Protea Definitive Series was issued on 27 May 1977. It consisted of seventeen values in sheet form. Nine values (1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c, 8c, 10c, 15c and 20c) were produced by photogravure. The other eight (6c, 7c, 9c, 25c, 30c, 50c, R1 and R2) were produced by lithography.

The *Club Foot* variety occurs on some sheets of the Protea Definitive Series produced by lithography. There is a thickening of the lower part of the right leg of the "A" of "RSA" on the B Pane, Row 8/1, Figure 1.



Fig.1: The Club Foot variety.

The variety has been found in five values, nine issues. These are listed in Table 1.

Value	Issue
7c	1
20c	3
25c	1 3
30c	1 3
50c	1 2 3

The sheets printed by photogravure have the date of printing on the cylinder blocks. It is thus possible to determine the order of printing, and this was a major factor in determining the various states of Cylinder 722. But the sheets initially produced by lithography (Issue 1) do not have the date of printing, only the

Table 1: The nine issues that have the Club Foot variety.

cylinder numbers of the cylinders used to produce the sheets. If we presume that the cylinder numbers were used sequentially, then the order of printing and the presence of the flaw is presented in Table 2.

No.	Value	Issue	Cylinders	Club Foot	
1	9c	1	P1 055, P1 056 – P1 060	No	Phase 1
2	6c		P1 055, P1 061 – P1 065 and 1 107		
3	7c		P1 055, P1 077 – P1 081	Yes	Phase 2
4	25c		P1 055, P1 082 – P1 086 and 1 106		
5	30c		P1 055, P1 087 – P1 091		
6	50c		P1 055, P1 092 – P1 096		

Table 2: The presumed order of printing of Issue 1. Phases 1 and 2. Cylinder P1 055 is the common cylinder which prints "RSA". The Club Foot flaw is thus a P1 055 flaw. The first two values

printed (9c and 6c) do not have the flaw as indicated in Table 2. All the subsequent Issue 1 values printed (7c, 25c, 30c, 50c) have the flaw. This suggests that the cylinder was either changed or developed a flaw after printing the 6c value. Cylinder P1 055 was not used to print the R1 and R2 stamps. These are the first two phases of the *Club Foot* variety.

The second and third issues of the stamps produced by lithography do have the date of printing on the cylinder blocks. These issues do not have the *Club Foot* variety. This is the *Club Foot* variety, Phase 3 shown in Table 3.

Val.	Date	Issue	Cylinders	Club Foot	
30c	19 May 1978	2	1131 - 1136	No	Phase 3
9c	22 Dec 1978		1174 - 1179		
7c	19 Mar 1979		1199 - 1204		
9c	11 Jul 1979	3	1216 -1220, 1226		
6c	15 Aug 1979	2	1227 - 1233		
3c	01 Oct 1979	3	1254 - 1257		
25c	03 Jun 1980	2	1292 - 1298		
7c	19 Sep 1980	3	1310 - 1315		

Table 3: Values/Issues without the Club Foot variety. Phase 3.

The *Club Foot* variety then reappeared on 9 October 1980, 50c, Issue 2 and was present on all the subsequent printings. Phase 4 is shown in Table 4.

Val.	Date	Issue	Cylinders	Club Foot	
50c	09 Oct 1980	2	1316 -1321	Yes	Phase 4
30c	19 Oct 1980	3	1346 - 1351		
25c	26 Oct 1981		1415 - 1421		
50c	10 Feb 1982		1439 - 1444		
20c	24 May 1982		1468 - 1472		

Table 4: Values/Issues with the Club Foot variety. Phase 4.

The flaw in Phase 4 differs from that in Phase 2. The flaw is smaller and less rounded in Phase 4, Figure 2. It is not certain that these are the same flaw or if an attempt has been made to eliminate the flaw.



Fig.2: Left: Phase 2. 50c. Issue 1. Right: Phase 4. 50c. Issue 3.

Is there a missing common cylinder? In Phases 1 and 2, there is a common cylinder (P1 055) that prints the “RSA” and is responsible for the *Club Foot* variety. It also prints the arrows. It can be identified by a small dot (in the colour of P1 055) under the right arrow of the A Pane (Figs.3 and 4).



Fig.3: Top: Phase 1. 9c. Issue 1. No Club Foot variety.  
Middle: Common cylinder P1 055.  
Bottom: Dot under RA present.

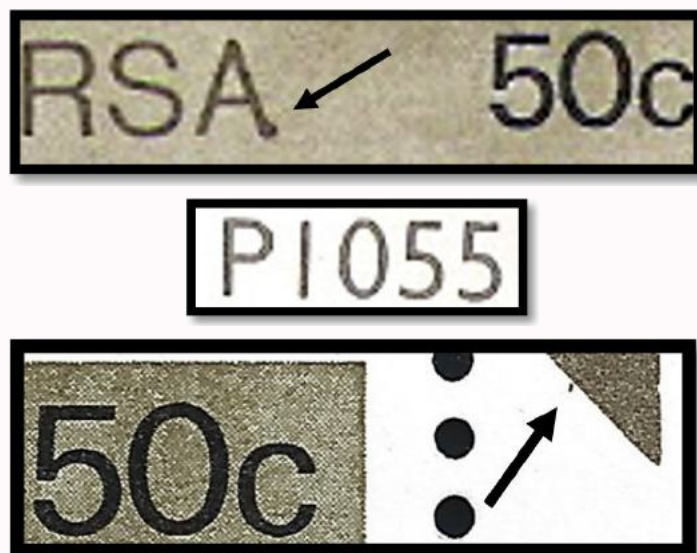


Fig.4: Top: Phase 2. 50c. Issue 1. Club Foot variety present.  
Middle: Common cylinder P1 055.  
Bottom: Dot under RA present.

There is no common cylinder listed in Phases 3 and 4 of the *Club Foot* variety in Tables 3 and 4. There are two possible explanations for this. The first is that there was a common cylinder, but it was given a different number each time it was used for another issue or printing. The other possibility is that a new cylinder was made to print “RSA” and the arrows for each value and issue. (Figs. 5 and 6).

Tables 3 and 4 (Phases 3 and 4) and Figures 5 and 6. show that a different cylinder was used for each value and issue. But the dot in the colour of “RSA” under the right arrow is present in all four phases. *This suggests that there was a common cylinder, but it was given a different number for each value and issue.* Probably cylinder P1 055 was used in all four phases but was given a different number each time it was used in Phases 3 and 4.

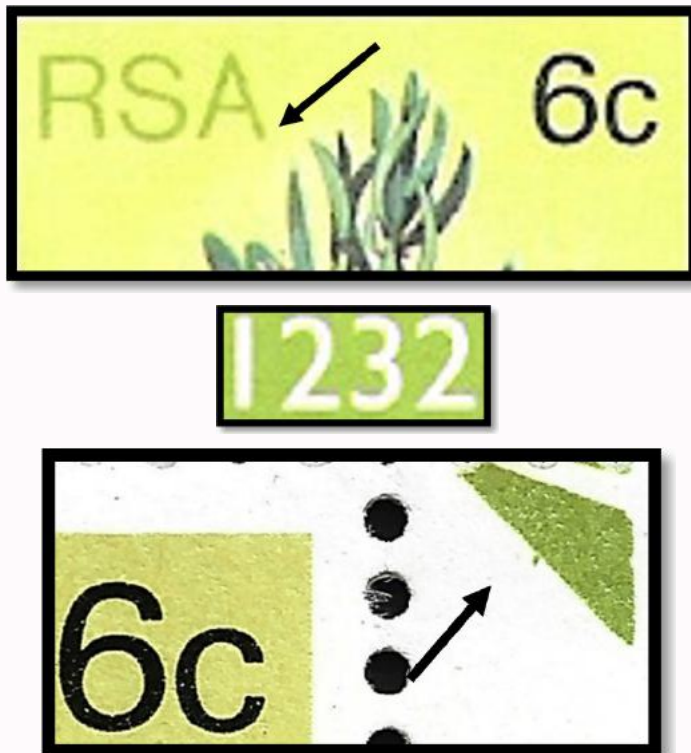


Fig.5: Top: Phase 3. 6c Issue 2. 15 August 1979. No Club Foot.  
Middle: Cylinder 1232.  
Bottom: Dot under arrow present.

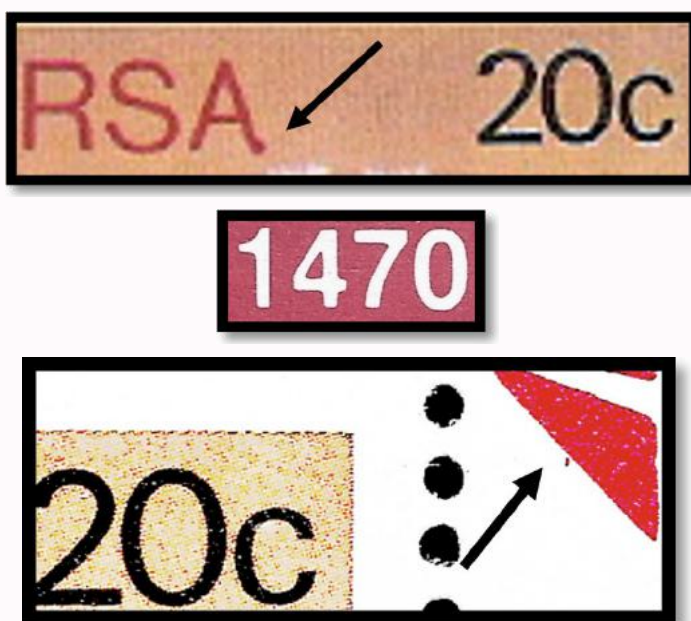


Fig.6: Top: Phase 4. 20c. Issue 3. 24 May 1982. Club Foot present.  
Middle: Cylinder 1470.  
Bottom: Dot under arrow present.



# Past and Present (Part 1): BSAC Revenue Documents

by Clinton Goslin, SAPDA

As time passes, valuable items are lost, destroyed, or misplaced. Knowledge fades, and stories are forgotten.

With a basic approach to paper preservation, I have chosen to write short stories about items I have discovered over the years. While I am neither a specialist nor an expert, I describe what I observe to the best of my ability. I also welcome any additional information on the subjects or items discussed.

*Awareness is the key to understanding and fosters a mindset of preservation.*

Today's item on the desk is a two-page document from the British South Africa Company (BSAC), originating from the region now known as Zimbabwe.

Figure 1). The second document is a Certificate of Payment of Transfer Dues, dated 12 May 1894 and signed by Hugh Marshall Hole (see Figure 2).

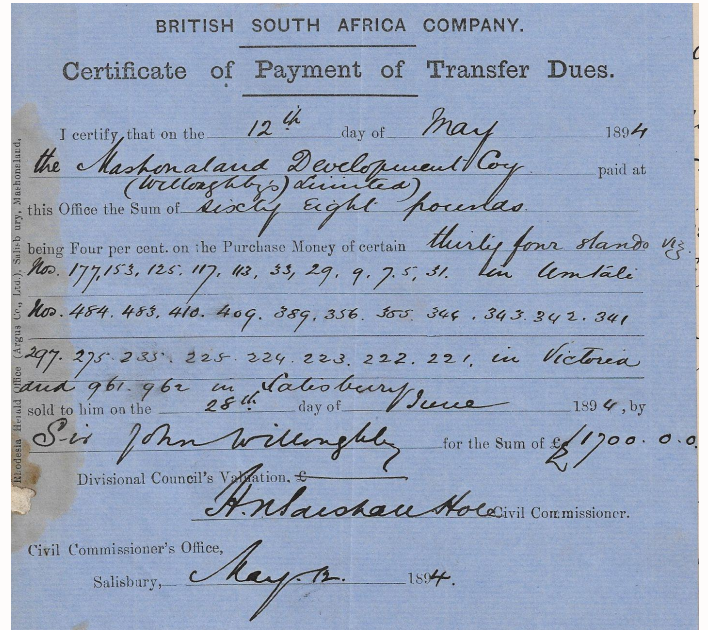


Fig.2: Certificate of Payment of Transfer Dues.

## What was the British South Africa Company?

The BSAC was founded in 1889 through the merger of Cecil Rhodes' Central Search Association and the London-based Exploring Company Ltd. Initially competitors for Mashonaland's mineral wealth, they united to secure British government support [2].

Granted a Royal Charter, modelled on the British East India Company, BSAC was led by Cecil John Rhodes; James Hamilton, 2nd Duke of Abercorn; and financier Alfred Beit. Rhodes aimed to use BSAC for colonization and economic expansion, focusing on Mashonaland and its eastern coastal regions. He believed Portuguese influence could be removed through financial negotiation or force while also seeking control over the Transvaal [2].

Rhodes' broader ambition of a British-controlled route from "Cape to Cairo" was financially unfeasible and offered little return for investors. BSAC expected Mashonaland's gold to finance regional expansion, particularly in Katanga. However, when these expectations failed and Katanga was absorbed into the Congo Free State, financial constraints limited major developments, including railway construction north of the Zambezi [2].

BSAC viewed its northern territories as long-term assets to be secured cheaply for future exploitation rather than immediate profit [2].

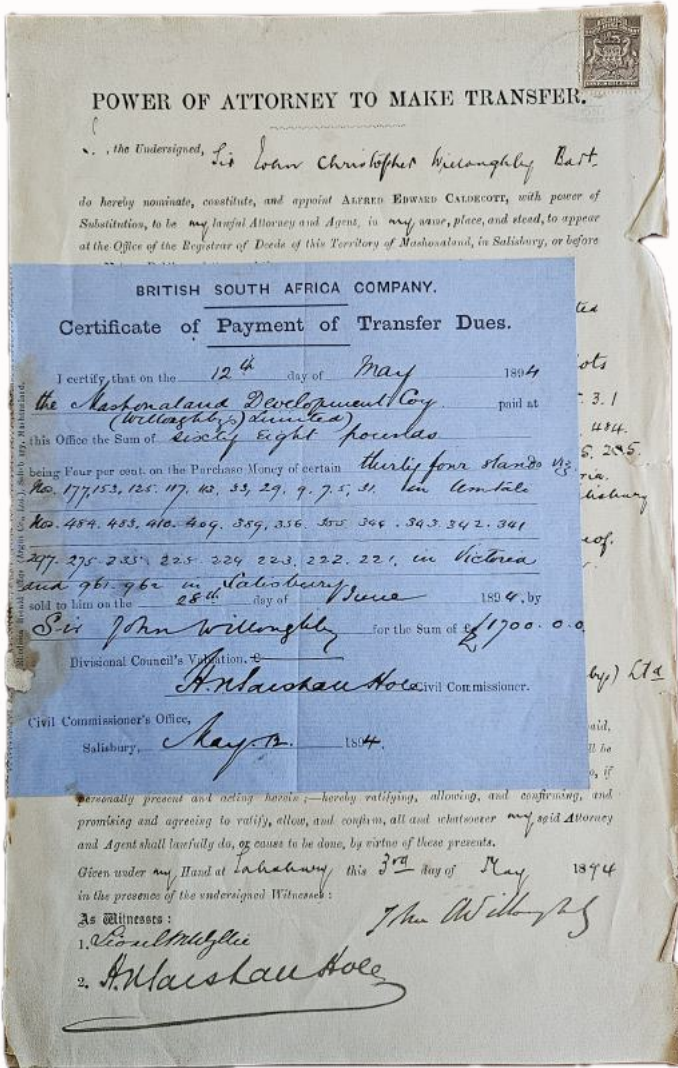


Fig.1: Power of Attorney to Make a Transfer.

## First Document

The first document is a Power to Make a Transfer, dated 3 May 1894 and signed by Sir John Christopher Willoughby (see

A handwritten note on aged paper. At the top, it reads "this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May 1894". Below this, the name "John Willoughby" is written in a large, cursive script.

Fig.3: Signature of Sir John Christopher Willoughby dated 3 May 1894.

### Who was Sir John Christopher Willoughby?

Sir John Christopher Willoughby, 5th Baronet DSO, was a British army officer, Justice of the Peace for Oxfordshire, and landowner with estates in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire [3]. His signature is shown in Figure 3.

Educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, Willoughby began his military career in 1879 as a lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion Oxford Light Infantry. He later served as a 2nd lieutenant in the 6th Dragoon Guards before joining the Royal Horse Guards in 1880 [3].

His military service included the Egyptian campaign of 1882, where he was awarded a medal with clasp and a bronze star. During the Nile expedition (1884–1885), he was mentioned in despatches. In 1893, he joined the British South Africa Company's forces in Matabeleland. During the Second Boer War (1899–1900), he served with the Cavalry Headquarters Staff during the siege of Ladysmith. Later, at the relief of Mafeking, he was appointed major under General Hunter, overseeing transport for the Flying Column. He was again mentioned in despatches and awarded a campaign medal [3].

### Second Document

A document dated 12 May 1894 provides further historical insight. The Mashonaland Development Company was originally known as Willoughbys Limited. Early land transactions reveal that syndicates were formed, with Willoughby playing a key role in acquiring and consolidating land for gold mining ventures. His connections in London provided the financial backing necessary for these acquisitions within the British South Africa Company. Business arrangements for land acquisition likely involved Willoughby, Rhodes, and Marshall Hole. At the time of this transaction, Willoughby was 35 years old and was a baronet. The purchase included 34 stands in the Salisbury and Victoria area for a total of £1,700.

Willoughby later served in World War I (1914–1917) and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) in 1917. He commanded the 1st Motor Battery of the Army Service Corps before passing away in April 1918 at the age of 59. He was buried in Kensal Green Cemetery, London.

### Sir John Christopher Willoughby and the Jameson Raid

In 1884, gold was discovered in the Transvaal, attracting a significant influx of European settlers. By the end of 1895, the region had approximately 60,000 non-Boer European men, primarily British, alongside 30,000 Boers [3].

In 1895, a plan was devised with the collusion of the Cape

Prime Minister Cecil John Rhodes, to liberate Johannesburg from the governance of the ZAR administration. Dr Leander Starr Jameson, a close friend of Rhodes and Administrator of the BSAC, would lead an armed force on 29 December 1895 from Bechuanaland for support. This operation became known as the Jameson Raid, which occurred from 29 December 1895 to 2 January 1896. Sir John Willoughby commanded Jameson's force, and as they approached Johannesburg on 30 December 1895, they converged northwest of Johannesburg [1, pp 272 - 285].

On 1 January 1896, the raiders engaged Boer forces in a series of skirmishes. The following day, outnumbered and suffering approximately 30 casualties, they were defeated and forced to surrender. Captured by the Boers, the raiders were imprisoned in Pretoria before being handed over to British authorities for trial in London. Jameson was sentenced to 15 months, while Willoughby received a 10-month sentence [3].

### Who was Hugh Marshall Hole?

Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Marshall Hole, CMG, was an English pioneer, administrator, and author, best known for issuing the Marshall Hole currency [4]. His signature is shown in Figure 4.

A handwritten signature "H. Marshall Hole" in cursive script, written on a document. The signature is written over a blue stamp that reads "Divisional Council's Valuation, £" and "Civil Commissioner." There is a handwritten "R1" in the top right corner of the stamp area.

Fig.4: Hugh Marshall Hole signatures from 1894.

Born in Tiverton, Devon, he was educated at Blundell's School and Balliol College. In 1889, he arrived in the Cape Colony and met Cecil Rhodes in Kimberley. Rhodes offered him a position as the first clerk of the newly established British South Africa Company. By 1891, he had become private secretary to Sir Starr Jameson in Mashonaland, shortly before Jameson's appointment as administrator of the company's territories [4].

Throughout his career, Marshall Hole held several key positions:

- Secretary for Matabeleland
- Civil Commissioner of Bulawayo
- Chief Secretary of Southern Rhodesia
- Chief Native Title Commissioner for Matabeleland
- Administrator of North West Rhodesia

Rhodes regarded Marshall Hole highly, sending him to Arabia in 1901 to explore the introduction of Arab labour to Southern Rhodesia. In 1902, he oversaw arrangements for Rhodes' burial in the Matopo Hills [4].

Retiring from government service in 1913, he joined the Norfolk Regiment at the outbreak of World War I, was

mentioned in despatches, and retired in 1919 [4].



Fig.5: 1900: 3 Pence, Marshall Hole currency, Bulawayo [4].

### Marshall Hole Currency

In 1900, during the Anglo-Boer War, a shortage of small change in Rhodesia led Marshall Hole, then Government Secretary for Matabeleland and Civil Commissioner of Bulawayo, to authorise emergency currency. The Marshall Hole currency consisted of small cards bearing a British South Africa Company postage stamp on the obverse and

an official hand-stamped signature on the reverse. These circulated between 1 August and 1 October 1900 [4].

Denominations included 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 1/-, 2/-, 2/6, 4/-, 5/-, and 10/-, validated by stamps reading either "ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE \* BULAWAYO" or simply "ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE." A total of £20,000 worth of stamps were issued, with £1,000 unredeemed at withdrawal. The resulting profit offset the initial criticism Marshall Hole faced for the initiative [4], shown in Figure 5.

### Conclusion

There are many hidden treasures waiting to be discovered. Take the time to read, analyse, and understand. If uncertainty arises, do not hesitate to ask. I am always willing to assist or provide a referral.

Happy Hunting!!!!

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## IN MEMORIAM

### Huldeblyk aan Laurette van Tonder



Laurette van Tonder  
Jan 1929 – Feb 2025  
(96 jaar).

Laurette het 'n uitgebreide SA posseël versameling gehad, met o.a. baie posstempels van honderde poskantore in die land. Ook had sy 'n ongewone *ABC of Philately* wat sy opgebou het.

Sy het vir baie jare 'n groot bydrae tot die werksaamhede en lering van die Stellenbosch Filatelistiese Vereniging gelewer, en het altyd iets interessants gehad om te vertoon en van te vertel. Haar dogters noem dat, benewens haar genot uit korrespondensie na ander lande, die seëlklub en haar vriendskappe haar baie ondersteun het, veral na haar man se dood.

Sy het die kunstenaar Dick Findlay bewonder, en hom besoek in Pretoria, wat dan verdere inspirasie was vir haar nasionale Protea Uitstalling.

Met haar wye belangstelling en as rentmeester van God se

seëninge laat sy aangename herinneringe na.

### English Translation

*Laurette had an extensive collection of South African stamps, including numerous postmarks from hundreds of post offices across the country. She also built up an unusual 'ABC of Philately' collection.*

*For many years, she made a significant contribution to the activities and learning of the Stellenbosch Filatelistiese Vereniging, always bringing something interesting to display and share. Her daughters recall that, in addition to her enjoyment of corresponding with people in other countries, the stamp society and her friendships provided her with great support, especially after her husband's passing.*

*She admired the artist Dick Findlay and visited him in Pretoria, which further inspired her national Protea Exhibit.*

*With her broad interests and as a steward of God's blessings, she leaves behind fond memories.*



## The 'NPO' Manuscript Cancel of 1869 to 1871: Previously Undescribed Natal Postmark Likely Used at Newcastle

by Roger Porter RDPSA\* and Keith P Klugman RDPSA, FRPSL<sup>§</sup>,  
\*Cape & Natal Study Circle, <sup>§</sup>Philatelic Society of Johannesburg

We describe a novel manuscript cancel likely used at Newcastle during the early postal history of Natal. While the existing book on Natal postal markings by Hart, Kantey & Leon (1977) has a section on manuscript cancellations (page 51) they did not report an unusual, but important provisional manuscript marking in the same hand found only to date on a single cover and a few Natal stamps issued in 1869 and 1870. It clearly reads 'NPO' and assuming 'PO' reasonably refers to 'Post Office', the origin is a town likely beginning with the letter 'N'.

At that time, only a limited number of post offices were extant in Natal. It is possible that the 'N' refers to Natal, but the only postmark referring just to Natal as a post office name is the crown circular datestamp used at Durban (HKL Type B), and the rarity of these items and the existing cover suggest it refers to a much smaller post office than Durban. Forty Natal post offices were open by 1870 (Hart et al., 1977) and three of these begin with the letter 'N'. These are Newcastle, Nottingham and Noodsberg. Based on the existing cover, the town was inland to Ladysmith as it transited that post office enroute to Durban (Figure 1). Both Nottingham and Noodsberg are much closer to the coast and to Durban than is Ladysmith, so would not have been routed there for a letter addressed to Durban, and would have had a transit cancellation only at Pietermaritzburg. The only town that fits this criterion is Newcastle, from whence the postal route to Durban includes sequentially Ladysmith and Pietermaritzburg.



Fig.1: 1870 penny cancelled NPO addressed to Durban via Ladysmith 29 DE 1870, Pietermaritzburg (GPO) 1JA 1871 and Durban 3 JA 1871 (Porter collection).

The Newcastle Post Office opened on 1 January 1864 and was issued with a barred numeral 20 cancel HLK type G (Dickson 1996). The manuscript cancel may have been a temporary measure when the Type G numeral cancel '20' of Newcastle was lost or damaged and no longer used. There are importantly a number of contemporary stamps recorded with the same NPO manuscript cancel in the same hand, suggesting that the manuscript NPO mark was done by one individual, most likely the postmaster, possibly during the interim period before the barred numeral 20 HLK type H was received.



Fig.2: NPO manuscript cancels on, **Left:** 1869 3d rough perf Postage 15½ mm (SG 46b) (Visser & Porter); **Middle:** 1869 penny red POSTAGE, overprint second printing (SG 50) (Klugman collection); **Right:** 1869 3d intermediate perf POSTAGE, overprint first setting (SG 53) (Klugman collection).

Three examples on different stamps all issued in 1869 are shown in Figure 2.

Finally, there is a very similar manuscript cancel 'NC' recorded to date on just a single 1870 penny stamp. It is probable that this too is a Newcastle provisional manuscript cancel (Figure 3) but more examples are needed.



Fig.3: Manuscript NC also provisionally ascribed to Newcastle.

### Acknowledgements

Our thanks to Alex Visser for the illustration in Figure 2 from the archive.

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# RSA Postal Rates – Valid From 1 April 2025

by Robin Messenger, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

The Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) has announced that, effective 1 April 2025, the postage rates and service fees for the reserved postal services will be implemented.

## Definitions

Class of letter	Maximum thickness	Maximum mass	Maximum size	Minimum size
Small DL	5mm	50g	235 x 120mm	140 x 90mm
Medium B5	10mm	1kg	250 x 176mm	
Large B4	30mm	1kg	353 x 250mm	
Postcard	0.295mm	10g	353 x 250mm	
Small packet		2kg	Length, width and depth combined not to exceed 900mm nor the greatest dimension to exceed 600mm	

When articles exceed the maximum mass, size, or thickness requirements for a category, the next applicable rate category must be applied. Articles smaller than 90 mm x 140 mm are subject to the rate applicable for B5 or B4 criteria.

## Domestic Letter Rates

Domestic Letter	New Rate R c	Old Rate R c	Increase %
Small DL	6.75	6.30	7.14
Medium B5	13.55	12.65	7.11
Large B4	16.55	15.45	7.12

## Domestic Postcards

Same rates as letters.

## Registered letters, with insurance option (up to a maximum of R 2,000.00)

Registered Letter	New Rate R c	Old Rate R c	Increase %
Small DL	(6.75 + 40.35)	47.10	44.00 7.05
Medium B5	(13.55 + 40.35)	53.90	50.35 7.05
Large B4	(16.55 + 40.35)	56.90	53.15 7.06

## Insurance fee

Insured Value	New R c	Old R c	Increase %
Up to R 100.00	Free	Free	-
Up to R 250.00	32.90	30.75	6.99
Up to R 500.00	67.45	63.05	6.98
Up to R 1,000.00	135.55	126.70	6.99
Up to R 1,500.00	201.80	188.60	7.00
Up to R 2,000.00	269.20	251.60	7.00

## International

International letter and parcel services are available globally, either via airmail or surface mail. These services can be used by mailing mail at post offices or using street postboxes.

International Letter	New Rate R c	Old Rate R c	Increase %
Registration fee	63.85	59.65	7.04
There is no insurance option for international letter post.			
Aerograms	10.10	9.45	6.88
Postcards – Airmail	13.65	12.75	7.06
Postcards – Surface	8.30	7.75	7.10
Airmail letters – Southern Africa			
Small DL	12.30	11.50	6.96
Medium B5	44.55	41.65	6.96
Large B4	69.20	64.65	7.04
Small packets (per 100 g)	39.20	36.65	6.96
Airmail letters – Rest of the world			
Small DL	15.95	14.90	7.05
Medium B5	53.80	50.30	6.96
Large B4	91.20	85.25	6.98
Small packets (per 100 g)	69.00	64.50	6.98

The full schedule of all reserved postal services rates are available in [1].

## References

- [1] ICASA, “Postal Services Act (124/1998) » Fees and Charges for Postal Services”, National Gazettes, No. 52031 of 31 January 2025. [Online]. Available: <https://gpwonline.sharepoint.com/:b:r/sites/gpw-web/Shared%20Documents/Government/2021–2025/52031%2031–1%20ICASA.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=FcEeO2>

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Victor Millard  
Author.

# Millard's Revenue Stamps and Stamped Papers of the Princely States of India by Victor Millard

reviewed by Adél Bulpitt, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

This nine-volume compilation, *Millard's Revenue Stamps and Stamped Papers of the Princely States of India*, is an update of the earlier work by Koeppl and Manners. The compilation serves as a reference manual for the revenue stamps and stamped papers of the Princely States of India. Victor Millard is the compiler of this update, and the publication is copyrighted 21 September 2022.



Fig.1: The nine volumes are available on Amazon.com.

This review summarises information extracted from several volumes detailing the revenue and court systems of various Princely States within British India and their related fiscal and legal practices, as reflected through their postage and revenue stamps. The sources provide a comprehensive look into the diverse administrative structures, financial practices, and legal systems prevalent in these states. They catalogue not only the states themselves but also many of

the associated systems.

It must be mentioned that this set of Reference books was entered in the Cape Town International 2022 and achieved an International Gold award in the literature category.

### Key Themes:

- **Diversity and Complexity:** They reveal a remarkable diversity in the political, economic, social and administrative systems of the Princely States, emphasizing the challenge of generalizing about British India.
- **Adaptation and Resilience:** Princely States adapted to changing conditions, including British influence, with some implementing modern fiscal practices while others adhered to traditional systems.
- **Historical Documentation:** Stamps and fiscal documents are valuable historical artifacts that provide insight into the administrative, financial, and social realities of the Princely States.
- **The Transition to Modernity:** The presence of both traditional and British-influenced systems demonstrates the transition from an old, localized system of governance into the modern, interconnected world.

Here's a breakdown of the key aspects of this compilation:

### Scope and Organization:

The work is organized into nine volumes, each covering a range of Princely States, alphabetically. Volume 1 includes an introduction, index, and bibliography, and covers states from Ajaigarh to Aurangabad. Subsequent volumes continue alphabetically, with Volume 2 covering Bagasra to Berar, Volume 3 covering Beri to Bussahir, Volume 4 covering Cambay to Indore, Volume 5 covering Jafrabad to Junagadh, Volume 6 covering Kadana to Lunavada, Volume 7 covering Madhan to Nimrana, Volume 8 covering Orchha to Rupal, and Volume 9 covering Sachin to Zainabad. The index in Volume 1 provides cross-references to alternate names of the states.

### Content:

The compilation includes details of adhesive stamps and stamped papers. The numbering system follows that of Koeppl and Manners (KM), with additions and variations included between the existing KM numbers.

- Each state's section begins with an introduction, which may include historical background, maps, and information from various internet sources.

- The entry for each princely state includes information on rulers, language, and principal exports.
- Descriptions of stamps include type numbers, dates of issue or use, measurements, perforation details, and colours. The perforations are measured with a Stanley Gibbons “Instanta” perforation gauge.
- The book also includes information on the printing of stamps, noting that the printing firm of L.V. Indap in Bombay printed court fee, revenue, judicial and postage stamps for many Princely States.
- The compilation includes images of the stamps and papers, often from Koepfel and Manners, and sometimes updated to colour. However, the images are not necessarily at full size.

#### Numbering System:

- The numbering system used by Koepfel and Manners (KM) has been retained to avoid confusion.
- New discoveries are placed between existing KM numbers.
- Suffixes are used to show variations.
- “TA” is used for adhesive types and “TP” for stamped paper types.
- Provisional issues are indicated with “TAP” or “TPP”, and specimen stamps with “S”, and proofs with “P”.

#### Sources:

- The work is an update to the three volumes by Koepfel and Manners.
- Information has been added from internet sources, such as Wikipedia and other sites.
- The bibliography lists a wide range of catalogues, journal articles, books, and other resources used in compiling the work. These sources provide historical context, details on

the Princely States, and specifics on the stamps and postal history of the region.

#### Additional Information:

- The dates of issue are difficult to determine, with information sometimes drawn from Morley or Forbin catalogues. Dates of use are obtained by examining cancellations, inscribed dates on stamps, or dates on legal documents.
- The size of the stamp design is measured without including perforations or margins.

#### Limitations:

- Dates of issue and use are sometimes difficult to ascertain.
- Reproduction difficulties have affected the size and consistency of the stamp images.

This set of books offer a rich and detailed picture of the intricate landscape of the Indian Princely States from the 1800s to the mid-1900s. They demonstrate the complexities of their governance, revenue collection, legal systems, social dynamics, and the transition through the final years of British rule and the creation of modern India. The stamps and fiscal documents, meticulously described, are not just pieces of paper; they are tangible records of a unique historical period.

In summary, *Millard’s Revenue Stamps and Stamped Papers of the Princely States of India* is a comprehensive, updated reference for collectors and researchers interested in the fiscal history of the Princely States. The compilation builds upon the work of Koepfel and Manners and includes additional information and images from a variety of sources. The detailed descriptions of stamps, along with the historical and contextual information, make it a valuable resource. 🌐

## IN MEMORIAM

### Obituries: Elizabeth Mathews, and Rose Marie Crocker

#### Elizabeth (Liz) Mathews

It was a sad day for the members of the Philatelic Society of KwaZulu-Natal, as well as for the many country members in South Africa, when Liz passed away at home.

As a child, Liz was fascinated with the stamps her grandfather and father used to collect. After her father’s passing in the mid 1990’s she continued with her father’s collection.



*Elizabeth (Liz) Mathews  
Jan 1949 – 20 Feb 2025  
(76 years).*

Approximately twelve years ago she joined the KZN Philatelic Society, attending auctions and meetings looking for stamps to complete the gaps in her collection. Her own personal favourites were her Canada, Hong Kong and Singapore collections. At the time of her joining the society, the meetings were held at a bowling club in Durban.

Approximately ten years ago it was thanks to Liz facilitating a move to their current location at the Classic Motorcycle Club on Tara Road on the Bluff.

Liz got more involved in the Society and at the time of her passing was coordinating the circulation of booklets to members throughout KZN, the Free State and Eastern and Western Cape, ensuring more members could share their collections and passions. Members and visitors were always welcomed with tea, coffee and biscuits.

She will be remembered for her passion for philately.

#### Rose Marie Crocker

Rose Marie Crocker passed away peacefully at the age of 86. She was a constant presence at South African stamp events with her husband David Crocker RDPSA for more than fifty years. Her encyclopaedic knowledge of Cape people, places and events never dimmed. A loving, kind soul. Rest in peace. 🌐



## FIP World Stamp Exhibition Uruguay 2025

by Vernon Mitchell, Uruguay 2025 South African Commissioner



*Uruguay 2025 Miniature Sheet.*

Uruguay's Declaration of Independence. This was the first time a World Stamp Exhibition had been held in Uruguay and only the second time in Latin America. More than 50 countries from five continents participated, and for the first time, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) competition class was held in Latin America.

On the afternoon of Tuesday, 18 February, a commemorative airmail flight took place, with a departure by aeroplane and an arrival by helicopter. This was marked by a special postmark ceremony.



*Commemorative airmail flight cover.*

Feedback on the first round of exhibits was provided by the Jury.

On Wednesday, 19 February, two seminars were held: one on the Open Philately Class FIP Qualifying and another on the Postal Stationery FIP Qualifying. Emil Burhman attended

I attended the FIP World Stamp Exhibition Uruguay 2025, which took place at the Maca Museum in the beautiful city of Punta del Este. The exhibition was open to the public from Monday, 17 February, to Friday, 21 February, from 12:00 to 20:00. On Saturday, 22 February, it closed at 17:00. The exhibition was divided into two rounds, with the first round on display at the opening. The Official Opening Ceremony was held at 19:00.

The exhibition was organised to commemorate the 200th anniversary of

the Open Philately seminar, while I attended the Postal Stationery seminar. All seminar information is available on the exhibition website.

The Organising Committee arranged a free daily city tour of Punta del Este with a bilingual guide from Tuesday to Friday, from 17:00 to 20:00. This was offered courtesy of the Federación Uruguaya de Filatelia.

On Friday, 21 February, the Jury provided feedback on the second round of exhibits. Several philatelic items commemorating the show, along with special cancellers, were available. Visitors could support the museum shop or explore the sixteen dealer and postal union stands.

The Palmares took place on Saturday, 22 February, at the Salón Montecarlo in the Enjoy Hotel in Punta del Este at 20:30. During the event, the FIP flag was handed over from Uruguay 2025 to Phila Korea 2025.

The FIP Medal of Appreciation for Excellent Jury Service was presented by FIP President Chirakiti to Mr Charles Verge from Canada for his outstanding contribution to FIP exhibitions.

The Jury evaluated a total of 265 exhibits, awarding 37 Large Gold Medals and 66 Gold Medals. Fifteen exhibits were transferred to a different class to improve their awards, while five exhibits did not arrive.

There was only one candidate for the National Grand Prix, and the winner was Mr Walter Britz (Uruguay) for his postal history exhibit, "The Postal History of Uruguay 1779 to 1880".

The Grand Prix International Prize had three candidates:

- Reim Pablo Alejandro, Republic Argentina - *Classic Issues Escuditos and Rivadavias.*
- Nieminen Kai, *Grand Ducay of Finland 1856-1875.*
- Jorgensen Lars, *Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek - Transvaal 1869-1885.*

After the votes were counted by Jury Secretary Bernard Jimenez, the Grand Prix International Prize was awarded to Reim Pablo Alejandro.

Results for South African exhibitors:

- Joof van der Merwe - *The Plating of the Cylinders of the 1982. Fourth Definitive Architecture Issue of The Republic of South Africa.* 83 Points - Vermeil.
- Ian Matheson - *The First Town and Village Posts of British Honduras* (Prev. Early Village Postal Services in British Honduras). 88 Points - Large Vermeil.
- Herwig Kussing - *Germany - The Postal Rates in 1923.* 87 points - Large Vermeil.

## Why You Should Join the Philatelic Federation of South Africa Today

In our digital age, reconnecting with tangible historical artefacts like stamps offers a pause to appreciate craftsmanship and human ingenuity. The PFSA community reinforces shared experiences and knowledge, inspiring and guiding collectors of all levels.

### A Passion with Multiple Layers

Stamp collecting is not just about collecting paper. Each stamp tells a story—a colourful window into our past, reflecting historical moments, figures, and cultures. Joining the PFSA isn't just about collecting; it's a journey that connects you to global events, artistic trends, and communication evolution, all preserved in a single stamp.

### How to Get On Board

The PFSA makes it exceptionally easy to join in two straightforward ways:

1. **Join a Philatelic Society Near You:** By becoming part of a local club, you'll not only meet others who share your interest but also gain automatic affiliation with the PFSA. Check out the "FIND A CLUB" page on the PFSA website to see what's available in your area.
2. **Become a Direct Subscriber:** For just R150.00 per year, you can subscribe directly to PFSA. While this option grants you a wealth of benefits, it comes without the voting rights at the Annual General Meeting (Congress). Payments can be made via bank transfer or PayPal, and once you send your proof of payment, you're ready to go.

### What's in It for You?

Being a member of the PFSA comes with a host of exciting perks. Here's a snapshot of what you gain:

Benefit	What It Offers
Exclusive Online Access	Visit <a href="http://www.stampssa.africa">www.stampssa.africa</a> to access a dedicated members-only area.
Bi-Monthly Journal and Newsletter	Enjoy The SA Philatelist journal and the STAMPS SOUTH AFRICA – Keeping in Touch newsletter.
Exhibition Opportunities	Showcase your collection at PFSA events, with advice on presenting your exhibits.
Discounted Expert Verification	Validate your stamps and postal items without the guesswork.
Collection and Exhibit Guidance	Receive expert advice on preparing and refining your collection or exhibit.
Philatelic Library Access	Dive into a treasure trove of knowledge that will expand your understanding of the hobby.
Support for Youth Groups	Help pave the way for younger enthusiasts to celebrate and grow in their passion.
Trading Opportunities	Buy and sell philatelic materials, whether you're hunting for a rare find or looking to trade up.

### A Gateway to Lifelong Learning

Stamp collecting through the PFSA is more than a hobby; it's an active education in art, history, and culture. It offers a unique platform to meet diverse people, share insights, and build networks with collectors worldwide. With every new stamp, you connect with global heritage and personal stories.

For curious minds seeking an enriching hobby, the PFSA is the perfect starting point.

### Take the Leap

Join the PFSA for a journey that combines learning with collecting. Whether you prefer a local society or becoming a Direct Subscriber. Your next adventure in history, art, and personal enrichment is just one stamp away.

Visit <http://www.stampssa.africa> to learn more and sign up.



## Visit a Stamp Fair Near You



### Cape Stamp Fair and Auction

Usually **first** Saturday, every month.  
**Bellville Valley DRC Hall**,  
c/o Postma & St Andrews Streets, Bellville  
*Open:* 09:00 – 12:30

*Contact:*  
Ken Joseph: 072 5971287,  
[ken@philatelicfriends.com](mailto:ken@philatelicfriends.com)  
Robert Harm: 082 925-7103,  
[robertharm9@gmail.com](mailto:robertharm9@gmail.com)

### George (Online Philatelic Auctions Only)

Ray's Stamps  
*Contact:*  
Ray Upson: 044 871 2286,  
[scpa@xsinet.co.za](mailto:scpa@xsinet.co.za),  
Fax2Email: 086 733 8444

### Pretoria Stamp Fair and Auction Gauteng

**First** Saturday, every month.  
**Greek Orthodox Church**,  
Corner Lynnwood Road & Roper St, Brooklyn  
*Open:* 08:00 with Auction at 10:30

*Contact:*  
Kenny Napier: 083 444 0249,  
[kenny.napier@mweb.co.za](mailto:kenny.napier@mweb.co.za)  
Clinton Goslin: 083 272 9367,  
[atlasauctioneers@lantic.net](mailto:atlasauctioneers@lantic.net)

### Johannesburg Stamp Fair and Auction Gauteng (Old Kyalami Stamp Fair)

**Second** Saturday every month.  
**German Club**, 131 Holkam Road, Paulshof, Sandton.  
*Open:* 08:00 with Auction at 10:00

*Contact:*  
Kenny Napier: 083 444 0249,  
[kenny.napier@mweb.co.za](mailto:kenny.napier@mweb.co.za)  
Clinton Goslin: 083 272 9367,  
[atlasauctioneers@lantic.net](mailto:atlasauctioneers@lantic.net)

### East Rand Stamp Fair and Auction Gauteng

**Last** Saturday, every month.  
**Edenvale Bowling Club**,  
6th Avenue, Edenvale  
*Open:* 08:00 with Auction at 10:00

*Contact:*  
Kenny Napier: 083 444 0249,  
[kenny.napier@mweb.co.za](mailto:kenny.napier@mweb.co.za)  
Clinton Goslin: 083 272 9367,  
[atlasauctioneers@lantic.net](mailto:atlasauctioneers@lantic.net)

### Natal Stamp Fair and Auction (Durban)

**Second** and **last** Saturday, every month.  
**Classic Motor-cycle Club**,  
137 Tara Road, Bluff, Durban  
*Open:* From 09:00

*Contact:*  
Zbigniew Kawecki: 079 465 7468,  
[z.kawecki57@gmail.com](mailto:z.kawecki57@gmail.com)

### KZN: Sunbird Stamp Auction

**First** Saturday, every month.  
**St Elizabeth's Anglican Church Hall**,  
45 Salisbury Avenue, Westville, Durban  
*Open:* 09:00 – 13:00

*Contact:*  
Kim Breytenbach:  
[sunbird.stampauction@gmail.com](mailto:sunbird.stampauction@gmail.com)



*Support SAPDA Dealers.* The South African Philatelic Dealers Association (SAPDA) maintains a code of conduct for dealers in stamps and postal material and arranges dealer participation in the annual national stamp exhibition. For more information: <https://stampssa.africa/buy-and-sell/>

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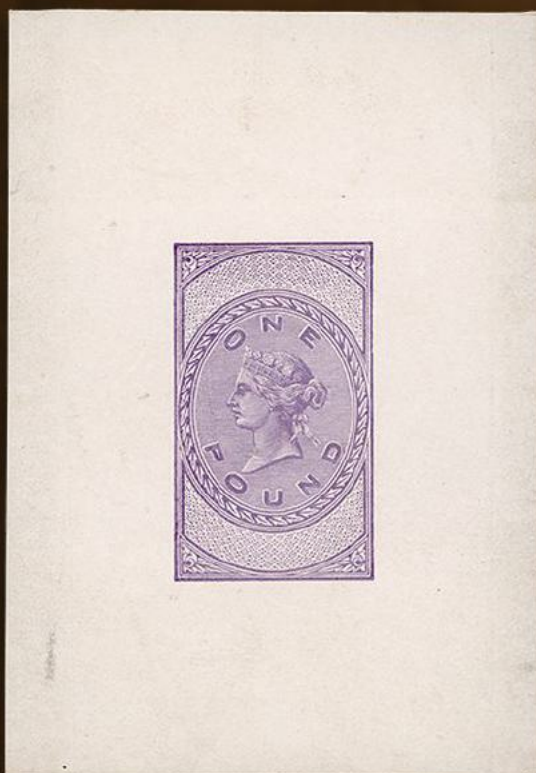
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THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1923

Volume 101:3. 990

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## „White Lady“ Part II

-Auction Late June 2025-



↳ Both pairs „Wes.“



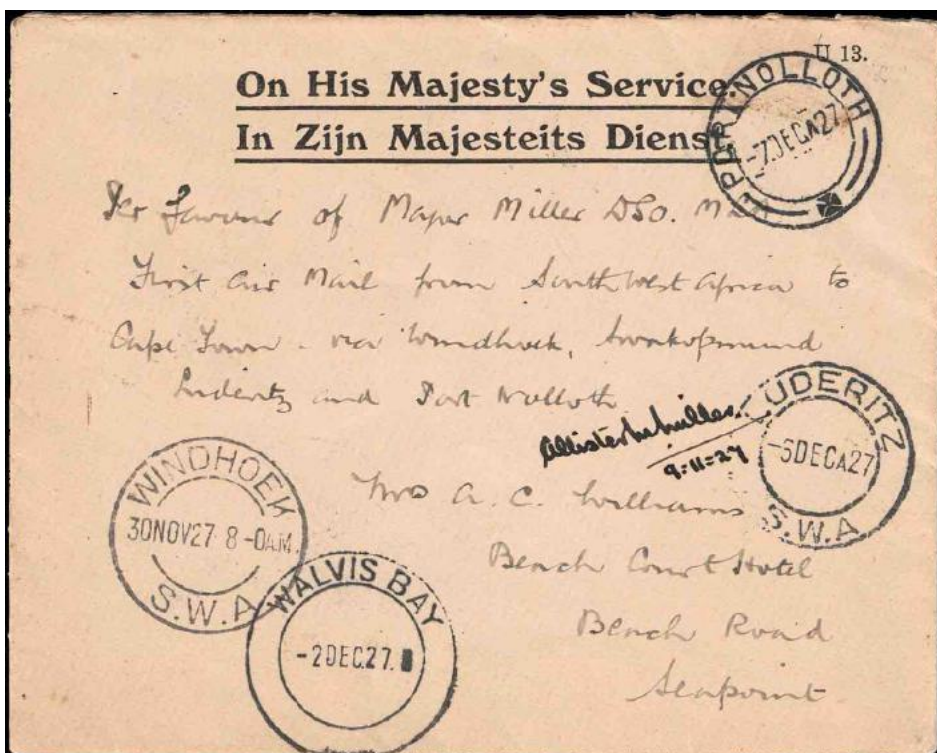
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**Please note:** Publication closing dates for **FINAL** submission of Advertising Material for *The SA Philatelist* is by **25 AUGUST 2025**.

**ARTICLES should be submitted in the month prior:**

For the Volume 101:4 991 - The **AUGUST 2025** issue submit by **15 July 2025**

Send your contribution to [sap@stampssa.africa](mailto:sap@stampssa.africa)



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# FEDERATION NEWS

André du Plessis RDPFA, Chief Operating Officer of the PFSA, 083 399 1755  
<https://www.stampssa.africa> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/>



At the Management Meeting on 30 April 2025, the PFSA has outlined its approach to financial support for members who wish to exhibit their collections on international platforms, with a particular focus on fostering excellence and encouraging wider participation in the hobby of philately.

## Standard International Exhibitions:

The PFSA's current approach in respect of standard International Exhibitions is to support two Exhibitions (one FIP and one FIAP) per year. A subsidy of 50% of the frame fees is offered to a South African exhibitor in good standing with a Philatelic Society affiliated to the PFSA. This subsidy is for a FIP or FIAP accredited international exhibition supported by the Federation. A subsidy can be obtained for at most one exhibit in any calendar year. For standard exhibitions, exhibitors should apply for the subsidy through the appointed commissioners.

## International Virtual Exhibitions:

Both FIP and FIAP currently do not support Virtual exhibitions. PFSA will support these type exhibitions to promote exhibiting and philately in general. To qualify for a 50% subsidy, potential exhibitors in this exhibitions will have to apply in advance to the COO before entering an exhibition.

- The application will be considered by the MC Executive Committee (PFSA Constitution Article 11(5)) taking in account the international status of such exhibition.
- To qualify for the subsidy, the exhibit entered must have received a minimum of 75 points or a Vermeil award at a national level exhibition within three years prior to the exhibition.

A subsidy can be obtained for at most one exhibit in any calendar year.

## Individual Entries:

FIP or FIAP exhibitions not supported by the PFSA or Exhibitions not supported by FIP, FIAP and where the PFSA lacks commissioner privileges.

Same proviso as above with a maximum of at most one subsidy in five years.

- Entries normally need to be submitted to the Organising Committee via an official appointed commissioner and the applicant should confirm this arrangement in the application.

## Implementation:


A subsidy can be obtained for at most one exhibit in any calendar year.

## WORLD'S BEST STAMP



Readers might recall the announcement of the of this competition that unfortunately had to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

All issues have been resolved, and the competition will now take place from February 2026 to April 2026, across six categories.

Post Offices or Postal Administrations of Member Countries of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and other recognised stamp issuing authorities responsible for the issue of Postage Stamps are welcome to enter. 

### EDITORIAL POLICY

*The Editorial Board reserves the right to accept or decline any articles, letters or any other material submitted for publication, and reserves the right to effect minor changes of spelling, punctuation, grammar and word choice without requesting prior permission from the author(s). For more substantial revisions, such as shortening or restructuring, either the Board will request the author(s) to effect such changes or will propose amendments to the author prior to publication - if no agreement can be reached then publication will be declined.*

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EXHIBITION	DATE	PATRONAGE	COMMISSIONER / CONTACT	LINK
SAVPEX 2025	June 2025	PFSA	Emil Minnaar RDPSA <a href="mailto:emil@minnaar.org">emil@minnaar.org</a>	<a href="#">PFSA</a>
NATIONAL STAMP SHOW 2025	3-6 Sep 2025	PFSA	Gawie Hugo <a href="mailto:gawiehugo@gmail.com">gawiehugo@gmail.com</a>	<a href="#">PFSA</a>
NORDIA 2025	12-14 Sep 2025	FEPA	N/A	<a href="#">Nordia 2025</a>
PHILAKOREA 2025 Specialized WSC	17-21 Sep 2025	FIP	Gary Pienaar <a href="mailto:pienaargary@gmail.com">pienaargary@gmail.com</a>	<a href="#">Korea 2025</a>
AUSVIPEX 2025	From 27 Nov 2026	APF	<a href="#">Online Form</a>	<a href="#">AUSVIPEX 2025</a>
Dubai 2026 Specialised World Stamp Exhibition	4-8 February 2026	FIP	TBA	<a href="#">Dubai 2026</a>
AMSIPEX-26	14 - 21 February 2026	FISA / PCI	Virtual	TBA
BOSTON 2026 General World Exhibition	23-30 May 2026	FIP	N/A	<a href="#">Boston 2026</a>

## NATIONAL STAMP SHOW 2025

3 to 6 September 2025



The 2025 South African **National Stamp Show** will be hosted by the Paarlse Filateliste, Paarl.

*Venue:* Paarl Golf club, 848 Wemmershoek Rd, Boschenmeer Golf Estate, Paarl

*Entries close:* 15 July 2025.

*Delivery of Exhibits to the Organising Committee:* 2 September 2025.

[Entry form](#)

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**Please enter now! We are looking forward receiving your entry.**



# Looking Back a Century: Highlights from *The SA Philatelist* - May and June 1925

by Louwrence Erasmus, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria

This is the third instalment in a series that delves into the captivating realm of Southern African philately by presenting concise summaries of *The SA Philatelist* of a century ago. Who knows, you might just ignite a hidden passion for philatelic research!

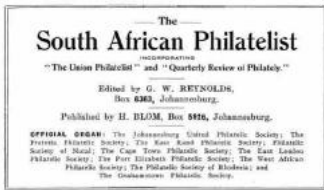


Fig. 1: SAP of May 1925.

In May 1925, *The SA Philatelist* reported that Philately was alive and thriving, with two new societies; one in Nairobi (the Kenya Philatelic Society) and the other in King William's Town (the Kaffrarian Philatelic Society). Meanwhile, collectors had been warned about more stamp forgeries, with one Peter Hiordin exposed as a major international fraudster, fooling even Pretoria's own Louis Gillen.

On a lighter note, readers could get a free Union of South Africa stamp handbook if they subscribed or recruited a friend. Sadly, space constraints meant some juicy articles, including one on Union head-plate variations, had to be shelved. The editors hoped for more readers and advertisers to grow the journal.

In other news, philatelic book-plates were gaining attention, with Gibbons' Stanley Phillips calling for contributions. Exclusive stamps would be issued at the Empire Exhibition in Wembley.

Finally, sharp-eyed expert Leon de Raay had uncovered fresh forgeries of the Orange Free State.

The Rhodesian "Double Heads" of 1910 had stirred up quite the philatelic pot, thanks to a colourful mix of cancelled remainders, inky quirks, and printing curiosities. When the British South Africa Company (BSAC) decided to clear old stock, Stanley Gibbons stepped in—choosing postmarking over the bonfire—though using genuine Rhodesian cancellers with backdated dates raised some eyebrows. Gibbons did try to keep things above board, but the discovery of errors (including the rare £1 colour variety, of which only 100 exist) added fuel to the collector fire. Printed by Waterlow & Sons on thick wove paper, these line-engraved stamps came in a vibrant mix of shades, often

a result of worn plates or fugitive inks that misbehave in water. The lower single-colour values were simple one-pass jobs, while the striking bi-colour higher values needed two separate plates—head and duty—carefully aligned. However, the occasional guide marks had many puzzled. No, the 4s value was never issued despite appearing on a list, and that "toned" paper look? Not dirt, just damp paper or lazy plate wiping. With good used examples of higher values getting scarcer and prices shifting, collectors were watching this set with renewed interest—and maybe reaching for that hefty Stanley Gibbons album to keep track.

According to the Postmaster General, South Africa was getting a new batch of pictorial stamps featuring things like a springbok head, Van Riebeeck's ship, and a pair of wildebeest straight from the Natal coat of arms. They were not locally printed yet but were still on order from overseas, so collectors would have to wait a few more weeks before they could get their hands on them.

Collectors in Bulawayo and Umtali sent in specimens of the new Southern Rhodesian stamps released on 1 April 1925. They looked similar to the old ones but said "Postage & Revenue" instead of "British South Africa Company." Plus, "Southern Rhodesia" proudly took centre stage at the bottom of the design.

These stamps were sharper, brighter in colour, and came with improved definition. Halfpenny, penny, penny halfpenny, and threepenny stamps were single colour; the rest were two-tone beauties printed using double plates. Sizes and sheets vary – standard collectors' fare. The 2s 6d in blue and grey-brown was visually captivating!

Revenue stamps were also out in bigger denominations – from 3s to £50. Some reports suggested watermarked paper might be in play for the first time.

An odd little quirk in the Postage Dues of South West Africa had popped up – a hyphen between "South" and "West" on a few values. Inverted overprints had also been spotted in Windhoek – only one pane of 60 stamps was known at that time.

Great Britain: A new watermark had shown up post-change of printer – a crown over "GVR" in clean, sans serif letters.

Kenya and Uganda: The 12c. stamp was back, now in a darker shade – possibly a reissue.

In a light-hearted talk, Charles Hand at the Johannesburg Philatelic Society ran through how stamp errors could creep in – from clueless designers and wobbly engravers to printers

with dodgy inks and perforation machines. Sometimes it was a fly, sometimes a dinner hangover. Either way, collectors were grateful!

"INQUISITIVE" warned about stamps that looked postal but were actually cleaned Rhodesian fiscals. From faded colours to fatty smudges and dodgy re-gumming, it was all there. A sharp magnifying glass and a drop of water might just save you from being duped.

London dealers T. Allen and D. Field were making waves – Allen was after rare British Africans, and Field had snapped up the famous "Loder" Collection for a cool £40,000. It was packed with war stamps, rare overprints, and British Colonial gems.

Pretoria Philatelic Society: Pretoria's collectors had been quite busy! Major Booth chaired a lively meeting on the 8 April 1925, with Mr. Pethick giving a well-received talk on the George issues' Yellow and Green papers. He also showed off his Edwards collection – all in mint condition!

The open meeting on 21 April 1925 drew a strong crowd. Mr. Hand's talk on early Transvaal stamps – spotting fakes, understanding printings and overprints – kept everyone intrigued. His exhibit, a flawless Transvaal collection, got everyone talking. A hearty thanks followed from Major Booth, with chaps like Klagsbrun and Westbrook diving into the discussion.

Up in Bulawayo, the Philatelic Society of Rhodesia met on 20 March 1925. Sir John Chancellor kindly donated a block of 16 Trinidad Red Cross stamps. A thoughtful paper on stamp care by Mr. Mallett-Veale sparked discussion, especially about some dodgy Rhodesian stamps popping up in England. A "black list" of suspect issues was compiled to keep things tidy.

25 March 1925 was a festive affair as the Pretoria crowd – Booth, Hand, Obermeyer and co. – visited the Johannesburg United Philatelic Society. The locals dropped the regular agenda to host them properly. Major Booth presented on forgeries, while Mr. Hand delivered a hilarious paper on design blunders in stamp production. Exhibits included Mr. Watson's dazzling Great Britain collection – quoted as being near-indescribable in its splendour! Visitors and hosts toasted to inter-town cooperation and the joy of shared philatelic passions.

The East London Philatelic Society met on 21 March 1925 with fair attendance. News came from King William's Town about forming a new society there – good on them! A junior competition was held, with enthusiastic participation. Young collectors like J.D. Brown and S. Bucholtz took home prizes – even 8-year-old J. Lewis got a third place!

East Rand Philatelic Society held two meetings in April 1925. On the 14th, juniors competed across age groups, showing promising collections. The seniors met on the 16th, where Mr. Donne wowed the room with a talk and exhibit on St. Helena. Attendance was a bit thin, but the passion

certainly was not.

Philatelists' Exchange Club (S.A. Branch) circulated three exchange packets between 15 March and 15 April, valued at £384. Demand remained strong for quality British African Colonials.

Reviews & Offers: Postage Stamps as an Investment by Charles J. Phillips (New York) offered solid advice for collectors keen on making their hobby pay. Bright & Sons released a new ABC Priced Catalogue focused on ex-enemy countries' stamps – especially Turkish War issues. Retailers from Cape Town to New Zealand were advertising some serious deals – everything from inverted overprints to War Stamp rarities.

Collectors were actively buying, selling, and swapping everything from Cape Woodblocks to SWA overprint errors in the Classifieds & Exchanges. The Union Stamp Exchange and Philatelists' Exchange Club remained the go-to platforms for solid trades.



**TOPICS OF THE MONTH.**

**Rhodesian Society's Check List.**  
Mr. A. C. Thornton has kindly furnished us with a copy of the official Rhodesian Check List, drawn up by Mr. J. E. M. Coch and himself. Each issue lists the other side the greater amount of work, but both are to be heartily congratulated on drawing up a remarkably accurate and complete check list of all errors, varieties, etc., of Rhodesian issues. Unfortunately, this check list is too bulky to be published in the "S.A.P."

**The Johannesburg Society.**  
We are delighted to hear that Mr. J. E. M. Coch has been elected President of the Johannesburg Society for the coming year. Mr. Coch requires no introduction to members of the "Philatelist," since month after month his excellent articles of Rhodesian issues have appeared in this journal. The Society should unhesitatingly advance by leaps and bounds, since Mr. Coch is not only one of our foremost authorities on stamps, but is a business man of no mean ability.

**Thanks.**  
Our grateful thanks are tendered to those many readers who, in response to the paragraph in last month's issue, furnished us with the names of stores selling stamps in whose possession some of the "S.A. Philatelist" were forwarded. The result has been good, many new subscribers having been obtained, while the few copies promised of Mr. Reynolds' "Union" handbook have of course been posted.

**A larger and better journal can be produced immediately we have more advertising support and a larger number of readers.**

For a limited period only we will give, absolutely free, a copy of the Handbook by Mr. G. W. Reynolds on the Stamps of the Union of South Africa to every new subscriber asking for it. In addition any present subscriber who introduces a new subscriber to us will also receive a free copy of this handbook on request.

Do it now while the thought is fresh in your mind, since this offer will be withdrawn immediately the few copies we have at our disposal are exhausted.

Fig.2: SAP of June 1925.

Philatelist, but it was certainly a collector's gem.

More cheers for J.E.M. Coch — he had been elected President of the Johannesburg Philatelic Society for 1925/26. Regular readers would have known him well from his excellent Rhodesian articles. With Coch's sharp philatelic mind and solid business sense, the society seemed to be in very capable hands.

A warm word of thanks went out to readers who responded to the previous month's call to share *The South African Philatelist* with fellow collectors. It had worked — new subscribers were coming on board, and those free copies of G.W. Reynolds' *Union Handbook* had flown out the door.

The April issue of Mr Roberts' "Foreword" Surprises did pleasantly surprise! Though it was a house journal, it was packed with absorbing articles on British surface-printed stamps, King George V issues of Ceylon, Kuwait, new Egyptian issues, and even South West Africa.

Mr Dalby was the new President of the East London Society.

Mr J.B. Levy, was re-elected as Honorary Secretary.

J.E.M. Coch wrote the article *Rhodesia Revisited – The Double Heads, Perfs, and Quirks* about the iconic 'Double Head' issue of 11 November 1910 — a real gem in the world of Rhodesian philately. The article delved deep into the details collectors love: colours, perforations, and those quirky printing flaws that make stamp hunting such a thrill.

G.W. Reynolds wrote *A Curious Case of the King's Head — Die 2 Mystery on the 3d Black and Orange*. Stamp collectors with a keen eye might just find themselves scratching their heads over a peculiar version of the Union of South Africa's 3d Black and Orange stamp. G.W. Reynolds, a careful observer and collector, shared his thoughts on what he called the 'Die 2' variety — a version that looks decidedly different from the usual issue.

Under the heading of *Notes from the Stamp Desk – Overprints, Oddities, and a Market Buzz*, it was reported that there had been a flurry of activity on the philatelic front, from South West Africa quirks to rare auction finds that caught the eye of the editors. The following were some of the items.

South West Africa – Type 1 overprint (the one with "Zuid-West" and the 14 mm spacing)? It was back in the spotlight with a shiny black ink on lithographed stamps. This was visible on the ½d, 4d, and 6d values, and Mr. R. Roberts had logged sightings on the 1s, 1s 3d, and 2s 6d as well. Not all dark overprints were litho; some were just darker-than-usual type-set prints.

The 2d Postage Due (Pretoria-printed, no watermark) has quietly done the rounds in the Bechuanaland Protectorate for a few months. It mirrors the Union format (two panes of 60), but comes with some exciting varieties.

An entire pane of the ½d Postage Due with the overprint 'South West Africa' / 'Zuid-Wes Afrika' printed upside down had emerged from Windhoek. Confirmed by Oswald Marsh of London, this Pretoria-perforated, Type 1 oddball was official.

Mr. L.H. Rivers of Umtali had unveiled new issues from Mozambique Company, each with its own charm.

Over in Oz, the 6d brown kangaroo stamp had been spotted with its left leg broken clean in half – a printing mishap from

the first run, but corrected later. The error showed up in the top right-hand corner of the sheet.

Johannesburg United Philatelic Society: The annual dinner at the Regent Buffet was lively, despite some familiar faces missing. Toasts were made to The King, The Hobby, and The Philatelic Press. A heated discussion followed on the controversial Rhodesian remainders. The Society held its AGM, reporting 78 members and 23 meetings in 1924/1925. New officers were elected, and the Rhodesian issue dominated discussions.

Philatelists' Exchange Club – South African Branch was keeping things moving. Two exchange packets circulated between 15 April and 15 May, totalling over £325. Sales from one broken-up packet came to nearly £19.

The East London Philatelic Society held its 14th AGM in April 1925 and was proud of its progress. There were a few changes in the committee, a solid £50 in annual sales (with Rhodesia leading the charts), and strong support for the Junior Section, which held nine meetings.

Over in East Africa, the Kenya Philatelic Society adopted new rules and appointed its first committee. Monthly rotating home meetings were a thing, and they were working on launching their own exchange packet.

The Philatelic Society of Rhodesia's April 1925 meeting in Bulawayo saw a smaller turnout, likely due to Easter and political distractions. Mr. Thornton reported warmly on a visit to Johannesburg, and members were warned about imperforated 1910 issues — apparently reprints. Thornton also received thanks for compiling a Rhodesian checklist, a handy tool for collectors.

The monthly meeting of the Kaffrarian Philatelic Society in Kingwilliams Town focused on the exchange of duplicates and preparing for next the month's gathering.

## References

- [1] *The SA Philatelist*, Vol. 2 No. 4, May. 1925. [Online] Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/SAP-May-2024.pdf>
- [2] *The SA Philatelist*, Vol. 2, No. 5, June. 1925. [Online] Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/SAP-June-2024.pdf> 



We love collecting stamps, it's not just a hobby, it is a lifelong journey into history, art, and culture. Joining the *Philatelic Federation of South Africa* (PFSA) can take your collecting experience to the next level! PFSA offers expert certification services, exclusive research resources, philatelic libraries, exhibition opportunities, and a network of passionate collectors.

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# Private Richard Herbert and his Mother

by Andrew Briscoe RDP SA, FRPSL, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

This is a sad story.

On September 30th, 1848, Richard Herbert's mother – who was illiterate – enquired of the War Office in London about the whereabouts of her son who had joined the British Army and been posted to serve at the Cape of Good Hope. She had not heard from him for over two years. The form on which she made this enquiry is illustrated as Fig.1 below.

What is the Name of the man?	Richard Herbert
In what Regiment is he supposed to be now serving?	6th Foot
What is his Regimental Number?	not known
Where was he born, and in or about what year?	Leighton in the year 1828
When did he first enlist? The date to be given as nearly as you can.	8th June 1846
Where did he first enlist?	Bishop - Warwickshire
Into what Regiment?	6th Foot
What was his trade or calling when he enlisted?	Servant
State the Date of his last Letter, or the last Date on which he is known to have been serving, with his Regiment.	about the 12th of October 1846
Where was he when last heard of, and on what date?	at Drogheda, Ireland at the above date
Send his last Letter, if you have retained any, and the last Letter received by you from the Office.	No letter has been received from the young man, a letter from the Office before this
If he is supposed to be dead, state the Date of his Death.	he is not supposed to be dead
Specify the degree of your Relationship, and if you are not related to him, what is the name of your inquiry?	Mother
Sign your name.	The mother of Anne Herbert X
Where do you live? If not in a Post Town mention your Residence, and the Post Town nearest thereto. This must be clearly stated, otherwise the Answer cannot reach you.	Leighton near Leicester Warwickshire

Fig.1: Enquiry Form.

At the time of making this enquiry, she believed her son was in the 6th foot brigade – which was what he had told her at the day of his enlistment. However, Richard had misinformed her because he had in fact enlisted with the 95th foot brigade.

Fig.2 illustrates the response from the War Office to her enquiry. It informs that no soldier named Richard Herbert had ever served in the 95th foot brigade, and lists the various places at which a soldier of this name had served. To further complicate matters, by 1853 (in which year the form was returned to Herbert's mother), Herbert had already resigned from the Army to work for Major Fowler of the Royal Engineers as a groom and batman at the eastern border of the Cape.

WAR OFFICE.  
25th March 1848

YOU are desired, in reference to your Application, to insert in the Form on the other side, the Description of the Soldier about whom you are applying, and all the other particulars required by the Form; and as it is found that Inquiry after Soldiers is frequently made without sufficient cause, you are to take Notice that your Application cannot be attended to, unless the subpoenaed Certificate, shewing that you are related to the Soldier after whose fate you inquire, or that you are materially interested in the Information asked for, be filled up, and signed by the Minister or Churchwardens of the Parish in which you reside.

When the Description of the Soldier shall have been inserted, and the Certificate signed according to the above Directions, you are to put this Paper in the same cover, sealed: it will thus reach the Secretary at War, War Office, London, and it will be sent back to you from the War Office, with the required Information inserted below.

The Secretary at War desires that it may be distinctly understood, that it is unnecessary and improper for Persons who claim the Effects of deceased Soldiers, to employ any Licensed Navy Agent, or other Person who is to be paid for his trouble, to make Application to this Department on their behalf, as Regulations are adopted for the purpose of giving facility and dispatch to the Settlement of such Claims, on the application of the Parties who are themselves entitled to receive the Money.

Any Application of which the object is to obtain Prize Money, should be addressed to the Secretary of Chelsea Hospital.

L. SULLIVAN.

N.B. The utmost care is to be taken of this Paper, and on every occasion on which the Applicant may require subsequent information regarding the Soldier, it is to be again put under Cover to the Secretary at War, and it will be referred as before from the War Office, with the necessary Information inserted, and the Enquiry must not be renewed in less than Three Months, unless the Party applying shall have, in the mean time, heard of the Death of the Soldier.

No solution of the name of this Herbert ever sent in to 95th Foot Regt.

Information given by the War Office in answer to the Inquiry on the other side.

Living at	the Cape of Good Hope	on the	25th March 1848
Living at	the	on the	25th March 1848
Living at	the British Caffaria	on the	25th March 1848
Living at	the	on the	25th March 1848
Living at	the Cape of Good Hope	on the	25th March 1848
Living at	the	on the	25th March 1848
Living at	the	on the	25th March 1848
Living at	the	on the	25th March 1848
Living at	the	on the	25th March 1848
Living at	the	on the	25th March 1848

Fig.2: War Office Response.

Fig.3 illustrates a Soldier's Letter from Simon's Town to Mrs Herbert in Warwickshire, England. It is dated 1843 and is an example of military concessionary mail, inscribed at the top as being from Private Richard Herbert, 2670 of C Company, 1st battalion, 6th foot, then stationed at Simon's Town. It is countersigned at bottom left by Herbert's commanding officer, Captain E.J.B. Lanikley of the 1st battalion, 6th foot. The "2" handstamp indicates the letter was charged 2d on arrival, being the ship's captain's gratuity on letters received in England sent by a private ship.



Fig.3: 1843 Soldier's Letter from Simonstown.



## Union of South Africa Stamp Varieties

by André du Plessis RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society

### German Settlers' Centenary, 1958 [1]

A bilingual 2d. stamp was issued on 1 July 1958 to commemorate the centenary of the arrival of the German Settlers in South Africa and remained on sale for approximately three months.

The design, by H. Kumst, measures 27 x 21 mm and illustrates a typical German block-wagon (photographs supplied by the Postmaster-General) and a dwelling house as used by the

settlers who landed at the port of East London.

Perforation is 14 with the large holes and drunken perms. Small perforation holes exist, which are much scarcer.

The sheets of 120 stamps (20 rows x 6) had arrows in the colour of the centre design in the four margins. Cylinder numbers 17 (interior) and 74 (exterior), appear on the bottom below the last stamp of the row, with red four-figure sheet numbers in the right margin next to the last stamp.



Sepia and light purple  
UHB 140

(SG 168) (SASCC 167)

Stamps can be collected in singles due to the bilingual printing .

### SELECTED VARIETIES

(As listed in [1])

UHB 140 - 2d.

Cylinders no. 17 (Interior) and 74 (Exterior)

Dot in "2" of value (ex-Row 4/1) UHB 140 - V1	Dot under second "A" of AFRICA (ex-Row 5/1) UHB 140 - V2	Dot over roof (ex-Row 5/5) UHB 140 - V3	Smudge in "D" of SUID (ex-Row 6/1) UHB 140 - V4	Dot on side of wagon (ex-Row 8/4) UHB 140 - V5	Dot in cloud under "SU" of SUID (ex-Row 9/5) UHB 140 - V6

### References

[1] S] Hagger (Ed.), *The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910 - 1961: Handbook Catalogue*, Def. Ed., Reijger Publishers (Pty) Ltd, Cape Town, 1986. [online]. Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Hagger-Group-12-c.pdf>

### ERRATA

## Correction: April 2025 SA Philatelist

We wish to inform our readers of an error that appeared in the April 2025 *SA Philatelist* volume 101 no. 2, sequence 989. We regret the oversight and apologise for any confusion or inconvenience it may have caused. The corrected information is as follows:

"Joshua van der Merwe" should read "Josua van der Merwe", [p. 53, last name](#).

We appreciate your understanding and thank you for your continued support.





## The 1947 Royal Tour of Southern Africa: Radio Van Cachet

by Gary Pienaar, Philatelic Society of Johannesburg

Much has been written about the special date stamps used to postmark mail from the Royal Train and the Pilot Train [3]. The purpose of the article is not to cover this in any detail, but rather to focus attention on the possibility of a new unrecorded cachet from the tour.

### Background

In 1947 the British Royal Family embarked upon a world tour, which included a visit to South Africa, Southern Rhodesia and the Protectorates of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland. It was the first overseas state visit since the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 and was celebrated with much pomp and ceremony. It was also the first time a reigning monarch had visited South Africa [1, 2].



*Fig.1: SAR class 15F Locomotive 'Kaapstad' hauling the Royal Train [4].*

The Royal family arrived in Cape Town on the 17th February, on board HMS Vanguard. After a few days in the city, the tour began on the 21st February. They travelled the country in a special train (Fig.1) – 'The Royal Train' or 'The White Train' (the same used for the 1925 Prince of Wales and 1934 Prince George Royal Tours), which conveyed their household and entourage of Ministers and staff, for the duration of the tour in Southern Africa [1, 2].

It was described as a "Palace on Wheels" and consisted of fourteen carriages, eight of which had been specially constructed in England for the tour. In total, there were three trains which travelled together. The Royal Party travelled in the White Train, a Pilot Train ran 30 minutes in front of the White Train and carried lesser officials, press officials and servants. The Ghost Train followed the White Train carrying spare parts and maintenance gear [1].

### Postal Arrangements

Temporary post offices were set up on both the Pilot Train and the White Train. Two post office officials (Fig.2) were on duty on the Pilot Train, sorting through both incoming and outgoing mail. Some 146 404 registered items were dispatched and 1271 received for delivery [1].



*Fig.2: Post Office staff working on the Pilot Train [4].*



*Fig.3: A member of the Press Corps working on the Pilot Train [4].*

The Pilot Train maintained continual communication by radio with the post office radio station situated near Pretoria. A radio room was installed in the baggage compartment of one of the carriages. The Railway Gazette [2] reported that "the pilot train is equipped with a Marconi high-speed short-wave wireless installation for transmitting Press reports (Fig.3) of the tour and for general communication. Before the tour began, a successful test was carried out on a trial

run from Johannesburg to Cape Town. Strong and clear signals were reported in communication with all stations of the South African network, and messages from the train, while travelling at 40 m.p.h., were recorded automatically at 60 words a minute by the radio station at Roberts Heights”.

### Telegrams

For the transmission and receiving of telegrams, seven mobile radio vans covered the tour by road. They met the trains at the official halts and at other vantage points, to assist with the operation of the telegraph system by radio. Post Office telegraphists (Fig.4) maintained a 24-hour service, and handled an average of 18 234 words per day, totalling 729 365 words for the tour [1].



Fig.4: Photograph of a telegraphist at work on the Pilot Train [4].

### Unrecorded Radio Van Cachet?

The cover (Fig.6) is registered and franked with a pair of 1d stamps, depicting H.M. King George VI, specially issued to commemorate the visit, and postmarked 24th March. The standard surface letter rate at the time was 2d, which changed to 1½d on the 31st March 1947. This



Fig.5: Radio Van cachet, enlarged.

cover also bears a circular cachet 25mm in diameter “Radio Van LR?3” strike, with the date “24 III 1947” in the center (Fig.5). On the reverse side of the cover is an arrival cancellation Pinetown 26 MAR A47.

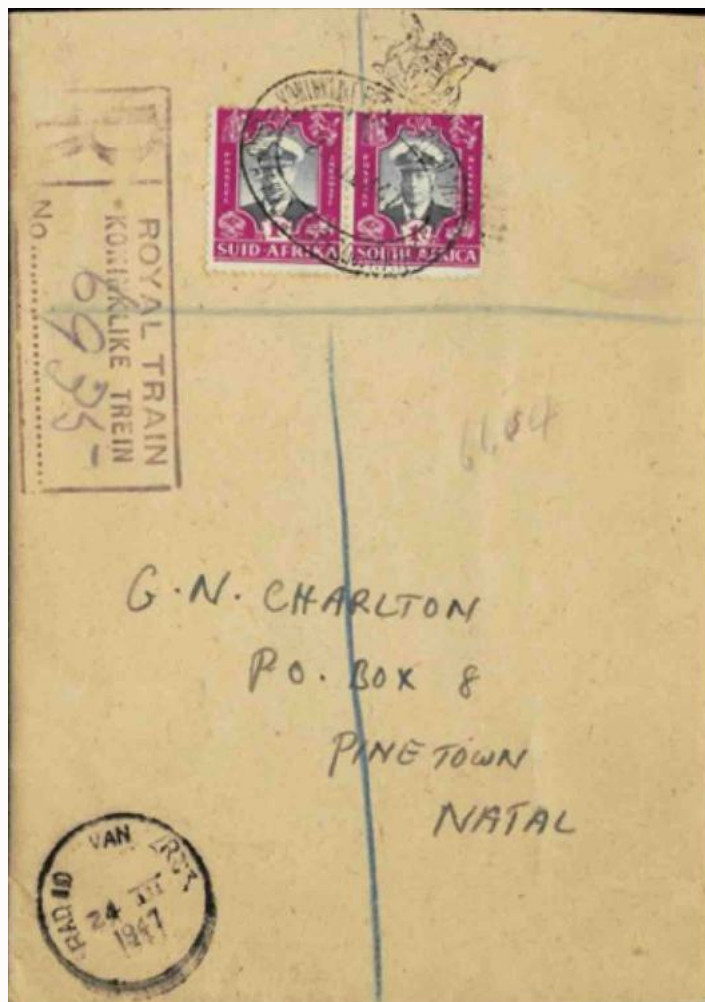


Fig.6: Cover bearing the Radio Van cachet.

The Royal Party was in Durban from the 20th – 23rd March, before travelling via Vryheid to Moolman on the 24th March. Moolman is a train station just outside the town of Piet Retief near the border with Swaziland. The following day the Royal family toured Swaziland by motor car.

This ‘Radio Van’ cachet is unrecorded in any of the available literature on the Royal Tour and is the first example seen by the author. Was it used in the radio room on the Pilot Train, or was it used in one of the mobile radio vans? As the cover is cancelled with the Elongated Lozenge type date stamp (3), which was used on the Pilot Train for postmarking postal matter, I am inclined to believe the cachet was added on the train. Should readers have seen further examples, or have any information on this cachet, then I would be delighted to hear from you.

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- [3] H.O. Reisener. *The Special and Commemorative Postmarks, Cachets and Covers of South Africa*, 1975.
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# Philately's Silver Screen: Which Type of Collector Are You?

by Louwrence Erasmus, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria

In discussions with fellow philatelists, I noticed that stamp collecting, or philately, is as diverse as each individual collector. In our captivating world of perforations and cancellations, certain archetypes emerge among collectors. Some people are passionate about their pursuits, others seek prestige, and still others are simply drawn to unique items. Here is a light-hearted look at the various types of stamp collectors we might encounter.

This dynamic landscape of collectors is much like a film with an ensemble cast. If philately were a movie, it might resemble *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, with its quirky and passionate characters, or *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, with researchers and treasure seekers hunting for lost gems. Alternatively, it could be *The Lord of the Rings*, where different types of collectors embark on their own epic quests for philatelic glory.



Fig.1: 4 Oct. 1984, Hungary 20 Ft. Budapest Hilton Hotel.



Fig.2: 17 Dec. 2003, Isle of Man 43p. Lord of the Rings, Gollum.

**The Hoarder – Gollum (The Lord of the Rings)** – These collectors are ruled by the motto: 'If one is good, ten are better!' They accumulate stamps in vast quantities—albums, shoeboxes, stock books, and even forgotten biscuit tins overflowing with unsorted treasures. Much like Gollum hoarding the One Ring, they cling to their collection with obsessive devotion, rarely sharing or organising their prized possessions.

**The Seeker of Refuge – Obi-Wan Kenobi (Star Wars)** – For some, philately is an escape from the chaos of the modern world. Like Obi-Wan retreating to the deserts of Tatooine, these collectors withdraw into their albums, finding solace in the quiet study of watermarks, printing flaws, and postal history. Their collections are a sanctuary where they can immerse themselves away from worldly distractions.



Fig.3: 20 Oct. 2015, GB 1st, Star Wars Obi-Wan Kenobi.

**The Philosophical Philatelist – Morpheus (The Matrix)** – To these collectors, every stamp tells a story, and collecting is an intellectual pursuit. Like Morpheus offering Neo the red pill of

knowledge, they ponder the historical and societal implications of each issue, musing about how postal routes shaped trade or how stamp designs reflect political shifts. Expect deep discussions rather than a quick chat about catalogue values.

**The Researcher – Indiana Jones (Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade)** – Armed with a magnifying glass, UV lamp, and an extensive library, Researchers are driven by an insatiable curiosity. Like Indy hunting for ancient relics, they delve into printing methods, postal history, and obscure varieties, often making discoveries that rewrite catalogue descriptions. Their collections are meticulously studied and documented.



Fig.4: 29 Jul. 2016, Sierra Leone Le 6500, Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade.



Fig.5: 9 Nov. 1993, GB 30p, 150th Anniversary of a Christmas Carol.

**The Selfish Collector – Ebenezer Scrooge (A Christmas Carol)** – This collector's motto is simple: 'Mine, mine, mine!' Much like Scrooge hoarding his wealth, they have no interest in sharing their knowledge or allowing others a peek at their collection. You will not find them exhibiting or giving presentations, but you will spot them lurking at auctions, bidding aggressively to ensure no one else gets their hands on a coveted rarity.

**The Sharer – Prof. Dumbledore (Harry Potter)** – In contrast to the Selfish Collector, Sharers delight in spreading their passion. Like Dumbledore guiding young wizards, they mentor new collectors, give talks, and share their knowledge freely. Their enthusiasm is contagious, and they inspire the next generation of philatelists with warmth and wisdom.



Fig.6: 8 Mar. 2011, GB 1st, Albus Dumbledore.

**The Pseudo-Intellectual – Gilderoy Lockhart (Harry Potter)** – These collectors thrive on sounding knowledgeable but rarely venture beyond surface-level understanding. Like Lockhart, who boasts of grand adventures he never truly experienced, they can quote catalogue numbers and name-drop famous dealers but lack real depth. Their primary goal is to impress rather than to truly understand.



Fig.7: 28 May 1998, USA 32c, *The Gatsby Style*.

**The Deep-Pocketed Buyer – Jay Gatsby (The Great Gatsby)** – For these collectors, money is no object. Like Gatsby throwing extravagant parties to impress, they buy entire collections at top-tier auctions and acquire rarities with a simple nod of the head. While their collections are often stunning, one wonders whether they truly appreciate the deeper significance of their treasures.

**The Bragger – Tony Stark (Iron Man)** – For the Braggers, a collection is not about passion — it is about prestige. Like Tony Stark flaunting his wealth and intellect, they never miss an opportunity to name-drop their most expensive acquisition or exhibition medals. While their achievements are impressive, their constant boasting can wear a bit thin.



Fig.8: 26 Jul. 2007, USA 41c, *Iron Man*.



Fig.9: 19 Oct. 2023, GB 1st, *Draco Malfoy and Gregory Goyle*.

**The Chaser of Accolades and Medals – Draco Malfoy (Harry Potter)** – Similar to the Bragger but more focused on formal recognition, these collectors meticulously curate exhibits to win medals at competitive shows. Like Draco craving his father's approval, they chase Large

Gold medals relentlessly, spending hours perfecting write-ups, hunting down elusive items, and strategising their next exhibition entry.

**The Opportunist – Gordon Gekko (Wall Street)** – These collector are not necessarily passionate about stamps but see these as an investment. Like Gekko's mantra 'Greed is good', they track market trends, speculate on future value, and buy with resale in mind. They may not be seen at club

meetings, but they are certainly present when a rare issue is expected to fetch a high price.

**The Sentimentalist – Carl Fredricksen (Up)** – For these collectors, every stamp is tied to a memory or a personal connection. Like Carl cherishing his late wife's memory in *Up*, they collect stamps that remind them of a loved one, a past journey, or a meaningful event. While they may not chase high-value rarities, their collections are priceless because of the stories it holds.



Fig.10: 19 Aug. 2011, USA 44c, *Carl Fredricksen and Dug*.

**The Jack-of-All-Trades – Jack Sparrow (Pirates of the Caribbean)** – Finally, we have the collectors who dabble in everything. Like Captain Jack, they don't limit themselves to a specific theme or country but rather collect whatever catches their fancy. Today, they're fascinated by Boer War postal history, and tomorrow they are chasing modern first-day covers. Their collection is eclectic, unpredictable, and full of surprises.



Fig.11: 28 Jul. 1970, *Sealand \$1, Sailing Ships (Cinderella)*.

**Conclusion** – No matter which category you fit into—or if you are a mix of several—the beauty of philately is that there is room for everyone. Whether you are in it for the joy of collecting, the thrill of discovery, or the prestige of winning medals, our shared love of stamps unites us all. So, the next time you attend a stamp show or club meeting, take a moment to spot these archetypes—perhaps you'll even recognise a little of yourself in them!

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## Past and Present (Part 2): Sir Raleigh Grey KBE CMG CVO

by Clinton Goslin, SAPDA

As with time, items get lost, destroyed, or misplaced; knowledge is lost, and stories forgotten. With a basic approach towards the preservation of paper, I have decided to write short stories on items that I have discovered over the years. I am by no means a specialist or an expert but will describe what I see to the best of my ability. I welcome any additional information on any of the subjects or items discussed. All items are part of my personal collection unless otherwise stated.

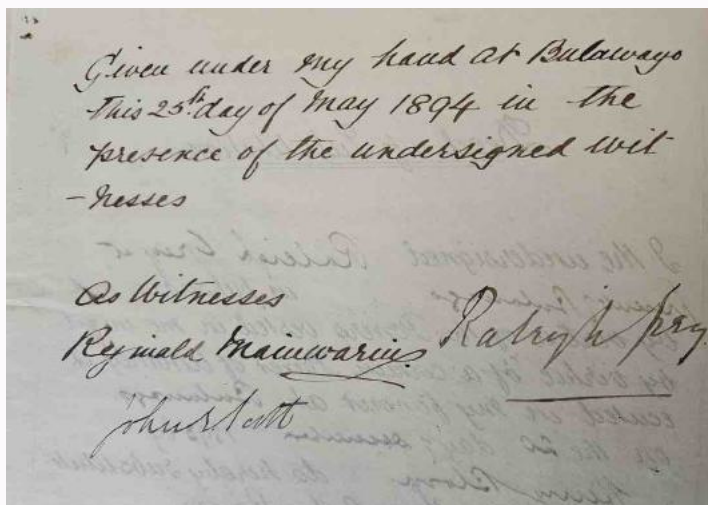


Fig.1: Original signature of Raleigh Grey on reverse of a document dated 25 May 1894. (Goslin Heritage Collection).

Sir Raleigh Grey KBE CMG CVO (March 24, 1860 – January 10, 1936) was a British colonial administrator who played a pivotal role in the early governance of Southern Rhodesia [1]. His signature is shown in Fig.1.

The great-grandson of the first Earl Grey, Grey received his education at Durham School and Brasenose College, Oxford. In 1881, he joined The Inniskilling's (6th Dragoons) and served in the Anglo-Zulu War. Subsequently, he commanded the Bechuanaland Border Police. In 1893, he led a column of the British army during the Matabeleland rebellion. From 1894 to 1897, his kinsman, the 4th Earl Grey, served as the Administrator of Rhodesia. Grey accompanied Sir Leander Starr Jameson on the Jameson Raid in 1895, and was

subsequently imprisoned for five months following the raid [1].

Upon the granting of a partially elected Legislative Council to Southern Rhodesia, Grey represented Mashonaland in the inaugural election held in 1899. However, it was subsequently revealed that his supporters had engaged in bribery and mistreatment of prospective voters. Consequently, Grey chose to resign in order to secure his re-election, thereby absolving himself of any association with electoral corruption [1].

Following the outbreak of the Second Boer War in late 1899, Grey volunteered for active duty as a special service officer. He departed from Southampton on the SS Moor in March 1900 and arrived in Cape Town the following month. In March 1901, he was promoted to major, commanding mounted troops during the capture of Boer guns by Major-General Babington's column. Following the war, he retired from the Army in 1904 but continued to serve as Commandant of the local Volunteers. To develop mining and farming interests, he established the company Rhodesia Lands, Ltd. His company's 'Jumbo' mine became one of the most profitable. In 1919, he was made a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire [1].

In the early 1920s, Southern Rhodesians made a decision to sever ties with British South Africa Company sponsorship. The colony's prominent figures engaged in a deliberation regarding the establishment of a self-governing 'Responsible Government' or the accession to the Union of South Africa. Grey vehemently advocated for union membership, passionately expounding upon his case in the Legislative Council. Nevertheless, the majority of the council and the general public expressed their opposition to his stance, resulting in his loss of his seat in the 1920 election [1].

### References

- [1] Wikipedia contributors. "Raleigh Grey." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, 2024. [Online]. Available: [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Raleigh\\_Grey&oldid=1229071297](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Raleigh_Grey&oldid=1229071297)

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# The ½d Warthog, Animal Definitive Series, 1954 – 1960, of the Union of South Africa (Part 1)

by Joof van der Merwe RDP SA, Orange Free State Philatelic Society

The third definitive series depicted the animals found in South Africa's National Parks. This series, comprising 14 values, marked a significant departure from the pictorials of the previous definitive series. The designs were created by H. Kunst using photographs taken by J.L. Booysen at the Pretoria Zoo, with a few exceptions.

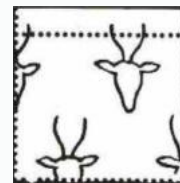


Fig.2: Multiple Springbok Wmk.

Each denomination was bilingually inscribed in Afrikaans and English and can be collected as single stamps.

Notably, the ½d Warthog stamp was not issued as a coil stamp.

The series, designed and printed at the Government Printing Works in Pretoria, was produced using the Rotogravure process. All the cylinders used were screened. The ½d value is a monochrome small format, perforated 15 x 14 by eleven row comb. It is the first value of the third definitive series of the Union of South Africa, issued on 14 October 1954.

The paper used in the series varied in texture and colour, ranging from cream to white. Initially, the watermark was the Multiple Springbok Head, as in the previous series. However, printings released after September 1959 featured the Union Coat of Arms as the watermark.

This study examines the various printings of the ½d stamp, exploring the printing marks, watermarks, different paper types, and the numerous varieties present across a series of articles. The scans may appear low-quality, but the reader should be aware that they reflect the actual print quality under enlargement.

## The Cylinder Number

The cylinder number was printed on the right lower corner of the sheet (Fig. 3).



Fig.3: Cylinder Number 84.

Two different papers, white and toned/cream (Fig. 4), were used in this issue.



Fig.1: Xylol mark in the bottom margin.



Fig.4: (Left) Toned/Cream paper and (Right) White paper.

## Cylinder 84 – Springbok Watermark

The first issue, dated 14 October 1954, was printed with Cylinder 84. It was printed in sheets of 240 stamps, arranged in 20 rows of 12 stamps each.

The watermark is depicted in Fig. 2.

## Sheet Serial Numbers

Four digital red sheet numbers are located in the right margin. They are opposite Row 17 in the first printing and opposite Row 15 in subsequent printings (Fig. 5).



Fig.5: Sheet Number Opposite (Left) Row 17 and (Right) Row 15.

### The Arrows

The arrows were printed in the top and bottom margins of Row 6 and 7 (Fig.6), and in the left and right margins of Row 10 and 11 (Fig.7).








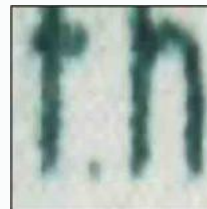






Fig.6: Top and Bottom Margins.




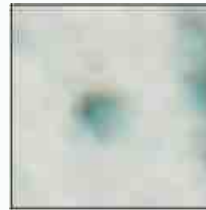






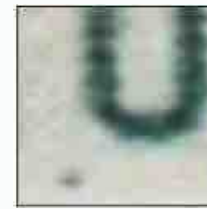





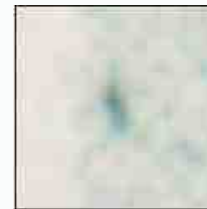








Fig.7: Left and Right Margins.

### Varieties


This study excludes the explicit treatment of the varieties described in [2]. The varieties presented are recurring varieties identified through independent research [1].


					
1. Faint dot right of tip of left tusk - Row 1/3	2. Dot above "d" of Posgeld - Row 1/4	3. Dot above "h" of South - Row 1/5	4. Dot above "fr" of Africa - Row 1/8	5. Dot in "u" of Suid - Row 1/12	6. Dot between "th" of South - Row 2/3
					
7. Dot left of right tusk - Row 2/7	8. Dot left of "1" of the value - Row 2/9	9. Smudge in bottom left corner - Row 3/6	10. Dot between "ut" of South - Row 3/8	11. Large dot at base of left tusk - Row 4/6	12. Cluster of spots left of right tusk - Row 5/2

					
13. Dot below "m" of Inkomste - Row 5/3	14. Curve line in "u" of South - Row 5/8	15. Dot in left margin - Row 6/1	16. Dot in front of right tusk - Row 6/3	17. Two dots right of "e" of Postage - Row 7/2	18. Dot between "So" of South - Row 7/7
					
19. Dot above "n" of Revenue - Row 8/11	20. Dot above first "e" of Revenue - Row 9/12	21. Dot on left tusk - Row 10/4	22. Dot below "c" of Africa - Row 10/6	23. Dot below "u" of Suid - Row 10/10	24. Dot below "e" of Postage - Row 11/4
					
25. Dot after "e" of Inkomste - Row 13/6	26. Dot upper left of "S" of Suid - Row 13/10	27. Dot below "k" of Afrika - Row 18/9	28. Dots left of right tusk - Row 19/5	29. Dot touching left frame - Row 19/12	30. Dot above "ms" of Inkomste - Row 19/12
					
31. Two dots in upper gutter - Row 20/6	32. Dot below "g" of Posgeld - Row 20/7	33. Dot near tip of right ear - Row 20/10	34. Dot above "f" of Africa - Row 20/12	35. Dot left of "c" Africa - Row 20/12	

In the next article cylinder 67 printed in February and April 1959 with the springbok watermark will be discussed and followed by the Coat of Arms watermark printed in December 1960.

## References

- [1] J. van der Merwe, Personal Study.
- [2] S.J. Hagger (Ed.), *The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910 - 1961: Handbook Catalogue*, Def. Ed., Reijger Publishers (Pty) Ltd, Cape Town, 1986. [online]. Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Hagger-Group-8-Animal-series.pdf>
- [3] W. Sheffield, S. Hagger, T. Berry, and S. Legator, *Handbook Catalogue - Union of South African Stamps*, Golden Jubilee ed., Philatelic Federation of South Africa, 1960. 

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# De Volksstem - Silver Jubilee Label

by Johan Bezuidenhout, Bellville Philatelic Society

The last article on this topic appeared in *The Transvaal Philatelist* [1, pp. 62-63]. The purpose of this article is to update the information shared in that publication and provide a more detailed exploration of the subject.

Transvaal, Celliers became the newspaper's owner and manager, a role he maintained until 1888 [2].

On 8 August 1898, De Volksstem commemorated its Silver Jubilee with two commemorative labels (Figures 3 and 4).

Both commemorative labels share a horizontal format, surface-printed on stout wove paper with a perforation of 11½. The design dimensions are 53 mm x 30 mm.



Fig.1: Front Page of De Volksstem [2].

De Volksstem, Fig.1, holds historical significance as the first Afrikaans-Dutch newspaper north of the Orange River. Established in Pretoria, it debuted as a weekly publication on 8 August 1873, later transforming into a biweekly newspaper titled De Volksstem, Nieuws- en Advertensieblad [2].



Fig.2: J.F. Celliers a.k.a. Jan Volkstem [2].

Its origins are tied to President Burgers, who collaborated with Jan F. Celliers—nicknamed Jan Volkstem (Fig.2) and the assistant editor of Het Volksblad in Cape Town—to establish a pro-government newspaper in the Transvaal capital. Start-up capital was secured from prominent figures such as N.J.R. Swart (Secretary of State), James Buchanan (Attorney-General), H.C. Bergsma, and Fred Jeppe, who each contributed £80. Upon his arrival in the

## Issue 1



Fig.3: First Issue (Bezuidenhout Collection).

This label stands out due to its colourful and intricate design, produced in variations of green, yellow-green, pale yellow-green, blue, pale blue, red, pink, and black. Its central feature is a circle bearing the Coat of Arms of the Republic, framed by tablet bars on each side (Fig.3). The inscription is spread over six lines, reading: "25 Jarig bestaan van De Volksstem 8 Augustus."

Key design features include:

- Upper Spandrels: Green laurel leaves set against a red background.
- Lower Spandrels: Similar leaves, but on a blue background.
- Corner Details: The upper left corner displays the founding year, 1873, in a pale blue circle. The lower right corner contains 1898 in a pink circle.
- Frame: The top reads ZUID AFRIKAANSE REPUBLIEK, while the bottom displays PRETORIA.

## Issue 2



Fig.4: Second Issue (Bezuidenhout Collection).

This mono-colored label is printed entirely in green, featuring a simpler yet elegant design (Fig.4). Its distinguishing elements include:

- A central white shield with the Coat of Arms rendered in green, accompanied by tablet bars on either side.
- The inscription, also in six lines, stating: "25 Jarig bestaan van De Volksstem 8 Augustus."
- Additional Features:
  - PRETORIA appears in a white rectangle at the top left.
  - Z.A. REPUBLIEK is similarly enclosed in a white rectangle at the top right.
  - Date tablets occupy the bottom corners, with 1873 on the left and 1898 on the right.



Fig.5: Second issue of label used on cover (Bezuidenhout Collection).

These labels were printed at the same facility where the Stamp Commission issues were produced and were in production for approximately one month. They were affixed to newspaper wrappers, newspapers, and correspondence originating from De Volksstem [2].

While few examples remain in use on postal items (Fig.5), many used and unused copies circulate among collectors today. As these labels served no postal purpose and were privately issued, they are categorized as "Cinderellas."

The De Volksstem Silver Jubilee labels represent a unique intersection of South African political history and philatelic interest. Produced during a time of national sentiment and institutional pride, they provide insight into the cultural expressions of the Zuid Afrikaanse Republiek prior to the South African War. Despite their non-postal nature, their craftsmanship, rarity, and connection to a key period in the republic's publishing history make them important Cinderellas worthy of preservation and study. Their historical and aesthetic significance continues to attract collectors and researchers, underscoring the enduring relevance of ephemera in the broader narrative of philately.

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- [1] H.M. Criddle. "De Volksstem' - Silver Jubilee Labels". *The Transvaal Philatelist*, Vol. 6, No. 3, pp. 23, 62-53 1971.
- [2] Wikipedia-bydraers, 'Die Volksstem', *Wikipedia*, 5 April 2022. [online]. Available: [https://af.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Die\\_Volksstem&oldid=2491970](https://af.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Die_Volksstem&oldid=2491970)

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## The establishment of the Republic of Ireland (Part 1)

by Holger Zahnow, Independent Author

The thematic issuing policy of the Irish postal service is essentially characterised by the retrospective in the history of the country. It is very vividly documented with far more postage stamps than can be illustrated and mentioned in this series of articles.



Fig.1: Celtic cross.

Ireland aroused the interest of foreign powers early on. The Celts are worth mentioning. Various sources date their arrival from the European mainland between 600 and 300 BC (Figure 1). They were followed by Vikings at the end of the 8th century (Fig.2(a)). Several towns emerged from their settlements, including Dublin (Fig.2(b)), Wexford and Wicklow on the east coast and Limerick in the south-west.



(a)



(b)

Fig.2: (a) Reconstruction of the Viking longship 'Skuldelev 2', built in the Dublin area around 1042; (b) 1000 years of Dublin (1988) - Significant buildings.

Experience shows that greed for power leads to violence and wars. But it was not only foreign invaders who caused conflict; regional, native rulers also fought narcissistically for their interests. The High King Brian Boru (Fig.3) achieved the feat of sole dominance for less than ten years. His troops defeated the Vikings at the Battle of Clontarf in 1014.



Fig.3: 1000th anniversary of the coronation of Brian Bo ru as the first High King of Ireland in 1002AD.

### England's hegemony begins

In the middle of the 12th century, the controversies between two Irish kings led to the supremacy of the Anglo-Normans under King Henry II, who had been called in to assist. He already ruled over England and parts of France and incorporated Ireland into his empire. This was tantamount to an English occupation, as he generously distributed land, primarily in the east of Ireland, the so-called Pale, to

immigrant Norman aristocrats as rewards for their assistance (Fig.4).



Amazingly, England established the first Irish parliament in 1297, but without endangering its own hegemony. For a better understanding, it must be warned at this point not to equate the various parliaments in Ireland over the centuries with democratically elected, representative parliaments of today's character. As a rule, they were more of a farce, as typical features of their composition and rights were the restriction to certain male classes of the population such as aristocrats and landlords, the exclusion of denominations, limited voting rights, trickery in the determination of electoral districts in order to secure the majority of representatives for the minority and submission to the English Parliament.

King Henry VII emphasised the supremacy by law in 1494 by making the decisions of the Irish parliament dependent on the approval of the English crown. The following English kings continued the subjugation and infiltration of Ireland. King Henry VIII transformed Ireland into a kingdom with him as regent.

As in England, all church property was incorporated into the crown. Nevertheless, most Irishmen and settlers did not abandon their Catholic faith in favour of the Anglican Church, but responded with uprisings, which in turn led to the wanton destruction of hundreds of Irish monasteries. In the 5th century AD, the Irish were Christianised in particular by the missionary Patrick, who was born in the Roman province of Britain. He is considered a national saint in Ireland (Fig.5).



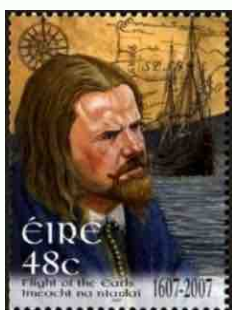
Fig.5: St Patrick.

In the name of the infant king Edward VI, a large number of Britons were settled on the other side of the Pale. From then on, historiography tells of numerous hostilities and conflicts between the Irish and the British, which were ultimately put down by military means despite support from Catholic Spain, e.g. at the Battle of Kinsale in 1601 (Fig.6).



Fig.6: Town of Kinsale.

At the beginning of the 17th century, numerous Irish noble families fled abroad (Fig.7(a)). The brutal servitude over Ireland continued with further land confiscations, immigration and reprisals. Of particular note is the forced and controlled infiltration (plantation) of large numbers of English and Scottish Protestants into Ulster (Fig.7(b)). A town in the north of Ireland still bears striking witness to these events. The Catholics call it Derry, while the Protestants call it Londonderry to express their attachment to the English crown.



(a)



(b)

Fig.7: (a) Flight of the Earls and the End of the Gaelic Aristocracy in 1607 - Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, (b) 400th anniversary of the colonisation (plantation) of Ulster by the English and Scots.

### The 17th to 19th century

Events came thick and fast in the middle of the 17th century. In Ulster, English settlers found themselves on the violent defence with many deaths, and civil war broke out in England from 1642 to 1651. It influenced the growing Irish rebellion and led to influential groups campaigning for a Catholic Ireland loyal to the King. The English lord protector Oliver Cromwell was a bitter opponent of the Irish and the Royalists, who raged in Ireland with his troops in unprecedented massacres, the destruction of towns such as Drogheda (Fig.8), Wexford and others, and the enslavement of survivors.



Fig.8: 800 years of Drogheda - Medieval town view.

The Civil War ended with the defeat of the Royalists and the brief period of the English Republic from 1649 to 1660. And once again masses of British colonists poured into Ulster, this time particularly republican-minded soldiery, who were rewarded in this way. By 1660, the monarchy had regained a

foothold, but Ireland remained an object of desire, expulsion and oppression for the British, which also affected Irish culture and language. By the end of the 17th century, Ireland suffered an economic decline caused by England.

Interestingly, Ireland was supposed to help King James II, the deposed King of England, Scotland and Ireland, who had converted to Catholicism, to regain power. However, this attempt ended in 1690 at the Battle of the Boyne (Fig.9) with a crushing defeat at the hands of the British and their Protestant King William III of Orange. This was promptly followed by further punitive measures such as trade bans on Irish wool products to harass the Catholic Irish. This defeat is still celebrated with relish today by the Orange Order in Northern Ireland with marches and other symbolic provocations of the Catholics and regularly ends in bloody street battles between the opposing camps during the heated phase of the Northern Ireland conflict.



Fig.9: The Battle of the Boyne, 1690.

At the end of the 18th century, the pent-up hatred and impoverishment of large sections of the peasant population once again led to uprisings and the conviction grew that only organised action could be taken against the imperialist occupiers. This was the birth of the Society of United Irishmen (Fig.10) and other organisations.



Fig.10: Meeting of the Society of United Irishmen.



Fig.11: Theobald Wolfe Tone.

Even the military support of revolutionary France under Napoleon Bonaparte could not help the uprising from 1796 to 1798 to victory. Theobald Wolfe Tone, co-founder of the Society of United Irishmen and leader of the uprising, was sentenced to death and committed suicide to escape his tormentors (Fig.11).

Henry Joy McCracken, leader of the Ulster Rising, did not escape execution. The Irish Parliament was dissolved (Fig.12(a)) and with the Acts of Union 1800/1801 the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland was created. This did not bring the country any increase in rights and co-determination, but at least allowed free trade with the other parts of the kingdom. The Union Jack, the national flag of the

United Kingdom, took on the appearance it still has today. The Irish Rebellion of 1803 ended as usual with its suppression and the execution of its leader Robert Emmet, (Fig.12(b)).



Fig.12: (a) Grattan Parliament of 1782 (b) Robert Emmet, leader of the 1803 uprising.



Fig.13: Daniel O'Connell Founder of the Catholic Association.

The subtle means by which oppression continued can be illustrated perfectly by the role of Catholics at the time. They were excluded from the Irish parliament. This did not change until the unmistakable demand for participation by the Catholic Association and its founder Daniel O'Connell, (Fig.13), heralded the emancipation of Catholics and the granting of more civil rights in 1829.



Fig.14: The Great Famine in Ireland - A family with their dying child.

As if the inhuman colonial behaviour of the British was not enough, the Great Famine (Fig.14) caused by potato crop failures in the mid-19th century decimated the Irish population from around 8.5 to around 5.5 million people by death and emigration (Fig.15(a)). Great Britain failed to provide aid and

even exacerbated the sheer misery by forcing grain deliveries - not to Ireland, but from the country. In order to help the Irish farmers who were being driven out and exploited by the British landowners, the land reformers Charles Stewart Parnell and Michael Davitt founded the Irish Land League in 1879 (Fig.15(b)).



Fig.15: (a) Irish emigration to the United States of America in the 19th century; (b) Land reformers Charles Stewart Parnell and Michael Davitt.

Several Land Acts were passed in an attempt to improve the rural economic base. One example is the Land Act of 1909 by Augustine Birrell, Minister of State for Ireland in

Westminster. It was primarily the Protestant north of Ireland that participated in the industrialisation that spilled over from Great Britain, widening the gap with the rest of Ireland in terms of economic prosperity.

### The independence movement as a political factor

As it happened, the barrel was full and overflowing. The oppressed began to organise more and more and the independence movement gathered pace, as the longing for freedom grew rapidly in people's minds and groups such as the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) with its offshoot of Irish emigrants in the United States, the Fenian Brotherhood, the Home Government Association and the Home Rule League sprang up like mushrooms. Although the British were able to brutally quell further unrest such as the Fenian Uprising of 1867 (Fig.16), the first fruits of the independence movement were reaped in 1914 when the British House of Commons passed the Home Rule Bill, which was also highly controversial in Ireland after several previously failed bills. It was intended to give Ireland its own constitution and more self-government within the United Kingdom.



Fig.16: Anniversary of the Fenian Uprising.

The Irish nationalist John Edward Redmond, who was opposed to violence, was a particular advocate of Home Rule. Fig.17 shows him in the foreground and his opponent behind him, Sir Edward Carson, an Irish Unionist. The First World War (1914-1918), (Fig.18), thwarted the actual realisation of Home Rule, but prevented a civil war, which the Protestant Unionists in Ulster, descendants of the non-assimilating immigrants from earlier centuries, provoked by their strict rejection.



Fig.17: Edward Carson and John Redmond.



Fig.18: Irish steamship RMS Leinster is torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine UB-123 (1918).

The seven-month labour dispute with lockouts involving thousands of workers in Dublin in 1913-1914 should not go unmentioned. Although the central demands against the Guinness Brewery and the Dublin United Tramway Company (Fig.19) among others, for higher wages and better working

conditions could not be realised, the side effects were indicative of the coming Easter Rising.



Fig.19: Tramway of the Dublin United Tramway Company from 1902.



Fig.20: James Larkin.

James Larkin, (Fig.20), founder of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union together with James Connolly, initiator of the republican Irish Citizen Army (Fig.21(a)), whose members were among the main combatants during the Easter Rising, played the main roles on the side of the strikers. Both found particular support in Patrick Henry Pearse, (Fig.21(b)) and Countess Constance Georgine Markiewicz, (Fig.21(c)), who were also involved in the impending unrest. In 1913, the paramilitary Irish Volunteer Force (Fig.21(d)) was founded, which also fought on the Republican side against the British three years later.

#### Image credits:

- Digital Repository of Ireland - Royal Irish Academy, Dublin [Publisher] - An Post Museum and Archive, Dublin [Depositor]

#### How to get connected:

- [An Post – Philatelic Services, General Post Office \(GPO\)](#), O'Connell Street Lower, Dublin 1, D01 F5P2, Ireland, email: [irishstamps@anpost.ie](mailto:irishstamps@anpost.ie)
- [ÉPA – Éire Philatelic Association](#), 1559 Grouse Lane, Mountainside, NJ 07092-1340, John B. Sharkey Secretary / Chapter Coordinator, New Jersey, USA, email: [jsharkeyepa@me.com](mailto:jsharkeyepa@me.com)
- [FAI – Research and Working Group Ireland e.V.](#), Association of German Philatelists (BDPh), Wolfgang Fiedler, Eichendorffstrasse 2a, 31535 Neustadt am Rügenberge, Germany, email: [w.w.fiedler@web.de](mailto:w.w.fiedler@web.de)
- [IPC – Irish Philatelic Circle](#), P.O. Box 12624, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16. Ireland, email: [irishphilateliccircle@gmail.com](mailto:irishphilateliccircle@gmail.com)



(a)



(b)



(c)





(d)

Fig.21: (a) Irish Citizen Army - members in front of Croydon House, Dublin (James Larkin far left); (b) Patrick Henry Pearse; (c) Countess Constance Georgine Markiewicz; (d) Irish Volunteer Force - Independence fighters from Waterford.

#### Further Reading:

- [1] Fire of Learning. "History of Ireland – Documentary", *YouTube*, 2018. [Online]. Available: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fBJKanTrf8c>
- [2] Fire of Learning. "History of Modern Ireland (1500-2000) | Documentary", *YouTube*, 2018. [Online]. Available: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vFoxstHK-Kg&t=0s>
- [3] J. Bardon. *A History of Ireland in 100 Episodes: Ancient, Medieval and Modern Ireland*, Dublin, Ireland: Gill Books, 2023.
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- [6] Stanley Gibbons Ltd. *Ireland Stamp Catalogue*, 8th edition, London & Ringwood, 2023. 

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# Royal Mail Unveils Postbox of the Future: Make Sending Parcels Easier

by Press Office, Royal Mail

According to The Postal Museum in the UK, author Anthony Trollope was working as a Surveyor's Clerk for the Post Office in the 1850s. He proposed the introduction of post boxes in Britain – probably after seeing road-side letter boxes in France and Belgium. A trial on the Channel Islands was approved and on 23 November 1852, four cast-iron pillar boxes were installed in Jersey with an extension to the trial in Guernsey the next year.

After a successful trial period in Jersey and Guernsey, the first pillar boxes appeared in Britain from 1853. These early letter boxes were not standardised as design, manufacture and installation was largely the responsibility of local surveyors.



Fig.1: Green Pillar Postbox, 1857.

By 1859, all pillar boxes were standardised in two sizes, a larger size for high volume areas and narrower for elsewhere, with a cylindrical shape, painted green. These green letter boxes were so unobtrusive that complaints were received as people had difficulty finding them. The iconic red colour of the pillar boxes was then standardised in 1874, though it took 10 years to complete the programme of re-painting.

In Liverpool, the District Surveyor commissioned his own non-standard pillar box in 1862 – known now as the Liverpool Special.

There were a few exceptions to the iconic red pillar boxes. In the 1930s, blue boxes for posting airmail letters were installed – but these were removed, repainted red and re-entered service for standard mail by 1939. And in 2012, post boxes in the homes of Britain's Olympic Gold Medallists were painted gold.



Fig.2: Standardised Red Postbox, 1874.



Fig.3: Blue Air Mail Postbox, 1934.

Royal Mail has unveiled a solar-powered postbox of the future as the company continues to find ways to make sending parcels easier in April 2024.

The iconic postbox design has been given a modern makeover which includes an extra-large opening to accept parcels larger than those that fit through a letterbox. Customers scan their parcel's barcode and a drawer opens for them to drop it in, and they can also request proof of posting using the Royal Mail app.



Fig.4: Modern Makeover of Iconic Postbox, 2024.


Royal Mail has recently updated its app so customers can post small, barcoded parcels in a postbox and request proof of posting. The app update utilises 4G and the cellphone's location services, and to use it customers simply tap 'services' on the home screen, go to 'proof of posting', and then follow the steps.

The move is part of Royal Mail's drive to make it easier for customers to use postboxes to send parcels. There are 115,000 postboxes in the UK, located within half a mile of 98 per cent of addresses, making them the UK's largest parcel drop off network. They currently accept parcels that are small enough to fit through a letterbox, but thousands could be adapted to the new design to accept larger parcels.

Five of the new postboxes are being piloted in the Ware, Hertford and Fowlmere areas before Royal Mail rolls them out further across the UK. Letters can still be posted in the usual way through a separate opening.

The new postboxes will support the increasing numbers of people selling unwanted clothing and other items on secondhand marketplaces, as well as traditional online shoppers sending returns.

The updates to postboxes are part of Royal Mail's wider efforts to make sending and receiving parcels as convenient as possible. Royal Mail now has more than 21,000 locations where customers can drop off and collect parcels, including 1,000 lockers, 7,000 Collect+ stores, 11,500 Post Office branches, 1,200 Royal Mail Customer Service Points, and soon 1,200 parcel postboxes.



If you have any thoughts or comments please send your letter to the Editorial Board. Just click on the email address : [sap@stampssa.africa](mailto:sap@stampssa.africa)

## Edenvale Visit to Museum Africa

by Charl Heydenrych, Edenvale Philatelic Society

It was with much anticipation that eight members of the Edenvale Philatelic Society recently embarked on a visit to Museum Africa in Newtown, Johannesburg (Fig.1). The trip, proposed during our monthly society meeting, was met with enthusiastic agreement, and Charl Heydenrych took on the task of coordinating the visit with the museum. After a few emails and phone calls, 8 May 2025 was set, and we were all looking forward to exploring the philatelic treasures housed there.



*Fig.1: Members of EPS together with Museum Africa staff.*

The primary reason for visiting was to view the renowned Curle Collection, a significant holding of South African stamps and postal history that resides at Museum Africa. Having heard about the breadth and depth of this collection for some time, we were eager to finally see some of its highlights firsthand.

Upon arrival at the museum, we were warmly greeted by Kamo Mokgalaka the Curator and other staff members - they went out of their way to facilitate our visit. Then with a little assistance from Charles Kuhn the Curle Collection which is stored and occasionally displayed for researchers and interested parties, made its appearance. While not all of the vast collection is permanently on public display due to its size and preservation requirements, the museum staff had kindly arranged for us to view a selection of particularly interesting items.



*Fig.2: Parcel Label Addressed to Frederick Julius Jeppé.*

One item that immediately captured our attention was the address label from the original parcel containing the very beginnings of the Curle Collection, sent to Frederick Julius Jeppé, a prominent figure

in early South African philately. Seeing this tangible link to the collection's origins (Fig.2) was a fascinating experience, sparking discussions about the early days of stamp collecting in the region.

We were also privileged to examine some examples of the bisects. (Fig.3) These intriguing stamps, created out of necessity when there was a shortage of smaller denominations, were cut in half and used as the equivalent of the smaller value.



*Fig.3: Examples of bisects.*

Seeing the precision (and sometimes less-than-precise!) cuts on these historical stamps brought a tangible sense of the postal challenges of the time.

A special word of thanks to Dave Cohen that took a leading role in walking the rest of us through this massive amount of material!

Our two hours at the museum flew by incredibly quickly. As we moved from one fascinating exhibit to another, it became clear that the Curle Collection is truly immense. It would take many more visits to even begin to fully appreciate the scope and significance of the material housed there. From early imperforate issues to rare postal markings and historical documents, the collection offers a comprehensive overview of South African postal history.

While our visit was relatively short, it was undoubtedly a worthwhile and enriching experience for all present.

It served as a reminder of the rich philatelic heritage of our country and the importance of preserving such collections for future generations. We left Museum Africa with a renewed appreciation for the Curle Collection and its history.



## Afrikaans 100 Gauteng Regional Exhibition

by Ronel Erasmus, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria

AFRIKAANS 100 Gauteng Regional Exhibition, held from 8 – 11 May 2025, was a celebration of philately in the context of history and art. The exhibition brought together collectors and enthusiasts from across South Africa, providing a platform to showcase the depth, diversity, and richness of our shared philatelic heritage. The exhibition provided inspiration, knowledge, and enjoyment for all attendees.



Fig.1: Aerial View on the Afrikaans 100 Regional Exhibition.

In celebration of the centenary of Afrikaans as an official language, the Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria (AFP) and the Philatelic Federation of South Africa (PFSA) with the support from the Federasie van Afrikaanse Kultuurverenigings (FAK) and the Voortrekkermonument held a regional exhibition at the Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria in the Senotaaf Hall (Fig.1).

Afrikaans is unique in the family of language, a kind of linguistic melting pot where various languages and language groups have converged at the southern tip of Africa. This melting pot is captured in the official date stamp, no. 2025-01, (Fig.2) designed by Thea Clemons of the South African Post Office.



Fig.2: Official Date Stamp.

On 8 May 1925, South Africa declared Afrikaans an official language. It was a momentous occasion, marking the birth of a new language and making it the third youngest member of the Germanic language family. Faroese and Luxembourgish were recognized much later in 1948 and 1984, respectively.

Afrikaans is one of South Africa's twelve official languages, but it is spoken far beyond our borders. It is used by many people in countries as diverse as Namibia, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, New Zealand, Australia, Russia, China, Canada, and the United States. Afrikaans

is truly a global language, with an estimated 6.9 million native speakers.

In the 16th to 18th centuries, a time of great exploration, a unique language began to emerge. Dutch, Khoekhoen, Malay, Portuguese, French, German, English, and various Nguni and Sotho languages all blended together, much like ingredients in a potjie, to create Afrikaans. This is captured in the design by Louwrence Erasmus of the official commemorative cover for the event (Fig.3).

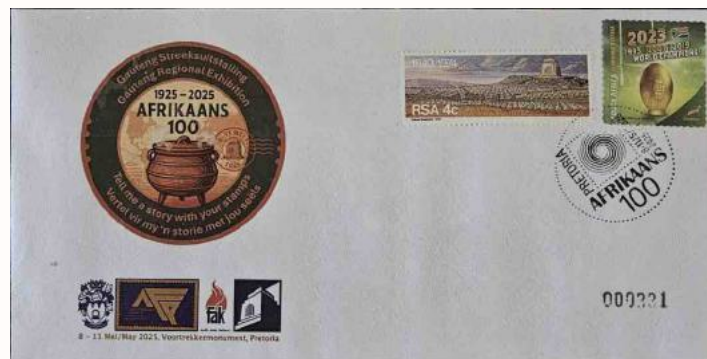


Fig.3: Afrikaans 100 Commemorative Cover.

The exhibition showcased 54 philatelic exhibits in 128 frames that traced the history and development of the Afrikaans language (39 exhibits) as well as other themes.

The FAK, PFSA, and Voortrekkermonument were the main sponsors of the event. Their commitment to the advancement of philately and cultural engagement created a unique exhibition environment that promoted the hobby to a broad audience. Donations were also received from several philatelists.

The Organising Committee comprised André du Plessis RDPSA, Louwrence Erasmus (Chairman), Ronel Erasmus, Petra Heath, Herman van Niekerk, and Mias van Pletzen.

The jury consisted of Hugh Amoore RDPSA FRPSL André du Plessis RDPSA and Louwrence Erasmus (Fig.4).



Fig.4: Jury at work: Louwrence Erasmus, André du Plessis RDPSA and Hugh Amoore RDPSA FRPSL.

Numbered commemorative covers were on sale during the exhibition for R100 per cover. There were five covers each with the 2023 World Cup Standard Postage stamp and one of the following stamps: 1962 50th Anniversary of Volkspele 2½c, 1975 Centenary of Afrikaner Language Movement (GRA) 4c, 1975 Afrikaans Language Monument 5c, 1974 25th Anniversary Voortrekker Monument 4c, and 1979 4c 50th Anniversary of FAK (Fig.3). Covers are available at R500 per set and you can enquire at [sekretaris@afpretoria.co.za](mailto:sekretaris@afpretoria.co.za).

A diverse group of visitors, including school groups, international tourists, local tourists, people reached through social media and Maroela Media, and stamp enthusiasts, flocked to the exhibition. They also had the opportunity to browse the stocks of dealers. Visitors could explore and purchase from a wide selection of stamps, covers, historical documents, banknotes, and coins. These dealers are essential to the hobby, providing access to rare and

valuable items that enrich collections and preserve philatelic and numismatic heritage. The dealers were well supported during the four days and new friendships were made around the dealer tables. A special thank you to our dealers, Clinton Goslin, Clive King, Dr Heinz Wirz and the South African Post Office.

The Afrikaans 100 Gauteng Exhibition was a great success. New members joined the AFP the following week as a direct result of the exhibition.

Three groups of exhibits were on the floor: Court of Honour with eight exhibits in 27 frames that have been shown at National and International Level, competitive classes with 23 exhibits in 50 frames, and no-rules exhibitions with 23 entries in 54 frames.

Medals and gemstones are awarded to exhibitors whose work meets the regional exhibition standards outlined in the [Prospectus](#). The results for the competitive classes are:

Medals were awarded to three or more frames:

Mark	Medal	Class	Title	Exhibitor	Society
94	Large Gold	8: Open	Aspekte van die ontstaan en universiteitswording van die Universiteit van Pretoria	Hugh Amore RDPSA FRPSL	RPSCT
86	Large Gold	8: Open	Die Afrikaners is Plesierig	Victor Millard	RPSCT
78	Large Vermeil	8: Open	Voortrekker Eeufees, Historiese Ossewag 8 Augustus - 16 Desember 1938	Petra Heath GAFP	AFP
65	Large Silver	3: Thematics	Spinning and weaving	Natalie Lubbe	AFP
54	Bronze	1: Traditional	Australian Antarctic Territory	John Barry	PPS

Gemstones were awarded to limited scope exhibits of one and two frames:

Mark	Gemstone	Class	Title	Exhibitor	Society
90	Diamond	2:Postal History	Die impak van die Anglo-Boereoorlog (1899-1902) op Heidelberg, Transvaal en omgewing	Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA	PPS
78	Emerald	5: Aero/Astro	Ontwikkeling van lugpos in Suid Afrika 1911-1937	André du Plessis RDPSA	PPS
76	Emerald	3: Thematics	Chamber of Mines Centenary - Kamer van Mynwese Eeufees	Chris Callaghan	AFP
74	Ruby	8: Open	Die Parlement van Suid-Afrika 1885 tot 1994	Petra Heath GAFP	AFP
73	Ruby	5: Aero/Astro	Surinaamse Lugposseels onder Nederlandse bewind	John Barry	PPS
72	Ruby	2: Postal History	PKZ 00002 - Permit Mail	Ronel Erasmus	AFP
72	Ruby	8: Open	Die Slag van Dellovillebos	Petra Heath GAFP	AFP
68	Ruby	3: Thematics	Vuurtorings - Oprigting en Ligging in Afrika	Johan van Wyk	Oilfilat
61	Sapphire	8: Open	"Local" precancels of the USA	Trevor Harris	Oilfilat
60	Sapphire	3: Thematics	Ballet deur die eeue	Natalie Lubbe	AFP
60	Sapphire	8: Open	Oorsprong van Afrikaans en Invloede	Victor Millard	RPSCT
58	Sapphire	8: Open	The Birth of a Language	Aubrey Bowles	MPS
52	Aquamarine	3: Thematics	Daniël se Dinosauriërs	Daniël Lubbe (junior member)	AFP
51	Aquamarine	8: Open	Afrikaans is Groot !	Pieter Meyer	DPFM
50	Aquamarine	3: Thematics	Katie se ABC	Katie Lubbe (junior member)	AFP
49	Aquamarine	3: Thematics	Katte op seëls	Katie Lubbe (junior member)	AFP
49	Aquamarine	3: Thematics	Composers	Mias van Pletzen	AFP
48	Aquamarine	8: Open	Musiek in Afrikaans	Mias van Pletzen	AFP

Congratulations to all the exhibitors!



# The Metamorphosis of a Local Exchange Section to a Country Wide Service

by John Barry, Pretoria Philatelic Society

Many philatelic societies have or have had an 'exchange section'. This has essentially been a type of 'approval service' where members place priced stamps in a booklet, which is then circulated by the society to other members. The members that then purchase items pay the money to the society and when the booklet has been seen by the members, the society returns it and the money for purchases (less a commission) to the contributor. It was originally called an 'exchange' as the idea was that all members would contribute and that all members would buy from the booklets; money being used as a facilitator to even out the difference between the sales and purchases of each collector. Booklets were usually passed from member to member by hand and the administrative work done by volunteers from the society. These volunteers usually organized the participating members onto 'circuits' (essentially a list of the people organized geographically in the best way) to lighten the administrative load as one would only then check the booklet once it had completed a 'circuit' of members. Costs to run the system were minimal and the commission earned (most usually 10% of sales) was a welcome source of income for a society.

However a society exchange section is but one way to acquire philatelic material. Other ways include: auctions (postal or live), stamp fairs, stamp dealers and the Internet (sites such as bobshop or internet based dealers). This diversity has been available more in the last few decades, but is mainly confined to the larger centres. For people in less busy areas most of these other sources are not readily available. The greatest advantage of participating in an exchange system is that one can inspect material in your own home and at your own pace peruse booklets, with the ability to compare one's own collection to material before selecting items.

The Pretoria Philatelic Society's (PPS) Exchange Section began at least in the 1940s (possibly earlier) and has been continuously active ever since. It slowly grew to have many circuits in Pretoria and environs. In 1980 there were 16 circuits, twelve in Pretoria and four in 'outside areas' – Johannesburg, Cape Town, Grahamstown and Polokwane. Packets were sent to the outside areas via the efficient Post Office system. As the years passed though, the character of the membership of the Exchange Section changed as the number of collectors involved with 'organised' philately (both societies and the PFSA) dwindled.

The gradual change that had been happening was brought home to us when the decision was made to amalgamate

the Exchange Section of the PPS with the Exchange Section of the Afrikaanse Filateliste Vereeniging (AFV). This and the work of stalwarts in other areas, caused us to reappraise the whole situation and our methods of organisation. We then moved to an Internet based administration system, the usage of couriers to transport books and moved to a model of having participating societies run circuits rather than individual members of our society. This whole reorganisation was reflected by the name change, when we moved from being the Exchange Section of PPS to being *The Stamp Exchange* (TSE) run currently under the auspices of PPS.

The usage of an Internet based sales program allows access by circuit managers from any part of the country, doing away with the need for all the administration to be done centrally. We also now have 'real-time' knowledge of where booklets are and a good idea of the sales that have happened.

The model has not only facilitated the growth of *The Stamp Exchange* through the participating societies but also through the incorporation of further societies with the considerable additional administrative burden being handled by the participating society's volunteers. This has also enabled us to make the service available to all Philatelic Federation of South Africa (PFSA) members via their PFSA affiliated societies. Direct members of PFSA can of course also participate, but they would need to contact the central administrators to utilize the service.

With the decline in the quality of Post Office services, the growth of courier companies and their technologies, made a move to their services inevitable despite their costs being the single biggest expense for the TSE. Curiously this decision has helped the growth of TSE to all parts of the country as it becomes increasingly more difficult to acquire material from traditional sources in some parts of the country.

There has thus been a slow but steady change from an essentially Pretoria-only based service with a few outlying circuits, to a country wide organisation. TSE now has circuits in the Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, Natal, North West Province and the Western Cape. There are now thirteen circuits outside of Pretoria with only four inside Pretoria.

The objective of the TSE is to promote philately at all levels on a non-profit basis with its finances run separately and ring-fenced from those of PPS. To date income from commissions and interest allows the service to be available at no charge to participants. However, with continuously escalating printing and courier costs this may need to be reviewed at some future date. Overall, the TSE would be unable to function without a dedicated and hardworking team of many volunteers; something that TSE is fortunate to have!

## Visit a Stamp Fair Near You



### Cape Stamp Fair and Auction

Usually **first** Saturday, every month.  
**Bellville Valley DRC Hall**,  
c/o Postma & St Andrews Streets, Bellville  
*Open:* 09:00 – 12:30

*Contact:*  
Ken Joseph: 072 5971287,  
[ken@philatelicfriends.com](mailto:ken@philatelicfriends.com)  
Robert Harm: 082 925-7103,  
[robertharm9@gmail.com](mailto:robertharm9@gmail.com)

### George (Online Philatelic Auctions Only)

Ray's Stamps  
*Contact:*  
Ray Upson: 044 871 2286,  
[scpa@xsinet.co.za](mailto:scpa@xsinet.co.za),  
Fax2Email: 086 733 8444

### Pretoria Stamp Fair and Auction Gauteng

**First** Saturday, every month.  
**Greek Orthodox Church**,  
Corner Lynnwood Road & Roper St, Brooklyn  
*Open:* 08:00 with Auction at 10:30

*Contact:*  
Kenny Napier: 083 444 0249,  
[kenny.napier@mweb.co.za](mailto:kenny.napier@mweb.co.za)  
Clinton Goslin: 083 272 9367,  
[atlasauctioneers@lantic.net](mailto:atlasauctioneers@lantic.net)

### Johannesburg Stamp Fair and Auction Gauteng (Old Kyalami Stamp Fair)

**Second** Saturday every month.  
**German Club**, 131 Holkam Road, Paulshof, Sandton.  
*Open:* 08:00 with Auction at 10:00

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# The South African Philatelist

*All about stamps*



THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1923

Volume 101:4. 991

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**Please note:** Publication closing dates for **FINAL** submission of Advertising Material for *The SA Philatelist* is by **25 SEPTEMBER 2025**.

**ARTICLES should be submitted in the month prior:**

For the Volume 101:5 992 - The **OCTOBER 2025** issue submit by **15 SEPTEMBER 2025**

Send your contribution to [sap@stampssa.africa](mailto:sap@stampssa.africa)



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## FEDERATION NEWS

André du Plessis RDPSA, Chief Operating Officer of the PFSA, 083 399 1755  
<https://www.stampssa.africa> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/>



### National Stamp Exhibition 2025

The Paarlse Filateliste will proudly host the National Stamp Exhibition from 3 to 6 September 2025 at the Paarl Golf Club, Boschenmeer Golf Estate, Paarl. This year's exhibition forms part of the society's 75th Anniversary and promises to be a highlight on the philatelic calendar. The Organising Committee is working at full capacity and sincerely hopes to see and welcome fellow collectors and friends to the event.

Commemorative covers will be available at R25.00 each. Exhibition envelopes will be canceled with a specially designed canceller by Thea Clemons, Graphic Designer at Philatelic Services. Orders for covers can also be placed with Gawie Hugo at [gawiehugo@gmail.com](mailto:gawiehugo@gmail.com).

Entry is free and the opening hours are:

- Wednesday to Thursday: 08:00 to 18:00
- Friday: 08:00 to 16:00
- Saturday: 08:00 to 14:00 (exhibits will be dismantled thereafter)

A total of 257 frames, including the Court of Honour and Invited Exhibits, will be on display. Exhibits should be delivered to the Bin Room on Monday, 2 September from 10:00 onwards.

Several dealers will be attending, offering an exciting opportunity to browse, chat, and add to your collection. Don't miss the auction hosted by Ken Joseph of Philatelic Friends on Saturday morning at 11:00.


The Palmares will be held on Friday at 19:00. Tickets will be available at the Info Desk during the exhibition—please remember to secure your tickets!

The Jury, chaired by Hugh Amoore RDPSA FRPSL, consists of Emil Minnaar RDPSA (vice chairman), Michael Wigmore RDPSA, Victor Millard, Tim Bartshe (USA), and Javaid Muhammad (UAE). Diederik Viljoen and Henk Geertsema have been invited as learner jurors. The jury will be happy to discuss aspects of the material on show and to share insights into the judging process.

This year, the PFSA 87th Congress is scheduled to take place on Friday, 5 September 2025, at the same venue as the National Exhibition, starting at 09:00. Societies are reminded to submit their Congress delegate forms by 11 August 2025.

A special thanks is extended to our main sponsor, Spink of London, and to Ian Shapiro for his continuous support. We also express our sincere gratitude to Paarl Golf Club, Middelplaas Guest House, the various societies, and our advertisers for their generous support.

My sincere appreciation goes to the Organising Committee, jury members, and all individuals who contributed their efforts and dedication. Without this support, a successful exhibition would not be possible!

Please note that the Golf Club restaurant is a cashless environment and all credit/debit cards are accepted. Use your Identity Document or Driver's License for access at the gate; please state your reason for visit as 'Golf Club'. 

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The PFSA encourages participation in both this journal, *The SA Philatelist*, as well as the electronic newsletter, *'Keeping in Touch'*. By interacting with these publications, regular and new readers continue to support stamp collecting in South Africa. For more details contact the Chief Operating Officer of the PFSA, André du Plessis RDPSA, +27 (0)83 399 1755, or on email at [pfsastamps@gmail.com](mailto:pfsastamps@gmail.com), or visit the website at <https://www.stampssa.africa>.

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## Exhibition Calendar

EXHIBITION	DATE	PATRONAGE	COMMISSIONER / CONTACT	LINK
Asian International Stamp Exhibition & TINE 2025	8 - 12 Aug 2025	FIAP	N/A	<a href="#">THAILAND 2025</a>
NATIONAL STAMP SHOW 2025	3 - 6 Sep 2025	PFSA	Gawie Hugo <a href="mailto:gawiehugo@gmail.com">gawiehugo@gmail.com</a>	<a href="#">PFSA</a>
NORDIA 2025	12 - 14 Sep 2025	FEPA	N/A	<a href="#">Nordia 2025</a>
PHILAKOREA 2025 Specialized WSC	17 - 21 Sep 2025	FIP	Gary Pienaar <a href="mailto:pienaargary@gmail.com">pienaargary@gmail.com</a>	<a href="#">Korea 2025</a>
AUSVIPEX 2025	From 27 Nov 2025	APF	<a href="#">Online Form</a>	<a href="#">AUSVIPEX 2025</a>
Dubai 2026 Specialised World Stamp Exhibition	4 - 8 Feb 2026	FIP	TBA	<a href="#">Dubai 2026</a>
2nd International Virtual Aero- & Astrophilatelic Exh.	14 - 22 Feb 2026	FISA & PCI	Virtual	<a href="#">AMSIPEX-26</a>
BOSTON 2026 General World Exhibition	23 - 30 May 2026	FIP	N/A	<a href="#">Boston 2026</a>
MACAO 2026 Specialized World Stamp Exhibition	26 Jun - 1 Jul 2026	FIP	TBA	<a href="#">MACAO 2026</a>

### NATIONAL STAMP SHOW 2025

3 to 6 September 2025



The 2025 South African **National Stamp Show** will be hosted by the Paarlse Filateliste, Paarl.

*Venue:* Paarl Golf club, 848 Wemmershoek Rd, Boschenmeer Golf Estate, Paarl

*Entries close:* Already closed on 15 July 2025.

*Delivery of Exhibits to the Organising Committee:* **2 September 2025.**

*Contact:*

- Gawie Hugo - [gawiehugo@gmail.com](mailto:gawiehugo@gmail.com)
- André du Plessis RDPSA - [pfsastamps@gmail.com](mailto:pfsastamps@gmail.com)

**We are looking forward to seeing you in Paarl.**

## Correction: February to April 2025 SA Philatelist

We wish to inform our readers of an error that appeared in the February, April and June 2025 SA Philatelist volume 101 nos 1 to 3, sequence 988 to 990. We regret the oversight and apologise for any confusion or inconvenience it may have caused. The corrected information is as follows:

The article titled "Meet With Dealers at a Stamp Fair Near You", right column, third block should read:

Zbigniew Kawecki: 082 968 6888,

We appreciate your understanding and support.



The *Philatelic Federation of South Africa* (PFSA) recognizes exceptional contributions to philately through several prestigious awards: Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa (RDPSA), Skinner Cup, Manfred Weinstein Memorial Medallion, J.H. Harvey Pirie Memorial Award, W.E. Lea Cup, Federation Plaque, and Jack Hagger Award. The PFSA invites affiliated societies to nominate deserving individuals for these awards. Nominations should be submitted to the [Chief Operating Officer](#) by the specified deadline each year. Societies are encouraged to recognize members who have made significant contributions to philately through research, service, or promotion of the hobby. See <https://stampssa.africa/about-us/#awards> for more information.

Send your nominations to the PFSA COO at [pfsastamps@gmail.com](mailto:pfsastamps@gmail.com)



Show your collection to your family and friends, and consider exhibiting it at club meetings and regional, national, and international exhibitions. See this issue of *The SA Philatelist*, [Stamps SA Keeping in Touch](#), and the official PFSA website at <http://stampssa.africa> for more information.



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Logos at the bottom: PTS, IAPFA, STAMPSSA, and ifsda (International Federation of Stamp Dealers' Association).



# Looking Back a Century: Highlights from *The SA Philatelist* - July and August 1925

by Louwrence Erasmus, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria

This is the fourth instalment in the series exploring the fascinating world of Southern African philately, with summaries from *The SA Philatelist* published a hundred years ago. Who knows — it might just spark a hidden love for philatelic research!



In July 1925, *The SA Philatelist* [1] reported that at the Paris Exhibition, the Johannesburg United Philatelic Society (JUPS) Medal for the best British South African stamp collection was awarded to the renowned British philatelist Mr R.F.A. Riesco, whose superb ‘Capes’ stole the show, despite him nearly losing them on a train just days before!

Meanwhile, whispers in Port Elizabeth hinted that the Union Government was

## TOPICS OF THE MONTH.

**The J.U.P.S. Medal.**  
The silver-gilt medal awarded by the Johannesburg United Philatelic Society for the best collection of British South African stamps exhibited at the Paris Exhibition, was won by a well-known British philatelist, Mr. R. F. A. Riesco. It was Mr. Riesco's magnificent Capes which won him the medal.

A few days before the Exhibition this gentleman almost mindlessly left his collection in a train. A large reward was offered, and the Capes were returned to their owner within a couple of days.

**South African Air Mail.**  
The Port Elizabeth correspondent of "Die Burger" understands on reliable authority that there is every possibility of the Union Government coming to an arrangement with a British Company to conduct air mail between Capetown, Durban and Johannesburg. It is stated that passengers will also be carried, and that there will be two flights per week from Capetown (one to Durban and one to Johannesburg), with corresponding return flights.

If definite arrangements are made, it is probable that German "Junkers" planes will be used, an annual subsidy of £5,000 granted to the aeroplane company, and a start made with the service early next year.

**No id. Stamps.**  
A couple of journals have obtained the impression that because the newspaper postage in the Union is now 2d., there is to be a stamp of that denomination.

In order to have their publications carried at the id. rate, publishers must open a deposit account with the Post Office, and the account is debited with the amount due on each posting. The publisher marks on the wrappers the words "Newspaper postage paid" and no postmark of any kind is applied by the P.O.

Fig.1: SAP of July 1925.

considering an air mail deal with a British firm, with possible use of German Junkers aircraft and flights from Cape Town to Durban and Johannesburg.

The editor of *The S.A. Philatelist*, Mr J. Robertson, delivered the third radio talk on stamp collecting, with the next instalment from JUPS President Mr I. Glasser scheduled for 12 August 1925.

In the United States, philately was formally recognised as a full academic discipline, with Mr C. Lat. Wilhelm appointed Professor of Philately.

On a more practical note, Mr Arthur C. Thornton of Bulawayo suggested transparent printer sheets as a safer alternative to ‘pochettes’.

Arthur C. Thornton provided a full list of imperforate varieties from Southern Rhodesia, highlighting some rare sheet positions.

Mr D.B. Armstrong noted how surprisingly scarce used higher-value Colonial stamps had become, with collectors paying well above catalogue for fine examples.

The Royal Train postmark from the Prince of Wales' South African tour drew attention for its bilingual design and Union Coat of Arms (Fig.2).

In South West Africa, debate continued over inverted and double overprints—some thought to be printer's waste, others vouched for with direct provenance from Windhoek. Stanley Gibbons reported a toned-paper variety of the 2s Southern Rhodesia stamp.

South West Africa's 6d postage due showed a typographic anomaly, and unused pairs of the 1d rouletted postage due turned up in private hands.

In the Union, more Air Mail stamps emerged imperforate at edge rows.

Most notably, South Africa saw the birth of *The Southern Stamp Co. (Africa) Ltd*, its first philatelic limited company, aiming to grow the hobby through a youth competition with generous prizes—proof that stamp collecting was flourishing in both spirit and structure.

A Berlin journal reported the existence of a 1s South African air mail stamp, while a London publication claimed the Afrikaans wording in the special postmark read "S.A. Lugpost." Needless to say, there was no such 1s air mail stamp at the time, and, amusingly, there wasn't even a "t" in the Afrikaans portion of the actual cachet!

H. Mallet-Veale made a spirited case for violet cancellations on British African stamps, arguing that many of these parcel-used items were unfairly dismissed despite being genuinely postally used and often far neater than their heavily cancelled black counterparts. He lamented that collectors routinely ignored clean violet-marked stamps in favour of smudged, stained, or damaged alternatives.

The international philatelic scene was abuzz with preparations for the 1926 New York Exhibition, seeking funding through contributions and memberships.

Lastly, collectors were pointed to an in-depth feature on Rhodesian proofs and essays in *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal*.



Fig.2: The Royal Train postmark [1].



Vol. 3, No. 7. August, 1925. Whole No. 31

TOPICS OF THE MONTH.

South African Air Mails.

An elaborate air mail scheme is discussed in the Johannesburg "Star." Briefly, it deals with the possibility of transferring inward European mails to aeroplanes at Walvisch Bay. The mails would then be taken to Johannesburg, and even Durban, by air. Outward mails would be taken to Walvisch Bay by aeroplane, and there placed on the mail steamers.

This scheme would also enable mails from and to South West African towns to be sent by air. The journey would be done within a day, as against the present several days journey.

If the scheme discussed is adopted, certain alterations in the times of arrival and departure of the mail steamers would be necessary if the service is to be of real benefit.

South-West Africa.

In this issue we publish the first instalment of a splendid article on the postage stamps of the above territory. Written by that recognised expert, Lieut.-Col. L. J. Worthington, the article first appeared in "Stamp Collecting," the well-known London weekly.

As South West Africa has numerous devotees in this country, we feel sure that specialists in these stamps and others will welcome the reprinting of Col. Worthington's notes, which will be of great reference value, and which will be fully illustrated.

The New Union Stamps.

The new issue will definitely appear on January 1st next, according to the daily papers. The King's head will not appear on the stamps. Instead, designs appropriate to South Africa will be used.

Some values of the current issue are worth investing in.

Fig.3: SAP of August 1925.

mail steamer schedules to be effective.

It was confirmed that the new Union stamps would be released on 1 January 1926, without the King's portrait, featuring instead uniquely South African designs. Some current values were even tipped as good investments.



Fig.4: Type-set Overprint: Type I [2].

Lt.Col. L.J. Worthington's updated article on the postage stamps of South-West Africa, originally published in *Stamp Collecting*, offered a detailed look into the many flaws and quirks found in the early overprints (Fig.4). He explained how the original type-set forme quickly deteriorated due to its soft metal, leading to a wide range of varieties that defied neat classification. While many of these were minor and held little philatelic value, a few stood out—like a smaller or missing dot over the "i" in certain values, or missing cross-strokes and broken letters on specific stamp positions. The article also covered technical details such as sheet arrangements, ink differences, and overprint methods, all of which painted a picture of a rather chaotic but fascinating period in the production of South-West African stamps.

Philatelic notes covered a lively mix of curiosities and discoveries. A rare imperforate variety of the 1d Union of South Africa stamp turned up, apparently caused by a misfed sheet during perforation (Fig.5).

In July 1925, *The SA Philatelist* [2] reported that The Star in Johannesburg floated an ambitious air mail proposal that would've seen European mail transferred at Walvis Bay and flown to Johannesburg and even Durban, drastically reducing delivery times. The same route was suggested for South West African towns, turning a journey of several days into just one. If adopted, the plan would have required changes to

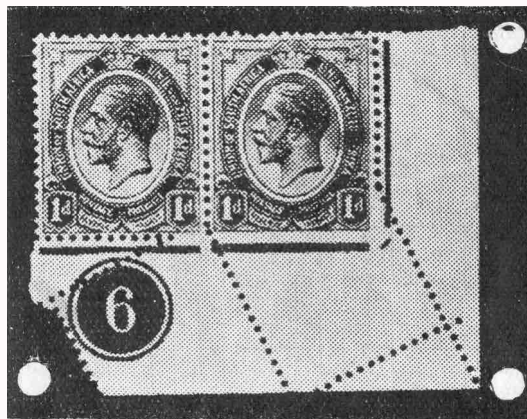


Fig.5: 1d corner stamp almost entirely imperforated along the bottom edge [2].

Tanganyika issued higher values with upright watermarks. Zanzibar planned to withdraw its then current set at the end of 1925. Mocambique celebrated 50 years since the Delagoa Bay dispute was resolved with a flashy set of stamps to fund social assistance.

A truly sensational stamp find in a Mayfair attic revealed mint sheets and blocks from across the British Empire—expected to fetch around £15,000, despite originally costing less than £30.

A thoughtful piece by H. Mallet-Veale continued to defend the collectability of violet-cancelled stamps used on telegrams and parcels, encouraging collectors to embrace these often-dismissed items and appreciate postmarks as much as the stamps themselves.

Philatelic activities across southern Africa continued with great energy and enthusiasm. The Johannesburg United Philatelic Society hosted a lively evening on 11 July featuring "spotting" and general knowledge competitions. Members had to identify partially hidden stamps, with Mr. C.F. Skinner taking top honours, followed by Mr. M.P. Vallentine. In the quiz section, Mr. J. Robertson emerged as the winner—despite being the organiser! The event proved that a bit of fun and challenge can certainly lift the atmosphere at society meetings.

Meanwhile, in Bulawayo, the Philatelic Society of Rhodesia held its second annual general meeting on 26 June. President Arthur C. Thornton and Treasurer Mr. W. Morsman confirmed the society was in good shape. A new committee was elected, and members enjoyed displays of Southern Rhodesian imperforate varieties and rare items from British Bechuanaland, shown by Mr. W. Scot-Russell. Exchange packets were also high on the agenda, with plans to maintain regular monthly circulation.

References

- [1] *The SA Philatelist*, Vol. 2 No. 6, Jul. 1925. [Online] Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/SAP-July-1925.pdf>
- [2] *The SA Philatelist*, Vol. 2, No. 7, August. 1925. [Online] Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/SAP-Aug-1925.pdf>



# The ½d Warthog, Animal Definitive Series, 1954 – 1960, of the Union of South Africa (Part 2)

by Joof van der Merwe RDP SA, Orange Free State Philatelic Society

This study examines the various printings of the ½d stamp, exploring the printing marks, watermarks, different paper types, and the numerous varieties. The first issue, dated 14 October 1954, was printed with Cylinder 84 and discussed in [2].

In this article, cylinder 67, printed in February and April 1959 with the springbok watermark, is discussed.

The scans may appear low-quality, but the reader should be aware that they reflect the actual print quality under enlargement.

## Cylinder 67 – Springbok Watermark

Issue Two was printed using Cylinder 67 in February 1959. The stamps were produced in sheets of 240, arranged in 20 rows of 12 stamps each. The watermark used was the Multiple Springbok (Fig.1).

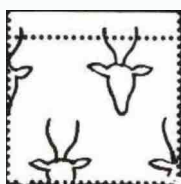


Fig.1: Multiple springbok wmk.

## The Cylinder Number

The cylinder number was printed in the right margin of the lower margin under stamp Row 20/11 of the sheet (Fig.2).



Fig.2: Cylinder number 67.



Fig.3: Sheet Numbers: (left) four digit red number in the right margin and (right) five digit black number in the right margin.

## Sheet Serial Numbers

Sheet numbers were printed in the right margin of each sheet. In the first printing, dated February 1959, four-figure numbers in red were positioned opposite Row 15. In the second printing, issued in April 1960, five-figure sheet numbers in black appeared opposite Rows 16 and 17 (Fig.3).

## Arrows and Margins

Arrows were printed between Rows 6 and 7 in the top and bottom margins (Fig.4), and between Columns 10 and 11 in both the left and right margins (Fig.5).

A single marginal bar appeared in the top and bottom margins (Fig.4).



Fig.4: Top and bottom margins.



Fig.5: Left and right margins.



Fig.6: (Left) Arrow variety in left margin, (right) enlargement of variety.

### Arrow Variety

The left marginal arrow in Fig.6 shows pronounced wear due to damage to the cylinder.

### Varieties

This study excludes the explicit treatment of the varieties described in [3]. The varieties presented are recurring varieties identified through independent research [1].



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1. Dot bottom left of "1" of value - Row 1/10	2. Dot in front of "S" of Suid' - Row 7/2	3. Dot below "ca" of Africa - Row 10/5
4. Erect hair on back of neck - Row 11/7	5. Dot above "k" of Afrika - Row 15/2	6. Dot left of right tusk - Row 15/8
7. Smudge between "ou" of South - Row 16/6	8. Dot in left ear - Row 17/4	9. Dot below "d" of Posgeld - Row 17/10
10. Dot in front of mouth - Row 18/3	11. Dot above last "e" of Revenue - Row 19/9	12. Dot below "d" of Suid - Row 20/2

In the next article, the Coat of Arms watermark printed in December 1960 will be discussed.

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## The Early Postal History of Zanzibar

by Andrew Briscoe RDP SA, FRPSL, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

Zanzibar, an island 35 km off the East African Coast, 6° south of the Equator and 1658 km<sup>2</sup> in area, was for centuries a centre of Indian Ocean and African trade. It was the African end of a trade route carrying slaves and ivory between East Africa and the Persian Gulf. In addition, the island had significant natural resources, including timber, coconuts, cowrie shells used as currency and cloves. The opening of the Suez Canal, in 1869, marked the change for Zanzibar from being a backwater as far as the west was concerned, to occupying a prime position commanding the seaway from Europe to India.

From about 1650 the Arabs of Oman made determined efforts to colonise East Africa and in 1832 Seyyid Said Sultan Al Busaidi, Sultan of Oman and Muscat, established a Sultanate with his capital at Zanzibar. For a variety of reasons, not least their efforts to effect the gradual elimination of the slave trade, the British became involved in the political affairs of the Al Busaidi dynasty, so much so that when on Sultan Said's death in 1856 there arose a dispute between his sons over the succession and over the constitutional relationship between the capital at Zanzibar and the former capital at Muscat, the dispute was referred to Lord Canning, Governor-General of India, for resolution. He resolved the problem by, in effect, declaring Muscat and Zanzibar independent of one another, thus confirming the Sultan of Zanzibar (being Seyyid Said's second son, Majid) as an autonomous monarch.

Politically, the decision made the Sultan of Zanzibar more than ever dependent upon the presence of Great Britain and in the long term it culminated in 1890 in an agreement between Great Britain and the Sultan which created a protectorate relationship between the two countries. The first treaty of commerce was signed between the two in 1839 and on December 9th 1840, Captain A. Hamerton was appointed as British Consul.

However, the British were not the first in the field. American ships had been trading to Zanzibar for many years and a commercial treaty had been concluded between the United States of America and Zanzibar as early as 1833, an American Consul being appointed in 1839, although the American influence faded during the American Civil War. A French Consul arrived in 1844 and a German one in 1860.

In these early years there was no formal mail service and letters were put on board such ships as were available to carry them to some port where they could enter a formal postal system. Knight [2] records covers of 1846 (to Leeds), 1849 (to Wenham, Massachusetts), three from

1850 (two to Edinburgh including one from Major – as he now was - Hamerton, and the third from Zanzibar to Nantes via Hamburg). These indicate the wide range of contacts emanating from the Island.



Fig.1: The cover of 1851, ex the collection of the late Richard Knight.

Two covers from this early period are illustrated. Fig.1 shows a cover addressed to France and showing “Zanzibar le 12 Mars 1851” (this cachet being of type known to have been used by French Consulates at the time). This cover appears to have reached France on a British ship (note the PAQ. ANGL. MARSEILLES / 30 AVRIL 1851 date stamp) and is endorsed “10” in manuscript, presumably centimes to pay the delivery fee in France.

The second cover, shown in Fig.2, is an 1851 pre-paid stampless envelope from his home town of Colmar in France addressed to the French Consul in Zanzibar, Emile Kuhlmann, “Care of Captain Haines/Political Agent/Aden” showing Colmar 25 Oct. 1851 despatch cds, carried onward from Aden by private vessel with receiving note of 25 May 1852.



Fig.2: Early Mail to Zanzibar, 1851 (courtesy Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions).

Between 1860 and 1871, mail between Britain and Zanzibar travelled from Britain to Aden or Bombay then by French packet to the Seychelles, whence it was transported to Zanzibar. What was planned as a regular service using a local vessel and subsequently a naval sloop proved to be unreliable and rather irregular. The situation improved somewhat in 1871 when the Sultan provided a steam yacht for the service. The number of letters was quite small and the

arrangement was perfectly satisfactory to the (British) Post Office - as a departmental clerk dryly put it 'proposals for the improvement of the service were not wanting.' None of these proposals bore fruit, although in late 1868, as a result of the effort of Colonel Rigby, then Consul, an Indian post office was opened in Zanzibar. Unfortunately, the existence of this post office gave rise to unpleasant relations with foreign consuls and it was closed on 1 April 1869. Mail from Zanzibar via the Seychelles during this period can only be identified when the name of the sender is known or the cover is marked "From Zanzibar" because such mail bears cancellations of the Seychelles.



Fig.3: 1864 Envelope to the U.S.A. marked as from "Leopold Acevedo / Zanzibar" (ex the collection of the late Richard Knight).

The cover in Fig.3 is franked with 1/- and 6d Mauritius stamps each tied with 'B64' numeral cancellations applied by Seychelles postal officials. It is one of only three covers sent from Zanzibar bearing Mauritius stamps cancelled in Seychelles.

In 1870, the British Foreign Office became involved in the island's postal history. A committee headed by Sir Bartle Frere had been investigating the slave trade and it contended that communication with Zanzibar was unsatisfactory, given the importance of the Island in the trade. The committee suggested that a regular service between Zanzibar and the Seychelles be instituted to connect with the regular French packet between the Seychelles and Aden. This was rejected by the Post Office in London, on the reasonable grounds that it could not justify the lavish expenditure entailed in subsidising a regular service when the total postage involved amounted only to £50 annually. The Foreign Office, supported by the Treasury, continued its efforts, arguing that it wished to make Zanzibar the centre of its anti-slave trade operations and regarded better communications as essential. In the end, the Foreign Office prevailed and by August 1873, after a long and complex series of negotiations and parliamentary manoeuvres, there existed two services to Zanzibar. One was from the Cape provided by the Union Steamship Company and the other from Aden provided by the British Indian Steam Navigation Company. The Cape service was subsidised to the tune of £20,000 and the Aden service to the tune of £10,000. There was, however, still no post office at Zanzibar.

In April 1854, Captain W. F. Prideaux, the Acting Consul-General at Zanzibar, suggested in a despatch to the Foreign Office that a British post office should be established under the general control of the Consul-General and that a compulsory rate of prepayment for mail from Zanzibar to Great Britain and India should be introduced, a supply of British stamps to be provided for this purpose. The despatch pointed out that Zanzibar was now the central point for all three systems of mails, that is, the Union Steamship Company and the British India Steam Navigation Company services to Cape Town and Aden respectively and also a new service by French packet between Zanzibar and the Comoros and Madagascar. Postal business had greatly increased and had to be handled by the consulate staff to the detriment of their normal work. No stamps were available and in consequence many letters were sent unpaid. Furthermore, even if letters were stamped, the stamps were often not obliterated at Aden (there being no means of obliterating them at Zanzibar) and complaints of such letters being treated in England as 'unpaid' were not infrequent. Prideaux also stated that the institution of a post office would benefit the community, provide facilities for registration which were currently lacking and free the Consulate from having to deliver letters to local addressees.



Fig.4: Zanzibar Anti-Slave Patrol: 1883 Sailor's concessionary rate pre-printed envelope from H.M.S. Euryalus while at Zanzibar to Birmingham (courtesy of Argyll-Etkin).

### The Indian Post Office

The Foreign Office referred Prideaux's despatch to the Post Office in London, which declined to open a British post office, pointing out that the amount of correspondence to and from Zanzibar was insignificant and the revenue derived there was too small to justify a British post office. The Post Office did however, make the constructive suggestion, that as the Acting Consul-General had indicated that he would not expect the objections to a post office made by foreign Consuls in 1869 to be renewed. In view of the popularity of the new mail services, possibly the Indian Post Office could

be induced to re-open an office on the island. Accordingly, the proposal was directed to the Indian Office and referred to a senior official in the Indian Post Office, Mr Monteith.

Monteith suggested that correspondence from Zanzibar for all destinations for which the route lay through Aden should be treated like Aden correspondence as regards postage rates. All letters from Zanzibar would be placed in a bag to Aden, where they would be treated in exactly the same way as if they had been placed in an Aden letter box. If paid with Indian stamps, the letter would be forwarded by the Aden Post Office as paid, if unstamped, they would be forwarded by Aden as unpaid. The Treasury at Zanzibar could obtain a supply of Indian stamps and make these available to a suitable retail salesman, and registration could be affected by the Consulate. Correspondence to Zanzibar could be handled by Aden, with the same charge as if addressed to Aden. Mail sent by French packet to or from Madagascar or the Comoros would continue to be handled by the French Consulate. Correspondence prepaid in South Africa was delivered free in Zanzibar.

The proposal was approved by the Treasury together with the resultant reduction in postage rate between Zanzibar and India from 1s per half-ounce to 6d per half-ounce, the same rate as for letters from India to Aden. Following this, the Superintendent of stamps, Bombay, was informed in May 1875 that a postal agency was to be opened at Zanzibar with effect from 1 October 1875. This Indian Post Office was to last until 1895 when its operation was transferred to the Government of Zanzibar.



Fig.5: 1896 cover to Bristol sent registered with India overprinted ZANZIBAR 1 Annas on 6p and 3 Annas cancelled by small ZANZIBAR 5 MY 96 datestamps. (Courtesy of David Morrison).

### The French and German Post Offices

From 1889 to 1904, the French operated a post office in Zanzibar. In 1894, French stamps were circulated for this post office. The first of these was the Type Sage Peace and Commerce stamps of France, originally issued between 1876 and 1884. These stamps were overprinted with different

values in annas, the local currency. Additional overprinted varieties were introduced later that year bearing 'ZANZIBAR' in black or red and surcharged in centimes.

From 1890 to 1891 there was also a German Post Office in Zanzibar which closed in July 1891, and thereafter mail to Germany was transmitted via the French or Indian Post Offices.



Fig.6: The French Post Office in Malindi, Zanzibar Stone Town, circa 1895.



Fig.7: German East Africa: 3 June 1891, envelope to Germany, franked by 1890-91 10pf. rose pair, tied by "ZANZIBAR / KAISERL. DEUTSCHE / POSTAGENTUR" datestamps. (Courtesy of Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions).

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# 1936 South African Scout Jamboree

by Gary Pienaar, Philatelic Society of Johannesburg

A national Scout Jamboree was held in East London, from 8 to 16 January 1936, to mark the visit of the Chief Scout, Lord Robert Baden-Powell, to South Africa. Approximately 3500 Scouts and Leaders attended from every part of the country, including South West Africa (Namibia), Moçambique and Rhodesia (Zimbabwe).

## Special Jamboree Cover



Fig.1: Example of the special Jamboree envelope, posted from the campsite on the 13th January, bearing the '4 P' strike. This indicates that it was posted at 4pm in the afternoon.

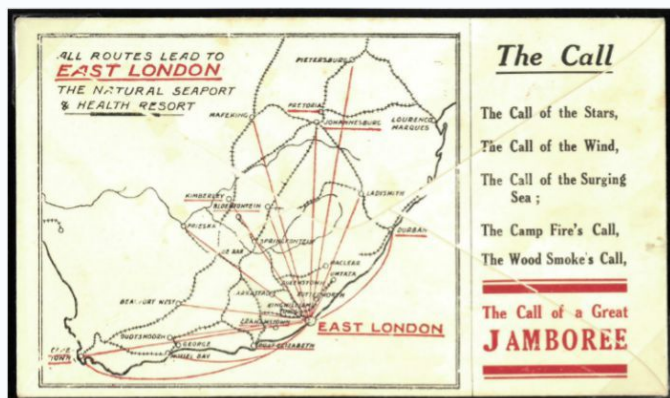


Fig.2: An unused example of the special souvenir cover, illustrating the reverse side of the envelope.

The organizers issued a special souvenir envelope (Fig.1) for the occasion. It depicts the official logo for the Jamboree in red ink, with the inscription 'South African National Jamboree East London' at the bottom. An illustration of 'All routes lead to East London ...' on a map of South Africa and the slogan 'The Call of a Great Jamboree' was printed on the reverse side of the envelope (Fig.2).

## Postal Arrangements

A temporary Post Office was opened in a marquee at the Jamboree campsite, under the management of a Mr. Unwin. Approximately 1500 covers and letters were posted, marked with a special relief type date stamp inscribed 'Scout Camp

EL' with time codes 'A' for morning, 'NOON' for midday (Fig.3) and 'P' for afternoon postings. It is unclear how many letters were received at the Jamboree campsite.



Fig.3: Example of the 'Noon' strike on an envelope posted on 14 January 1936.

It was also reported that about 700 newspapers, The Sunday Tribune, printed in Durban, were flown in by air (Fig.4) and marked with a 'By Airmail' cachet.

A set of postcards was also prepared during the Jamboree, published by E.W. Eland, 15 Park Street, East London. The postcard shown (Fig.5) is the third in the series, depicting the Chief Scout, Robert Baden-Powell arriving by motor car and walking to the saluting dais at the Opening Ceremony of the Jamboree. It is unknown how many postcards made up the set, and this is the only example seen by the author. If any readers have additional information or scans of other examples of these cards, then I would be delighted to hear from you.



Fig.4: Photograph of the delivery of Sunday Tribune newspapers to the site.

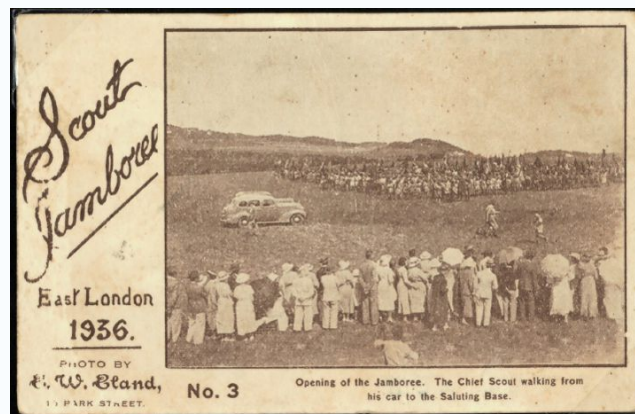


Fig.5: Jamboree postcard No.3 depicting scenes from the Opening Ceremony.

## The Post Office Exhibition



Fig.6: Postcard, posted from the Post Office Exhibition on the 14th January, addressed to the Jamboree campsite.

While the Jamboree was happening, there was also a special postal exhibition in East London, arranged by the Post Office

to market their services to the public. A commemorative date stamp was also in use during this exhibition, taking place from 2 December 1935 to 31 January 1936. As in previous exhibitions of this kind, special postcards were also handed out to visitors.

In this example (Fig. 6), the postcard has been addressed to Scout L.V. Macey at the Jamboree campsite. Certainly, a unique item linking these two events taking place in East London at the same time.

This was the first formal philatelic recognition for a Scout event, and the Scouting Movement in general, in South Africa.

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## NEW ISSUE



# 75th Anniversary of the Anniversary of Beloved Comic Strip 'Peanuts'

by Press Office, Royal Mail



Fig.1: Eight classic Peanuts comic strip designs feature main characters with British touches.

Royal Mail has revealed images to mark the 75th anniversary of the much-loved comic strip, Peanuts™. The stamps and a range of collectible products are available since 17 July 2025 at <https://www.royalmail.com/peanuts>.

The eight stamp designs include specially adapted artworks from classic Peanuts comic strips, that feature the main characters with some special British touches.

Snoopy is seen perched on a red post box with Woodstock, while Lucy and Linus enjoy a day at the seaside, building a sandcastle. Another stamp shows Snoopy and Woodstock on guard duty outside Buckingham Palace. Schroeder plays Pomp and Circumstance No. 1 by Edward Elgar on the piano as Lucy, Snoopy, and Charlie Brown celebrate nearby. Charlie Brown and Franklin are captured mid-game, playing football, and another stamp shows Charlie Brown and Snoopy standing together in the rain. There's also a

charming scene of Woodstock, Snoopy, and Charlie Brown celebrating with tea and cake, and finally, the Peanuts gang are shown relaxing peacefully under a tree in the park.

The timeless charm of Charles M. Schulz's Peanuts comic strips and characters continues to resonate with British audiences through fashion collaborations, consumer products, and beloved shows and specials.

For the 50 years Charles Schulz wrote Peanuts, the comic was read by millions around the world, and at one time was published in 2,600 newspapers globally. One of the most notable UK publications to carry Peanuts was the Daily Mail, which featured the strip during the height of its popularity.

To this day, Peanuts remains highly popular with young and old a quarter of a century after Schulz's final original strip appeared on 13 February 2000.



## Past and Present (Part 3): Capt. H. Greener, Army Chief Paymaster at Mafeking

by Clinton Goslin, SAPDA

As time passes, items get lost, destroyed or misplaced, knowledge fades and stories are forgotten. With a basic approach to the preservation of paper, I have decided to write short stories about items I have discovered over the years. I am by no means a specialist or an expert, but I will describe what I see to the best of my ability. I also welcome any additional information on any of the subjects or items discussed. All items form part of my personal collections, unless otherwise stated.

The item of interest is the signature of H. Greener on a document dated 1894, Fig.1. Then the penny dropped: he was a Captain and Army Chief Paymaster who signed the Mafeking Siege banknotes Figs 3 and 4. This makes Marshall Hole's creation of currency cards, and Greener's signing of the banknotes, a particularly interesting part of history, considering the scarcity of currency at the time.

enthusiastic and capable amateur photographer, who took a substantial number of photographs during the siege. He is also noted for his involvement in the production of siege banknotes, which were printed using woodcut techniques and backed by the Mafeking branch of the Standard Bank of South Africa [2].



Fig.1: Document signed at Bulawayo 20 December 1893 (Goslin Heritage Collection).

Edward Ross, a well-established resident of Mafeking, kept a diary during the period of the siege, which is described here for the first time. By profession, Ross was an auctioneer and served as a member of the local Town Guard in 1899 and 1900 [5]. His diary offers a markedly different perspective on the siege itself, the colonial and imperial administrations, as well as Baden-Powell and his staff. Ross was also an



Fig.2: A facsimile of the signature of 'H. Greener, Capt. / Chief Paymaster' on 10s banknotes during the Mafeking Siege (ex Jimmy Lawrence, Johannesburg [3]).



Fig.3: 'H. Greener Capt.' signature on £1 banknotes during the Mafeking Siege (ex Jimmy Lawrence, Johannesburg [3]).

Ross wrote in his diary ([1] cited in [2]):  
 ... and it was only by stealth I managed to get enough. I had a little signboard printed, "Mafeking Mint. No Admission", but this was regarded by everybody as a joke, most people saying, "Well, if there's no admission, I'm going in to see what's going

on,” and sometimes when the bell rang the “Mint” was packed. Not much use trying to keep it private. Of course everything did not work smoothly; for instance, one morning Greener sent me a batch of paper, and only in the light could it be seen that he had got hold of some old B.B.P. notepaper with their crest at the top. Naturally this could not be used, and so a fresh batch had to be made the next evening.

This note business is going to be a good thing for the Government as I am sure they will be worth much more than face value as curios after the siege, and people are collecting as many as they can get hold of now, to make money afterwards, and as I have made 620 that means about £600 clear profit for the Imperial exchequer! And that’s how the £1 note was made.

## Acknowledgements

The Van Riebeeck Society (now Historical Publications Southern Africa (HIPSA)) gave permission for using the photograph in Fig.4. There are still second-hand hard copies of [1] available. HIPSA can be reached through their website: <https://hipsa.org.za>.

Mid-Island Coin Club (MICC) Journal gave permission for using the illustrations in Figs 2 and 3. MICC can be reached through their website: <https://midislandcoinclub.com/>

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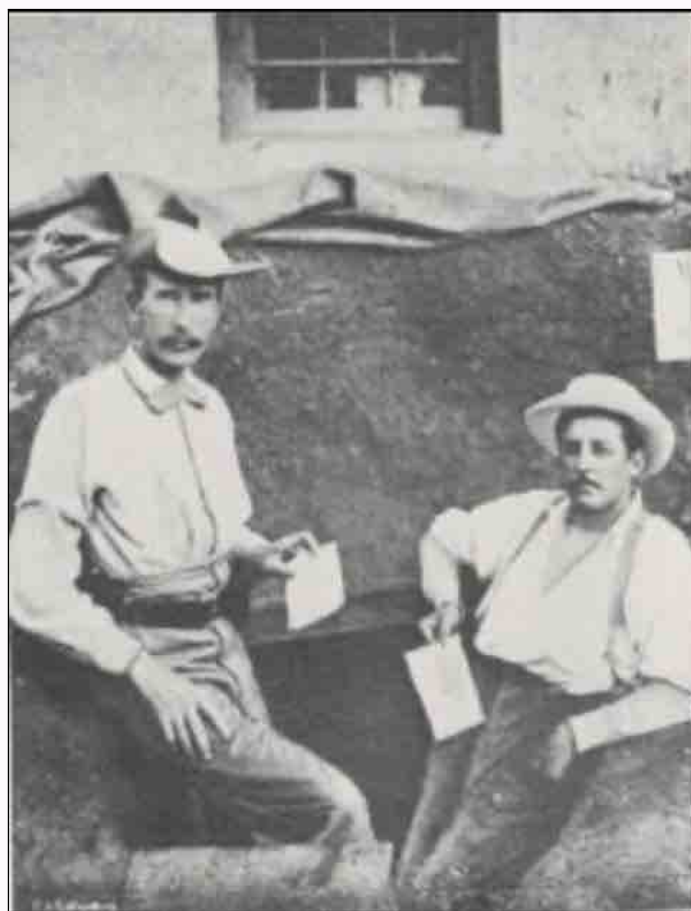



Fig.4: Edward Ross (right) pictured outside the ‘Mafeking Mint’ alongside Capt. Greener, the Army Chief Paymaster. Both men are holding examples of the ‘siege banknotes’. (HIPSA [2]). 

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## Union of South Africa Stamp Varieties

by André du Plessis RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society

### Academy of Science and Art, 1959 [1]

A bilingual 3d. Stamp was issued on 1 May 1959 to commemorate the golden jubilee of the South African Academy for Science and Art. It remained on sale for approximately three months.

The design, drawn by H. Kumst and measuring 37,5 x 21 mm, embodied the crest of the academy and the perforation was

15 x 14. The sheets of 120 stamps (20 rows x 6) had arrows in the colour of the frame at the centre of all four margins and a single broken bar, also in the colour of the frame, in the top and bottom ones.

Cylinder numbers, interior 89 and exterior 119 were printed on the bottom margin below the fifth and sixth stamps respectively.



Dark blue and light blue  
UHB 141

(SG 169) (SASCC 168)







Can be collected in singles due to the bilingual printing.

### SELECTED VARIETIES

(As listed in [1])

UHB 141 - 3d.

Cylinders no. 89 (Interior) and 119 (Exterior)

					
White mark to right of the first 'A' of AFRIKA (ex-Row 2/1) UHB 141 - V1	Dark blue dot on 'S' of SOUTH (ex-Row 4/4) UHB 141 - V2	Projection on circle under 'V' of VIR (ex-Row 14/5) UHB 141 - V3	Dot below and to left of 3d (ex-Row 16/4) UHB 141 - V4	Dot above 'd' of 3d (ex-Row 19/4) UHB 141 - V5	Dot to right of first 'A' of AFRIKA (ex-Row 19/6) UHB 141 - V6

General: All dark blue missing - SG 169(a) and SASCC 168(a). (Stamps from the top row of one sheet only, no image shown.)

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## The Establishment of the Republic of Ireland (Part 2)

by Holger Zahnow, Independent Author

The thematic issuing policy of the Irish postal service is essentially characterised by the retrospective in the history of the country. It is very vividly documented with far more postage stamps than can be illustrated and mentioned in this series of articles. This is the last article in this series.

### The 1916 Easter Rising

The failed uprising at Easter 1916 (Easter Rising) is meticulously recorded. Accordingly, this is not the place to describe the dramatic course of events in detail, but only the most important key points and the response of the Irish postal service and its stamps to them.



Fig.1: 25th Anniversary of the Easter Rising - Freedom Fighters and the General Post Office in Dublin.

Initially, the insurgents occupied important public buildings in Dublin, including the General Post Office (GPO), Fig.1), which they chose as their main base. They proclaimed Ireland's sovereignty from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. However, the rebellion was doomed to failure due to the incompetency in every respect and because there was insufficient support among the population, who feared British retaliation. Invoking the martial law that had been imposed, the British did indeed strike back with massive military force and destroyed parts of the city centre including the GPO. An arms shipment from Germany, which had been an enemy of Great Britain during the First World War, sank in the sea when the German ship's crew destroyed the weapons rather than let them fall into the hands of the approaching British. There were only isolated confrontations outside Dublin, and on 29 April 1916 Patrick Henry Pearse, (Fig.2(b)), a key leader, was finally forced to sign the unconditional surrender in the face of imminent defeat.



(a)



(b)

Fig.2: (a) Sir Roger Casement; (b) Patrick Henry Pearse.

The number of dead, injured and arrested insurgents, civilians and British soldiers is given differently by different sources, but it is certain that several hundreds of people died on both sides. Certainly 16 leaders of the Rising were executed by the British in 1916. These were: Sir Roger Casement, (Fig.2(a)), Thomas James Clarke, (Fig.3), Éamonn Ceannt, (Fig.3), Cornelius Bernard Colbert, James Connolly, Edward Daly, Seán Heuston, Thomas Kent, John MacBride, Seán Mac Diarmada, (Fig.3), Thomas MacDonagh, Michael Mallin, Michael O'Hanrahan, Patrick Henry Pearse, (Fig.2(b)), William James Pearse and Joseph Mary Plunket. Other prominent figureheads escaped execution for various reasons. However, An Post, the Irish postal company, did not limit itself to honouring the aforementioned figures of the Easter Rising and also immortalised other freedom fighters on postage stamps, e.g. Tomás MacCurtain, Terence MacSwiney and Kevin Gerard Barry as well as Thomas Ashe.



Fig.3: (left) Thomas James Clarke, (top) Seán Mac Diarmada, (bottom) Éamonn Ceannt.

Despite its suppression, the Easter Rising had a lasting impact like no other uprising before it and is regarded as a key event in modern Irish history. Consequently, the Irish postal service has issued a large number of stamps depicting key figures and events of the Easter Rising. The 25th anniversary (Fig.1), the 50th anniversary, the 90th anniversary and especially the 100th anniversary (Figures 2(a), 3 and 4) were the occasion for some extensive series to commemorate the events and the proclamation of the Irish Republic in 1916. The portraits of leading figures of the time also adorn other postage stamps. The intention behind the motifs of the three multi-part series from 2016 was to cover a broad spectrum. The depictions show the flag of the Irish Republic and a selection of victims: James O'Brien - constable, Sean Connolly - first Irish casualty on Easter Monday 1916, Michael Malone - lieutenant, Sean Francis Foster - civilian victim and Francis Sheehy-Skeffington - shot as an Irish hostage. Other motifs include a representative selection of other personalities involved for various reasons: Kathleen Lynn - chief medical officer during the Rising, Elizabeth O'Farrell - nurse, Irish Volunteers Jack Doyle and Tom McGrath at the General Post Office in 1916, Louisa Nolan - provided assistance to wounded fighters (Fig.4), children

collecting firewood, prisoners, Francis Fletcher-Vane - Irish-born British Army officer who reported a war crime and was discharged from the army for it, and Charles Gavan Duffy - Irish nationalist.



Fig.4: Louisa Nolan, provided humanitarian aid during the Easter Rising in Dublin in 1916.



Fig.5: Arthur Griffith, founder of the Sinn Féin party and President of the Irish Republic in 1922.

The mood of the initially sceptical population changed in the face of the executions of their protagonists, who were now seen as martyrs, and the enormous damage in Dublin. The willingness to fight for independence grew, and the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) became very popular. The Irish Republican Army (IRA) was also founded. This was followed by a guerrilla-style Anglo-Irish War of Independence (1919-1921). It was triggered by the murder of two policemen by IRA supporters and a political development. Founded in 1905 by Arthur Griffith (Fig.5), the Irish republican movement and party Sinn Féin (meaning "We ourselves") won around 70% of Irish seats in the Irish branch of the 1918 UK general election in a landslide, although the Unionist Party remained the most successful party in Ulster. The result and its repercussions clearly showed how politically divided the Irish were. Unlike the elected members of the other parties, the Catholic members of Sinn Féin did not go to the British Parliament in London, but instead formed a counter-parliament in Dublin in 1919. Although this was labelled illegal by the British government, the first Dáil Éireann (meaning "Assembly of Ireland") held its inaugural meeting in the Mansion House, Dublin (Fig.6(a)), proclaimed independence and elected Éamon de Valera (Fig.6(b)) as the first President of the Irish Republic (1919-1922).



Fig.6: (a) Boardroom of the first Dáil Éireann (1919) in the Mansion House, Dublin; (b) The first four Prime Ministers since 1937 (from left to right): John Mary Lynch, twice Prime Minister, Éamon de Valera, three times Prime Minister, John Aloysius Costello, twice Prime Minister and Seán Francis Lemass.

## The Irish Free State (1922-1937)

The Anglo-Irish War of Independence ended in July 1921 with a ceasefire agreement, and on 6 December 1921, leading British representatives (David Lloyd George, Winston Churchill and others) and Irish envoys, including Arthur Griffith (Fig.5) and Michael Collins (Fig.7), later assassinated by IRA opponents, succeeded in concluding the Anglo-Irish Treaty. This agreement confirmed the most important point of the Government of Ireland Act passed by the British Parliament in 1920: the partition of Ireland. The Irish Free State with its own constitution, which was created as a result in 1922 (Fig.8), was not well received due to key points in the treaty and that it sealed the de facto division of Ireland into two parts. Six counties in Ulster in the north-east of the island have remained part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which came into existence in 1927, to this day. Regional stamps have been issued for Northern Ireland since 1958. The Irish Free State was integrated with limited sovereignty and dominion status within the British Empire under the English king as head of state. Like other dominions, Ireland was imposed a governor-general in order to maintain the influence of the British government.



Fig.7: Michael Collins independence fighter and chairman of the provisional government in 1922.



Fig.8: 75th Anniversary of the Republic of Ireland (1997) - GPO Dublin and SG 74 stamp showing Ireland without the border of Northern Ireland.

The opponents of the treaty particularly criticised Ireland's subordination to the British crown. Their leader Éamon de Valera, resigned from his presidency in protest after the treaty was ratified. He was succeeded as head of state by Arthur Griffith, and the Irish Civil War (1922-1923) began, which is notorious for extreme cruelty and crimes on both sides.

The combatants were the republican troops who rejected the treaty together with part of the Irish Republican Army (Old-IRA), and the soldiers of the Irish National Army, who won the war. Éamon de Valera and his followers left Sinn Féin in 1926 and founded the Fianna Fáil party (meaning "soldiers of fortune"), which became the strongest force in the 1932 general election and appointed De Valera as Prime

Minister. Prior to this, the Irish government under William Thomas Cosgrave, first President of the Executive Council of the Irish Free State from December 1922 to 1932 had pursued symbolic politics by using the tricolour of the three colours green, white and orange as the flag, the Soldier's Song, which had already been used unofficially as the national anthem (Fig.9), and the stylised depiction of Brian Boru's harp for the emblem of the Irish Free State, in order to counteract the real affiliation to the English crown. Further "pinpricks" against instruments of the British leadership followed in 1932 with the abolition of the oath of allegiance to the English king and in 1936 with the abolition of the post of Governor-General.



Fig.9: 100 years of the national anthem (1907-2007).

### Éire (1937-1949)



Fig.10: Constitution of 1937 with the coats of arms of the four historic provinces of Connacht, Leinster, Munster and Ulster.

1937 marked further milestones in the development of the state. The Free State adopted a new constitution (Fig.10) and the Gaelic name Éire. This is seen as the end of the Irish Free State. However, it is controversial among historians as to which form of government actually applied until 1949. There is a choice between the terms "republic" and "constitutional monarchy" under the English king. The direct election of the president by the people, as laid down in the constitution (Art. 12, Para. 2, No. 1), underpins the categorisation as a republic. In addition, Gaelic was designated as the national language, the Roman Catholic faith was favoured and the requirement for reunification with Northern Ireland was enshrined in several places in the constitution. In the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 between the Republic of Ireland, the British government and the parties in Northern Ireland, this unilateral demand was made subject to a common will to unite Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. In this context, a recent political development seems to be very exciting to follow closely in the media. On 3 February 2024, Sinn Féin politician Michelle O'Neill (born 1977) was elected head of government of Northern Ireland in the

regional parliament. A demographic change is likely to have played a significant role in this sensational victory, as the proportion of people who identify as Catholic has been greater than that of Protestants since 2021, although they do not make up the absolute majority of the population in Northern Ireland. On its own, Northern Ireland would leave the United Kingdom and merge with the Republic of Ireland. The main opponent to this is the largest Protestant party, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), which is in favour of political union with Great Britain.

During the Second World War, the Irish state was officially considered neutral, but Belfast in Northern Ireland was bombed several times by the German Luftwaffe with high civilian casualties. One attack on Dublin is said to have been carried out by mistake. Irish volunteers fought on the side of the Western Allies and like many other countries, Ireland largely sealed itself off from Jewish refugees from Germany.

### Developments after 1945



(a)



(b)

Fig.11: (a) End of the WWII (1945) (b) Grattan Parliament of 1782.

After the Second World War (Fig.11(a)), three developments come to the fore in external observation:

Firstly, in 1949, the Republic of Ireland, as it exists today in political and legal terms, was constituted with the proclamation of the Republic and the withdrawal from the Commonwealth of Nations. It is astonishing that the existence of the Irish Parliament was not honoured with a stamp from 1949 until the end of 2023, as have earlier parliaments, e.g. the so-called Grattan Parliament of 1782 (Fig.11(b)). The focus here was on the Dáil Éireann formed in 1919 (Fig.6(a)). The proclamation of the Republic in 1949 was only honoured on a small number of stamps (Fig.12), while the proclamation in 1922 was honoured with four tranches and the proclamation at the beginning of the Easter Rising in 1916 was indirectly honoured with numerous stamps.



Fig.12: 50th Anniversary of the Republic of Ireland Act creating the Republic of Ireland (1948).

Secondly, after almost half a century of an ailing economy, high national debt, high unemployment figures and social erosion - i.e. increased emigration (Fig.13) - which caused the population to shrink to around 2.8 million by the early 1960s, Ireland has experienced a first-class economic upturn since the early 1990s (nicknamed the "Celtic Tiger"), although not all Irish people have benefited equally.



Fig.13: 50th Anniversary of the Republic of Ireland Act creating the Republic of Ireland (1948).

Particularly well-known ingredients of the strong economic upturn were drastic spending cuts in the state budget, effective structural aid from the European Union, the creation of favourable, business related location factors and the continued opportunities for multinational companies to avoid taxes. The painful consequences of the global financial crisis of 2007 to 2008 are now considered to have been overcome in large parts of the economy. For reasons of space, the social upheavals and current living conditions cannot be outlined in more detail here, but include, for example, extreme urban housing rents in Dublin and homelessness among the losers of the upheaval.



Fig.14: Meeting of Sean Lemass, Prime Minister of Ireland, and Terence O'Neill, Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, 1965.

Thirdly, the immigration of Protestants over the centuries in conjunction with their uneven geographical distribution on the island means that Catholics in the Republic of Ireland and Protestants in Northern Ireland are in the majority and vice versa in the minority. However, it was primarily political and social discrimination that led to the Northern Ireland conflict. Even Seán Lemass, Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland, and Terence O'Neill, Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, were unable to bring lasting peace between the deeply hostile camps with their meeting in 1965 (Fig.14). The bloody Northern Ireland conflict broke out. Its description is outside the scope of this article, as are the controversies

surrounding Brexit as a result of the UK's withdrawal from the EU in 2020.

One thing is certain: the dramatic and stirring history of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland is worth keeping an eye on, also on the fabulous postage stamps, which vividly visualise many events for the interested public. An Post, the Irish state postal service, should issue more aesthetically pleasing stamps that commemorate both historical and contemporary events to make the Irish history accessible to stamp collectors.

An overview of the Republic of Ireland is shown in Tables 1 and 2.

1801-1922	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland
1918/1922	Introduction of women's suffrage (from 1918 for women over 33)
1919-1922	Irish Republic
1922-1937	Irish Free State - Saorstát Éireann - Proclamation of the Republic 1922
10.09.1923	Admission of the Irish Free State to the League of Nations
06.09.1923	Joining the Universal Postal Union
01.07.1937	Adoption of the Constitution (entered into force on 29 December 1937)
1937-1949	Éire (ambivalent with regard to state status, see notes in the text)
18.04.1949	Withdrawal from the Commonwealth of Nations and proclamation of the present Republic of Ireland
05.05.1949	Founding member of the Council of Europe
14.12.1955	Admission to the United Nations (UNO)
1959	Accession to the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) - first Irish CEPT stamps 1960
03.10.1961	Accession to UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
01.01.1973	Accession to the European Community (EU)
10.04.1998	Good Friday Agreement between the Republic of Ireland, the British Government and the parties in Northern Ireland
1999/2002	Member of the Euro area since 1 January 1999 Introduction of Euro coins and banknotes on 1 January 2002
31.01.2020	Exit of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the EU (Brexit)
2023	Foreign trade balance: +US\$ 62 billion

Table 1: Summary of Republic of Ireland's Recent History and Economy.

Official designation	Ireland (Éire in Irish)
Form of government	Parliamentary Republic
Foundation of the state	18 April 1949 (constitution of the current political and legal status of the Republic of Ireland)
Area of the country	68,890 km <sup>2</sup>
Population	approx. 5.15 million people (2022 census); non-Irish or dual Irish citizenship approx. 16%
Population density	75 inhabitants per km <sup>2</sup>
Religions 2022 approx.	Catholics 69%, other religions 10%, no religion 15%, rest not specified
Capital city	Dublin (population approx. 593,000 in 2022)
Second largest city	Cork (population approx. 131,000 in 2022)
Official languages	English and Irish (Gaeilge)
Currency	Euro

Table 2: Republic of Ireland's Country Data.

## Image credits:

Digital Repository of Ireland:

- Royal Irish Academy, Dublin [Publisher].
- An Post Museum and Archive, Dublin [Depositor].

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## IN MEMORIAM

### Obituary: Dr Max Peisach RDPSA



Fig.1: Dr Max Peisach RDPSA (1926-2025).

Max Peisach RDPSA was born in Biržai, Lithuania, on 3 August 1926 and passed away in Beersheba, Israel, on 14 July 2025. He matriculated from Worcester Boys High School, where he achieved 96% in mathematics. He pursued his tertiary studies at the University of Cape Town (UCT), obtaining a BSc, MSc, and PhD. In 1974, he was awarded the DSc, the first conferred by UCT since 1944, and the only one since.

A nuclear chemist by profession, Max reached the pinnacle of his field when he was awarded the George Hevesy Medal in 1982, the premier international award of excellence to honour outstanding achievements in radioanalytical and nuclear chemistry. He spent his entire professional career at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), initially in Pretoria and later in Faure, Western Cape. His research and scientific work have been widely published. In 1995, Max emigrated to Israel and settled in the southern city of Beersheba.


Max began collecting stamps at the age of six. His collections focused on Israel, South Africa, and the British Commonwealth during the reign of King George VI. He applied his scientific acumen to the study of Israeli stamp printing, undertaking two major research projects: the 1960 agorot definitives and the photogravure-printed commemorative prutah issues. He authored

a series of articles on Israeli stamp printing, published in philatelic journals worldwide.

He was an active member of the Cape Society of Palestine Israel Philately (CASPIP), serving as its President and later being elected Honorary Life President. He also established the society's study circle. Max was the second President of the World Congress of Israel, Palestine, and Holyland Philatelic Societies and served as an editor of The Israeli Plate Block Journal. He initiated and chaired the organising committee of the DISA79 international philatelic exhibition, which was unique in being restricted to South Africa and Israel. He served on various national exhibition juries and contributed to a sub-committee of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa tasked with assessing the legitimacy of the Darmstadt trial stamps—drawing on both his scientific and philatelic expertise.

In 1966, Max signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa at the age of 39, making him the youngest individual at that time to receive this honour.

Outside of philately, Max was a long-standing resident of Rondebosch, Cape Town, and played an active role in the local synagogue, serving as its President at the time of his emigration.

His wife, Eunice, whom he married in 1950, passed away in 2024. He is survived by his three daughters, one son, 16 grandchildren, and 47 great-grandchildren (as at 2020). 

# 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Royal Observatory Celebrated With a Set of Special Stamps

by Press Office, Royal Mail



*Fig.1: Key aspects of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, and the innovations made there.*

On 12 June 2025, Royal Mail issued ten stamps to celebrate the history and scientific developments achieved at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, since its foundation in 1675.

Featured on the main set of six stamps (Fig.1) are: Flamsteed House; the Airy Transit Circle Telescope; Shepherd Gate Clock; the Prime Meridian; the Great Equatorial Telescope, the largest refracting telescope in the UK; and the the Annie Maunder Astrographic Telescope.

A further four stamps, presented in a miniature sheet (Fig.2), honour prize-winning clockmaker John Harrison and his marine timekeepers, ahead of the 250th anniversary of his death in 2026. The stamps showcase each of Harrison's prototypes for measuring longitude at sea, which became known as H1, H2, H3 and H4.

The stamp images narrate the story of the Royal Observatory and its pivotal role in the history of astronomy, timekeeping, and navigation. The set features specially commissioned artwork that blends illustrative and photographic styles, highlighting key areas such as notable buildings and significant objects from the collection.

The Royal Observatory, Greenwich, was founded by King Charles II in 1675 and was Britain's first state-funded scientific building.

The Observatory was founded to provide better star charts that would enhance navigation for global trade. Flamsteed House, the Observatory's original building designed by Christopher Wren, became home to ten



*Fig.2: John Harrison and his groundbreaking marine timekeepers.*

successive Astronomers Royal who observed the stars and developed new instruments such as the Airy Transit Circle and Great Equatorial Telescope.

Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) was made publicly visible via the Shepherd Gate Clock and its distribution via telegraph signals became an essential part of daily life. Out at sea, Royal Navy surveyors plotted their longitude from Greenwich using chronometers based on John Harrison's revolutionary marine timekeepers. The widespread use by ships worldwide of charts based on the Greenwich Meridian contributed to the international recognition of Greenwich as Prime Meridian of the world in 1884.



# Using the Wisdom of Crowds as a Philatelic Judge

by Louwrence Erasmus, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria

During the 1906 Plymouth Country Fair, 800 people participated in a contest to estimate the weight of a slaughtered and dressed ox. Statistician Francis Galton noted that the median guess, which was 1207 pounds, was remarkably accurate, and within 1% of the actual weight of 1198 pounds [3]. This illustrates the Wisdom of Crowds (WoC) [5]. It suggests that a group's collective decision-making or insights often outperform those of individual specialists in accuracy or effectiveness. Collective wisdom shapes business, economies, societies, and nations. Can the many well-documented and scientifically grounded examples of WoC also be applied to philatelic judging?

The current judging practice of philatelic juries is biased due to the influence of jury members on each other's evaluations. In contrast, the WoC philatelic judging process involves independent evaluations of exhibits, reducing or eliminating biases in the aggregated mean [1]. Robust estimators like the median or trimmed mean can mitigate the influence of subjective opinions of individuals on the evaluation [4].

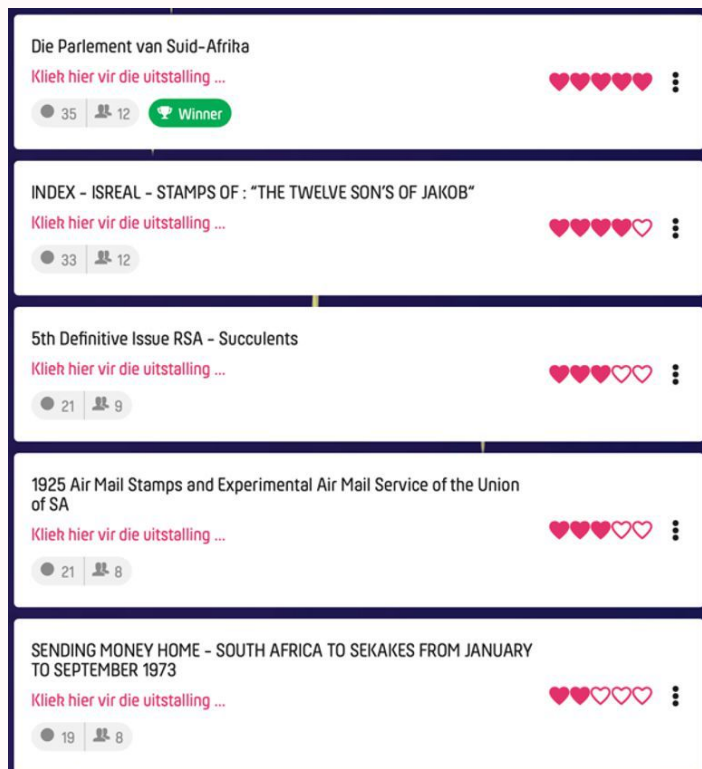


Fig.1: 2022 AFP Club Exhibition Online Judging Form.

In 2022, the Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria (AFP) experimented with the WoC in judging virtual philatelic exhibits at the society level. Their approach involved a voting system, as shown in Fig. 1. Each society judge could award up to five hearts to each exhibit, with a maximum of 20 hearts overall that could be given per judge. However, there

was no compulsory comments required, and all responses were anonymised.

In a follow-up experiment conducted in 2023 by AFP, an online society competition was hosted, incorporating further advancements in the judging criteria. Society judges were provided with a questionnaire for each exhibit, which combined elements of American guidelines for providing feedback to exhibitors and the FIP general criteria for judging philatelic exhibits [2]. The judges were also asked to express their emotional response to each exhibit. This experiment was repeated during the online society exhibition in 2024, with minor changes to the criteria in line with FIP special regulations for each philatelic class at <https://www.f-i-p.ch/regulations/>.

The questionnaire was accessible online on various devices, and exhibits were available for viewing and downloading. The society judges were volunteers who self-selected from the readership of *Die Posduif*, the newsletter of the AFP. Despite lacking formal training, these judges relied on their philatelic knowledge and aesthetic judgement to score the stamps. To minimise individual bias in scoring exhibits, it is recommended that at least six judges independently assess each exhibit. During the experiments, it was ensured that at least six evaluations were done per exhibit.

The questions were divided into three sections:

- Section 1:
  1. Does the collection have an adequate introduction?
  2. Is all the material displayed, as shown by the introduction and title?
  3. Is there over-concentration in one area and too little in another?
  4. If you have all the money in the world, how easily can you duplicate this collection?
  5. Any recommendation?
- Section 2:
  6. What is the overall condition of the items in the exhibit by comparing it to what is available?
  7. Are there items shown that should be omitted?
  8. Are there any omitted items that should be included?
  9. Is the write-up clear?
  10. Any recommendation?
- Section 3:
 

By considering your answers to questions 1 to 10, rate the following statements from 0 to 10 based on your opinion:

  11. How is the subject treated?

The first two sections focused the judges' attention on the details of the exhibit and made it easier to judge in Section 3.

- 0 – Totally inadequate, 10 – Perfect
12. How important is the collection inside philately?  
0 – None, 10 – Covers everything
  13. What is the level of personal philatelic & related knowledge and personal study?  
0 – None, 10 – Comprehensive
  14. How does the collection look like, if you look at each page?  
0 – Awful, 10 – Laid out perfectly
  15. Overall, how does this collection look like?  
0 – Awful, 10 – Perfectly in balance
  16. How much do you like the collection?  
1 – Awful, 5 – Love it!

After summarising the scores for each exhibit using the median value for each criterion, the jury chairman ensured that the feedback was anonymised, constructive, and reasonable. Consequently, no adjustments to the scores or filtering of comments were required.

Exhibitors received detailed reports, see Fig. 2, which were well-received, with some society members improving their exhibits for entry into national exhibitions. The same format of feedback was used for the Cape Town 2022 National Stamp Exhibition and AFRIKAANS 100 Gauteng Regional Exhibition 2025, although these two exhibitions were judged using standard judging practice and not WoC. The positive reception of the feedback report for the society exhibitions corroborates with the feedback received in 2022 and 2025.

The society judges found the questionnaire useful, saying that it helped a structured thinking process.

The emotional question at the end of the questionnaire during the society judging correlated with both the feedback and the FIP criteria, suggesting that personal preferences play a valid role in society-level judging. This has not been evaluated on regional or national level inside South Africa.

Overall, this method of online society-level judging proved successful, prompting the consideration of its exploration at the regional and national level. It is proposed that a hybrid model is developed and evaluated on regional and national level. This model would involve collaborating with expert judges and WoC consisting of individuals with philatelic appreciation to help decide scores and provide feedback of a more truthful value to exhibitors.

In the end, it all boils down to promoting philately, as outlined in the General Regulations of FIP for Exhibitions (GREX), Section I General Stipulations, Article 1 Exhibition Objectives.

What better way to promote our hobby through WoC than to help people discover the true value of a philatelic collection, just like most other important things in the world today.

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Feedback to Exhibitor: <exhibit name>					
Exhibitor:		Class:			
Exhibit:		Medal:			
Jury Chairman:		Date:			
<b>1. Introductory statement</b>					
Is there an adequate introductory statement?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Marginal	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>2. Completeness</b>					
Does the exhibit have all the material indicated in the introductory statement?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Marginal	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>3. Balance</b>					
Is there an overconcentration in one area and too little in another?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Marginal	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>4. Rarity</b>					
How easily could this exhibit be duplicated?		<input type="checkbox"/> Impossible	<input type="checkbox"/> Difficult	<input type="checkbox"/> Easy	
<b>5. Possibilities for Improvement:</b>					
<b>6. Condition</b>					
What is the overall condition of the material in the exhibit compared to that available?		<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	
<b>7. Material</b>					
Is there material shown that should have been omitted?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		
Is there material omitted that should have been shown?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		
<b>8. Write-Up</b>					
Is the write-up clear?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		
<b>9. Possibilities for Improvement:</b>					
<b>10. Scoring</b>	<b>Treatment (30)</b>	<b>Knowledge, Personal Study &amp; Research (35)</b>	<b>Condition and Rarity (30)</b>	<b>Presentation (5)</b>	<b>Total (100)</b>
Jury member name: _____		Jury member signature: _____			

Fig.2: Feedback to Exhibitor.



We would love to hear from you! If you have any thoughts or comments about any of the articles in this issue of *The SA Philatelist*, please send your comments to the Editorial Board. Just click on the email address: [sap@stampssa.africa](mailto:sap@stampssa.africa)



## Tenth South African Virtual Philatelic Exhibition

by Emil Minnaar RDPSA\* and Joof van der Merwe RDPSA<sup>§</sup>,

\*Chairman: SAVPEX Organising Committee, <sup>§</sup>Secretary: SAVPEX Organising Committee



SAVPEX 2025 is proudly hosted by the Philatelic Federation of South Africa. The exhibition attracted 110 entries from 84 exhibitors all over the world, including local support for this popular event. The jury consisted out of thirty

international and twelve South African jurors.

Congratulations, Mr. Pasquale Piccirillo from Italy, for winning the Best Exhibit of Show award for the second consecutive year! The traditional exhibit, titled "Savoy Cross: The Stamp of 1860-1862, Luigi Carlo Farini's Lieutenancy," received an impressive score of 95 marks.

The results are listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: SAVPEX 2025 Results.

NAME	FEDERATION	TITLE OF EXHIBIT	CLASS	%
<i>Traditional</i>				
Piccirillo Pasquale Mr.	Italy	Savoy Cross: The Stamp of 1860-1862 Luigi Carlo Farini's Lieutenancy	1	95
Fuchs Rainer Mr.	Germany	Iraq railway post 1928 - ca.1942	1	94
McLaughlin David Mr.	Canada	Canada - The 1933 UPU Preparatory Commission Meeting stamp	1	89
Monk Gordon Mr.	Australia	A study of the Australian KGV 1d Die 3 Issue	1	89
Mather Michael Mr.	Canada	Falkland Islands Dependencies - 1946 Map Stamps - Oh! What a mess!	1	88
Van Der Merwe Joof Mr	RSA	The plating of the ½d Springbok JIPEX pane issues of 1936	1	86
Zuská Pavol Mr.	Slovak Republic	Andrej Hlinka on postage stamps Slovakia 1939	1	86
Choudalakis Konstantinos Mr.	Greece	Autonomous Cretan State: Errors and varieties of ΕΛΛΑΣ overprint (1908)	1	83
Muller Chuck Mr.	RSA	Union of South Africa ½d Springbok Head 1948 Reprint	1	82
Todd Gregory Mr.	Ireland	Uruguay: The January 25 1884, 5 centimos blue and the April 9th 1884, 5 centimos blue	1	81
Delmore Patrick	Canada	BASUTOLAND - King George V - Definitive Issue	1	80
Sarjeant Paul Mr.	Canada	Partial pre-cuts of Britain's imperforated line engraved stamps	1	80
Morgan Glenn Mr.	UK	Senegal Éléance: The definitive story	1	78
Studziski Wiesław Mr.	Poland	Egypt 1867 August 1 and 1869 July 1- The second issues	1	77
Paschos Athanasios Mr.	Greece	The special stamp issue for the Thessaloniki International Fair 1934-1942	1	76
Chu Wing-yeu	Hong Kong	Dr. Sun Yat-sen Issue - 1st and 2nd London prints	1	74
Miller Ann Dr.	Canada	Princess Elizabeth stays in Malta: The Malta 1950 "Royal Visit" issue	1	73
Lubbe Sam Prof.	RSA	The Centenary of the arrival of the British Settlers 1849	1	72

Continued on next page

Table 1 – continued from previous page

NAME	FEDERATION	TITLE OF EXHIBIT	CLASS	%
Spevak Rastislav Mr.	Serbia	Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia	1	61
Branbila Fernando Mr.	Mexico	Primeros timbres mexicanos 1856-1864	1	55
Van Pletzen Mias Mr.	RSA	History of Soviet Union Aviation	1	34
<b>Postal history</b>				
Nembrini Giovanni Mr.	Italy	The postal relationship between Tuscany and the Papal States from 1 April 1851 to 30 June 1853	2	92
Hoepfner Thomas Mr.	Germany	The United States - Hamburg Convention 1857	2	90
Shaw Pang-Chui Prof.	Hong Kong	The postal use of the Hong Kong 5c fiscal stamp in 1938	2	90
Wang Jean Dr.	Canada	The Toronto Hospital for Sick Children's Christmas Appeals to 1926: The sweetest of all charities	2	90
Thy Peter Mr.	USA	Postal History of the Danish Settlements in India and Africa	2	88
Wang Jean Dr.	Canada	Smokes for the troops: British and Canadian Tobacco Funds in World War One	2	88
Kosoy Marat Mr.	Russia	Censorship of foreign printed matter correspondence in St.Peterburg-Petrograd 1876-1917	2	87
Allan Peter Mr.	Australia	Tasmanian registered mail 1832 - 1912	2	85
Bodnar Zsolt Mr.	Ireland	Philately of Franz Josef Land - 1872-1932	2	85
Lehmann Jerzy Mr.	Poland	Postal area code (PAC) 9a in Upper Silesia (1944-1945)	2	84
Nembrini Giovanni Mr.	Italy	The postal service of the Lavarello Company with South America following the Convention of 15 March 1873	2	84
Somella Bruno Mr.	Italy	Postal uses of the DLR	2	83
Bornovali Seref Mr.	USA	3 Lire Stamp of the Italian Social Republic Destroyed Monuments Set, Postal Uses	2	82
Cheetham Philip Mr.	UK	The London number in Maltese Cross cancelling the 1841 penny red	2	82
Ramirez Mario Mr.	Mexico	Worldwide postage due on Mexican mail	2	81
Van Zyl Danie Mr.	RSA	A postal history of Marion Island	2	81
Dimitriadis Ioannis Mr.	Greece	Russian money letters to Athos 1870 -1919	2	80
Somella Bruno Mr.	Italy	The internal tariffs of the Italian Social Republic	2	80
Mehra Sushil Mr.	India	Meter Stamps of India - 1922 - 2025	2	78
Perin George Mr.	Greece	The British "Eastern Telegraph Company, Limited" in the Dodecanese 1912-1931	2	78
Gholamzadeh Faraz Mr.	Iran	Censored envelopes from World Wars I and II titled Bushehr	2	77
Abdul Mughni Khaled Mr.	Kuwait	Kuwait: Varieties of Registration Handstamps and Labels 1915-1948	2	75
<b>Thematic</b>				
Serra Flosi Fabio Mr.	Brazil	Amateur Radio - Surfing on radio waves	3	89
Picconi Salvatore Mr.	Italy	The prayer, "Ave Maria", sung in Sardinian language	3	85
Wadhwa Capt Vijay Mr.	India	Evolution of beaks	3	78
Evelyn Susan Mrs.	Canada	Medical symbols	3	74
Pacheco Luis Manuel Mr.	Mexico	De ida y regreso, una vuelta olimpica en México 68	3	74

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Table 1 – continued from previous page

NAME	FEDERATION	TITLE OF EXHIBIT	CLASS	%
Wadhwa Capt Vijay Mr.	India	The pigeon	3	74
Kazaruchyk Aliaksandr Mr.	Belarus	Berestje land during Magdeburg Law	3	73
Stekolschikov Andrey Mr.	Russia	Protecting coral reefs	3	70
Sakhare Sammir Mr.	India	Space shuttle program - A philatelic journey	3	68
Barnard Nicolene Mrs.	RSA	Everything's a story: The magic of children's literature	3	67
Viljoen Diederik Mr.	RSA	A natural refreshing drink	3	67
Liviu Pintican-Juga Mr.	Romania	Nadia Comaneci - The goddess of Montreal	3	63
Rajasheaker Revathi Mrs.	India	Textiles - Fibre to fabric and the Indian story	3	63
Breytenbach Kim Ms.	RSA	Soliloquy of a postage stamp	3	60
Loo Rianneke Mrs.	RSA	Van boomstam tot dirigeerstaf	3	59
Zahorec Ondrej Mr.	Serbia	General Milan Rastislav Štefanik	3	58
Baltsou Georgia Dr.	Greece	Philately in shape: The triangular stamp collection	3	53
Moravac Siniša Mr.	Serbia	Flowers from around the World	3	52
<b>Aerophilately</b>				
Callan Brian Dr.	Ireland	Mail posted on board the Hindenburg Airship	4	86
Sengupta Chandan Mr.	India	1931 England–Australia 1st and 2nd Survey Flights and Indian aerophilately	4	85
Wigston David Mr.	RSA	The 1925 experimental airmail service	4	83
Mehra Sushil Mr.	India	Simplified classification of Indian Aviation Covers	4	74
Sierra Victor Mr.	Mexico	Postal History of the Airmail of Mexico	4	72
Subramanyam Satish Kumar Mr.	India	The first flight cover	4	52
<b>Astrophilately</b>				
Mehra Gauresh Mr.	India	Kourou to Comets via Darmstadt	5	80
Behera Prakash Chandra Mr.	India	Cancellations from Baikonur Cosmodrome	5	78
<b>Postal Stationery</b>				
Bartshe Tim Mr.	Canada	"Vurtheim" design postcards of Enschede, 1885 South African Republic	6	90
McMahon Ian Mr.	Australia	Queensland postal cards 1908-1912	6	90
Ellis Christopher Prof.	Canada	Canadian Pacific Railway "Green View" Pictorial Stationery Cards	6	85
Shrestha Binod Mr.	Nepal	Nepal's early postal cards 1928 - 1937: A philatelic rarity	6	83
Diserio Mark Mr.	Australia	Scenic letter cards - Government House Perth	6	81
Rivera Grajeda Carlos Estuardo Mr.	Guatemala	Postal stationery from Guatemala from the Central American Exposition of 1897	6	80
Shrestha Binod Mr.	Nepal	Registered envelopes of Nepal 1936 - 1993	6	80
Shrestha Binod Mr.	Nepal	The flight of Garuda: Nepal's first aerogramme 1959	6	80
<b>Revenue</b>				
Matheson Ian Dr.	RSA	Entertainment tax in Ireland	7	88
McEntyre John Mr.	Canada	Canada 1906 and 1915 weights and measures revenue issues	7	84
<b>First Day Covers</b>				
Van Zyl Danie Mr.	RSA	A portal to the propaganda posters of WW1	8	58
<b>Open Class</b>				
Gherasim Alexandra Ms.	Romania	The beginnings of the philatelic movement from Romania	9	82

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Table 1 – continued from previous page

NAME	FEDERATION	TITLE OF EXHIBIT	CLASS	%
Pienaar Gary Mr.	RSA	6th World Scout Jamboree - Moisson, France 1947	9	80
Daneri Danilo Mr.	Italy	The concept of European Community	9	78
Pintari Željko Mr.	Croatia	Philatelic exhibition in Varaždin 17.01.1937	9	73
Callan Brian Dr.	Ireland	Douglas "Wrong Way" Corrigan	9	70
Meyer Pieter Mr.	RSA	Emily Hobhouse - A remarkable English woman!	9	68
Evelyn Peter Mr.	Canada	Bananas	9	66
Harris Terry Lynne Ms.	RSA	From wild to cuddly: The story of the Teddy Bear	9	62
Van Zyl Danie Mr.	RSA	South Africa's Nobel Laureates	9	60
Lukes Emanuel Mr.	Czech Republic	Bonsai Styles	9	57
<b>Picture Post Cards</b>				
Du Plessis Andre Mr.	RSA	Johannesburg: A window into the past, 1896 - 1899	10	90
Figg David Mr.	Australia	The Convict Ship Success	10	85
Tata Venkat Mr.	India	Velha Goa	10	77
Metaj Matjaž Mr.	Slovenia	At the airport	10	76
Mehra Gauresh Mr.	India	Charm of posting	10	75
Mehra Sushil Mr.	India	Architecture styles of French Hotel Des Postes	10	73
Shestakova Anzhelika Mrs.	Russia	Alexander I - The Victorious Emperor	10	73
Glavi Matej Mr	Croatia	NOVSKA - First 20 years	10	72
Bakayutova Lyudmila	Russia	Greetings from St.Petersburg and those who bring Greetings from Golden-domed Moscow	10	70
<b>Marcophily</b>				
Donen Neil Mr.	Canada	The uncatalogued "Madame Joseph" (MJ) forged postmarks of the 1935 Silver Jubilee Issue	11	92
Sengupta Chandan Mr.	India	Postmarks associated with British Empire Exhibition, 1924 & 1925	11	71
Santana Monica Mrs.	Mexico	La Simbiosis de la comunicación en México	11	64
<b>Modern</b>				
Minnaar Emil Mr.	RSA	Comic strips	12	70
Dimitriadis Ioannis Mr.	Greece	Nato bombing of Yugoslavia 1999	12	61
<b>Maximaphily</b>				
Nicolae Salade Mr.	Romania	The white stork	13	80
Torre Cosma Mr.	Italy	Le Piu Belle Ville d'Italia	13	76
Krishnaswamy Ramarathnam Mr.	India	Maxim cards with unusual stamps	13	73
<b>Youth</b>				
Silveira Lara Ms.	Brasil	Horses and Humans: A philatelic journey	15	81
Hernández Salguero Ana Leticia Ms.	Guatamala	Felinos - Del mundo salvaje hasta nuestro hogar Cats - From the wild world to our homes	15	68
Gelashvili Daria Ms.	Russia	Once upon a time in Africa...	15	58



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[ken@philatelicfriends.com](mailto:ken@philatelicfriends.com)  
Robert Harm: 082 925-7103,  
[robertharm9@gmail.com](mailto:robertharm9@gmail.com)

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Fax2Email: 086 733 8444

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[kenny.napier@mweb.co.za](mailto:kenny.napier@mweb.co.za)

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**Contact:**  
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[kenny.napier@mweb.co.za](mailto:kenny.napier@mweb.co.za)

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[kenny.napier@mweb.co.za](mailto:kenny.napier@mweb.co.za)

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[z.kawecki57@gmail.com](mailto:z.kawecki57@gmail.com)

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[sunbird.stampauction@gmail.com](mailto:sunbird.stampauction@gmail.com)



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10:00 (except December)—Museum of Boer Republics, Memoriam Rd, Bloemfontein.

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Meetings: First Saturday monthly at 08:30—Elizabeth Church Hall, Salisbury Avenue, Westville, Durban.

• **MARITZBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: John Handman, 083 660 1275, [john@radium.co.za](mailto:john@radium.co.za); Meetings: Third Saturday monthly at 10:00—Hilton Scout and Community Hall, Magnolia Road, Hilton.

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[royalphilct@gmail.com](mailto:royalphilct@gmail.com) <https://stampssa.africa/rpsct>; Meetings: First Saturday monthly at 11:00 and fourth Monday at 14:00—Athenaeum Trust, Mariendahl Rd off Campground Road, Newlands.

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THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1923

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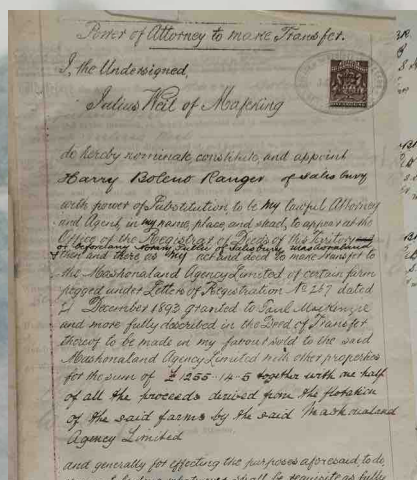
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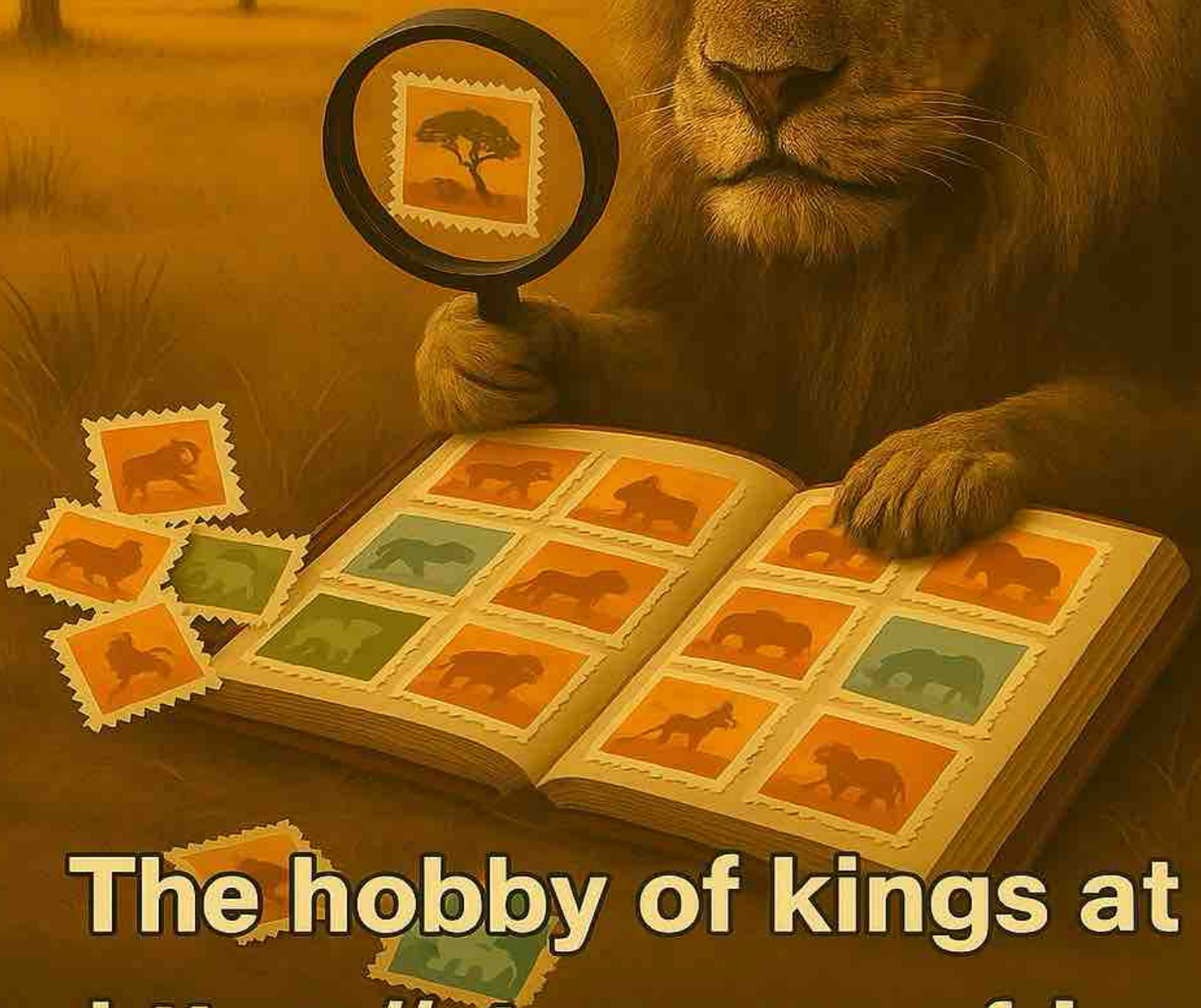
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**Please note:** Publication closing dates for **FINAL** submission of Advertising Material for *The SA Philatelist* is by **25 NOVEMBER 2025**.

**ARTICLES should be submitted in the month prior:**

For the Volume 101:6 993 - The **DECEMBER 2025** issue submit by **15 November 2025**

Send your contribution to [sap@stampssa.africa](mailto:sap@stampssa.africa)



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## FEDERATION NEWS

André du Plessis RDP SA, Chief Operating Officer of the PFSA, 083 399 1755  
<https://www.stampssa.africa> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/>



The Paarlse Filateliste is commended for the exemplary organisation of the National Stamp Show 2025 at the Paarl Golf club, Boschenmeer Golf Estate, Paarl and for successfully hosting the 87th PFSA Congress in celebration of their 75th anniversary. The event received a total of 58 competitive entries, encompassing 235 frames. Reflecting the exceptional quality of the exhibits, nine Large Gold and seven Gold awards were presented. Additionally, three One Frame class exhibits achieved scores between 85 and 89 points. These accomplishments are noteworthy. The 2025 Congress took place on Friday 5 September 2025 and was attended by 32 people, representing Office bearers, delegates and proxies from Societies. The newly elected 2026 president is Louwrence Erasmus (Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria) and John Handman (Maritzburg Philatelic Society) was elected as Chairman of the Management Committee. PFSA affiliation fees for 2026 remains the same as for 2025 at R150.00. (For further information about Congress please see page 157).

I have received the following email from Tim Bartshe of the American Philatelic Society. Tim was a juror at the Stamp Show, and we had a discussion regarding import duties on stamps bought from the USA. While reviewing eBay's policies, I noticed a disclaimer regarding the possibility of duties being collected on overseas purchases. This requirement typically applies to items of a commercial nature, but it does not extend to stamps. After conducting a thorough research, I consulted the relevant sections of the *Harmonized Tariff Schedule* and specifically *Chapter 49:*

*Printed books, newspapers, pictures and other products of the printing industry; manuscripts, typescripts and plans and Chapter 97: Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques*, both of which pertain to stamps and covers. According to these chapters, no duties are chargeable on such items. Therefore, concerns regarding USA import duties for stamps should be unfounded.

A central question for many philatelists is whether there is a future for stamp collecting. Current indicators suggest there is. The global stamp-collecting market is experiencing renewed vitality, estimated at USD 3.75 billion in 2025 and projected to expand to USD 5.68 billion by 2032, representing a compound annual growth rate of about 6.1%. Europe remains the largest regional market with an estimated 38.4% share, supported by long-established philatelic traditions, robust postal authorities and a strong collector base, while the Asia-Pacific region, at roughly 20.3%, is emerging as the fastest-growing area, fuelled by rising disposable incomes and increasing digital connectivity. Market changes are being driven by structural shifts such as the rise of online platforms enabling auctions and exhibitions, the introduction of blockchain-based authenticity tools, and the broader use of stamps as educational resources for cultural and historical preservation as well as alternative investments. In addition, the success of thematic and commemorative issues in attracting younger collectors through topical interests, coupled with ongoing efforts in heritage, youth engagement and sustainable stamp production, is reinforcing growth and helping secure the enduring appeal of philately. 

### EDITORIAL POLICY

The Editorial Board reserves the right to accept or decline any articles, letters or any other material submitted for publication, and reserves the right to effect minor changes of spelling, punctuation, grammar and word choice without requesting prior permission from the author(s). For more substantial revisions, such as shortening or restructuring, either the Board will request the author(s) to effect such changes or will propose amendments to the author prior to publication - if no agreement can be reached then publication will be declined.

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The PFSA encourages participation in both this journal, *The SA Philatelist*, as well as the electronic newsletter, *'Keeping in Touch'*. By interacting with these publications, regular and new readers continue to support stamp collecting in South Africa. For more details contact the Chief Operating Officer of the PFSA, André du Plessis RDP SA, +27 (0)83 399 1755, or on email at [pfsastamps@gmail.com](mailto:pfsastamps@gmail.com), or visit the website at <https://www.stampssa.africa>.

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**PLEASE NOTE:** The PFSA affiliation fee offers, *inter-alia*, six copies of the electronic journal and electronic newsletters annually.

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Tel: +27 (0)83 399 1755

**Contributions and letters** for the publication must be forwarded to the Editorial Board of *The SA Philatelist*, email: [sap@stampssa.africa](mailto:sap@stampssa.africa)

**Advertising Rates** available from the C.O.O. André du Plessis RDP SA, email: [pfsastamps@gmail.com](mailto:pfsastamps@gmail.com) 

# Letters to the Editorial Board



Correspondence to *THE SA PHILATELIST* should be addressed to the Editorial Board. Material received is most welcome and will be reviewed. Articles, letters and items of interest will be considered for publication.

e-mail: [sap@stampssa.africa](mailto:sap@stampssa.africa).

Dear Sir/Madam

Thanks for providing the "Traditional" series of articles on varieties in South Africa stamps.

I think that there is an interesting design feature or error to add to the latest article on the 1959 Academy of Science and Art stamp. The feature appears in the lower portion of the crest featuring a microscope. There are normally two diagonal lines through the crest, Fig.1, but on some stamps there is only one diagonal line, Fig.2. This is mentioned in the 1971 Urch Harris Commonwealth QE II catalogue, where they say that the single line appears on 47 of the 120 stamps in a sheet. It is also mentioned in the Robemark catalogue. Neither the Union handbook nor SACC mentions it.

It would be interesting to know if this were a constant feature in the same positions across all sheets.

Regards

David Collins

Direct Subscriber



Fig.1: Two bars.

Fig.2: One bar.



Fig.3: Extra leaf variety.

The same pictures in Figs.1 and 2 were received.

516 SOUTH

1959 (May 1st) 50th Anniversary S.A. Academy of Science and Art. Perf. 14½ × 14 (C). (20 × 6).

*S63 3d. dark and pale blue			
(Type I)	..	..	1 0 0 6
*S63a ditto (Type II)	..	..	4 0 3 6
*S63b extra leaf	..	..	20 0 15 0
S63c dark blue omitted	..	..	£250 —

FDC—4/—

(S63, 63a) A variation in the design of the circle in the shield exists on 47 copies spread throughout the sheet of 120 (Type I). Only a single line runs diagonally from the top left to bottom right instead of two (Type II) as exist on the more normal copies (see illustration).

Type I      Type II

(S63b) A flaw resembling a thin leaf projects from the right bottom leaf on R 20/1 (20/6) (see illustration). A flaw running horizontally is also to be found under the 3d.

Fig.4: From the Commonwealth Catalogue, 1970.

Dear Sir/Madam

The comprehensive article by André du Plessis RDPSA on the 1959 issue of a 3d stamp to commemorate the golden jubilee of the South African Academy for Science and Art lists a number of varieties that are documented in the Union of South Africa Handbook Catalogue. However, there are two further varieties, one seemingly important, that seem to have been forgotten and not documented in the Handbook as well as a number documented in the June 1959 issue of the SA Philatelist.

Whilst sorting through a bulk collection I had come across a horizontal pair from the top left corner of the sheet. The margin above each stamp was marked in pencil Type I and Type II respectively. As I could not recall any "types" associated with this issue I consulted various catalogues – Gibbons, the SA Colour Catalogue, the SA Handbook and

the SA Philatelist. The Handbook listed six small varieties but no mention of "types". The June 1959 SA Philatelist records the issue of this stamp saying it was relatively free of flaws but lists 18, all small dots. I therefore put the pair and a few others aside for later investigation. Subsequently, I obtained a copy of the Commonwealth Catalogue of the Queen Elizabeth Period of Postage Stamps published in 1966. It listed, illustrated and priced two distinct types of the basic stamp in addition to an "extra leaf" variety, Fig.3 for the 1973 edition. These varieties were defined as follows.

The Types are represented by a variation in the design of the circle in the shield. Type I is characterised by two lines running diagonally from the top left to the bottom right Fig.1. Type II is characterised by a single line Fig.2. According to the catalogue, Type II is found on 47 copies spread throughout the sheet of 120. Was this a progressive flaw? A close examination does not appear to show any damage but I was unable to examine a full sheet or examples from known early and later printings.


The "extra leaf" variety is found on R20/1. This is a small flaw protruding up from the right hand bottom leaf. In brackets after the mentioned position is R20/6 but I am unable to

verify whether this is another position of this flaw. Fig.3 shows the flaw and is copied from the catalogue.

It would be useful if anyone in possession of two or more whole or part sheets could examine them in order to determine the sheet positions of the two Types which obviously could be important varieties rather than "fly speck" flaws. Earlier or later editions of the Commonwealth Catalogue would also be of interest to check the reporting history of this variety.

Regards  
Leon Jacobson  
SWA Stamp Study Group

#### Response from André du Plessis RDPSA:

I have also received similar comments about the two varieties from Ko Zegerman from the Filatelisten Vereniging Zuidelijk Afrika. He also sent me a copy of the varieties as it appears in the Commonwealth Catalogue, 1970 edition. Row 20/6 appearing in brackets, also mentioned by Leon, is somewhat confusing as I cannot see any of the two varieties on stamps in this position. Thank you all for your interest and response. 



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**RARITIES ERRORS VARIETIES**

Logos: PTS, IAPFA, STAMPS, ifsda (International Federation of Stamp Dealers' Association)

## Exhibition Calendar

EXHIBITION	DATE	PATRONAGE	COMMISSIONER / CONTACT	LINK
OILFILAT25	27 - 31 Oct 2025	OILFILAT	Dr Leon Jacobson	<a href="#">OILFILAT25</a>
AUSVIPEX 2025	From 27 Nov 2025	APF	<a href="#">Online Form</a>	<a href="#">AUSVIPEX 2025</a>
Dubai 2026 Specialised World Stamp Exhibition	4 - 8 Feb 2026	FIP	<a href="#">Anton Putter</a>	<a href="#">Dubai 2026</a>
2nd International Virtual Aero- & Astrophilatelic Exh.	14 - 22 Feb 2026	FISA & PCI	Virtual	<a href="#">AMSIPEX-26</a>
BOSTON 2026 General World Exhibition	23 - 30 May 2026	FIP	N/A	<a href="#">Boston 2026</a>
MACAO 2026 Specialised World Stamp Exhibition	26 Jun - 1 Jul 2026	FIP	TBA	<a href="#">MACAO 2026</a>
BANDUNG 2026	27 - 31 Aug 2026	FIAP	TBA	TBA
PHILATAIPEI Specialised World Stamp Exhibition	20-24 Nov 2026	FIP	<a href="#">Josua (Joof) van der Merwe</a>	TBA



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Sasolburg Public Library

Under the auspices of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa

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Whether you have a collection you would like to write about (with editorial assistance available), possess philatelic knowledge that could help on the Editorial Board, have a keen eye for language editing, or hold technical skills in  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , your unique expertise is invaluable. We invite you to volunteer and share your knowledge and skills, helping to shape this esteemed publication for the benefit of the entire South African philatelic community.

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# Looking Back a Century: Highlights from *The SA Philatelist* - September and October 1925

by Louwrence Erasmus, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria

This is the sixth instalment in the series exploring the fascinating world of Southern African philately, with summaries from *The SA Philatelist* published a hundred years ago. Who knows, it might just spark a hidden love for philatelic research!

watermark (GvR block letters with crown), though the crown itself was not in block lettering.

In Kenya and Uganda, officials announced a flood of high-value stamps, ranging from two shillings up to an extraordinary one hundred pounds. Collectors seeking completeness would face considerable expense. Malta replaced its temporary “tram ticket” postage dues with a new London-printed set, each denomination in distinctive colours. Northern Rhodesia, meanwhile, had already ordered reprints of its popular set, much to the delight of shade specialists.

Southern Rhodesia produced varieties that drew immediate attention. Mr. C. W. Reid exhibited an envelope franked with a one-and-a-half penny stamp showing a rare double perforation error. Mr. A. C. Thornton contributed news of a unique imperforate pair within a sheet—an item certain to fascinate specialists.

The journal’s strongest editorial voice appeared in criticism of the government’s handling of remaining air mail stamps. Collectors had discovered that Union Air Post issues were still available at the Pretoria Post Office at face value. The Assistant Secretary of the General Post Office confirmed that such stamps would never again be accepted for postal use, even after their final withdrawal.

The editors denounced this practice as unfair. They argued that while other countries sometimes issued unnecessary airmail stamps, they had not stopped selling invalid issues at full price. To continue offering stamps that could not be used for postage amounted to exploiting collectors. The piece urged readers to submit their views for publication, suggesting that the government’s policy tarnished its otherwise reputable record.

A short notice reported on a large volume from Prague, the Review of International Peace. Among its twenty-seven papers was a general survey of philately. Though most contributions were in European languages, free translations were offered to readers.

The issue also contained reviews of new philatelic literature. Fred J. Melville’s Stamp Collectors’ Annual was recommended as an indispensable resource, with reports on the Ferrari sales, directories of journals and societies, and a comprehensive index of philatelic literature for 1923 and 1924. The Italian Philatelic Annual offered hundreds of names and addresses of collectors and societies within Italy, while Dr. Herbert Munk’s Kohl Philatelic Handbook continued its monumental coverage of European issues. The Collectors’ Club of New York was even negotiating translation



The September 1925 issue of *The South African Philatelist* [1] reflected the breadth of philatelic developments, debates, and international issues of the time.

One of the opening reports concerned the tiny, remote island of Tristan da Cunha. The journal recorded that Captain Scott’s renowned vessel, the Discovery, was on its way from England to the South Atlantic, carrying mail for Tristan. With only

**Tristan d’Acunha.**  
The late Captain Scott’s famous ship, the “Discovery,” is now on its way from England to the South Atlantic. It is carrying mail for Tristan, and will call at Capetown for correspondence for the island. Tristan receives about two mails in three years.

**The “Pochettes” Controversy.**  
While examining the collection of mint Georgians belonging to Mr. C. F. Skinner, we noticed that most of the stamps were enclosed in transparent pockets. About if his stamps offered by their use, Mr. Skinner stated that he had come across a grade of “pochettes” which did not affect his stamps in the slightest extent. Some of the stamps shown us had, and our good friend, been enclosed in transparent pockets for several years without suffering any damage.

It is evident that there are “pochettes” and “pochettes.” A good “pochette” is a comparatively expensive item, but it is certainly better to pay a little more and get the best.

**The Bisected Union 1d. Stamps.**  
A correspondent writes to ask why these are not catalogued, as is the case with several other British Colonial and foreign bisecteds.

It will be remembered that when the postage rate on letters was raised from 1d. to 1½d. some years ago, a couple of Jersey post offices ran out of 1d. stamps, and used bisected 1d. stamps. This was done without the permission of the P.M.O., and, if we remember rightly, the postmasters concerned were reprimanded. Some collectors, in search of freaks, passed letters bearing bisected stamps through the post. In some cases, the idea worked; in others, there was a penny postage due to pay.

It will, therefore, be seen that as the bisecting was not in any way officially authorized, these split stamps are not entitled to catalogue rank.

Fig.1: SAP of September 1925.

about two mail deliveries every three years, the visit represented a rare and significant event for islanders and collectors alike.

Another item addressed the ongoing “pochette controversy.” Collectors debated whether transparent stamp pockets—known as pochettes—were safe for long-term preservation. Mr. C. F. Skinner, who had kept some of his mint George V stamps in pochettes for years without harm, argued that high-quality pochettes posed no risk. The editorial comment concluded that while cheap varieties might damage stamps, it was wiser to invest in better quality storage.

The issue also considered the unofficial use of bisected Union one-penny stamps. These were created when a few small post offices temporarily ran out of half-penny stamps following a rate increase to one-and-a-half pence. Local postmasters cut penny stamps in half to make up the shortage, though the Postmaster-General never authorised this. Some collectors exploited the situation to create “freak” covers. Since such usage lacked official sanction, the editors firmly stated that bisected Union stamps did not merit catalogue status.

The journal kept readers updated on the latest worldwide releases. From Bechuanaland came a correction to a London report: the new two-penny issue carried the Waterlow

rights, reflecting the growing international interest in serious philatelic scholarship.

The issue included further instalments of in-depth studies. One specialist discussed the overprinting of Union stamps for South West Africa, clarifying that only two processes had been used: direct from type and lithographic plate. Differences in ink gloss came from the printing method rather than from separate processes.

Lieut.-Col. L. J. Worthington continued his detailed analysis of South West African panes, while A. F. Johnstone's ongoing study of Gambia stamps traced issues from the 1912 King George V series through later watermark and colour varieties. His article described the transition to pictorial issues featuring elephants and palm trees, offering precise cataloguing details for values and shades.

Collectors looked forward to the new 1926 edition of Gibbons' Catalogue, which, for the first time, would appear in a single "whole world" volume. Printing on special thin paper allowed this consolidation without excessive bulk. Thousands of price adjustments and new listings were promised, including special attention to the Irish Free State, South West Africa, and Portuguese colonies. Despite improvements, the cost of production prevented any reduction in the catalogue's price.

The society news section reported on activities in Boksburg and East London. The East Rand Philatelic Society enjoyed lively competitions under Mr J. Robertson, while East London members debated the merits of early versus Georgian issues. The journal recorded the resignation of Mr J. B. Levy, who had served with distinction as secretary and treasurer, with gratitude and recognition of his long service.

several sheets. He also noted a one-penny postage due with the "A" of POSTAGE partly missing, a flaw similar to earlier varieties in the halfpenny, penny, and twopenny values. However, they detected no copies in Johannesburg post office stock, suggesting rarity. Because rates were revised for postage due, the 1½d value was no longer required and likely would not be reprinted, adding scarcity.



Fig.3: SWA Postage Due Type VI.

In South West Africa, collectors documented further overprint anomalies. Mr. A. Lichtenstein submitted halfpenny and threepenny stamps with narrow overprints differing in spacing between lines. Lt Col

Worthington recommended revising classification, merging types and reassigning varieties. He identified further overprint flaws, such as a taller "A" in "Afrika" and sub-varieties with missing or distorted characters. Notably, the 1½d rouletted issue, Setting E, reappeared belatedly with numerous plate anomalies, including missing letters, faint stops, and displaced punctuation. A later letter confirmed similar findings on the threepenny due. These observations demonstrated the complexity of South West African printings, where constant flaws helped trace plate usage.

The Belgian Congo released a war memorial issue based on the 1910 40c pictorial, revalued at 25c with inscriptions in alternating French and Flemish and a surcharge to benefit the memorial fund. The 20c value of the regular series had sold out and was discontinued following rate changes, its olive-green colour transferred to the 30c.

In Mocambique, a provisional 40c on 400rs on 80rs issue (SG319/a/b) revealed a striking variety: one stamp lacked the "a" in "Republica," later inserted by hand. New Zealand's one-penny Universal produced unusual watermark varieties, including impressions printed in blue on the back of stamps, caused by misfed paper. Nigeria issued the 2/6 with script watermark, and Ruanda-Urundi received overprinted Belgian Congo war memorial stamps. Tanganyika released the one-shilling and two-shilling values with upright script watermark.

Considerable excitement surrounded the forthcoming sale of the Mayfair "find," scheduled for November 1925. This discovery, already famous, was joined by another remarkable lot: rare sheets and part-sheets of Uruguay's 1866-67 numeral issue, lithographed in Glasgow. Mr. H. R. Harmer also secured extraordinary items, such as a block of 18 Malta 4d imperforates, a full sheet of the 1860 Trinidad one-penny lithographed issue, a mint block of 25 Ceylon 10c. on 64c. with rare perforations, and a superb sheet of Holland's 15c orange-yellow first issue. Other rarities included Great Britain's 1½d rose-red block containing the "OP-PC" error. The sale promised to set a new benchmark in philatelic auction history.



Vol. 3 No. 9. October, 1925. Whole No. 33.

### Customs Duty on Stamp Albums.

The new customs duty on stamp albums imported into the Union of South Africa is 40 per cent. for loose leaf albums, 35 per cent. for the fixed leaf variety. The duty was formerly 37 per cent. on British albums and 20 per cent. on foreign.

Philatelists are a prolific source of revenue to the Government, yet they have to pay double the duty paid by the autograph musician, who gets his albums through at 20 per cent.

Representations are being made to the Government with the object of having the customs charges reduced or removed.

Overseas manufacturers supply tens of thousands of albums to all parts of the world, and are, therefore, able to sell their goods at a much lower rate than South African manufacturers could even giving the latter the benefit of the high duties.

For customs purposes loose leaf stamp albums are in the same class as loose leaf account books, but, taking all the circumstances into consideration, they should not be in that class, but should be treated independently.

The Southern Stamp Co. (Africa), Ltd., who are large importers of albums, have addressed communications on this subject to the Minister for Finance, the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, and the Commissioner of Customs. Copies of their letters have been sent to all South African Philatelic Societies, and, as the matter is one that affects every philatelist in the country, we hope that they will write to the appropriate authorities asking for a reduction of the duties at present imposed.

The Minister of Posts has written to the Southern Stamp Co. saying that, as the matter is not one that is dealt with by his Department, he has passed the letter sent him on to the Minister for Finance. He does not say whether, seeing that his department receives enormous sums from philatelists, he is in favour of a reduction of duty.

Fig.2: SAP of October 1925.

The Southern Stamp Co. petitioned several ministries, urging societies and individuals to support efforts for reduced duties. The Minister of Posts acknowledged the complaint but passed responsibility to the Minister of Finance.

The journal then reported new discoveries within the Union itself. Mr. R. Peinke found a two-penny stamp showing a distinct white circle under the "d" of 2d., recurring across

The October 1925 issue of *The South African Philatelist* [2] opened with strong criticism of new customs duties on imported stamp albums. Loose-leaf albums were taxed at 40% and fixed-leaf albums at 35%, compared with the previous 17-20%. Collectors argued that philatelists contributed significantly to government revenue, yet were unfairly penalised compared to autograph collectors, who paid only 20%. The



Fig.4: Prince of Wales' train postmark.

A report described an unusual postal curiosity from the Prince of Wales's tour. Covers posted aboard the Royal Train while in Rhodesia bore the same partly Afrikaans cancellation used in the Union, including the Union's coat of arms. This meant post offices postmarked Rhodesian stamps with South African symbols, despite English being Rhodesia's sole official language.

Interviewed by the Johannesburg Star, the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, Thomas Boydell, announced that a new series of Union stamps, already printed in London, would be issued on 1 January 1926. However, Pretoria's new printing works would soon produce all Union stamps locally. Collectors faced extra expense: to be complete, they would need both London-printed and Pretoria-printed pairs (each design appearing in English and Dutch). The local issues would differ in perforation, paper, gum, and shades, and might also feature the multiple watermark previously mentioned by officials.



Fig.5: "Wes" error.



Fig.6: "Wes." variety.

Lt Col Worthington continued his detailed catalogue of South West African overprint varieties, focusing on constant flaws such as the "Wes" variety and "Wes." misprints. He clarified positions within sheets and debated which varieties deserved catalogue status, recommending restraint to avoid excessive listings. He also noted lithographed overprints in jet-black ink, almost free of flaws, though these were treated as varieties rather than distinct types. Inverted overprints existed for the penny, twopenny, and one-shilling threepenny, though questions remained about genuineness in some cases. He also recorded abnormal placements,

both vertically and sideways. His meticulous study aimed to organize an otherwise chaotic field.

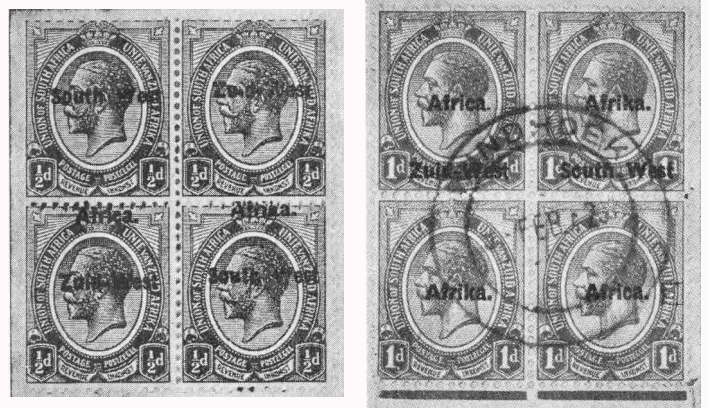


Fig.7: 1/2d overprint set low (left). 1d overprint set high (right).


Local philatelic societies remained active. The Johannesburg United Philatelic Society enjoyed an exhibition of Transvaal material from Mr. M. Frenkel, whose extensive holdings included many errors and rare varieties. Members also strongly condemned the government's practice of selling obsolete airmail stamps at full price, echoing earlier editorial criticism.

The Germiston High School Philatelic Society, led by schoolboys, adopted Fred J. Melville's model of youth philately, building a library, holding competitions, and running an exchange service. The Capetown Philatelic Society featured a display of Seychelles by Mr. K. Alexander, followed by Mr. R. W. Hazell's impressive Cape collection, which included triangulars, woodblocks, and a fine one-penny blue error.

Mr. C. F. Skinner gave a stamp broadcast from Johannesburg on 7 October, while the Southern Stamp Co. placed a large advertisement alongside the announcement. This innovative combination of radio and print promotion reflected the hobby's adaptation to modern media.

Overall, these two issues of *The South African Philatelist* showcased the mix of editorial commentary, catalogue news, new issue reporting, specialist studies, and local society activities that defined the journal as the central voice of organised philately in South Africa during the 1920s.

## References

- [1] J. Robertson, *The SA Philatelist*, Vol. 2 No. 8. Johannesburg: J. Robertson, Sep. 1925. [Online]. Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/SAP-Sep-1925.pdf>.
- [2] J. Robertson, *The SA Philatelist*, Vol. 2 No. 9. Johannesburg: J. Robertson, Oct. 1925. [Online]. Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/SAP-Oct-1925.pdf>. 



## Ernest Millar and his Typewriter

by Andrew Briscoe RDP SA, FRPSL, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

The Reverend Ernest Millar (1868-1917) was born in Great Britain on 2 May 1868, the son of a successful timber merchant. In 1891 he obtained a mathematics degree at Ridley College, Cambridge, and in the same year he was accepted as an Honorary Missionary by the Christian Missionary Society. Millar joined the Equatorial East African Mission in Uganda in 1892. He reached the village of Mengo in the company of a party of seven other missionaries at the end of year, and remained there for most of the rest of his life until his death in 1917.

entry in his diary for 14 March 1895 is recorded in an article by Charles J. Phillips: "At lunch-time Wilson looked in and wanted us to help him with his idea of a postage system in Uganda. I consented to print some stamps for him and printed him off a sheet of all values, from 10 to 50 shells."

In Uganda 200 cowries or 'shells' were equal to one rupee, about one shilling and one halfpenny. The money cowrie (*Cypraea moneta*) is a small shell-fish found in the Indian Ocean; the shells were used extensively for money by the peoples of Eastern Africa.

On 16 March 1895 a notice was published in Luganda containing details of times at which letters would be collected and dispatched, and particulars of the postal rates which varied from 10 to 60 cowries according to distance. The last paragraph of the notice read:

"Only one letter may be enclosed in each envelope. If more than one letter be put in an envelope, the whole will be confiscated. Letters insufficiently stamped will not be posted."

The postal service began operating on 20 March, 1895. The sheets of stamps prepared by Millar were not gummed; examples were affixed to letters with gum straight from gum tree plants. The design of the stamps was simple, consisting of merely the letters "U G" at the top, and the figures of value in the centre (see Figure 2). The horizontal frame-lines were made by the hyphen stroke of the typewriter and the vertical frames by the apostrophe.

The first printing was in sheets of 117 stamps, in 13 rows of 9. The sheets contained a row of each value, but there was more than one row of the 20 and 25 cowries, which were most needed. The denominations have been stated to be 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50 and 60 cowries. Each stamp was between 20 and 26 millimetres wide. The stamps were imperforate.

L.N. Williams records that Millar's typewriter was unable to grip the paper properly when it neared the bottom of the page, and Millar took the sheet out of the typewriter on reaching the last row and reinserted the sheet upside-down. Because he did that, the last row was tête-bêche in relation to the row above it; in between the last rows the Rev. Millar typed particulars of the values of the stamps each sheet contained.

Several typing errors occurred. Stamps are known bearing the letters "U A" instead of "U G", "0" typed on top of "4" on the 40 cowries, "0" typed on top of "5" on the 50 cowries; and other mistakes of a similar nature. No



Fig.1: The Reverend Ernest Millar.

In 1894, the Kingdom of Buganda was proclaimed the British Protectorate of Uganda. At this time, the internal postal service was unreliable, and letters between Kampala and London took about three months in transit. George Wilson, a government official who later became Deputy Commissioner, conceived the idea of a local post. He consulted the Reverend Ernest Millar about stamps for use on letters carried by the service. The task of preparing them was entrusted to Millar who typed them with a black ribbon on the only typewriter in the country. He used thin, brittle, laid batonne paper, normally used for his sermons. An

postmarks were available until 1898 ; and the typewritten stamps were cancelled by writing across them in pencil or ink. The cancellations usually took the form of a cross.

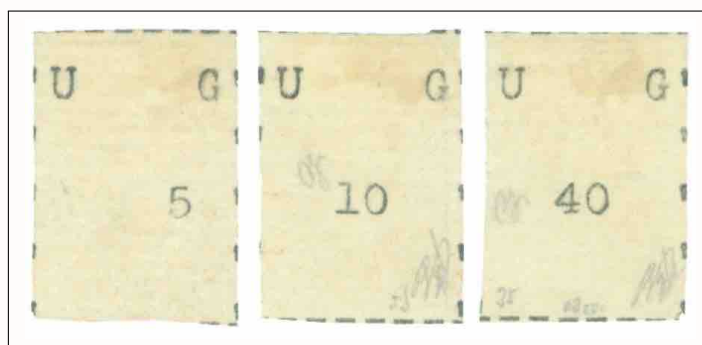


Fig.2: Examples of three values of the stamps (Courtesy of Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions).

According to some authorities, several values ran short during May 1895, and provisionals were made by manuscript surcharge in black ink. (see Figure 3).



Fig.3: Cover endorsed "1 box sent by canoe" bearing three 10 cowrie stamps of the first printing, showing the right-hand stamp with the value struck through and initialed "EM" and "5" in manuscript above the original value (Courtesy of Spink and Son).

In April 1895 another printing was made by Millar. In order to save space, Millar changed the sheet format by typing eleven rows across the sheet. Retaining thirteen vertical rows, 143 stamps were obtained in each sheet. Stamps of the second and subsequent printings can be recognised by the fact that they are narrower than those of the first printing, being only about 16 to 18 millimetres wide. The denominations were the same as those of the previous issue. Varieties due to typing errors occur also in this issue.

At about the end of April 1895, Millar received a new typewriter from England, and on 6 May he sold his old machine to the Church Missionary Society. The denominations of the stamps produced during May and the following months remained unchanged but show slight differences from the earlier issues owing to the typeface on the machine being not quite the same as that of the old one.

Figure 4 shows a cover of November, 1895, from the Reverend Ernest Millar in Mengo to the Venerable Archdeacon Walker at

Kitsea or Kinakulya, Singo Province, marked "Immediate" and with manuscript note on reverse, "I have asked the king for 3 canoes to go to Nasa so that we can get the last news please send in letters quickly" and initialed "EM". The cover is franked with stamps showing the narrower borders. The typewriter ribbon had at this time been changed to violet, producing stamps with violet letters and numerals.



Fig.4: The cover of November 1895 (Courtesy of Spink and Son).

The typewritten stamps of Uganda, especially those of the first issue, are extremely rare on entire letters, and used examples, even off letter, are scarcely seen. With the appearance of printed stamps in November 1896 (see figure 5) the typewritten issues went out of use.



Fig.5: A cover from Mombasa to the United States dated 1897 (9 June) franked with printed stamps to the value of 11½ Annas (Courtesy of Spink and Son).

## References

- [1] L. N. Williams, *Encyclopaedia of Rare and Famous Stamps, Volume 1*. Geneva, Switzerland: David Feldman, 1997.
- [2] C. J. Phillips, "The postage stamps of Uganda," *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Stamp Journal*, vol. 14, Feb. 1904.



We would love to hear from you! If you have any thoughts or comments about any of the articles in this issue of *The SA Philatelist*, please send your comments to the Editorial Board. Just click on the email address: [sap@stampssa.africa](mailto:sap@stampssa.africa)





## Union of South Africa Stamp Varieties

by André du Plessis RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society

### National Antarctic Expedition, 1959 [1]

A 3d stamp was issued on 16 November 1959 to mark the departure of a South African expedition to Queen Maud Land, and it remained on sale for approximately three months.

The design, drawn by H. Kumst and measuring 21 x 37,5 mm, showed the globe with the Union picked out in orange and a dotted line showing the route taken by the expedition. Antarctic scenery together with the letters "SANAE" (South African National Antarctic Expedition) completed the lower

part of the design.

Perforation was 14 x 15 and it was the first of the commemorative stamps to appear with the Arms watermark, in this case sideways, facing left.

The sheets of 120 stamps (6 rows x 20) had arrows in the colour of the centre design at the centre of each margin and a single broken bar in the same colour on the side margins. The cylinder numbers - interior 60 and exterior 119 - were printed on the left margin adjoining row 6/1, and the four figure red sheet numbers were on the bottom one.



Orange and blue-green  
UHB 142

(SG 178) (SASCC 177)

Can be collected in singles due to the bilingual printing .

### SELECTED VARIETIES

(As listed in [1])

UHB 142 - 3d

Cylinders no. 60 (Interior) and 119 (Exterior)

			
Large light patch in orange portion. Row 1/3 UHB 142 - V1	Dark blob on orange portion. Row 3/17 UHB 142 - V2	Light patch on left frame level with 3d Row 4/7 UHB 142 - V3	White dot on right edge of continent near top and dark spot on edge of mountain near centre. Row 5/11 UHB 142 - V4

Note: Covers were carried on the *M.V. Polarbjorn*, which transported the expedition, and these received a special "SANAE" postmark dated 11 January 1960. (Cover with "SANAE" stamp and postmark).

### References

- [1] S. J. Hagger, *The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910 - 1961, Handbook Catalogue*, Definitive Edition. Cape Town: Reijger Publishers (Pty) Ltd, 1986. [Online]. Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Hagger-Group-12-c.pdf#page=5>.



## World War II: South African Forces in the Caprivi Strip, South-West Africa

by Jim Findlay RDPSA, Philatelic Society of Johannesburg

The Union Defence Force (UDF) World War II campaign in East Africa against the Italian forces in Abyssinia, Somaliland and Eritrea relied heavily on the South Africa – Northern Rhodesia (Zambia) rail link for equipment, vehicles and dry rations. Part of the reason the road/rail link was developed was the shortage of shipping. The troops were mostly transported to East Africa by sea from Durban to Kilindini harbour, Mombasa. Later in the campaign an efficient air route was established between Zwartkop Air Base and Wilson Airport, Nairobi.

The 1st South African Infantry Brigade under command of Brig. Gen. Dan Pienaar, began deploying mainly in Kenya and to a lesser extent in Tanganyika (Tanzania) and Uganda. By May 1940 the Brigade and 3 South African Air Force squadrons were in East Africa and training for the invasion of Italian held territory.

The overland supply routes to East Africa were (i) "The Great North Road" from Pretoria to Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), either via Moçambique/Nyasaland (Malawi) or Northern Rhodesia (Zambia) to Dodoma and Arusha, Tanganyika, to Nairobi; and (ii) by rail from Zonderwater, Pretoria, via Bechuanaland (Botswana), Bulawayo and Victoria Falls, Southern Rhodesia, to the railhead at Broken Hill, Northern Rhodesia, from where road transport continued the supply of goods along "The Great North Road" to Kenya.

The Rail/Road route to East Africa had one major strategic 'target' for enemy sabotage and this was the rail bridge between Victoria Falls and Livingstone over the Zambesi River. If this was destroyed, the support for the South African and other forces in East Africa would result in severe long-term problems for the UDF. There was the possibility of pro-German sympathisers from South-West Africa sabotaging the bridge. It is logical that such an important strategic structure would be protected against possible sabotage, and it is certain that a detachment of the Native Military Police 'Special Company' was entrusted with this role.

In addition to the threat of sabotage to the railway, the German missionaries at Schuckmansberg, west of Katima Mulilo, instigated a protest against the Union government in 1940. Although this was not militant, the government took steps to be prepared to prevent a civil uprising. An airfield was constructed at Katima Mulilo to improve communications in the area. (It is probable that the cover from Lt Kruger went via air mail from this airfield).

As part of the Native Military Corps in the UDF, a specialist unit was formed under the Native Military Police called the 'Special Company'. This company was responsible for reconnaissance, intelligence gathering and security issues. It probably operated in many localities with detachments allocated to strategic key-points. Captain Trollope, the censor, and Lt Kruger, the writer of the letter illustrated, were both members of the 'Special Company' based at Katima Mulilo in the Eastern Caprivi Zipfel or Strip (ECZ or ECS). This unit was deployed in the Eastern Caprivi Zipfel to monitor the possibility of German sympathisers from South-West Africa infiltrating Northern and Southern Rhodesia with the intention of sabotage to disrupt the rail supply line from South Africa to East Africa.

Both officers patrolled the ECZ extensively. Capt. Trollope (later Major) is recorded as patrolling from Katima Mulilo to Shesheke, Livingstone, Nangwezi, Mashe area, Linyanti, Kalunda, Tsumeb and Ovamboland. Lt Kruger (later Captain) is recorded as patrolling from Katima Mulilo to Livingstone, Sibinda, Linyanti, Schuckmansburg, and Mashe area.

Both officers were employed by the Department of Native Affairs before the war and were released from military service in 1943 to take up their civilian occupations.



Fig.1: Postage free cover from Lt Kruger.

A postage free cover from 223447 Lt Cecil Eric Kruger, Native Military Guards, based at Katima Mulilo, Eastern Caprivi Zipfel, at the time this was written Fig.1. It went from Katima Mulilo to A.P.O. 1 (Type A) at UDF Defence Headquarters, Pretoria (APO 1: 26 May-30 October 1940), and then to Cape Town via the civilian postal system. It was censored by 223446 A/Capt. Liste French Watts Trollope, the company commander of the Special Company, Native Military Guards, at Katima Mulilo. As indicated above, it probably went by air from Katima Mulilo to Zwartkop Air Base as hand-carried mail by an aircrew member.



Fig.2: The reverse of the cover confirming Lt Kruger as the writer.

The censor cachet No. 34 (Type SA 100) was located at Defence Headquarters for the duration of the war.

The reverse of the cover confirming Lt Kruger as the writer and a member of the Native Military Guard in the Caprivi Strip is shown in Fig.2.

**References:**

The detail of both officers was obtained from their personal service record cards and files in the South African National Defence Force Documentation Centre, Irene.

James Ambrose Brown (1990); *The war of a hundred days, The Springboks in Somalia and Abyssinia 1940-41*. Ashanti Publishing (Pty.), Ltd., Rivonia. [u](#)

# Full Steam Ahead: Royal Mail Celebrates the Legacy of UK Steam Locomotion

by Press Office, Royal Mail

Royal Mail today unveiled a new set of 10 stamps celebrating the rich heritage of British steam locomotives and the pioneering development of the UK’s railway network. The main set features six iconic locomotives that helped to shape the history of rail travel in Britain, Fig.1.

The steam locomotive was the machine that enabled the Industrial Revolution to advance, moving goods and people around the United Kingdom as never before. Key to its development were Richard Trevithick and the father-and-son team of George and Robert Stephenson. Trevithick was the first to have a steam locomotive pull a train, while George Stephenson designed both locomotives and the routes on which they could run.

The main line of the S&DR, which opened in 1825 using the engine that came to be known as Locomotion, was powered by steam locomotives from the start. Four years later, Robert Stephenson created the prize-winning locomotive Rocket, which proved steam’s worth at the Rainhill Trials for the Liverpool and Manchester Railway. Steam locomotives became key to that enterprise’s financial success, prompting the rapid development of powered railways across the country.

With each passing decade, faster, heavier and more powerful locomotives were developed, including City of Truro, which was unofficially timed at 102mph (161km/h) in 1904 (the first official UK record, achieved in 1934, belongs to Flying Scotsman). This trend saw its culmination in very fast express passenger locomotives such as Mallard, as well as powerful heavy-freight engines in use on goods trains through to the 1960s, epitomised by British Railways’ last completed steam locomotive, Evening Star.

To mark the 200th anniversary of the modern railway, Royal Mail is releasing stamps celebrating Britain’s legacy of steam locomotion. This stamp issue captures the spirit of an era that changed travel and trade forever.

The stamps, and a range of collectible products, are available at [www.royalmail.com/steamlocomotives](http://www.royalmail.com/steamlocomotives). [u](#)



Fig.1: Locomotion No. 1, Rocket, City of Truro, Mallard, Duchess of Hamilton and Evening Star.

In addition, a miniature sheet containing four stamps, marks 200 years since the opening of the Stockton and Darlington Railway (S&DR), Fig.2.



Fig.2: Artwork depicting the opening of the S&DR, in 1825, a historic image of Locomotion No. 1 at Darlington circa 1890, a commemorative postcard from the S&DR centenary in 1925, and a photograph of a replica Locomotion No. 1 from 1975. .

Royal Mail worked closely with the National Railway Museum and Darlington Council on the stamp issue.



# The ½d Warthog, Animal Definitive Series, 1954 – 1960, of the Union of South Africa (Part 3)

by Joof van der Merwe RDP SA, Orange Free State Philatelic Society

This is the third instalment of a study that examines the various printings of the ½d stamp, exploring the printing marks, watermarks, different paper types, and the numerous varieties. The first issue, dated 14 October 1954, was printed with Cylinder 84 and discussed in [1]. The second issue was printed with cylinder 67 on paper with a springbok watermark in February and April 1959 and discussed in [2].

In this article, cylinder 67, printed in December 1960 with a Coat of Arms watermark, is discussed.

The scans may appear low-quality, but the reader should be aware that they reflect the actual print quality under enlargement.

## Cylinder 67 – Coat of Arms Watermark

Issue Two was printed using Cylinder 67 in December 1960. The stamps were produced in sheets of 240, arranged in 20 rows of 12 stamps each. The watermark used was the Coat of Arms (Fig.1).



Fig.1: Coat of Arms wmk.

## The Cylinder Number

The cylinder number was printed in the right corner of the lower margin under stamp Row 20/11 of the sheet (Fig.2).

## Sheet Serial Numbers

Sheet numbers were printed in the right margin of each sheet. In the printing, issued in December 1960, five-figure sheet numbers in black appeared opposite Rows 17 and 18 (Fig.3).



Fig.2: Cylinder number 67.



Fig.3: Five digit black number in the right margin.

## Arrows and Margins

Arrows were printed between columns 6 and 7 in the top and bottom margins (Fig.4), and between rows 10 and 11 in both the left and right margins (Fig.5). A single marginal bar appeared in the top and bottom margins (Fig.4).



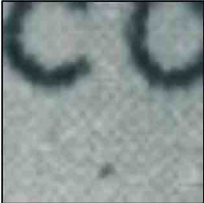

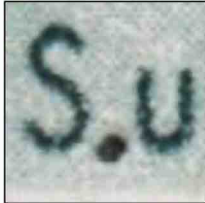








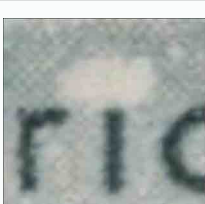
Fig.4: Top and bottom margins.



Fig.5: Left and right margins.

### Varieties

This study excludes the explicit treatment of the varieties described in [3]. The varieties presented are recurring varieties identified through independent research [4].

		
1. Dot below "ca" of Africa - Row 2/6	2. Smudge top of "a" of Afrika - Row 4/9	3. Dot between "S" and "u" of Suid - Row 6/4
		
4. Dot right of right eye - Row 7/10	5. Smudge above "ic" of Africa - Row 9/8	6. Dot below "d" of Posgeld - Row 13/2
		
7. Dot touching "u" of South - Row 14/5	8. Large dot above right ear - Row 15/6	9. Dot between "S" and "o" of South - Row 16/1
		
10. Dot above "o" of Postage - Row 16/6	11. Scratch left of "S" of South - Row 18/2	12. Smudge above "ri" of Africa - Row 19/3

In the next article, varieties found on both the cylinders used for printing will be discussed.

### References

- [1] J. van der Merwe, "The 1/2d warthog, animal definitive series, 1954 - 1960, of the Union of South Africa (part 1)," *The SA Philatelist*, vol. 101, no. 3, pp. 83-85, 2025. [Online]. Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/SAP-June-2025.pdf#page=17>.
- [2] J. van der Merwe, "The 1/2d warthog, animal definitive series, 1954 - 1960, of the Union of South Africa (part 2)," *The SA Philatelist*, vol. 101, no. 4, pp. 108-109, 2025. [Online]. Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/SA-Philatelist-August-2025.pdf#page=9>.
- [3] S. J. Hagger, *The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910 - 1961, Handbook Catalogue*, Definitive Edition. Cape Town: Reijger Publishers (Pty) Ltd, 1986. [Online]. Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Hagger-Group-8-Animal-series.pdf#page=2>.
- [4] J. van der Merwe, "Personal study." 

### Have a bunch of old FDCs? Can you sell them?

**Fact:** Most FDCs from the '70s-'90s of South Africa, SWA, Transkei, Venda, and Ciskei are very common.

Thousands are on the market. Demand is practically zero. Therefore, worth any money? Not really. But here's an alternative:

Ask: "Do you have a grandchild or school-age relative?"

If yes → Great! Give them a FDC for a school project. The information inside the envelope is very useful for completing the project.

Immediately, that seemingly "worthless" FDC gains real value: helping a child succeed, encouraging interest in stamps, and keeping our hobby alive.


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# Your Story ... on a Page

by Gary Pienaar, Philatelic Society of Johannesburg

We have all heard about and seen competitive 'one frame' exhibits before, but have you heard about a 'one page exhibit'? Yes, that's the opportunity to tell your story on a page - something well within the ability and scope of most collectors. Both the American Topical Association (ATA) and the British Thematic Society (BTS) have introduced a virtual one-page online exhibition, annually at the end of each year. No rules, other than at least one item must be philatelic, and it must be displayed on one page either A3 or A4 in size. No restrictions to limit your imagination. No entry fees - just scan, upload and click. So, why not dust off that special item and put it out there for fellow collectors to enjoy.

As an example, the story of San Rock Art, illustrated through the stamp issues of South Africa, Lesotho and South West Africa, on a single A3 page;

For more information on these virtual exhibitions, have a look at the following websites - <https://americantopical.org/> or <https://www.britishthematic.org.uk/>. The ATA also has an informative YouTube video, which outlines how to go about creating a one page exhibit, which can be found at <https://youtu.be/AC1g8rOczNY>. With the end of the year fast approaching, I would encourage all our readers to consider exhibiting something of interest in the next round of these competitions, which will be advertised online shortly.

## 'PEOPLE OF THE ELAND' : SAN ROCK ART OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Rock art or cave paintings are illustrations created on the walls and ceilings of caves, typically dating back to the Paleolithic era. These prehistoric artworks often depict animals, human figures, and abstract signs, providing insights into the lives and beliefs of early humans. The San are an indigenous people in Southern Africa, previously inhabiting parts of present-day South Africa, Namibia and Botswana. Their paintings can be found in caves and on rock shelters in many different locations in these countries.

The San used rock art to record things that happened in their lives. Hunting scenes and antelope are most often painted, with the eland being the most frequently depicted animal. San artists painted eland in a great variety of postures and from various perspectives, embellishing them with the finest details.

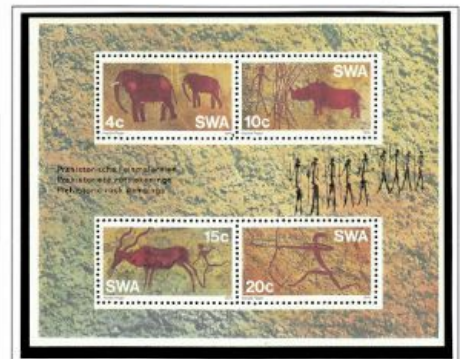
Early artists used natural pigments like ochre, charcoal, and manganese for coloring, and their tools included fingers and brushes made from animal hair or fibers.



South Africa - 15<sup>th</sup> February 2006. Rock art in South Africa, standard postage se-tenant strip of 5 stamps.

Lesotho - 1<sup>st</sup> November 1968. Rock Paintings.

Occasionally, birds and other animals like elephants, lion, leopard and rhinoceros are depicted. These drawings provide a glimpse into the San's experiences from thousands of years ago, long before the arrival of the first Europeans.



South West Africa - 31<sup>st</sup> March 1972. Prehistoric Rock Paintings. Miniature sheet of the four issued stamps. Harald Pager, the designer, is one of the doyens of rock art research and preservation.



South Africa - 4<sup>th</sup> June 1987. Rock Paintings. Set of 4 stamps issued. The 20c value depicts a Leaping Lion, and the 25c a Black Wildebeest. Below the 30c illustrates a group of San performing a 'sun dance'.



The exact purpose of cave paintings remains a subject of scholarly debate. Theories include sympathetic magic to influence success in hunting, symbolic or ritualistic expression, or early forms of storytelling. Some artwork depicts half-human half-animal hybrids, which are believed to be medicine men or healers involved in a healing or trance dance. These dances continue to be practiced amongst San groups living in the Kalahari today. Dancers stomp in a circle around the campfire for many hours, whilst the women clap the rhythm and sing. After hours of stomping, some dancers start to slip into trance. In this altered state of consciousness, they may have out-of-body experiences, which they describe as travelling to the spirit realm.



South Africa - 4<sup>th</sup> June 1987. Maxim card depicting the main panel of Eland at Sebaayeni Cave, located in Ndedema Gorge, part of the Cathedral Peak area of the KZN Drakensberg.

Fig.1: Example of a one-page exhibit presented on an A3 page.

Show your collection to your family and friends, and consider exhibiting it at club meetings and regional, national, and international exhibitions. See this issue of *The SA Philatelist*, [Stamps SA Keeping in Touch](#), and the official PFSA website at <http://stampssa.africa> for more information.



## Past and Present (Part 4): Julius Weil & Co., Government Contractors

by Clinton Goslin, SAPDA

As with time items get lost destroyed or misplaced, knowledge is lost and stories forgotten. With a basic approach towards the preservation of paper I have decided to write short stories on items that I have discovered over the years, I am by no means a specialist or an expert, but will describe what I see to the best of my ability, I will also welcome any additional information on any of the subjects or items discussed. All items are part of my personal collections unless otherwise stated.

The discussion focuses on a specific legal record in Fig.1. This fragment is a Power of Attorney. It is dated 30 May 1894. It bears the signature of Julius Weil.

### Who was Julius Weil?

Julius Weil & Co. became a key contractor for the government. They started by providing field transport services to the British Army. The firm's support for the war effort proved essential. This is especially true regarding the supply of Mafeking. They successfully provisioned the town throughout its nine-month siege. This accomplishment earned the firm wide recognition. Important figures like General Baden-Powell praised their work. Weil's skill in moving resources was known even before the war. He was first called "the man that moves the army" in 1887 [1].

The company's business model was similar to a major long-distance delivery service. Yet, their actual work was vastly different. Their transport tasks crossed huge, empty sections of Southern Africa. This was unlike the local services found in large cities. Those city services only moved goods over short distances.

### The Imperial Transport Service (ITS)

The war grew larger in scale. This required the government to formally take over Julius Weil & Co. The company joined the government structure. This led to the formation of the Imperial Transport Service (ITS). Employees recruited from the firm received temporary army rank. Their uniform showed their temporary status. They wore the initials 'I.T.S.' on their shoulder in khaki clothing.

The ITS was a vital organisation. It kept supply lines open across the entire interior of the country. Convoys worked to service the large area between Mafeking and Pretoria. Some front-line units even reached Machadodorp. They may have travelled as far as Pilgrims' Rest. This transport operation was enormous. It required more than 2,000 wagons. About 40,000 oxen were needed to keep this fleet moving efficiently. But losses were frequent and high. Enemy capture was

a problem. General animal loss also caused issues. To keep working, they needed a huge reserve pool. This pool contained between 85,000 and 100,000 oxen (Briggs, 1901).

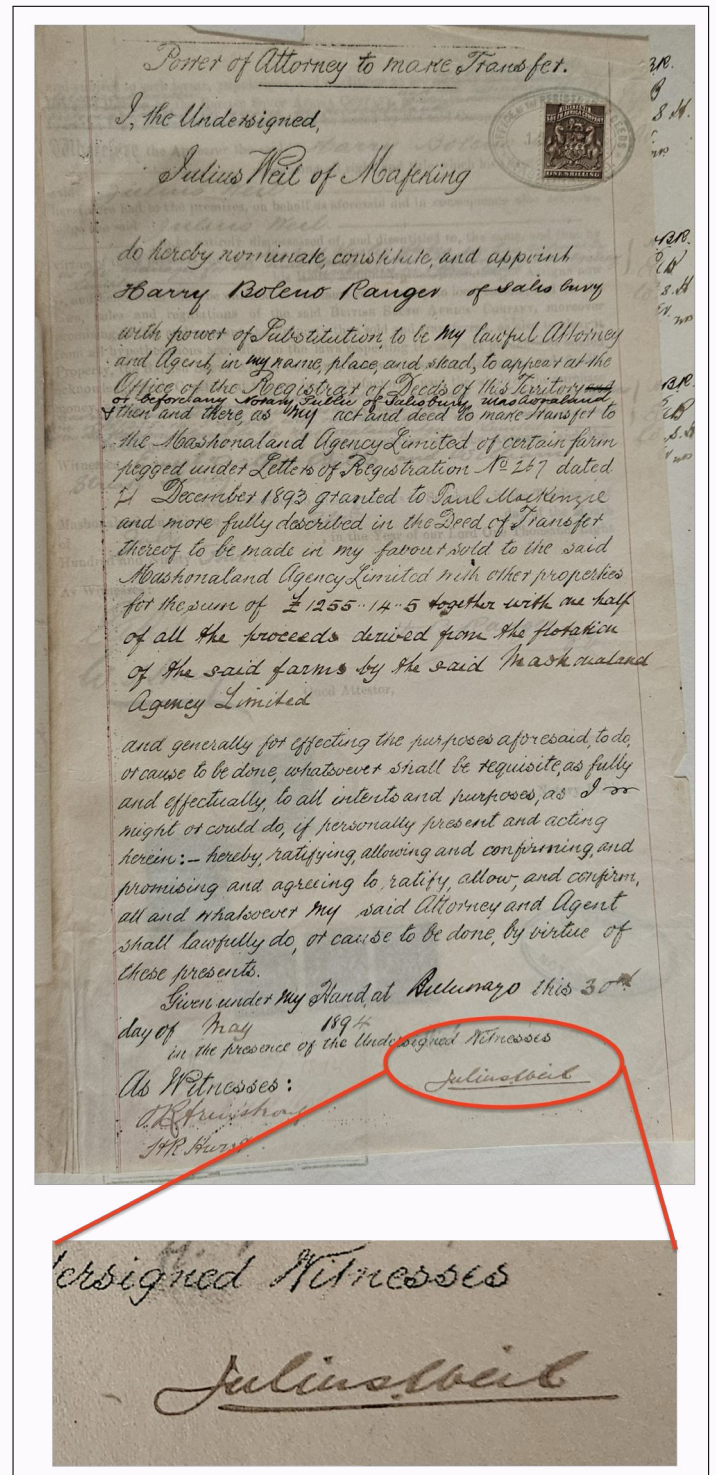


Fig.1: The signature of Julius Weil on a Power of Attorney. (Goslin Heritage Collection).

The need for human resources was equally large. The firm employed almost 7,000 native men. These men served as both drivers and leaders. There were also about 500 mounted overseers, conductors, and inspectors. The clerical staff totalled over 200 people. The ox-drawn transport travelled over 25,000 miles. This enormous distance was covered by the slow-going beasts under the most trying circumstances, such as forced marching and within range of the enemy's fire.

The contractors faced huge challenges in their work. For instance, up to 200 wagons might be captured at one time. Each of these wagons required sixteen oxen to pull it. This resulted in a massive loss of both equipment and animals. Well-known Boer commanders were highly effective. General Christiaan De Wet, for example, often intercepted these convoys. He frequently seized teams that the firm had worked hard to find. These animals were purchased from various distant farmers.

All the oxen used by the ITS were bred locally. This was because South African stock was naturally tough. Replacement oxen had to be bought to cover losses. They had to walk to the firm's main depots. This was necessary because the railway lines were already full. They were prioritised for moving troops. Convoys also had to carry many extra materials. This was in addition to military goods. These items included heavy buck-sails (tarpaulins) and iron containers. They carried grease, lifting jacks, picks, and shovels. Spare reims (leather thongs) and various repair tools were also critical.

The Boer tactic of burning the grazing land was a constant problem. This forced convoys to carry substantial extra animal feed. This was challenging for the oxen. Indigenous oxen generally fared better eating the sparse veld grass. This was true even more than if they were given high-quality imported food. The army needed constant supplies. It had over 250,000 men. They operated 6,000 miles away from their main base. Keeping this army moving and fed is a

major achievement. This highlights the effectiveness of both government offices and contractors like Julius Weil & Co.

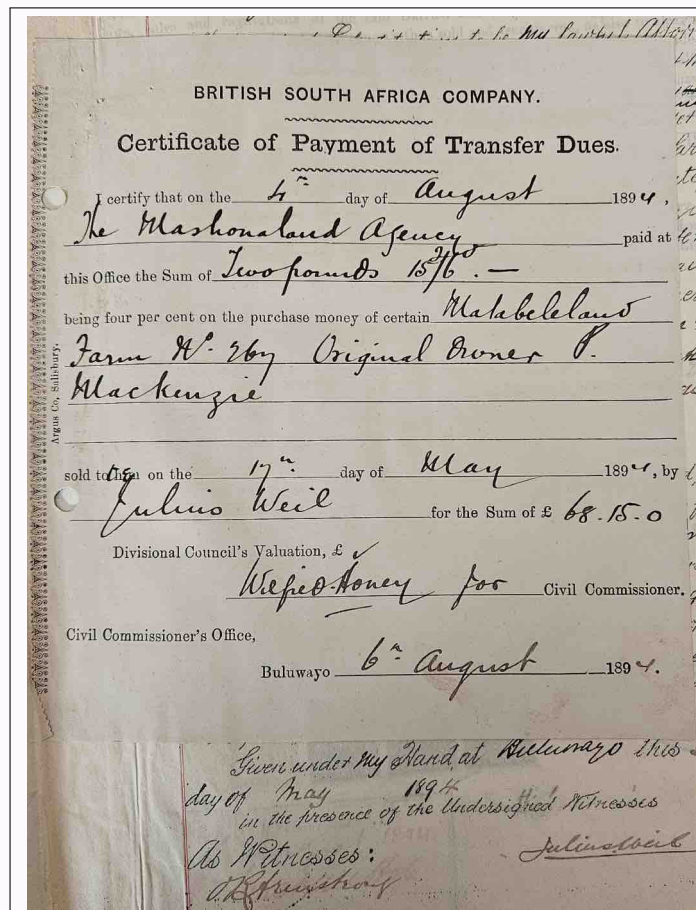


Fig.2: Certificate of payment of Transfer Dues (complete document) dated 6 August 1894. (Goslin Heritage Collection).

## References

- [1] L. Briggs, *The Staff Work of the Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1901*. tbd. London, England: Grant Richards, 1901. [Online]. Available: [http://www.archive.org/stream/staffworkofanglo00brigrich/staffworkofanglo00brigrich\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/staffworkofanglo00brigrich/staffworkofanglo00brigrich_djvu.txt).



We would love to hear from you! If you have any thoughts or comments about any of the articles in this issue of *The SA Philatelist*, please send your comments to the Editorial Board. Just click on the email address: [sap@stampssa.africa](mailto:sap@stampssa.africa)

Show your collection to your family and friends, and consider exhibiting it at club meetings and regional, national, and international exhibitions. See this issue of *The SA Philatelist*, *Stamps SA Keeping in Touch*, and the official PFSA website at <http://stampssa.africa> for more information.

## National Stamp Show, Paarl 2025

The National Exhibition was hosted by the Paarlse Filateliste in its 75th Anniversary year. On show were 277 frames that included 24 exhibits in the Court of Honour, 11 Invited exhibits and seven Literature entries.

### THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

An enthusiastic committee comprising five members, under chairmanship of Gawie Hugo, successfully organised this year's National Stampshow.

### THE VENUE



Fig.1: The venue.

This year the event took place in the Cape Winelands at Paarl, Western Cape some 60km northeast of Cape Town. Paarl is known for its scenic environment, viticulture and fruit-growing heritage.

The Paarl Golf Club, Boschenmeer Golf Estate, offered a perfect environment for the National Stamp Show, which took place in mild weather conditions.

On 11 February 1990, Paarl gained global recognition when Nelson Mandela was released from the Victor Verster Correctional Centre (now known as Drakenstein Correctional Centre) near Paarl, accompanied by live international television coverage. This event marked the culmination of his 27 years of imprisonment and signalled the commencement of South Africa's post-apartheid era.

### OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION

The exhibition was officially opened by Dr Elna von Schlicht, mayor of the Cape Winelands District Municipality on 3 September 2025. The venue offered adequate space for all the required activities, both for the exhibition as well as the dealers attending. It provided ample areas to sit and study material.



Fig.2: Dr Elna von Schlicht, mayor of the Cape Winelands District Municipality, opening the Stampshow.

### MEMBERS OF THE JURY 2021

This year's jury was  
Chairman: Hugh Amoore RDPSA FRPSL vice-chairman:  
Emil Minnaar RDPSA, Tim Bartshe (USA), Michael Wigmore

RDPSA, Javid Muhammad (UAE), Victor Millard, two apprenticed jurors, Henk Geertsema and Diederik Viljoen and jury secretary Joof van der Merwe RDPSA.

### DEALERS IN ATTENDANCE

Eleven dealers were in attendance namely Spink of London, David Morrison (UK), Doreen Royan, Ken Joseph, Francois Friend, Michael Wigmore, Volker Janssen, Clive King, David Wolpe, Martin Crawford and Charl Oosthuizen.

The Organising Committee thank the dealers for their attendance and support.

### THE EXHIBITION

In an era of virtual meetings and the connected world through the Internet, the Paarl 2025 Exhibition underscored the significance of maintaining face-to-face interactions within the philatelic community. It facilitated the exchange of thoughts and ideas, as well as the illustration of the importance of hosting regular exhibitions that provide collectors with a platform to assess their collections and gain insights into the capabilities of others with their material.

Overall, the exhibition presented numerous positive aspects, and it is imperative to acknowledge that it was a commendable undertaking. Everyone involved deserves recognition and gratitude for their contributions.

From the setting up of the frames to the judging process and the public opening, all facets operated seamlessly.

### AWARDS LISTINGS OF EXHIBITS

#### LARGE GOLD (90+)

- 97: *The Small Arms issues of the British South Africa Company 1892 to 1908* (Traditional GB and Commonwealth)  
**Flanagan, Mr Patrick RDPSA FRPSL**  
Witwatersrand Philatelic Society  
\* *The Grand Prix award*
- 93: *The Cape Triangular stamps and their use* (Traditional National Class) (Traditional National Class)  
**Flanagan, Mr Patrick RDPSA FRPSL**  
Witwatersrand Philatelic Society  
\* *SA Post Office Shield*
- 92: *My pursuit of butterflies and moths* (Thematic Nature)  
**Geertsema, Prof. Henk**  
Stellenbosch Philatelic Society
- 91: *Postal Stationery of Basutoland* (Postal Stationery)  
**Cronje, Dr Neil RDPSA**  
Orange Free State Philatelic Society  
\* *AFV Toekenning*
- 90: *Medicine - Its history and development* (Open Class)  
**Abdulrahman, Mr Ahmad Ali**  
UAE  
\* *Robert Goldblatt Thematic Cup*

\* *Total Stampex award for the best exhibit outside SA*

- 90: *Southern Rhodesia: The 3 definitive issues depicting the King's head: 1924-1952* (Traditional GB and Commonwealth)

**Brodovcky, Mr Keith**

Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town

\* *The Rhodesia award*

- 90: *Johannesburg: A window into the past, 1896-1899* (Picture Postcards)

**Du Plessis, Mr Andre RDPSA**

Philatelic Society of Pretoria

\* *SAPRG Archie Atkinson Trophy*

- 90: *The Revenue stamps of the Union of South Africa (1910-1961): A usage analysis* (Revenues)

**Kamffer, Dr Gerhard RDPSA**

Philatelic Society of Pretoria

\* *SA Stamp Study Circle Award*

- 90: *Federal Duck stamps of the United States of America: 1934-2024* (Revenues)

**Putter, Mr Anton**

Stellenbosch Philatelic Society

\* *Terence Radue Shield*

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#### **GOLD (85-89)**

- 88: *Local value 4 Potatoes* (Open Class)

**Crawford, Mr Martin**

Pinelands Stamp Circle

\* *ILSAPEX award*

- 88: *A study of the third definitive issue, 1977, Proteas of the Republic of South Africa* (Traditional National Class)

**Van der Merwe, Mr Joof RDPSA**

Orange Free State Philatelic Society

\* *Potch 78 Award*

- 88: *The South African Field Telegraph and Postal Corps in the German South West Africa campaign 1914-15* (Postal History, Historical & Social Studies)

**Von Bratt, Mr Kevin**

East London Philatelic Society

\* *DG Crocker Cup*

\* *Claude Malan Trophy*

- 87: *Malta 1863-1936 - Three Reigns* (Traditional Europe)

**Franklin, Mr Brian**

Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town

\* *The Royal Medallion*

- 86: *Cats Portrayed as Human Beings* (Picture Postcards)

**Alkhoori, Mr Adil**

UAE

\* *The Picture Postcard Thematic Cup*

\* *The David de Villiers Display Trophy*

- 86: *The 1947 Royal Tour* (Open Class)

**Pienaar, Mr Gary**

Philatelic Society of Johannesburg

- 86: *A tale of South Africa: 1488-1960* (Open Class)

**Scheepers, Mr Daniel RDPSA**

Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town

\* *ILSAPEX award*

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#### **LARGE VERMEIL (80-84)**

- 83: *Bedford and surrounds: A postal history during Cape of Good Hope jurisdiction* (Postal History, Historical & Social Studies)

**Geyer, Prof Hendrik**

Direct Subscriber

\* *East Rand Philatelic Society Award*

\* *STAMPCOR Award*

- 83: *JSC MARKA Website* (Literature, Digital, Websites & Software)

**Borodin, Mr A**

Russia

\* *Jonas Michelson Literature Award*

- 82: *The Stamps of Sudan 1897 to 1954* (Traditional Rest of the World)

**Green, Mr Howard RDPSA**

Philatelic Society of Johannesburg

- 81: *The Stations Postal Markings of Egypt 1877-1938* (Postal History Rest of the World)

**Almulla, Mr Hassan Ali**

UAE

\* *ZAR-100 award*

- 80: *Exploring the lives of Lilly and Carl* (Open Class)

**Crawford, Mrs Marilyn**

Pinelands Stamp Circle

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#### **VERMEIL (75-79)**

- 78: *Opposite the bear - Antarctica* (Open Class)

**Reeves, Mrs Maureen**

Bellville Philatelic Society

- 77: *ZAR and Transvaal Philatelic Facebook Group* (Literature, Digital, Websites & Software)

**Bezuidenhout, Mr Johan**

Bellville Philatelic Society

- 76: *Lighter than air A history of Balloon Flights* (Thematic Technology)

**Viljoen, Mr Diederik**

Bellville Philatelic Society

- 75: *Queen Victoria The Bourne head Design* (Literature, Digital, Websites & Software)

**Coetzee, Mr George**

Bellville Philatelic Society

- 75: *Galloping German high inflation of 1923* (Postal History Europe)

**McLaren, Mr Andrew**

Pinelands Stamp Circle

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#### **LARGE SILVER (70-74)**

- 73: *The FRAMA labels of South Africa and South West Africa* (Traditional National Class)

**Janssen, Mr Volker**

Fish Hoek Philatelic Society

- 71: *Australia's Antarctic legacy: A philatelic journey 1947-1975* (FDC)

**Lubbe, Mr Sam**

### Orange Free State Philatelic Society

- 70: *Letters to a Lincolnshire lass 1919 to 1921* (Open Class)  
**Crawford**, Mrs Marilyn  
[Pinelands Stamp Circle](#)

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### SILVER (65-69)

- 68: *A postal history review of the Imperial Airways Southern African routes* (Aerophilately)  
**Young**, Mr David  
[Fish Hoek Philatelic Society](#)
- 67: *The Pigeon* (Literature, Digital, Websites & Software)  
**Wadhwa**, Mr Vijay  
[Direct Subscriber](#)
- 66: *Succulents* (Thematic Nature)  
**Friend**, Mr Francois  
[Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society](#)
- 65: *Stamp and Postal History of the North German State and City of Bremen between 1855 and 1965* (Traditional Europe)  
**Janssen**, Mr Volker  
[Fish Hoek Philatelic Society](#)
- 65: *Cecil John Rhodes - A good story to be told* (Open Class)  
**Meyer**, Mr Pieter  
[Die Posboom Filatelie Vereniging](#)
- 65: *Pennywise* (Literature, Digital, Websites & Software)  
**Wadhwa**, Mr Vijay  
[Direct Subscriber](#)

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### SILVER BRONZE (60-64)

- 64: *Discovering the Post Horn on postage stamps and other related material* (Open Class)  
**Grinyer**, Mr James  
[Philatelic Society of Pretoria](#)
- 64: *Huis van Oranje-Nassau* (Open Class)  
**Loo**, Mrs Rianneke  
[Bellville Philatelic Society](#)  
*\* FAK trofee*
- 63: *The remote islands of Tristan da Cunha* (Open Class)  
**Grinyer**, Mr James  
[Philatelic Society of Pretoria](#)
- 63: *An extraordinary South African Jan Christiaan Smuts* (Open Class)  
**Meyer**, Mr Pieter  
[Die Posboom Filatelie Vereniging](#)
- 62: *2022 FIFA World Cup - Qatar* (Junior General 10-15 Years)  
**Sarma**, Mr Amit  
[UAE](#)
- 60: *South Africa - Republic: Definitive 5th 1988-1993, Succulents* (Literature, Printed books & Pamphlets)  
**Laubscher**, Mr Xavier  
[SAPDA](#)

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### BRONZE (50-59)

- 59: *The Exciting Mini-world tour of Jill Rowlands with the Pretoria Castle Steam liner* (Traditional Rest of the World)  
**Meyer**, Mr Pieter

### Die Posboom Filatelie Vereniging

- 58: *Ciskei - Republic: South Africa: Homeland Definitive 2nd 1991-1994, Solar System* (Literature, Printed books & Pamphlets)

**Laubscher**, Mr Xavier

[SAPDA](#)

- 53: *The first stamp issues of the world* (Traditional Rest of the World)

**Janssen**, Mr Volker

[Fish Hoek Philatelic Society](#)

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### CERTIFICATE OF MERIT (<50)

- 46: *Guiding Lights* (Picture Postcards)

**Mitchel**, Mr Vernon

[Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society](#)

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### AWARDS LISTING OF ONE FRAME EXHIBITS

- 88: *Die impak van die Anglo-Boereoorlog (1899-1902) op Heidelberg, Transvaal en omgewing* (One Frame (Postal History Historical & Social))  
**Kamffer**, Dr Gerhard RDPSA  
[Philatelic Society of Pretoria](#)  
*\* Anglo Boer War Society Cup*
- 87: *Port Natal* (One Frame (Open Class))  
**Porter**, Mr Roger RDPSA  
[Maritzburg Philatelic Society](#)
- 85: *Swaziland 1889-1894 Transvaal overprinted issue* (One Frame (Traditional GB & Commonwealth))  
**Hale**, Mr Clinton  
[Direct Subscriber](#)
- 84: *KGV King's Heads of South West Africa* (One Frame (Traditional National Class))  
**Putter**, Mr Anton  
[Stellenbosch Philatelic Society](#)  
*\* Rose Mary Crocker Award*
- 76: *Anne Frank: A journey remembered* (One Frame (Open Class))  
**Mollentze**, Prof Willie  
[George Philatelic Society](#)
- 76: *Indentured Indian workers in Natal* (One Frame (Open Class))  
**Porter**, Mr Roger RDPSA  
[Maritzburg Philatelic Society](#)
- 75: *Plating the Litho cylinder blocks of the RSA 4th definitive series* (One Frame (Traditional National Class))  
**Moll**, Dr Michiel  
[Paarlse Filateliste](#)
- 74: *South African Adhesive Parcel Post Labels for the period 1935-1968* (One Frame (Postal History National Class))  
**Katakuzinos**, Mr Trefon  
[East Rand Philatelic Society](#)
- 72: *Austria: Postage Due 1894-1935* (One Frame (Traditional Europe))  
**Viljoen**, Mr Diederik  
[Belleville Philatelic Society](#)
- 71: *PKZ 00002 Permit mail* (One Frame (Postal History

- National Class))  
**Erasmus, Mrs Ronel**  
**Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria**  
*\* C.E.D. Enoch Trophy*
- 69: *The birth of a language* (One Frame (Open Class))  
**Bowles, Mr Aubrey**  
**Maritzburg Philatelic Society**
  - 67: *Coelacanth, the Lazarus species of fish* (One Frame (Open Class))  
**Strydom, Mr Phillip**  
**Bellville Philatelic Society**
  - 66: *Diamonds are forever* (One Frame (Open Class))  
**Bowles, Mr Aubrey**  
**Maritzburg Philatelic Society**
  - 63: *The Gooney Bird* (One Frame (Open Class))  
**Gove, Mr Gordon**  
**Highway Philatelic Society**  
*\* Arrie Bakker Trophy*
  - 63: *The South African bowls stamp* (One Frame (Modern))  
**Rycroft, Mr John**  
**Pinelands Stamp Circle**
  - 62: *SAPO Prepaid postage envelopes 1992-1995* (One Frame (Postal Stationery))

- Hugo, Mr Gawie**  
**Paarlse Filateliste**
- 61: *Cape of Good Hope Revenue Stamps - A Historical Overview 1652-1910* (One Frame (Revenues))  
**De Roock, Mr Willem**  
**Paarlse Filateliste**
  - 60: *'n Filateliese huldeblyk* (One Frame (Open Class))  
**AFP-Lede**  
**Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria**
  - 60: *Everything's a story: The magic of children's literature* (One Frame (Thematic Culture))  
**Barnard, Mrs Nicolene**  
**Orange Free State Philatelic Society**
  - 59: *The Centenary of the death of Sir Rowland Hill 1879-1979 How the Caribbean Countries commemorated this event.* (One Frame (Traditional Rest of World))  
**Schuurman, Mr Dick**  
**Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society**

A special word of thanks and congratulations to exhibitors with their results.

A word of thanks also to all the volunteers who so diligently contributed to the success of this event. 

## CONGRESS REPORT

# The 87th National Congress of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa

This Congress convened on Friday, 5 September 2021, at the Paarl Golf Club, Boschenmeer Golf Estate, Paarl, commencing at 10:30.

### THE OFFICIAL OPENING

**OPENING ADDRESS AT THE PHILATELIC CONGRESS – 5 SEPTEMBER 2021 – by Tim Bartshe, American Philatelic Society**



Fig.1: Tim Bartshe busy with his official opening remarks.

Tim Bartshe, American Philatelic Society and past President of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, opened Congress by reflecting on his long-standing association with South African Philately. He was awarded the Manfred Weinstein Memorial Medallion and received it in 2002 at the Stamp Show in Port Elizabeth where he was a member of the judging panel - a distinction he considers among his

most significant honours. Tim also provided an overview of the developments in stamp exhibiting and judging over the past 25 years, both globally and in the United States. Additionally, he touches on prospects for the future, particularly regarding virtual exhibiting and judging.

### MESSAGE FROM THE PFSA PRESIDENT, MR GAWIE HUGO

The past year has been one of remarkable learning and growth. Stepping into the world of organised philately and understanding the inner workings of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa (PFSA) was both challenging and rewarding. I extend my sincere thanks to Dr Niel Cronje RDPSA and the PFSA Management Committee for their steady guidance throughout this journey.

It is a great honour for the Paarlse Filateliste to host



Fig.2: Gawie Hugo welcoming members at Congress with Andre du Plessis RDPSA (left) and Neil Cronje RDPSA (right).

the 2025 National Stamp Show after a long absence from the national stage. As a relatively small society, we are deeply grateful to the PFSA for entrusting us with this opportunity. The event demanded dedication and hard work, and I am proud to say that our Organising Committee rose to the occasion and delivered a show worthy of national recognition.

Bringing an event of this scale to life requires generous support. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Ian Shapiro and Spink for their sponsorship, which made a significant impact. We also thank all the exhibitors and dealers for their enthusiastic participation, your contributions brought energy and excellence to the exhibition. It is reassuring for SA philately to see such a good turnout and the level of exhibits.

Our sincere thanks go to Hugh Amoo RDPSA FRPSL and his team for their meticulous judging of the entries. Their expertise and commitment ensured a fair and professional evaluation of all exhibits.

I would also like to express my appreciation to André du Plessis RDPSA for his ongoing advice and support throughout the year. A special thank you also to Victor Millard for his tireless work in producing the exhibition brochure, and to Chuck Muller, our regional Vice President, for his support and encouragement.

We are proud of what we have achieved and look forward to future opportunities to serve the philatelic community with the same passion and dedication.



Fig.3: Delegates attending Congress.

## CONGRESS MOTIONS AND PRINCIPAL DEBATES

There was this year only one motion tabled by the Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria (AFP).

### Motion

The Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria moved the following motion regarding the term of office for the Chairperson of the Management Committee.

**Preamble:** In terms of Article 8.13 of the Constitution of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa (PFSA), Congress is empowered to elect the office bearers as set out in Article 10 and to appoint the members of the Management Committee for the ensuing year, such appointments to take effect at the conclusion of Congress. Further, Article 10.2(f) provides that Congress "Shall elect a person to chair the Management Committee."

**Motion:** That Article 10.2(f) of the Constitution be amended to read as follows: "Shall elect a person to chair the Management Committee. The person so elected shall hold office until the conclusion of the next Congress. The incumbent shall be eligible for re-election for no more than three further consecutive terms, resulting in a maximum of four consecutive terms in total."

**Motivation:** The proposed amendment introduces a clear limitation on the number of consecutive terms an individual may serve as Chairperson of the Management Committee. This aligns with principles of good governance, promotes leadership renewal, and ensures continuity with accountability.

### Amendment to the motion

Pat Flanagan RDPSA FRPSL moved an amendment to the motion to extend the first term of the Chair of the Management Committee to three years, with only one re-election, thus resulting in a maximum of four years in total. The motivation for this amendment is to give the Chair of the Management Committee a fair amount of time to develop and implement his/her strategic operations plan for the Management Committee.

### Accepted motion with variation:

The term of the chairman of the Management Committee was decided to be three years for the initial term which can be extended for a further year after which the person has to stand down. However, they may stand again later.

### • Financial Matters

- The Honorary Treasurer's Report and Annual Financial Statements for the year ending 31/12/2024 by Mr Derek Roth were tabled. The Annual Financial Statements had been approved by the Management Committee.
- Interim Financial Report for 2025. The report was put forward and adopted.
- Proposed fee structure for 2026: Affiliation fee was proposed and adopted to be unchanged at R150 per member that includes an electronic copy of *The SA Philatelist* and *Stamps SA – Keeping in Touch*. Also included is access to the Members Only area on the PFSA website (<https://stampssa.africa>).
- Confirmation of Independent Accounting Officer: The

treasurer proposed to appoint E D Bantz of GZ & Co to continue as the independent reviewer of the Annual Financial. The proposal was adopted unanimously.

- Committee Reports: The following reports of committees were put forward and adopted by congress:
  - Secretariat
  - COO and Membership report, Mr André du Plessis RDPSA
  - Management Committee, Dr Neil Cronjé RDPSA



*Fig.4: Emil Minnaar RDPSA handing Neil Cronje RDPSA a long service award for serving as Chairman of the Management Committee.*



*Fig.5: Emil Bührmann delivering the Foundation Report*



*Fig.6: Howard Green delivering the Awards Committee Report.*

- Awards Committee Nominations for Federation Awards: Mr Howard Green (RDPSA)

### FEDERATION AWARDS

#### NOMINATION FOR SIGNING THE ROLL OF HONOUR

Dr Alan Rose, a member of the East Rand Philatelic Society was invited to sign the Roll of Honour. A citation was read by Howard Green RDPSA in recognition of the very significant philatelic achievements of Alan.

#### CITATION FOR ELECTION TO THE ROLL OF HONOUR OF DISTINGUISHED SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELISTS (RDPSA)

##### Dr Alan Rose

Dr Rose has been part of the East Rand philatelic scene for an extended period stretching several decades, being a long-term member of the East Rand Philatelic Society. He served on the Committee as Secretary from 2004 until the Society merged with the Boksburg-Germiston Philatelic Society in 2012. He remained actively involved in the Society, partaking in the organisation of the Benoni '94 National Exhibition and the East Rand 100 Exhibition of 2019 where he could be found hard at work in the bin room in addition to exhibiting several times. Dr Rose's forte has always been thematics, where he is well known for his exhibits and collection on bridges, chocolate, lace, brass instruments, and the House of Grimaldi, the reigning house of the Principality of Monaco.

Dr Rose also has an interest in postcards and was elected chairman of the Postcard Standing Committee in 2002. It was at Dursapex 2004 that Dr Rose was an apprentice judge and where he received accreditation as a full national judge in the discipline of picture postcards. His collection became the topic of a 25-minute slide show for the Audio-Visual Committee of the PFSA which was awarded a Vermeil at Stampex 2003. A one frame postcard exhibit was shown at the Tswane Single Frame Exhibition 2007, and again at the Spring Stampex 2010 in London where it was awarded a vermeil.

Dr Rose was given a major challenge in January 2004 when he was appointed as chairman of The SA Philatelist standing committee following the retirement of Jonas Michaelson. He took over editing the magazine from

- Exhibitions Committee, Mr André du Plessis RDPSA
- Expert Committee, Mr Michael Wigmore RDPSA
- FIP/FIAP Committee, Mr Emil Minnaar RDPSA
- Heritage Committee, Dr L Jacobson
- Promotions Standing Committee, Dr Louwrence Erasmus
- Judging and Ethics Committee, Dr Neil Cronjé RDPSA
- Publications, Mr André du Plessis RDPSA
- The SA Philatelist Editorial Board, Dr Louwrence Erasmus
- Regional Vice-Presidents
  - \* Region 1: Mr Gary Pienaar
  - \* Region 2: Mr Colin Bousfield
  - \* Region 3: Mr André du Plessis RDPSA
  - \* Region 4: Dr Leon Jacobsen
  - \* Region 5: Mr John Handman
  - \* Region 6: Mr Chuck Muller
  - \* Region 7: Mr Vernon Mitchell
  - \* Region 8: Mr Richard Stroud
- Awards Custodian Dr Ian Matheson RDPSA, FRPSL
- Philatelic Services, SAPO
- SAPDA Mr K Napier
- Philatelic Foundation of Southern Africa: President, Mr Emil Bührmann RDPSA.

the April 2004 issue following the sudden resignation of the then editor. It was under the steership of Dr Rose that the SAP underwent a major revamp including a change to full colour printing and a fresh professional layout. As part of the revision a readership survey was organised to determine the popularity of the various contents in the SAP.

As a result of the survey, the contents of the SAP, previously limited largely to traditional philately, were considerably broadened. The "new" SAP was received with much acclaim and accolades. The standing committee was then converted to the SAP Board, of which Dr Rose was chairman. This adoption of a high professional standard and increase in the variety of contents attracted an increase in the number of first-time subscribers.

It was in December 2007 that Dr Rose stepped down from the position of Chairman of the Board due to personal commitments. However, he remained a committed and dedicated member of the board, a position he still holds to date. At the 83rd Annual Congress of the PFSA, October 2021, Dr Rose was awarded the WE Lee Trophy for his contributions to the SAP Board.

For Dr Rose, the editing of the SAP has become a passion. The publication of an issue always assumes a priority. Amongst fellow board members, Dr Rose has gained the honour of being the go-to person regarding language editing of SAP articles under consideration for publication. Dr Rose has not only limited himself to editing articles but has also contributed many reports as well as some 30 articles. One of his articles relates his experiences as a part-time postman during his student years in the 1950s. In his various roles on the Board, Dr Rose has overseen the publication of 125 issues of the SAP. During his tenure on the Board, the SAP has gained no less than five international awards, beginning with a Silver at España '06 working up to a Large Vermeil at the Cape Town International 2022.

In addition to his efforts on the SAP Board, Dr Rose was also elected as Regional Vice-President for North and Eastern Transvaal at the 1995 Annual Congress of the PFSA. This was later amended to Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Limpopo Region in 2003. Dr Rose also served as an additional member of the now defunct New Issues Liaison Sub-Committee, which submitted proposals for stamp themes and designs to Philatelic Services.

In his spare time Dr Rose also edits the Eastlands Mature Lifestyle Estate newsletter.

With this exceptional contribution to the promotion of philately in South Africa, it is recommended that Dr Rose be invited to sign the Roll of Honour for Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa.

This citation and recommendation are submitted by the East Rand Philatelic Society and André du Plessis RDPSA.

Following the election procedure, it was announced that Dr Alan Rose was invited to sign the Roll of Honour, but

since he could not attend the Palmares, later arrangement has been made for him to sign the Roll. The report of the signing of the Roll will appear in the December issue of The SA Philatelist.

## **NOMINATION FOR SIGNING THE ROLL OF HONOUR**

Dr Danna Strydom, a member of the Witwatersrand Philatelic Society was invited to sign the Roll of Honour. A citation was read by Howard Green RDPSA in recognition of the philatelic achievements of Danna.

## **CITATION FOR ELECTION TO THE ROLL OF HONOUR OF DISTINGUISHED SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELISTS (RDPSA)**

### **Dr Danna Booyens Strydom**

Danna started his collecting interest in primary school. From there it grew through successive refinements, focussing his collecting interests in South Africa. While still at school in the 1970's, he joined the South African Stamp Study Circle that met in the Moth Hall at Parkhurst on Saturday afternoons. The 1954 Animal series became his area of specialisation under the mentorship of the late Coen Slagt.

At university he developed an interest in postal history and started collecting the handstruck stamps of the Cape of Good Hope under mentorship of Bob Goldblatt and Kobus Esterhuysen. In 1983 at Dursa83 he exhibited a near complete collection of pre-stamp postal history of the Cape of Good Hope and was awarded a silver with felicitations. The collection was expanded to include instructional marking of the Cape and interesting rate usage. Several instructional marking illustrations in Bob Goldblatt's book originated from Danna's collection.

He exhibited several more times at National Exhibitions earning Vermeil with felicitations as well as the best Postal History exhibit and best Pre-Union exhibit on occasions. He was an active member of the Postmark & Postal History Society and served as secretary for several years. He produced a guide to identify the forged hand-struck marks of the Cape. Due to changing family and career responsibilities, he sold the Cape collection in 1995 and while not actively collecting, maintained an interest in philately, visiting exhibitions in Johannesburg.

After retiring from his full-time corporate career, he started collecting again in 2015, specialising in traditional Transvaal. As a long-time member of the Country Club Johannesburg, he joined the Witwatersrand Philatelic Society on 30th April 2018 and subsequently also joined the Transvaal Study Circle and the Royal Philatelic Society in London.

In 2018 he exhibited his Union Animal Series at the Pretoria National Exhibition and thereafter at Benoni and Bloemfontein, gaining Large Vermeil Awards as well as the Potch'78 Trophy. In 2022 the Animal Series exhibit was awarded an International Large Vermeil at the Indonesia World Stamp Championship. Danna's first

Transvaal competitive exhibit was a One-Frame of the V.R.I. Overprints at the East Rand 100 at Benoni in 2019 where it won the Vrijstaat Trophy for the best One-Frame exhibit. It also won a special prize at the 2022 Cape Town International. His Second Zuid-Afrikaansche Republic traditional exhibit gained a gold at Bloemfontein National in 2021 as well as the Stampcor Award for the best pre-union exhibit and the Tony Chilton Transvaal award. At the 2022 Cape Town International it gained a large Vermeil. Expanded to 8-frames it gained a gold at EuroPhilEx 2025 international in Birmingham.

Danna served on the committee of the Witwatersrand Philatelic Society in 2022 and 2023. He has been secretary of the Transvaal Stamp Study Circle for several years and also treasurer. At the 2022 84th Congress in Cape Town he was elected as President of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa for the year 2023, chairing the organising committee for the 2023 national. He is a qualified national judge.

He contributed numerous articles to the Transvaal Philatelist and one to the SA Philatelist and is a regular exhibitor at WPS meetings. In 2025 he participated in the RPSL's one-frame Devonshire Bowl exhibition.

As President of the Witwatersrand Philatelic Society, I recommend that based on the amended 2025 citation, it is recommended that Danna Strydom be invited to sign the Roll of Honour for Distinguished Philatelists.

Submitted by the President of the Witwatersrand Philatelic Society, HA Schaffler RDPSA

Following the election procedure, it was announced that Dr Danna Strydom was invited to sign the Roll of Honour, but since he could not attend the Palmars, later arrangement has been made for him to sign the Roll. The report of the signing of the Roll will appear in the December issue of The SA Philatelist.

#### **NOMINATION FOR THE SKINNER CUP - 2025**

Vernon J Mitchell a member of Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society was awarded the Skinner Cup by Congress. A citation was read by Howard Green RDPSA in recognition of the philatelic achievements of Vernon.

#### **CITATION FOR THE SKINNER CUP**

Vernon joined the Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society in 1987 as a local member, having been a country member for several years prior to that. With his popular personae he was elected to president of the Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society and served in that position from 2010 to 2013.

With the society's hosting of the hugely successful Centapex National Philatelic Exhibition of 2012 held in Port Elizabeth, Vernon proved to be a great organiser. He was congratulated on numerous occasions as to the success of that exhibition and was justifiably proud of that achievement. During this period Vernon also served as the president of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa in 2012.

All the above culminated in 2015 when Vernon was made an Honorary Life Member of the Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society for services rendered to the society. In addition, Vernon has also been Vice President of Federation for Region 7, Eastern Cape since 2015; making him historically one of the longest serving in such a position. This position requires travelling to East London, George and Mossel Bay that despite of the distances involved, he does with great enthusiasm based on his feedback to his local society.

Vernon is knowledgeable in all matters philatelic and willingly shares this knowledge at society meetings. With his wide range of philatelic interests that include, inter alia, Cinderella's and postcards, he frequently exhibits at society, national and international level with numerous associated awards received. In fact, Vernon was one of the first to exhibit Cinderella's at a national exhibition and is at present one of the foremost collectors of such in the country. Vernon also represented South Africa Philately overseas on a couple of occasions acting as commissioner for the country at international stamp exhibitions.

Vernon's impact on philately in the Eastern Cape and within South Africa in general is similar to his build, large. It is thus with a sense of gratitude that he is a member of the Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society and with great Eastern Cape pride that the society recommends Vernon Mitchell to receive the Skinner Cup.

Vernon is a great ambassador for philately.

Nominated by JFC Friend, President: Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society, on behalf of PEPS committee

**Manfred Weinstein Medallion (Literature award):**  
No nomination.

**W E Lea Cup:** Dr Louwrence Erasmus, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria: Significant commitment to South African philately through his roles as exhibitor, judge, author, and organiser. His extensive and sustained contributions across exhibition, adjudication, publishing, leadership, and innovation highlight his impact on the field.

**Jack Hagger Award:** Richard Stroud RDPSA, for the best article on the philately of Southern Africa published in *The SA Philatelist* in the past two years: Lumsden's Horse, pp. 149-153, Dec 2024.

#### **Federation Plaque:**

- Aubrey Bowles, Maritzburg Philatelic Society: Promotion and outstanding service of philately in the Pietermaritzburg and KZN region over many years.

- Petra Heath, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria: Over an extended period, consistent and invaluable contributions to philately in Gauteng. Notably, her dedication extends to her service and participation to The Pretoria Chapter of Thematics SA, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria, TBVC Study Circle, South African Study Circle and regional and national exhibitions held in Pretoria.

- Helena Snyman, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria: Constant contributing to philately in Gauteng through Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging, Thematics SA - Pretoria chapter, and active in TBVC and SA Study Circles. Support to regional and national stamp exhibitions held in Pretoria.
- Election of Honorary Office Bearers
  - President, Dr Louwrence Erasmus (AFP)
  - Deputy President, Vacant
  - Management Committee Chairman, Mr John Handman (MPS)
- Ratification of Honorary Office Bearers
  - The Treasurer
  - Region Vice-Presidents
    - \* Region 1, Gauteng and NW Province: Gary Pienaar (PS of J), second year
    - \* Region 2, Eastern Gauteng: Colin Bousfield (EPS), tenth year
    - \* Region 3, Pretoria, Mpumalanga, Limpopo: André du Plessis RDPSA (PPS), ninth year
    - \* Region 4, Free State, Northern Cape: Dr Leon Jacobson (OILFILAT), ninth year
    - \* Region 5, KwaZulu-Natal: John Handman (MPS), fourth year
    - \* Region 6, Western Cape: Chuck Muller (BPS), second year
    - \* Region 7, Eastern: Cape Vernon Mitchell (PEPS), eleventh year
  - \* Region 8, Outside Areas: Richard Stroud (OFSSC, UK), ninth year
- Ratification of Management Committee Members
  - \* Honorary Chairman, Mr John Handman
  - \* COO, André du Plessis RDPSA
  - \* Honorary Exhibitions Committee Mr André du Plessis RDPSA
  - \* Honorary Expert Committee Mr Michael Wigmore RDPSA
  - \* Honorary FIP/FIAP Committee Mr Emil Minnaar RDPSA
  - \* Honorary Heritage Committee Dr L Jacobson
  - \* Honorary Promotions Committee Dr Louwrence Erasmus
  - \* Honorary Judging and Ethics Committee Dr Neil Cronjé RDPSA
  - \* Honorary Publications Mr André du Plessis RDPSA
  - \* The SA Philatelist Honorary Editorial Board Dr Louwrence Erasmus
- Exhibition reports
  - MARPEX 100, Pietermaritzburg, National 2024: Mr John Handman (MPS)
  - Gauteng Regional Exhibition: Dr Louwrence Erasmus (AFP)
  - SAVPEX 2025: Mr Emil Minnaar (ERPS)
- Congresses / Exhibitions
  - 2026 Congress and National: Johannesburg, André du Plessis RDPSA



*Fig.7: Back row L to R: Hugh Amooe RDPSA FRPSL, RPST; Nicolene Barnard, OFSPS; Mike Jacobs OFSPS; Louwrence Erasmus, Elected PPSA President 2026; Ronel Erasmus, AFP; Willie Molentze, GPS; Gary Pienaar, PS of J;*  
*Second row: Dries Strydom, SBPA; Michiel Moll, PF; Marilyn Crawford, PSSC; Chuck Muller, Reg. Vice President Western Cape; Leon Jacobson, Reg. Vice President OFS; David de Klerk, PF; Steve Marsh, PPS; Pat Flanagan RDPSA FRPSL, RSC;*  
*Front row: John Handman, Newly elected Chairman Management Committee; Ian Matheson RDPSA FRPSL, WPS; Howard Green, Hon. Life Vice President; Gawie Hugo, Outgoing President 2025; Emil Minnaar, Hon. Life Vice President; Werner Barnard, BPS; Neil Cronje RDPSA, Outgoing Chairman Management Committee; Tony Koch, MPS; Andre du Plessis, COO; Sitting in front: Victor Millard, RPST*

# The 2025 Palmares in Paarl

## THE PALMARES

### The Venue

The Palmares evening, recognising award recipients for their accomplishments, occurred on Friday, 5 September 2021, on the stoep at the Paarl Golf Club.

The event, attended by approximately 36 individuals, saw attendees mingling before 19:00, renewing old acquaintances at this black-tie affair.



Fig.1: Joof van der Merwe RDPSA, Fig.2: Victor Millard en Nicolene Tim Bartshe and André du Plessis RDPSA. Barnard

The Palmares started with a seated dinner and a presentation of awards acknowledging contributions to philately and performances of exhibitors in the National Stamp Show, Fig.3. Following the awards presentation, guests enjoyed informal conversation and light refreshments before departing. The venue's stoep provided a relaxed and convivial atmosphere for the occasion.



Fig.3: Palmares attendees.

### The Activities

The Master of Ceremonies, Dr Ian Matheson RDPSA FRPSL, maintained the momentum of the evening not with standing all the activity in the background, Fig.4.

The chairman of the jury, Mr Hugh Amoore RDPSA FRPSL, gave a short report back on the activities of the Jury, Fig.5.

Mr Howard Green RDPSA gave a short overview of the main awards that were handed out at Congress.

Dr Neil Cronjé RDPSA officially handed over the Chairmanship of the Management Committee to the newly elected chairman, Mr John Handman, Figs.6 and 7.

The chain of office of the President of Federation is moving to the Capital City. The handing over of the chain to Dr Louwrence Erasmus was done by Mr Gawie Hugo, Fig.8.



Fig.4: Dr Ian Matheson RDPSA FRPSL, Master of Ceremonies.



Fig.5: Hugh Amoore RDPSA FRPSL deliver the Jury 2025 Report.



Fig.6: Dr Neil Cronjé RDPSA (right) handing over the chairmanship to Mr John Handman (left).



Fig.7: Dr Neil Cronjé RDPSA pinning the Chairman's brooch on Mr John Handman



Fig.8: Gawie Hugo, outgoing President handing the President's Chain over to the elected 2026 President, Dr Louwrence Erasmus.

The exhibition and congress awards were handed out by Mr Gawie Hugo, PFSA President, Figs.9 – 19.



Fig.9: Pat Flanagan receiving the Grand Prix trophy for the best exhibit on show.



Fig.10: Pat Flanagan receiving the SA Post Office Shield for the best South African exhibit.



Fig.15: Brian Franklin receiving the Royal Medallion.



Fig.16: Martin Crawford receiving ILSAPEX award.



Fig.11: Neil Cronjé RDPSA receiving the AFV Toekening.



Fig.12: André du Plessis RDPSA receiving the SAPRG Archie Atkinson Trophy.



Fig.17: Ali Abdulrahman Ahmad Ali receiving the Robert Goldblatt Thematic Cup.



Fig.18: Javid Muhammad receiving on the behalf of Adil Alkhoori The Picture Postcard Thematic Cup.



Fig.13: Joof van der Merwe RDPSA receiving the Potch 78 Award.



Fig.14: Ronel Erasmus receiving the CED Enoch trophy for Philatelic Research.



Fig.19: Gawie Hugo handing the W E Lea cup to Louwrence Erasmus.

Following the awards presentation, guests enjoyed informal conversation, Figs.20 – 33 . Conversation flowed freely between attendees, many of whom had travelled from across the country and from overseas to participate in the National Stamp Show. The relaxed atmosphere, coupled with the convivial setting of the stoep, contributed to a pleasant and memorable conclusion to the Palmares evening.



Fig.20: Diederik Viljoen and Lars Jørgenson RDPSA.



Fig.21: Emil Bührmann RDPSA and Leon Jacobson.



Fig.22: André du Plessis RDPSA, Ian Matheson RDPSA FRPSL and Gawie Hugo.



Fig.23: Ian Shapiro and John Handman.



Fig.24: Pat Flanagan RDPSA FRPSL and Howard Green RDPSA.



Fig.25: Gary Pienaar and Martin Crawford.



Fig.26: Karen Hugo, Marilisé and Riaan Crafford.



Fig.27: Michiel en Beverley Moll.



Fig.28: Michael and Anne-Marie Wigmore.



Fig.29: Javid Muhammad, Emil Minnaar RDPSA and Ali Abdulrahman Ahmad Ali.



Fig.30: Tersia and Willem Botha.



Fig.31: Doretha and Mike Jacobs.



Fig.32: Neil Cronjé RDPSA.



Fig.33: Tim and Candice Bartshe.



Fig.34: Distinguished Philatelist of South Africa. Seated: Pat Flanagan, Howard Green, Emil Minnaar, Michael Wigmore, Standing: Neil Cronjé, André du Plessis, Ian Matheson, Lars Jørgenson, Emil Bührmann, Hugh Amoore, Joof van der Merwe.

The event concluded with the taking of a group photo of the RDPSAs present Fig. 34.

The photos in this article immortalised the attendees gathered beneath the stoep of Paarl Golf Club. It served as a final memento of the Palmares evening and the collective celebration of national philatelic achievement.

### Improve Your Collection with Kenny Napier

Passionate about stamps? Kenny Napier is your go-to source, offering three stamp auctions monthly in Gauteng alongside a meticulously curated selection of stamps for direct purchase. Whether you're hunting for rare classics or completing a series, our diverse inventory caters to all collectors. Experience the thrill of finding your next treasure at auction or conveniently browse our direct sales stock. For auction dates, catalogs, or direct sales inquiries, contact Kenny Napier at [083 444 0249](tel:0834440249) or [kenny.napier@mweb.co.za](mailto:kenny.napier@mweb.co.za).



# PHILAKOREA 2025 World Stamp Exhibition

by Gary Pienaar, Commissioner South Africa



Hosted by The Philatelic Federation of Korea and the Korea Postal Service Agency, Philakorea took place at the Magok COEX Exhibition complex in Seoul, South Korea from the from 17 to 21 September 2025. The show also enjoyed the patronage of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) and the Federation of Inter-Asian Philately (FIAP), with active local support from the Seoul Metropolitan Government and Korean Ministry of Education.



Fig.1: Exhibition brochure available to the public.

Korea has a rich history of organising world philatelic events. The first Philakorea was held in October 1984, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Korea's modern postal system. A further exhibition was organized in August 1994, to coincide with the 21st Universal Postal Union Congress taking place in Seoul. In 2002 Korea co-hosted the FIFA World Cup (with Japan) and the Asian Games, using this opportunity to arrange another Philakorea 2002 as a cultural complement to these major sporting events. The fourth Philakorea World Stamp Exhibition

took place in August 2014, marking 130 years of Korean postage stamps. Which brings us to the current iteration, originally planned for 2024, but then postponed to 2025.

On the opening day, the significance and local pride in this philatelic event were clearly evident. There was a constant stream of visitors, and a queue that stretched around the exhibition hall of people waiting in line for the opportunity to buy commemorative stamps at the Korea Post stand. Equally busy was the adjacent stand where the commemorative cancel could be obtained. The only time there was not a queue was when the available stocks of stamps had been exhausted. This was repeated over the following days, highlighting the overall interest in philately and stamp collecting in Korea, and Asian countries in general.

There were also several interactive computer / artificial intelligence (AI) generated exhibits, designed to engage the

public, and youth in particular, in the colourful world of stamps. For children there was also a design your own stamp competition, which was well supported. I noticed several adults participating too! Look out for a number of video clips posted on YouTube, which will give readers an idea of the activities provided.



Fig.2: First day cover for the event.

A highlight of the show was the 'Gems of Philately' booth, showcasing the British Guiana 1856 1c Magenta, as well as five full sheets of Korea's first postage stamp set from 1884.



Fig.3: Faceswop AI technology – issued stamp on left and with my face superimposed on right.

Six FIP Commissioner's Qualifying and General Seminars were held on Saturday, covering Traditional Philately, Aerophilately, Postal History, Maximaphily, Postal Stationery and Revenues. As these were run concurrently, you could only attend three sessions, and I opted for the first three. The presentations were interesting and of a high standard, with copies of the presenters' slides due to be published on the FIP website shortly.

There were also several receptions to promote the international philatelic events calendar, including the Dubai 2026 Stamp Exhibition in February next year, the Macao 2026 Specialized Stamp Exhibition in June, and the Phila Taipei 2026 World Stamp Championship Exhibition in November 2026.

Exhibitor	Title	Class	Result
Boezak, Russel	1910 South Africa Union #1	Traditional	82 – Vermeil
Cronje, Neil	Basutoland Postal Stationary	Postal Stationary	87 – Large Vermeil
Pienaar, Gary	Scouting through Old Picture Postcards	Picture Postcards	76 – Large Silver
Findlay, Jim	The South African Airforce in Korea 1950 - 1953	One Frame – Postal History	87
van der Merwe, Joof	The Plating of the 1/2d Springbok JIPEX Pane Issues 1936	One Frame - Traditional	80

*Table 1: Results of the South African Exhibitors.*

The Jury had a total of 439 exhibits over more than 2000 frames to evaluate and commented on the high standard of the exhibits on display. 86 Large Gold and 32 Gold medals were awarded, almost 27% of the exhibits shown. No exhibits were transferred to a different class, and unfortunately 5 exhibits did not arrive and could not be judged. The results achieved by the South African exhibitors are shown in Table 1.



*Fig.4: Russell Boesak (Exhibitor), Ji-Ho Moon (Korean Philatelist and Exhibition Volunteer) and Gary Pienaar (Commissioner South Africa) enjoying the Palmares evening.*

An enjoyable Palmares evening brought the formalities to a close, where all the Large Gold and Gold medal recipients were celebrated.

In the World Stamp Championship Class, 14 exhibits across 112 frames were considered. The ‘Development of Early Post Offices in Siam 1880 – 1909’ exhibit of Karnasuta Charnchai (Thailand) was selected as the winner. Alfred Schmidt’s ‘Prussia: The First Three Issues 1850 – 1859’ and Knut Heister’s ‘Venezuela: ESCUELAS 1871 – 1878’ were the runners up. The International Grand Prix was won by Sai Touru (Japan), for his exhibit ‘Postal Cards of Japan 1873-1874’.

To close off the evening, the FIP flag was presented to Dubai, as the hosts of the next world exhibition.

Finally, I would like to thank our Korean hosts for an outstanding exhibition, to the Philatelic Federation of South Africa for the opportunity to represent South Africa at this event, and to our local exhibitors for keeping South African philately on the global stage.

## The Real Value of Inherited Stamp Collections

Many people overestimate the value of their inherited stamp collections. Here’s the reality:

### Some truths

Catalogues are guides, not cash guarantees. Dealers typically sell for a fraction of catalogue price – and they buy at even lower levels.

Dealers must make a profit and tie up capital. Time really is money in this business.

Top-ticket items can fetch decent prices, but the majority of stamps are common and low value.

### Market matters:

Oversupply depresses prices. When markets are flooded (think South African homelands issues), values drop.

Scarcity without demand means little real value. For example, stamps from countries with very few collectors (like Tibet) rarely fetch high prices.

Job lots invite low offers. Buyers must take the good with the bad, so they bid accordingly.

Selling yourself takes work. Auctions or online sales require time, effort and know-how. [-9pt]

**Bottom line:** 99.99% of collections consist mainly of common, low-value stamps. Unless your relative spent serious money building the collection, it’s probably not worth much.



## Summary from *The S.A. Philatelist* Editorial Board Report to Congress for the Period August 2024 – August 2025

by Louwrence Erasmus, Interim Honorary Chairman of *The SA Philatelist* Editorial Board

The Editorial Board of *The SA Philatelist* diligently fulfilled its mandate to promote philately in South Africa by publishing six issues the past year. The Board maintained high quality standards and engaged with members of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa (PFSA) through informative content and news. Despite financial challenges and board changes, the publication retained its international standard and successfully implemented new production efficiencies.

*The SA Philatelist* remains the flagship publication of the PFSA, with its format and schedule determined by Congress and the PFSA Management Committee. The Editorial Board, appointed by the Management Committee, is responsible for production, quality, and content.

Major transitions occurred during the reporting period:

### Departures:

- Janice Botes (Production & Layout, 2004–2024) retired after 125 issues.
- Adél Bulpitt (Chair) stepped down February 2025.
- Peter van der Molen RDPSA, FRPSL stepped down March 2025, now an Editorial Consultant.

### Appointments:

- Dr Louwrence Erasmus took the reins of Production & Layout since January 2025 and elected Interim Honorary Chairman since Feb 2025.
- André du Plessis RDPSA joined Production & Layout January 2025.
- Gary Pienaar joined The Editorial Board in March 2025.
- Dr Ian Matheson RDPSA FRPSL joined The Editorial Board in July 2025.

### Current Editorial Board (August 2025):

- Dr Louwrence Erasmus (Interim Hon. Chairman)
- Dr Ian Matheson RDPSA FRPSL
- Robin Messenger
- Gary Pienaar
- Dr Alan Rose
- David Wigston

Dr Alan Rose has announced his intention to retire at the end of 2025, after more than two decades of dedicated service.

### Editorial Consultants:

- Prof. Alex Visser RDPSA
- Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA
- Peter van der Molen RDPSA FRPSL
- Michael Wigmore RDPSA

### Production & Layout Team:

- Dr Louwrence Erasmus
- André du Plessis RDPSA

Six issues are planned annually, with four published and two more scheduled for 2025.

In late 2024, page counts were reduced due to budgetary constraints. However, they were restored to 31-34 pages in 2025. February 2025 also featured a 24-page Occasional Paper.

The adoption of a cloud-based open-source typesetting system enhanced efficiency, visual design, and fast incorporation of reader feedback.


*The SA Philatelist* continues to heavily rely on recurring contributors. The PFSA Promotions Standing Committee has contributed content with articles on exhibitions, promotions, and membership drives. Ongoing efforts encourage wider contributions to diversify the content.

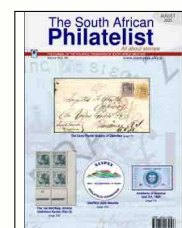
The journal is funded through affiliation fees and advertising revenue. Expenditure is limited to honorariums, refreshments, and work lunches.

Key Challenges are:

- Financial constraints
- Dependence on a limited contributor base
- Recurring board transitions

*The SA Philatelist's* outlook is positive. the journal has a robust production system that ensures a good quality standard. The Editorial Board is actively engaged in attracting contributors and readers to ensure the continued vitality of South African philately.

The full report can be request by sending an email to [sap@stampssa.africa](mailto:sap@stampssa.africa). 



## Visit a Stamp Fair Near You



### Cape Stamp Fair and Auction

Usually **first** Saturday, every month.  
**Bellville Valley DRC Hall,**  
c/o Postma & St Andrews Streets, Bellville  
**Open:** 09:00 – 12:30  
**Contact:**  
Ken Joseph: 072 5971287,  
[ken@philatelicfriends.com](mailto:ken@philatelicfriends.com)  
Robert Harm: 082 925-7103,  
[robertharm9@gmail.com](mailto:robertharm9@gmail.com)

### George (Online Philatelic Auctions Only)

Ray's Stamps  
**Contact:**  
Ray Upson: 044 871 2286,  
[scpa@xsinet.co.za](mailto:scpa@xsinet.co.za),  
Fax2Email: 086 733 8444

### Pretoria Stamp Fair and Auction Gauteng

**First** Saturday, every month.  
**Greek Orthodox Church,**  
Corner Lynnwood Road & Roper St, Brooklyn  
**Open:** 08:00 with Auction at 10:30  
**Contact:**  
Kenny Napier: 083 444 0249,  
[kenny.napier@mweb.co.za](mailto:kenny.napier@mweb.co.za)

### Johannesburg Stamp Fair and Auction Gauteng (Old Kyalami Stamp Fair)

**Second** Saturday every month.  
**German Club,** 131 Holkam Road, Paulshof, Sandton.  
**Open:** 08:00 with Auction at 10:00  
**Contact:**  
Kenny Napier: 083 444 0249,  
[kenny.napier@mweb.co.za](mailto:kenny.napier@mweb.co.za)

### East Rand Stamp Fair and Auction Gauteng

**Last** Saturday, every month.  
**Edenvale Bowling Club,**  
6th Avenue, Edenvale  
**Open:** 08:00 with Auction at 10:00  
**Contact:**  
Kenny Napier: 083 444 0249,  
[kenny.napier@mweb.co.za](mailto:kenny.napier@mweb.co.za)

### Natal Stamp Fair and Auction (Durban)

**Second** and **last** Saturday, every month.  
**Classic Motor-cycle Club,**  
137 Tara Road, Bluff, Durban  
**Open:** From 09:00  
**Contact:**  
Zbigniew Kawecki: 082 968 6888,  
[z.kawecki57@gmail.com](mailto:z.kawecki57@gmail.com)

### KZN: Sunbird Stamp Auction

**First** Saturday, every month.  
**St Elizabeth's Anglican Church Hall,**  
45 Salisbury Avenue, Westville, Durban  
**Open:** 09:00 – 13:00  
**Contact:**  
Kim Breytenbach: 082 871 6292,  
[sunbird.stampauction@gmail.com](mailto:sunbird.stampauction@gmail.com)



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# The South African Philatelist

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THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1923

Volume 101:6. 993

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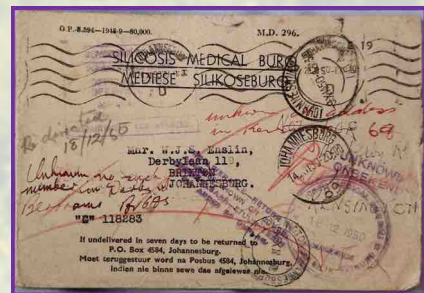
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**ARTICLES should be submitted in the month prior:**

For the Volume 102:1 994 - The **FEBRUARY 2026** issue submit by **15 January 2026**

Send your contribution to [sap@stampssa.africa](mailto:sap@stampssa.africa)



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# FEDERATION NEWS

André du Plessis RDPSA, Chief Operating Officer of the PFSA, [083 399 1755](tel:0833991755)  
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Apart from Federation News, this column will in future issues also concentrate of the Fundamentals of the *Philatelic Federation of South Africa* (PFSA). The PFSA was formed in 1928 to promote stamp collecting, create uniform standards for exhibiting and judging in South Africa, and represent the interests of collectors on all philatelic matters. It would also publish *The South African Philatelist*.

The PFSA operates under the authority of its annual congress, which serves as the Federation's supreme decision-making body. During each Congress, members elect a Management Committee (MC). The MC is responsible for overseeing the management and administration of the Federation between congresses and is also empowered to establish sub-committees and appoint portfolio managers as necessary.

This outline of the MC activities begins with an introduction of *The SA Philatelist* Editorial Board (EB).

The MC appoints the EB and approves its annual budget. The EB promotes philately in South Africa by producing a high-quality journal. Its mission is to share philatelic knowledge and news with PFSA members, aligning with the PFSA's goal of promoting philately and its members' interests. The PFSA's publication of *The SA Philatelist* is a key objective, with its format decided by Congress and publication intervals by the MC.

Current EB:

- Hon. Chair: Dr Louwrence Erasmus
- Dr Ian Matheson RDPSA (joined July 2025)
- Gary Pienaar (joined March 2025)

• Dr Alan Rose RDPSA

• David Wigston

EB Consultants:

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• Peter van der Molen RDPSA, FRPSL

• Michael Wigmore RDPSA

Production & Layout:

• Dr Louwrence Erasmus

• André du Plessis RDPSA

Robin Messenger, a valued member of our team, sadly passed away in September 2025. His commitment and editorial expertise made a significant impact, and his contributions will be greatly missed.

Dr Alan Rose RDPSA has announced his intention to step down at the end of 2025, following 21 years of service to *The SA Philatelist*. Throughout this period, he was the cornerstone of the Editorial Board, demonstrating outstanding facilitation skills, exceptional writing and editorial abilities, and serving as an invaluable source of knowledge.



Fig.1: Dr Alan Rose RDPSA, Dr Ian Matheson RDPSA FRPSL, David Wigston, Gary Pienaar, Dr Louwrence Erasmus.. 

## EDITORIAL POLICY

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The PFSA encourages participation in both this journal, *The SA Philatelist*, as well as the electronic newsletter, '*Keeping in Touch*'. By interacting with these publications, regular and new readers continue to support stamp collecting in South Africa. For more details contact the Chief Operating Officer of the PFSA, André du Plessis RDPSA, [+27 \(0\)83 399 1755](tel:+270833991755), or on email at [pfsastamps@gmail.com](mailto:pfsastamps@gmail.com), or visit the website at <https://www.stampssa.africa>.

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**PLEASE NOTE:** The PFSA affiliation fee offers, *inter-alia*, six copies of the electronic journal and electronic newsletters annually.

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## Exhibition Calendar

EXHIBITION	DATE	LEVEL	COMMISSIONER / CONTACT	LINK
Dubai 2026 Specialised World Stamp Exhibition	4 - 8 Feb 2026	FIP Patron. FIAP Ausp.	<a href="#">Anton Putter</a>	<a href="#">Dubai 2026</a>
World's Best Stamp	Feb to Apr 2026	PFSA	TBA	<a href="#">PFSA</a>
2nd International Virtual Aero- & Astrophilatelic Exh.	14 - 22 Feb 2026	FISA Patron.	Virtual	<a href="#">AMSIPEX-26</a>
Virtual STAMPEX Philatelic Trade Show	6 - 8 Mar 2026	PTS Ausp.	N/A	<a href="#">STAMPEX 2026</a>
NORDIA 2026	8 - 10 May 2026	FEPA Recog.	N/A	<a href="#">Nordia 20256</a>
BOSTON 2026 General World Exhibition	23 - 30 May 2026	FIP Patron. FIAF Ausp. FEAP Recog.	N/A	<a href="#">Boston 2026</a>
SAVPEX 2025	June 2026	PFSA	<a href="#">Emil Minnaar RDPSA</a>	<a href="#">PFSA</a>
MACAO 2026 Specialised World Stamp Exhibition	26 Jun - 1 Jul 2026	FIP Patron. FIAP Ausp.	<a href="#">Emil Minnaar RDPSA</a>	<a href="#">MACAO 2026</a>
PhilLat26	26 - 29 Jun 2026	FEPA Recog.	N/A	<a href="#">PhilLat26</a>
Bilateral Stamp Exhibition Germany-Sweden	17 - 19 Jul 2026	FEPA Recog.	N/A	<a href="#">BEPHILA 2026</a>
BANDUNG 2026	27 - 31 Aug 2026	FIAP Patron.	N/A	<a href="#">BANDUNG 2026</a>
Gauteng Regional Exhibit.	24 - 26 Sep 2026	PFSA Ausp. AFP Orga.	<a href="#">Ronel Erasmus</a>	TBA
SRBIJAFILA XVI National Stamp Exhibition	7 - 11 Oct 2026	FEPA Recog.	N/A	<a href="#">SRBIJAFILA XVI</a>
NATIONAL STAMP SHOW 2026	14 - 16 Oct 2026	PFSA Orga.	<a href="#">Louvrence Erasmus</a>	<a href="#">PFSA</a>
STAMPEX at the BDC Trade Show	28 - 31 Oct 2026	PTS Ausp.	N/A	<a href="#">STAMPEX 2026</a>
SASOL 26 Regional Exhibit.	Oct 2026	PFSA Ausp. OILFILAT Orga.	<a href="#">Leon Jacobson</a>	<a href="#">SASOL 26</a>
PHILATAIPEI Specialised World Stamp Exhibition	19 - 24 Nov 2026	FIP Patron. FIAP Ausp.	<a href="#">Josua (Joof) van der Merwe</a>	<a href="#">PHILATAIPEI 2026</a>

PFSA Management Committee would like to thank you all for your ongoing support and dedication to both the Federation and the broader world of philately. Wishing you a joyful Festive Season and a prosperous 2026, filled with cherished moments with your loved ones. May peace, love, and prosperity be with you throughout the year.



# Looking Back a Century: Highlights from *The SA Philatelist* - November and December 1925

by Louwrence Erasmus, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria

In this series, we are exploring the fascinating world of Southern African philately, with summaries from *The SA Philatelist* published a century ago. It might just spark a hidden love for philatelic research!

of philatelic listeners.

The Editor continued to solicit the earliest information on new issues, offering to pay for or return specimens. The focus on new varieties spanned several southern African and Commonwealth territories.

A significant discovery in the Union of South Africa involved the 1d stamp, perf. by imperf. A young Johannesburg collector found a strip of ten with inverted watermarks in an office roll. It was estimated that at least 48 such strips might have been issued.

Other noted varieties include:

- **Colour Shades:** Mr A. F. Lichtenstein submitted envelopes bearing the ½d stamp, showing variations between an extremely light shade and a very dark shade.
- **Air Mail Variety:** Mr Lichtenstein notes the 'solid face to airman' variety was 'practically the rule' for the 6d air mail value and 'very frequent' in the 9d value.
- **Roll Stamps:** Mr C. L. Larsen reported from East Rand that rolls of the 1½d denomination (perf. by imperf.) were being broken up and sold singly at several small post offices.
- **Postage Due Flaw:** Mr J. Ritchie confirmed that the defective 'A' of 'POSTAGE DUE' comes from the right pane, row G, no. 1, suggesting the 1d due stamp was printed in Printing D.
- **Forthcoming Pictorial Set:** Citing *Stamp Collecting* (24 October 1925), the column reported that the new Union pictorial set would include at least one triangular stamp. The Editor noted this as an 'extraordinary proceeding' for a British Dominion and suggested the shape might denote a special postal service like registration.

Territories and external issues:

- **Bechuanaland Protectorate:** The 1d value was being issued with the new Waterlow watermark (Control A 24).
- **Mauritius:** Correspondent Mr J. P. Tomkins reported that new issues were en route as of 8 October 1925, following a postal rate reduction on 1 October 1925. The new values were 3 cents (myrtle green), 15 cents (blue), 10 cents (scarlet), and 20 cents (lilac). The 3 cents and 15 cents were re-issues, with the 3 cents having a script watermark, while the 10 cents and 20 cents were new colours.
- **Moçambique:** Thanks were extended to Mr G. R. de Lange for sending complete sets of the Marquis de Pombal stamps, used briefly from 11 to 13 October 1925. The original plan to sell these at double face value was



The November 1925 issue of *The South African Philatelist* [1] reported that the philatelic landscape at the time was marked by discoveries of significant varieties, detailed cataloguing updates and robust activity within regional societies (Fig.1). The Editor's column and society reports highlighted both the technical focus on new issues across the Commonwealth and the vibrant social engagement

of collectors.

The editorial column, 'Topics of the Month', addressed key areas of reader interest, including seasonal gift-giving, visitor interaction, and the public dissemination of philatelic knowledge.

As the 1925 festive season approached, readers were encouraged to seek suitable Christmas gifts for collectors of all ages. The column explicitly recommended perusing the advertisements within *The South African Philatelist*, asserting that goods from firms advertising in the journal represented the best choices.

The Editor reported meeting two notable philatelists in Johannesburg (the 'Golden City'). The first was Mr. Percy C. Bishop, an 'old friend' and representative of the 'Natal Advertiser', who was visiting during the Parliamentary tour of the gold mines. The second visitor was Mr. A. J. Storey from Blantyre, Nyasaland, a collector of 'medium and rare items' who was seeking missing pieces for his collection.

The column also detailed the Seventh Broadcast Talk on philately, scheduled for 5 November 1925. Mr. Thos. Wood, President of the East Rand Philatelic Society, was due to deliver the talk in Johannesburg but was prevented by a throat infection. Consequently, the Editor read Mr. Wood's prepared paper, which was well-received by a large number

Fig.1: The SAP of November 1925.

seemingly abandoned, a victory for philatelists. The MacMahon Award Jubilee set had not yet been issued, with the reasons cited as either non-delivery by printers or a high-level ban due to the set being considered a 'commercial speculation'.

- *Southern Rhodesia*: Mr A. Morgan submitted several new shade varieties for the 4d (black and light/deep orange-red), 6d (black and dull/bright mauve), and 1s (black and light/deep blue).

The Whitfield King & Co. catalogue (Price 6s6d post free) had been reviewed. It showed an increase to 776 pages (up from 718) and featured 5 600 illustrations (100 new). The publishers had conducted a thorough revision of prices, which were believed to represent current market values in 1925.

Specific South African pricing was noted:

- *2½d Commemorative*: Listed at 1s unused and 4d used.
- *High Values*: The 1s3d, 5s, and 10s were listed used 1s, 1s6d and 2s6d, respectively. Given that these values would be obsolete after 1926, the column predicted they would 'very shortly realise full catalogue value'.
- *Air Mail and Dues*: The obsolete air mail stamps 2d, 5d, 9d, 1s and the 5d postage due all priced at 8d were deemed good purchases due to limited post office stock. The catalogue was recommended for the 'general collector'.

The continuation of Lt Col L.J. Worthington's article detailed the successive overprints of South-West Africa (SWA).

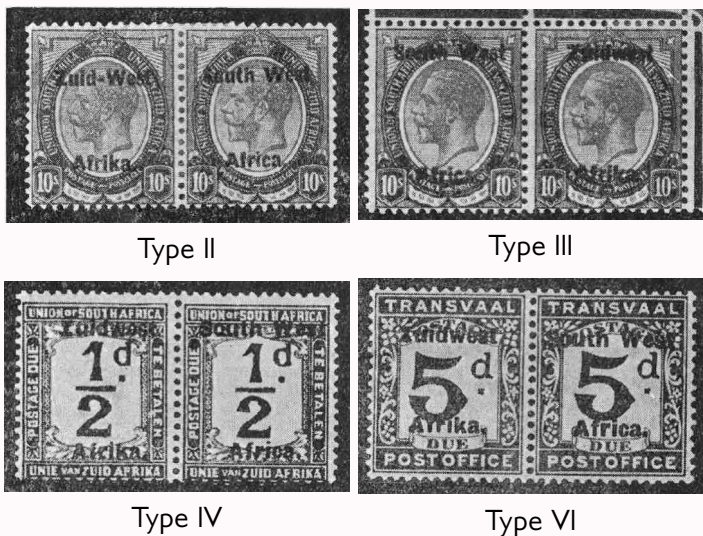


Fig.2: SWA Overprints.

- *Second Overprint (Apr. 1923)*: 'Zuid-West' with 10mm spacing. A 60-set, type-set restricted to 5s, 10s, and £1 (Fig.2 Type II). The only constant variety is a missing stop on No. 31 of each pane.
- *Third Overprint (Sep. 1923)*: 'Zuidwest' with 13½ to 14mm spacing. A 240-set, lithographed plate on most values. Known varieties include minor broken letters and evidence of two sets of printings due to plate wear (Fig.2 Type III).
- *Fourth Overprint (1924)*: 'Zuidwest' with 14mm spacing, restricted to the 2s6d value. It is believed to be from a type-forme or stereo (Fig.2 Type IV).

- *Sixth Overprint (Jan. 1925)*: 'Zuidwest' with 9½mm spacing (the Fifth Overprint was only on Dues). This overprint is divisible into two varieties: Type VI 16mm spacing on lower half sheets and Type VI (a) 16½mm spacing on upper half sheets (Fig.2 Type VI).

A.F. Johnstone's article catalogued Gambian postmarks, beginning with the earliest: a 20mm circle with a control letter, 'Gambia', and date (black or red). Subsequent markings include a 'Paid' Mark (control letters A, B, C, later superseded by black) and a similar 'Unpaid' mark. Around 1892, the Bathurst CDS 22mm circle was introduced, which eventually replaced the control letter with a six-pointed star. Other cancellations include an elliptical Registered Cancellation from around 1901, a barred 19mm circle used on 1874 to 1898 issues, and a T.P.O. (Travelling Post Office) mark reading 'River Gambia'.

Reports from three major societies reflect a continuity of meetings, exhibitions, and social functions.

- *Philatelic Society of Rhodesia (Bulawayo)*: At the October meeting, members extended sincere sympathy to Mr Morsman on the loss of his daughter. The Committee also announced plans to seek a new meeting venue. Mr Rogers exhibited his nearly complete collection of the Belgian Congo.
- *The Capetown Philatelic Society*: Meetings were held on the first and third Thursdays at the Railway Institute. Exhibitions included a member's 'very fine' collection of Cyprus and Lagos. At a previous meeting, Mr A. L. Tuthill displayed his collection of South-West Africa, which the Editor judged to be 'one of the finest... in existence' due to its completeness and inclusion of numerous errors and varieties.
- *Johannesburg United Philatelic Society*: Meetings were held on the second and fourth Tuesdays at the Trust Buildings. At the second October meeting, Mr C. E. Donne was welcomed back following his representation of the Society at the Cambridge Congress in the United Kingdom. Mr Donne spoke about the congress and read the winning paper in the Bates' Prize Competition.

An external note mentioned receipt of the fall issue of the *Bi-Monthly Journal* from Messrs H. E. Harris & Co. of Boston, Mass., USA, which contains 64 pages and approximately 100 illustrations, listing stamps by various quantities. Finally, an advertisement by Mr Hamilton Jackson was noted for the break-up sale of a large, almost complete South African collection, including a £180 lot of Transvaal.

### Renew Your Membership Today

Whether through your local philatelic society or directly with the PFSA. Simply contact your society's secretary or André du Plessis RDPSA (email: [pfsastamps@gmail.com](mailto:pfsastamps@gmail.com)) before 31 January 2026 and stay connected to the vibrant world of philately!



Vol. 3, No. 11, NOVEMBER, 1925. Whole No. 34.

TOPICS OF THE MONTH.

Christmas Presents.

With the festive season approaching, the minds of many of our readers will be centred on the question of what to give young and old friend collectors. Now is the time to decide the questions and no one need look far for suitable presents. A perusal of the advertisements in this issue will suggest many suitable gifts. Advertised prices are always here, and it is in the interests of collectors to deal with firms whose measurements appear in the "South African Philatelist". Neither they nor the recipients of the presents will have any fault to find with the goods supplied.

Visitors to Town.

We were pleased to meet our old friend Mr. Percy C. Bishop, recently when he paid his first visit to the Golden City as the representative of the "Natal Advertiser" during the Parliamentary tour of the gold mines. Looking as fit as ever, Mr. Bishop had many interesting matters relating to the hobby to discuss. We hope to see him here again very shortly.

Another welcome visitor was Mr. A. J. Storey, of Blentworth, Nyasaland. A collector of medals and rare items, Mr. Storey is over on the look out for items that are missing from his collection. He, too, was as pleased as ever to chat about the Royal Hobby.

Our Editor is always pleased to meet subscribers when they visit Johannesburg, and would welcome a line in advance.

The Seventh Brundage's Talk.

On November 5th, Mr. Thos. Wood, President of the East Rand Philatelic Society, came to JB to give his chat on philately, but the throat affection from which he was suffering made it impossible for him to deliver same. Our Editor, therefore, read the paper prepared by Mr. Wood, a large number of philatelic "listeners-in" testified to the excellence of the paper.

Fig.3: The SAP of December 1925.

philately. This focus was further strengthened by the impending first stamp issue of Northern Rhodesia and a high volume of new releases, described as 'avalanches', from South-West Africa.

Organised philately and its commercial sector experienced a highly successful year. South African philatelic societies were reported to have prospered, and dealers enjoyed a good trading period. A positive indicator for the industry was the formation in Johannesburg of a limited liability company dealing exclusively with the needs of collectors.

Specific details were released regarding new definitive stamp issues for the Union of South Africa, confirmed for release on 1 January 1926 at Money Order Offices that specially requisitioned them, with wider availability following later. The initial four values announced were:

- ½d green (Springbok's head)
- 1d red (Van Riebeeck's Statue)
- 2d bi-coloured (Union Buildings), believed to be blue and red
- 4d blue, triangular and imperforate (copy of the Cape triangular design)

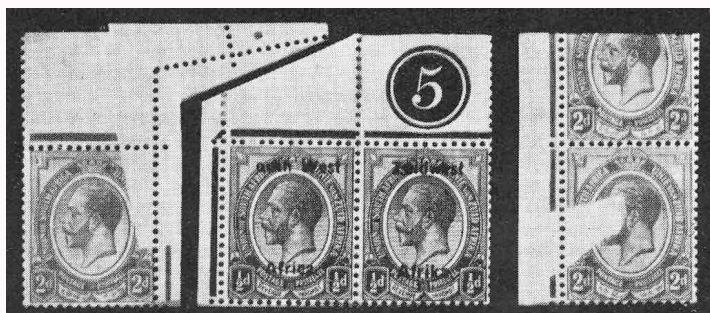


Fig.4: (a) 2d 'freak' due to corner fold, (b) ½d no. 5 corner pair, missing 'S' in 'South West' overprint, (c) 2d 'freak' due to paper intrusion.

The 4d value was described as a surprising format and was received entirely in single copies, while the three lowest values maintain the shape of current stamps. A multiple springbok's head watermark was understood to be in use for

The December 1925 issue of *The South African Philatelist* [2] revealed a period of significant progress in South African philately, marked by major new issues, thriving commercial activity, and high collector interest, particularly in classic stamps (Fig.3). The year saw the successful issue of special Air Mail stamps in South Africa, which was deemed the outstanding event and drew considerable international attention to the country's

these stamps. Inscriptions were printed alternately in English and Dutch across the sheets, except for the 4d, which is available in either English or Dutch sheets, but not pairs. Two further values, 3d and 6d, were expected towards the end of January.

Varieties reported included a 'freak' of the then current 2d value (due to a folded corner, Fig.4(a)) and another (due to a stray piece of paper, Fig.4(c)), both reported through Mr Alex. Bronks.

The growing branch of Aerophilately was reported to have made tremendous strides, with thousands of devotees. Early collectors of flown covers and air stamps had benefited, as items once difficult to sell commanded high prices, exemplified by 'Shenandoah' covers rising from approximately 2s6d to over £1 each in a few months. South Africa possessed fine collections in this field, including one owned by Mr L. Gillen of Pretoria, featuring hundreds of rare souvenirs from private, official, and semi-official flights globally.

Additionally, unofficial information suggested that an arrangement was made with a German company to start air mail services in the Union early in 1926, likely on the Johannesburg–Capetown and Johannesburg–Durban routes.

London auction of Cape Triangulars from the collection of Mr W. B. M. Vogts of Johannesburg demonstrated the continuing strength of the classic stamp market in 1925. The sale confirmed that Cape Triangulars maintain their popularity both in the United Kingdom and South Africa. The prices realised for fine items, especially blocks and pairs, frequently commanded values considerably in excess of their catalogue listing.



Fig.5: Mauritius Provisional Surcharges.

A section was devoted to new issues and varieties from other territories, often influenced by the Universal Postal Union (U.P.U.) changes.

- *Mauritius*: Provisional surcharges were issued on 5 November due to new postal rates, including 3 cents on 4 cents (green) and 10 cents on 12 cents (red, Fig.5). Approximately 120,000 copies of each provisional were created in the first two days.
- *South-West Africa*: The 5s. value had appeared with the sixth overprint. A catalogue error was noted, with the current overprinted stamps (Types VI. and VIa) being miscategorised in the 1926 Gibbons' catalogue as the non-existent Type V.
- *Malta*: A complete new issue was being printed on Script paper, featuring designs up to the 10/- value (St. Paul).
- *Cyprus and Tanganyika* also announced changes to stamp

colours or new values, largely following U.P.U. rate revisions.

The changes in the colours of numerous British Colonial stamps resulted from revised international postage rates set by the U.P.U. on 1 October 1925. The new minimum international rates expressed in British currency were: Letters - 2½d for the first oz.; Post cards - 1½d for single. The only domestic change in South Africa that far had been the reduction of the minimum tax on insufficiently prepaid overseas matter from 1½d to 1d.

The 1926 Stanley Gibbons' Catalogues (Parts I and II) were reviewed, noting significant price rises in Georgian and Edwardian issues in the British Empire section. SWA issues showed all-round price increases, while early issues of foreign territories like Belgium, Bavaria, Russia, and the U.S.A. also rose.

New literature included:

- *The Mayfair Find of Rare Stamps* by Fred J. Melville (Price 2/1s), a limited edition souvenir of the auction sale.
- *The Postage Stamps of Rhodesia, An Official Check-List* (Price 1/2), compiled by the Philatelic Society of Rhodesia.
- A *New Handbook on Union Issues* was being undertaken by Mr J. Ritchie to update the work of Mr G. W. Reynolds. Mr Ritchie was soliciting information on official varieties, freaks, or errors, specifically regarding plate numbers with inverted watermarks or inverted perforations.

Meetings saw high levels of activity across philatelic societies:

- *Johannesburg United Philatelic Society (J.U.P.S.)* hosted

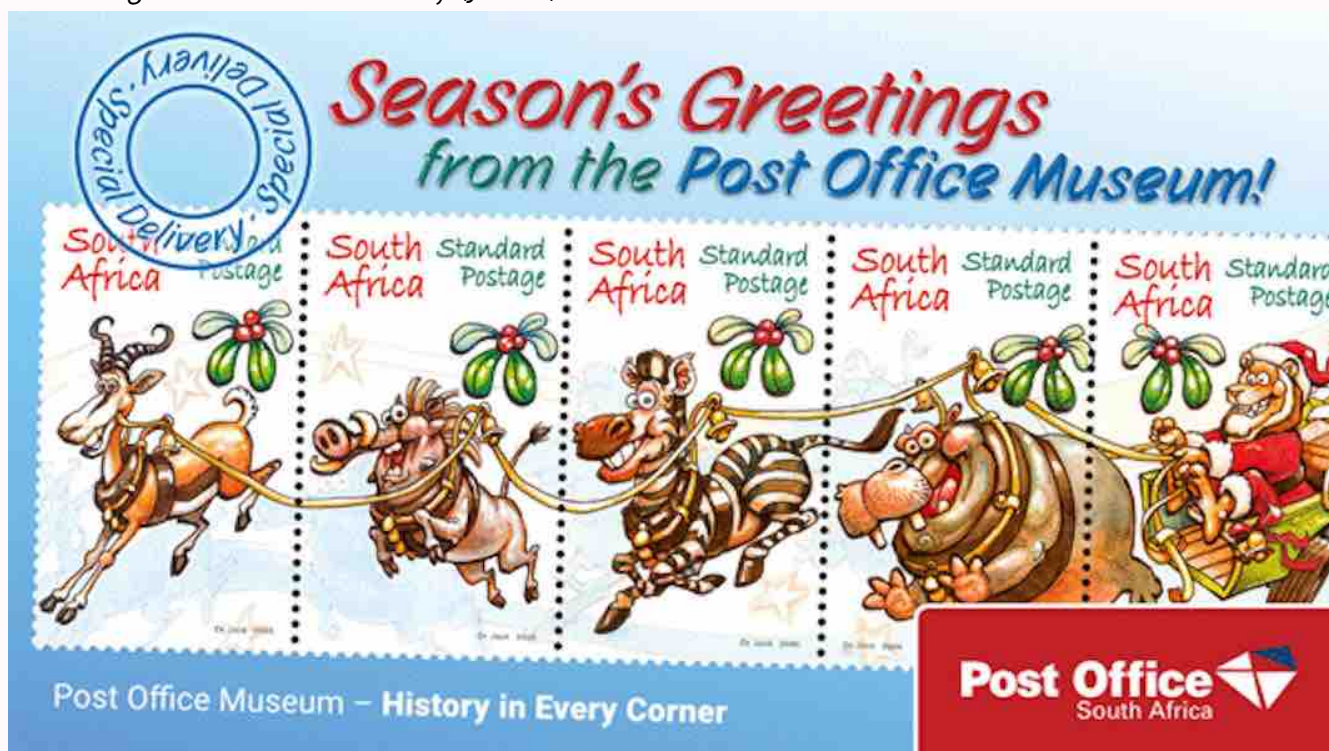
the East Rand Philatelic Society on 24 November. Displays included Mr Donne's fine collection of Seychelles (featuring surcharge errors), Mr A. F. Johnstone's selection of the embossed stamps of Great Britain, and Mr Thos. Wood's display and paper on Haiti.

- *The Philatelic Society of Natal* held its Annual General Meeting on 4 November, reporting a membership of 92 and satisfactory meeting attendance. H.E. Prince Arthur of Connaught was re-elected Patron.
- *The East Rand Philatelic Society* held its Annual General Meeting on 19 November, reporting very satisfactory finances, with no subscriptions needed to be called up in the past twelve months. Mr A. F. Johnstone was elected President for the ensuing year.

*The S. A. Philatelist* reported a highly content year, with its subscription list having grown rapidly and a high retention rate of over 95 per cent at the end of 1925. The journal also secured a number of new advertising contracts, confirming strong commercial support. The December 1925 issue was presented as a festive edition, featuring numerous short articles and notes rather than specialised academic pieces.

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- [1] J. Robertson, *The SA Philatelist*, Vol. 2 No. 10. Johannesburg: J. Robertson, Nov. 1925. [Online]. Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/SAP-Nov-1925.pdf>.
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## Union of South Africa Stamp Varieties

by André du Plessis RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society

### Railway Centenary, 1960 [1]

A bilingual 1/3 stamp was issued on 2 May 1960 to commemorate the centenary of the opening of the first railway in South Africa, from the Point (Docks) to Durban, on 26 June 1860.

The design, by V. Ivanoff, illustrated the progress during the first century of the railway in South Africa and measured 38 x 21,5 mm. Perforation was 15 x 14,

with the Arms watermark upright.

Sheets of 120 stamps (20 rows x 6) had arrows at the centre of all four margins and single broken bars on the top and bottom ones.

Cylinder numbers 57 and 9 were printed on the bottom margin below the first stamp of the row and the four-figure red sheet numbers were on the right margin.



Indigo and light blue  
UHB 148

(SG 183) (SASCC 182)





Can be collected in singles due to the bilingual printing .

### SELECTED VARIETIES

(As listed in [1])

**UHB 148 - 1/3**

Cylinders no. 57 (Interior) and 9 (Exterior)

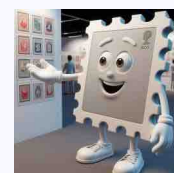
			
Dark dot on Table Mountain (ex-Row 2/5) UHB 148 - V1	White mark on map (ex-Row 5/3) UHB 148 - V2	Two dots below and to right of "1/3" (ex-Row 7/1) UHB 148 - V3	Small dot between locomotive and building on right (ex-Row 13/2) UHB 148 - V4

### References

- [1] S. J. Hagger, *The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910 - 1961, Handbook Catalogue*, Definitive Edition. Cape Town: Reijger Publishers (Pty) Ltd, 1986. [Online]. Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Hagger-Group-12-c.pdf#page=6>.



Stamp enthusiasts, prepare for an exciting exhibition programme in 2026. SAVPEX 2026, Stamp Show 26 in Gauteng, Gauteng Regional in Pretoria, and Free State Regional in Sasolburg will showcase your prized collections. Audit, protect, polish, craft a compelling exhibit, and register early to celebrate our rich philatelic heritage, award dazzling medals, and unite our passionate community. Tell the public inspiring heritage stories through philately.





## The Great Guano War

by Andrew Briscoe RDP SA, FRPSL, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

The history of guano harvesting in Southwest Africa is intertwined with colonial disputes, particularly between Britain and Germany in the late nineteenth century. British companies mined large guano deposits, especially on the Ichooboo group of islands near Angra Pequena, and sought British annexation of the territory. However, German interests, led by Adolf Lüderitz ultimately led to the area becoming German South-West Africa, though Britain retained control of Walvis Bay. Fig.1 illustrates the location of the Ichooboo Islands (also known as the Ichooboe Islands or simply the Ichooboo Islands).

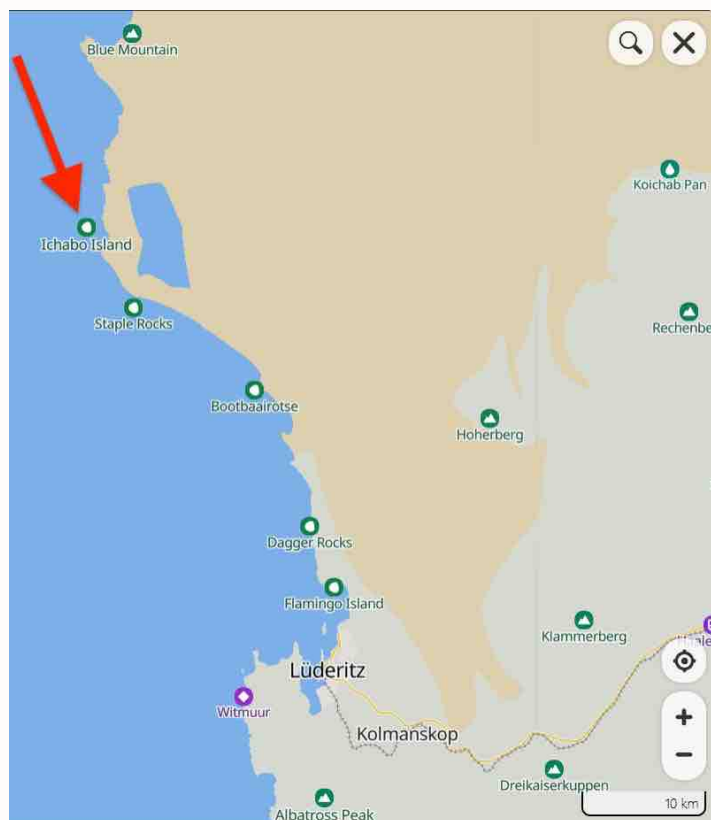


Fig.1: Location of the Ichooboo islands, source: Wikimapia.

### The Guano Rush

In the early nineteenth century, the guano rush, comparable to the American gold rush, swept across the South African coast, including the islands of Ichooboo.

The Namibian islands' prolific birdlife and massive guano deposits were well-known long before the nineteenth century. However, the first widely published account was that of American mariner Benjamin Morrell. In 1828, he explored the South-West African coast in search of seal 'jackets' and briefly mentioned an island covered in jackass-penguins, gannets, and bird droppings to a depth of twenty-five feet. By the early 1840s, Morrell's observations, published in a voyage account in the United States, gained new importance.

This was partly due to the British hunger for fertiliser and the Peruvian government's conversion of its guano islands into a state monopoly. Liverpool merchants, keen to profit from the growing domestic demand by challenging the Peruvian monopoly's price-fixing efforts, sent vessels to search for Morrell's island at the end of 1842. The arrival of the first guano shipment from Ichooboo Island to Britain in July 1843 sparked the African guano rush, which lasted until 1846. This rush depleted the accumulated deposits of over 330,000 tons of guano from the offshore islands between Saldanha and Walvis Bay.

In the south, the then Cape Colony established a leasehold system for the islands within its territorial waters. However, Ichooboo Island and its smaller islands north of the Orange River were considered 'no man's land'.

At one time, over 400 ships anchored off the island, and shanty towns housed thousands of workers. Large-scale guano scraping and bagging began in 1843 and reached its peak two years later. The immense value of guano led to fierce competition, resulting in murders over harvesting rights. Consequently, two British warships were dispatched to restore order, a conflict that became known as the "Great Guano War."

In 1844, the British navy restored order, and Liverpool merchants maintained speculative interests until the end of the decade. By the 1850s, their shares in Ichooboo Island had been transferred to three Cape Town merchants. These merchants set out to exploit the islands for an annual guano crop. Their success, coupled with a growing demand for guano in Mauritius, led to increasing challenges to their tenure in the late 1850s from rival colonial traders, the revenue-hungry Cape Colony and the United States.

Britain took control of the island on 21 June 1861. Guano extraction became a regular occurrence, and in 1880 and 1881, Ichooboo Guano was reputed to be the richest and most fertilising guano imported into England.

These threats prompted the incumbents to seek annexation by the imperial (British) government. This was granted in 1861 and confirmed in 1868. By then, De Pass, Spence and Company had bought out the other shareholders (Granger and Thomson, Watson & Co.) on Ichooboo Island. They then secured a 27-year lease on all the islands 'between the two civilised boundaries' which ran until 30 June 1895.

Guano production was subject to both environmental and market influences. Severe rainfall during the breeding season or the disappearance of sardine, pilchard and anchovy shoals from nearby islands could severely deplete or even destroy



Fig.2: Letter to Scotland from Ichaboo Island dated 5 March 1844.

the season's crop. Harvesting and distribution were then dictated by price and quality. Guano from Ichaboo Island was widely regarded as superior due to its large gannet colony, but it was often mixed with inferior guano from other islands, fossil deposits from Hottentots Bay and even, according to critics, generous amounts of sand. This resulted in a product that couldn't find a market in the United Kingdom, where scientific analysis became standard by the late 1840s. Instead, it was sold to the less sophisticated sugar planters of Mauritius. However, by the 1850s, the Mauritian market had become equally quality conscious and the practice of mixing was discontinued in favour of supplying a higher-quality product. This trend was further strengthened by the 27-year monopoly granted to De Pass Spence and Company in 1869 and the steady rise in guano prices in the United Kingdom during the 1870s.

Fig.2 shows a letter to Scotland bearing the sender's address and date inside, 'ICHABOO ISLAND 5th March 1844', concerning guano harvesting. The front bears a Greenock Ship Letter handstamp and the reverse shows Glasgow and Irvine datestamps for 22 May. This letter is one of the earliest recorded letters from South West Africa and extremely rare.


### Today

The island, administered by the Cape Provincial Administration of South Africa, became a nature reserve in 1987. In 1994, it was returned to Namibia and is now managed by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources. Iaboe, Mercury and Possession Islands have permanent

residents who engage in seabird research and conservation. Guano scraping continues, supported by concessions granted during the 1980s.

In 2000, a wall was constructed around the island's perimeter. This wall was designed to prevent the wind from blowing guano into the sea and includes a few entry points for penguins to access their breeding grounds.

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- [1] L. van Sittert and R. Crawford, "Historical reconstruction of guano production on the Namibian islands 1843-1895," *South African Journal of Science*, vol. 99, pp. 12-16, 2003. [Online]. Available: <https://hdl.handle.net/10520/EJC97597>.
- [2] A. Watson, "The guano islands of Southwestern Africa," *Geographical Review*, vol. 20, no. 4, pp. 631-641, Oct. 1930.
- [3] J. Kinahan and J. Kinahan, "Archaeological traces of the nineteenth-century 'Guano Rage' on the south-western coast of Africa," *Australasian Historical Archaeology*, vol. 27, pp. 43-54, 2009. [Online]. Available: [https://asha.org.au/pdf/australasian\\_historical\\_archaeology/27\\_04\\_Kinhan\\_and\\_Kinn.pdf](https://asha.org.au/pdf/australasian_historical_archaeology/27_04_Kinhan_and_Kinn.pdf).
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# The ½d Warthog, Animal Definitive Series, 1954 – 1960, of the Union of South Africa (Part 4)

by Joof van der Merwe RDP SA, Orange Free State Philatelic Society

This is the fourth instalment of a study that examines the various printings of the ½d stamp, exploring the printing marks, watermarks, different paper types, and the numerous varieties. The first issue, dated 14 October 1954, was printed with Cylinder 84 and discussed in [1]. The second issue was printed with cylinder 67 on paper with a Springbok watermark in February and April 1959 and discussed in [2]. The fourth issue was printed with cylinder 67 on paper with a Coat of Arms watermark in December 1960 and discussed in [3].

The scans may appear low-quality, but the reader should be aware that they reflect the actual print quality under enlargement.

## Cylinder 67 and Cylinder 84 - Varieties

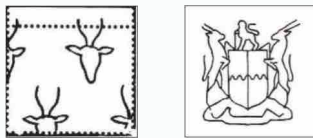
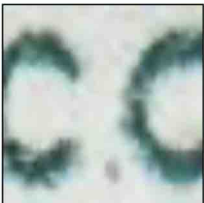
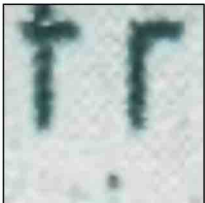

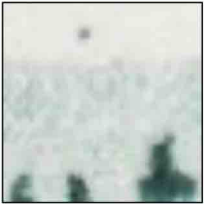






Fig.1: Multiple Springbok Head and Coat of Arms Watermarks.

The following varieties were found on both the cylinders used for printing and on both watermarked papers, Fig.1. This study excludes the explicit treatment of the varieties described in [4]. The varieties presented are recurring varieties identified through independent research [5].

Short line below "k" of Afrika - Row 6/11	Dot left of "1" of the value - Row 7/9	Dot below "o" of South - Row 9/3
Large smudge in "u" of South - Row 11/3	Line touching "d" of 1d - Row 11/6	Line below "k" of Afrika - Row 11/11
Dot in right gutter - Row 12/3	Dot above second "e" of Revenue - Row 12/5	Dots around "f" of Afrika - Row 13/11
Smudge below "os" of Posgeld - Row 13/12	Scratch in gutter left of value - Row 13/6	Dot above "f" of Afrika - Row 14/5
Dot on tip of left tusk - Row 4/10	Mark above "i" of Afrika - Row 6/1	Dot above "i" of Suid - Row 6/3
Dot right of second "a" of Afrika - Row 14/10	Faint smudge left of mouth - Row 14/12	Dot in gutter below "a" of Afrika - Row 15/6

Dot left of Revenue - Row 1/2	Scratch between "ik" of Afrika - Row 2/9	Dot between South and Afrika - Row 3/1
Dot on tip of left tusk - Row 4/10	Mark above "i" of Afrika - Row 6/1	Dot above "i" of Suid - Row 6/3


		
Dot between "ca" of Africa - Row 17/2	Dot below "r" of Africa - Row 18/3	Dot between tusks - Row 19/3
		
Dot in top gutter above "ut" of South - Row 12/2	Smudge between "i" and "d" of Suid - Row 12/10	Dot left of right tusk - Row 14/7
		
Line touching bottom of "u" of South - Row 15/11	Dot above "k" of Afrika - Row 20/7	

This concludes this series of four articles on the study of detailed varieties of the ½d Warthog stamp issued from 14 October 1954 to December 1960. Cylinder 67 and 84 were used to print by rotogravure the design on Multiple Springbok Head and later on Coat of Arms watermarked

papers at the Government Printing Works in Pretoria. All the cylinders used were screened. The ½d value is a green monochrome small format, perforated 15 x 14 by eleven row comb.


## References

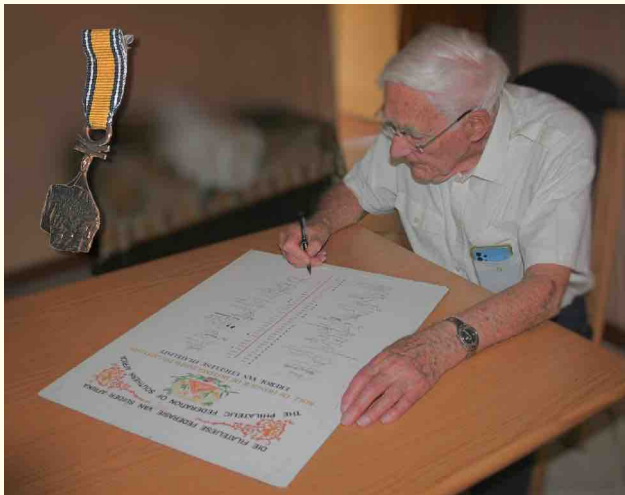
- [1] J. van der Merwe, "The ½d warthog, animal definitive series, 1954 - 1960, of the Union of South Africa (part 1)," *The SA Philatelist*, vol. 101, no. 3, pp. 83-85, 2025. [Online]. Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/SAP-June-2025.pdf#page=17>.
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Dr Alan Rose RDPSA signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelist of South Africa during the meeting of the East Rand Philatelic Society (ERPS) on 29 November 2025. Alan was invited to sign the roll during Congress in Paarl in 2025. Congratulations Alan. 



## The Mandela Autopen Signatures

by Danie van Zyl, Pretoria Philatelic Society

Autopen signatures have made headline news: Donald Trump challenging Joe Biden's pardons when signed by an autopen device. An autopen instrument has been used in the White House for many decades. The list of USA presidents who used an autopen device includes John F Kennedy, Lyndon B Johnson, Gerald Ford, George W Bush, Barack Obama and Donald Trump.

An autopen instrument was also used by Nelson Mandela. Considering the amount of correspondence he had to deal with and other documents that needed his signature it is not surprising that some assistance was needed; the autopen came to the rescue (Fig.1). An autopen machine is set up to provide an exact signature of the certified user.



Fig.1: The Signascript and Ghostwriter autopens. Popular and widely used models.

The Mandela administration set out the following guidelines for the use of an autopen device:

- Authorization: Only designated individuals may operate the autopen.
- Document Types: The autopen may be used for routine correspondence, acknowledgments, and non-sensitive documents.
- Record Keeping: A log must be maintained detailing each use of the autopen, including the date, document type, and purpose.
- Review Process: All documents signed with the autopen must be reviewed by a senior staff member prior to signing.
- Prohibition: The autopen must not be used for legal documents, contracts, or any sensitive materials without explicit prior approval.
- Compliance: Failure to adhere to this policy may result in disciplinary action. All staff are expected to uphold the values and legacy of Nelson Mandela in their use of the autopen.

The log of usage is not publicly available.

Of special interest to a philatelist are the signed FDCs. These covers come in four different versions: those signed by hand by Mandela and those with three different autopen signatures. We will investigate and tabulate these 3

signatures identified here as Autopen A, Autopen B and Autopen C. (See Appendix)

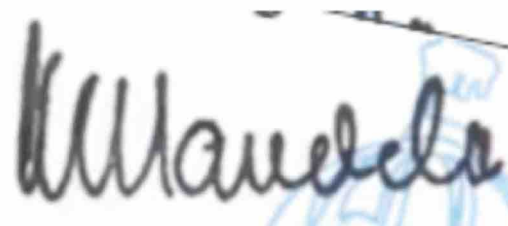
### The Autopen signatures

No human hand can provide two or more signatures where they are 100% alike. There will always be some differences in spacing, dimensions, links or breakages. The easiest way to make such identifications is to scan two or more signatures on the same page and then slide them over each other. If they match exactly you have autopen copies.

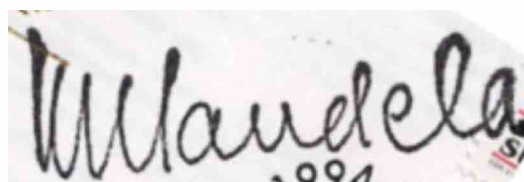
Here are images of the three known autopen signatures on FDCs:



Autopen A



Autopen B



Autopen C

As far as is known Autopen C was only used on Inauguration covers.

When considering the statistics of the Autopen B usage on FDCs we get some interesting results. There are 342 FDCs that could possibly have been signed by Autopen B taking series 6, 7 and 8 into consideration. Ninety covers with Autopen B signatures are known (see appendix). Of the 90 covers 11 of them are duplicated covers ie. about 12%. If all 342 were signed, (possible but not verified) then using the sample as our statistical base we can extrapolate from the 12%, finding that there could be 41 duplicate autopen signed FDCs.

A collector only wanting a Mandela Autopen B signature on a FDC as a variety would have a possible 383 to choose from. This collector would not consider an autopen signed cover as a rarity.



Fig.2: World Rugby Cup Winners (SACC 6.14d) signed with Autopen B.

However, a collector who wants a specific cover for his Mandela collection, for instance the Nobel Laureates (SACC 6.47), autopen signed as a variety, would have only two covers available. A collector wanting to complete his rugby collection with a Mandela autopen signed cover (SACC 6.14d) would also have a choice of only two covers (Fig.2). For these collectors the right Mandela Autopen B signed cover would be considered extremely rare, at most two and perhaps only one available.

In this study of the autopen signatures I had as resource my own collection going back some 20 years supplemented by recent purchases. In addition to this I emailed my client list of some 500 persons residing in Australia, Europe, New Zealand, the UK, the USA but mostly in South Africa, seeking

information. The information thus gathered forms the basis of this article.

There most certainly are undocumented autopen signed covers in collections world wide, although most may still be in stock with some dealers. The future may bring further enlightenment if they come on the market.

My conclusion is that although number wise the autopen signatures appear plentiful, to such an extent that some have suggested fraudulent activity, a closer examination suggests that it is not so. It may even be that genuine Mandela hand-signed copies of inauguration covers are far more prevalent than autopen signatures, but genuine hand-signed copies come with a price.



Fig.3: Nobel Laureates (SACC 6.47) signed with Autopen B.

## APPENDIX

Red = In Danie's collection

Red lines = In a client's collection

Blue = In Danie's collection duplicated in other collections

Green = Time of Mandela's serious illness when no signed copies are expected

Note: As far as is known Autopen C was used only to sign inauguration covers.

Autopen A								Autopen B												
#6				#7				#8				#6				#7				#8
2	30	73	115	8	51	94	137	8	51	2	30	73	115	8	51	94	137	8	51	
3	31	74	116	9	52	95	138	9	52	3	31	74	116	9	52	95	138	9	52	
3a	32	75	117	10	53	96	139	10	53	3a	32	75	117	10	53	96	139	10	53	
3b	33	76	118	11	54	97	140	11	54	3b	33	76	118	11	54	97	140	11	54	
3c	34	77	119	12	55	98	141	12	55	3c	34	77	119	12	55	98	141	12	55	
4	35	78	120	13	56	99	142	13	56	4	35	78	120	13	56	99	142	13	56	
4a	36	79	121	14	57	100	143	14	57	4a	36	79	121	14	57	100	143	14	57	
5	37	80	122	15	58	101	144	15	58	5	37	80	122	15	58	101	144	15	58	
6	38	81	123	16	59	102	145	16	59	6	38	81	123	16	59	102	145	16	59	
7	39	82	124	17	60	103	146	17	60	7	39	82	124	17	60	103	146	17	60	
8	40	83	125	18	61	104	147	18	61	8	40	83	125	18	61	104	147	18	61	
9	41	84	126	19	62	105	148	19	62	9	41	84	126	19	62	105	148	19	62	
10	42	85		20	63	106	149	20		10	42	85		20	63	106	149	20		
11	43	86		21	64	107	150	21		11	43	86		21	64	107	150	21		
12	44	87		22	65	108	151	22		12	44	87		22	65	108	151	22		
13	45	88		23	66	109	152	23		13	45	88		23	66	109	152	23		
14a	46	89		24	67	110	153	24		14a	46	89		24	67	110	153	24		
14b	47	90		25	68	111	154	25		14b	47	90		25	68	111	154	25		
14c	48	91		26	69	112	155	26		14c	48	91		26	69	112	155	26		
14d	49	92		27	70	113	156	27		14d	49	92		27	70	113	156	27		
14a	50	93		28	71	114	157	28		14a	50	93		28	71	114	157	28		
14b	51	94		29	72	115	158	29		14b	51	94		29	72	115	158	29		
15	52	95		30	73	116	159	30		15	52	95		30	73	116	159	30		
16	53	96		31	74	117	160	31		16	53	96		31	74	117	160	31		
17	54	97		32	75	118	161	32		17	54	97		32	75	118	161	32		
18	55	98		33	76	119	162	33		18	55	98		33	76	119	162	33		
19	56	99		34	77	120	163	34		19	56	99		34	77	120	163	34		
20	57	700		35	78	121	164	35		20	57	700		35	78	121	164	35		
20a	58	701		36	79	122	165	36		20a	58	701		36	79	122	165	36		
21	59	702		37	80	123	166	37		21	59	702		37	80	123	166	37		
22	60	703		38	81	124	167	38		22	60	703		38	81	124	167	38		
23a	61	704		39	82	125	168	39		23a	61	704		39	82	125	168	39		
23b	62	705		40	83	126	169	40		23b	62	705		40	83	126	169	40		
24	63	706		41	84	127	170	41		24	63	706		41	84	127	170	41		
24a	64	707		42	85	128	171	42		24a	64	707		42	85	128	171	42		
24b	65	708		43	86	129	172	43		24b	65	708		43	86	129	172	43		
25	66	108		44	87	130	173	44		25	66	108		44	87	130	173	44		
26	67	109		45	88	131	174	45		26	67	109		45	88	131	174	45		
27	68	110		46	89	132		46		27	68	110		46	89	132		46		
28	69	111		47	90	133		47		28	69	111		47	90	133		47		
29	70	112		48	91	134		48		29	70	112		48	91	134		48		
29a	71	113		49	92	135		49		29a	71	113		49	92	135		49		
29b	72	114		50	93	136		50		29b	72	114		50	93	136		50		

Table 1: A checklist of known FDCs with Mandela autopen signatures on FDCs, series 6, 7 and 8.

## Addendum on Autopen Security

My report focussed on the autopen signatures rather than on the autopen device. Autopen usage is very strictly controlled by the manufacturer because such important people use them, Presidents, Prime Ministers and CEOs of top companies. If security was not strictly controlled they would not sell their product.

The signature is encrypted onto either a sd-card or flash-drive. The card is linked to a specific device and cannot be used on any autopen device. The operator had to enter his/her pin/code on the autopen device to activate it. Most often the operator also had to have security clearance because he/she would be handling sensitive documents. Generally all the autopen devices used the same procedures with perhaps slight modifications.

On request or on the death of the person concerned the manufacturer deactivates the card/flash-drive so that it could no longer be used.

Because of the environment in which autopen devices are used the security was and is amazingly well controlled. No signed cover issued after Mandela's death has been seen, not even within a year of his death.

All Mandela's material is in his archive but the autopen devices and cards cannot be used again.



We would love to hear from you! If you have any thoughts or comments about any of the articles in this issue of *The SA Philatelist*, please send your comments to the Editorial Board. Just click on the email address: [sap@stampssa.africa](mailto:sap@stampssa.africa)





# The Silicosis Medical Bureau

by Karen Joubert, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria

The remarkable philatelic item in Fig.1 tells the story of an envelope's journey through no fewer than thirteen postal markings, each bearing witness to the administrative and postal processes of the early 1950s.

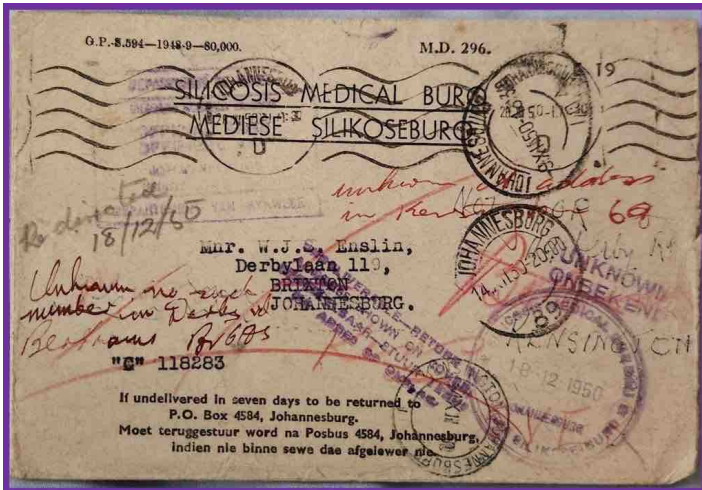


Fig.1: Silicosis Medical Bureau misspelled.

The Silicosis Medical Bureau was established to examine mine workers, particularly those employed on the gold mines, for pneumoconiosis (silicosis). In subsequent years, its mandate expanded to include mine workers from asbestos mines, as well as cases of tuberculosis and other occupational lung diseases. The Bureau operated under legislation administered by the Department of Mines, as occupational diseases among miners fell within the scope of mining regulation under the Pneumoconiosis Compensation Act of 1912 [1]. This Department later evolved into what became the Bureau for Occupational Diseases.

Of particular philatelic interest is the absence of a postage stamp on this 1950 envelope in Fig.1. At the time, the Silicosis Medical Bureau, as a state-affiliated body under the Department of Mines, enjoyed postal franking privileges. Official correspondence was dispatched using meter franks, "On State Service" markings, or "Official Paid" hand stamped. In this instance, the envelope bears the purple cachet identifying it as official mail from the Silicosis Medical Bureau—sufficient authority for transmission through the postal system without adhesive postage.

A small but intriguing detail is the spelling variation in the Bureau's name in Fig.1: the cover bears the word "BURO", while the cover in Fig.2 the correct spelling "BUREAU". This inconsistency reflects the bilingual administrative environment of mid-twentieth century South Africa, where both English and Afrikaans spellings were used interchangeably in government correspondence.

The following are noted on the cover in Fig.1:

1. Returned Letter Office cachet (purple, bottom right overlap) Third strike of the same cachet.
2. Red manuscript endorsement "Unknown at address."
3. Red manuscript endorsement "No such number in Derby St."
4. Black manuscript date (18/12/65?) Possibly a clerk's note, likely applied later.
5. Black manuscript date (18/12/50s) Clerk's date of handling.

6. Return-to-sender instruction (printed) "If undelivered in seven days to be returned to P.O. Box 4584, Johannesburg."
7. Meter franking (top center, wavy lines) "SILICOSIS MEDICAL BUREAU / MEDIESTE SILIKOSEBUREAU" official imprint.
8. Johannesburg handstamp (14 XII 50, 2:00 PM) Large double circle date stamp.
9. Kensington circular date stamp (18-12-1950) Redirect attempt in Kensington suburb.
10. Johannesburg machine cancel (28 XII 50, 1:30 PM) Circular postmark tying the meter franking.
11. "UNKNOWN / ONBEKEND" boxed marking (purple) Applied at the Returned Letter Office, Johannesburg.
12. Returned Letter Office cachet (purple, partly on address) Circular bilingual cachet, struck multiple times.
13. Returned Letter Office cachet (purple, overlapping bottom text) Another strike confirming undeliverable status.

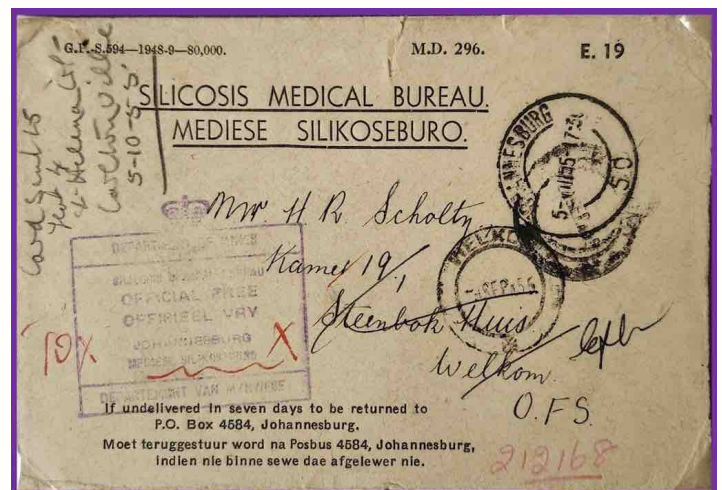


Fig.2: Silicosis Medical Bureau spelled correctly.

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## Table Mountain, The Inspiration (Part 1)

by Gawie Hugo, Paarlse Filateliste

This multi-part series is investigating the influence of Table Mountain on material designed for philatelic and non-philatelic use, mostly with the mountain incorporated as 'the backdrop' in the designs (Fig.1). It includes postage stamps, postal stationery, post cards in various forms, labels and other non-philatelic items. The first such material was introduced in 1893.

It begins with the historical evolution from the first Portuguese seafarers rounding the Cape in 1488, followed by a 100 year period of minimal activity. The period of the use of postal stones by seafarers of other European countries came after that.

Jan van Riebeeck arrived in 1652 to establish a watering and trading post. As a result of the consequential growth of the settlement, and the farming community continuously moving further away into the hinterland, new settlements and villages were formed. The need for a postal system grew and the first post office was subsequently opened during 1792 in the Cape Town Castle and a supplementary postal distribution network was established.

The use of 'Table Mountain as the backdrop' started in 1893 with the 1d 'Hope Standing' stamp issue. The first picture postcards and many more items soon followed.

This article series shows Cape Town, the buildings it embraces, the festivals and commemorations, the political achievements, sporting highlights and the environment. It thus portrays the history of South Africa.

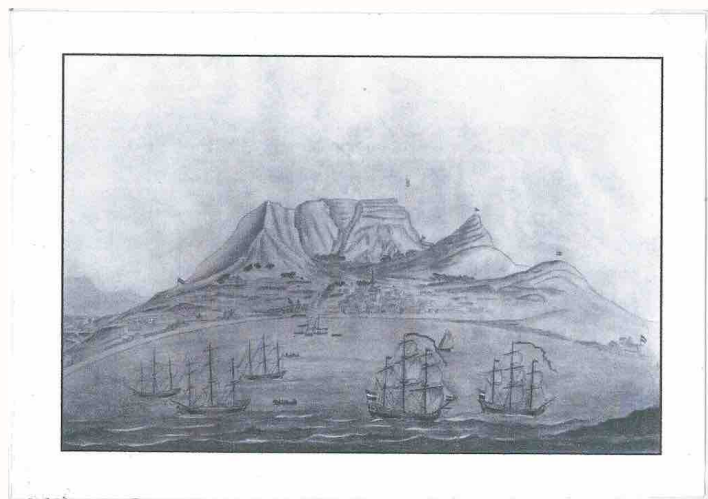


Fig.1: A photo copy of what is known as the oldest watercolour painting by a South African artist, part of the William Fehr collection housed in the Castle, Cape Town.

## Cabo de Boa Esperança Historical Development

**1488:** Bartolomeu Dias rounded the Cape between 6 January and 3 February 1488 in search of the sea route to the East. He reached the mouth of the Great Fish River and turned around there on 12 March to return to Portugal. He named the Cape 'Cabo de Boa Esperança'.

**1497:** Vasco da Gama also rounded the Cape on 22 November 1497. He encountered bad weather at the Cape and called it 'Cabo Termentosa' (Cape of Storms) but did not make landfall. He secured the sea route from Europe to the Far East and reached Calicut on 20 May 1498.

**1503:** Antonio da Saldanha made landfall in the bay in March 1503 by mistake and he was thus the first European to enter the bay. He climbed the mountain and named it 'Taboa do Cabo' (Table of the Cape) and called the bay 'Agoada do Saldanha' (the Watering place of Saldanha). It became known as the 'Bay of Saldania'. The name to be for the next 100 years.

**1510 to 1580:** The Portuguese were in control of the trade with the Far East. As from 1580 the Dutch and English started their own trade with the East and called at Table Bay. In time 'Agoada do Saldanha' changed to 'Tafel Baay'.

## Commemorating Dias

The se-tenant pair of Portuguese stamps shows Dias in a storm off the Cape coast with Table Mountain in the background. The RSA 8c stamp shows Leeuwenhof, the house of the Provincial Administrator for the Cape Province since 1936, with Table Mountain as the backdrop (Fig.2).

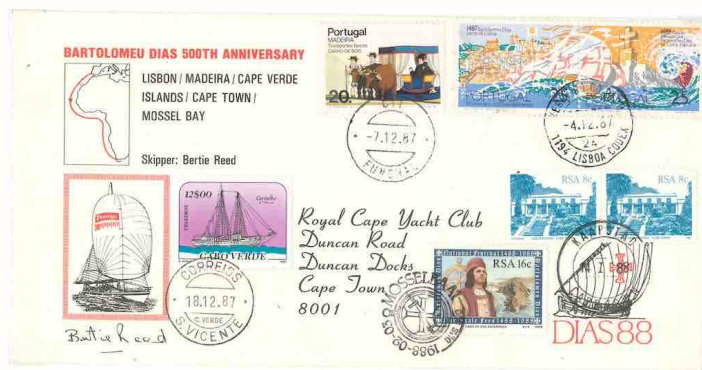


Fig.2: This cover was issued in 1987 by The Royal Cape Yacht Club to commemorate the Epic voyage by Bartolomeu Dias in 1488, 500 years previously. The 8c stamp is of the 4th definitive series of RSA printed 19 August 1982.

## Cornelis de Houtman

This Dutch stamp was issued in 1996 to commemorate the expeditions of Cornelis de Houtman from 1595 to 1597 (Fig.3). He was the first Dutch seafarer to anchor in 'Bay of Saldania' on 11 November 1598, his 2nd trip to the Far East. It shows 'Cabo de Bona Esperança' on the left of the stamp, commemorating this event and the discovery of Australia by him.



Fig.3: Travels of Cornelis de Houtman.

## Commemorating Post Stones

From 1580 until 1652, for 72 years, the ships to the Orient and back to Europe anchored in Table Bay to take in fresh water and food supplies bought from the local inhabitants.

During this period a system of postal stones was used to leave post and information to be collected by other passing ships.

The se-tenent strip of five stamps dated 9 May 1992, National Stamp Day, was issued to remind us of that unique period of postal stones as part of our postal history (Fig.4). The oldest Postal Stone found dates back to November 1619, possibly inscribed by the crew of the British ship 'BULL'



Fig.4: Stamps were printed by the Government Printer in sheetlets of 5 rows of 5 stamps each, Perf 14. 35c was the standard postage rate of the day.

The stamp on the left shows three Dutch Traders at the Cape of Good Hope, showing Devilspeak, Table Mountain and Signal Hill, the characteristic sight welcoming voyagers of all times to the Cape. The two stamps on the right show sailors removing and replacing mail under a post stone.

## Landing of Jan Anthonisz van Riebeeck 1652

On 6 April 1652, Jan van Riebeeck arrived in 'Tafel Baay'. His brief was to establish a settlement and a revictualling station to support VOC ships with fresh water, food and services. He made landfall on Monday, 8 April 1652 (Fig.6).



Fig.5: 2d stamp shows the 3 ships of Van Riebeeck, Drommedaris, Reijger & Goede Hoop arriving in Table Bay with the mountain in the background. The arrow indicates the "Moon" variety.

The 2d stamps were designed by Ms I Campbell, 120 stamps per sheet, watermark multiple Springbok heads, Perf 15 x 14 (Fig.5). The stamps were issued on 14 March 1952.



Fig.6: 1s stamp shows Van Riebeeck negotiating with the Khoix, based on a sketch by Charles Bell (1850) with Signal Hill as the backdrop.

## Settlement Cabo du Goedehoop

### Van Riebeeck's Instruction

He was instructed by the VOC to erect a fort to protect the staff against the locals and wild animals (Fig.7).

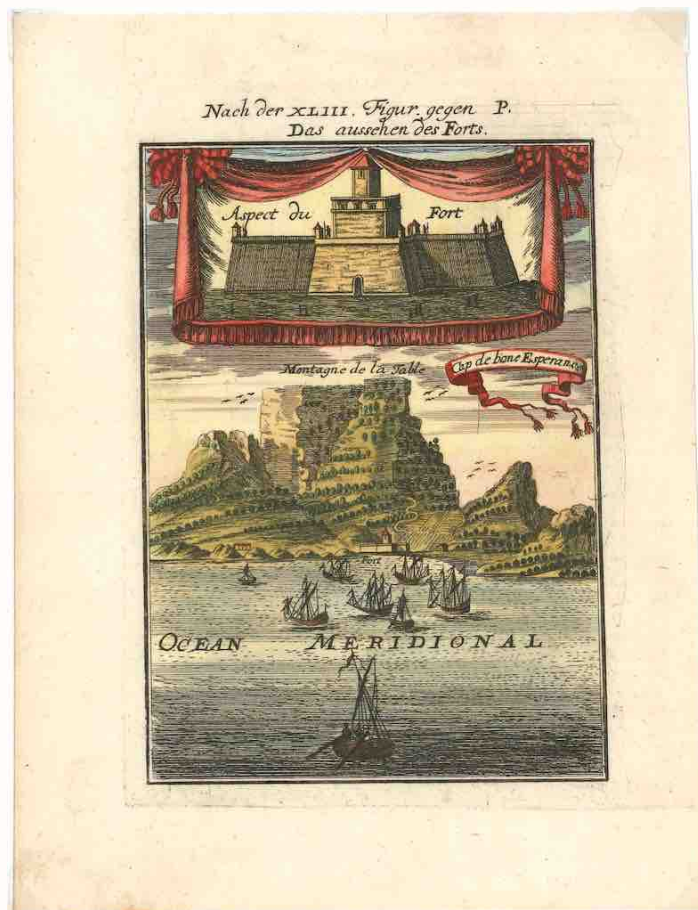


Fig.7: Copy of a very early engraving showing Table Mountain and the fort Van Riebeeck built. In care of Museum Africa, Johannesburg.

### Building the Castle

In 1665 Governor Zacharias Wagenaar was instructed by the Dutch East India Company to build a new and better Castle to protect the Settlement against possible attacks by rival countries. On 2 January 1666 the first stones were laid by Governor Wagenaar. After an interruption from May 1667 until 1670, the building work was resumed and during 1678 the staff occupied the Castle. Building work was completed in 1679, although further additions and alterations were done afterwards (Fig.8).

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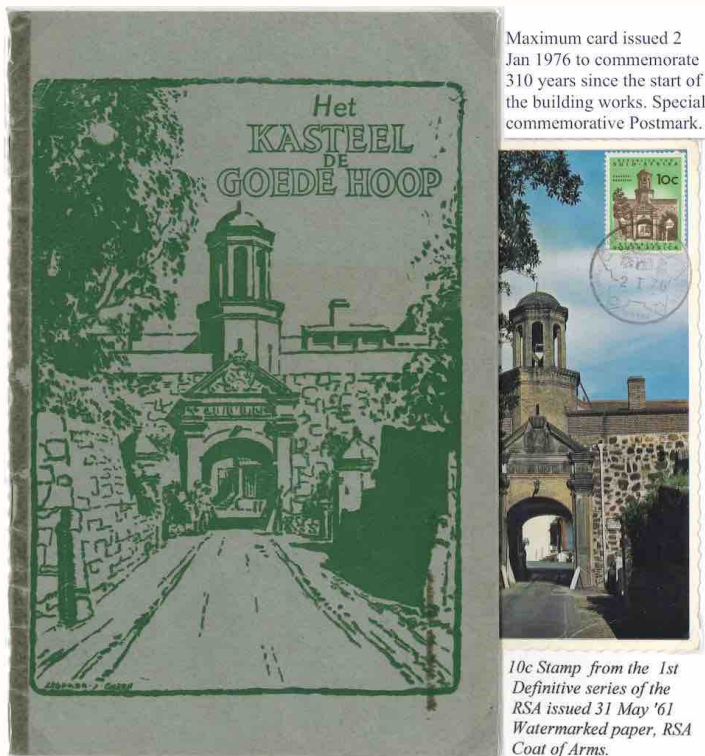


Fig.8: An original brochure telling the history of the Castle of the Cape and maximum card.

### Early Painting by Aernout Smit

The Dutch painter, Aeronout Smit, painted 'Table Bay 1683' with oils on canvas (Fig.9) kept in the Iziko William Fehr Collection (Castle of Good Hope).



Fig.9: Postcard of 'Table Bay 1683' by Aernout Smit.



Fig.10: Typical wrapper of the period. 'Per Amie' refers to 'carried by a friend', possibly 1784. Address is 'Woonagtigh omtrentt e Veldt', possibly 'living in the rural area' of 'Cabodegoedehoop'.

### Foreign post by Favour

During the period 1652 to 1792 there was no formal postal system. Post to and from the Colony was carried by Captains or crew members of the ships calling at the Cape on a private arrangement basis (Fig.10). The first official post office was established on 2 March 1792 by Governor Rhenius and was housed in the Castle. The first postmaster was Adriaan Vincent Bergh.

Hans Diederich Moor (Fig.10) came to the Colony in 1742 as a sailor on 'The Papenburg'; became a Soldier in 1746 and a Burger in 1748 and possibly a Coopman afterwards. He married Geertrud de Vries on 17 April 1751. Two daughters were born for the couple. He died 22 November 1781.

### Coming in Part 2

The story continues in Part 2 with the English rule of the Cape of Good Hope.

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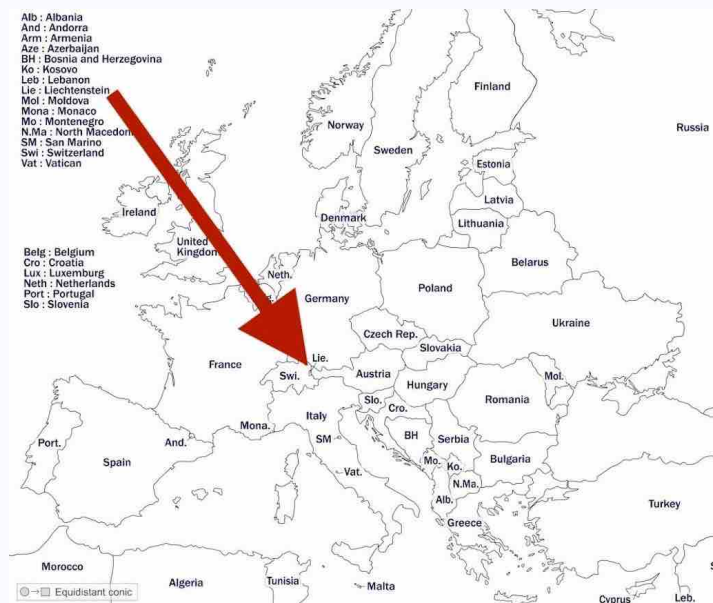


# The Stamps of Liechtenstein: Not Just Any Old Collecting Area (Part 1)

by Holger Zahnow, Independent Author

„Du muascht net all a so schotzla!“  
This means: *Take it easy!*<sup>1</sup>

Only the people who live and work in this small Alpine country on a daily basis can judge whether the call to ‘Take it easy!’ characterises life in Liechtenstein. Because it is definitely small, regardless of whether the area is used as a criterion or the number of inhabitants forms the basis. At around 160 sq km, Liechtenstein ranks sixth amongst the smallest independent and sovereign states in the world and, with a permanent population of around 39,700 people in 2022, ninth in this perspective (Fig.1). The territorial extent can be sketched more vividly if you imagine an area that measures around 25 km at its longest and only half that at its widest point. Really small! By way of comparison, the area of South Africa is more than 7,500 times larger than that of Liechtenstein.



With the kind permission of d-maps.com - [https://d-maps.com/carte.php?num\\_car=4577&lang=de](https://d-maps.com/carte.php?num_car=4577&lang=de)

Fig.1: Map of Europe with arrow pointing to Liechtenstein.

## The origins of Liechtenstein



Fig.2: Imperial earldoms of Schellenberg.



Fig.3: Forerunner 1890/92 Correspondence card, 2 Kr. Austria from Vaduz to Balzers.



Fig.4: Vaduz 1712.

This essay on Liechtenstein begins with the fundamental questions of how the dwarf state and its monarchy came to be. This requires some research into the family chronicles of the House of Liechtenstein. Geographically, the origins are linked to Liechtenstein Castle south of Vienna, Austria. The name of Hugo von Liechtenstein first appears in the

annals between 1130 and 1147, but it was not until the seventeenth century that the creation of the Principality of Liechtenstein was initiated. Prince Hans Adam I acquired the imperial earldoms of Schellenberg (1699, today's Unterland (Lowlands) in the north of Liechtenstein (Fig.2) and Vaduz (1712, today's Oberland in the south (Figs 3 and 4), which were over 600 kilometres away from Vienna. The purchase was based on the intention of creating the formal requirements for admission to the Imperial Council of Princes. Emperor Charles VI (Roman-German Emperor 1711-1740) granted this promotion in 1719 by uniting the acquired counties and elevating them to the Imperial Principality of Liechtenstein (Fig.4). The newly created country was now headed by its ruling family.



Fig.5: 275 years Lichtenstein.

<sup>1</sup>Wolf, Cornelia: Hoi AG Liechtenstein, Vaduz, Principality of Liechtenstein, URL: <https://www.hoi-laden.li>, enquiry from 01/07/2025



Fig.6: Coat of arms.

However, it was not until 1806 that Liechtenstein's state sovereignty was actually born, when it broke away from the Holy Roman Empire as a founding member of the Confederation of the Rhine (Fig.6). The Congress of Vienna, Austria, in 1814/1815 confirmed Liechtenstein's sovereignty and it joined the German Confederation.

### The importance of Austria and Switzerland

Among the next major events worth mentioning were also those that were relevant to the postal system in the country (Fig.7). Not least due to the traditionally close relationship between the House of Liechtenstein and the Habsburg Monarchy (a composite monarchy from the end of the thirteenth century to 1918), a comprehensive tax and customs treaty was concluded with the Austrian Empire in 1852. With regard to Liechtenstein's postage stamps from 1912 onwards, we will report on this later. In 1858, Prince Johan II (1840-1929) became head of state. In 1866, the German Confederation collapsed as a result of the 'fratricidal war' between Prussia and Austria, from which Prussia and its allies emerged victorious. As a small neutral state, Liechtenstein was too insignificant for the ruling superpowers and was spared any existential changes.

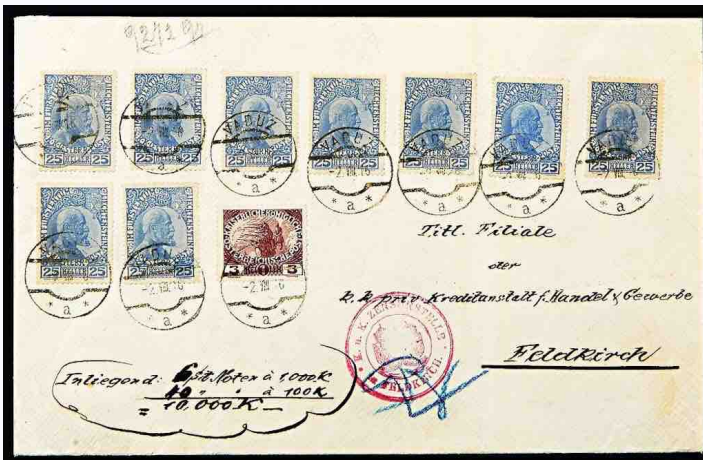


Fig.7: Rarity with mixed franking 1916: Nine copies SG 6a and Austria SG 242 together on cover from Vaduz to Feldkirch dated 2 August 1916 and red censor cancellation.

The revision of the Liechtenstein Constitution in 1921 was a milestone in the country's history. Characteristic of the attitude of a monarch is the reference to divine right in the preamble: "We, Johann II by the Grace of God, Sovereign Prince of Liechtenstein, (...) hereby proclaim that the Constitution of 26 September 1862 has been amended by Us with the consent of Our Parliament in the following manner ..." (Fig.8). The constitutional reform of 2003 emphasises the constitutional hereditary monarchy on a democratic-parliamentary basis.

The turning away from Austria while at the same time turning towards Switzerland culminated in 1923 in a customs

treaty with the western neighbour and the introduction of the Swiss Franc as the national currency.



Fig.8: 125 years of parliament - constitutional charter (1862).

Liechtenstein regional data	
<b>I. Basic data</b>	
Official designation	Principality of Liechtenstein
Form of government	Constitutional hereditary monarchy on a democratic and parliamentary basis (Constitution Art. 2)
Foundation (year)	23 January 1719
Surface area	around 160 sq km
Main town	Vaduz (permanent population of 5,800 in 2022)
Largest town	Schaan (6,062 permanent population in 2022)
Official languages	German, colloquial language: Alemannic dialect (three dialect regions)
Currency	Swiss franc (CHF): 1 Swiss franc (Fr) = 100 Rappen (Rp)*
<b>II. Recent history and economy</b>	
1929	Prince Franz I (1853-1938) becomes head of state
1938	Prince Franz Josef II (1906-1989) becomes head of state
1978	Admission to the Council of Europe (cf. SG 726/1979; 1247/2001)
1984	Introduction of women's suffrage and voting rights as the last country in Europe
1984/1989	Prince Hans-Adam I (*1945) becomes head of state
1990	Joining the United Nations Organisation (UNO) (cf. SG 1010/1991; 1717/2015; 1932/2021)
1991	Joining the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) (cf. SG 476/1967; 1551/2010)
1995	Accession to the European Economic Area (EEA) (cf. SG 1903/2020)
1995	Joining the World Trade Organization (WTO)
2003	Constitutional reform after a broad debate on the role of the monarchy in the country
2004	Prince Hans-Adam II appoints his son, Hereditary Prince Alois (*1968) as his deputy, together with the exercise of all sovereign rights to which he is entitled under the constitution; the title of Prince only passes to the son after the death of the father
2009	Czech Republic recognises Liechtenstein as a sovereign state
2022	Foreign trade balance: EUR 1,453 million (ZAR 29.7 billion)

Table 1: Liechtenstein regional data.

\* Explanation: 1 Swiss Franc (CHF) = South African Rand (ZAR) 21.79 on 22 August 2025.

Another essential perspective to Liechtenstein was provided by Prince Hans-Adam II in his speech from the throne at the opening of Parliament on 13 February 2003 with the words: "It is not difficult these days to find opponents of the Principality of Liechtenstein abroad, be it because of the financial centre, the monarchy or simply because we are a successful small state".

### The role of the monarchy

It is very easy to agree with this tenor, as the Princely House in particular offers numerous targets for its opponents. The constitutional reform of 2003 is one of these points. In the run-up to the reform, supporters and opponents engaged in a sometimes heated debate about the role of the monarchy and the power of the Reigning Prince in Liechtenstein. In this context, Prince Hans-Adam II was criticised for his verbally threatening behaviour. He painted the 'spectre' of moving his residence abroad and returning to pre-1938 conditions with rule from afar. He also believed that the abolition of the monarchy would put the country at risk of ending up in a dictatorship.

His opponents criticised the Prince's absolutist powers, as he, as head of state, is "endowed with far-reaching rights (convening, closing and dissolving parliament, sanctioning laws, dismissing the government, decisive role in appointing judges)". The Prince's statements appear to have impressed many of his subjects, as in 2003 the majority of voters (64.3 per cent) approved the constitutional reform known as the 'Initiative of the Prince and Hereditary Prince' in a referendum. The 2012 referendum, which aimed to reduce the Prince's right of veto, was also rejected by 76.1%, meaning he can continue to rule. On the other hand, certain perspectives should not go unmentioned. These include the option for the municipalities to withdraw from the Principality (Art. 4 of the Constitution), the possibility of expressing no confidence in the Reigning Prince by means of a referendum (Art. 13b) and the option of abolishing the monarchy by means of a referendum (Art. 113).

As mentioned by Prince Hans-Adam II himself in his speech from the throne at the opening of Parliament on 13 February 2003, the wealth of the Head of State and the Princely House is another area of attack. The 'Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation' is a private foundation of the Prince of Liechtenstein. It contains almost all of his assets, which, according to various estimates, could amount to between CHF 5 and 10 billion (ZAR 109 to 218 billion). LGT Bank AG (Liechtenstein Global Trust), an internationally active financial services company based in Vaduz, company shareholdings, very valuable art collections and tax avoidance form the basis for the existing wealth and growth. Not forgetting the Liechtenstein family's extensive property holdings, which also include several castles. The Liechtensteinische Post presented a selection of these in 1977 (Fig.9).



Fig.9: 20 Rp. Frauenthal Castle, Styria, 50 Rp. Groß-Ullersdorf Castle, North Moravia (owned by the Czech state since 1945), 80 Rp. Liechtenstein Castle near Mödling, Lower Austria (sold, now a retirement home), 90 Rp. Liechtenstein Palace Alserbach, Vienna.

After the 2008 scandal with the revelation of mass favoured tax evasion from foreign financial investors of LGT Bank created a dirty image. The amendment of the banking secrecy laws in 2009 and the international agreement on the prevention of tax evasion in 2013 provided relief. In recent years, the country has turned to gambling, which has earned Liechtenstein the reputation of being the 'Las Vegas of the Alps'.

The philatelic division of Liechtenstein Post used to be a mainstay of the state budget (Fig.10). According to the Liechtenstein Postal Museum, "stamp sales regularly generated more than 20 per cent of annual state revenue until the 1970s".



Fig.10: Postcard 1918 with the Princely Coat of Arms and the inscription, K.K. Österr. Post im Fürstentum Liechtenstein.

### Stamp collectors decide for themselves

However, it is not the purpose of this article to praise or denounce the political, social and economic advantages and disadvantages of Liechtenstein and its monarchy. Anyone who already collects the stamps of this small country has made a conscious decision to do so, or is simply enthusiastic

by the attractive motifs. Anyone who is still looking for a collecting area should always base their decision on a sufficiently objective basis, make a clear commitment or simply start collecting the stamps of a country or on a particular theme for the sake of the beautiful postage stamps (Fig.11). This also applies to the postage stamps of Liechtenstein.



Fig.11: 85 Rp. 1908 Brasier racing car, 100 Rp. 1911 Stanley Steamer, 140 Rp. 1915 Ford Model T Speedster, 190 Rp. 1920 Hinstin.

To be continued ...

### Contact addresses

- Liechtenstein Philatelists' Association (LPHV), P.O. Box 460, FL-9490 Vaduz, Principality of Liechtenstein, URL: <https://www.lphv.li>, email: [lphv@lphv.li](mailto:lphv@lphv.li)
- Liechtenstein PostMuseum, P.O. Box 1216, Städtle 37, FL-9490 Vaduz, Principality of Liechtenstein, URL: <https://www.landmuseum.li/de/postmuseum-dauerausstellung>, email: [info@landmuseum.li](mailto:info@landmuseum.li). The online catalogue (URL: <https://stamps.postmuseum.li/catalog/categories>) offers excellent images and detailed information on all of the country's stamps. Stamps and coins can be purchased in the shop of the Liechtensteinisches LandesMuseum, URL: <https://shop.landmuseum.li>
- Philately Liechtenstein, Liechtensteinische Post AG, Alte Zollstrasse 11, FL-9494 Schaan, Principality of Liechtenstein, Tel.: +423 399 44 66, URL: <https://www.philatelie.li>, email: [philatelie@post.li](mailto:philatelie@post.li)
- Ring der Liechtensteinsammler e. V. (Community of the Liechtenstein collectors), Arbeitsgemeinschaft im Bund Deutscher Philatelisten (BDPh) (Working group in the Federation of German Philatelists), office: Thomas Edtmaier, Landskroner Weg 32, D-73033 Göppingen, c/o Dr Heinz Rennenberg, Seilerweg 41, 79108 Freiburg, phone: +49 7665 95105, URL: <https://www.liechtensteinsammler.de>, EMail: [mail@liechtensteinsammler.de](mailto:mail@liechtensteinsammler.de)

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## The Birth of the Philatelic Association of Stilbaai

by Karel Nel, Philatelic Association of Stilbaai

In 2019, a small group of collectors in Stilbaai, a quiet coastal town in South Africa, decided to revive the art of stamp collecting. Their gatherings grew into a vibrant association that blended friendship, history, and community spirit. This article tells the story of how the Philatelic Association of Stilbaai began, what it achieved in its first year, and how it continues to protect the legacy of philately in a changing world.



*Fig.1: 17 June 2024: f.l.t.r. Christo Cronje, Dries Strydom, Fred Meyer, Karel Nel (Current Chair), Willie Schoombee, Niel Penz (front).*

### A Hobby Comes Back to Life

In early 2019, a few Stilbaai residents began to talk about their old stamp albums — collections from childhood or family inheritances stored away for years. The conversations led to an idea: to form a group where people could share their interest, learn from one another, and celebrate philately again.

And so, the Philatelic Association of Stilbaai was born — a club built on curiosity and companionship. Meetings were informal, often held at the Aroma Coffee Shop on Thursday afternoons. Members contributed R20 for coffee and tea, and the discussion always centred on one subject only: stamps.

The mood was relaxed but enthusiastic. Experienced collectors sat beside beginners, sharing stories and comparing their collections. The meetings became an easy blend of English and Afrikaans conversation, reflecting the town's culture and its warm sense of community.

### Founders and Vision

The group began with fewer than ten members, led by Fred Meyer, the first Chairman, and Karel Nel, the first Secretary. Each founding member brought a different area of interest:

American presidential issues, the Anglo-Boer War, or the postal history of South Africa. Together, they built the early personality of the Association — serious about stamps, but never too serious to enjoy them.

Soon, the members agreed to formalise their work. They adopted a Constitution, setting out how the Society would be managed and what its goals should be. The document emphasised fair leadership, cooperation, and education. It also intended to eventually link the new club to the Philatelic Federation of South Africa (PFSA), aligning the small local group with the national philatelic network.

The Constitution gave shape to the club's vision:

- to hold regular meetings,
- to arrange exhibitions,
- to share knowledge, and
- to bring young people into the world of stamps.

### Growth, Friendship, and Activity

As the year went on, the club expanded both in numbers and in ambition. New members joined, such as Adriaan Loots, Andy Kriegler, DP van der Merwe, Dries Strydom, Harry Gordon, Lampies Lamprecht, and later Bernhard du Plessis, Dr. Hennie de Waal, and Joh Groenewald also visited occasionally.

Monthly gatherings often included small displays. A highlight came when Joh Groenewald presented his rare exhibit on the postal history of Kaokoland. Such visits inspired others to develop their own themes and to see philately as a living record of human communication.

Beyond meetings, the Association took on community projects. In September 2019, it participated in the Culture Week at the Primary School Bertie Barnard, where pupils learned about stamps, competed in a quiz, and received donated philatelic material. Members like DP van der Merwe and Janine Potgieter (teacher) helped organise the event, proving that philately could still inspire young minds.

The club also reached out to the elderly. Stamps were donated to local care homes for use in therapeutic art sessions — a gentle and creative way to bring joy and memory to older residents.

Another imaginative project turned stamps into art. Adriaan Loots and Amanda Nel produced stamp collages — large-scale pictures made entirely from real stamps, such as scenes from the Battle of Amajuba. Each collage used hundreds of stamps, blending history and creativity in a modern form of philatelic expression.



*Fig.2: 14 Mar 2019: A worksession/exhibition: f.l.t.r.: Fred Meyer (Chair), AJ Coetzee (passed on), Andy Kriegler (Passed on), Ernie Ceruti, DP van der Merwe (passed on).*

### Holding to Tradition in a Changing World

As digital communication grew and postal services declined, the members often reflected on the paradox of their hobby: stamps were disappearing from daily life, yet interest in them was quietly returning.

“The Post Office may be fading,” one member remarked, “but philately is alive and well.” The Association saw itself as the caretaker of a proud tradition — one that connects people to art, geography, and history through tiny printed windows of colour and story.

In late 2019, the club held its first year-end function at Aroma Coffee Shop. The evening, hosted with the help of Anice, marked a successful first year filled with discovery, laughter, and new friendships. The members looked forward to 2020 with renewed purpose to grow their numbers, strengthen ties with other clubs, and continue preserving South Africa’s postal heritage.

### Looking Back – and Forward

The first year of the Philatelic Association of Stilbaai proved that great things can start small. What began as a handful of collectors sharing coffee became a structured, community-minded organisation that touched lives across generations.

Through study, creativity, and service, the members reconnected their town with a piece of history that might otherwise have been lost. In the quiet handling of stamps — those miniature ambassadors of nations — they rediscovered something larger: the pleasure of shared curiosity and the power of small details to tell big stories.



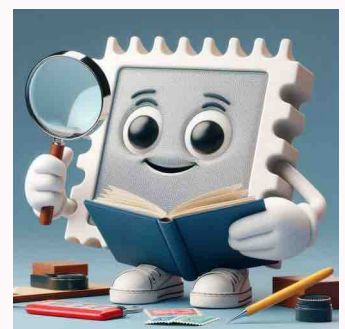
*Fig.3: 19 Sep 2019, Communication session at Primary School Bertie Barnard: Adriaan Loots and DP vd Merwe (passed on).*



*Fig.4: 20 Nov 2024: Artwork donated to Restaurant serving seafood: Adriaan Loots and Willie Schoombee.*

## Improve Your Collection with Kenny Napier

Passionate about stamps? Kenny Napier is your go-to source, offering three stamp auctions monthly in Gauteng alongside a meticulously curated selection of stamps for direct purchase. Whether you’re hunting for rare classics or completing a series, our diverse inventory caters to all collectors. Experience the thrill of finding your next treasure at auction or conveniently browse our direct sales stock. For auction dates, catalogs, or direct sales inquiries, contact Kenny Napier at [083 444 0249](tel:0834440249) or [kenny.napier@mweb.co.za](mailto:kenny.napier@mweb.co.za).



# Classic Stamps of the Victorian Era - With a Unique Additional Feature

by Press Office, Royal Mail



Fig.1: Penny Black (1840) Twopenny Blue (1841), 6d embossed (1854) and 4d first letterpress (1855) 1s small letters (1862) and Penny Red (1864) Penny Lilac (1881) and 4d 'Jubilee' (1887).

Royal Mail today unveiled a set of stamps that pay tribute to some of the most iconic designs in British postal history on 20 November 2025.

From the groundbreaking Penny Black of 1840, the world's first adhesive postage stamp, to later classics such as the Penny Red, Penny Lilac, and the elegant 4d 'Jubilee' of 1887, the collection charts the evolution of British philately during Queen Victoria's reign, which transformed communication forever. Each stamp features her unmistakable profile, a constant presence throughout more than six decades on the throne.

The main set includes eight 1st Class stamps (Fig. 1). For the first time in the modern stamp programme, this set includes a unique feature: a watermark image printed on the reverse of each stamp, echoing the original security design from when they were first issued.

Together, these stamps tell the story of a period defined by progress, invention and a monarch whose image became synonymous with the very act of sending a letter.

For the first time in the modern stamp programme, this set includes a unique feature: a watermark image printed on the reverse of each stamp, echoing the original anti-forgery design from when they were first issued. Each watermark corresponds to the era in which the original Victorian stamp was issued.

Accompanying the main set is a miniature sheet containing four stamps inspired by Queen Victoria's personal passion for photography. Featuring four evocative portraits of the monarch, they offer an intimate glimpse of the life and image of a queen whose likeness became emblematic of an empire.



Fig.2: Queen Victoria at different stages of her reign.

The photographs shown in each of these stamps in Fig.2 show Queen Victoria at different stages of her reign — from a young queen in the 1850s to the dignified matriarch of empire in her later years. Alongside the stamps sits a striking portrait of Victoria, framed in a decorative border that reflects the artistry of the age.

### Watermarks:



The stamps, and a range of collectible products, are available at [www.royalmail.com/queenvictoria](http://www.royalmail.com/queenvictoria). A Presentation Pack including all 12 stamps is priced at £21.30.

## Notice of Dissolution of the Stellenbosch Philatelic Society



Stellenbosch, dated 08 October 2025

To: Chief Operating Officer, Philatelic Federation of SA Andre du Plessis

To: PFSA President for 2026, dr Louwrence Erasmus  
and for distribution to:  
the Chairman, Management Committee, John Handman  
Regional Vice President, Western Cape, Chuck Muller  
Present and Past members of the Stellenbosch Philatelic Society

The society had decided unanimously at its AGM on 4 February 2025 to dissolve the stamp club, effective later in this year after the national stamp show in Paarl in September 2025.

Reasons include the dwindling membership numbers, ailing members and relocation of many former members who have joined clubs elsewhere. Attempts to attract more members since Covid have not realised.

The meeting venue (currently with no costs) is not a given option any more. The society has dealt with necessary wrapping-up processes, its records, historical documents, logo, and the few remaining assets.

The newsletter (ed Robert Harm) may be transferred to a wider audience as it has been distributed over the last years.

Members were advised of alternative clubs, and the options of Direct Federation Membership as from 2026.

There is currently no evidence to transfer the charter elsewhere: if a future organisation were to be established, the new body and name would be registered by the national Philatelic Federation. As per a recent PFSA notice, the Society will transfer the last funds (if any) to the Federation as a retainer.

We request Federation to remove the links to the society from the *stampssa.africa* website, as well as from future Federation publications.

Thanking you for your support,

Ab Vonkeman  
Society Secretary

Niel Matthee  
Society President

Philatelic Federation of South Africa  
Private Bag X505, Pretoria, 0001

[www.stampssa.africa](http://www.stampssa.africa)

9 October 2025

To: Mr Ab Vonkeman, Secretary

To: Mr Niel Matthee, President  
Stellenbosch Philatelic Society

*Subject: Acknowledgement of the Dissolution of the Stellenbosch Philatelic Society*

Dear Mr Vonkeman and Mr Matthee,

On behalf of the *Philatelic Federation of South Africa* (PFSA), I acknowledge with regret the formal notice of dissolution of the *Stellenbosch Philatelic Society*, dated 8 October 2025.

It is always disappointing to see the closure of a society with a long-standing contribution to South African philately. Since its establishment, the *Stellenbosch Philatelic Society* has served its members and the wider philatelic community with distinction. Your club's commitment to promoting the hobby through meetings, displays, and the well-regarded newsletter is sincerely appreciated and will be remembered as part of our collective philatelic heritage.

We understand the circumstances that led to this difficult decision and commend the committee for handling the winding-up process in an orderly and transparent manner. The PFSA will ensure that all references to the *Stellenbosch Philatelic Society* are removed from the Federation's website and future publications as requested. We will also record the Society's historical details appropriately in the Federation archives.

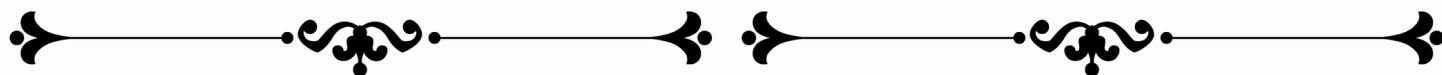
Please extend my appreciation to all past and present members for their years of enthusiasm and contribution to organised philately. We hope that many will continue their involvement through other societies or as Direct Members of the Federation from 2026 onward.

The PFSA is grateful for your cooperation and your dedication over the years. The legacy of the *Stellenbosch Philatelic Society* will remain a valued chapter in South Africa's philatelic story.

With kind regards,

Dr Louwrence Erasmus  
President (2026)

Philatelic Federation of South Africa





## Cultural Imperforate: How SASOL25 Turned a Library into a Living Museum

by Leon Jacobson, Sasolburg Philatelic Society

In the digital age, the physical presence of a postage stamp can seem almost removed from everyday experience. Yet for five days in late October, the aisles of the Sasolburg Public Library were filled not with quiet readers, but with lively conversations and moments of discovery. The Sasolburg Philatelic Society, known locally as 'Oilfilat', hosted its annual regional exhibition, SASOL25, demonstrating that philately remains at its strongest when it is accessible, community-centred, and grounded in genuine human connection.

### A Convergence of Collectors

Held from 27 to 31 October 2025, the exhibition was a competitive event enriched by a clear sense of camaraderie. Although rooted in Sasolburg, it attracted a wide range of entries from across the region, including two exhibits each from Bloemfontein and Parys, three from Pretoria, and a notable contribution from Viljoensdrif.

We were fortunate to have the judging expertise of Dr Louwrence Erasmus and André du Plessis (Fig.1). Their contribution went beyond formal adjudication; they provided valuable guidance. By assessing at regional level and offering detailed commentary, they helped exhibitors identify the steps needed to elevate their work to National standards—support that is vital for sustaining the hobby.



Fig.1: André du Plessis and Louwrence Erasmus busy judging.

The top award of the week went to Ronel Erasmus of the Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria. Her exhibit, 'PKZ 00002 - Permit Mail', received a Gold medal and earned the Grand Prix trophy for the best overall exhibit, presented by the library director, Estelle Boers (Fig.2). The Walthof Trophy for Union and RSA was presented to Theo Offenbergh of Oilfilat for his 'JIPEX Miniature Sheets' (Fig.4).



Fig.2: Estelle Boers handing the Grand Prix trophy to Ronel Erasmus.

### Beyond the Album: Context Philately

A striking feature of SASOL25 was its emphasis on context philately. A non-competitive exhibit by Dr Jan de Man of Viljoensdrif (Fig.3), focusing on the ZAR (Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek), demonstrated the value of placing stamps within their historical environment.



Fig.3: Context Philately exhibit.

His display extended beyond traditional frames. Alongside documents and covers were two cases of accompanying artefacts, including contemporary coinage and an authentic apothecary's kit. This multidimensional approach shifted the focus from stamps alone to the lived world surrounding the mail, offering visitors a tangible encounter with the social history of the period.

## Bridging the Generational Divide

Much of the success of SASOL25 lay in its public engagement. By hosting the exhibition in a public library rather than a private club venue, Oilfilat opened the event to a broader audience.

The response revealed a clear generational contrast. Schoolchildren, many unfamiliar with traditional postal systems, were intrigued by the workings of mail. Older visitors, by contrast, were reminded of past routines: the arrival of the postman, handwritten letters, and the anticipation of news.

The impact was immediate. The



Fig.4: Estelle Boers handing the Walthof Trophy to Theo Offenberg.

club gained two new members, and many visitors expressed renewed interest, planning to revisit childhood collections or retrieve family letters stored away for years. As one organiser observed, "Regional exhibitions in public spaces can go a long way in capturing public interest. They do not need to be large, as long as they are engaging."

## Philately as Culture

Beyond coverage in the local newspaper, the exhibition resonated more widely. The Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation featured the event in its latest newsletter, with an article written by librarian Estelle Boers. This acknowledgement raises an important consideration for the future: should philately be presented not only as a hobby, but as a recognised part of our cultural heritage?

As SASOL25 illustrated, philately is more than the act of collecting. It is a form of storytelling; an archive of lived experience, preserved one perforation at a time.

## Results:

No	Name	Exhibit	Class	Marks	Medal
1	Mr L. Jacobson	SWA postage due overprints 1923-1929	Traditional	62	Silver
2	Mr L. Jacobson	Collecting beyond the catalogue	Thematic	60	Silver
3	Mr L. Jacobson	SWA underfranked mail collection 1961-1989	Postal History	64	Silver
4	Jan de Man	Paul Kruger and the ZAR	Context	-	Certificate of participation
5	Mr D. Green	A Study of the ½ cent Kingfisher Stamp - 1961 to 1974.	Traditional	58	Silver Bronze
6	Ms Ronel Erasmus	PKZ 00002 - Permit Mail	Modern	80	Gold
7	Mr A. Nel	A selection of pre-printed pages of Switzerland	Traditional	< 45	Certificate of participation
8	Theo Offenberg	JIPEX Miniature Sheets	Traditional	70	Vermeil
9	Johan van Wyk	Rhodesia and Nyasaland 1954-1963	Traditional	65	Large Silver
10	Koos de la Rey	Mauritius	Traditional	57	Silver Bronze
11	Mrs Petra Heath	Die Portugese ontdekkingsreisigers - 'n nuwe era	Open	70	Vermeil
12	Johan van Wyk	SA Post Office	Open	61	Silver
13	Prof G. Osthoff	Ericas van Suid Afrika	Thematics	65	Large Silver
14	Mrs N. Lubbe	Spinning and weaving	Thematic	67	Large Silver
15	Mr T. Harris	Its more than a game	Thematic	45	Certificate of merit
16	Mr L. Jacobson	Birds of Namibia	Thematic	< 45	Certificate of participation

Congratulations to all the exhibitors. Thank you to the organisers and the Sasolburg Public Library.



Show your collection to your family and friends, and consider exhibiting it at club meetings and regional, national, and international exhibitions. See this issue of *The SA Philatelist*, [Stamps SA Keeping in Touch](#), and the official PFSA website at <http://stampssa.africa> for more information.



## Stamps for Christmas 2025

by Press Office, Royal Mail



Fig.1: Angel 2nd Class, Mary & Joseph 2nd Large Letter, Mary & the Baby Jesus 1st Class, Shepherds 1st Large Letter, Three Wise Men £3.40.

As people across the United Kingdom prepare to write their Christmas cards, Royal Mail today revealed on 4 November 2025 its Christmas 2025 stamps, featuring scenes of the Nativity (Fig.1). The stamps have been exclusively designed by award-winning illustrator Paula Doherty.

The illustrations for this year's Christmas stamps celebrate the beauty of surface and texture. The designs evoke the richness of inlaid marble, enamelling, marquetry, and collage—each suggesting a tactile, crafted quality. These techniques share a common thread: assemblage. Through

various fragments brought together in harmony, Paula's work offers a fresh and vibrant interpretation of the Nativity story.

The stamps depict key characters within the Nativity: An angel, Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, the shepherds, and the Wise Men.

Royal Mail also worked with Professor Ben Quash, Professor of Christianity and the Arts at King's College London, and Professor Andrew Davison, Regius Professor of Divinity at the University of Oxford, on the stamp issue. [u](#)

### Celebrate 100 Years of South Africa's Second Definitive Series!



Get ready, stamp lovers — a major milestone has arrived! It's the centenary of the iconic Second Definitive Series of the Union of South Africa — the set that kicked off on 1 January 1926 with the striking London Printings of the ½d black-and-green Springbok head, the bold 1d black-and-red Drommedaris, and the imperf. 4d Triangle. These classics did not just mark the mail... they marked an era.

Now it's our turn to celebrate them in style!

#### Calling all clubs, societies, and collectors:

Let's make this anniversary unforgettable! Host your own show-and-tell sessions, organise mini-exhibitions, or dust off those gems for a special presentation. Share the stories, the varieties, the forgeries, the proofs — and the passion!

#### Contribute to the celebration:

We're inviting articles, reflections, display write-ups, and even quirky anecdotes for The SA Philatelist and Stamps SA - Keeping in Touch. Whether you're a veteran collector or a curious newcomer, your voice matters. This centenary is more than a date — it's a reminder of why we collect: the history, the artistry, the thrill, the community.

So bring out your Springboks, your Drommedaris ships, your Triangles of Hope — and let's honour 100 years of philatelic magic together!

**Join the celebration. Share the joy. Keep the story alive.** [u](#)

## Visit a Stamp Fair Near You



### Cape Stamp Fair and Auction

Usually **first** Saturday, every month.  
**Bellville Valley DRC Hall,**  
c/o Postma & St Andrews Streets, Bellville  
*Open:* 09:00 – 12:30

*Contact:*  
Ken Joseph: 072 5971287,  
[ken@philatelicfriends.com](mailto:ken@philatelicfriends.com)  
Robert Harm: 082 925-7103,  
[robertharm9@gmail.com](mailto:robertharm9@gmail.com)

### George (Online Philatelic Auctions Only)

Ray's Stamps

*Contact:*  
Ray Upson: 044 871 2286,  
[scpa@xsinet.co.za](mailto:scpa@xsinet.co.za),  
Fax2Email: 086 733 8444

### Pretoria Stamp Fair and Auction Gauteng

**First** Saturday, every month.  
**Greek Orthodox Church,**  
Corner Lynnwood Road & Roper St, Brooklyn  
*Open:* 08:00 with Auction at 10:30

*Contact:*  
Kenny Napier: 083 444 0249,  
[kenny.napier@mweb.co.za](mailto:kenny.napier@mweb.co.za)

### Johannesburg Stamp Fair and Auction Gauteng (Old Kyalami Stamp Fair)

**Second** Saturday every month.  
**German Club,** 131 Holkam Road, Paulshof, Sandton.  
*Open:* 08:00 with Auction at 10:00

*Contact:*  
Kenny Napier: 083 444 0249,  
[kenny.napier@mweb.co.za](mailto:kenny.napier@mweb.co.za)

### East Rand Stamp Fair and Auction Gauteng

**Last** Saturday, every month.  
**Edenvale Bowling Club,**  
6th Avenue, Edenvale  
*Open:* 08:00 with Auction at 10:00

*Contact:*  
Kenny Napier: 083 444 0249,  
[kenny.napier@mweb.co.za](mailto:kenny.napier@mweb.co.za)

### Natal Stamp Fair and Auction (Durban)

**Second** and **last** Saturday, every month.  
**Classic Motor-cycle Club,**  
137 Tara Road, Bluff, Durban  
*Open:* From 09:00

*Contact:*  
Zbigniew Kawecki: 082 968 6888,  
[z.kawecki57@gmail.com](mailto:z.kawecki57@gmail.com)

### KZN: Sunbird Stamp Auction

**First** Saturday, every month.  
**St Elizabeth's Anglican Church Hall,**  
45 Salisbury Avenue, Westville, Durban  
*Open:* 09:00 – 13:00

*Contact:*  
Kim Breytenbach: 082 871 6292,  
[sunbird.stampauction@gmail.com](mailto:sunbird.stampauction@gmail.com)



*Support SAPDA Dealers.* The South African Philatelic Dealers Association (SAPDA) maintains a code of conduct for dealers in stamps and postal material and arranges dealer participation in the annual national stamp exhibition. For more information: <https://stampssa.africa/buy-and-sell/>



## Invest in your passion and experience all the PFSA has to offer



We love collecting stamps, it's not just a hobby, it is a lifelong journey into history, art, and culture. Joining the *Philatelic Federation of South Africa* (PFSA) can take your collecting experience to the next level! PFSA offers expert certification services, exclusive research resources, philatelic libraries, exhibition opportunities, and a network of passionate collectors.

Stay updated with *The SA Philatelist* journal and *Stamps South Africa – Keeping in Touch* newsletter.

Whether you are looking to refine your competitive exhibits or expand your specialisation, PFSA membership offers support and unparalleled community connections.

Contact the President or Secretary of a society for more information to join.

### EASTERN CAPE

• **EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: David Preston, 082 774 2090, [prestee@telkomsa.net](mailto:prestee@telkomsa.net); Sec: Carlos Da Fonseca, 082 334 7603,

[Carlosdafonseca66@outlook.com](mailto:Carlosdafonseca66@outlook.com); Meetings: Fourth Thursday monthly at 19:30—Heritage Hall, 1st Floor, Berea Gardens, 70 Jarvis Rd, Berea, East London.

• **DIE POSBOOM FILATELIEVERENIGING, MOSSELBAAI:** Pres: Gerrie Conradie, 082 952 6700, [gajcon@gmail.com](mailto:gajcon@gmail.com); Meetings: Second Monday monthly at 18:00—St Peter's Kerkzaal, Marshstraat, Mosselbaai. 19:00.

• **GEORGE PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: Willie Mollentze, 082 555 7760, [mollentzewf@gmail.com](mailto:mollentzewf@gmail.com); Sec: Otto Muller, 083 240 8722, [otto1muller@gamil.com](mailto:otto1muller@gamil.com); Meetings: Second Thursday monthly at 18h00—Minor Hall, Presbyterian Church, 8 Caledon Street, George. 19:00.

• **PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: Francois Friend, 082 554 8900, [francois@softchem.co.za](mailto:francois@softchem.co.za); Sec: Louis Oosthuizen, 082 469 7494,

[louis.oosthuizen001@gmail.com](mailto:louis.oosthuizen001@gmail.com); Meetings: First Monday monthly at 11:00 (except December)—Bible Society House, 31 Cotswold Ave, Cotswold, Port Elizabeth.

• **STILL BAY PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION:** Chair: Karel Nel, 082 414 4881, [karenel@mweb.co.za](mailto:karenel@mweb.co.za); Sec: Fred Meyer, 083 676 1379, [fredlin1@telkomsa.net](mailto:fredlin1@telkomsa.net); Meetings: Monthly on the first Tuesday at 15:00.

### FREE STATE

• **GOLDFIELDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: Gary Trower, [garytrower11@gmail.com](mailto:garytrower11@gmail.com); Sec: Andrzej Formanowicz, 082 805 4800, [litestrider@mweb.co.za](mailto:litestrider@mweb.co.za); Meetings: Last Thursday monthly at 14:00—NG Kerk. First or second Saturday of the month - 9.00 for 9.30 at the Welkom Retirement Village, Welkom.

• **ORANGE FREE STATE PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: Neil

Cronje RDPSA, 082 800 1432, [drjdecronje@gmail.com](mailto:drjdecronje@gmail.com); Sec: Voet du Plessis, 082 449 9488, [jvoet44@gmail.com](mailto:jvoet44@gmail.com); Meetings: Every 4th Saturday monthly at 10:00 (except December) – Sentraal Primary School, Raymond Mhlaba Rd. Bloemfontein.

• **SASOLBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: Leon Jacobsen, 083 389 8647, [lj.heritage@gmail.com](mailto:lj.heritage@gmail.com); Sec: Cecily Jacobsen, 083 389 8647, [lj.heritage@gmail.com](mailto:lj.heritage@gmail.com); Meetings: Second Wednesday monthly at 14:00 (except December)—Sasolburg Public Library, Civic Centre, Fichardt St, Sasolburg.

### GAUTENG

• **AFRIKAANSE FILATELIEVERENIGING VAN PRETORIA:** Chair: Louwrence Erasmus, 083 540 5092, [voorsitter@afpretoria.co.za](mailto:voorsitter@afpretoria.co.za); Sec: Ronel Erasmus, 083 397 6742, [sekretaris@afpretoria.co.za](mailto:sekretaris@afpretoria.co.za); Website: <https://afpretoria.co.za>; Meetings: Third Saturday monthly at 10:00 (except December)—Queenswood N.G. Kerk, Garret Street, Queenswood, Pretoria.

• **EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: David Wigston, 084 702 3704, [speedbird.imperial@gmail.com](mailto:speedbird.imperial@gmail.com); Sec: Paul Hammerton, 082 459 4221, [hampaul@ananzi.co.za](mailto:hampaul@ananzi.co.za); Meetings: Last Saturday monthly at 14:00 (except December)—52 Van der Post Avenue, Parkrand, Boksburg. Please confirm attendance with Cynthia Gillespie on 083 236 4998 or at [cynthia.gillespie@gmail.com](mailto:cynthia.gillespie@gmail.com).

• **EDENVALE PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: Colin Bousfield, 083 961 9656, [Bousfield.colin@yahoo.co.za](mailto:Bousfield.colin@yahoo.co.za); Sec: Sandy Robertson, [sandystampnews@gmail.com](mailto:sandystampnews@gmail.com); Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/668264589986883>; Meetings: Monthly on the last Saturday at 13:00 (except December)—Thornhill Manor Hall, Thornhill Retirement Village, Modderfontein.

• **PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG:** Pres: Clive Carr, 083 634 1939, [carr.clive@gmail.com](mailto:carr.clive@gmail.com); Sec: Vic Sorour RDPSA, 083 630 2266, [vsorour@wol.co.za](mailto:vsorour@wol.co.za); Meetings: Third Wednesday monthly at 16:00 (except December)—Blairgowrie Recreation Centre, Park Lane, Blairgowrie.

• **PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: John Robertson, 079 876 2162, [jhrmjk@mweb.co.za](mailto:jhrmjk@mweb.co.za); Act Sec: Alex Visser RDPSA, 082 922 2917, [alex.visser@up.ac.za](mailto:alex.visser@up.ac.za); Website: <https://stampssa.africa/pretps>; Meetings: First Saturday monthly at 09:00—Greek Orthodox Church, Corner Lynnwood Road & Roper St, Brooklyn, Pretoria.

• **SANDTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: Chris Carey, 083 662 2150, [ccarey@icon.co.za](mailto:ccarey@icon.co.za); Sec: Beata Carey, [ccarey@icon.co.za](mailto:ccarey@icon.co.za); Meetings: First Thursday monthly at 10:00 (except January)—Blairgowrie Community Centre, Park Lane Avenue (off Susman Av), Blairgowrie.

• **WITWATERSRAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: Herbie

Schäffler RDPSA, [082 722 7604](tel:0827227604), [haschaff@iafrica.com](mailto:haschaff@iafrica.com); Sec: Nikki Espley-Jones, [011 710 6406](tel:0117106406), [nikki@ccj.co.za](mailto:nikki@ccj.co.za); Meetings: Second Wednesday monthly at 16:00—Country Club, Johannesburg, Napier Rd, Auckland Park; last Wednesday monthly at 19:00—Woodmead Country Club, Johannesburg.

#### • THEMATICS SA:

• **Pretoria Chapter:** Contact: Helena Snyman, [083 990 8953](tel:0839908953), [helenasnyman7@gmail.com](mailto:helenasnyman7@gmail.com); Meeting: ; Meetings: First Saturday monthly at 10:00—Greek Orthodox Church Hall, corner Lynwood Road and Roper Street, Pretoria (opposite UP main gate).

• **Western Cape Chapter:** Contact: Diederik Viljoen, [082 456 6653](tel:0824566653), [diederikviljoen@gmail.com](mailto:diederikviljoen@gmail.com); Meeting: ; Meetings: First Saturday monthly at 09:00—Bellville-Vallei DRC hall, c/o Postma and St Andrews Street, Oakdale, Bellville.

• **KZN Chapter:** Contact: Aubrey Bowles, [083 382 8308](tel:0833828308), [aubrey.bowles45@gmail.com](mailto:aubrey.bowles45@gmail.com); Meeting: ; Meetings: Third Monday monthly at 15:00.00—St Matthews Parish Hall, 115 Hesketh Drive, Hayfields, Pietermaritzburg.

#### KWA-ZULU NATAL

• **HIGHWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: Frik Boooyse, [082 284 5929](tel:0822845929), [nfboooyse@gmail.com](mailto:nfboooyse@gmail.com); Marketing: Barry Livsey, [082 892 7324](tel:0828927324), [hps@xsinet.co.za](mailto:hps@xsinet.co.za); Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/339715808168144>; Meetings: First Saturday monthly at 08:30—Elizabeth Church Hall, Salisbury Avenue, Westville, Durban.

• **MARITZBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: John Handman, [083 660 1275](tel:0836601275), [john@radium.co.za](mailto:john@radium.co.za); Meetings: Third Saturday monthly at 10:00—Hilton Scout and Community Hall, Magnolia Road, Hilton.

• **PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF KWAZULU-NATAL:** Pres: Zbigniew Kaweck, [082 968 6888](tel:0829686888), [z.kaweck157@gmail.com](mailto:z.kaweck157@gmail.com); Sec: Genevieve Fitzpatrick, [genevieveta60@gmail.com](mailto:genevieveta60@gmail.com); Meetings: Second and fourth Saturday monthly at 09:00—Classic Motor Cycle Clubhouse, 137 Tara Road, The Bluff, Durban.

#### WESTERN CAPE

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• **FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: Johan De Wet, [073 020 5004](tel:0730205004), [elspethd@iafrica.com](mailto:elspethd@iafrica.com); Sec: Volker Janssen, [021 786 1548](tel:0217861548), [janssenp@iafrica.com](mailto:janssenp@iafrica.com) <https://www.fhps.info>; Meetings: First Tuesday monthly at 14:00—The Minor Hall, Civic Centre, Recreation Rd, Fish Hoek.

• **PAARLSE FILATELISTE:** Pres: Gawie Hugo, [083 956 2410](tel:0839562410), [gawiehugo@gmail.com](mailto:gawiehugo@gmail.com); Sec: Riaan Crafford, [082 876 7608](tel:0828767608), [paarlsefilateliste@gmail.com](mailto:paarlsefilateliste@gmail.com); Meetings: Second Saturday monthly at 09:00—MBA gebou, Concordia St, Suider Paarl.

• **PINELANDS STAMP CIRCLE, CAPE TOWN:** Pres: Martin Crawford, [m.tristan.crawford@gmail.com](mailto:m.tristan.crawford@gmail.com); Sec: Marilyn Crawford, [m.tristan.crawford@gmail.com](mailto:m.tristan.crawford@gmail.com); Meetings: Last Wednesday monthly at 18:30 (except December)—Activities Hall, Public Library, Howard Place, Pinelands.

• **ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN:** Pres: Hugh Amoore RDPSA FRPSL, [082 440 8204](tel:0824408204), [082 440 8204](tel:0824408204); Sec: Victor Millard, [082 802 8882](tel:0828028882), [royalphilct@gmail.com](mailto:royalphilct@gmail.com) <https://stampssa.africa/rpsct>; Meetings: First Saturday monthly at 11:00 and fourth Monday at 14:00—Athenaeum Trust, Mariendahl Rd off Campground Road, Newlands.

#### INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES

• **ANGLO-BOER WAR PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Chairman: Kevin Darcy, [drmkdacy@gmail.com](mailto:drmkdacy@gmail.com); Sec: Nick Harris, [0791 8081197](tel:07918081197), [mrnpbboer@aol.com](mailto:mrnpbboer@aol.com); SA rep: Nigel Hosking, [+27 82 789 5746](tel:+27827895746), [nichosk@iafrica.com](mailto:nichosk@iafrica.com); Website: <https://boerwarsociety.org.uk>; Meetings as advised in *Anglo-Boer War Philatelist* — usually in South Africa during Congress week.

• **CAPE & NATAL STUDY CIRCLE:** Contact: Simon Solomon, [capenatalstamps@gmail.com](mailto:capenatalstamps@gmail.com).

• **FILATELISTEN VERENIGING ZUIDELIJK AFRIKA:** Act pres: Johan Diesveld, [ohandiesveld@gmail.com](mailto:ohandiesveld@gmail.com); Act sec: Ko Zegerman, [kozegerman@kpnmail.nl](mailto:kozegerman@kpnmail.nl); Meetings quarterly.

• **ORANGE FREE STATE STUDY CIRCLE:** Pres: Richard Stroud RDPSA, [+44\(0\)1278 782235](tel:+4401278782235), [richard@richardstroud.plus.com](mailto:richard@richardstroud.plus.com); Website: <http://www.orangefreestatephilately.org.uk>; Meetings and venue advised in *OFB Bulletin*.

• **PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR GREATER SOUTH AFRICA:** Contact: Peter Thy, [pthy@ucdavis.edu](mailto:pthy@ucdavis.edu); SA rep: Uli Bantz, [011 766 1495](tel:0117661495), [ulib@mweb.co.za](mailto:ulib@mweb.co.za); Website: <http://psgsa.org>.

• **RHODESIAN STUDY CIRCLE:** Sec: Brian Zlotnick, [00 44 1274 566607](tel:00441274566607), [bzlot@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:bzlot@blueyonder.co.uk); SA rep: Patrick Flanagan RDPSA, FRPSL, [079 898 3795](tel:0798983795), [patf@fgprop.com](mailto:patf@fgprop.com); Website: <https://www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk>; Regular meetings and events across the world.

• **SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY:** Contact: Simon Peetoom, [contact@southafricancollectorsociety.com](mailto:contact@southafricancollectorsociety.com); SA rep: Cedric Roché RDPSA, [083 456 9167](tel:0834569167), [croche@mweb.co.za](mailto:croche@mweb.co.za); Website: <https://southafricancollectorsociety.com/>.

• **SOUTH WEST AFRICA STAMP STUDY GROUP:** Pres: Uli Bantz, [083 409 6969](tel:0834096969), [ulib@mweb.co.za](mailto:ulib@mweb.co.za).

• **TRANSVAAL STUDY CIRCLE:** Pres: Lars Jørgensen RDPSA, [lars.jorgensen.fs@gmail.com](mailto:lars.jorgensen.fs@gmail.com); SA rep: Danna Strydom, [083 452 0575](tel:0834520575), [dstrydom@icon.co.za](mailto:dstrydom@icon.co.za).

• **WINDHOEK FILATELIEKLUB:** Pres: Derick Loteryman, [derickl@iway.na](mailto:derickl@iway.na); Sec: Friedhelm Beck, [beckciv@iafrica.com.na](mailto:beckciv@iafrica.com.na).

**Your passion deserves it! Join a society today.**



**Forget the low-effort likes.  
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