Two-Day Open Meeting at Letchworth Hall Hotel

7th & 8th November 2026



Synopsis of Displays

Printed by
South African Collectors' Society U.K.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Society would like to record thanks to the following people and Southern African Societies and Study Circles who have contributed financially to help with the costs of this conference.

Richard Stroud

Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society

Orange Free State Study Circle

Transvaal Study Circle

We are also very pleased to advise that Michael Smith has been invited to sign the Roll of Honour for Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa. We offer our huge Congratulations to Michael on achieving this honour.

He has also very kindly contributed to the cost of wine at our Conference dinner tonight for which we all thank him.

Programme for the Two-Day Meeting arranged for Southern Africa Philately on 7th and 8th November 2026 at the Letchworth Hall Hotel

We are pleased to advise the proposed timetable and displays

Saturday 7th November 2026

09.00	Set up in Marston Suite for Dealers
09.30	Doors Open
10.00	Tea & Coffee available
10.20 - 10.30	Welcome and Introduction
10.30 - 11.30	ZAR (Transvaal) Second Republic – Danna Strydom
11.30 - 12.30	Philately of Edwardian Natal, South Africa (1901-1910) – Brian Schrire
12.30 - 13.00	Union Handbook Update – Brian Trotter
13.00 - 13.45	Lunch
13.45 - 14.45	Orange Free State Postal Stationery – Mike Smith
14.45 - 15.45	Tristan da Cunha, 50 years of Postal History – Chris Rainey
15.45 - 16.15	Tea & Coffee
16.15 - 17.15	The Anglo Boer War 1899 – 1902 British & Boer Prisoners of War (POW) Mail – Nick Harris
17.15 - 17-45	Raffle and Voting for Tony Chiltern Cup
18.30 - 18.45	Gather in Marston Suite Bar for Pre-Dinner Drinks
19.30	Dinner

Sunday 8th November 2026

09.00	Doors Open
09.30	Members Displays - Up to two or three frames of South African Related Philately
11.00	Two Minutes Silence for Remembrance Day
11.02 - 11.30	Coffee & Tea
11.30	Members Displays continue
13.00 - 14.00	Conclusion of Meeting

Display Number 1 – Danna Strydom

The Second Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek 1881-1899

The purpose of this display is to show all the stamps of Transvaal's 2nd Republic from its recognition by the Convention of Pretoria on 8 August 1881 until the Second Anglo-Boer War in 1899.

Transvaal was an important country mostly for its gold and diamonds. This is further evident from the fact that the British Empire fought two Anglo-Boer Wars against this Republic. This exhibit covers the period between the two wars when the largely agricultural economy was transformed into a then modern economy driven by mining and agriculture. Over the years Transvaal was collected by many prominent philatelists.

The display deals with all the issues, starting from the Queen's head stamps handed over to the ZAR from the British, followed by the printings ordered by the ZAR as well as the numerous provisional issues. This period like the 1st Republic was also plagued by forgeries and unauthorised reprints. This topic is dealt with throughout the exhibit because detecting and recognising forgeries and reprints is central to Transvaal philately.

The display starts with the Queen's Head issue that was transferred from the British. Emphasis is on showing scarcer usage on cover. An almost complete sheet of the Queen's Head 6d shows the two dies used for this printing and is rare to find (Lowe, 1973). Queen's Head stamps used during the 2nd Republic are scarce on cover, only 54 recorded (Jørgensen, 2010), and can only be identified from clear date stamps. Interesting rates are shown, including a bisected 6d.





The large multiple of the EEN PENNY provisional is shown with some setting varieties. Also included are the inverted example which is rare according to Matthews (1986) and the large overprint print variety.







The Celliers 1883 reprints are dealt with in more detail despite the scarcer material. Plated positions are shown from the earlier (perf 11.9) and later (perf 12.2) printings (Drysdall & Torres, 2004). The imperforate pair of the 1d is rare as are the gutter pairs. Genuine copies of the 3d on rose paper are scarce. The other 1883 Celliers stamps are scarce on cover and the 1s rate on cover is one of three known (Jørgensen, 2010). Usage combinations with other issues are scarce and sought after by collectors. Several of the iconic Tete-Beche varieties of the 1s are shown. Forgeries printed by Otto are shown as comparison.

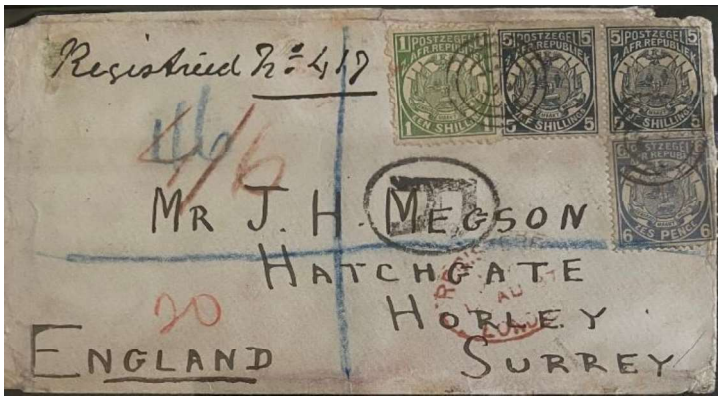






The Vurtheim designed issue is dealt with in greater detail, because it is the key issue of the 2nd Republic. The development of the issue is dealt with from colour trial examples which are not common. The complete set of 24 are rarely assembled together. Vurtheim colour plate proofs are also rare and the 1d and 2d imperforate blocks of stamps in issued colour on issued paper are suspected to have originated from only a single sheet

of each of these values. Multiples of the issued stamps both used and unused are difficult to find. Several multiples are shown. The key issue of the Vurtheim designed stamps is the different perforation varieties. This is comprehensively shown with unused and used examples. Most of the values are shown on cover with typically more than one rate per duty. The two exceptions, the 2s6d and 10s, were mostly used for telegraphic purpose and hence very few if any covers exist. The Mirza Hadi reprints are notorious (Jonkers & Quik, 1998), but it must be remembered that these were only done in the 12½ x 12½ large holes perforation gauge so for only one of the various gauges is there a challenge to separate the unauthorised reprints. This can most reliably be done from perforation combs (Criddle, 1972). Other forgeries are also shown.





Genuine unused examples of the Vurtheim £5 are rare and used examples scarce. Shown is a complete accumulation of used examples of all ten columns. This was assembled after intense study of the perforation combs (Kaupe, 2005) and the development of an authentication process using enlarged images on a screen with transparency prints of the perforation combs.





Delays in receiving stamp orders from the Netherlands necessitated various provisional issues involving surcharging duties no longer required or surplus. Numerous varieties provide exciting collecting opportunities

Multiples of the 'HALVE PENNY' surcharged on 1883 Celliers are difficult to find and shown for both 3d and 1s, including Tete-Beche variety on the 1s.

The Vurtheim surcharged provisional issues are treated comprehensively with most varieties shown unused and used as well as used on cover. It is also shown how to distinguish unauthorised reprints from the genuine.







In terms of the surcharged provisional issues, blocks with different perforations are scarce and Matthews (1986) described a corner block of the '2d' on 3d showing four different varieties as the "plumb item". The "2½ Pence" surcharge inverted with misplace fraction bar shown is one of the greatest Transvaal rarities (Curle & Basden, 1940).

The approach that Isaac van Alphen made to his counterparts in the Cape Colony to agree a common value and colour system for the four states in South Africa was highly innovative although ultimately not accepted. The set of De La Rue "AFRICA" colour trials resulting from this and proposed for the ZAR are shown as well as hand painted essay (Drysdall and Torres, 2002).

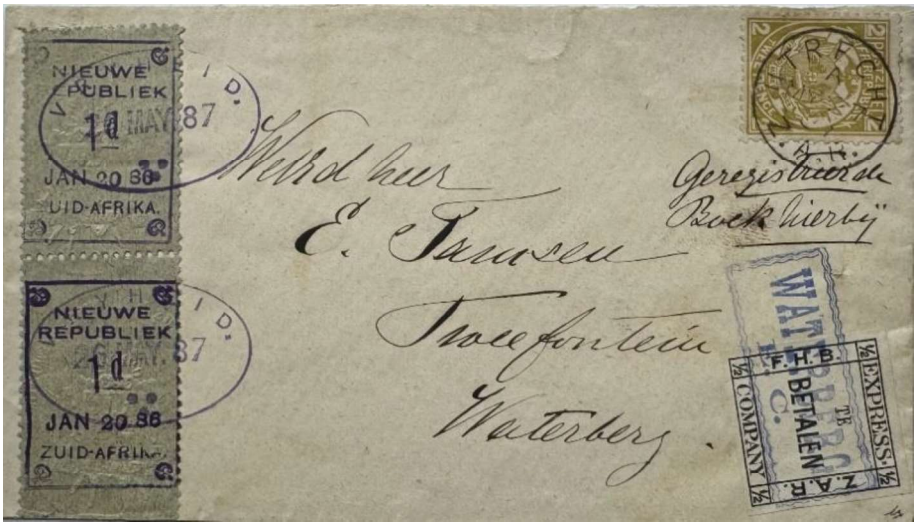






Mr F.H. Bakker, a Dutch immigrant who settled in the South African Republic during the gold rush was a contracted carrier whose oxen drawn wagons delivered goods to the outlying farms and hamlets north of Pretoria travelling as far as Marabastad in the Zoutpansberg. He carried official mail between Pretoria, Nylstroom and Marabastad post offices and received a government stipend for doing so. The post cart took about 5 days to cover the 200-mile distance. Additionally, he offered a local service to collect and deliver mail from and to individual farms in the area. This service operated from around October 1886 to October 1888. To manage the payment system for his private collection and delivery service he had his own adhesive stamps printed. The stamps were stocked by storekeepers along the route and sold to the public to be stuck on letters to be collected by the service. These FHB Express Company stamps covered the

conveyance fee to the post office where the letters were handed into the government official post. Letters had to also be franked with official postage stamps to pay for the official postage.



The Penny Post Commemorative was one of the first commemorative stamps in the world and various positions of vertical and horizontal imperforations are shown in the display.



The display concludes with "Kruger Essays" intended for a new set of stamps to be locally printed in Pretoria on ZAR watermarked paper. The Anglo-Boer war interrupted plans and the stamps were never printed.

References:

Curle, J.H. and Basden, A.E. (1940), *Transvaal Postage Stamps*, The Royal Philatelic Society London: London,

Criddle, H.M. (1972), *The Enschede 12½ comb perforators (Large Holes),* The Transvaal Philatelist, Vol 8, No 1, pp.8-30.

Criddle, H.M. (1973), *The Celliers 1d of 1883 (SG. 171)*, The Transvaal Philatelist, Vol 8, No 4, pp.86-95.

Drysdall, A. & Torres, F. (2002), *The ZAR's proposal in 1894 for a common colour scheme for the stamp issues of the territories of Southern Africa*, The Transvaal Philatelist, Vol 37, No. 4. pp. 95-104.

Drysdall, A. & Torres, F. (2004), *Some observations concerning the stamps printed by Celliers in 1883-85 particularly the perforation varieties*, The Transvaal Philatelist, Vol 39, No. 2. pp. 29-39.

Jonkers, G.H. & Quik, W.J. (1998), *The remainders and reprints of Transvaal. 1910-1912.*, Philatelic Federation of SA.

Jørgensen, L., (2010), *Early Covers from the Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek/ Transvaal, Memoir No. 4*, Transvaal Study Circle.

Lowe, R. (1973), *Transvaal 1878-80 Printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co.*, Woods of Perth Ltd, Perth.

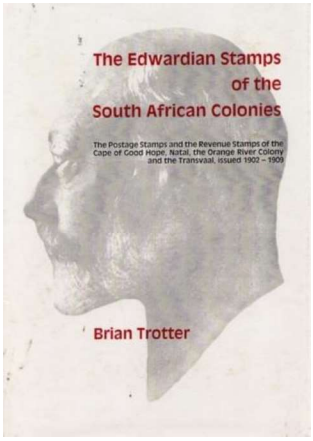
Kaupe, J. (2005), *The Vurtheim five pounds - twenty years on*, The Transvaal Philatelist, Vol 40, No 2, pp.29-56.

Mathews, I.B. et al. (1986), *Transvaal Philately*, Reijger Publisher (Pty) Limited: Cape Town.

Yardley, R. B. (1913), *The Transvaal*, The Philatelic Record, London,
pp.593-595.

Display Number 2 – Brian Schrire

Philately of Edwardian NATAL, South Africa (1901 – 1910).

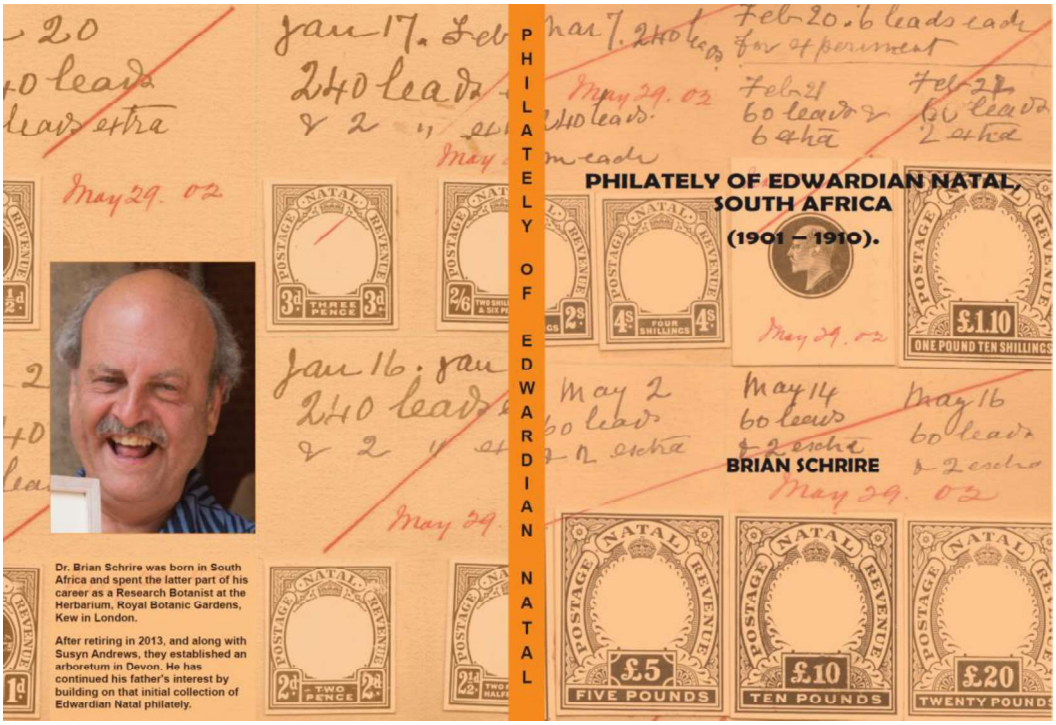


This overview of the history of stamp making in Edwardian Natal, from its earliest designs to final issues, builds on the excellent base established by Trotter in his *The Edwardian Stamps of the South African Colonies* (2004). Substantial advances, though, have been made in philatelic knowledge in the intervening twenty or so years since Trotter's book.

This has been partly due to the emergence of much new material in recent stamp auctions and their appearance in often richly illustrated catalogues. It is the enormous developments of the internet age since 2004, however, that have greatly enhanced accessibility to information. This has opened doors and resulted in the once more limited access to library and museum resources now being much more widely available through online databases.

Additional letters and records, essays, die proofs, striking book cut-down die proofs, colour appendixes, colour trials, ink recipes, stamp booklets, regular issue stamps, specimens, revenues, perfin stamps and postal stationery have all become available more recently. Much of this new material is used to fill in gaps and reassess conclusions in the light of current information.

The fuller context behind, and the images within, this presentation have been brought together in a book of the same title, published this year by the author, and which is on sale here.



The gaps that have been enlarged upon since Trotter (2004), and the additional material seen that is incorporated here, include:



a) more detailed knowledge of the Edwardian Natal Essays, which showed a reduced-in-size bromide photograph of the King's Head, inserted into a hand painted frame, but with evidence found of a central hole where a pair of compasses had been pointed to draw the circle within which the cut-out head vignette was to be placed. In an enlarged image of the essay which shows "silvering out" when a light is shone above the design, the central hole and cut out circular margin of the head vignette are clearly seen. The role of the three photographic essays as being those sent to the Natal Colony for approval instead of the originals, and then returned, is also clarified here.

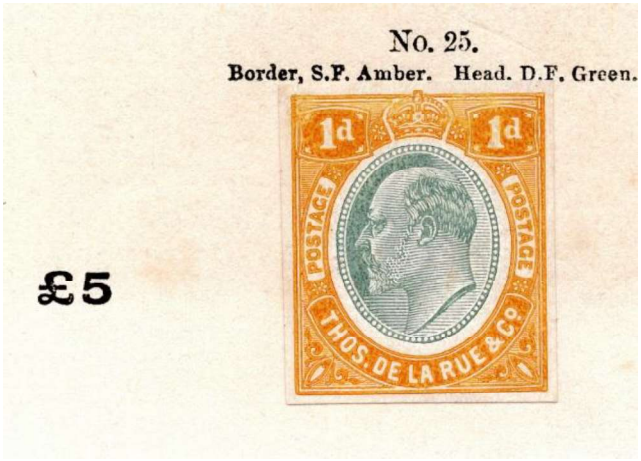
b) better insights have been derived from the British KEVII essays and proofs survey presented by Horton (2018), which expanded on the known situation regarding the different King's Head designs used. In much of the Commonwealth material, i.e. in the Natal Essays, the earlier "Sketch Head" was utilised but in the final issues it was the later "Small Head" that was employed in the design. The differences in head vignette size, but not the head size itself, between the postage size vs. revenue size issues, as well as on the die proofs of each, are also quantified.





c) integration of the die and plate manufacturing process, is distilled from a variety of sources into a detailed analysis of the known die proofs made during Edwardian Natal stamp production. For the first time it has been possible to follow the whole process of manufacture of the various issues, from the known die proof stages of before hardening, after hardening or after striking, to the cutdown die proofs from the De La Rue Striking Books. These latter die proofs were not seen by earlier researchers and have allowed a much greater understanding of the process and sequence of stamp production. Appendix 1 in the book provides the most comprehensive list to date of all die proofs seen (including a number which have only come to light in recent auctions).

d) the adoption of the Universal Colour Scheme by the Colonies is followed over its development through five Documents, as a background to colour choice and standardisation in Natal stamps. Photographs of the complete De La Rue pages in Jarvis et al. 2013 and discussion of these in Lowe (1979) have significantly improved understanding of the colour choices taken for all stamp issues. It is interesting to note though how often these recommendations were not taken up, indicating that individual colony choices often trumped the recommended standards.





e) the finding of a complete duplicate set of the 1902 – 1903 Colour Appendixes at the Killie Campbell Museum in Durban, South Africa, along with all the markings on the sheets indicating preferences or rejection of various colours, has allowed a detailed comparison of the different markings on the De La Rue copies of these and other Appendixes. There is now a much deeper understanding of the decisions taken between De La Rue and the Natal Colony in their final selection of stamp colours.

f) a significant reinterpretation of a batch of previously found 1902 – 1903 "colour trials" lead to one of the biggest surprises - being that these "trials" are in fact cut down pieces from the original 1902 De La Rue Appendixes A and B. These were matched up using the remains of overlapping markings such as ticks and crosses (which were purposely removed from the pieces in the cutting up process) but are still evident when they and the original images of the Appendixes in Jarvis et al. 2013 are closely compared. The 1902 Appendixes A and B have been reconstructed with most cut-up pieces now accurately placed on the background image of the original Appendixes.





g) a much greater understanding has been gained through the detailed research of Young (2021), of the construction and distribution of the De La Rue Ink Recipe Books and the precise components of the inks and varnishes themselves. This has allowed a significant input of these aspects into the analysis. It has also helped to better interpret the 20 known Edwardian Natal ink recipes cut from one of the duplicate copies of Ink Recipe Book 3, which were cross-referenced, with often some slight recipe differences, to the earlier Book 2 block of similar recipes. This information was in part unavailable to Trotter (2004).

h) improved understanding of the area of ink security by De La Rue, kept developing over the period of the existence of Edwardian Natal. This aspect, also dealt with further by Young (2021), explains in detail De La Rue's work on Fugitive and Doubly Fugitive Inks (DFI's), varnishes and the use of chalk-surfaced paper, etc., in the search for alternatives to make it increasingly difficult to defraud authorities, by the removal of cancellations off stamps. The obvious competing motivations between De La Rue (suggesting the use of) and the Natal Government (rejecting the use of) DFI's in printing, particularly of the high value stamps, have become much clearer. Despite extensive correspondence spanning seven years (1901–1908), the preparation of multiple colour appendixes specifically designed for DFI printing, and repeated De La Rue recommendations, there is no clear evidence that Natal ever actually implemented doubly fugitive inks on any of its issued Edwardian stamps.

i) further sets of Specimens have been located, particularly those Receiving Authority Specimen sets from Tunisia and the Royal Swedish General Post Office. Also, more values of the local NA2 type presentation specimens were located. A better understanding of Specimen types and their dispersal is documented as well.



j) many individual items have been tracked through auction sales over the decades, allowing a comparison of information (provided by the auction houses) to be made on each and to better understand their provenances.

k) a survey was also undertaken of the Postal Stationery of Natal, largely based on the work of Dickinson & Hanman (2001).

l) 29th May 1902 appears to have been a Universal Completion Date for the 1902 – 1903 stamp issues; all Striking Book jobs for the original POSTAGE/REVENUE series (20 values plus both head dies) were signed off on this date, exactly two days before the Treaty of Vereeniging ended the Second Boer War. This remarkable administrative synchronisation suggests either coordinated quality control, Crown Agents handover requirements, or (speculatively) awareness of imminent peace.

Union Handbook Update – Brian Trotter

A Power Point presentation to provide an update on the progress of the new Union Handbook. As this provides the main reference for collectors and the philatelic trade, it is hoped that a new Edition will stimulate interest in Union stamps. The proposed update is anticipated to be about twice the size of the current 1986 Handbook with nearly 500 pages.

This is a joint venture between the Philatelic Federation of South Africa and the South African Collectors' Society with Brian Trotter and Andre du Plessis as Editors, supported by other members of the two organisations. The update will only be a Handbook not a Catalogue. It is proposed, however, that an electronic document with most recent prices relating to the varieties listed will be posted on the PFSA and SACS websites for members' reference, which will enable regular updates without the costs of reprinting the Handbook.

The major differences will be that the new Edition of the Handbook will be in colour with the Chapters grouped differently rather than in chronological order as for the 1986 Handbook. Cross reference between the 1986 and new Edition will be made clear for reference purposes.

Should any members present have any special items relating to any of the Union stamps, whether Commemorative or Definitive, such as proofs, archival material or material not covered by the 1986 Handbook, could they please send a scan of the item to Brian Trotter at bjayt43@yahoo.com

Any illustrations, which are provided and included in the Handbook, will be acknowledged. Your help would be very much appreciated and many thanks to those who have already provided information and scans.

As to printing, it remains undecided whether this should be solely in the UK or South Africa or elsewhere in the world and prices will be sought at the appropriate time. The Editorial team are working free of charge, but we will need to build a reserve for the cost of the printing. Members can help by donating an amount towards the cost of printing which will be held in the South African Collectors' Society account if paid in GB Pounds in the UK. It has been agreed that providers of all donations will be listed in the book and anyone who donates £100.00 (R2,200.00), or more, will be entitled to receive a free copy of the updated Handbook.

Should you wish to donate, the Society's account details are 'South African Collectors Society', Sort Code 20-49-29, Account Number 90914827 and please reference your donation with your surname

Publication date is still uncertain but, based on the significant progress that has been made, it is hoped that this will be before the end of 2027 and maybe even available at next year's Conference

LUNCH

Display Number Three – Michael Smith RDPSA FRPSL

The Postal Stationery of the Orange Free State

The Postal Stationery issued by the O.F.S. can be divided into two distinct groups:

1. **Cards printed by De La Rue & Co., London**
2. **Cards printed locally by Borckenhagen & Co., Bloemfontein**

This exhibit covers the locally printed issues which are of great importance, as the method of production makes them unique within the field of postal stationery. A postage stamp was affixed at the top centre of a blank card, which was then printed with the entire design.

One Penny Postal Cards:

One Penny cards printed by De La Rue and Co., were issued in 1884 for use internally and to the Cape. Supplies of these cards were exhausted by early 1889 and four locally printed 'bordered cards' were issued before fresh supplies arrived from London.



Figure 1: Setting 1 – One Penny Type 1 – First State

Supplies of the second printing of London printed one penny cards were again exhausted in 1892. A fifth locally printed card was issued using the 1d on 3d adhesive stamp (Setting 6).

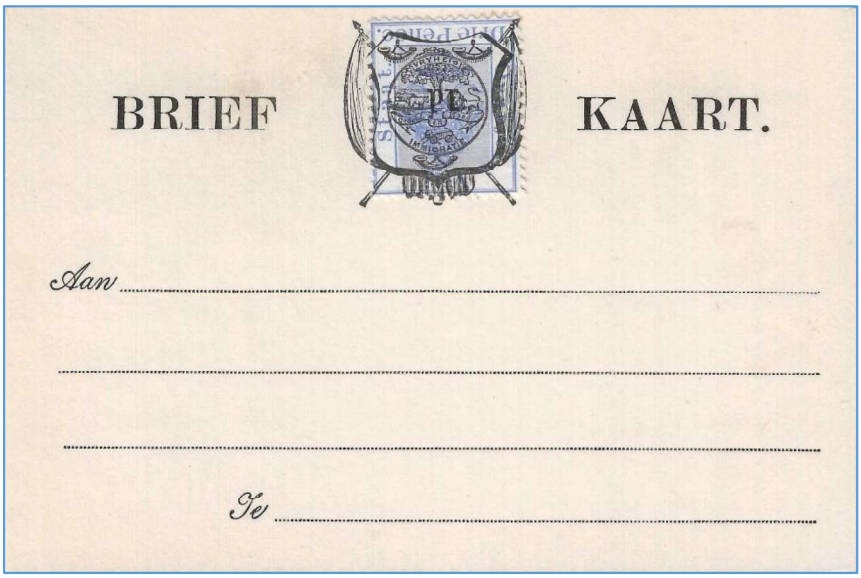


Figure 2: Setting 6D – One Penny Type 5D – Adhesive Stamp Inverted

Halfpenny Postal Cards:

The internal rate was reduced to a halfpenny in 1891, the initial demand being met by surcharging London printed One Penny cards. Between 1891 and 1897 there were twelve locally printed halfpenny issues (Settings 5-17), before a London printed card was finally issued in 1898.

In 1894, the 'NEWS OF THE WORLD' die, the trademark of "The Bloemfontein Express" newspaper, also printed by Borckenhagen, was inserted into the form in error (Setting 12).



Figure 3: Setting 12 – News of the World Error of Die - Adhesive Stamp Inverted

This is generally regarded as one of the key items of O.F.S. philately. The exhibit includes the only known card showing both the Error of Die and 'Adhesive Inverted'.

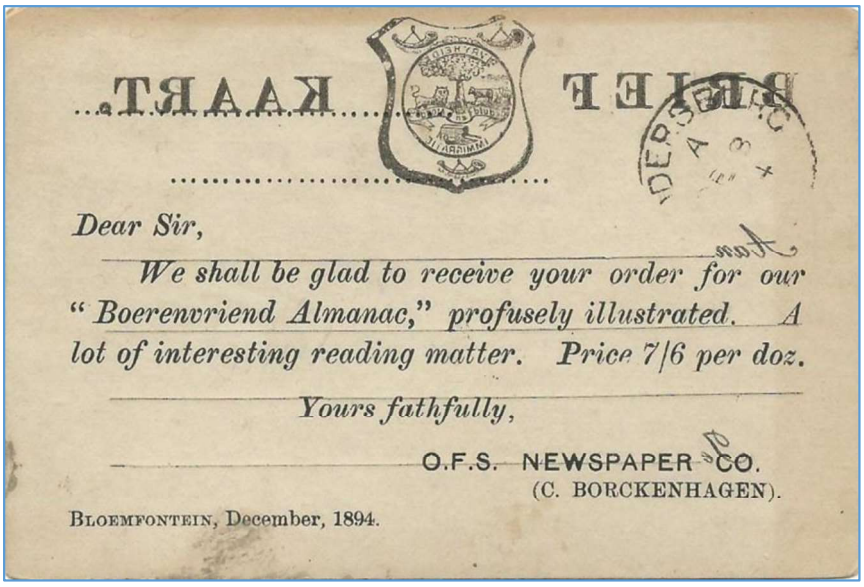


Figure 4: Setting 13 – Halfpenny Type 6 – Set-off on Reverse



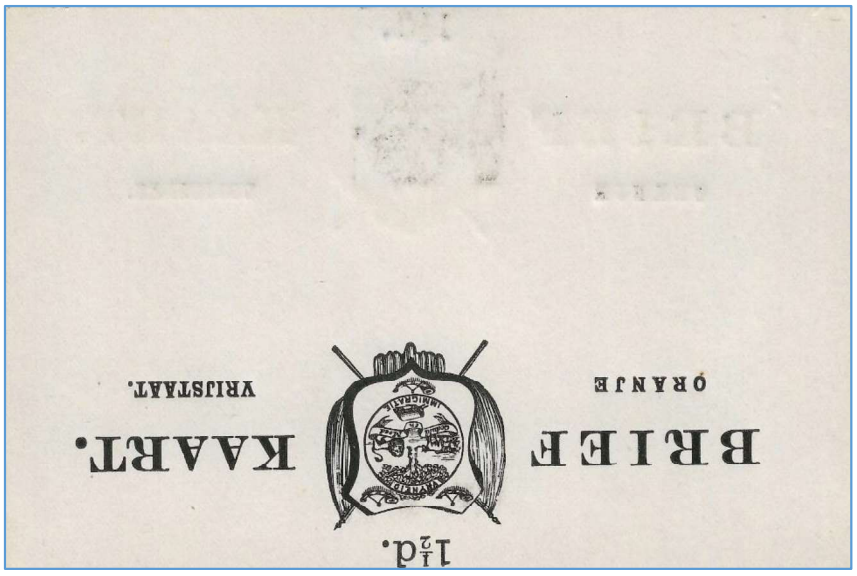
Figure 5: Setting 17 – Type 12 – Underpaid to Austria, taxed and returned

Threehalfpence Postal Cards:

Between 1892 and 1897 there were seven locally printed halfpenny issues (Settings 7-16) for overseas destinations other than Great Britain. No London printed card was ever issued.



Front



Reverse

Figure 5: Setting 6 – Threehalfpence Type 1 – Printing Double, One Inverted on Reverse

The Anglo-Boer War began on the 11th October 1899. After early setbacks, the British under Lord Roberts advanced into the O.F.S., entering Bloemfontein on the 13th March 1900. The Republican issues were declared invalid, although they continued to be used in unoccupied areas. The stocks found in the treasury were revalidated by overprinting them V.R.I. (Victoria Regina Imperatrix), by Curling & Co., in Bloemfontein. On the 28th May 1900, with the whole of the O.F.S. in British hands, it was formally annexed to the British Crown and renamed the Orange River Colony.

DISPLAY NUMBER 4 – CHRIS RAINEY

Tristan Da Cunha - Fifty Years of Postal History.

Tristan Da Cunha is known as the 'loneliest Island' located in the South Atlantic approximately 2,795 Km from Cape Town and 2,000 Km from St Helena. It was discovered in 1506 by the Portuguese Admiral Tristao da Cunha, commanding a fleet of fourteen vessels bound for Africa and India. It is not until the 1890's, however, that a few letters are known, now in private hands, from seaman on visiting British Naval ships.

The earliest letter in the display is dated February 1892 from an officer on H.M.S. Raleigh on the voyage from St Helena to the Cape Colony, it contains a census of the population.

Since the 19th Century letters from Tristan were dispatched unpaid and sent via passing ships. The reason is simple; no Post Office, no stamps and no money on the island.

By the early 20th Century some recipients of Tristan mail thought they were being charged excessive surcharged rates.

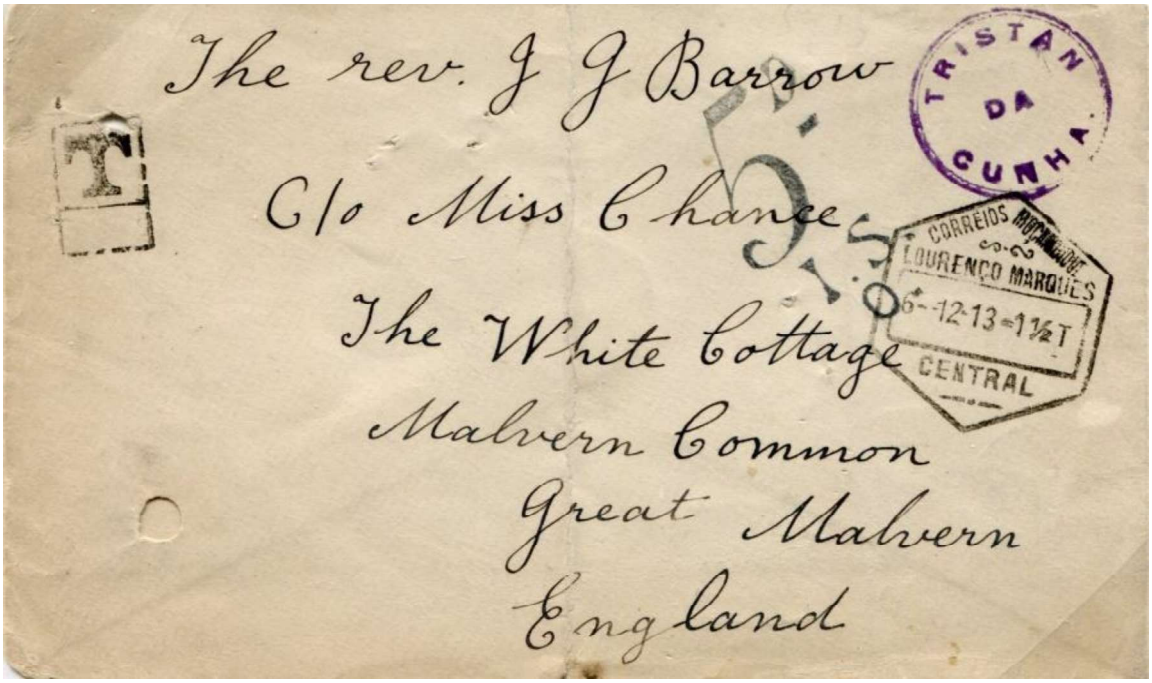


Figure 1

1913 envelope with Type 1 cachet. Transit mark of Lorenzo Marques where the mail was offloaded on route to England. The charge mark has no value given. Charged '5d' double foreign rate. Carried on S.S. Kilbride which called at the island on 13th November on route from Buenos Aires, Argentina to Delagoa Bay, Portuguese East Africa. This envelope and four others were subject of a correspondence between the Rev. Barrow and the British Post Office as the charge should have been 2d. The envelope was landed at Lorenzo Marques and treated as foreign mail i.e. 2 ½ d rate charged double.

The Reverend J.G. Barrow was a clergyman on Tristan Da Cunha from 1906 to 1909 but then returned to England. As may be anticipated he kept in touch with the inhabitants. In December 1913 he received six letters from Tristan (Figure 1) and was annoyed that he had to pay 5d for each letter. The foregoing is double the 2½d foreign rate.

On 7 December 1914 Barrow wrote to the Postal authorities asking that the rules about unstamped mail should be relaxed, as the islanders had no means of obtaining stamps. In fact, unstamped mail should be admitted free.

On 23 February 1914 the Post Office sent a reply. The Postmaster General had given instructions for all unpaid letters from Tristan in future to be charged at double the rate of postage applicable to letters from South Africa which was 1d per ½ oz irrespective of the country where they were posted. The PMG stressed that free delivery was not an option. It appears that this rule remained in place for some ten years. In July 1924 the British Post Office decided that mail from Tristan should be charged the same as the British inland rate of 1½d per oz.

By 1928 the British Post Office indicted that mail from Tristan, prepaid with British stamps, was acceptable. They noted that Mr Gane had been informed and suggested he might care to send the islanders some stamps. Gane also proposed that letters from Tristan, bearing British Stamps, ought to have some sort of mark to indicate that the stamps had been affixed in Tristan.

From correspondence dated 11 July from Reverend Pooley, he made a request for stamps to be sent to him. Gane mentioned that a Falkland Islands stamp used in South Georgia, had been overprinted locally. Gane felt that a local Tristan overprint ought to be acceptable as well.

On 22 December 1928 a reply from the British Post Office informing Gane that British stamps will continue to be valid for postage as long as they are not cancelled or overprinted.

The Duchess of Atholl sailed from Liverpool on 4 January 1929. Once onboard Pooley had all the time in the world to consider Gane's suggestion to overprint stamps applied at Tristan. The stamps were overprinted using Pooleys typewriter, dated 24.2.29 and signed by Pooley (Figure 2).



Figure 2

1929 pair of envelopes to Lancashire both franked with Great Britain adhesives. The top cover has a straight-line overprint, and the bottom cover has a three-line overprint. Both covers are signed by 'R Pooley' on '24. 2. 24'. He was unaware the British Post Office prohibited the use of the overprints on 22 December 1928

The display covers the period 1892 to the end of WW2. With the introduction of the Type 1 cachet in December 1907 Tristan had its own cancellation.

On 5 October 1918 a cover from Tristan franked with Great Britain adhesives, cancelled by the Type 1 cachet which entered the mail in Mauritius and is the earliest recorded registered cover. (Figure 3).



Figure 3

1918 registered envelope franked with Great Britian single 1d, 2d and a horizontal pair of ½ d stamps (1d + 3d) cancelled with type1 cachet in pale violet.
Carried on the Barque Annie II carrying oil from the Gulf of Mexico departing Tristan 5 October for Reunion. The mail was handed over to H.M.B.C. on 26 October.

The envelope entered the Mauritius registered mail on 28 November.

S/S Crimee (French) 26 -28 November Reunion to Mauritius.

S/S Kankon Maru (Japanese) 30 November Mauritius to Bombay

Carried by regular steamer from Bombay to England arriving Dawlish on 22 December 1919.

The Earliest known registered envelope from Tristan da Cunha.

Significant items within the display includes mail from the visit of the Shackleton-Rowett Expedition in 1922 (Figure 4). Mail to destinations around the world with postage dues, 1932 Great Britain underprint cover and 1932/34 the visit of the Dutch submarine KXVIII.



Figure 4

1922 envelope to London in the handwriting of Captain H. W. Wilkins.

The Quest sailed for Gough Island on 25 May 1922.

Horizontal pair of Great Britain 1d adhesives tied by the expedition cachet dated 25 May the date in the cancellation never changed.
Boxed 'Gough Island' cachet in black alongside.

The only recorded example of the Gough Island cachet on cover.

With the outbreak of WW2 in 1939 (Figure 5), Tristan played an important roll as a Naval, wireless and meteorological station. The earliest known censorship was 24th August 1940 when Surgeon Lieut. Stride censored three crew letters. The latest recorded censored cover is dated 15 August 1946 signed by Dr H. S. A. Corfield.

Garrison personnel come and go and in January 1944 the island code named H.M.S. Job 9 was changed to H.M.S. Atlantic Island. The Tristan Defence Volunteers was set up and the publications 'Tristan Times' and 'Em & We' hit the streets.

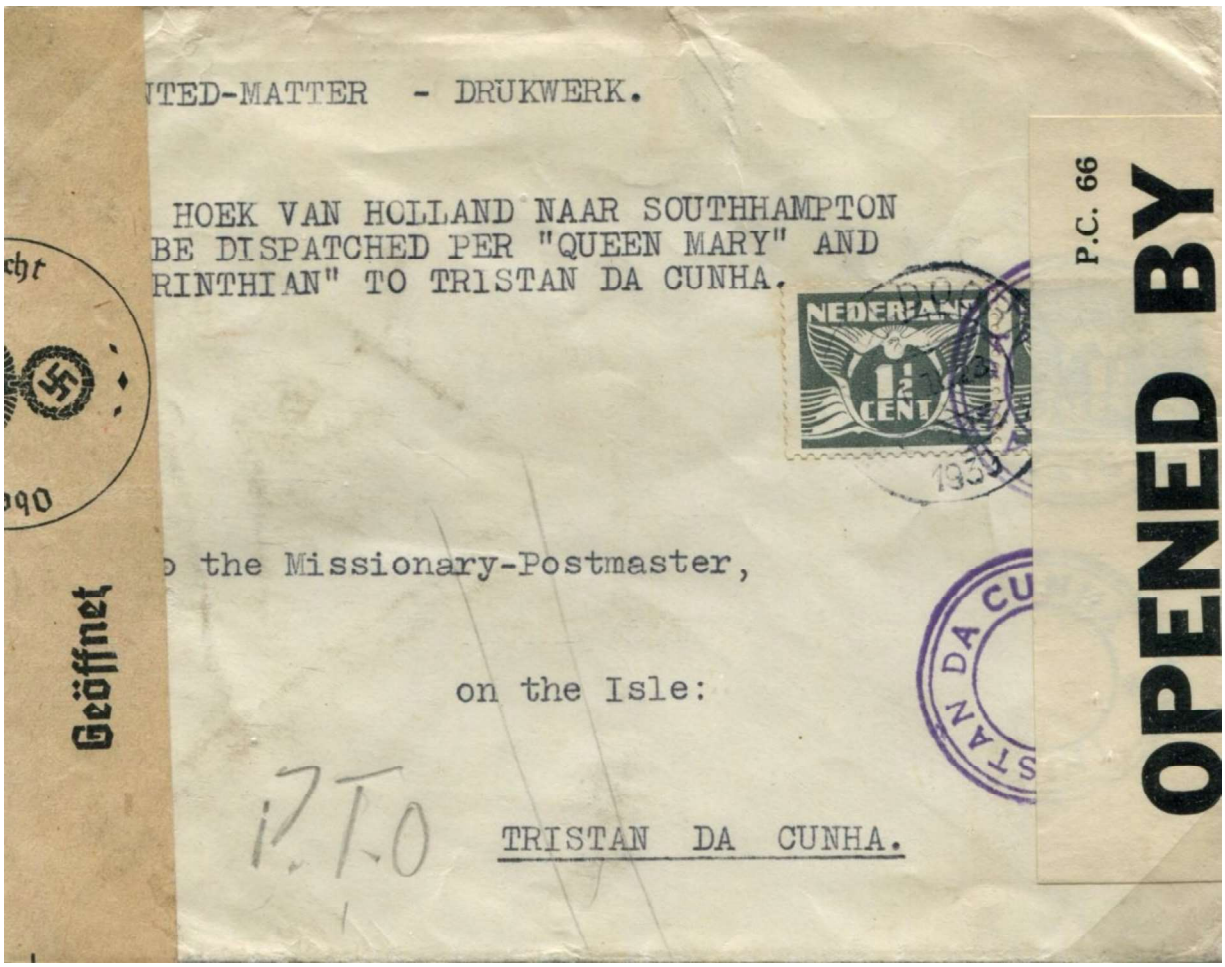


Figure 5

February 1939 double censored envelope from Holland with Type 7 cachet.
The envelope is marked to be carried by the 'Queen Mary and Corinthian'.
The envelope entered the German mail system and was censored.
Arriving on the Island on an unidentified German vessel on 3 May 1939.

AFTERNOON TEA BREAK

DISPLAY NUMBER FIVE – NICK HARRIS

The Anglo - Boer War 1899 - 1902

British & Boer Prisoners of War (POW) Mail

The second Anglo - Boer War began on the 11th of October 1899 when the two Boer Republics of the Transvaal and Orange Free State declared war on the British Empire.

The first prisoners of war captured by either side were at the battles of Talana Hill on 20th October 1899 and Elandslaagte on 21 October 1899. Neither side had fully thought through the logistics of how to deal with prisoners of war and were not prepared for the first batches that arrived.

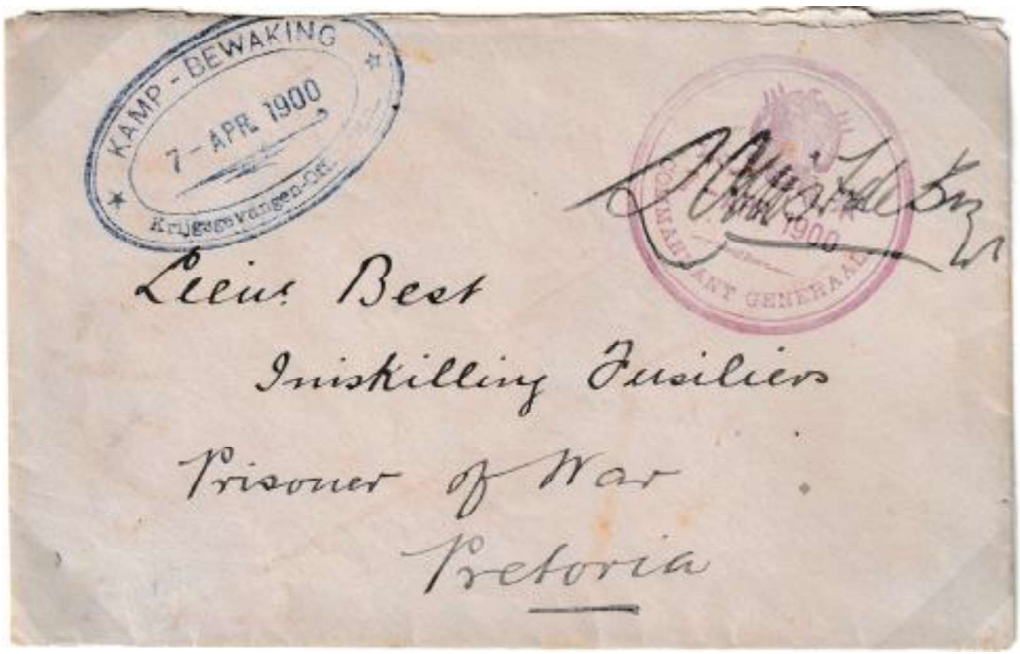
The first batches of Boer prisoners of war were placed on various British transport ships which had been converted to prison ships in Simonstown Bay, Cape Town before eventually being transported to prisoner of war camps overseas in St. Helena, Bermuda, Ceylon, Portugal and India.

The Boers were even less prepared for prisoners of war than were the British.

Officers were held at the Stats Model School in Pretoria whilst the NCO's and men were held separately, first at the Pretoria racecourse and subsequently at Waterval which was located just north of Pretoria, and finally at Nooitgedacht.

This exhibit covers British prisoners of war mail from the POW camps at Pretoria, Waterval and Nooitgedacht as well as mail from Boer prisoners of war held in the overseas camps on St.Helena , Bermuda, Ceylon and India.

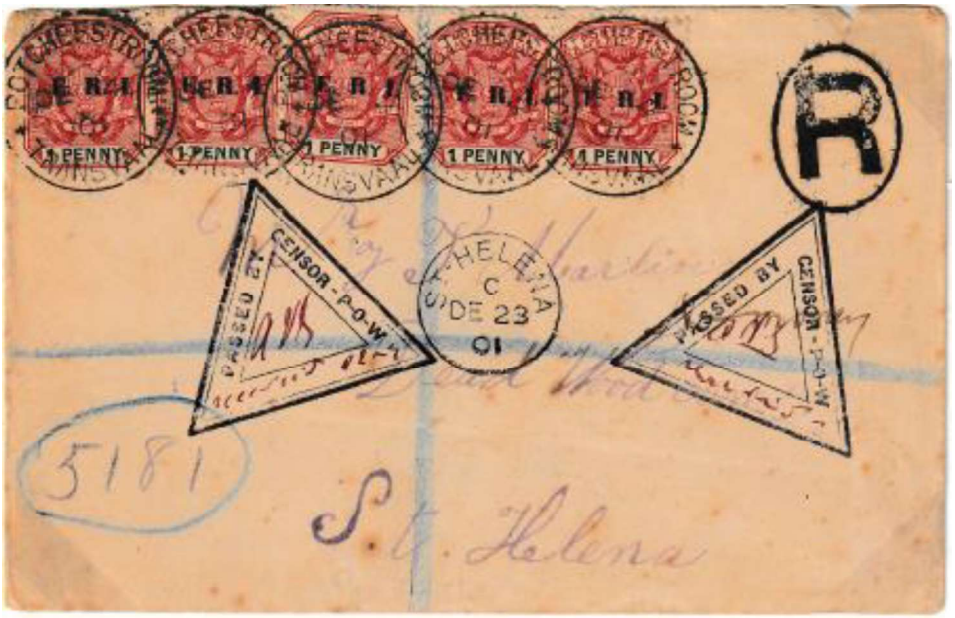
Of particular Interest and Scarcity is the only know cover showing the joint use of the two scarcest Boer censor cachets used on British POW mail at Pretoria.



Due to the short time that British prisoners of war were held at Nooitgedacht very few items of mail from this Boer POW camp have been recorded to date.



St.Helena was the first overseas camp to be opened for Boer prisoners of war with the first prisoners, including General Cronje and his family, arriving on board the SS Milwaukie on 16 April 1900. Several censors were employed to censor both incoming and outgoing mails and covers representing same are shown in this exhibit including some very rare censor cachets as illustrated below.



Further camps were subsequently opened in Bermuda, Ceylon, Portugal and India and mails to and from prisoners of war at these camps are also represented in this exhibit. Of particular note are scarce covers to Bermuda showing use of both the "Montrose Bermuda" and "Bermuda" cachets both of which were in use for no more than 3 / 4weeks. Very few covers showing the use of these cachets are known to exist today.





By the time the war ended the number of Boer prisoners of war being held by the British were in the region of 28,000 with between 25,000 and 26,000 being held in the above overseas camps. No Boer prisoner of war was allowed to return home until they had sworn an oath of allegiance to the then King of England, Edward VII.