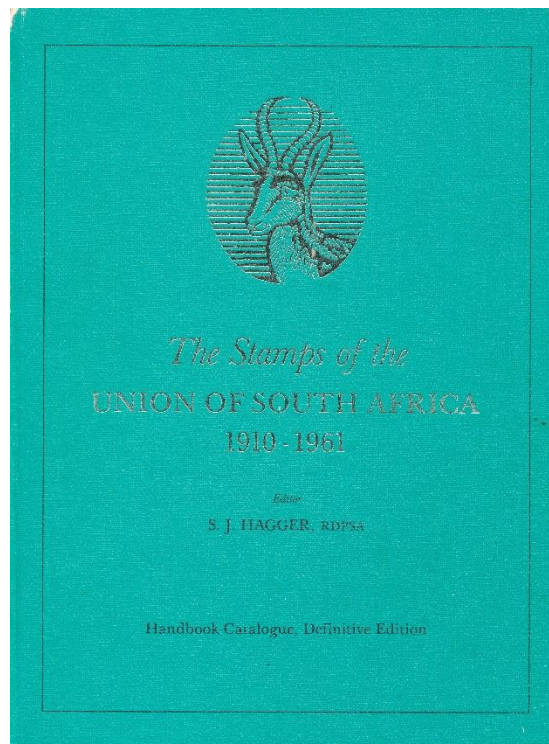


Update of Union Handbook

Whilst we were at Letchworth last November, we discussed the Union Handbook. It will be 40 years this year since the Union Handbook was last published and we all agreed it was appropriate that an update was needed. Hence, the seed of an idea was sown. It was a project the late Eddie Bridges had been very keen on and had he had the opportunity, he would have driven it forward.

Quietly over the last four- or five-months matters have progressed well. Led by Brian Trotter, who volunteered to act as editor, with assistance from Simon Peetoom and Rob & Lyn Lester, contact was made with the Philatelic Federation of South Africa (PFSA) who hold the copyright to the 1986 Edition of the Handbook and previous editions. The PFSA have agreed that the project can progress and have given it their full endorsement via their management committee. It will be a 'joint venture' between SACS and the PFSA. Andre du Plessis will be the contact in South Africa with the help of Pat Flanagan and both are on the editorial team.



The intention is not to rewrite the handbook but to add to it the specialist material and items that have come to light since 1986, as well as returning the listings of the specialised shades from the 1952 edition of the Handbook. We will produce a handbook rather than a catalogue, with a separate price list available on the SACS and PFSA websites. Due to postal costs the updated book will be published in both the United Kingdom and South Africa and we will be seeking donations from organisations and individuals in due course.

We believe undertaking this exercise, which will involve a considerable amount of work, will raise the profile of the South African Collectors' Society and help to bring it closer to the PFSA and other South African Societies. We are very excited about this opportunity especially as Brian Trotter, who has written many books on Rhodesian & Southern Africa Philately, is relishing the role of editor. We do hope, you too, will support this project in any way you can.

Donations to assist with the funding of the printing of the new handbook would be very much appreciated, and the SACS have set up a separate bank account to help. If you are interested in donating, please contact our treasurer, Simon Peetoom.