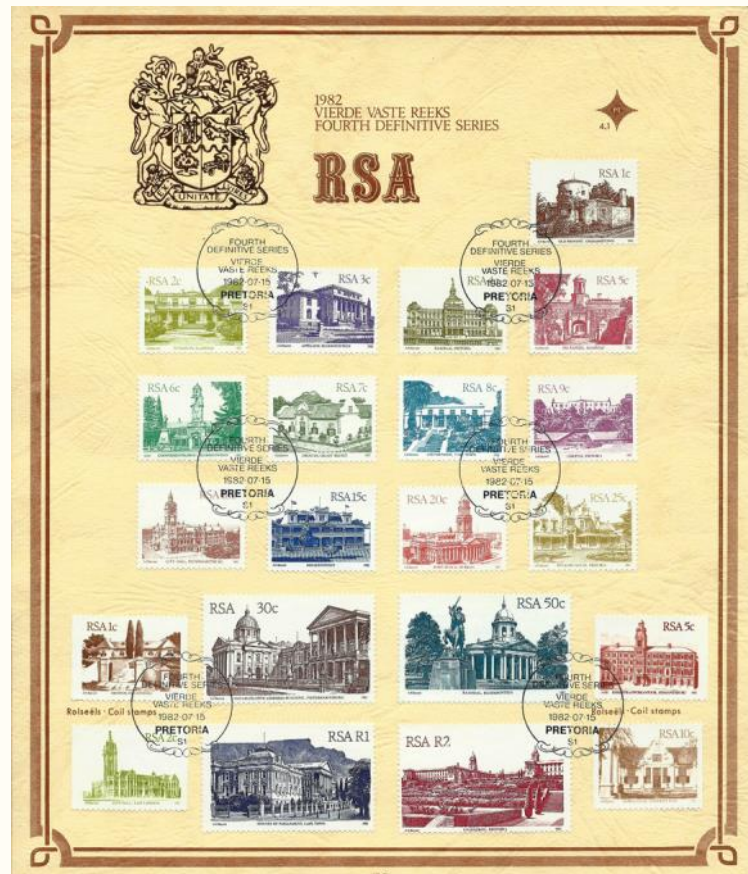


THE SPRINGBOK

SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS'
SOCIETY QUARTERLY

www.southafricacollector.com



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MEETINGS FOR 2021

All physical meetings are still cancelled until further notice (but we plan a Zoom meeting on 22nd May - see below)

Zoom meetings of the Society

We had a very enjoyable Zoom meeting of the Society on 27th February as reported by John Shaw on page 32.

I am planning another meeting for 22nd May at the same time as before i.e. at 4pm (British Summer Time - 1 hour ahead of GMT). If you would like to join the meeting, please email me on tonyjohanson26@btinternet.com. I will then send the link to all who express interest.

As the two meetings held so far 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.

Tony Johnson

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**

**Vol. 69 Issue.2 Whole No. 354
Founded 1948**

Editorial

This month we have a larger Springbok than usual which covers a wider range of topics. Included is an RSA article on the fourth definitive series from Roy Ross and an article about the South African mail on an air crash in Rome. We also branch out a bit with an article on Basutoland from David Macdonald (based on his Zoom presentation) where they used Provincial and South African stamps for about 50 years before issuing their own. David shows many examples of these early stamps with Basutoland postmarks.

Simon Peetoom provides our SWA corner this month with an article about SWA Military Aerogrammes of WW2.

There is also a report on our Zoom meeting in February from John Shaw. We will be holding another in May as you will be able to read in this issue. If you would like to join please contact myself (Tony Johnson) 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 two new members: Ken Dyke and Pamela Penrose, and one returning member: Paul Hartegen. All of them are in the UK.

Deceased member

We are sorry to report the passing of long term member Eric Hammond. An obituary will be found in this issue.

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 new material has been added since the last Springbok - Ed.*)

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

The Crawford Medal for Philatelic literature - deadline extension for nominations.

The Royal Philatelic Society London awards the Crawford Medal annually for the most valuable and original contribution to the study and knowledge of philately in book form, whether physical or electronic. It was first presented in 1920, and has been awarded in most of the 101 years since. Nominations had closed for 2021 but due to restrictions caused by the global pandemic the selection meeting has been postponed until 7 July, so the committee has decided to re-open nominations with a new deadline of 31 May 2021.

Nominations are invited for any book on a philatelic subject that has been published and was available for sale in 2019 or 2020. The book does not have to be published by the Royal or be written by a Royal member and nominations are accepted from any individual or society even if they are not Royal members.

Nominations should be sent to Nicola Davies, Head of Collections, at The Royal Philatelic Society London, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW or emailed to her at librarian@rpsl.org.uk to arrive by 31 May 2021 at the latest. A non-returnable copy of the nominated book must be supplied to the RPSL library by that date if it does not already have one.

Selection of the different marginal advertisements for the halfpenny and one penny panes. The halfpenny panes show only postal slogans (see picture on facing page), but the one penny panes show commercial advertisements as well as postal slogans. These include the Robertson Stamp Company, top right and the “333 State Express cigarette advertisements among them – which today would not be permitted.

Errol also covered the special postmarks, special exhibition envelopes and publicity seals and had obviously spent a lot of time studying this issue and putting together the display. Among the unusual items were singles of each value, both with inverted overprints, which Errol wisely classified as forgeries; I had not seen these before.

SPECIAL DATESTAMPS ISSUED TO BE USED AT THE EXHIBITION POST OFFICE
(Because of the wording two datestamps were issued, in Afrikaans and English)



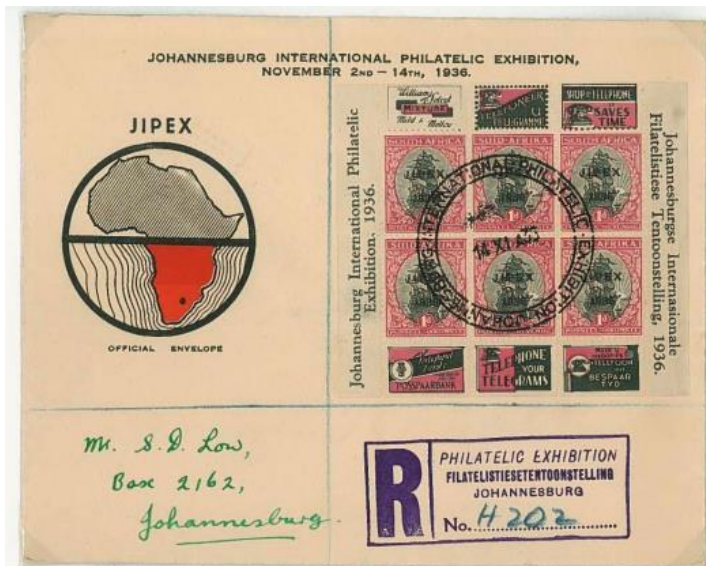
**JOHANNESBURGSE INTERNASIONALE
FILATELISIESE TENTOONSTELLING**



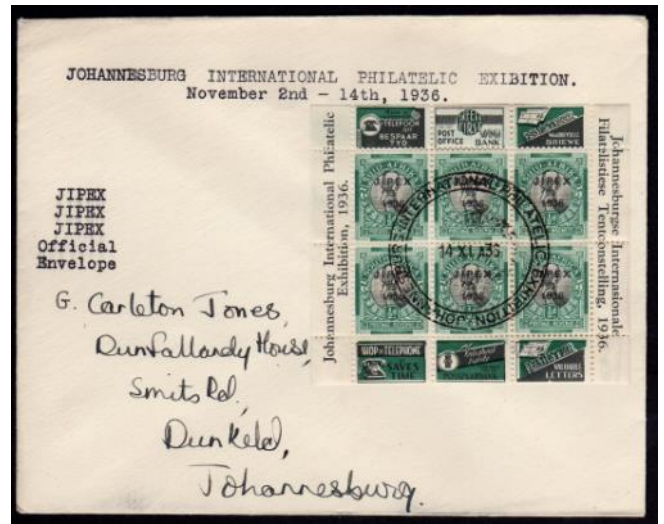
**JOHANNESBURG INTERNATIONAL
PHILATELIC EXHIBITION**

The two JIPEX exhibition postmarks, one in Afrikaans, the other in English

Special Envelopes. These were provided at the Exhibition but, it is interesting to note, examining the two items below, the differences, especially the size of the JIPEX lettering above the map, so one can see there were at least two printings of these envelopes, a third if you look below! Also note both envelopes bear the special exhibition registration mark. There were also nice varieties such as the misplaced red and totally missing red.



Exhibition cover showing grossly misplaced red printing Cover with red printing totally missing and publicity seals



Zulu Warrior exhibition cover but sent from Capetown and addressed to Emil Tamsen, one of the first RDP signatories in 1920 and regarded by some as the father of Union Philately. To me these covers are so iconic, representing Africa.

Last day official cover, this third type obviously hastily produced using a typewriter, due to a shortage of the "map" covers. Note the incorrect spelling of "Exhibition". I had never seen this type and they must be really scarce.



The two types of exhibition labels, large and small sizes, one rouletted, the other perforated. Were these produced in sheets or in booklets, I wonder?



Souvenir telegram envelope, but from the International Exhibition, rather than from JIPEX



Special airmail postcard where the card could be sent anywhere in the world for just one halfpenny – the cheapest airmail postage rate ever!

I think this is the first time Errol has given a display to this society, so well done Errol.
(Editor's note—due to space restrictions I have had to reduce most of the images in Errol's display. Apologies to Errol and John).

David MacDonald - Basutoland

(Editor's note: David has produced an article based on his presentation, the start of which can be found on page 54. I have extracted parts of John's write-up that included items from the Zoom display that took his eye not shown in the article that are shown in this section.)

John was particularly taken by a number of pre-Union covers. Two of these are shown in David's article (see pages 57 and 59) but he also liked a lovely 1889-1902 Second Boer War cover from Leribe to the POW camp at Diyatalawa, in Ceylon (shown on the facing page).



John noted that David showed that gradually, the “South Africa” component of the postmarks disappeared, and the word “Basutoland” began to appear. David showed a lovely selection of different postmarks, some virtually unpronounceable and one John especially liked is that of Teyateyaneng, shown here.



This was dated not long before Basutoland had its own stamps, the iconic “crocodile” design which was used for the issues of both King George V and King George VI and the top values of these, printed by Bradbury Wilkinson, are shown here reduced.

What John had not seen before, were the Waterlow unadopted photographic essays, taken from the printers’ archives and shown on page 64. He likes the crocodiles in those essays much more!



HRH Prince George visited Southern Africa in 1934 and John thinks there was a post office on the Royal Train, since he has this postmark on Union covers, so the date could be important here. Prince George was not the prince who would become King George VI – upon abdication of Edward VIII – it was Prince Albert, Duke of York, who on becoming king, took the name King George in memory of his father.

One thing clouded with uncertainty is the set of four KG V stamps overprinted

“OFFICIAL” and David readily admitted the four he showed had forged overprints. John reviewed a small booklet on these for the London Philatelist some years ago when the author attempted to trace every known copy; as he recalls, the sixpence is the least rare, but still with less than 20 known, and the ½d the scarcest with some six known. At least two genuine examples are known with the 1934 Royal Tour postmark and how this came about one can only speculate, although David did show a Royal Train cover with the crocodile set to 6d with this postmark, and addressed to dealer John Robertson, and shown on the previous page.

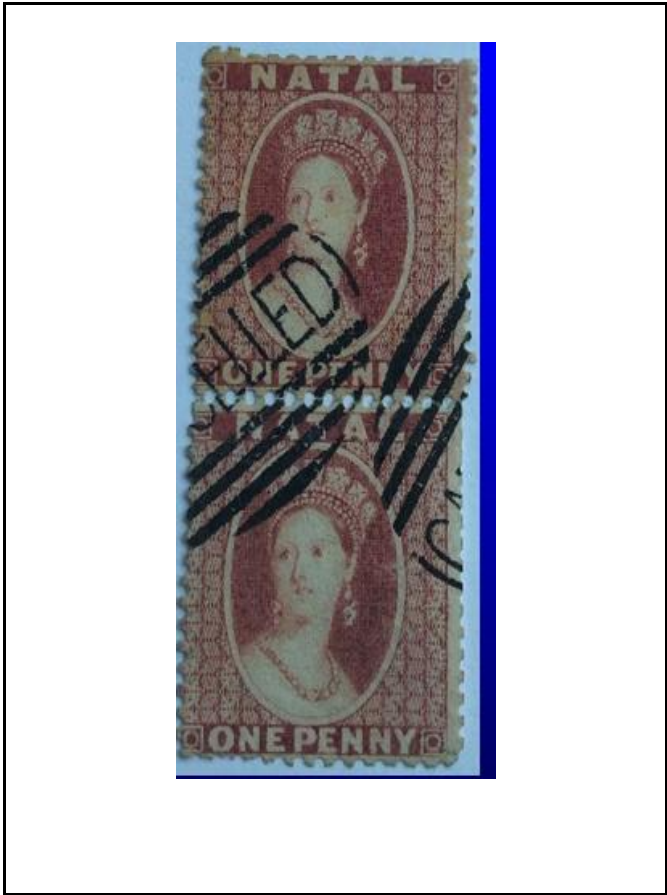


David concluded with some nice covers and cards, including two KG V “specimen” postcards and the 1935 Silver Jubilee set on first day cover, and this also completed the 1913-66 crown colony period. Living in Aberdeen, we have never seen David at a London meeting, but this display well made up for that. Well done David!

Professor Keith Klugman FRPSL – A late celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Natal 1869 Postage overprints.

Finally, we were treated to an international standard display of Natal by Keith Klugman, presently living in the USA. He stated the territory was discovered by the Portuguese explorer, Vasco de Gama, who named it “Natal” on Christmas Day 1497. It was settled by a handful of Europeans in the 1820s and was the scene of a massacre by Dingaan, the Zulu king in February 1838. For a short time it was known as Natalia, a Boer territory, but conquered by Great Britain in 1842 and, in 1844 became a protectorate of the Cape Colony. It became a British crown colony in 1856 and issued its own stamps, the embossed issues, on 15th July 1857.

After the embossed issues came the beautiful Perkins Bacon “Chalon heads” and Keith illustrated some lovely die-proofs, but to me the most interesting was the reconstructed vertical pair of the one penny with “CANCELLED” obliteration. With this obliteration, these came from blocks of six stamps reprinted by Perkins Bacon and presented to the Rowland Hill family. I was privileged to handle some of these in the Expert Rooms of the Royal some 15 years ago, all of which I believe came from the Peter Jaffé collection and were from, as I recall, Ceylon, Trinidad, Queensland and Barbados.



The main thrust of the display, however, was to explain that these Perkins Bacon issues, and the following De la Rue issues were inscribed neither postage, nor revenue, nor both – so they were valid for both functions and

in 1869 the separation of the Natal post office finances required stamps for postage only. Thus, four different values were locally overprinted with the word "Postage", there being five different types as follows:

Number in sheet	Types	Description	SG Cat Illustration No
72	I	Postage 12¾mm long	7b
28	II	Postage 14½-15½mm long	7d
20	III	Postage 13¾mm long	7c
60	IV	POSTAGE in block capitals	7e
60	V	POSTAGE in tall capitals	7a

Types I to IV were all contained in a sheet of 240 images and Type V, for most values the most common, was from a single setting of 60 images. All the Types I to IV are scarce to rare, especially so the 1/- value. Also, there are maybe new varieties to be discovered. In addition, for the Type IV first setting the vertical placing of the overprint actually varied for the different four denominations overprinted thus:

Value	Position of overprint
1d	Low
3d	High
6d	High
1/-	Low

In addition, there was a second setting of Type IV only in which the positions are reversed, ie high, low, low high on the 1d, 3d, 6d and 1/- respectively

One of the major collections of Natal ever formed was that of Eric W Mann, president of the Royal from 1946-49, who left his Natal collection to the Royal, and Keith illustrated items and tables from this collection. The 240 image sheets contained all Types I to IV and a table showing all the known placings in the sheet, from the Mann collection, was shown.

I must emphasise that some of these overprinted stamps are exceptionally rare, one being the mint 1/- with Type I overprint below of which only five copies are recorded, only two being in private hands, both being ex Ferrari. The other three are in the Royal, Tapling and Mann collections. The example shown below was actually sold by the United States Smithsonian from their "Sovereign" collection, thus releasing only the second copy now in private hands.

Whilst all mint 1/- stamps are rare, so are covers of **any** denomination, with a total of only 86 covers recorded for the four denominations. One interesting cover, shown here bears the 1/- Type one and, apart from the



Type IV, is the only known example from Types I, II, III and V used on cover; this is ex Brian Trotter and now in Keith's collection, together with a newly minted Royal certificate, and is illustrated below.

Continuing with the 1/- stamps, three more mint rarities were shown, two examples of the Type IV, missing from the Royal, Tapling and Mann collections and the Type V, this being the only recorded example previously ex Ferrari and, obviously thus, missing from the Royal, Tapling and Mann collections.



Type IV



Type V

Multiples and covers of any denominations are at worst, scarce, as are multiples with two or more types se-tenant and Keith showed illustrations of mint vertical pairs of the 1d and 3d with Types I and II se-tenant, from Her Majesty's collection and shown with Her permission. Note the different vertical spacings! Keith stated that another mint pair may exist and that a 6d with Types II and III se-tenant is shown later.



There is only one recorded cover bearing se-tenant types and this is a 6d with Type II and two Types III se-tenant, shown on the facing page:

Cape Town 2021 International Exhibition postponed

Due to current circumstances the Cape Town 2021 International Exhibition, due to be held from 9th—13th November, has been postponed, New dates will be advised as soon as they have been finalised.



There followed a fine selection of multiples on cover including a strip of six Type I and strip of three Type III, both the largest known and then some fine mint multiples, a particularly interesting piece being a block of eight of the 1d Type IV, the largest known but also showing significant varieties.

These stamps are all Type IV, first setting with overprint low.

First Row – stamps 139 & 140 in the sheet

Second Row – stamp 151, thick T of Natal, 152 normal

Third Row - stamp 163, thick T of Natal, 164 normal

Fourth Row - stamp 175, thick T of Natal, 176 normal



This item was never seen by Mann and proves that Row 15 (fourth row above) is Type IV which Mann had not allocated.

Another “largest known” multiple is that of the 1d Second setting Type IV (shown overleaf), and note this has the overprint placed high, rather than low as in the block above. Also, it is from the Burrus collection; most of you will know that Maurice Burrus was a Swiss multimillionaire whose fortune came from tobacco; his collection, auctioned by Robson Lowe also contained several “Post Office” Mauritius. Keith also showed a “proving” vertical pair, from the bottom of the sheet, on cover.



Keith concluded with some covers with manuscript cancellations from towns and villages then so small they were not provided with obliterations. In conclusion, he stated the 1869 overprints represent a significant challenge to collectors with multiples and covers being rare, especially of the 1/- value, also noting that some of the first setting perf 14 3d stamps mint are still unrecorded – so keep looking, all of us!

Overall, then, we were treated to three interesting and enjoyable displays, and well done to Errol, David and Keith

John Shaw

OBITUARY

Eric Hammond (1935 - 2021)



Eric died in February aged 86 years

He had a long and very interesting life. Eric was a musician and travelled the world playing in bands as a drummer and guitarist in his youth. After living for a few years in South Africa he returned to the UK and resided in Preston, started teaching music and continued to do this until he was 80.

He sadly lost his wife Anne two years ago and was never the same person. He was devoted to her, they never had children.

A founder member of the Carlisle SACC's meetings in the mid 90's Eric hardly ever missed a meeting and got on with everyone. He could however be very vocal but we relied on him to keep us all in check. "We are here to talk about stamps" echoed around the room when anyone got out of line.

Eric and Anne spent many months on holidays in South Africa flying twice a year and always first class. They had many friends over there. Just before Anne died they toured India, which had been a dream of theirs for many years.

Before Eric would go on his travels to South Africa he would ask the Carlisle members if they wanted any stamps. Frequently on his return he would come to the meetings with a small suitcase full of stamp and philatelic material. Half would be what members asked for and the other half speculative material. I will always remember his words. "I saw this and thought of you" and his prices were always very reasonable usually at cost price. Members always looked forward to listening to his tales about his recent travels.

Eric was a good friend to many of us and a true gentleman who will be sadly missed.

RIP
RWR.

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.

Disaster at Rome

Nicholas Arrow

On the 14th January 1954, a Philippine Air Lines Douglas DC-6, registration PI-C294 under the control of Capt Ira Broome, with 9 crew and 7 passengers on board, crashed when about 4 miles short on its approach to Rome Ciampino Airport. The plane exploded, either while close to the ground or (more likely in the writer's opinion) on impact and was damaged beyond repair. All on board were killed.

The plane was on a scheduled PAL Flight from Manila, via Bangkok, Karachi as well as Rome, to London, and would have proceeded on to London via Zurich and Hamburg were it not for the crash. On its approach to Rome, in heavy cloud, at about 6,500 feet, the pilot spoke to ground control, advising that one or possibly both (reports are confused) starboard engines were on fire. Standard procedure at that time was to lose height as quickly as possible, in order to make a low level approach to the airport, and the pilot was given clearance to descend quickly. He then lost contact with ground control. The plane crashed and exploded either at a height of a few metres, or (more likely - again there are conflicting reports) on impact.

The accident was investigated and its probable cause was some "unforeseen fact to which the aircraft was subjected, as a result of which, being no longer under control, it went into a steep dive, probably on account of wing drop in the clouds, and crashed to the ground after an uncompleted pull-out¹. The Committee, although unable to affirm that wing drop could have been caused by atmospheric conditions, wishes to point out that there was pronounced turbulence in the area."² "Wing drop" is shorthand for "wing drop stall", which is "a stall where one wing stalls before the other. The wing that reaches the critical angle first (at about 15 degrees) will stall first, losing lift and causing a roll at the stall."³ If the wing-drop is not promptly recovered, a spin may develop and the use of ailerons, a natural reaction to the situation, will make matters worse! It must be pointed out however that Capt Broome was flying in heavy turbulent conditions and had one or both starboard engines on fire, so recovery from wing drop may have been impossible in the time and the crash was inevitable. The plane was comprehensively destroyed⁴. (See picture below and overleaf).



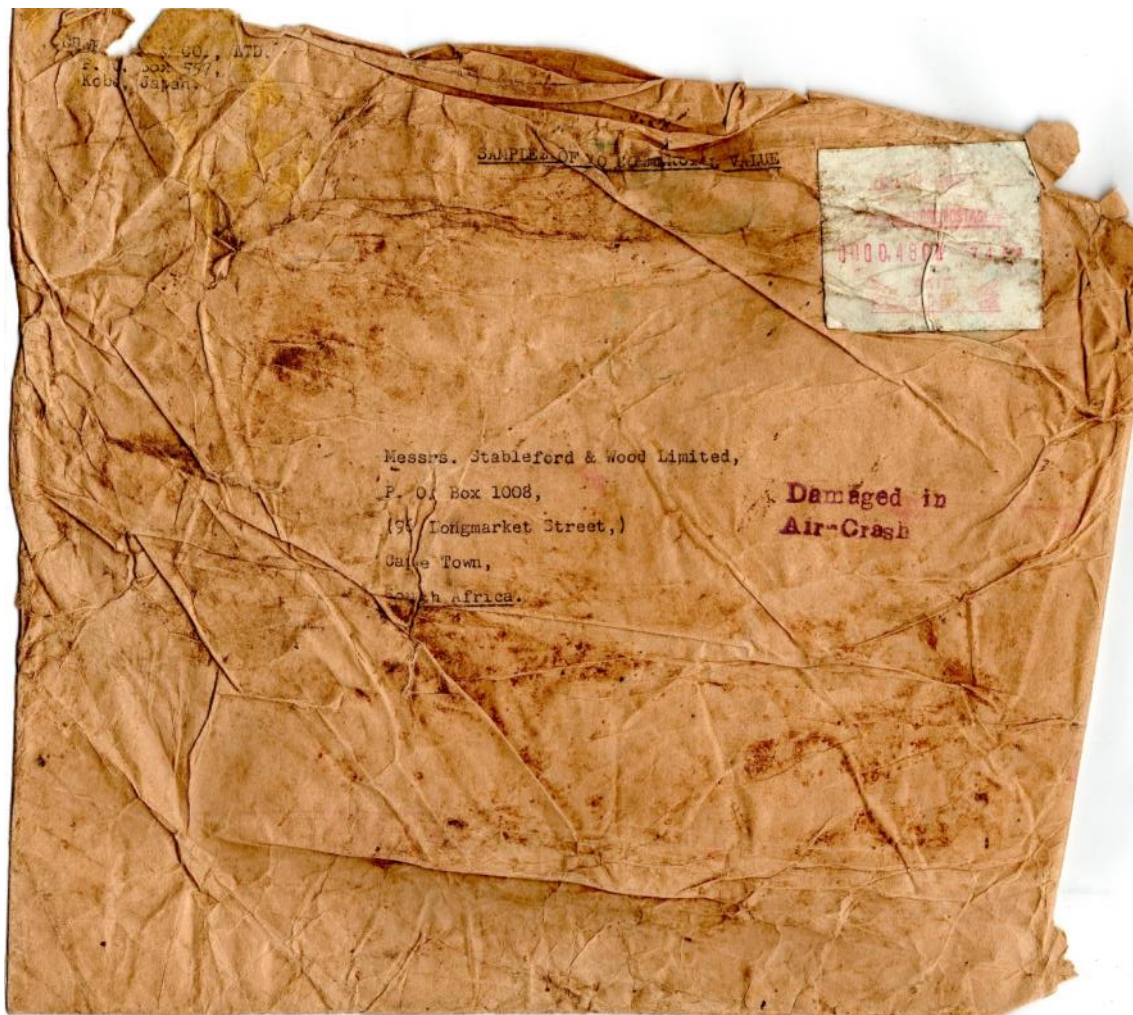
Despite the total loss of the aeroplane, mail was found among the debris which was recovered and forwarded on, marked with a variety of cachets. Neirinck records 12 different cachets used in 6 different countries - there are others recorded, eg by the Nordic Air Crash Mail Society on mail, mostly to Northern Europe.

What has not been recorded so far is an item to South Africa - see the scan overleaf (substantially reduced). It is a sample packet sent by air mail from Japan to Cape Town. Posted in Kobe, it was flown to Manila, probably by Japan Air Lines, and put on board the ill fated flight. After the crash, it was (probably) for-

- 1) This is probably shorthand for didn't pull out of the descent at all
- 2) Aviation Safety Network
- 3) Definition supplied by Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand
- 4) Acknowledgement to British Pathé for both pictures



warded on to London, then flown to Johannesburg by BOAC or SAA, and then from Johannesburg to Cape Town, by SAA. It was placed in the 'coffin envelope' (overleaf, also reduced), impressed with the official free cachet and delivered.



The cachet on the cover was almost certainly applied in South Africa. It bears no resemblance to either of the cachets which were applied in London, or indeed to any other of the cachets applied to mail and recovered from this crash.

The sample cover immediately throws up a very pertinent question. What was an item from Japan, addressed to Cape Town, doing on a flight from Beirut to Rome? The route from Japan to South Africa

does not usually go through Rome, so why was the item sent to Manila for connection with the PAL flight to London and not to Singapore for the BOAC service west to Egypt, where it could have been offloaded and transferred to either the BOAC or the SAA service to Johannesburg? Why had the item not been taken off at Beirut and flown the comparatively short hop (363 miles) by any local service to Cairo for connection with a service to Johannesburg?

I.D.V.H.M.
O. H. M. S.

P. 229

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Messrs. Ståbleford & Wood 2la

Box 1008

Capetown

I showed this at a recent Zoom meeting of the SW branch of the BAMS and got the answer. In 1954, international airmail services were not nearly so frequent as they are today - for example one BAMS member said he had an item from Singapore which was on the flight via Rome which crashed. The practice was for the postal clerk to

decide which was the best route, and what must have happened is that the postal clerk in Japan felt that the quickest route for the item must have been via Manila to London with PAL and then to South Africa with either BOAC or SAA. The item was therefore bagged up (probably in Japan) for London, sent to Manila and then placed on board the ill-fated airliner.

So all the questions about this cover were finally resolved as far as possible -

- 1 - Why did the plane crash? No positive answer is possible, but perhaps wingdrop in turbulent conditions was to blame - of course having 2 engines on fire would not have helped much.
- 2 - Why was the item on board? Because the Japanese mail clerk believed, probably correctly, that the fastest route was via Manila and London.
- 3 - How did the mail escape the total destruction of the plane? Probably because the explosion on impact, which destroyed the aircraft so comprehensively, blew the mail bags free.

Which leaves one final point to ponder. Neirinck says that a "part of the mail was recovered", and indeed the mail recovered was addressed to a number of destinations, mostly (as would be expected) in Northern Europe. But this item must surely be the only one to be recovered addressed to South Africa. One always hesitates to say that an item is unique - as soon as such a claim is made, half a dozen items pop up to put a lie to it - so I will simply claim that the item is the only item of mail from this crash addressed to South Africa *so far recorded!*



By way of a postscript, the Douglas DC-6 was one of the best loved of the piston engine aeroplanes of the post-war period, capable of flying non-stop over huge distances (nearly 8,000 miles!) with an excellent safety record. Including variants, over 700 were built and served all over the world. The picture right is of a PAL DC-6, but not the doomed plane.

Auctioneers report

It was announced in the November Springbok that I was planning to step down as the Auctioneer of the Society. I have been involved with the Auction now for well over 20 years, taking over the Postal Auctions from Bill Branney on a permanent basis in July 2010 (Auction 24), when he became seriously ill and the November live Auctions in 2013 (Auction 35).

I like to think that the auction has matured in the period since. The postal auctions more or less faded out being replaced by the live auctions, at the end of the Society bi-annual Conferences in the Midlands. But I am not getting any younger and I would like more time to spend on my own collecting interests. I also feel that the auction could do with a fresh approach, taking full advantage of modern technology, most of which is way beyond my grasp, although I managed to cope with conducting the November auction via Zoom, forced upon us by the Covid problems!

Unfortunately, Covid has also blown clean out of the water the path which I had previously considered towards my auctioneering retirement and there has not exactly been a rush of volunteers to take the job on since my announcement in November.

Despite the 2 major auctions in 2020 (one of which was organised by Tony H-G) which have produced nearly £1,700 for the Society, I am still holding a large quantity of material for various vendors, and I am determined to offer in auctions of varying types each item of material entrusted to me, at least once.

The Auction in April will offer many of the more specialised lots.

Bearing in mind the likelihood that we shall be under the pandemic restrictions for a few months at least, I am planning 2 more sales, the second of which will have to be postponed until we can finally meet up again for a live auction, with Zoom participation, when the material can be inspected before the sale.

Before that, however, and in order to reduce much of the physical bulk of the material under my control, there will be a "Bid or Buy" Sale, which will work as follows.

The material on the list will be offered for sale at a stated price, basically on a first come first served basis. So if you like the look of a lot or lots on the list, - eg "Royal Visit 1948 - a SG album with a substantial collection of this issue..... - £18" - then you can buy at the price on the list (£18) and provided you are the first person to offer to buy this lot, you will be the purchaser. But if you feel that £18 is too much and you would offer £15, then you can offer that sum. If no-one has offered £18 when the sale closes, then it will be sold to the person who has made the highest offer - if your offer of £15 is the highest, then you will be the purchaser. I must add a word of warning, that, of course, every lot will be reserved so offers below the reserve will be (as another auction house puts it) "politely declined".

Lots will not be returnable unless the description is hopelessly wrong - I have only twice received lots back because of a wrong description - so if you wish to have further information about the lot before you offer to buy it, then please email or ring me - but I hope that the fun of hunting through the material to see how your collection can be improved, or to enable you to branch out in a new direction with a new collection, will more than overcome any other thoughts! Much of the material will consist of collections of RSA in pristine condition, so there is a great deal to look forward to.

The final sale, as previously stated, will be a live one, after lockdown is over.

Obviously in the meantime, I will not be able to take on any more material for sale.

In closing, may I say that it has been my pleasure and privilege to serve the Society as your Auctioneer, and my knowledge about South African philately has grown exponentially. The Auction is an integral part of the Society, and if you feel that this is a position which you could fill, and thus promote the Society's interests, I will be only too pleased to give you all the help I can. If you would like any further information, then please get in touch.

Letters to the Editor

Response to query by Mike Tonking in Springbok no. 353 (January 2021).

Thanks for your question on the 1d issue 14 sheet number blocks. It is correct that the eleventh row flaw in question, the red printers mark in the right margin, is constant on this issue (at least present on all pieces I have seen). The point being made is that the sheet numbers move in relation to this flaw and to rows where this flaw is not visible on a sheet number block of 4.

Sheet number blocks usually come in blocks of 4 and one of the challenges working out the number of print runs based on these blocks is deciding which issue they come from. This is a particular challenge for 1d issue 14 which is one of the most difficult union issues to plate.

In the handbook Hagger tried to help with this identification when he states that in the 1d issue 14 printing “blue numbers in this issue are always accompanied by the “eleventh row” flaw [so] they can easily be distinguished from those of issue 12 “. And for two of the three print runs of issue 14 with blue sheet numbers this statement is correct for sheet number blocks of 4. And Hagger is also correct not making this statement about issue 14 black sheet number blocks of 4, as these may or may not have the eleventh row flaw present.

However there is a third print run of 1d issue 14 with blue sheet numbers where the sheet number block of 4 does NOT show the eleventh row flaw. A sheet number block of 4 I own was from a collection where it was incorrectly assumed that this was from issue 12, based on Hagger’s statement.

In the August 2020 article I published there is a picture of a block of 6 from 1d issue 14 showing blue sheet numbers. On this piece you can see the block is from issue 14 as the eleventh row flaw is present, but the eleventh row flaw was NOT present on a sheet number block of 4 on this piece (the flaw is on the row above the sheet number block of 4).

I hope this helps.

Nicholas Lindstrom

The ½d. OFFICIAL/OFFISIEEL of set 12

Referring to the article by Hugh Amooore in The Springbok #353, January 2021, pages 8 and 9, I would like to share an item that supports Hugh’s statement.

The illustrated item B20 (below), a hyphenated ½d. official from issues 4 or 4A, position 19-20/3-12, includes varieties on stamps 19/12 (frame), 19/11 (overprint) and 20/12 (MP). None of these distinguishes either issue 4 or 4A.

The stamps have inverted watermark, and therefore belong to set 12 of the officials.

Only a missing variety, on stamp 20/6, V6 in Hagger’s Union Handbook from 1986, shows that this is not issue 4. The variety “Black mark above buck’s shoulder near edge of circle” belongs to the vignette cylinder of issue 4, and is not present on this item, showing this to be from cylinder 30, and issue 4A.

I have collected SA officials for the last 40 years, and recorded sheet numbers belonging to the printing sets. The numbers I have recorded so far for the ½d. of set 12 are 3 only; 7398, 7401 and 7436. All close, indicating the same issue used for this presumably small printing.

Thanks to Hugh Amooore, and to Nicholas Lindstrom, who is publishing his great study on printing runs of the rotogravure definitive, see the two previous issues of The Springbok. Nicholas gave me my first info about his suspicion that the ½d. official of set 12 was issue 4A, not a long time ago.

Roald Sand



Fund raising Postcards



In order to raise funds for the planned 2021 Cape Town International Exhibition, a set of ten postcards depicting original artworks by Mrs. Julia Birkhead (wife of the late Harry Birkhead RDPSA) has been produced for sale to collectors.

These official Postal Stationery cards issued by the Post Office, the fourth in the series, will be sold in a packet of 10 designs, depicting indigenous birds. (See sample above).

Orders may be placed with Emil Minnaar
Tel. 063 803 3536 or by
Email: Emil@Minnaar.org

The cards will also be on sale at Cape Town 2021 International Exhibition in November.

The selling price will be R230 plus Postage and Packaging of R20.

Payment may be made by EFT to the account of:

Philatelic Federation of SA
Standard Bank
Swift Code: SB ZAZAJJ
Branch Code: 012 442
Account Number: 023 304 669

or to PAYPAL account: Emil@Minnaar.org

Final auction?

To clear the material he is currently holding Nick Arrow is planning 2 more sales. The second of these will need to be postponed until we can finally meet up again for a live auction, with Zoom participation, when the material can be inspected before the sale.. Before that, however, and in order to reduce much of the physical bulk of the material under his control, there will be a “Bid or Buy” Sale that is included with this issue. The closing date for this will be 19th June. How this will work is described on page 44.

However, this means he can't take any new material for sale and after that the auction will cease unless we can find a new auctioneer. Any chance you can help?

THE RSA FOURTH DEFINITIVE SERIES

Roy Ross

Introduction

The whole series involved a new printing method, which is evident by their modern Intaglio (Recess) impressions and also with a similar Photo-Lithography process. This enabled the printing to be speeded up and many thousands of sheets were printed hourly.

Cylinders were no longer engraved step by step as the earlier designs, but the relief of designs on a cylinder are now etched to their required depth for Recess or Lithographic printing from multpositives which is much faster and considerably cheaper for stamp production.

Identifying the two print process's is fairly easy. The Lithography printed stamps have a very smooth surface on the face of the stamp. The Recess printed stamps have a rough surface to the face of the stamp (the printed is raised)

For the Lithography printed stamps three printing presses were used, namely numbers 775, 780 and 781.

The Recess printed stamps were printed on the De La Rue Giori press number 841.

The stamps printed on the lithography printing presses were printed in two unidentified panes and the Recess printed ones were printed in four unidentified panes. There are no pane letters on the sheets as in previous issues and the pane letters were added by The SA Study Group in order to identify them.

The design on each denomination depicts a different building and is printed in only one colour. In the bottom margin of each stamp on the left hand side is the name of the designer A. H. BARRETT. However on the 6 cent and the 5 cent coil stamps only the initials AHB are printed (presumably because of the number of letters used to print the building name).

Marginal information's are applied by an overlay (pre-screened designs or characters) and initially exposed together with their respective multpositives to carbon tissue for Recess printings and unscreened marginal information for Lithography printings.

The postage stamp sizes were (small size) 30.2 x 23.9 mm and (large size - high values) 47.8 x 30.2 mm for the whole series. There are 50 different printings with their infinite dissimilarities of Original, New, Reprints and Coil printings. Later printings had the stamp design size reduced to allow for wider perforations gutters.

The Walter Kroll perforator was used to perforate the lithography printed stamps and the recess printed stamps were perforated on the Grover perforator.

The paper used throughout was Harrisons with PVA gum and was phosphorescent coated. The width of rolls of paper used was 340mm wide.

Roll stamps

Four denominations have been printed. There are 500 single stamps in each roll and a white wrapper is used to secure the roll. Each denomination depicts a different building printed in one colour. The designers name A. H. BARRETT is printed in the bottom margin on the left for the 1c, 2c and 10c values and only his initials on the 5c value. Every 5th stamp shows a number on the back and on each value it is printed in a different colour. 1c black, 2c red, 5c green and 10c blue. The numbers start with 005 and end with 495.

All the Roll stamps were printed by means of the photogravure printing process on printing press number 840. The layout of the cylinder has 110 stamps on the sheet which has 5 rows of 22 stamps. They were perforated by the built-in comb perforator, gauge 14 x imperforate.

The paper used was Harrisons with PVA gum, it has a matt surface and is phosphorescent coated. The width of the paper roll used was 235mm wide.

The reprinted value 10cent stamp is a much lighter colour than it's previous issue.

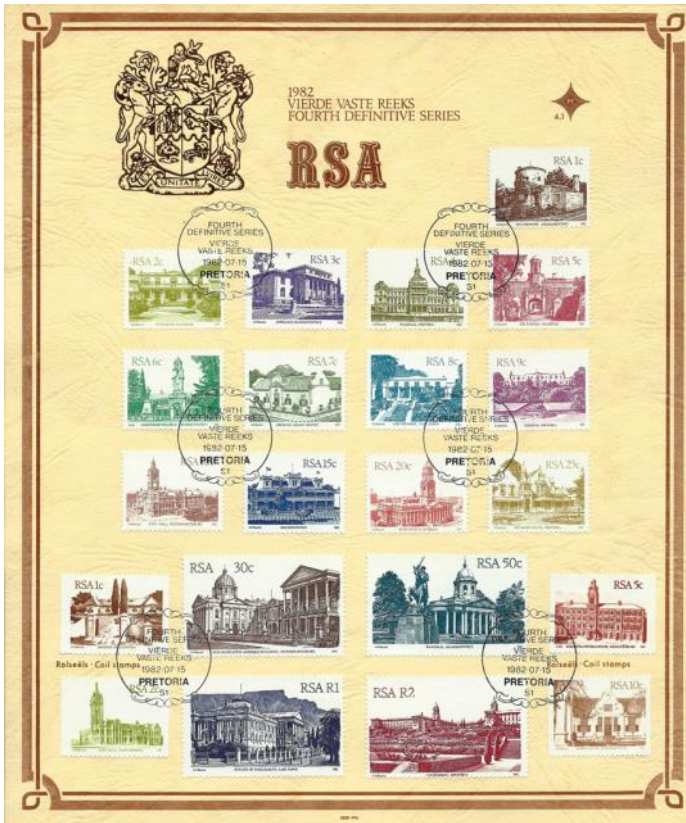
Imperforate stamps.

Various imperforate stamps, namely the 1c, 3c, 5c, 11c and 30c varieties, have been delisted from the South African Stamp Colour Catalogue as it has been established that they were the subject of unauthorised leakage from the printers. However the partial imperforate sheets are still listed 2c, 10c and R2.

Rechromed Cylinders.

It was rumoured at the time, when two prominent SA collector's did the plating of these cylinders, that in fact

only the 2 Rand S35 was rechromed. Identification marks on the 3c, 6c and 15c were in most cases the same on the listed rechromed cylinders as on the previous ones. There are additional screen scratches and new flaws on some values. The SACC still lists the cylinders as rechromed.



The Series with all its printings have been split into the following groups.

Group 1: Original Printings

Group 2: New Printings with changed cylinder numbers

Group 3: New Printings with repeated cylinder numbers from Group 1 and 2

Group 4: Coil Stamps Original, New or reprints.

**GROUP 1
ORIGINAL ISSUES
RECESS
WEB PRINTINGS SMALL STAMP FORMAT**

These stamps were printed in 4 unidentified panes and for the purpose of study, assumed pane letters A-B-C-D were added by the RSA Study Group in order to identify distinguish between each cylinder block by the various varieties which can be found.

All cylinder blocks in groups 1 appear in the bottom left corner of each pane. Rows 9 and 10, stamps 1 and 2. A cylinder block description C1/1, C1/2, C2/1 and C2/2 is used for all issues.

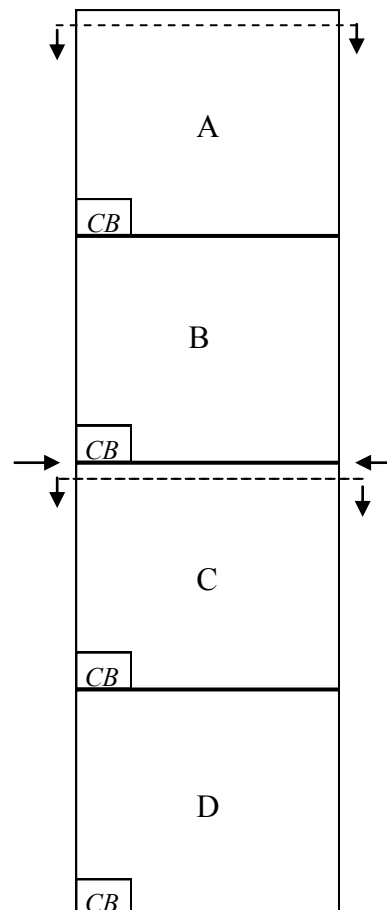
The sheets A-B-C-D were cut between panes B and C to fit the perforating device and placed into position in pairs of A/B and C/D.

The Perforation strikes are from the top down.

A and C panes are imperforated in their top margins and B and D panes are perforated through all margins as indicated in the diagram.

Perforated 14.00 : 14.25 by a two row external appliance for all small stamp values.

Pane format is 10 rows x 10 stamps



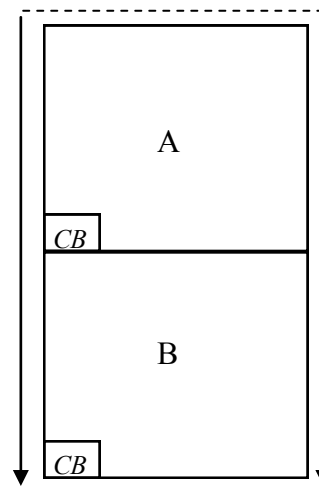
**GROUP 1
ORIGINAL ISSUES
LITHOGRAPHY
SHEET PRINTINGS SMALL STAMP FORMAT**

Printed in 2 unidentified panes, letters A and B have been added for identification.

The panes are perforated through all margins and from the top.

Gauge 14.00 : 14.25

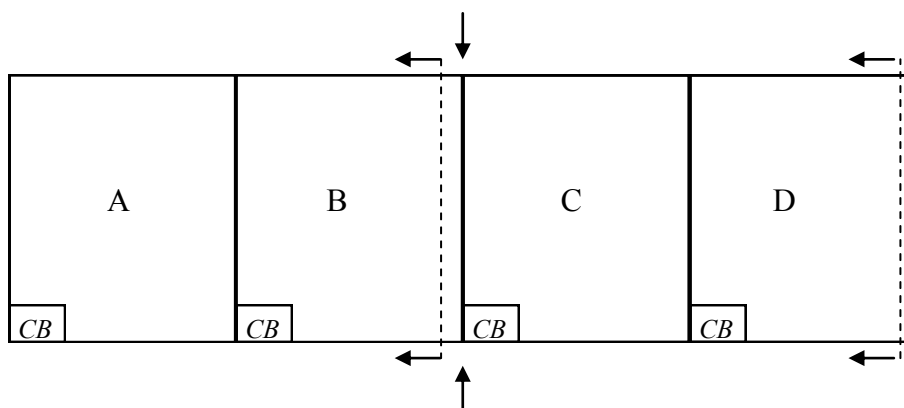
Pane format 10 rows x 10 stamps



**GROUP 1
ORIGINAL ISSUES
RECESS
WEB PRINTINGS LARGE STAMP FORMAT**

These stamps were printed in 4 unidentified panes and, for the purpose of study; assumed pane letters A-B-C-D have been added.

The uncut panes of 4 as they emerge from the printing press are depicted in the diagram below.

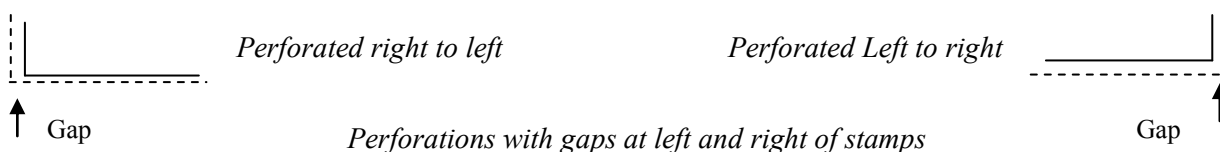


These sheets of 4 panes were divided between panes B and C and perforated in pairs B/A and D/C in a continuous operation from right to left.

B and D panes are imperforated in the right margins, A and C panes are perforated through all margins.

Bottom strips of 2 rows by 5 stamps show a perforation gap on the left side of the stamps which it is due to over pitching of the cam shift device.

Some bottom strips of panes B and D exist with their right margins perforated through and have this perforation gap on the right side of the stamps.



Equally the same number of A and C panes with cylinder blocks of the 2 Rand value and imperforated left margins were perforated the wrong way and subsequently destroyed by the printers.

Perforations of all high values are 14.25 :14 gauge

Pane format 10 rows x 5 stamps

**GROUP 2
NEW ISSUES
WEB PRINTINGS
SMALL STAMP FORMAT
RECESS**

Most of the new printings are reduced in the size of design to allow for wider perforation gutters.

Cylinder blocks of all issues are now placed in the top right hand corner of these unidentified panes.

The sheets were cut between B and C panes and perforated D/C and B/A from the bottom up. Consequently D and B panes are imperforate in the bottom margins C and A panes are perforated through all margins.

Perforated 14.00 : 14.25 by a two row external appliance

Pane format 10 rows x 10 stamps

Normally 2 dates appear on the cylinder blocks, the first being the series inception date, and the second the actual printing date which is applied by a fixed and synchronized device.

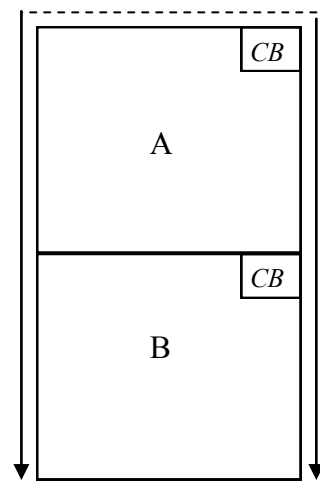
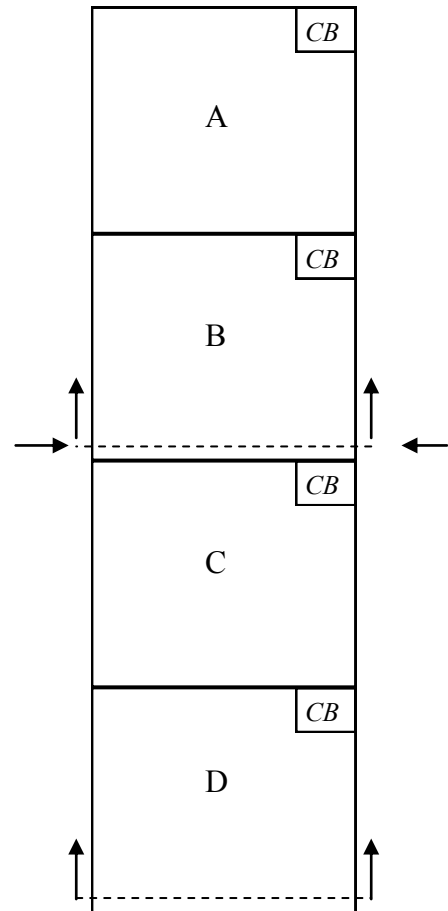
**GROUP 2
NEW ISSUES
SHEET PRINTINGS
SMALL STAMP FORMAT
LITHOGRAPHY**

The new Issue of the 8c LEEUWENHOF stamp has the cylinder number (1489) and the date of issue (82. 08. 19) at the bottom left of the sheets of stamps (ie opposite row 9-10). All other subsequent lithography second printings have the cylinder blocks in the top right corner of the panes.

Transposed multipositives have occurred in the 1c - 1656 - where cylinder numbers have been changed. The multipositive of the A pane, cylinder 1583, now appears on the B pane of cylinder 1656.

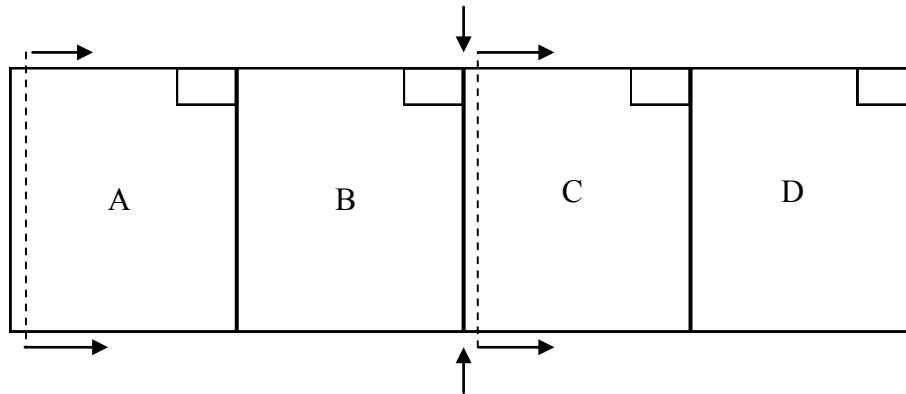
Perforations of panes A/B 1656 also appear in 2 types of holes large and small, the Kroll and Bickel machines respectively.

Perforations are now executed externally by the two row for the small stamp format and the one row for the large format.



**GROUP 2
NEW ISSUE
WEB PRINTING
LARGE STAMP FORMAT
RECESS**

All the four large stamp values were reprinted and the sheets of 4 unidentified panes printed sideways and again cut between B and C panes to be perforated in pairs from left to right.



No perforation gaps are apparent in these new printings, panes A and C have an imperforate left margin while B and D panes have all their margins perforated through.

Cylinder blocks are now in the top right hand corner of each pane.

The designs were reduced in the printing area by 1mm to bring about a step adjustment to 47.8mm centres. Which allowed for wider perforations gutters.

All original printings have these step centres at 48.00mm.

**GROUP 3
REPRINTED ISSUES
WEB PRINTINGS
SMALL AND LARGE STAMP FORMAT
RECESS**

All these issues are repeated printings or second cylinder settings from GROUP 1 or GROUP 2 and are recessed printed only.

In most cases the cylinder blocks carry the same printing dates or have a date shift and others have new dates.

The printers do not differentiate with stoppages (midway of any order) or continuations of printings (a second run for instance to complete an order) but, keep the same dates until all orders are completed.

From a philatelic point of view such printings should have a new date but we can regard them as reprints.

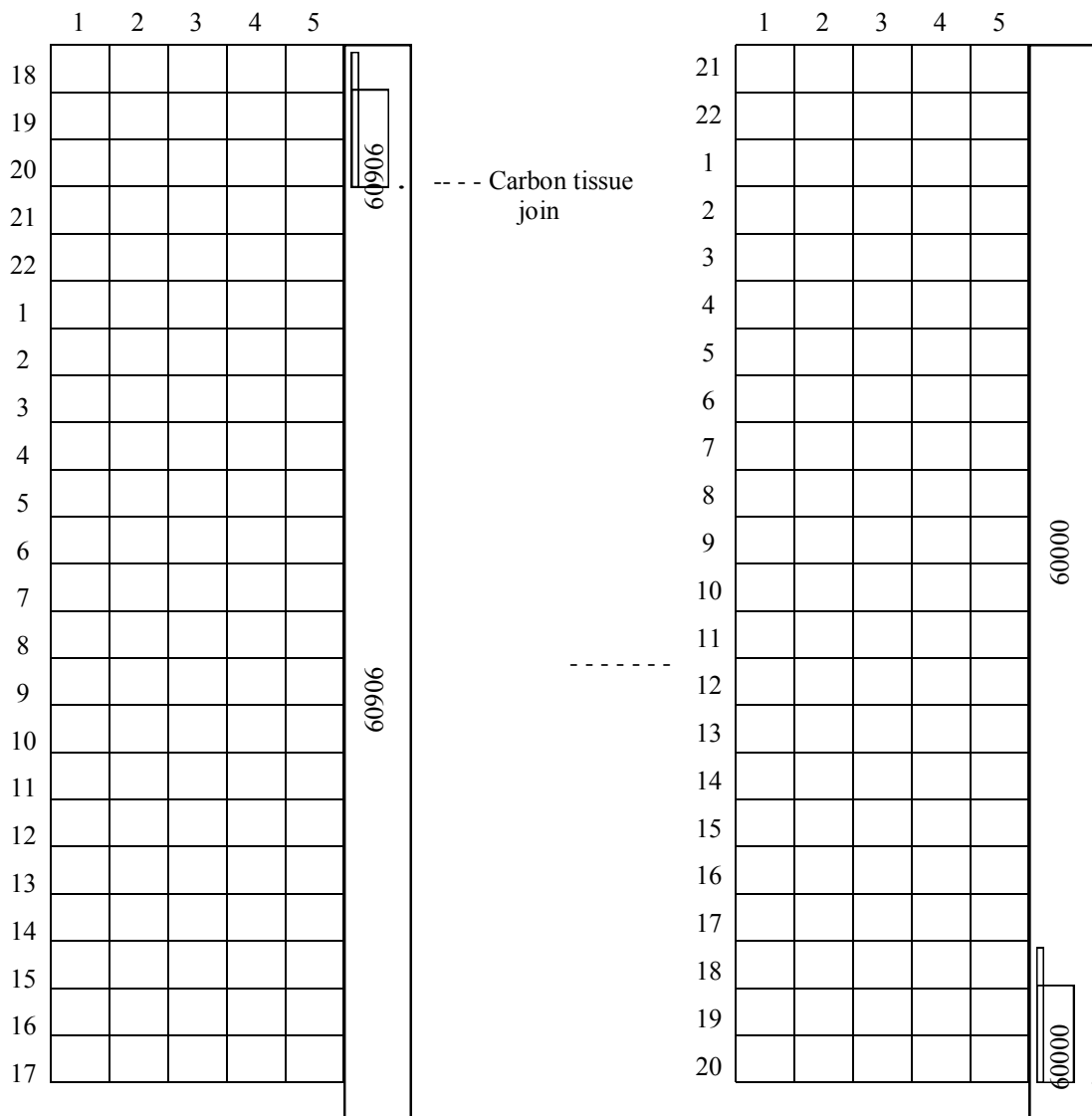


Diagram of a typical reconstructed sheet

Dot to right and bottom of step wedge is the mark for the carbon tissue join and between rows 20/21

Cyclometer sequence in the right margin and rows 20/21 are offset by row 11

The sheet numbers double strike should be first at 9/10 and again in rows 20/21

**GROUP 4
COIL STAMPS
ORIGINAL ISSUES
REPRINTED ISSUES
PHOTOGRAVURE**

Actual multipositives 22 rows by 5 stamps as they have been transferred onto the cylinder.

All values are numbered on the gummed side of every 5th stamp for 1cent in black, 2cent red, 5cent blue, 10cent green and numbered 005 - 500

Coil stamps are printed in a continuous web with 22 row by 5 stamp format cylinder and perforated internally with a single row appliance, better known as a Line Perforator.

Acknowledgements: South African Stamp Study Circle News Letters, Mike Tonking, Nicholas Arrow

RSA Fourth Definitive Printings

Group 2 New Printings

Group 1 Original Printings

Value	Cylinder	Date
1c	S19 ABCD	1982 07 10
2c	1438 AB	1982 07 15
3c	S21 ABCD	1982 07 10
4c	S22 ABCD	1982 07 10
5c	1431 AB	1982 07 15
6c	1432 AB	1982 07 15
7c	1433 AB	1982 07 15
8c	1430 AB	1982 07 15
9c	1434 AB	1982 07 15
10c	1435 AB	1982 07 15
15c	S29 ABCD	1982 07 10
20c	1436 AB	1982 07 15
25c	1437 AB	1982 07 15
30c	S32 ABCD	1982 07 15
50c	S33 ABCD	1982 07 15
R1	S34 ABCD	1982 07 15
R2	S35 ABCD	1982 07 15

Total 17

Group 4 Additional Values

Value	Cylinder	Date
11c	1561 AB	1984 04 02
12c	1657 AB	1985 04 01
14c	1973 AB	1986 04 01
16c	1839 AB	1987 04 01
16c	1998 AB	1988 02 02

Total 5

Printings with Rechromed Cylinders

R2 Cylinder S35 dated 1982
and 1984

Note: The SACC lists more
values with cylinders being
rechromed but it has been
determined that these were
not rechromed

Value	Cylinder	Date
1c	1583 AB	1984 04 02
1c	1656 AB	1985 01 11
2c	1541 AB	1983 05 09
2c	S20 ABCD	1983 11 28
2c	1740 AB	1985 11 28
2c	1838 AB	1987 01 05
3c	S40 ABCD	1985 05 30
3c	1741 AB	1985 11 28
4c	1678 AB	1985 03 25
4c	1750 AB	1986 03 19
5c	S23 ABCD	1983 11 11
6c	S24 ABCD	1984 08 09
8c	1489 AB	1982 08 19
8c	1490 AB	1983 01 03
10c	1491 AB	1983 01 26
10c	1540 AB	1983 05 02
15c	S26 ABCD	1983 02 09
15c	S45 ABCD	1984 09 24
20c	S30 ABCD	1983 06 15
20c	1739 AB	1985 11 14
20c	1880 AB	1987 08 19
25c	1860 AB	1987 06 03
25c	1997 AB	1988 01 13
25c	2001 AB	1988 03 18
30c	S37 ABCD	1984 06 07
30c	1749 AB	1986 03 12
30c	1861 AB	1987 06 03
50c	S36 ABCD	1983 03 18
50c	S39 ABCD	1984 02 08
50c	1803AB	1986 10 13
R1	S38 ABCD	1985 01 31
R1	1836 AB	1986 12 17
R1	1999 AB	1988 03 10
R2	1742 AB	1985 12 05
R2	1837 AB	1986 12 19
R2	2000 AB	1988 03 10

Total 36

Group 3 Reprintings

Value	Cylinder	Date
2c	S20 ABCD	1985 03 18
2c	S20 ABCD	1985 03 18
3c	S21 ABCD	1982 07 10
5c	S23 ABCD	1983 05 15
6c	S24 ABCD	1984 08 09
15c	S26 ABCD	1983 02 09
15c	S45 ABCD	1984 09 24
30c	S37 ABCD	1984 06 07
50c	S39 ABCD	1985 06 21
R1	S34 ABCD	1982 07 15
R2	S35 ABCD	1982 07 15
R2	S35 ABCD	1984 04 25

Total 12

Group 5 Coil Stamps

Value	Cylinder	Date
1c	G26	1982 07 15
1c	G26	1984 12 15
2c	G29	1982 07 15
2c	G29	1984 07 15
5c	G24	1982 07 15
5c	G24	1984 07 15
10c	G5	1982 07 15
10c	G5	1983 12 15

Total 10

BASUTOLAND

The country surrounded by South Africa

David Macdonald

After a number of years as a collector of South Africa stamps I came across a rather stained cover bearing a 1d Caravel stamp cancelled MASERU. SOUTH AFRICA 27 DEC B28, in the style 24 on page 8 of South African Postmarks⁽¹⁾ addressed to Sea Point, Cape Town. I referred to my copy of Stamps of South Africa - Handbook Catalogue - 2nd Revised Edition dated 1979⁽²⁾. In that publication I found reference to Basutoland under the section 'Unions - Used Abroad' with sub-sections 'Inter-Provincials' and, 'Union Stamps Proper'. For some reason I then picked up an album containing stamps, many on piece, with South Africa postmarks as part of a job lot I had obtained a few years earlier and spotted, on piece, another Maseru cancel.



I then thought as Interprovincial Period was mentioned I should go back to the beginning of my South Africa and decided it was about time I really sorted out my stamps of Cape, Natal, Orange River Colony, and Transvaal used in the Interprovincial Period. I firstly checked all stamps were in the time frame 31 May 1910 to 1 September 1913. The next stage was to look at the town name in the cancel on each stamp and allocate them to the appropriate province in which they were used. On looking up a Cape 1d Edward VII with a Leribe cancel and a further on with a Morija cancel in my Post Offices Guide 1956⁽³⁾ I discovered the both towns were in Basutoland. From here a new country collection was started.



To ascertain what stamps were issued by Basutoland reference was made to a SG Commonwealth Catalogue⁽⁴⁾ which indicated that the country issued its first stamps on 1 December 1933, and on 4 October 1966 became independent as the Kingdom of Lesotho. I then referred to an old SG British Commonwealth Catalogue (1999 edition) in connection with the stamps of Lesotho and decided that I would only collect up until Independence. A further catalogue I accessed in the past referred to Handstruck Stamps, Cape used in Basutoland, and Union Adhesives used in Basutoland. I then referred back to the Handbook Catalogue 1979 and realised that the collection was going to cover from some a date around 1880 through to 1966. With the range of dates 1880's, 1910, 1913, 1933, 1966 I decided I had to find out about the history of Basutoland and precisely where the country was situated.

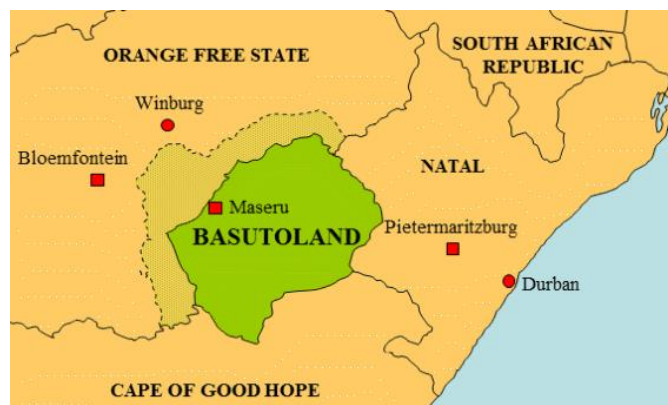


GEOGRAPHY and HISTORY

Basutoland is a country surrounded by South Africa, and before Union in 1910 by Orange Free State, Natal and Cape of Good Hope. It was in the main mountainous with the Drakensburg mountain range forming a barrier on the west and north round to the Caledon River. On the west the original boundary was roughly midway between the Caledon River and the towns of Bloemfontein and Winburg in O.F.S. After fighting with the O.F.S. Boer in the 1850's territory to the west of the Caledon River was lost. The south of the country had no significant geographical boundary to Cape of Good Hope.

In the 19th century the Zulu in Natal started to push out weaker tribes. The unrest and problems troubled the Basotho people and their chief Moshoeshe, also referred to as Chief Moshesh, consolidated the people to resist invaders, establishing a fortress in 1833 at the inaccessible Thabu Bosiu, which was relatively easily defended from the Zulu and the British.

Map showing the position of Basutoland and the lost territory.





*Morena Moshoeshe I.
Founder of the Basutho
born at Menkhoaneng c.1786,
died 11 March 1870 at Thaba
Bosiu.*

Several skirmishes took place between primarily Moshoeshe's people and the Dutch, or British, both of whom were trying to establish their presence. Moshoeshe was intelligent, led his people well, and was a skilled negotiator when it came to dealings with the Dutch and British.

In 1842, Moshoeshe invited French missionaries from the Paris Evangelical Fraternity to his country. The missionaries established a station at Morija. The British were not happy with the establishment of the French missionaries in the country. In that same year he applied to Cape Colony for a treaty of protection, however, it was not granted.

There was conflict with the Boer settling in Orange River area. A treaty was signed with the Boer from Griqualand in 1843 and an agreement, but not for protection, however, was made with the British in 1853. From 1854 to 1859 Basutoland was for the first time a British protectorate. Conflict with the Orange Free State Boers led to the loss of the land to the west of the Caledon River.

Fuller geographical and historical information can be found in Basutoland - Some Historical Notes with special reference to Postal Matters⁽⁵⁾, The Postal History of Basutoland & Bechuanaland⁽⁶⁾ (*Proud*) and the SACS website following the links Southern Africa Philately / Collect Southern Africa / 37 Basutoland, where the late Otto Peetoom has provided extensive information.

COLLECTING.

A collection of Basutoland stamps and postal history can be divided into:-

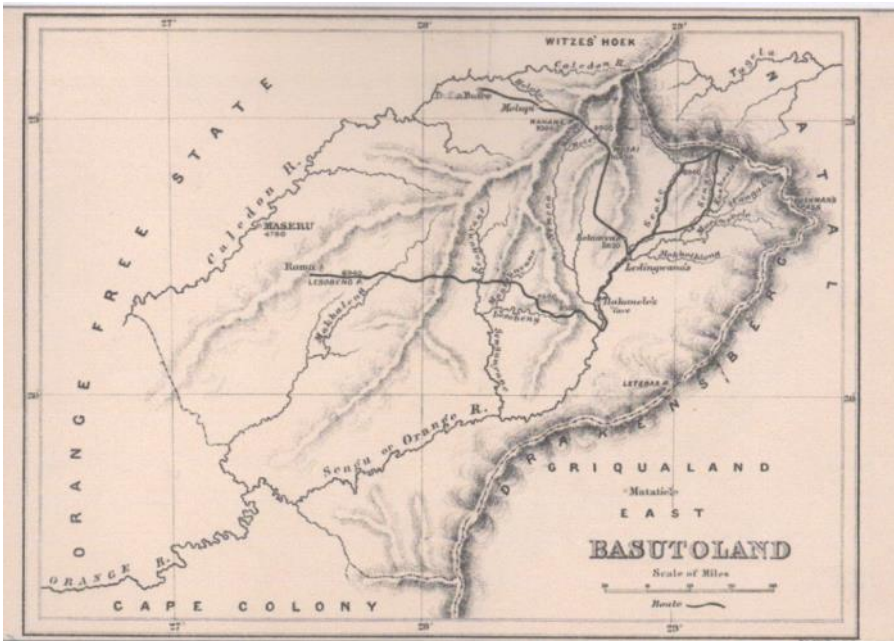
Pre-stamp period

Cape used in Basutoland 1868 - 1910

Interprovincial - Cape, Natal O.R.C. and Transvaal used in Basutoland 1910-1913

Union stamps used in Basutoland 1913 - 1933

Basutoland - December 1933 -1966



(this section can be divided into reigns GV, GVI, EIIR).

PRE-STAMP PERIOD

Early letters to and from Basutoland were mainly to and from French and German missioneries. The nearest post office was at Graaff Reinet in the Cape a distance of about 300 miles, while some mail also went via Winburg in Orange Free State. Two Active Service covers from the Moirosi Rebellion are apparently known addressed to England. Prior to about 1870 there were no postals services in Basutoland.

CAPE USED IN BASUTOLAND 1868-1910

In 1868 Basutoland was declared as a British Protectorate; the need for an organised form of postal service became necessary to serve the Police and Administrative staff based in the capital, Maseru. The Cape Colony was given the task of administrating Basutoland at this time. It was some time before stamps and cancellers were actually used. The earliest recorded date for a Maseru cancellation is 15 December 1878 (*SACS website*), although it is suggested that the Maseru Post Office was in a position to cancel mail by 1876 or perhaps a year or two earlier.

In September 1881 a Barred Oval Numeral Cancel (BONC) was provided to the post office at Maseru, the number given being 281. This is generally the starting period of most collections. In addition to Maseru a further six post offices were established and provided with BONC, Leribe 317 (1881), Mafeteng 156 (1876), Mhales Hoek 210 (1885), Morijia 277 (1886), Quithing 135 (1888), Teyateyaneng 688 (1896). (*See examples overleaf*)



156 - MAFETENG.



277 - MORIJA



281 - MASERU



21.9.1876 - 15.10.1901.
(Proud K1)



5.8.1886 - 22.1.1899
(Proud K1).

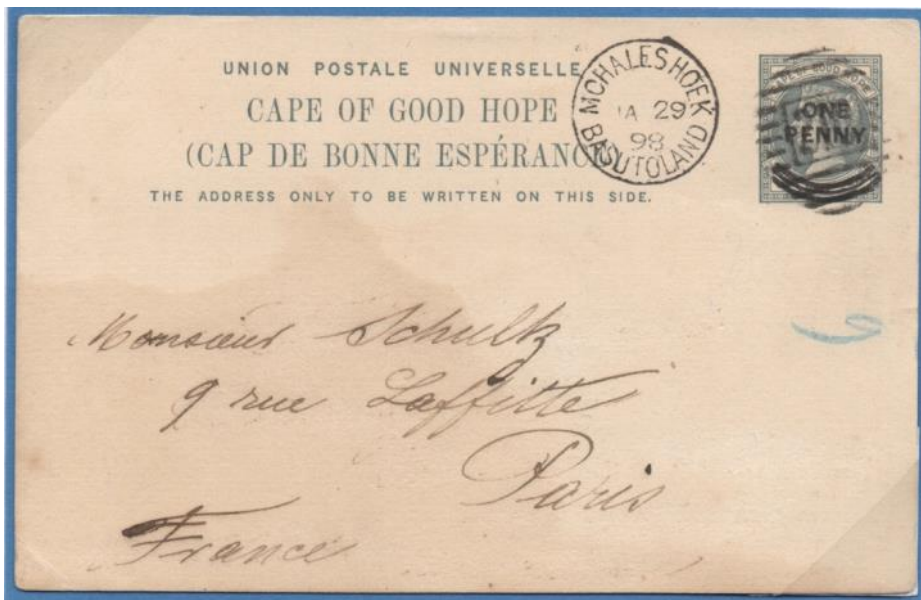


11.9.1881 - 22.9.1900
(Proud K2)

The missionaries arrived in Basutoland in 1833 having tracked by wagon from Algoa Bay, via Graaff Reinet and Colesburg being welcomed by the leader of the Basutho, Chief Moshoeshe, who assisted these newcomers in choice of a site. The prominent missionary Reverend Eugene Casalis settled in the Moriija area, establishing the first Paris Evangelical Mission Station. Other missionary stations followed with an establishment, in 1859 at Leribe, led by the Reverend Mr. Coillard. Postal stationery cards of Cape became available with a number being sent to France and Germany.



Cape of Good Hope postal stationery card used in Basutoland and sent from Mohales Hoek to Berlin, Germany. Cancelled with Barred Oval Numeral Cancel **210** (Proud K1) Postmark **MOHALES HOEK BASUTOLAND SP 5 93** (Proud D2) Cape of Good Hope transit postmark on front **ALIWAL NORTH C.G.H. A SP 8 93** German receiving postmark **Bestellt vom Postamte 19 3 10 93 7¹/₄ - 8¹/₄V.** Postage rate for a postcard addressed to Foreign Countries served via the United Kingdom



Cape of Good Hope postal stationery card used in Basutoland and sent from Mohales Hoek to Paris, France. Cancelled with Barred Oval Numeral Cancel **210** (Proud K1) Postmark **MOHALES HOEK BASUTOLAND JA 29 98** (Proud D2) Transit postmark on reverse **MAFETENG BASUTOLAND O JA 31 98** (Proud D2) U.P.U. rate for a postcard - 1d from 1 January 1895



29.10.1885 – 1.4.1899
(Proud K1)



3.11.1883 – 12.12.1886
1.9.1892 – 18.4.1915
(Proud D2)



29.10.1885 – 1.4.1899
(Proud K1)



3.11.1883 – 12.12.1886
1.9.1892 – 18.4.1915
(Proud D2)



21.7.1876 – 28.4.1898
(Proud D2)

Cancel and postmark for the upper cover on the facing page

Cancel and postmark for the lower cover on the facing page

As Basutoland grew there was inevitably trade with businesses in Cape. A name and address that occurs not infrequently on mail into Basutoland is Mr. G. H. Hobson, Maseru, Basutoland, the majority having Sitting Hope stamps cancelled King Williams Town with a type, squared circle date stamp, or the hooded circular date stamp and backstopped with a Aliwal North transit postmark. While Maseru had a canceller from the late 1870's it does not appear to have been used often in the 1880's to postmark arrival of mail as of five covers I possess between April 1886 and September 1888 only the last one received a Maseru receiving postmark.



Letter from King Williams Town, Cape of Good Hope to Mr. Hobson Snr., Maseru, Basutoland.
The stamp is cancelled with a Hooded Circular date stamp issued in 1888 by the Cape of Good Hope Post Office, **KING WILLIAMS TOWN SP 6 88 F (HCDS 1)**
Transit mark on reverse a circular date stamp issued 1878 **ALI WAL NORTH P SP 7 88 (CDS 10)**
Receiving cancel date stamp issued in 1878 **MASERU BASUTOLAND SP 11 88 (Proud D2)**
Rate for a letter from Cape to Basutoland – 2d per ½ oz. from ?? to 31.12.1888.

Other magazines

I receive copies of three other publications dealing with South African Philately.

Forerunners, the journal of the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa, is a Society based in North America. The latest issue includes articles on Botswana and Zululand, one on the First flight service from Johannesburg, and others on Stamp production and the BONC 823 cancel.

In the latest **RSA Study Group Newsletter** received since the last Springbok, the new Postal rates for South Africa are provided together with an article on Postal Stationery: Decimal Pictorial Postcards.

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.

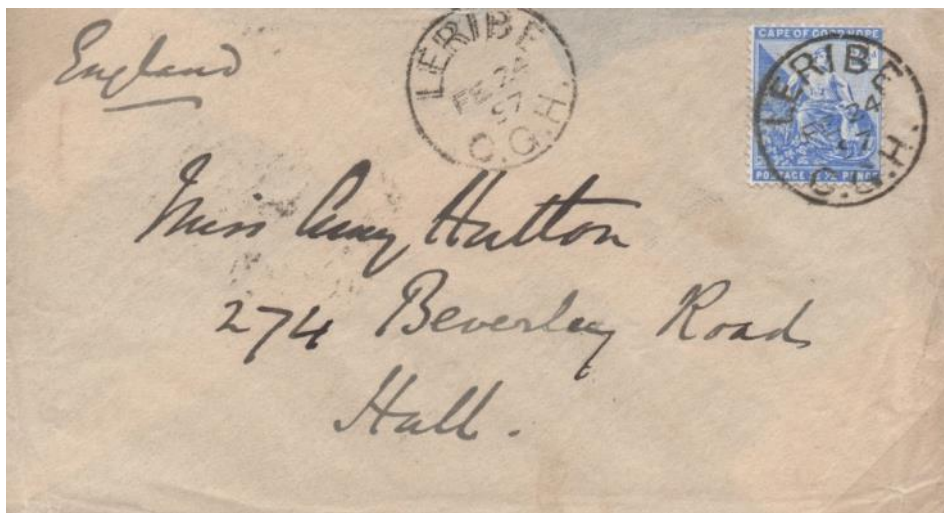
Don't forget we also receive copies of **Bartholomeu Dias**, a Dutch language magazine, which I do have permission to circulate to members for anyone who can read that language.

The town of Leribe was allocated the BONC 317 and it's first date stamp, issued October 1877, had the name at the top and the country name at the bottom. This Leribe post office moved a short distance when it was re-named Thlotse Heights from 1882 until 1895 although the office moved back to Leribe in 1890.



Cape of Good Hope postal stationery card used in Basutoland sent from Thlotse Heights to Colchester, Essex. Cancelled **THLOTSE HEIGHTS NO 22 94** (Proud D3)
 Transit postmark **MASERU NO 23 94** (Proud D2)
 Transit postmark **CAPE TOWN. CAPE COLONY B NO 26 94** (CDS 1)
 Postcard rate to United Kingdom – 1d from 29 December 1892

A new single circle Leribe canceller was issued in September 1895 and withdrawn October 1906; at the bottom it bore the letters 'C.G.H.'. The only other post office to have 'C.G.H.' in the canceller is Qachas Nek, issued May 1899 and withdrawn April 1914. In the early 1900's many post offices received new cancellers in the style of those used in South Africa.

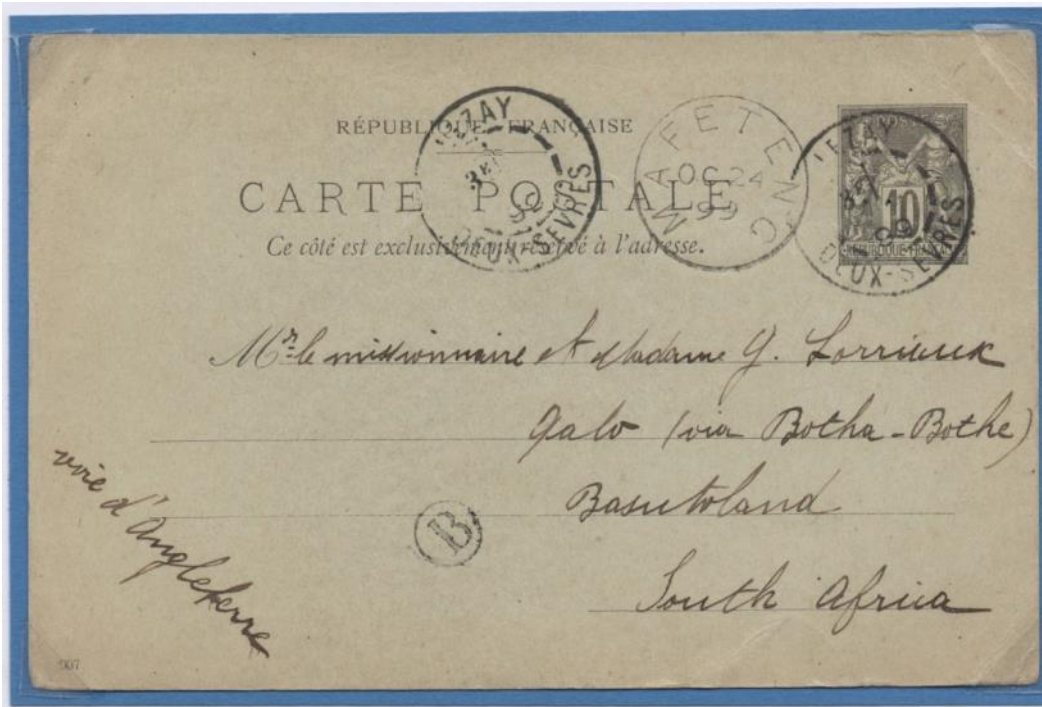


LERIBE SA Type postmark

1897 envelope sent from Leribe to Hull, U.K. Cancelled **LERIBE C.G.H. FE 24 97** (Proud D4)
 On reverse transit postmark **FICKSBURG O.F.S. FE 24 97** and a faint transit mark **BLOEMFONTEIN FE 26 97**
 On reverse a receiving postmark **HULL MR 21 97**
 U.P.U. letter rate to the United Kingdom – 2¹/₂d from 1 January

Incoming mail to Basutoland, excluding mail from Cape, I find difficult to come by and in the early years was mainly mail sent to missionaries.

The card on the facing page was sent "via d'Angleterre" and would have been forwarded from London to Southampton for transfer to the Union-Castle Mail Steamship Company Ltd who were contracted to carry mail from the United Kingdom to South Africa. I suspect that on the ship arriving at Cape Town, mail for Cape Colony, and Basutoland and Orange Free State would probably have been unloaded for onward transmission. The "B" in a circle may have been applied in the Cape to indicate "Basutoland". "South Africa" did not exist as a country in 1899. The card probably passed through Aliwal North, Cape Colony, before receiving a transit mark at Mafeteng, 24 October 1899, on entry into Basutoland. The point of entry into Basutoland where the receiving postmark was applied is in the south of the country, whereas the destination of the card, Gato (via Butha-Buthe), is in the north and I would have thought that point of entry would normally have been Maseru. As the British are endeavouring to remove French and Germany missionaries from the country at this time I wonder if this had something to do with the transit route.



A French 10 cent 'Peace & Commerce' postal stationery card sent from Lexay, Dux Sevres, to a missionary at Gato (via Butha-Buthe), Basutoland. Cancelled **LEZAY DUX-SEVRES 3^E 27 SEPT 99** Transit postmark **MAFETENG OC 24 99** (Proud D4)

The 'Sitting Hope' and King Edward VII stamps were used extensively with values up to one shilling; I am not aware of any higher values, and small offices were probably restricted to the denomination of stamps supplied with an overall limit. In 1882 small offices requiring further stamps to replenish the stock originally supplied were required to pay for additional stock from the proceeds of sale of the original supply. This procedure restricted many small offices to retaining supplies of low value stamps and I suspect in many offices the upper value may not even have been 6d, for a considerable time.

Cape single circular date stamps were gradually introduced, the post office name at the top and the bottom either blank or with 'Basutoland'. The date was in two lines with a two figure year at the bottom. There is one exception, Teyateyaneng where the two digit date can be above or below the day and month.

Sitting Hope



**MAFETENG
JA 28 02**



**MASERU
DE ?? 9?
BASUTOLAND**



**MOHALES HOEK
JA 22 02
BASUTOLAND**



Year below.





MORIJA
AU 13 02

King Edward VII



QUITHING
AU 15 05



MASERU
?? ?4 ??

INTERPROVINCIAL - CAPE, NATAL, O.R.C., AND TRANSVAAL USED IN BASUTOLAND 1910-1913

When the Cape Colony became part of the Union of South Africa on 31 May 1910, the Basutoland Postal Services came under the jurisdiction of the Government of the Union of South Africa. Prior to the issue of Union stamps, all the stamps of former states Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Orange River Colony and Transvaal were valid for postage in Basutoland. During the Interprovincial Period the Cape of Good Hope date-stamps were discontinued at Maseru, Butha Buthe, Leribe, Mafeteng and Morija, and cancellers of the same style as used in the Union were then employed. Leribe was an exception; it was provided with a Union style canceller from February 1908.

In this period Cape stamps are readily found used in Basutoland along with Transvaal, however, I have found Orange River Colony stamps scarce. I have yet to find a Natal stamp used in Basutoland with the exception of one being on a 'Sunset Cover' of which more later.

Post Offices and Agencies expanded; new and replacement cancellers gradually came into existence in the style of those in South Africa, however, Basutoland cancels were still in use for a number of years. Many types exist, a comprehensive listing being found in Proud.



Cape of Good Hope and Transvaal stamps combined to pay postage.
Cancelled MORITIA MR 4 11

Unfortunately covers and postcards for the Interprovincial Period appear to be scarce.

UNION STAMPS USED IN BASUTOLAND 1913 - 1933

The Union of South Africa came into existence on 31 May 1910. Other than the 2½d stamp issued 4 November 1910, to commemorate the Opening of the Union Parliament, it was not until 1 September 1913 that South Africa issued definitive stamps. The South Africa stamps, and postal stationery, were valid for use in Basutoland and cancelled with Union style cancels, as the Basutoland Postal Service came under the jurisdiction of the Union of South Africa.

According to Proud only seven post offices/agencies received double circle cancellers with 'SOUTH AFRICA' or 'S.AFRICA' in the bottom half of the circle. There are many variations in the bottom half where the wording has been removed thus giving no country indication.



Proud Type D10.
16 Nov 1922 - 1 Feb 1933



Proud Type D15
21 July 1921 - 16 Oct 1934



Proud Type D12
3 Nov 1925 - 1 Feb 1935

As time elapsed double circle cancellers were provided with the post office place name, to a few offices, where in the bottom of a double circle the country name 'BASUTOLAND' was added.

Sehlabthebe was a postal agency under Qacha's Nek, opened 18 February 1920, closed 1952(?). Only two types of canceller were used at this office. The almost complete cancel is now listed in the website postmarks.co.za .



Proud Type D3
30 Mar 1920 - 10 Mar 1921

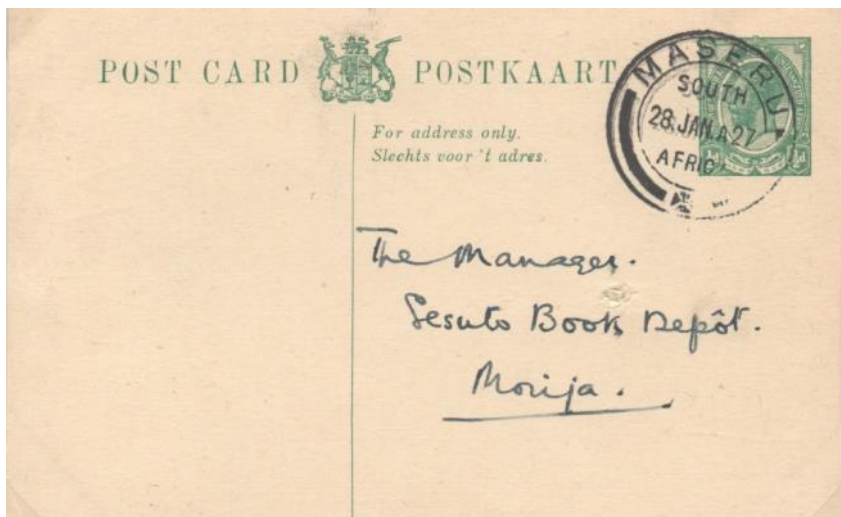
Proud Type D5
12 Dec 1915 - 31 Aug 1926



Proud Type D8
15 Nov 1926 - 30 Dec 1936



South Africa postal stationery of George V used going into, within and out of Basutoland is not uncommon; many of the items are addressed to the Sesuto Book Depot, Morija and were in connection with supplies of material for educational purposes. As so much material exists somebody in the book depot must have had an interest in philately either as a collector or for financial gain.



South Africa 1/2d. Postal Stationery Card (Type 5a) sent from Mochales Hoek to Morija. Cancelled **MOHALES HOEK 31 AUG A26 BASUTOLAND** (Proud D5) The postmark was in use 12.12.15 – 31.8.26. Inland postcard rate – 1/2d from 1.1.1926 to 31.3.1931.



South Africa 1/2d. Postal Stationery Card (Type 5a) sent internally, Maseru to Morija. Cancelled **MASERU 28 JAN A27 SOUTH AFRICA** (Proud D13) Arrival stamp applied by the recipient on reverse **31 Jan 1927** Inland postcard rate – 1/2d from 1.1.1926 to 31.3.1931.



South Africa 1d. Postal Stationery Card (Type 5) sent internally, Quithing to Morija. Cancelled **QUITHING 25 MAY 22 BASUTOLAND** (Proud D5) Arrival cancel **MORIJA 29.MAYA22** (Proud D6) Inland postcard rate – 1d from 1.6.1921 to 31.12.1925.

Digressing slightly, I was delighted to display Basutoland at a ZOOM meeting in February 2021. I view displaying my collection an advert to members as to what I do not possess in the way of material and knowledge. I am pleased to say that information was provided by a SACS member in South Africa; it relates to my South Africa GVR one penny postal stationery card addressed to the Rev. Sam Duby, Sesuto Book Depot Morija. Apparently the Reverend Duby was notorious; he made a missionary's daughter pregnant. There may be a lot more to this!

While stamps of the Union of South Africa came into use on 4 November 1910, the stamps of Cape, Natal, Orange River Colony and Transvaal were also still valid for postage. Towards the end of 1933 the Basutoland Post Office became autonomous. They were about to issue their own stamps, however, it appears that there was little early announcement of the date on which the change was to take place.



Collectors of South Africa will be familiar with the name 'Robertson; a dealer in Johannesburg and that with the business address on a cover or card the item may be 'philatelic'. Not so for the above card on which the sender has written in response to an enquiry as to the date of issue of the first definitive stamps of Basutoland.

"Will be very pleased to assist you. Am unable to ascertain exact date of issue, I believe early next month. Yours R.H."

Cancelled **MASERU SOUTH AFRICA 13 OCT B33** (*Proud D13*)

Basutoland issued its first definitive stamps on 1 December 1933, and on 31 December 1933 the remaining Union and Provinces stamps ceased to be valid for postage. The last day for postage was Friday 29 December 1933.

Covers with Union, Basutoland and the four provinces stamps were cancelled at a number of offices throughout Basutoland on the last day and are commonly referred to as a 'Sunset Cover'.



Registered letter sent from Moshales Hoek to Pretoria on 29 December 1933.

Cancelled **MOHALES HOEK BASUTOLAND 29 DECA 33** (*Proud D7*)

Stamped registration label with pencil registration number, on last day of use 29 December 1933

R MOHALES HOEK No.4254 (*Proud R2 state 1*)

BASUTOLAND - DECEMBER 1933 -1966

The Crown Colony of Basutoland released its first definitive set of stamps, consisting of ten values between one half-penny and ten shillings, on 1 December 1933. Several designs were suggested; in the final chosen design the King's Head is flanked by the denomination and below a crocodile basking on a sand bank with a view of the Maluti mountains as a background. There are no crocodiles in the rivers of Basutoland. The crocodile is the 'totem' of the Bakuena, or Bakwena, tribe and were known as 'the People of the Crocodile' of which Chief Moshoeshoe was their first leader.

The name of the designer of the King George definitive stamps has never been published but is believed to have been Mr. W. G. Fairweather. The issue is particularly free from print or plate flaws, only two being referred to in *Basutoland - Some Historical Notes*⁽⁵⁾. An example from this issue, together with some of the essays, is shown over.



Photo essays showing the un-adopted design, from a page of the Bradbury & Wilkinson Ltd record book.

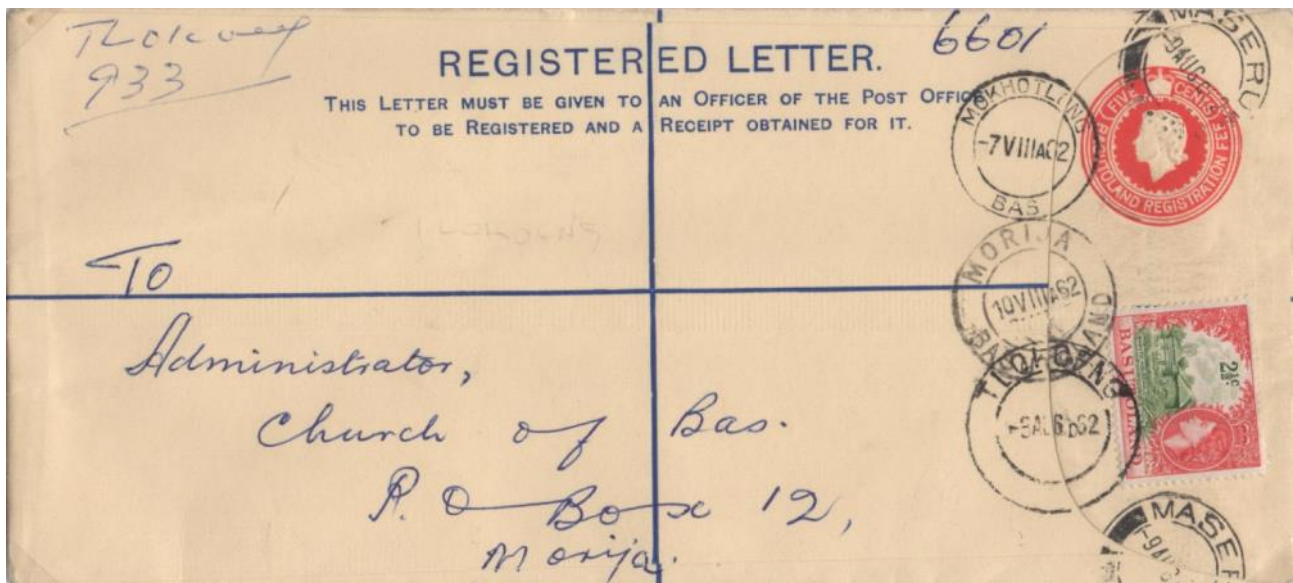
In the King George V period, apart from the Silver Jubilee issue of 1935 there was only Official overprints of four of the definitive values. They are some of the rarest modern stamps. They were never on sale to the public, and forgeries exist.

The second definitive issue was for King George VI. The same design was utilised, the only difference being the King's head. On this issue there's one small flaw on the one penny value. Basutoland participated in the Commonwealth commemorative omnibus issues.

On accession of Queen Elizabeth a sterling denominated issued of eleven stamps depicting various scenes in Basutoland was issued 18 October 1954. Decimalisation of the currency took place in 1961 and the sterling definitive issue was overprinted with decimal values. With the exception of the three lowest values there were two different types of overprint and on the 25c and 1R three types. A new set of definitives was then issued between 1961 and 1963 with decimal values, but utilising the scenes previously used.

Commonwealth commemorative omnibus stamps were issued between 1959 and Independence in 1966 when the country changed it's name to Lesotho.

I referred earlier to the Sesuto Book Depot and the fact that many used postal stationery cards can be found probably thanks to an employee. The same situation possibly existed in the 1960's where there appear to be a quantity of used Registered Envelope in circulation, many addressed to the Morija Girls Training School, or Miss C Bezencon, P.O. Box 12, Morija. A considerable collection of postmarks in the 1960's can be achieved collecting these envelopes.



Tlokoeng – a Postal Agency under Qacka's Nek (25/5/1919 – 3/10/1966).
 One of the most remote of postal agencies serving a very small population.
 Hand written registration *Tlokoeng 933* on 5c Registered Envelope to Morija.

Receiving cancel **TLOKOENG -3AUG62** (*Proud D3*)

Transit postmarks **MOHHOTLONG BAS. -7VIIIA62** (*Proud D9*) and **MASERU -9AUG62** (*Proud D16*)

Arrival postmark **MORIJA BASUTOLAND 10VIIIA62** (*Proud D12*)

Missionary mail is still an important source of modern day philatelic material and can often throw up unexpected items. The following cover has always made me smile. The envelope contained a letter, probably seeking financial assistance by way of a donation, sent by the R.C.M. St. John the Baptist, Marakabei's, Basutoland to the U.S.A. at the foreign surface rate for an unsealed envelope. Back-stamped "SPICERS ECONO-MAIL". Who was "Spicer"?



Cancelled **MARAKABEIS 7OCT 59 (Proud D3)**
Surface unsealed letter rate – 1¹/₂d.

For a small land-locked country there is considerable collecting scope for philatelists. From early days to Independence a collection of stamps, postal stationery, postal history and postmarks can become extensive. Without missionaries in the early days and in through to 1966, followed by traders, 'Sesuto' and Morija Girls Training School, PO Box 12, philatelic items may have been far harder to obtain today.

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The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists announce five new RDPs for 2021

At the annual meeting of the Board of Election of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists on 4th March 2021 it was unanimously agreed that the following philatelists be invited to sign the Roll:

Dénes Czirók, RDP, FRPSL (Hungary), Seija-Riitta Laakso, RDP, FRPSL (Finland), José-Ramón Moreno, RDP, FRPSL (Spain), Henrik Mouritsen, RDP, FRPSL (Denmark), Randolph Neil, RDP, FRPSL (USA)

The invitation to sign the Roll is the highest and most prestigious of honours in philately, recognising achievement, research, publication and service in many areas of philately. The Roll was instituted in 1921 and the signature of His Majesty King George V appears at its head as the first signatory. Its design contains the names of 42 "Fathers of Philately", great philatelists who would have been invited to sign had they been alive at the time. The initial 39 signatures were added at the first ceremony in Harrogate in May 1921.

This year's signing ceremony, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the first signatories to the Roll, will take place on Friday 24th September 2021 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Harrogate, U.K. during the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. Attendance at the ceremony is open to all. The new signatories join 85 other current RDPs from 25 countries spread over six continents.

2021 is the centenary of the first signing of The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists so the ceremony is deliberately returning to Harrogate, where the first ceremony was held in 1921. To mark the occasion the Board of Election has decided to correct a historic injustice. The Roll was instigated just after the First World War when there was strong anti-German feeling in Great Britain. Germany had been a strong philatelic nation with many eminent philatelists but when the 42 'Fathers of Philately' were inscribed on the side panels, no German or Austrian names were selected. There were however some empty name banners at the bottom of the scroll, four of which were filled in the 1950s, but two remain empty to this day.

The Board of Election, with guidance from Wolfgang Maassen RDP, has selected two eminent philatelists to occupy those spaces, one German and one Austrian. They undoubtedly deserve selection as 'Fathers of Philately' but they also stand to represent many of their countrymen who would also merit inclusion. They are Otto Carl Alfred Moschkau 1848-1912 of Germany and Victor Suppantshitsch 1839-1919 of Austria.

SOUTH WEST CORNER

Simon Peetoom

A number of **RARE S.W.A. MILITARY AEROGRAMMES** (also referred to as Air Letters) exist that were overprinted and issued for use by the military during World War II. The aerogrammes are the same basic types used by South Africa military and are inscribed bilingually “ACTIVE SERVICE LETTER CARD” & “AKTIEWE DIENS BRIEFKAART” with a “S.W.A.” overprint on top of the 3d “Groote Schuur” stamp design. There are eight different overprint types, shown here (image from Kessler catalogue).

S. W. A.	S. W. A.	S. W. A.	S. W. A.
TYPE I	TYPE II	TYPE III	TYPE IV
13½ mm wide	15½ mm wide	17½ mm wide	18 mm wide
3 mm tall	2¾ mm tall	3 mm tall	4½ mm tall
Cat. Nos. 101 & 102	Cat. Nos. 103 & 104	Cat. Nos. 105 & 106	Cat. Nos. 107 & 108
S. W. A.	S. W. A.	S. W. A.	SWA
TYPE V	TYPE VI	TYPE VII	TYPE VIII
16½ mm wide	17¾ mm wide	23½ mm wide	12 mm wide
3½ mm tall	5½ mm tall	6 mm tall	3½ mm tall
Cat. Nos. 109 & 110	Cat. Nos. 111 & 112	Cat. Nos. 113 & 114	Cat. Nos. 115 - 118

The eight different types of the “S.W.A.” overprints found on the Military Aerograms.

The S.W.A. aerogrammes are listed as Higgins & Gage 1/16, Kessler 101/118 or Quik A1/A20. Note overprint types VI to VIII are used on the later “AIR MAIL LETTER CARD” inscribed aerogrammes. The type VIII overprint comes in two shades, issued between 1944 and 1946, these are the most commonly encountered SWA military aerogrammes. The type VI overprint is also not rare, although not particularly common either, however overprint types I to V & VII should be considered rare.

The subject of “Aerogrammes and Southern African Rarities” was covered by Otto Peetoom in issue no.6 (June 2017) of “Southern Africa Philately,” where he covers the best collections of these and “Kessler’s Catalogue of Aerogrammes,” which was published in 1961 and listed all of the known aerogrammes at that time, including unique items. The input for the Kessler listings was derived from the Matthews collection, the best in existence at the time, plus Kessler’s own reference collection. Because Kessler specialised in aerogrammes, this is the catalogue I will refer to. If one looks at the S.W.A. listings, two are reported as not having been seen (Kessler 110 & 113), overprint types I & II (Kessler 101/4) are very highly catalogued (for 1961) and a number are unpriced, presumably due to their rarity, they simply were not available.

Otto illustrates Kessler 114, an aerogramme I handled and described for Sandafayre, appearing in their 14th March 2017 sale. It was accompanied by a letter from Kessler himself, stating “...in the many years I have been in this business, I have never seen this sheet, neither did I know any collector who had it...Mr Matthews does not have it...”

According to Quik’s 1995-6 price list, they list the type VII overprint, Kessler 113/14 at 80 “points” (3 pts to £1, approx. £26), despite Kessler saying he had never seen 113 or 114 and that Mr Matthews did not have it. Have more of Kessler 113/114 come to light since 1961?

Recently I discovered that more of these rare S.W.A. aerogrammes were sold by Harmer-Schau Auctions in the USA. The George Main Collection was sold in their 13th-15th February 2015 sale (Sale no.104), lots 566 to 572 included Kessler 102 (used on first day), 103a, 105, 107/8 (all unused), plus a used 108 and unused varieties of 105 & 108. It would appear that Kessler 103a & 107/8 found their way into John Dickson’s collection which was recently sold by Spink in London.

So why the low survival numbers of these aerogrammes? One can only speculate that these were intended for use only in S.W.A., where presumably the military was stationed in much smaller numbers. Also, it seems unlikely they were not distributed to personnel at the front, hence why mostly only unused examples have come to light. Troops involved in active fighting tend to write to let loved ones know they are safe and well.

So, does anyone else have these in their collection? It would be interesting to know if S.W.A. collectors own them, or do these rare aerogrammes mostly remain the preserve of the specialised airmail collector?



Kessler 103a, type II (scan 75%), stated to have been issued in November 1941. Note tops of trees touch frame-line at top, this overprint is on the earlier South Africa aerogramme, issued in July 1941.



Kessler 107, English inscription (scans 55%)



Kessler 108, Afrikaans inscription

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.

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