

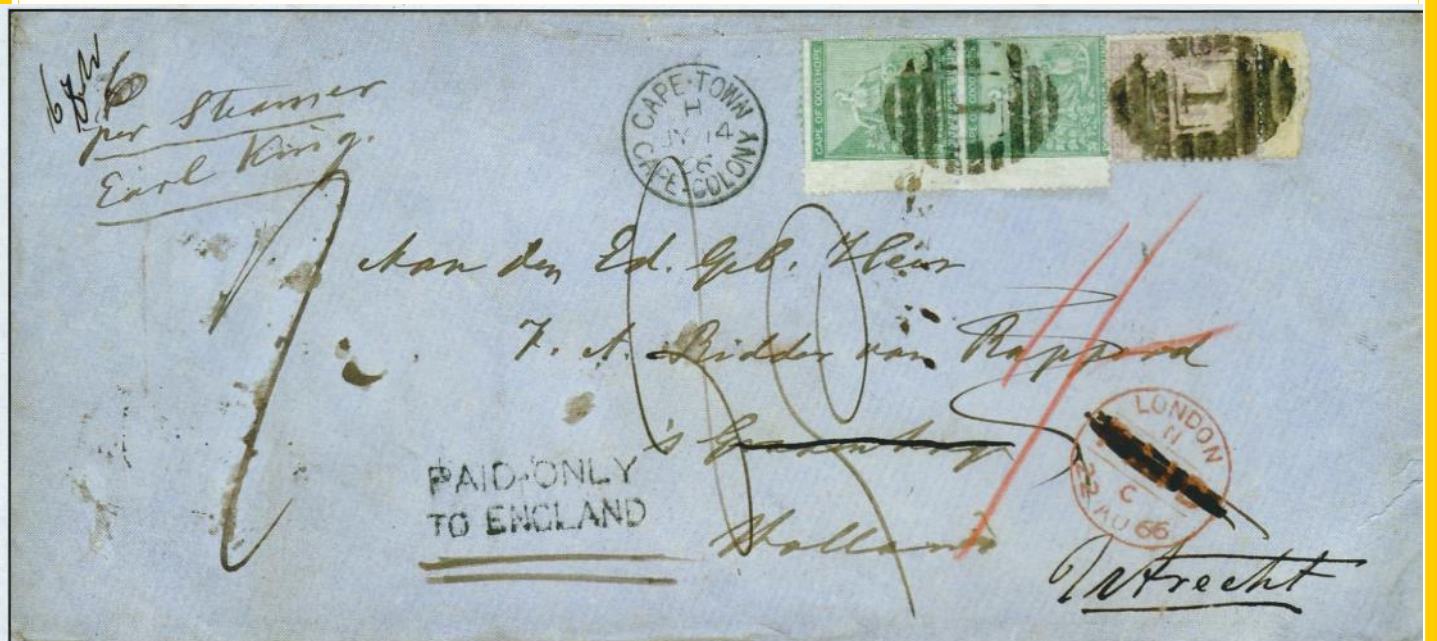
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THE SPRINGBOK

SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS'
SOCIETY QUARTERLY

www.southafricacollector.com



These two Cape of Good Hope covers were sold at auction recently. Both are from the late Robert Johnson's collection of Cape material and are described in more detail inside this issue in Tony Howgrave-Graham's report on two recent major auctions.

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MEETINGS FOR 2021

All physical meetings are still cancelled until further notice (but we plan a Zoom meeting on 27th Feb.—see page 17)

Items wanted.

Siegfried Mayr has lately become interested in the 1936 South African Jipex miniature sheets. He has all 21 panes of the ½d and 1d sheets in mint condition and also all 21 panes of the 1d sheet in cancelled condition. However, he lacks two panes of the ½d sheet in cancelled condition. Specifically he needs panes 2 and 7.

Pane 7 can be identified by the top three marginal ads: Shop, Veiligheid, Register, and perfs in right margin.

Pane 2 can only be distinguished from panes 14 and 21 respectively by a specific stamp flaw in Stamp 2.

Ken Joseph provided the details: Pane 2: Safety, Registreer, Telephone, perfs in right margin, and large green spot on top left corner of the ornamental square.

He has many mint duplicates for exchange and is open to purchase the missing panes.

If you can help Siegfried please email him on siegmayr@yahoo.com.

Editorial

The Springbok is published quarterly for the benefit of Members of the South African Collectors Society. It is not available to non-members. Contributions in the form of letters, notes, reports of SA related activities, articles, etc., are always welcome and should be sent to the Hon. Editor. All correspondence including a SAE will be acknowledged.

The Springbok was awarded a large vermeil medal at Stampex 2017

Editor

Tony Johnson

Editorial Panel

T. Howgrave-Graham

C. Oliver

J.L. Shaw

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Collectors' Society,
2021

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This month the contents cover a range of topics which are very mixed in topic and period. Included is a short RSA article from Roy Ross - I am delighted to hear from him as it tells me he is recovering after a very difficult health battle for him. There is a Durban postmark Nick Arrow hasn't seen before and requests for help from Nick and Nicholas Lindstrom. Can you help?

Simon Peetoom reviews the new SG part 1 catalogue for us and Tony Howgrave-Graham gives us report on two fascinating recent auctions.

There is also a report on each of our first, very successful, Zoom auctions and Zoom meetings which combined to give us a virtual weekend in November. We will be holding a second of each in the coming months as you will be able to read in this issue, though not the same weekend this time. If you would like to join either please contact myself (Tony Johnson) with regard to the meeting or Nick Arrow with regard to the Auction on the contact details shown on the previous page.

I am still in need of articles for future issues of the Springbok so please consider putting 'pen to paper' with regard to recent new additions to your collection, or any material 'uncovered' during lockdown.

Stay safe.

Membership News

New Members

We welcome one new member: Colin Cumming, Stillwater, USA

Congratulations to

Chris Board who has been elected to the **Roll of Honour of Distinguished Philatelist of South Africa (RDPSA)**. Chris, who is a well-respected member of the Transvaal Study Circle was elected along with Mr. Andre du Plessis (Pretoria Philatelic Society).

South African Philately Club reminder

This website, created by one of our members, Steve Hannath, is a useful online resource, and a means of staying in touch with, and meeting new, fellow collectors in this difficult time. To join the Club, create a new Topic and or answer one that is already in the Forum go to the link below. (*I looked a day or two ago and a lot of material has been added since the last Springbok - Ed.*)

To join simply click on this link to enter the Club website: <https://southafricanphilatelyclub.com>

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Auctioneer's Report

Nick Arrow

Bringing Auction 51 to fruition was a very drawn out procedure! A rough draft had been prepared by the end of 2019, which did not have very much to offer. However, I had been approached in late 2019 by John Philpott concerning the sale of his collection, but nothing further had transpired. However, once I managed to make contact with John's son Derek, things started to happen very quickly indeed. I went to look at the collection and realised that it was quite enormous, seemingly well beyond the scope of what the SACS auction could cope with, so I called in reinforcements, namely Tony HG, and we visited Derek in late January, meeting up with John after lunch.

The upshot of this was that I took away a part of the collection, and Tony took away some more. I catalogued the greater part of what I had, and Tony extracted a lot of very fine material, leaving the bulk of the collection intact - it was sold, in about June I think, by Somerset Stamp Auctions, realising a considerable quantity of money. Tony got to work and catalogued what he had extracted, sending it to me.

I started over again with a blank sheet of paper to create the auction list, prepare scans etc, and sent it off for printing with an anticipated sale date in the middle of May when we would meet in Meriden. Then of course we had lockdown and it never seemed likely that we would have the usual summer auction, even when the initial lockdown was slightly relaxed. By this time, I was receiving more material to sell and the greater part of Auction 51 was in boxes on the floor of my study, with little room to move! The germ of an idea was sown when Tony Johnson indicated that he had enjoyed a Zoom meeting with another Society. This was suggested to the Committee, and so we had our first Zoom Auction, blazing a trail for what I honestly think is going to be the way forward.

After 9 months from conception, Auction 51 was finally born in November, and I believe it was a great success. We had participants from South Africa, the west coast of the USA, Norway and Switzerland, as well as members from all over the UK. Including a few post-auction sales, 191 of the 291 lots were sold, and the proceeds gross out at over £11,600. I received a lot of feedback, all of which was very favourable, and I think that this is quite emphatically the way forward for the 21st century. It was not without some problems which perhaps had not been fully considered - muting the microphones of those partaking would have been a considerable advantage, and poor Tony was acting as host mid-flow of the auction, which made recording the lots next to impossible - it will be essential for the jobs of recording the lots and acting as host to be carried out by two people rather than one, but I think, this apart, the operation ran quite smoothly.

Not that the job of sending out 191 lots between 34 different purchasers should be in any way underestimated! In a normal auction of course, successful purchasers take their lots away with them! But after 4 days fairly solid grind, I thought I had got the lots sorted and sent out, but, sadly, I had made various mistakes which did result in a few lots whizzing around the countryside due to be sent to the wrong people. My profuse apologies to those who were inconvenienced. But, considering the auction as a whole, coupled with the rather cramped space in my study, I feel that I didn't do too badly overall!

So this auction was rather like having a baby - 9 months gestation, a fairly uncomplicated birth, but it's after the birth that the hard work really sets in!

My plan is to have another "Tony HG-style" auction, with about 100 lots or so, preferably of the higher quality material, most/all of which can be scanned, in April 2021. This will be designed as a postal auction with Zoom participation. As it is perhaps difficult to sell accumulations and collections in a postal auction, as few people will know what the material is on offer, I would hope to conclude my stint as your auctioneer later in the year, corona virus allowing, with another, open, auction, still with Zoom participation, at our summer convention, with many collections forming the bulk of the material - eg I have some excellent material from the late John Richardson which I know will be eagerly looked over by the Society. This will make transferring the remnants of the material unsold during my tenure as your auctioneer to the minimum. You have been warned!

REPORT OF FIRST SOCIETY “ZOOM” MEETING.

John Shaw

Because of the COVID19 restrictions, our November conference at Meriden had to be cancelled and so, to give our members something to view, we held our first on-line “ZOOM” display on 14th November 2020, ably set up by Tony Johnson who, through earlier zoom committee meetings had sorted out many early “glitches”. For most of us this was a new experience. Attendees from outside the UK included those from Johannesburg, Philadelphia, and Malta and Tony Johnson did a superb job in setting up a “Zoom” meeting where those attending were able to see the displays remotely and in their own homes. The attendees included, as they say in strictly come dancing, in no particular order, were: Jimmy Dounis (Malta), Jamie Smith, Mike Berry, Keith Klugman, Siegfried Mayr, John Archer, Christopher Oliver, Errol van Gruenen, David MacDonald, David Osborn, Simon Peetoom, Nicholas Lindstrom, Nicholas Arrow, John Shaw, Tony Howgrave-Graham, Mike Smith, Russell Boezak (JoBurg), Steve Hannath and Rob & Lyn Lester. Apologies if I have omitted anyone.

SOUTH AFRICAN POST OFFICES – ROB LESTER

First to display was Rob Lester who said he would show no stamps at all, just picture postcards. His treatment was an A-Z listing of all the pictures of post offices he had been able to obtain, and started some ten years ago and which matched those in his 1910 Union commemorative collection. To date just over thirty combinations had been achieved having collected more than one hundred Post Offices on post cards. The Covid restrictions earlier in the year had given the opportunity to research and write up the Post Offices in preparation for a display at the annual conference. He gave an excellent commentary on dates of opening and closing and their architecture, with many being wonderful designs, and others little better than shacks. Rob explained how many of the post offices, or rather the towns they were in, got their names from the wives of famous personages, who were founders of the towns, such as Ladybrand and Ladysmith, and Rob acknowledged the invaluable help he had received from Professor Alex Visser, and the writings of Proud and Putzel.

Starting with “A”, there was a 1897 picture of the Adderley Street post office, which was demolished in 1946 and Aliwal North (1848), taking its name from the first Sikh war. then Bloemfontein, “the fountain of flowers”. East London and Cleveland obviously drew their names from residents with origins in the UK and Ohio. Sir John Craddock gave his name to a town and Cullinan was famous for discovery of the Koh-i-Noor diamond. Eshowe, capital of the old Zululand is the Zulu for “wind through the trees”. Fordsburg is perhaps more famous for its use of the ¾d cigarette tax postage due label whilst Jeppe St was one of the few non-European post offices.

Whilst many post offices were small, insignificant, buildings, some of the main ones would put modern large libraries to shame, and some of the best were designed by the same architect. As an architect himself, Rob is interested in the designs. Where possible Rob also identified the Architect of the Post Office, which predominantly applied to the main city buildings.

As Johannesburg expanded, an extra storey was added to the main post office this being a magnificent structure with Doric and Corinthian columns. Many of the post offices closed, due to lack of business, and many changed their names such as Diamond Field, which became Kimberley and Nazareth which became Middleburg.

Rob also covered the different types of postmarks used and of special interest was the 1865 oval crescent of Grahamstown, very similar to early obliterations found on the Cape triangulars, and very scarce on cover. Still in the Cape area, Mafeking got its name from “place of rock”

This was a fine showing with lots of wonderful picture postcards.

SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL CENSORSHIP DURING WWII – CHRISTOPHER OLIVER

In addition to the information contained in the article which Chris wrote for the Springbok Vol. 68 No. 4, he displayed more examples of censor labels marked in pencil with the censor’s number or mark, prior to the use of the Union-Coat-of-Arms cachets. Also, some examples of the bilingual, passed-by-censor cachets used in South Africa. A dialogue has opened concerning the 55 x 24 mm. boxed cachet below containing a numeral 12.



A Special Mail Service was established for press material from London to South African newspapers via the South African High Commissioner's offices in London and Pretoria/ Cape Town, from whom a permit was granted.

An undated cover by air from London sealed with a censor label and censor numbers 2, 29 and 552 in blue crayon, and backstamped "From High Commissioner's Office \ Cape-Town / Pretoria" Postmarked Pretoria 8th September 1945 upon arrival.

In his display, he included two special covers censored to cover media material from London.



*An undated cover by air from London sealed with a censor label type P. & C.B. Cachet indicating PERMIT No. B*1981 and censor numbers 28 and 292 in blue crayon, and backstamped "From High Commissioner's Office \ Cape Town / Pretoria"*

UNUSUAL AIRMAILS – NICHOLAS ARROW

Nicholas displayed pages from his collection featuring delayed mail. He was at pains to point out that all the items displayed had been delayed by some untoward event, rather than because of the weather, although the first item was a combination of the two - bad weather forcing a plane to land in the bush where it burst a tyre on landing! This was followed by material delayed by two Imperial Airways aircraft running into each other at Khartoum, the Kisumu crash cover he had shown at Meriden in 2019, the loss of the Satyrus, the Boadicea disaster, the destruction of the Athena in Delhi, the Calpurnia crash in Iraq and a lovely cover to Paraguay, delayed by the mishap to the Corsair in 1939. Finally, there was a selection of covers from the Challenger crash in May 1939 with a variety of markings etc, including the only cover Nick has ever seen from this crash addressed to Johannesburg, which was oversized and, he felt, justified his decision to re-write his collection on A3 pages.

All in all, these were interesting and engaging displays and, despite current restrictions, gave members something to look at. We hope to do more of these in the future (*see details of the next meeting on page 25 - Ed.*).

John Shaw

January 2021

New Durban postmark?

Nicholas Arrow

In 1925, an experiment was undertaken to establish the usefulness of an airmail service from Cape Town, via Oudtshoorn, Port Elizabeth and East London, to Durban. Over the period from March to June, the service worked, extremely consistently, but it was discontinued, largely because it was financially unviable.



In Cape Town and Durban, a special roller postmark was introduced advertising the service, with the wording "Air-Mail Saves Time - cds etc - Lugpos Bespaart Tyd" and an illustration of a biplane below the wording. (Reisener SMC 2 and Vermaak 10 are authorities on this - both giving various subdivisions, mainly depending on whether the postmark was applied in Cape Town or Durban.

The relevant postmark concerned for the purpose of this short article is Reisener SMC2.5 / Vermaak 10e (or f, which is the same but using red ink). A copy of the relevant mark is shown in the scan above, on the left side.

However, Peter Wingent, my guru in most things aerophilatelic, has referred my attention to the postmark shown on the right side, which obviously differs, in that the word "DURBAN" is composed in a complete semicircle, the letters "D" and "N" lying completely on their respective sides, whereas in the other example, "DURBAN" is in a wide arc, "D" and "N" being at a slight angle, very slightly raised on the "inside" and more substantially so on the "outside".

He has not seen this before, and, truth to tell, neither have I.

By way of general comment, both Reisener and Vermaak give the same scarcity rating to these postmarks, although I would anticipate that the one from Durban is slightly scarcer. It also stands to reason that Durban would have at least 2 roller cancels - Cape Town had at least 3, all mentioned by both authorities, with various different layouts - and, if Durban was provided with a second instrument which had been assembled slightly differently, this could account for the variation shown above right. What is of interest is that neither Peter nor I have seen this mark and neither, it would seem, have Reisener or Vermaak - at least neither comments about this slight difference.

Can anyone add to this discussion?

Letters to the Editor

Dear Tony

Here is a note for inclusion in the Springbok. I have corresponded about it with both Bob Hisey (who is unable to add anything) and with Mike Tonking (who has the sheet number block cited by Hisey & Matheson whose comment I have incorporated).

Kind regards, Hugh Amooore

The overprinting of Union ½d Issues 4 and 4A, for Official Purposes

Issues 4 and 4A were printed from a common exterior cylinder (which means that arrow blocks do not distinguish the two printings) but that they had different interior cylinders, so that they can be distinguished by interior cylinder varieties. Issue 4 stamps are all inverted watermark; issue 4A stamps are found with watermark inverted and upright.

The Union Handbook pp214 & 215 states: that Set 12 included the ½d value, wmk inverted, from Issue 4I and that set 13 included the ½d value from issue 4A.

The first illustration (scan of the block) is of stamps from rows 3 to 9 of the sheet, with sheet number 7401, with wmk inverted. But this is from roto hyphenated issue 4A (proved by the interior cylinder UHB variety V7 row 5/4).

The four arrow blocks on the 2nd scan (on the facing page) are watermark upright and thus from issue 4A (again there is an interior cylinder variety that also proves this).

The Hisey and Matheson publication on the officials records sheet number 7436 as from officials set 12; if sheet number 7436 is from set 12 then it would seem probable (given the small numbers of ½d sheets used for each of sets 12 & 13) that sheet number 7401 was also from officials set 12. In which case the large block is from Officials set 12. But it is 4A and not 4. However, Mike Tonking who has the Sheet Number 7436 item

Set 11, 1936

Roto issue 4A (first hyphenated issue), Watermark inverted

Overprint Type IV

Note the strike of the 11 row comb perforator between rows 5 & 6



This is a measurement

and states that this is “noted as issue 4” not 4A.

This proves that issue 4A with inverted watermark was used for official purposes and suggests that the ½d issue used for set 12 was 4A and not 4 or, that both 4 and 4A stamps were used for set 12.

Hisey and Matheson record in their e-book on the officials that: the ½d value for officials set 12 was “a very small stop gap print order for 1936”.

Can any member of the SASC solve this puzzle?

Set 13, 1937

Issue 4A, Watermark upright

Overprint Type IV, Spacing 12.5–13mm



Row 10/3

Vertical black line in front of buck's muzzle
(UHB V8, Cylinder flaw issue 4A)



Dear Tony,

Errol van Greunen's note and cover in the September Springbok motivated me to share some additional material that provides insight into both the 1938 (laying of the Monument's corner stone) and the 1949 (opening of the Monument) celebrations.

The first cover (similar to Errol's cover) hails from 1938 and was produced as part of the 1938 celebrations. The depicted cover includes two points of both philatelic and historical interest:

1. The stamps are cancelled with the relatively rare Burgerkamp cancel. This cancel was used by a temporary post office to serve the more than 100,000 celebrants camped around the future Monument site. The post office was only open for three days December 14 -17, 1938.
2. The cover is addressed to H. Norman Cutler. Cutler was an employee of the SA Post Office and was responsible for the philatelic program associated with the Voortrekker events. He was also an independent entrepreneur and produced many Voortrekker covers which he subsequently sold and probably made a nice return in the process.

The small cover with the horseman was produced in 1949 and was part of the celebratory material produced for the opening of the Monument. It included the attached card.

The large cover (on page 12) with the CapeTown wagon wheel cancel was part of the 1938 Commemorative Trek and was carried by ox wagon from Cape Town to the Voortrekker Monument. What makes this relatively common cover noteworthy is that it is signed by the three Voortrekker leader descendants (see the picture and notes on the facing page) who laid the future Monument's corner stone; (the signatures were authenticated by



the Voortrekker Monument Historical Library). Logistically it is interesting to note that the cover, on reaching the Monument on December 14, was then sent to the addressee in Pretoria through the mail in time to get the signatures before the three ladies left town. On a side note the organizers chose descendants for the corner stone laying rather than the Prime Minister to ensure that 'Die Stem van Suid Afrika' would be sung instead of the then National Anthem 'God Save the King' which would have been required had a government official presided.

The 1938 Commemorative Trek continues to produce historical and philatelic material that provides me with much enjoyment.

Kindest regards,
Siegfried Mayr

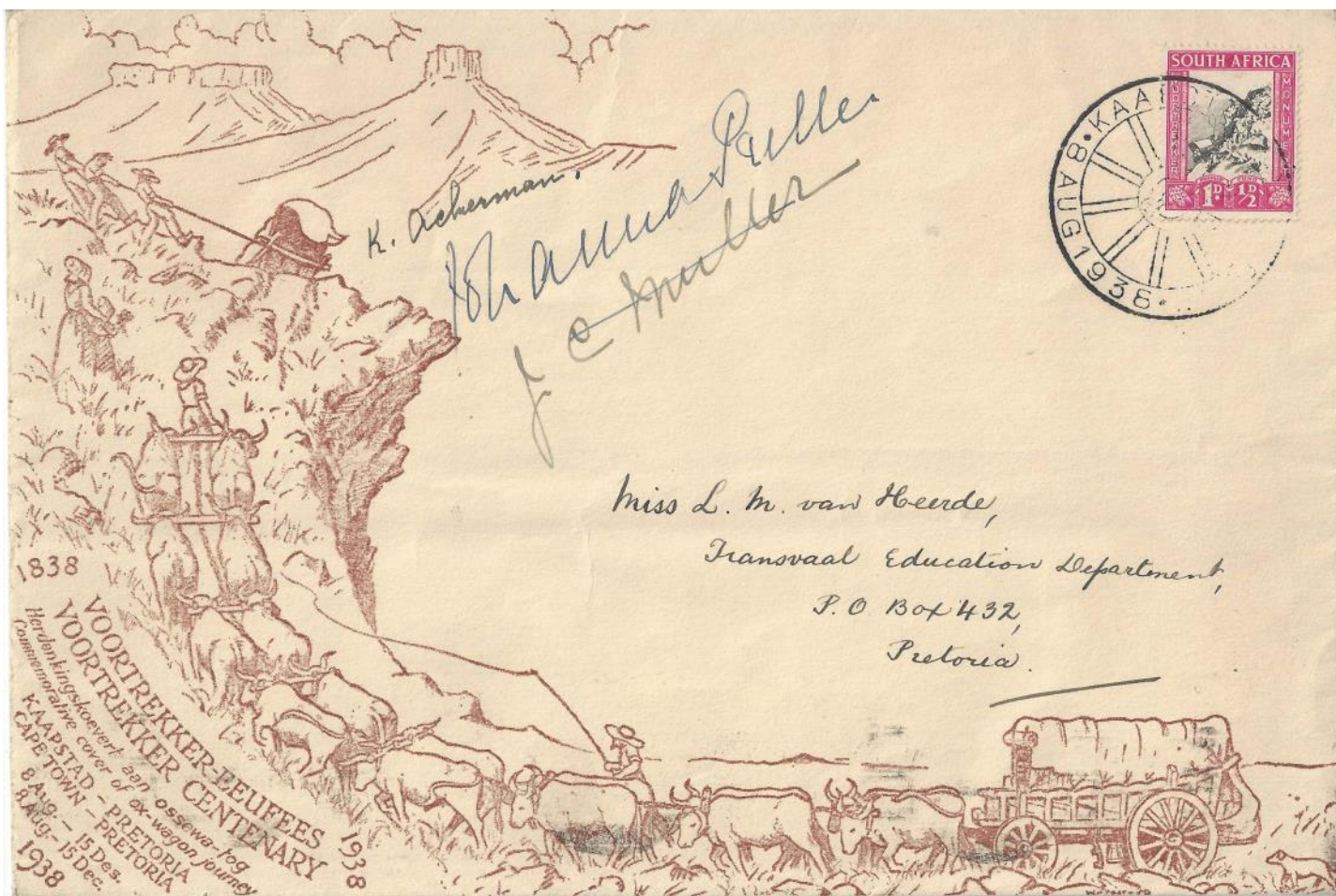


LAI D TREK MONUMENT FOUNDATION STONE: Mrs. Johanna Preller, of Pretoria; Mrs. Johanna Christiana Muller, of Winterton, Natal, and Mrs. Katherina Frederika Ackerman, of Bethlehem.

The idea to build a monument in honour of the Voortrekkers was first mooted on 16 December 1888, when President Paul Kruger of the South African Republic attended the Day of the Covenant celebrations at Blood River in Natal. However, the movement to actually build such a monument only started in 1931 when the *Sentrale Volksmonumentekomitee* (SVK) (Central People's Monuments Committee) was formed to bring this idea to fruition.

Construction started on 13 July 1937 with a sod turning ceremony performed by chairman of the SVK, Advocate Ernest George Jansen, on what later became known as Monument Hill. On 16 December 1938 the cornerstone was laid by three descendants of some of the Voortrekker leaders: Mrs. J.C. Muller (granddaughter of Andries Pretorius), Mrs. K.F. Ackerman (great-granddaughter of Hendrik Potgieter) and Mrs. J.C. Preller (great-granddaughter of Piet Retief).

The Monument was inaugurated on 16 December 1949 by the then-prime minister D. F. Malan. The total construction cost of the Monument was about £ 360,000, most of which was contributed by the South African government



Letter from Mike Tonking (RDPSA)

Dear Tony,

I refer to the article on 'The different print runs of rotogravure Union definitive Issues' by N. Lindstrom which appeared in the August 2020 Springbok issue.

I have difficulty with his comments on the 1d. issue 14. The eleventh row flaws when they are found do not come and go; they are present throughout the print run of any particular issue.

With his reference to the 1d. Issue 14 eleventh row flaws they are indeed present through the whole issue, Jack Hagger shows them on stamps with blue sheet numbers and I have examples with black sheet numbers. In fact they appear to be present on both example shown on image 10 page 351.

Am I missing something ?

Kind regards,

Mike.

Auction

The next Society Auction, is scheduled for 4pm (UK time) on 11th April. The Auction list will be found as part of this mailing.

Postal/email bids should be with Nick Arrow by that morning. He is also planning to use Zoom for 'live' bids so if you want to participate in that please contact Nick on nicholasarrow@btinternet.com.

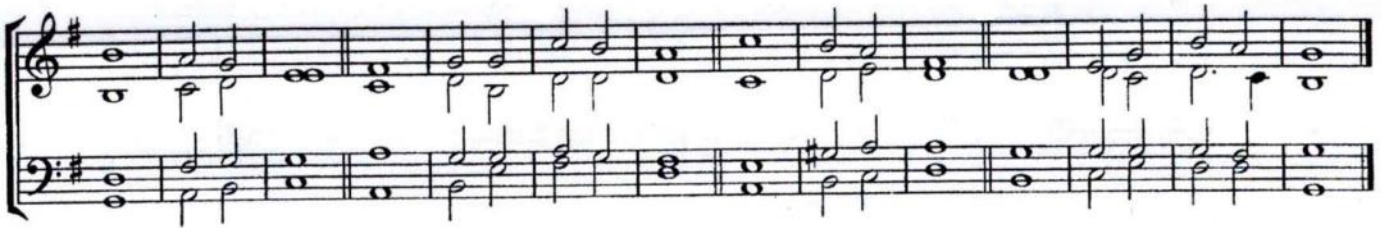
Philatelist's Psalm

I received the 'Psalm' below from Nick Arrow

I hope it makes you smile, as it did me, we all need it at present!

Philatelists' Psalm XXIII

J. Turle



- 1 Stamp collecting ' is my ' hobby; I shall ' not ' be ' bored.
- 2 It maketh me to do re' search on . far ' places; it causeth me to corre-'spond with ' odd ' people.
- 3 (2nd part) It keepeth ' me al-'ert; it leadeth me into areas of understanding for ' curi-'osit.y's ' sake .
- 4 Yea, though I live through a winter of ' in.clement ' weather; I will ' fear ' no ' boredom.
- 5 For my ' stamps are ' with me; they provideth me with a means of escaping from the tensions of ' my res-'ponsi-'bilities.
- 6 They filleth my ' house with ' books; my ' cask ' runneth ' lower.
- 7 Surely interest and knowledge shall follow me all the ' days of . my ' life. And I will be listed in the ranks of the ' Phila-'telists ' forever.

Gloria Glory be to the stamp; and ' to the ' postmark; and to the ' perfor-'ati-on.

As it was since Rowland Hill, is now and ' ever ' shall be; and ' Stanley ' Gibbons for ' ever!

Other magazines

Forerunners, the journal of the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa, is a Society based in North America. The latest issue has articles on the Postal Rates of Botswana, T110 Rail Post labels and Graphic Designs in South African Philately as well as book reviews and other items of interest.

In the latest **RSA Study Group Newsletters** (three issues received since the last Springbok) the detailed article of the 2nd series definitive continues in multiple parts as well as an article about some new issues.

I don't have permission to forward either of these newsletters to members but if anyone is interested in either I am happy to put them in touch with the respective Editors.

Don't forget we also receive copies of **Bartholomeu Dias**, a Dutch language magazine, which I do have permission to circulate to members for anyone who can read that language. The latest two issues each run to 40 pages with 5 long articles.

RSA First Definitive 2½ cent Cylinder 60 S 27

By Roy Ross



Of all the 2½c stamps printed (there were millions as 2½c was the price of standard postage) this issue is probably one of the most interesting.

A very small number of sheets were printed, compared to previous issues, and all were delivered to the Philatelic Bureau on the 20th April 1966. The sheet format remained the same as the previous issue 12 11, which was a single die, one pane only. 100 stamps per sheet - 5 rows of 20.

It was reported that an order for 2½c stamps was placed and there was a hold up with the four pane 12 11 sheets. At the time it was not certain if the 12 11 plates had been damaged but history says it was never used again.

For this rush order it was decided to use the narrow roll, 190mm wide, Harrison RSA watermarked paper very faint facing upright (it therefore faces right on the sheets when printed). It was not

long before the paper ran out and so to complete the order a normal roll was cut into two reels making two narrow rolls and rewind. This made the watermark inverted (shows facing left when sheets printed). Note: all watermarks are viewed from the front of the sheet on RSA issues.

Order of Printing:

First :-	RSA watermark facing right - large hole perforations.	<i>Sheets delivered: 87,755</i>
Second :-	RSA watermark facing left - large hole perforations	<i>Sheets delivered for left facing</i>
Third :-	RSA watermark facing left - small hole perforations	<i>107,805</i>

The splitting of the rolls explains the two watermarks listed above but why two sizes of perforation holes? The SAP said at the time that the eleven row perforator machine could change its die very easily, and the die with the large holes was replaced with the small hole. A perfectly normal procedure very often caused by new pins being necessary.

The watermarks are faint and difficult to see on these stamps, enough to warrant being called Unwatermarked. Orientation of the watermark in most of the sheets can usually be decided by studying light reflection at various angles on the gummed side, when a series of dashes may be observed to give the outlines of the triangle or letters of the watermark. Another discovery is that the 'R' of RSA appears to be lying on its side. This could be a double 'R'.

It is of note that on the Harrison watermarked paper the watermarks are very faint. This is because this type of paper has proved to give a better printing of the stamps as it is smoother. The watermarks on the paper were abolished a couple of years later, presumably to enable an even better print quality.

At the time of the stamp printing it was noted that one of the cylinders given was number 60, but cylinder 60 was one of those used for the 20c stamp. A reference to the Government Printing Works' job sheet showed that there was still an uncompleted order for those 20c stamps. On referring this to the authorities it was learned that the 20c cylinder still existed and can be used again. The 2½c "Cylinder No. 60" is not 60 after all, but has another number and the number was used in error.

Acknowledgements:

*South African Philatelist
SA Stamp Study Circle*

SACS Library – Update

As lockdowns and other interruptions to our lives have continued, I have again updated the Library lists and they now include all the books and philatelic magazines in the Library's possession (as at January 2021).

Unfortunately, before his passing Otto hadn't been able to update the website so the list on our website is now off the pace somewhat.

If any member wishes to receive a copy of the Library list electronically please contact me and I will send one out. David Page who looks after the Springbok distribution will make a paper copy available for anyone who relies on "snail mail".

When you get to see the latest list, you will note that there are a number of additions to the philatelic and non – philatelic sections. The latest arrivals are a mix of donations and auction successes. Thanks are due to Nick Arrow for including some new items in and amongst the auction lots and members making available magazines and books to make the Library more helpful for those seeking to research and widen their SA philatelic knowledge. The latest SACS books produced by Rob and Lyn Lester are all now included on the list.

My details, and David Page's, are included amongst the officer information inside the front page of the Springbok.

I look forward to hearing from members in due course if you have any queries to do with the Library and its contents.

Malcolm Ridsdale (Hon Librarian)

Please Help the Society keep the Auction

The society is still looking for a new auction manager as Nick Arrow needs to step down after the May auction and it would be a shame to see the Auction come to an end. Nick is happy to carry on being the auctioneer on the day, if any new auction manager doesn't want to do that aspect of the role. To help any potential replacement understand the role Nick has prepared the following job description.

The position involves conducting the Society's auction. In brief, it means receiving from the members such material as they wish to sell through the Society's Auction, preparing the Auction list, conducting the Auction, distributing lots to purchasers not present at the Auction, receiving all the purchase money and accounting to the Vendors, after deducting the Society's 10% commission.

The present Auctioneer would be very willing to give as much assistance as possible, by way of guidance concerning the holding of the lots, listing them preparing the Auction and dealing with the accounting side of the Auctions (even if requested to conduct the Auction himself). Much of the work is done by an Excel computer programme, which certainly has worked for the present auctioneer, and which does not require any advanced IT skill, but any Auctioneer who wishes to develop the present system, or design his own programme, which would work better for him, should feel entirely free to do so.

It is a position which, particularly immediately after an Auction has taken place, it can be rather hectic, but at the same time, it is very rewarding, and generates quite substantial revenue for the Society. The Auctioneer has the privilege of handling a considerable amount of other people's material, some of which can be extremely valuable.

Book Review

Should I Buy a Stanley Gibbons, Commonwealth & British Empire Catalogue?

by Simon Peetoom

This large catalogue, often referred to as “The Part 1” (and how I will refer to it) has been published every year, since forever, the 2021 version is the 123rd edition! Most stamp dealers whose main business is British Commonwealth will buy a new one every year, the second hand catalogue from the previous year invariably snapped up by a keen client, mainly due to the price, 2021 has a full retail of £89.95.

So, does the South Africa collector really require one? Well, yes and no, because you don’t *need* a catalogue to acquire stamps. Many collectors buy stamps from eBay and the majority of sellers identify their products with SG numbers and are keen to inform you of the catalogue value, showing *what a bargain* their item really is!

If you go to a stamp fair (or a SACS meeting) and look through a dealer’s stock, you’ll see the little tags with catalogue number, condition and price alongside the stamp. All of this information and work to identify the stamps is freely given, so you don’t need to do any work...right?

Well, no, wrong. First of all, South Africa stamps can be tricky for a novice to identify, even established dealers of British Commonwealth can make mistakes in identification. So, if the stamp is wrong, how do you identify it? The Part 1 has a number of identifying tips for SA stamps and if you can arm yourself with this information, you are well on the way to being able to spot mis-identified stamps. Also, is that bargain on eBay as cheap as it seems? Read the section “The Importance of Condition” at the front of the Part 1, in fact, read ALL of the “General Philatelic Information and Guidelines.” So many of the questions frequently asked by collectors are answered in these pages.

Under ***SOUTH AFRICA*** you’ll find the Pre-Union areas and occupations, a logical listing of Union & RSA 1910-70, plus some additional shades, watermarks, perforations and varieties (flaws) listed, then Booklets, “Official” overprints, Postage Dues and Telegraph stamps are included, the latter a relatively recent and most useful addition to the catalogue.

Whilst you can split hairs about some of the listings, they are generally fine. In my opinion, the main problem comes once you specialise, as the SG way of grouping issues doesn’t always fit in with how the stamps were originally issued. For example, the first hyphenated five shilling stamps, issued in October 1933, all came with inverted watermark (and in a distinct shade), but the SG listing infers that somehow the inverted watermark is a variation of the stamp issued in 1933. Inverted watermarks of the 5s from later printings exist in the more typically encountered blue-green shades, but these are much scarcer.

However I’m splitting the aforementioned hairs and you can definitely form a fine collection of South Africa Union issues just following the Part 1 listing.

Regarding catalogue values, in recent years the quotes for mint stamps have remained fairly constant. That means the retail prices of items such as the 1913-24 KGV £1, 1927-30 London Pictorials set and the 1935 Silver Jubilee set have remained steady. However, those who have read the introductory notes, know that the catalogue values for pre-KGVI issues are for fine hinged mint. Prices for early un-mounted mint are not quoted and I’ve found prices for fine UM amongst dealers’ stocks getting stronger. Over on eBay, the prices for hinged mint and other commonly found items (of all countries) are still generally involved in a race to be cheapest. Price increases are mainly in fine used stamps and the earlier issues of Postage Dues, again, fine used.

Major varieties also seem to have stalled in price after significant rises in the last ten years. This is often due to their lack of availability, when they are traded, new auction realisations are usually reflected in subsequent Part 1 catalogues.

Since 2019 alone, the additions to SA Union listings include hyphenated 5s “Broken Yoke-Pin” varieties on postage stamps & relevant Officials; “Airship” flaws on the unhyphenated 2d & relevant Officials; vignette omitted and “Dragon” flaw on unhyphenated 1d type II; “Scratch” variety on 1937 ½d Coronation; “POSTADE” varieties on 1922-6 Postage Dues. Hence a number of varieties already known to Union spe-

cialists now qualify for listing in the Part 1, only serving to increase their popularity as the “ordinary” Commonwealth collector may now be looking for these in a dealer’s stock.

In conclusion, if “Knowledge is Power,” then the Part 1 remains an essential work. Bear in mind that much more exists beyond its listings (and fills an entire volume known as The Union Handbook), but it is full of useful information and if you can acquire a newish edition then buy it. If you are still ticking off numbers in your 1975 edition, maybe it’s time to take the plunge and buy a brand new one, after all, much of the information will never go out of date.

Post Script – for collectors of Rhodesia Admirals, significant updates in 2020 & 2021 mean you should consider the latest Part 1 edition.

QUERY from Nicholas Lindstrom

Request for more information about the slower 840 printer before this was fitted with the 5 digit cyclometer.

In my article published in August 2020 looking at the union rotogravure definitives I stated:

There were two printers used for the stamps in the study period, the 830 and the 840 printers. For the 830 printer the PA happens twice per sheet, eleven rows apart. For the 840 printer this can happen on every row. The faster 830 printer covered the whole study period while the slower 840 printer was first used around 1940. It is easy to tell apart sheet number blocks from the 830 and 840 printers. The 830 printer sheet number blocks show four digits while the 840 printer sheet number blocks show five digits.

I would appreciate more information about the use of the slower 840 printer to see if this information is correct. The slower 840 printer was used before 1940, but I have not yet seen evidence that it was used for the printing of the union rotogravure definitives pre 1940.

When I started my studies of print runs of the union definitives I was not looking at coils, booklets and rolls. I have now started looking at these where sheet numbers can be found and while looking at R14 see that the single comb perforator was used (the perforation patterns clearly repeats on each row for at least some of the print runs of R14, and Hagger also states the single comb perforator was used for R14). Further the sheet numbers on R14 are made up of four digits, not five.

As the single comb perforator was not used on the faster 830 printer (at least based on my knowledge), this means that pre c.1940 printings exist from the slower 830 printer showing 4 digit sheet numbers. Indeed Hagger states in the Handbook that: *There were two of these [printing] machines and in about 1940 the slower [840] machine was fitted with a five figure cyclometer.*

Specific question:

Other than for booklets, rolls and coils, were any of the union rotogravure definitive issues printed off the slower 840 machine before the five figure cyclometer was fitted? If so do you know which issues? I have seen evidence that the single comb was used for R12 but so far I have not seen evidence of the use of the single comb printer on any union definitive stamps (excluding coils, rolls and booklets).

Any help on this topic appreciated.

I will also look more closely at my stamps to see if I can see any evidence that the single comb perforator was used in the printing of the union definitives prior to c.1940.

Society Auctioneer Wanted

In order to keep the Society Auction going in the future the Society urgently needs a new Auctioneer to take over from Nick Arrow later this year. If you can help please contact Nick via the details for him given on page 2.

More detail on what the role entails can be found on page 15.

A query from Nick Arrow

I was recently contacted by member Anne Fitzgerald who lives in Cornwall. She asked about an envelope she received in July 2020, which throws up a few queries.

Copies of the front and rear of the cover are below (slightly reduced) -



The note to the BL of the front was endorsed by Anne herself. The postmark (which is not very clear on the copy) is that of Pietermaritzburg and the date is 2020.03.18.

The queries are (a) why was this seemingly inoffensive letter intercepted after posting and before being sent by air to England and (b) why should it take 3½ months to get here?

Any ideas?

AUCTION REPORT

Tony Howgrave-Graham

Two important sales have prompted me to write another "auction report"! The first was at Cavendish on 8 September when Robert Johnson's Cape of Good Hope was on offer. There's little doubt that offering a large collection in one go is not going to yield the best return as auction houses inevitably pick out a few items for individual sale and then clump the rest together in groups, many of which contain things that under normal conditions would be fine stand alone items. Overall, though, Robert's material sold very well with realisations often two or three (and sometimes even more) times estimate being common. A good example of this was lot 420 consisting of 18 covers and 5 fronts which included the illustrated envelope (*Fig.1*). Attractive with a "Hottentots-Holland" oval and an "Eerste R Stn" cds, it was surely worth a separate listing. Estimated £300 the lot realised £700 (+24%). The other 17 covers and 5 front weren't illustrated but sounded of interest.



Figure 1

Another interesting item was lot 437 which was an 1873 letter from the Mossel Bay post-master to the PMG



Figure 2

apologising for undercharging for 3 items. Attached to the top of the letter was a block of four 1/- green cancelled "Cape Town / MOO" on receipt. This showed that postmasters were personally responsible for any undercharging. Estimated £150 it made, including commission (as will all further realisations) £470. Another lot which I know interested at least two members was 447 with what was described a "rare Cape Packet / Plymouth cds on a 6d ship letter". There were, in fact, two covers and the first was rather nice (*Fig.2*). Opened for display and with a fine 1877 "Hendrik's Kraal" oval on the reverse. The second was an 1876 envelope from Port Elizabeth franked a faulty 6d lilac with the Cape Packet cds on the reverse. Estimated £200 the lot made £575. I have reservations about the accuracy of the description. I don't think the Plymouth mark is rare. It was the standard receipt mark at this time. It is scarce for a short period in the early 1870's when Southampton, rather than Plymouth, received most of the bagged mail. Also as the cancel shows it wasn't a "ship" letter but a "packet" letter with the rate having been reduced from 1/- to 6d on 1 July 1876.

Lot 449 was an unusually fine example of the concessionary 1d soldier's rate in 1879. Estimated £150 it made £496. Another nice cover was lot 470, an 1876 ship letter to Utrecht picked up by the *Earl King* en route from Foochow to London (Fig.3). It has a London paid cds with the "PAID" portion inked out and a "PAID ON-



Figure 3



Figure 4

LY / TO ENGLAND" handstamp applied. With an accountancy "1/-" in red plus a 1/- due charge and Dutch charges it was estimated £200 but made £570. Another underpaid packet letter to USA from the US Consulate in Cape Town franked 6d and picking up a pair of 10c dues featured on the front cover of the catalogue and made £992 against an estimate of £150!



Figure 5

An 1873 2/- rate cover from Cape Town to the Bishop of St Helena made £372 (est £160) and a pretty 1881 tricolour franking making up the 1/10 rate to India via the UK made £492 (est £300). A rather messy, opened out, 1865 4d ship letter to Thayetmyo (Burma) made £1054 against an estimate of £300. Certainly a rare destination. Moving to the Boer war a fine 1899 cover to Randfontein (Fig.4) with both pink (Durban) and purple (Cape Town) boxed "MAIL SERVICE SUSPENDED" cachets made £682 (est £150). A remarkable 1848

cover to Richard Thornton on the "Dr Livingston Expedition" (Fig.5) made £2976 (est £1500). There were virtually no unsolds of Richard's postal history but there were a few when it came to the stamps though a nice 2-margin copy of the 4d pale milky blue woodblock made £298.



Figure 6

Mail from the OFS is scarce. I show an 1865 cover (Fig.6) from the Farie correspondence from Bloemfontein to Scotland. It has a manuscript "6" paying the internal postage and a 1/- adhesive paying the packet rate. I have it on good authority that there are only eight such covers recorded (ie with Cape rectangulars). Estimated £300 it realised £273 and I've chosen it because another one came up in John Dickson's material.

So, on to the remarkable Spink "Stamps and Covers of Southern Africa" sale on 1 October. They encountered problems getting their catalogues out though the sale was on line for some time pre-

auction and a phone call produced a catalogue next morning. Spink say it's the first time they've had a sale entirely devoted to southern Africa and important to us as the 643 lots included John Dickson's Atlantic sea posts to the Cape and his Natal. It also contained a lot of Eddie Bridges material as well as Dr Frank Becker's fine collections of South and South West Africa.

Lot 1 was a superb 1848 letter from the King of Basutoland to Harry Smith thanking Queen Victoria for her help in fighting the Boers and praising General Smith for defeating "the wicked rebel Pretorius". It stated the Basuto were numerous and the Boers had never received permission to build on his land. Estimated £6-700 I thought it would shoot up to 4-figures very quickly. In practice the auctioneer was beginning to sound a bit desperate at the lack of bids. Despite my usual restricted funds and lack of interest in the area I was very tempted to press the "bid" button! In the event bidding did slowly get going and it sold for £650 (£806 with commission). Surely excellent value.

Prices from now on include the commission, as usual. Basutoland continued with some dramatic revenue documents and a very nice 1898 registered envelope from Mohaleshoek to Guatemala with 8 Cape adhesives making a 4-colour franking. It made £334. After Bechuanaland we came to John Dickson's sea posts. A quite extraordinarily well researched and extensive collection split into 132 lots. As with Robert Johnson's collection many lots contained multiple items and they seemed generally cheaply estimated. All bar 10 sold but the consensus afterwards was that many had sold remarkably cheaply. A fine 1793 "VOC/6st" on a clean cover made £645. Two more 18th century items followed, then the 1809-15 ship letters, 1816-17 Cape packet items (one of which didn't sell), 1819-40 India letters and then 1840-50 ship letters. The General Screw Steam Shipping Company's first (1850-52) and second (1852-4) contracts were well represented with most selling about, or less than, estimate. Bucking this trend was a nice, but undated, entire from Pietermaritzburg to Cape Town (Fig.7) charged 7d (3d internal rate & 4d Cape). This made £992 against an estimate of £250-300. The



Figure 7

1852-7 private ship letters included some interesting items but many sold cheaply including a nice 1855 item from the Maclear correspondence (Fig.8) which made £161. Lyndsay Line covers are scarce and a number were offered, most-



Figure 6



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11

ly from GB to Cape. A nice one from Cape Town to London (Fig.9) made £492. It did have a very rare "Cape Packet / Bristol" re-

ceipt mark though this was overstruck. The early Union Line material sold rather better particularly an 1859 cover franked an embossed Natal 6d green (Fig.10). It made £992 (est £200-250). The other Farie cover, also 1865, from the OFS (Fig.11) made £150. (it was estimated £120-150 whereas the Cavendish offering of the same was estimated £300 and made £273).

I was particularly interested in acquiring the offerings using the eastern route. There were three lots. The

first (lot 164) had 3 covers from GB to Cape Town where P&O took the mail to Marseille - through Suez - to Mauritius where it transferred to the Union Line for onward transmission to Cape Town. Estimated at a lowly £100-120 I had hopes, especially in view of other realisations. I ducked out at £350 (it sold for £380 + commission) in the hopes that one of the next two lots might be cheaper. The next lot comprised two attractive covers from South Africa to UK using the same route in reverse. Estimated £150-200 I had my finger poised over the bid button only to watch it shoot up to £1240! So, one attempt to go. Just one cover of 1866 from Pietermaritzburg to Scotland estimated at £100-120. Remarkably this travelled all the way to Ceylon before backtracking to Suez, Alexandria and Southampton. Again with finger poised I watched it whistle up to four figures eventually selling for £1736!!

There followed a good range of Currie & Castle Line material, virtually all selling, and most appearing to be very good value to the buyer. My personal favourite, which I successfully bought, was an 1876 cover (Fig.12—see facing page) from Donald Currie's Fenchurch St. office to his agent in Dartmouth. It was franked 3x1d, all with "CURRIE" perfins of which two paid the late fee to catch the 8.20 from Paddington to Dartmouth where it was placed privately on the *Windsor Castle* to South Africa where Currie was at the time. This sailing also carried the delayed 1876 new contract which gave the Union and Castle Lines alternate week mail sailings. Interesting enough for John to write an article on I thought it was an absolute snip at £124.

So, on to the Cape which started with a remarkable correspondence from a colour sergeant with the Royal Warwicks. 34 letters from 1846 to 1858 from the Eastern Frontier wars. Rare stuff! 17 were unusually fine, properly drawn up, entire letters, 13 were not complete and the 4 latest had had their Cape triangulars removed! Sacrilege! - but what a superb, historic lot. I would like to say I bid heartily but I'm afraid the £18,600 realisation is a realm I can't afford to exist in!

Coming back to earth and a nice used example of the Cape 3d on 4d, SG34b, with the "THE.EE" variety made £155 despite minor faults. Cape was followed by Natal, much of this John Dickson's and where John's estate



Figure 12



Figure 13



Figure 14

will have made up for any underselling of his Cape maritime. There were some cracking realisations. John's remainder collection of 21 values to 1/- of the embossed issues (plus his 2002 London Philatelist article and Wright's book) made a triple estimate £3224. A nice copy of the 9d blue "with traces of embossing" (Fig.13) on a small piece and cancelled at Ladysmith made £6200 (est £1500-1800). A

nice undated entire franked a 6d green with design intact and cancelled Umhali in manuscript made £4960 (est £5-600!). A similar even prettier cover from the same correspondence but franked a large 3d rose made £930 (est £2-250). A "Postage" overprint in black & doubled on the 1/-green, SG58a, (Fig.14) made £2976 (est £5-600). So, as mentioned in the new SG catalogue, Natal seems to going through a period of renewed interest.

Rhodesia & Nyasaland also featured. Four (2x3d & 2x1/-) unaccepted photographic essays for the 1955 Victoria Falls issue, estimated £100-150, they made £3870!!

Handpainted essays of the same but accepted values fixed to white, then brown, board made £6912. In fact nothing from the Waterlow archives made less than £1000.

At last we move on the Union material of Eddie Bridges and Frank Becker. Easy to differentiate whose was whose as Eddie's was marked with an "X" picking up an extra 5% VAT for UK buyers. Not all of Eddie's collection was on offer but many nice items were and prices, generally, were pretty robust. The King's heads all appeared to be Becker's. The set to £1 in control singles, lmm, but the 10/- faulty made £868, seemingly a bit on the cheap side whereas two unmounted examples of the £1 pale olive green & red made £595 and £645 (seemingly not so cheap!). Eddie's 1d ships were mainly offered as three job lots:- the 1926-30 typographed, the 1930-34 unhyphenated and the 1935-54 hyphenated. Individual items had been variously extracted and offered separately. The first made an over double estimate £1965, the second a just under estimate £965 and the last a well over estimate £2709. This was probably good value, none-the-less as it contained all three states of the 1948 Cultural Museum 1d proof as well as 2 fine um blocks of 4 of the imperf (Issue 11) 1d, including one with a variety. Eddie stated these were from a single known sheet. Does anyone know if this is really the case? I suspect there are too many around. Turning to some separately offered items a tête-bêche block of 4 of the ½d (with the bottom pair unmounted) made £1677 and the same for the 1d, £1548. So, surprising that an um pair with variety failed to sell at a starting price of £420 in the Society auction. The 1927 set in blocks of 4 (again with the bottom pairs unmounted) overprinted SPECIMEN also made £1548. The same but in lightly mounted mint pairs made £490 suggesting an above 100% premium for unmounted though I've seen quite a number of sets but very few in blocks of four. The basic perf.14 set in lmm imprint pairs made a well over estimate



Figure 15

£645 and a nice bottom left strip of four of the 5/- (Group III, perf.14x13½ up) made £542 (Fig.15) and, I know, went to a good home.

His gold medal winning collection of Darmstadt trials was split into three. The 1d ship stamps contained

many increasingly rare large blocks and I suspect was still quite good value at £4128. The Hunter Penrose "portraits" made £839 and the dummy cigarette labels £581. A block of 10 of the 1931 Issue 7 1d with the frames partly dry printed on the bottom pair, made a hugely over estimate £619. It seems a lot for a blurry, if attractive, pinkish half frame on two stamps. I think my last "auction report" was in July 2018. In that I showed (Figs.6&7) the 1948 Issue 4 1/- with partly missing frames and suggesting £5250 and £6192 were extortionate prices to pay for partly missing colours. The same two items appeared and this time failed to attract any bids even at the starting price of £2100, let alone the estimate of £3-4000 and let alone at their previous realised prices!



Figure 16

The early booklets don't often appear, especially complete. The rare 1913 2/6 booklet was offered complete (Fig.16) and made £4515 despite its faults. Covers of the same booklet stapled at right along with a relevant ½d and 1d pane made £670. An incomplete 1917 booklet (SAHB B2) made £1097. Two incomplete 1920 (pink cover) booklets, one stapled at left, the other on the right made £2322. Many of the 1926-31 booklets were incomplete and had relevant panes or bits and pieces added, so are difficult to report on. I've always thought seeing a booklet "exploded" is a nice method of display - if you agree and are thinking of exploding a booklet - DON'T!! - The 1939 green Drifoot booklet (SG SB15) is catalogued £3,500. An exploded example of this made £323. Unexploded it would have made well into 4-figures!



Figure 17

A rare specimen pair of the 1926 1d official (gumless) made £232 (Fig.17) and a 1/- pair, um and with certificate, with the OFFICIAL / OFFICIAL error (Fig.18) made £542. Finally a part sheet of 112 1934 1d ships with DOUANE overprints made a surprising £839 (est £120-150).



Figure 18

This just leaves Frank Becker's South West Africa. A superb collection with prices to match. The set of 12 **pairs** of the 1923 setting I overprinted SPECIMEN made £3720 (pairs are extremely rare, see Feb 2017 auction report when they made £2852). A set of singles sold for £645. The basic set (SG1-12) described as good to fine mint made a surprising £1612 and the set with shiny litho overprints (½d,2d,4d,6d,1/-,1/3 & 2/6) an equally surprising £595 (above full catalogue but they were unmounted). A block of 4 of the 1d, mounted in the margin only, with the overprint inverted made £682 but the biggest surprise was a 2d pair with the overprint misplaced causing "Afrika / Africa" to appear above "Suid-West / South West". Estimated £100-120 it made £6300!! The "Africa" error on a lmm pair of the 1d made £87. A block of four of the 2d with the overprint inverted made £335 and a lmm 1/3 pair with the same, £260.



Figure 19

Moving to Setting II the star of the show was a bottom left corner control pair of the £1 (Fig.19). Unmounted mint and estimated £1000-1200 against a basic catalogue value of £1000 it made £6,200. A lightly mounted set of 12 with bold lettering of setting III made £645 (87% of catalogue) and a beautiful block of 12 of the £1 with side margin and central

gutter attached made £2232. An unmounted set of setting VI with "South West Africa" 16.5mm long (with an extra 3d bright blue) made £719 and, if you think that included a large premium on the catalogue value of £542 for being um the same set, lightly mounted with 16mm overprint made £652! A lightly mounted set of the 16.5mm with extra 3d and both £1's looked a lot better value also at £652. Such are the vagaries of auctions. An interpanneau block of 48 of the 1d, plate 7, (being the top 4 rows with margins) with the overprint missing on row 1/1&2 of the left pane and largely missing on row 2/2 was offered at £1500-£2000. The illustration for it took up half a page but sadly they showed the wrong half of the sheet so we couldn't see the variety! Someone must have seen it, though, as it made £7,440! The control pieces really are fetching a lot at the moment. The four corner pairs of the £1 (SG40) made £6,820 and this despite the control numbers being trimmed and "the usual gum bends and one toned". Again this lot had been reasonably estimated £1500-2000 against a basic catalogue value of £1000.



Figure 20

A complete sheet of the 1927 10/- (SG57) made £2232 and a bottom left corner block of four of the £1 (SG57) with only one stamp mounted made £930. Another block of four (Fig.20) with the central gutter attached and showing the missing jubilee line made a three times estimate £1178. The top pair had severing and was mounted but the lower variety pair was unmounted. It seems quite a lot as it's not really a "variety". It was a standard feature on all later sheets as the jubilee lines were removed on all values to try and get better ventilation during printing and it appeared in the gutter by rows 5 & 16. An "SWA" op ½d block of eight with the overprint missing from the top pair, made £645 and the same for the 1d £868. The 1/- perf.14x13½ with missing stop, lmm, made £992 despite the picture of it clearly showing it was perf.14 and probably with stops obscured in the background. Let's hope the purchaser notices this! The 1931 pictorial set in

lmm imprint blocks of 4 made £620.

So ends the report on some remarkable material, much of it from three senior, expert and highly knowledgeable Society members who were amongst those who sadly left us in 2020. What with covid as well, it's been quite a year.

However, before I go, there is one more auction I must mention and that is Nick Arrow's "zoom" Society auction on 15 November. This was experimental and a massive success. Huge thanks must also go to Tony Johnson the "zoom" brain behind it all. Nick thoroughly deserved better luck with an auction than has been the case for the last few years and I'm delighted he got it. Total sales were not far short of £12,000 so many congratulations all round. I'll only mention a few items as I know Nick is publishing the results. Control and inscriptional items again sold very well including the hyphenated ½d arrow blocks which seem particularly difficult to complete. All four arrow blocks of Issue 7 made £260. An unmounted, inscriptional pair of the rare SWA 2d official (SGO21) made £700. So well done, Nick, Tony and Zoom, The last is proving a great success attracting members who can't get to the Society weekends. It's really good to meet names one knows well. We'll try and arrange more and I would encourage more of you to join in.

Zoom meetings of the Society

Despite some technical issues (that we will know to work on for the future!) we had a very enjoyable Zoom meeting of the Society on 14th November as reported by John Shaw on page 5.

I am planning another meeting for 27th February at the same time as before i.e. at 4pm (GMT). I have promises of papers on Basutoland, Jipex and Natal from David MacDonald, Erroll van Greunen and Keith Klugman respectively. If you would like to join the meeting, please email me on tonyjohnson26@btinternet.com. I will then send the link to all who express interest.

As the last meeting proved so successful, and in particular in enabling a number of members to join who aren't able to get to our normal meetings, I am hoping to hold Zoom meetings for the foreseeable future. So, I will need more offers of papers. If you can contribute a display I would be delighted to hear from you. These can be anything from short, maybe just one or two items you need more information on, to longer. Maybe even an hour or more. Thank you.

SOUTH WEST CORNER

Tony Howgrave-Graham

A short one this month as the auction report has taken a bit of time. Interesting to see SWA stamps showing such a resurgence in interest but what about the postal history!!

I show below another letter postmarked 25 Jan 1917 from Gries to Germany again showing his use of two early ½d E7 Transvaal stamps "interprovincially", but the main reason for showing it is to show how people got round the regulations regarding sending mail to Germany after the end of the SW campaign but whilst the war still raged in Europe.. Officially this had to be sent via a recognised body such as the Peace Bureau at Berne or through the Hulfverein, but here Gries has sent it to a friend in Switzerland who has forwarded it to Hannover with a Swiss 25c. Registered with a green cachet it's been censored with two Cape Town "opened by" labels. On forwarding it's been marked "AR" (Avis de Reception) and picked up a German "opened by" censor label in black at Frankfurt on 21 March. It has an Uelzen receipt for 23 March so was over two months in transit.

Importantly I've had some excellent feedback from Martin Eichele regarding the unaltered German FPO1 canceller shown in the last S.W.Corner. Putzel writes quite a lot about it on p.433 under "Tsumeb B1". One of the items shown was the one illustrated in Putzel (ex Chief Justice H J Berker). Putzel states its use as being as being confirmed by Hoffman-Giesecke and all authorities but not philatelic as claimed by Gerwande". He goes on to suggest the cover "disproves the still prevalent belief in certain quarters that this canceller was only used philatelically".

Martin is clearly in this sceptical group and I have to say I think I'm joining him. Look at the handwriting on the cover sent by Hans Wieland to himself and compare it to that on the other two. I'm sure it's the same. Martin is nicer than me suggesting Wieland was "playing games" but I have to say I think making up fictitious names and stories and adding crayon censor marks is designed to deceive, and is fraud.

I did have photocopies of all the examples of this cancel I'd seen (5 or 6), some of which weren't so fine but a major hunt for them has failed so I can't compare the handwriting of all. The hunt did, however, result in me sorting through a huge mound of stored bits of paper and disposing of a huge pile of them so at least my wife is happy with the result!



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