

# THE SPRINGBOK

SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS'  
SOCIETY QUARTERLY

[www.southafricacollector.com](http://www.southafricacollector.com)



The Cape Post Office was based in the Old Slave Lodge from 1809 to 1873. The two post offices in the renovated Slave Lodge, (later known as the Old Supreme Court building) used and issued all the classic Cape date stamps of the first half of the 19th Century under the authority of Robert Crozier, the long-serving Postmaster General, 1809 - 1852. Only ill-health prevented him from achieving the notable feat of overseeing the introduction of the Cape Triangular adhesives.

Cover image from Steve Hannath with thanks.

*Note: Part 2 of Steve's article on the first Cape Post Offices and their early postmarks will be found on page 57*

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## MEETINGS FOR 2022

*Letchworth - 7th May, 10am to 5pm at the Mrs Elizabeth Howard Hall*

*Annual Conference: Strawberry Bank Hotel, Meriden, 26th-27th June*

*(Book now via Simon Peetoom - simon@africastamps.co.uk)*

*We are planning to have a Zoom meeting on 6th August - see below.*

### ***Zoom meetings of the Society—Presentations needed***

We had a very enjoyable Zoom meeting of the Society on 23rd April which will be reported in the next issue.

We plan to have another meeting on 6th August, at the same time as before i.e. at 4pm (BST). If you have a presentation you are able to offer I would be delighted to hear from you. If you would like to join the meeting, please email me on tonyjohnson26@btinternet.com.

These meetings complement our normal meetings, in particular in enabling a number of members to join us who aren't able to get to these normal meetings. As I am hoping to hold Zoom meetings for the foreseeable future, I will need more offers of presentations. These could be of any topic associated with Southern Africa philately and could include social history as well as postal history or philately. If you have interesting material it doesn't have to be written up as a display (though those are very welcome). If you have access to a scanner it is possible to scan the material and prepare a presentation more quickly than preparing a traditional display and digitising that. I am very happy to advise anyone on how they can best show their material via Zoom and offer any help I can.                      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,  
2022

Vol. 70 Issue.2 Whole No. 358  
Founded 1948

## Editorial

This will be a bulky mailing. Alongside the Springbok there is Nick Arrow's final 16 page Auction list and another 16 page booklet listing all the Study collections available and their prices (post and packaging extra). These are only available to members in hard copy format (A4 bound booklet) and there are no electronic copies. Any member wishing to buy any of the booklets should e-mail [lyn28lester@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lyn28lester@hotmail.co.uk) in the first instance and Rob & Lyn will advise of the postage and packing costs and organise for the printing, binding and postage.

I recently purchased a copy of the new one dealing with the Jipex commemorative sheets by Roy Ross and was most pleased with the prompt service and quality of the booklet. I have a few different study collections now and recommend them most highly.

As you can see from the list of contents we have a very varied collection of articles in this issue covering the Cape of Good Hope as well as both the Union and Republic periods and SWA. The articles about issues from the Republic period are particularly welcome as we don't see so many of those in these pages and yet that period is of interest to many of our members. More articles would be very welcome!

## New Members

We have lost a few members, mainly due to ill-health, but are pleased to welcome a number of new ones: Stuart Ullathorne, UK: Walter Bernatek, Germany: Elsabe Drotske UK and Paolo Guglielminetti, Italy. We also welcome Neil Cronje back to membership.

## Book your conference place now

The Society will be returning to holding a weekend conference on 26th and 27th June. This will be the first SACS annual conference since 2019. The 2020 and 2021 conferences were cancelled due to the lockdowns caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Contact Simon Peetoom on Tel: 0795 157 1962, email [simon@africastamps.co.uk](mailto:simon@africastamps.co.uk) to book yourself two really enjoyable days of excellent displays, socialising and ending with Nick Arrow's final auction.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ian Matheson passed the recent 'The Springbok' on to me as I have recently written an article on paper as a strategic commodity and its impact on philately in WW2 for publication in 'The SA Philatelist' and the article on the Bantam stamps is certainly enlightening. Congratulations on a most interesting journal.

In Tony Howgrave-Graham's article on SWA, the illustrated postcard of an aircraft bombing the SA troops was originally owned by Dr Issy Yudakin and I often wondered where it had gone as I certainly wanted it after he died! I have a copy of it. It is the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Transvaal Scottish at Tschaukaib (the meeting of the winds) and the pilot doing the bombing was Oberleutnant von Scheele.

In Malcom Judd's article 'Was the RAF in Durban in the Second World War?' Most definitely Yes.

He certainly has a very good story – which makes this hobby incredibly interesting.

The Imperial Forces Transhipment Camp was at Clairwood in Durban. There was the very large Empire Joint Air Training Scheme and many of the RAF crews would have passed through this camp coming to SA or going home by sea. There were 20,800 RAF air crew trained in SA on this scheme.

There was a Rhodesian Air Training Group in Durban which was affiliated to the RAF training schools in Southern Rhodesia. I have a cover of this with the Rhodesian cachet on the front and the RAF cachet on the reverse from Durban.

There was also the British Ministry of War Transport in Durban which probably was focussed on shipping but could possibly have had RAF staff and other air force related issues.

262 Squadron RAF flying Catalina flying boats and later Sunderlands was based at Congella in Durban Bay with a detachment at St Lucia for coastal patrols. Towards the end of the war the aircraft and facilities were handed to the SAAF 35 Squadron.

There was an Imperial Army Military Hospital and Convalescent Depot at Howick and there is a good chance RAF personnel could have arrived there or departed from there via Durban.

The largest military post office outside Mount Pleasant [and Reading then Bournemouth then Nottingham] during the war was No. 1 Army Postal Regulating Depot in Durban (FPO 543). There are covers to or from this facility associated with the RAF. Probably not direct RAF personnel as this was run by the RE.

Jim Findlay

*(Jim attached a copy of an illustrated SWA card from his collection which I have inserted in The South West Corner on page 65 - Ed.)*

### Help!! Who is good at Initials?

Having recently acquired a lot of Perfin all of which are recorded in the 'South Africa and Provinces' Perfin listing, we noted one, shown below, which has the initials 'S. S. U' which we cannot identify and is not listed. It occurs on a Cape of Good Hope, King Edward VII, 1d Scarlet stamp dating it from 1905 to 1909. It is unused with full gum to the rear, but does have a partial hinge covering the 'U' (at the top of the stamp)



Having trawled the internet looking for relevant organisations or companies in existence in the first decade of the 1900's in South Africa and having asked known perfin collectors for their assistance in identifying 'S. S. U', the best suggestion offered to date is "Ship Salvage Unit." Whilst this may be the answer we are sure there are members who will see this and be able to offer other, more plausible options. We believe it is the initials of a company that existed in Cape Province at the time but we cannot identify the company. We look forward to hearing from you and please e mail your responses to [lyn28lester@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lyn28lester@hotmail.co.uk) . Rob & Lyn Lester

Dear Tony,

The excellent article of the 2d. War Effort Bantams by Tony Howgrave-Graham prompted me to look at my Bantam collection of these interesting stamps. It seemed appropriate to look at the overall series of all values and I have attached a few pages from my collection which may be of interest to our members.

Kind regards,

Mike.Tonking

*Note ; I would only have had space for one of 12 pages Mike attached to his e-mail , I think it needs to be shown as a whole , which is why I have not included any in this issue.. I plan to include it in the next issue.— Ed.*



Six of our members meeting at the SACS table at London 2022 in February.  
Standing from left: Ian Shapiro, Keith Klugman, Tony Johnson, Steve Hannath  
Seated from left: Bas Payne, Chris Oliver

### ***Items wanted***

As most of you know from his recent articles on the subject in this journal Siegfried Mayr (one of our members in the USA) is an avid collector of the 1938 Great Trek Commemorative Cover. He has most of the town cancels except for a few rare ones. Siegfried is asking Society members to advise him if they spot any on European auctions or with dealers. He is willing to purchase and/or trade. He has many duplicates including rare ones.

The covers he still needs are: Philadelphia, Reddersburg, Petrus Steyn, Boksburg North, Harrismith, Lady-smith, Jagersdrift Station, Utrecht.

Siegfried's email address is [siegmayr@yahoo.com](mailto:siegmayr@yahoo.com).

### ***Book your conference place now***

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# Microphotography

(Or how to make mountains out of molehills)

Nicholas Arrow

I started to collect South African stamps after my Father's death, when he passed onto me his collection. I returned to South Africa shortly after the funeral to see my Mother, and during this visit, in searching for a stamp shop, I was lucky enough to stumble across Philatelic Friends (as they now spell themselves) in Hout Bay. Ken Joseph encouraged me to get a copy of the Handbook, with which I devoutly hope we are all familiar, rightly advising me that I would get a great insight into the world of South African philately.

Some time later, I acquired a printer with a scan facility, and it was a natural step to use this to create illustrations of the stamps with any minor flaws/features in order to assist in writing up the material.

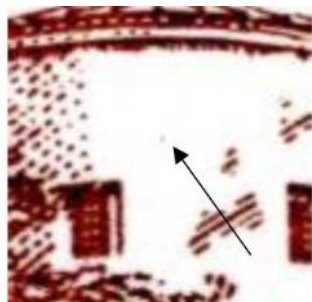


Left - ½d - M/positive flaw "Green arrow" in top left corner SG42, SACC 42, HB 36 V1

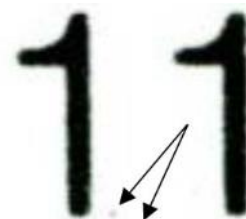


Right - ½d - Cylinder flaw "barb in buck's ear" SG42, SACC 42h, HB 36 V14

So far so good - but a printer's scan facility will be achieved by breaking down the image into various dots (pixels) - a process called pixelation. The scanned stamp will look pretty normal in the scanned image, but enlarging that image (ie by magnifying it on the screen or zooming in) will result in the various dots becoming more and more intrusive. As a result, the smaller the fault in the stamp, the greater the required magnification and the uglier the finished product.



These illustrations were prepared using the writer's printer scan facility at a resolution of 600 dpi, and then magnified to a 4cm square. Compare with the identical scans prepared on the camera microscope shown later. The fuzzy nature of these scans is clear to see and one of the dots in the scan right can hardly be seen.



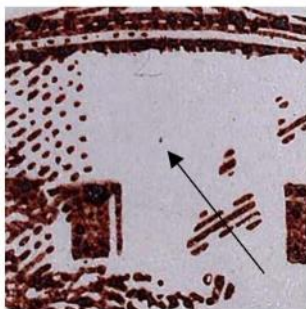
I have always liked the RSA 4<sup>th</sup> Definitive series, and I was able to obtain a large collection of these stamps, along with the list of identifying features of the various cylinder blocks. What was immediately obvious was that although numerous flaws exist to enable collectors to identify the various CB's, finding these flaws required considerable magnification and trying to illustrate these faults would require of the computer a far greater capability of producing a detailed scan than was possible, at least if I was to derive any personal satisfaction in the finished product.

So I acquired a digital camera microscope, and with the help of my instructional guru, this was duly loaded onto my computer. This works in quite a simple fashion in that it first of all magnifies the part of the stamp to be illustrated, and then copies that enlarged image into the computer. The illustration is still pixelated, but because the image is considerable larger, or the captured area smaller, without the need for zooming in, the pixelations are invisible to the naked eye, and the end product is certainly one which would be satisfactory to my eye when writing up the collection.



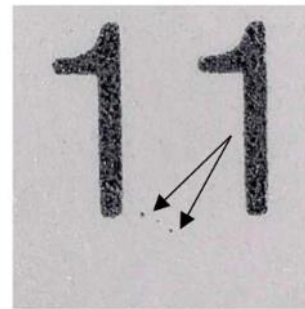
The item I acquired is a Levenhuk DTX 90 portable camera microscope. So far as this particular item is concerned, I would say that it is fairly simple to use, and I must put my hand up to the fact that my own computer skills can be equated to those of a moderately dim dinosaur, so if I find it easy to use, it must be so, but of course there are other camera microscopes available at a considerable range of prices - it certainly pays to "shop around"!

There is one minor problem however, in that the Levenhuk has 2 clips (indicated), designed to hold the sample in place, which tend to get in the way if you are examining a large piece of paper, where the detail to be examined is in the centre. However, the microscope can be swung 180 degrees round, so that there is no obstruction, although this will slightly alter the focal depth. As this ranges between 10-300x, it should not be a problem. The "fine tuning", once achieved, will produce an excellent result. The resultant image will be very large, and of course cropping (and reducing if necessary) will further improve the fine detail of the illustration for the writing up.



RSA 4<sup>th</sup> Definitive Issue

Left - Dot in centre of round house of stamp 4 (identifying Pane A of first issue of 1c value)  
 Right - Dots below first 1 of 85.11.21 in top margin (Identifying Pane B of 5<sup>th</sup> issue of 2c value)



Even a less than perfect picture can be improved by being tweaked. In Microsoft Word, the image and colouring can be sharpened (or the colour adjusted) by using "Picture Format / Corrections (or Colour)". An alternative is to use Photofiltre 7, which is free, the use of which does not require a degree in advanced engineering or computer technology, even for those dinosaurs whose computer skills are as rubbish as mine!

I would finally add that the instruction booklet that comes with the DTX 90 is pretty basic, but then it is a pretty basic toy in the first place.

Of course, such considerable magnification can be useful in other contexts. For example, I acquired a cover on which the date of the postmark was impossible to make out with the naked eye, even with a strong magnifying glass. Using the camera microscope, however, on its maximum magnification, enabled me to identify the date (2 Aug A38).



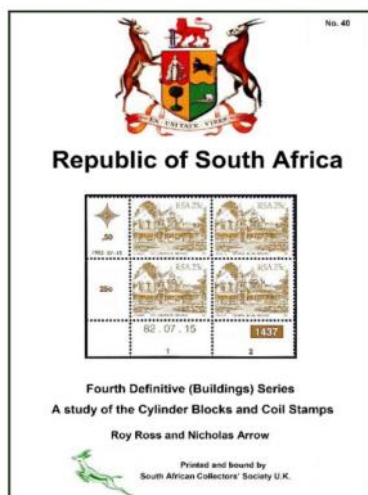
(NB As may appear obvious, the scan immediately above is in fact 3 scans joined together, to show that the date of 2 Aug A38 is reasonably clear.)

Returning to my aspirations concerning the 4<sup>th</sup> RSA Definitives, I sought the help of Roy Ross, who I know had already written various articles on this issue in the Springbok, to ask for his guidance. I am delighted and no little honoured to say that as a result of this, we collaborated in preparing the SACS booklet which was notified in the last issue and in the booklet accompanying this issue. We are proud to have made available to the Society this treatise which will hopefully assist all those who wish to develop their collections of the 4<sup>th</sup> Definitives.

The SACS has entered the booklet in the literary section of the Cape Town International in September.

The camera/microscope is of course entirely removable from the stand to achieve the greatest magnification.

Front page of booklet (reduced)



# REVISITING THE 3rd DEFINITIVE PERFORATORS

Mike Tonking RDPSA

During the five year period from 27 May 1977 the third definitive Protea series were issued. The printing was by gravure and lithography, both methods were used in order to be able to meet the quantity of each value required for the initial issue. This period saw the development of perforating methods used by the Government Printer largely brought on by the various problems experienced with the De la Rue Giori in-built perforator. Four different perforating appliances were used with two different perforating gauges namely 12,5x12,5 and 14x13,75. Unfortunately it is not always possible to positively identify the different perforators used from examination of either a cylinder block or sheet. For example perforators were not always set up to perforate in the same way thus leaving one side margin imperforate or perforating all four sheet margins. At times the top and bottom margins were imperforated or either top or bottom imperforate and the other perforated. The Government Printer was only interested in producing a good product and left the student of the Proteas to worry about the type of perforator used.

## The De La Rue Giori 841 Press with the in-built Perforator.

This rotary perforator formed part of the De La Rue Giori press first commissioned in 1973. It was a continuous source of problems which in the end resulted in the use of external perforating appliances. Of the seventeen Protea values only nine were perforated on the in-built perforator to a gauge of 12.5x12.5.

The in-built perforator always left the top and bottom sheet margins imperforated apart from a single hole at the end of each vertical row of perforations. Both left and right sheet margins of both panes were always perforated. A characteristic of this perforator was an additional perforation hole in the top and bottom margins over and above the single hole. (Fig 1)

This beacon hole appeared on every fourth pane in any print run. However, if for any reason, the press was stopped the system had to be resynchronised which could leave the beacon hole in a different position on the pane or even on a different pane. The circumference of the gravure printing cylinder was 573.7992mm being half that of the perforating cylinder which was 1147.5984mm thus the gravure cylinder revolved twice for every revolution of the perforating cylinders. This is why the beacon hole was only present on every fourth pane printed. The purpose of the beacon hole was to facilitate the location of any bent or broken pin which otherwise would have been very difficult. (Fig 2)

The Protea stamps all had a width of 23.9083mm which meant that 48 rows of stamps were perforated on each revolution of the perforating cylinders. Each pane of stamps had ten rows and two blank margins making twelve rows in all, thus four panes were perforated per revolution of the perforating cylinders.

Since the perforating speed was about 400 sheets per hour the printing rate had to be slowed down in line with the perforator speed. In addition the perforator was subject to high wear rates and generally gave operating problems. In view of this it was not surprising that the Government Printer finally gave up and then only used external perforators. It was indeed fortunate that the Government Printer had purchased external perforating appliances which could be utilised to ensure the supply of stamps. At this time there were seven such perforators, all of which were used at one time or another to perforate the Protea series stamps.

- Two Grover perforators purchased in 1959
- Two Walter Kroll perforators purchased in 1975
- One Walter Kroll perforator purchased in 1976
- Two Bickel perforators purchased in 1980



Fig 1 - Beacon perforation hole between rows 3 and 4

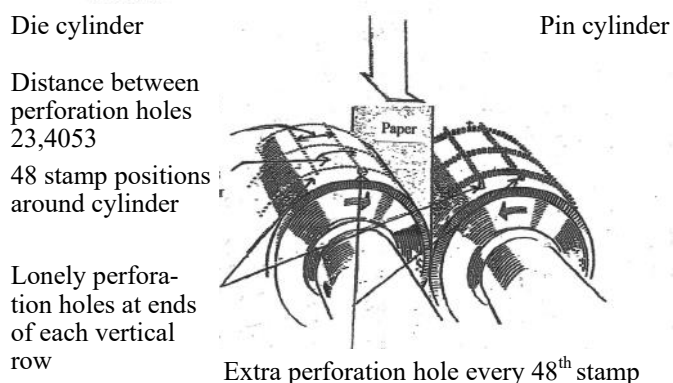


Fig 2 - De La Rue Giori press in-built perforator operation

## Grover Perforator

The Grover perforator was a flat bed two row or double comb perforator which perforated a single row of stamps on all sides as well as the vertical legs of the next row of stamps. Any perforation irregularity appeared on every alternate row of stamps. (Fig 3)

Complete first row  
Vertical legs of second row

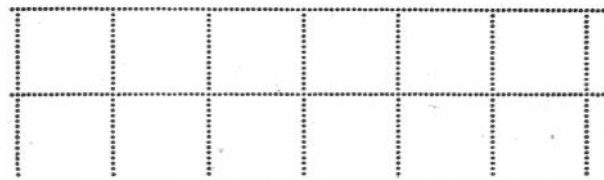


Fig 3 - Grover two or double row perforator

When originally purchased the perforating gauge was 14x13.75 which later was changed to 12.5x12.5 in conformity with the gauge of the in-built perforator. It was then changed back to 14x13.75 gauge, being first used to perforate the 20c dated 16 February 1978 at a time the inbuilt perforator was out of order. This change of gauge was prompted by the Post Office and Philatelic Services to allow for easier separation of the stamps.

In the first instance single punch holes were made once in the top and bottom sheet margins of the 'B' panes to align the sheets correctly on the perforator bed. (Fig 4)

For a number of reasons this did not work well, and it was not long before it was decided to revert to a feeding tray. About five sheets each made up of two panes were perforated at a time which resulted in a rate of approximately 700 sheets per hour.

Normally both 'A' and 'B' panes had imperforated top and bottom margins with a single perforation hole at the ends of each vertical row which was similar to the in-built perforator 'without the beacon holes. Again, normally right and left margins of the 'A' pane and right margin of the 'B' pane were perforated with only the 'B' pane having an imperforated left margin. This was not always so as in some cases all four margins were perforated, for example the 10c issue 2 dated 27 October 1980. (Fig. 5)

## Walter Kroll Perforator (Fig. 6)

Like the Grover this was a flat bed perforator which in the first instance was equipped with a single row comb. (Fig. 7 overleaf)

The operation was similar to the Grover except that the sheet travel direction was reversed. The gripper clamp screws had pins which left tiny holes in the left margin of the 'B' pane which, when present, can be used to identify this perforator. (Fig. 8 overleaf)

Five sheets were perforated at a time which resulted in a rate of 500 sheets per hour. This was slower than the Grover however the results were considered to be better. Wear rates of the pins and die were not high with about 40,000 sheets being perforated before replacement of the perforating heads was required.

The perforator was originally purchased with a 12.5x12.5 perforating head. It was first used to perforate the 9c issue 1 dated 25 May 1975. Generally this perforator perforated the right and left sheet margins leaving the top and bottom margins imperforated, except for a single hole at the ends of the vertical rows of perforations. A further twenty values were so perforated.

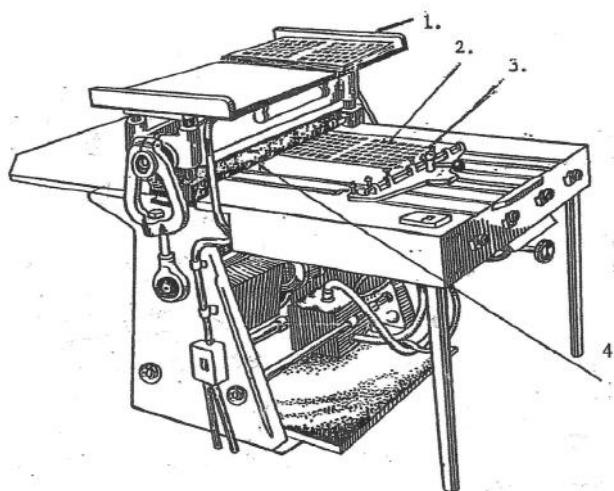
It is reported that on 25 July 1979 a new single row perforating head gauge 14x13.75 was made and used only once for



Fig 4 - 20c Group 1 issue 2 dated 16.02.78 (reduced)  
Showing Grover punch hole in bottom margin



Fig 5 - 10c value issue 2 dated 17.10.80 (reduced)



1=Perforated sheet storage Tray 3=Gripper tray with pins  
2=Five sheets on feed tray 4=perforating head with pins on top

Fig 6 - Water Kroll perforator

perforating the 3c group 2 issue 1 dated 1 October 1979. It would appear that this was done to be in conformity with the Grover gauge 14x13.75 which was also used for the same issue.

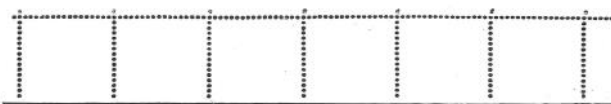


Fig 7 - Water Kroll single row perforator (reduced)

On 9 August 1979 a new two row perforating head gauge 14 x 13.75 was introduced for the first time. This head was modified by the removal of the bottom row of horizontal pins so that it would not completely perforate two rows but act in exactly the same way as the Grover two row comb perforator. This was done to avoid the possibility of double strikes after every second row of stamps. It was used for the first time to perforate the 6c issue 2 dated 15 August 1979. All told, six more values were perforated with this perforator which normally perforated all four sheet margins.

**Bickel Perforator** (Fig. 9)

By 1980 the Walter Kroll company had gone out of business so the Government Printer turned to E. Bickel of Heilbronn for the supply of two perforators which were installed in August 1980.

As a flat bed perforator the operation was very similar to both the Grover and Walter Kroll perforators. However for the first time the motion was both mechanical and pneumatic. The Grover was purely mechanical and the Walter Kroll mechanical and hydraulic. As in the case of the Walter Kroll perforator the four to five sheets on the feed table were first pushed through below the raised perforator pins and then perforated as the table returned to its original position.

As far as can be ascertained the only Protea value to be perforated by the Bickel perforator gauge 14x13.75 was the 50c issue 2 dated 9 October 1980. In this case all four margins were perforated.

**References and acknowledgements:**

- Fundamentals of Philately - Williams.
- Newsletters - RSA Stamp Study Group.
- Newsletters - SA Stamp Study Circle.
- Newsletters - SA Collectors Society.
- South African Philatelist.



Fig 8 - 20c value perforated by the Walter Kroll perforator gauge 12.5x12.5 (reduced)

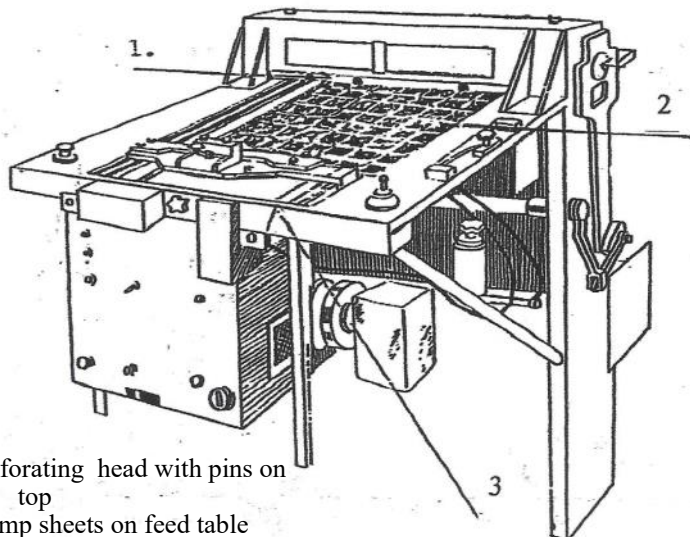


Fig 9 - Bickel Perforator

**3rd DEFINITIVE PROTEA SERIES - PERFORATORS**

**Key**

- G = Gravure
- L = Lithography
- IB = In-built perforator 12.5x12.5 gauge
- G2 = Grover two row perforator
- WK1 = Walter Kroll single row perforator
- WK2 = Walter Kroll two row perforator
- B = Bickel perforator 14x13.75 gauge
- 12 = 12.5x12.5 gauge
- 14 = 14x13.75 gauge

Value	Print Date	Suffix	Cyll Plate	Gravure	Litho	Perforator				
						IB	G2	WK1	WK2	B
1c	9,9.76	-0	722-26	x		x				
	21.10.80	-1	"	x		x				
2c	30.9.76	-0	722-30	x		x				
	10.8.76	-0	718-22	x		x		x12		
3c	10.8.76	-0	"	x		x			x12	
	30.1.78	-1	"	x			x12		x12	
	22.8.78	-2	"	x		x				
	27.10.78	-3	"	x		x	x12		x12	
	20.3.79	-4	"	x						x12

Value	Print Date	Suffix	Cyll Plate	Gravure	Litho	Perforator IB	G2	WK1	WK2	B
	1.10.79		1254-57	x			x14	x14		
4c	30.12.76	-0	722-46	x		x				
	16.8.77	-1	"	x			x12	x12		
	16.8.77	-0	"	x				x12		
	10.4.78	-2	"	x			x12	x12		
	30.6.78	-3	"	x		x				
	19.10.78	-4	"	x		x	x12			
	4.12.78	-5	"	x				x12		
	9.2.79	-6	"	x				x12		
5c	13.12.76	-0	722-54	x		x				
	15.12.76	-0	"	x		x				
	3.12.79	-1	"	x		x				
	4.3.81	-2	"	x		x	x14			
	4.2.82	-3	"	x			x14			
6c	22.5.77		PI077-65	x				x12		
	15.8.79		1227-33	x					x14	
7c	25.5.77		PI077-81	x				x12		
	19.3.79		1199-1204	x				x12		
	19.9.80		1310-15	x			x14			
8c	11.1.77	-0	722-50	x		x				
	10.7.81	-1	"	x			x14			
	15.1.82	-2	"	x			x14			
	11.5.82	-3	"	x			x14			
9c	27.5.75		PI056	x				x12		
	22.12.78		1174-79	x			x14			
	11.7.79		1216-20	x				x12		
10c	13.1.77	-0	722-42	x		x				
	26.4.79	-1	"	x		x				
	27.10.80	-2	"	x			x14			
	12.1.82	-3	"	x			x14			
15c	3.11.76	-0	722-34	x		x				
	21.6.78	-1	"	x		x				
	5.7.79	-2	"	x		x				
20c	21.2.76	-0	722-38	x		x				
	16.2.78	-1	"	x			x12	x12		
	6.1.82	-2	"	x			x14			
	24.5.82		1468-72	x					x14	
25c	27.5.77		P1082	x				x12		
	3.6.80		1292-98	x			x14			
	26.10.80		1415-21	x					x14	
30c	27.5.77		P1087	x				x12		
	19.5.78		1131-36	x				x12		
	19.10.80		1346-51	x			x14			
50c	27.5.77		PI055	x				x12		
	9.10.80		1316-21	x						B
	10.2.82		1439-44	x					x14	
R1	25.7.77		P1097	x				x12		
	19.3.79		] 205-11	x				x12		
	30.7.80		1303-09	x					x14	
	30.4.82		1461-67	x					x14	
R2	25.5.77		PI066	x				x12		
	25.5.81		1393-98	x					x14	

# The 1963 Red Cross Stamps and Covers

Roy Ross

The South African Red Cross Society was founded in 1863 and celebrated its centenary in 1963. Two special commemorative stamps a 2½c and 12½c were issued on 30th August 1963 for the occasion. A special datestamp was also prepared and used in Pretoria for postmarking FDC's. Special covers were issued by the Red Cross society. Some of these bear large round cachets or stamp marks prepared by the society for marking these letters on the first day of issue. The Special postmark is of a single-circle type with the red cross symbol in the centre above a fixed date of 30.VIII.63

The centenary was celebrated world-wide. The emblem was designed in Geneva by the League of Red Cross Societies and Internationally used. The Emblem colours are red and grey.

Some 5,000 covers were printed for the occasion and postmarked in Pretoria. The stamps were available at post offices for 2 months.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

The first official FDC's and cards issued by the Post Office were the ITU cards of October 1965. Prior to this various printers printed the FDC's and this was the case for the Red Cross envelopes.

Fig. 1

This cover was the official cover printed by the Red Cross for use on the first day of the celebrations and has the large red Cape Region cachet. The cost of the unserviced covers was 10 cents each with half the proceeds going to the Red Cross.

Persons who wanted to obtain an impression of the post office date stamp on commemorative covers could send their own addressed envelopes, not wider than 4 inches to the Philatelic Bureau in Pretoria. The orders had to be accompanied with the necessary remittance to pay for the stamps to be affixed to the envelopes. The money had to be in the form of postal orders, money orders or bank drafts. Cheques were not acceptable and C.O.D orders would not be fulfilled.

Fig. 2

An official standard cover with the post office official datestamp widely used with no red cachet. The stamps, 15c in total, was enough for airmailing and being registered.

Fig. 3

This envelope was printed and distributed by Ace Cover Services Johannesburg. Note the wrong colours for the Red Cross emblem on the envelope.

It is unknown how many of the official envelopes carried the Red Cross large cachet. I would like anyone to report if any other colours were used and if there are any other regional similar marks other than the Cape region in Fig. 1.

Fig. 4

The Speech Broadcast letter (Figure 4 on the adjacent page) was found inside the FDC with the Red Cachet (Fig.1).

The State President in 1963 was Charles Robberts Swart. The reverse of the letter is printed in Afrikaans.

# Speech Broadcast by the State President on the occasion of the introduction to the S.A. Red Cross Society's Centenary Celebrations on 8th May 1963.

Fellow South Africans,

A red cross on a white background is a flag with a symbol which is familiar to all and is respected by all civilised peoples. It is the sign of the International Red Cross.

In times of war and in times of peace this red cross symbolises the alleviation of suffering, the tending of the wounded, the injured and the sick. In the turmoil of the battlefield there are to be found men and women who defy danger in order to give aid to the suffering and the wounded, while they also give invaluable assistance to prisoners of war.

In times of peace they are also to be found where disasters occur and human suffering is caused, while they are at all times ready and eager to perform acts of mercy.

The centenary of the existence of the International Society is being celebrated this year. As the result of the initiative of Henri Dunant, a Swiss citizen, an international agreement for the recognition and protection of the Society was signed at Geneva in 1863.

All countries who are members of the Red Cross have their own national organizations, including (of course) our own country. In the previous century President Paul Kruger sanctioned the establishment of a Red Cross Society in the old Transvaal Republic and its affiliation with the international body. At present we have for the whole of our Republic a National Red Cross Society with its various branches and divisions.

The Society is at all times occupied with and zealous in assistance to human beings — our own population of all races, languages, colours and religions. Where those who are assisted are not so privileged as to be able to pay for those services, they are rendered free and the expenses are met by ordinary contributions from the friendly disposed public.

The work of the Red Cross in time of war is very well-known, but there is also a formidable list of services rendered in our country during ordinary times of peace. There are, for instance—to name only a limited number—a medical loan service making available to the public on loan wheel chairs, crutches and requisites for the sick room; home-aid service where mothers are sick; teaching diversional handicrafts to disabled persons; training in home nursing and first aid; study centres for boys and girls; visiting lonely patients, chronic sick and old people; tracing of missing persons for members of their family; ambulance services; clinics, homes for the aged and numerous other similar services. These services are rendered on the principle of doing things which should be done where there is nobody else to do them.

As State President of the Republic of South Africa I have followed the example set by President Paul Kruger in granting my patronage to the Red Cross Society in our land.

On the occasion of the celebration of the centenary of the International Organisation, I wish on behalf of our country and our people to pay tribute to this Society and its branch in South Africa and for what it has through the years done for humanity with so much sacrifice and devotion.

We give praise for the lofty ideals on which the movement is founded and also the actual and practical achievements in carrying out these ideals.

It is with fear and horror that we contemplate the dreadful possibilities which might have been experienced in modern warfare if there had been no such organisation of Mercy. But fortunately we can with gratitude and admiration remember not only the positive and noble service rendered in world wars, but also the invaluable services rendered in our own country in times of peace.

The success of the Organisation and the continuation of its work are dependant upon the support of the public. Seldom, if ever before, has there been a time when it has been so necessary for the South African Red Cross Society to be ready for any emergency, whether it be from within our shores or from without.

May this so urgent and necessary support be generous. We know that the good fruits will be enjoyed far into the future.

My hearty congratulations and very best wishes on the road to the next hundred years.

I THANK YOU.

♣P.O.T.

Figure 4

## The 2½ cent stamp

The 2½ cent stamp has an interesting history. Three cylinders were prepared to print the stamp No's 42, 82 and 89. The sheet was printed in two panes A and B with B being on the left of A.

500,000 sheets of this denomination were ordered but by the time 99,200 sheets had been printed the black cylinder No. 82 developed a flaw and had to be withdrawn. A new cylinder No. 99 was hastily prepared and

substituted for the original No. 82. The printing proceeded and was completed with cylinder No's 42, 99 and 89 (Fig 5).

The Cylinder No. 82 was not discarded completely, it was cleaned and repaired and was used to print the black on the 12½ cent Red Cross stamp.



Cylinders: 42 82 89

Cylinders: 42 99 89

Figure 5

The Sheets were printed on the newly acquired Harrison RSA watermarked paper. The watermark faced right looking from the front of the stamp. The Goebel 840 machine printed all the sheets in 5 rows of 20 (100) stamps. The perforation, gauge 14, was made on the Grover two row appliance. The left margin of Pane A of both the cylinder 82 and 99 prints show the 3mm guillotine guide line on the lower left margin.

After the stamps were distributed to the post offices it was noted that some sheets had a reversed watermark (Fig. 6). Sheets of both the 42,82,89 and 42,99,89 cylinders, Panes A and B, have been found with the reversed watermark.



Figure 6

Normal Watermark Paper  
Viewed from the front of the stamp

Reversed watermark Paper  
Viewed from the front of the stamp

To supply the large reels (5,500 yards) of paper required they were often joined from sections of paper. The maximum joins permitted was 6 per reel. The recently acquired large rolls of the new Harrison RSA watermarked paper used to print this stamp had a fault in them that was not seen at the printers. The reversed watermark seen on the stamps was the result of some poor paper sections which were joined together with good ones to form a complete roll. It has been suggested that some of the paper sections were therefore gummed on the wrong side.

If you take the reversed watermark stamps and lift them from the bottom and turn them over and view them upside down then the watermark is a mirror image of the correct one. As far as I am aware the reversed watermark in this form has never been recorded again on another issue.

### ***Final auction?***

**Nick Arrow will clear the material he is currently holding prior to giving up his auctioneer's role after the auction to be held at the end of the Meriden meeting on June 27th. After that he can't take any new material for sale and so the auction will cease unless we can find a new auctioneer. Any chance you can help?**

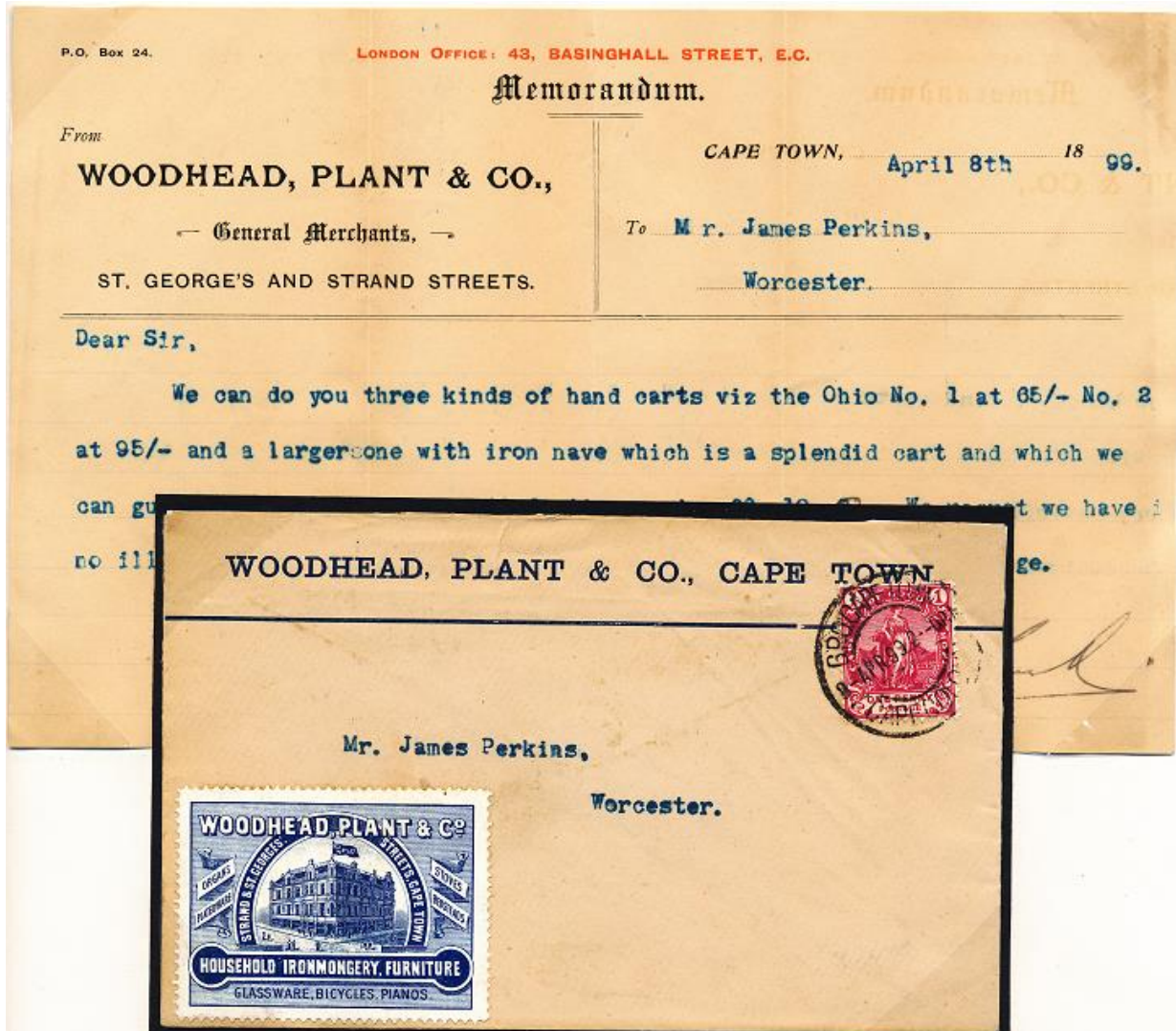
## Union Cinderella - Part 3

### Lyn & Rob Lester

Continuing on from previous articles a further 5 labels are featured in this edition the first one from the pre Union period and one of the few labels produced in the late 1890's.

#### 1899 Woodhead, Plant & Co

A label measuring 54mm by 41mm and perforated 11, printed in shades of blue on white gummed paper produced to advertise and promote the Cape Town General Merchant Company of Woodhead, Plant & Co. The image shows the Company's headquarters building on the corner of Strand Street and St. George's Street in Cape Town. The roof of the building is adorned with a flag showing the initials 'W P & Co' with the remaining surround describing the varied products the Company traded. These include household ironmongery, furniture, glassware, bicycles, pianos, organs, plated ware, stoves and bedsteads.



The label was applied to the front of an advertising cover from Woodhead, Plant & Co., addressed to James Perkins a general dealer in Worcester which also contains a memorandum dated 8 April 1899. The cover is date stamped G.P.O. Cape Town, Cape Colony 8- APR 99. 2 - - - PM. Although the label above is not tied with the date stamp, the 8 April 1899 is the only, and therefore earliest, use we have seen.

#### 1926 Metropolitan Cathedral Cape Town Building Fund

There are two labels, one green shown overleaf and one blue, shown on the cover below it, both printed in English on white gummed paper. They both measure 32mm by 23mm and are perforated 12. All labels seen have one side imperforate which suggests that they were issued in booklet format.

The labels have the same design and show an image of Cape Town Cathedral set within a framed border. Around the border are the words, 'Metropolitan Cathedral Cape Town Building Fund', with a value of 'One Penny' across the base. There is no date shown on the label.



The Metropolitan Cathedral in Cape Town, also known as St George's Cathedral, is the Anglican seat of the Archbishop of Cape Town. The cathedral was designed by Sir Herbert Baker, who was also the architect for the Union Buildings. The first stones were laid in 1901 on the site of a previous incomplete church. Works were interrupted and it was not until 1904 that building recommenced. By 1908 the Eastern end of the cathedral was constructed and in 1909 it was decided that the North side should be built in honour of St John the Baptist. Work continued slowly, interrupted by the First World War and it was not until 1930 that the memorial stone for the North transept was laid by the Earl of Athlone, the Governor General. Works to the North Transept were partly funded by donations made by the public through the purchase of these labels raising one penny at a time to help with building costs.

The re-addressed 1926 cover below is from Cape Town to Brighton, England and is date stamped with a Cape Town, 'Fruit for Health' postal slogan which ties a 2d King's Head stamp and blue Cape Town Cathedral label. It is dated NOV 28 12.30 PM 1926. As the cover was forwarded on to Preston, there is also a Brighton & Hove, Sussex date stamp 4 - - PM 18 DE 26. Earliest date used we have seen is 28 November 1926.



### 1932 Wakefield Castrol Motor Oil

A large green, red and black label on white gummed paper measuring 48mm by 72mm and perforated 13. The label lacks a central image but as it was produced to promote a Castrol product the words "Wakefield Patent Castrol Motor Oil" feature across the upper part of the label. Towards the base are the words, "Now Here" and "Costs No More" along with a description, "Reduces Cylinder Wear / Reduces Oil Consumption / Reduces Carbon Deposit / Prevents Gummed Piston Rings/ Prevents Sludge".



The label is applied to the rear of an advertising cover from D. G. Hayhoe & Co (Pty.) Ltd., P. O. Box 246, East London addressed to Ohio, in the United States of America, which includes the logo of “The South African Motor Trade Association Ltd.” Across the base of the cover are the words, “Use Wakefield Castrol Motor Oil.” The cover is stamped with a 1d Van Riebeeck Ship stamp and a 2d Houses of Parliament stamp both tied with a date stamp “East London/Oos-Londen 94 9 – X. 32 10. 00” Earliest date seen 9 October 1932.

### 1944 Johannesburg South Africa’s Metropolis



An imperforate multi-coloured label printed on white gummed paper measuring 35mm by 47mm. The image shows a large collection of skyscrapers with housing in the foreground all in front of the sun’s rays. Across the base of the label are the words, “Johannesburg South Africa’s Metropolis.” and at the right in the margin, printed in red, is the number ‘No 1653’

The label was produced to promote Johannesburg and it is likely it was produced by the Johannesburg Publicity Association.

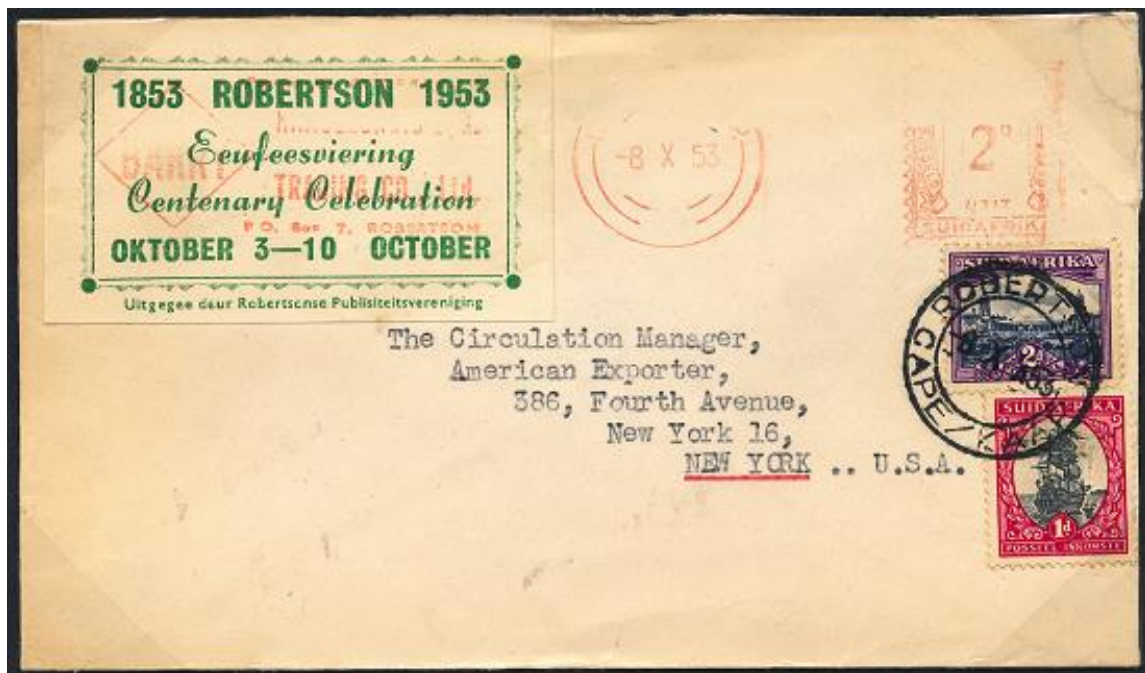
Overleaf is a re-used advertising cover sent by the Johannesburg Publicity Association, posted in Johannesburg to P.O. Nqamakwe, Transkei with a wavy line machine cancel, ‘Johannesburg C 23 VI 44. – 17.15’ The cover was then re-used, with an address label added, partially covering the label, and sent to Burmeister of East London, date stamped ‘Nqamakwe 31. AUG. B. 44.

Earliest date seen 23 June 1944.



### 1953 Robertson Centenary Celebrations

An imperforate bi-lingual label measuring 69mm by 41mm printed in green on cream gummed paper, to celebrate the centenary of Robertson. Robertson is a town in the Western Cape founded in 1853 and named after Dr William Robertson a Scottish Dutch Reformed Church minister. The town's original industries included farming and waggon building but soon after the Boer War the waggon building industry collapsed with the advent of the railways. Subsequently the town became famous for Ostrich farming but today is known for wine and roses being located in the heart of the wine area.



The label contains no image merely words set within a frame, with four distinctive dots at the corners. Across the top of the label are the words, “1853 Robertson 1953” with “Eufevesviering/Centenary Celebration/Oktober 3 – 10 October” under. Below the frame in Afrikaans are the words, “Uitgegee deur Robertsonse Publisiteitsvereniging” - Published by Robertson Publicity Association. The cover is to New York from Robertson, with a private meter cancel in red ink (N317) from Barry Trading Company, Robertson. It has a meter cancel of 2d and dated -8 X 53. Additional 2d Union Buildings stamp and 1d Van Riebeeck ship stamp also added and then date stamped Robertson Cape/Kaap -8 X A 53. Earliest date seen 8 October 1953.

Should anyone have any observations or comments to make about the labels illustrated above, we really would appreciate hearing from you. Our e-mail address is given at the front of the Springbok or contact can be made through the editor. We really hope a reader can show us earlier usage of the labels shown and send us a scan from their collection.

## An interesting wartime cover Nicholas Arrow



Along with hundreds if not thousands of others, I attended the London International. I wanted to assist in manning the SACS table, but I suppose the big draw was the lure of the dealers, as I am trying in particular to expand the part of my collection covering wartime airmails. The cover above is one that I purchased, the dealer strongly suggesting that I should “look up the MS *Gripsholm* as it was a very interesting piece of history”. And so I did.

At the outbreak of war there were around 80,000 potential enemy aliens in Britain. Worse still, when Japan entered the War on the side of the Axis, approximately 130,000 civilians from Allied countries living and working in areas invaded by the Japanese were interned. These included men, women and children from the Netherlands, the UK, Australia, New Zealand and the USA, and, of course, internment of Japanese citizens was also carried out in the USA after the Americans entered the war in December 1941. Some 100,000 Japanese-Americans living on the west coast of America were interned. Internees were restrained, often in very poor conditions, by both sides.



The result of all this was that there was a very large number of non-combatants who were placed under restrictions for no reason other than being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Despite the hostilities, negotiations took place between the respective Governments as to how non-combatants could be exchanged. And this is where the MS *Gripsholm* comes in.

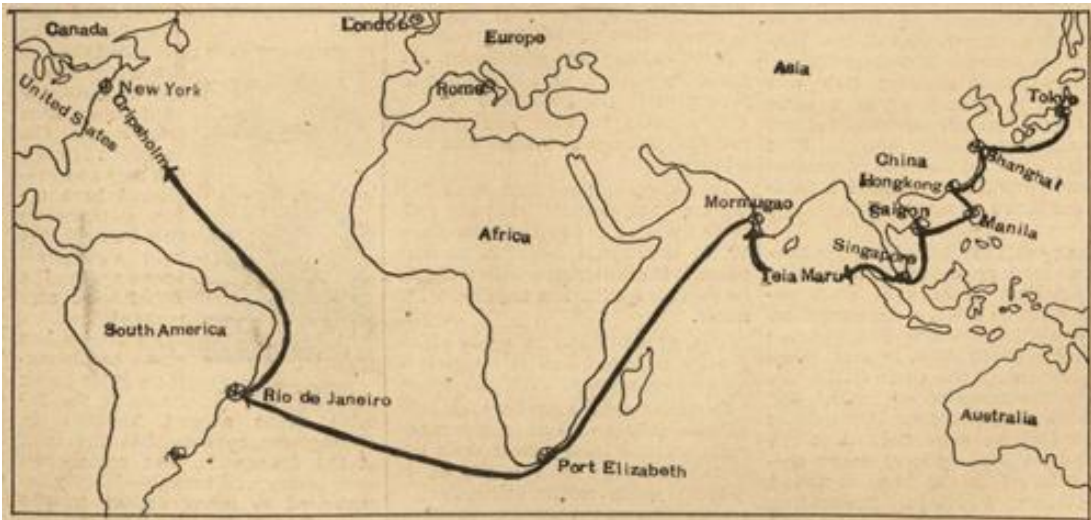
MS *Gripsholm* was an ocean liner, built in 1924 by Armstrong Whitworth in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England, for the Swedish American Line for use in the Gothenburg-New York City run. She was the first ship built for transatlantic express service as a diesel-powered motor vessel, rather than as a steamship.

From 1942, the United States chartered *Gripsholm* as an exchange and repatriation ship, to carry German and Japanese internees to a mutually convenient port where they could be exchanged for detained American citizens, who would of course then be transported back to their homelands, a service which was carried out under the auspices of the Red Cross. During her time as an exchange ship, a total of 27,712 repatriates were exchanged.



The *Gripsholm* in her war colours. Although chartered by the US Government, the Captain and all the crew were Swedish citizens

One such exchange took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 1943, when the *Gripsholm* arrived in Mormugao, Portuguese India, for an exchange of American citizens, from the Japanese ship *Teia Maru*, for Japanese internees etc. The exchange took about 7 days and when completed, the return journey to America started and New York was reached on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December. En route, the ship stopped at Port Elizabeth on the 5<sup>th</sup> November.



The long voyage of North and South American repatriates from ports of embarkation in the Far East to New York was almost over this week as the *Gripsholm* neared her Jersey City berth, across the North River from New York. The voyage from Yokohama to the Portuguese exchange port of Mormugao was made aboard the Japanese repatriation liner *Teia Maru*.

The letter shown at the head of this article was posted when the ship stopped in Port Elizabeth. It is franked 4/-, the rate for airmail to the USA by airmail through West Africa. It was taken by train to Cape Town, where it was censored (see tape left). Because it was censored in Cape Town, it seems more probable that it was flown by SABENA from Cape Town to Léopoldville in the Belgian Congo, and thence to America by the

USAAF on the return from the regular trips to India as part of the American War effort. It was censored again on arrival in America (see tape right).

The illustration below shows that the envelope is part of the MS *Gripsholm*'s stationery



As the dealer said, a very interesting piece of history!

## ***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.**

**If you can help please contact Nick via the details for him given on page 2.**

# THE FIRST CAPE POST OFFICES & THEIR EARLY POSTMARKS - Part 2. The Old Slave Lodge Post Office: 1809 - 1873

*Steve Hannath*

When on 2nd October 1809 the Cape Post Office relocated to the new government offices in the renovated Old Slave Lodge, the first Post Office outside the Castle, Robert Crozier, the Acting Postmaster General, took with him the first two recorded handstamps issued under British rule, the OML (Oval Medallion Letter) and Ship Letter handstamps.



Fig 14 - 1848. Cover from Admiralty, London, to the Cape. It has been received with a very late example of the Ship Letter Handstamp.

The Ship Letter handstamp would remain in service in what was now called the 'Old Slave Lodge' until at least 1848. (Fig. 14). As the longest serving Cape Postmaster General, Crozier would oversee the growth of the Cape Post Office from two different offices within the Old Slave Lodge, arguably the most postally important and historic Cape post office during the 19th c. (Fig. 15).

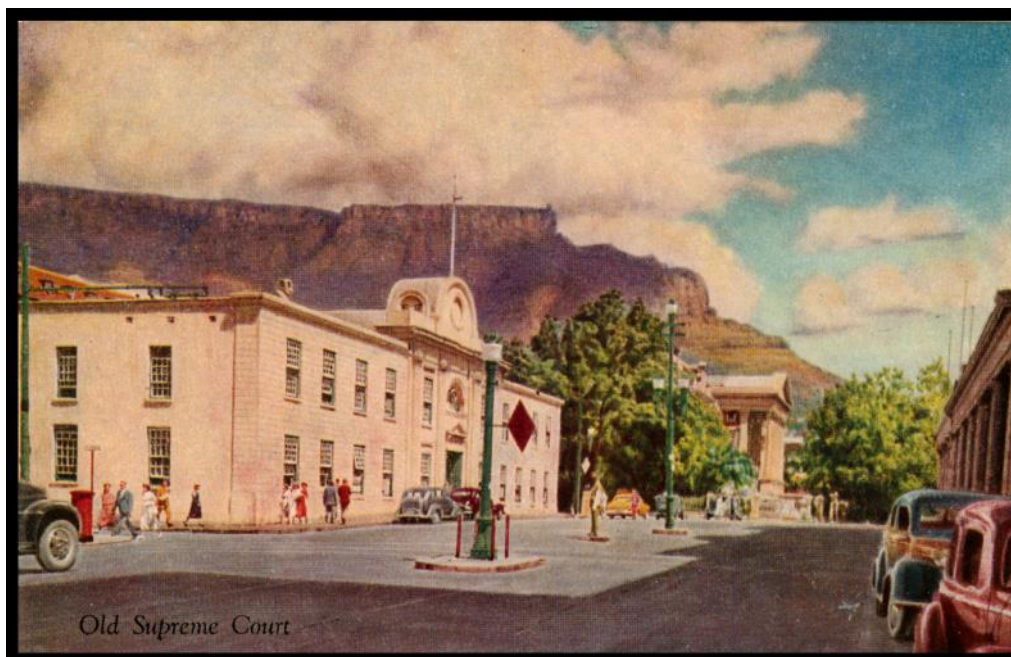


Fig 15 - In 1810, the Slave Lodge was renovated to create government offices. Postcard. Circa 1955. Old Supreme Court (The Old Slave Lodge). Beyond the trees lies Parliament and the Government Avenue leading to the Gardens.

Slavery had been practised at the Cape for over 140 years. Many slaves were accommodated in a large windowless Slave Lodge situated at the top of Adderley Street just below the Company Gardens where many of them worked. Once the property of the previous Dutch regime, these slaves became the property of the conquering British. Before Britain's Slave Trade Act of 1807 banned the sale of slaves in British colonies,

the new administration moved quickly to sell some slaves and free others. This allowed the run-down Slave Lodge which had been built in 1679 to be renovated for use as colonial government offices. British improvements added today's windows and gave the stark, doorless back of the Slave Lodge a new 'main entrance' onto Adderley Street. Above the doorway was an imposing gabled pediment with a Lion and Unicorn, symbols of British rule.

Crozier's new Cape Town post office was on a corner of Grave (now Parliament) Street and the Gardens. As an indication of its historical importance, the new Post Offices in the Old Slave Lodge would serve Cape Town for the next 64 years, 21 years longer than the GPO (1897 - 1940) shown on the front cover of The Springbok's October 2021 issue. (and p68 of this issue - Ed). In 1816, Crozier's post office was moved to the northern side of the Old Slave Lodge facing South Africa's oldest Christian church. The new post office was separated from the Groote Kerk (Dutch. 'Great Church') by Neuwe (now Bureau) Street which ran from Adderley Street before curving into Spin Street, the site of the Old Slave Tree (Fig. 16 and 17.) where slaves were sold close to the Church.



Fig 16 - Circa 1890. Photo showing Church Square with the Slave Tree. L-R: Groote Kerk, Parliament St, Church Square, Slave Tree (right), Spin St. The photographer's back is to the Old Slave Lodge. Bureau St enters bottom left. Photo ex. Ralph Putzel's 'Encyclopedia of SA Post Offices'. (Robert Hill Collection.)

Putzel's 'Encyclopedia of SA Post Offices'. (Robert Hill Collection.)

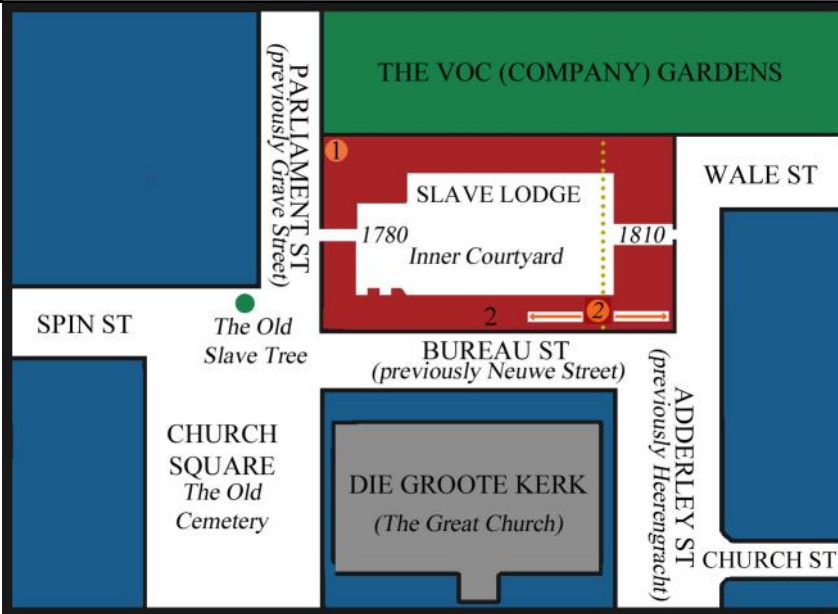


Fig 17 - Post Offices in the Old Slave Lodge following renovations in 1810.

In 1809, the first post office outside the Castle was in Position 1. (Frescura.) In 1816 the post office moved to the Bureau Street side, Position 2. (Frescura.) A. A. Jurgens states that the second post office was close to the Heerengracht. The dotted line is the 13.4m of structure lost to the widening of Adderley Street.

The 1815 Ship Letter Act required all letters sent by official packet to be stamped with a Packet Letter datestamp. Introduced in early 1816 the scarce 'Cape of Good Hope Packet Letter' datestamp, (Fig. 18), was the first new handstamp issued to Crozier in the Old Slave Lodge Post Office. The Government

Discount Bank which Crozier also ran was also based in the Old Slave Lodge. As a result, he occupied one room in the morning as Cashier, and another across the courtyard in the afternoon as Postmaster-General. Since he was overworked he gave up the Bank on 1.6.1828 but continued as Postmaster-General at a salary of £600. (Dictionary of SA Biography.) The comment "across the courtyard" suggests the Post Office's entrance was within the courtyard,



Fig 18 - The Cape of Good Hope Packet Letter Datestamp. Courtesy of Robert Goldblatt. ('The Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope'.)

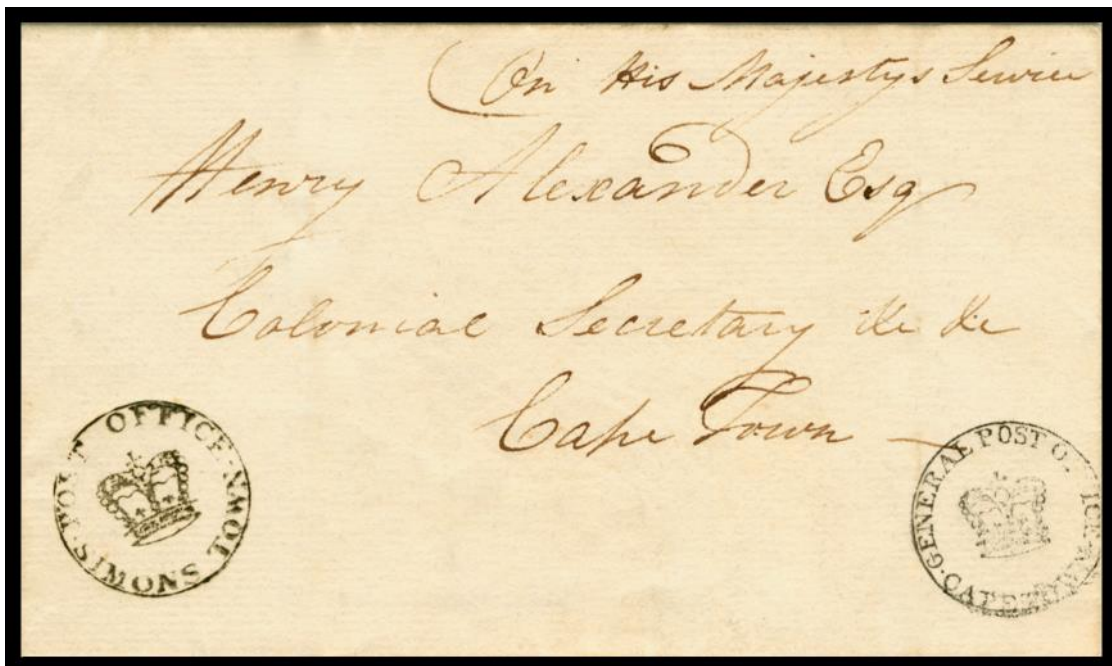
With the expansion of settlement across the Cape, there was a growing need for country post offices equipped with the paraphernalia of the postal service. The Old Slave Lodge as the Head Office of the Cape Post Office was first to receive and use the new Crown-in-Circle (CiC) handstamp in 1817. As the first handstamp to be issued outside Cape Town, its introduction was the start of a broader South African postal system. Between 1817 - 1824, Crozier's GPO issued 18 CiC handstamps to the

larger towns of the Cape interior. These towns received a handstamp that showed their 'Town' name below the word 'Post Office'. (Fig. 19 and 20). Cape Town's over-riding authority was emphasised by a similar 'General Post Office Cape Town' handstamp.



Fig 19). General Post Office Cape Town Crown in Circle (CiC) Datestamp. Courtesy of Robert Goldblatt. ('The Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope'.)

Fig 20 - Circa 1818. Cover from Simonstown to Cape Town GPO (Old Slave Lodge). The Simonstown Post Office CiC handstamp has been applied on dispatch. The Cape Town General Post Office CiC handstamp has been applied on receipt. The sharpness of the strikes suggests new handstamps. Alexander died in 1818.



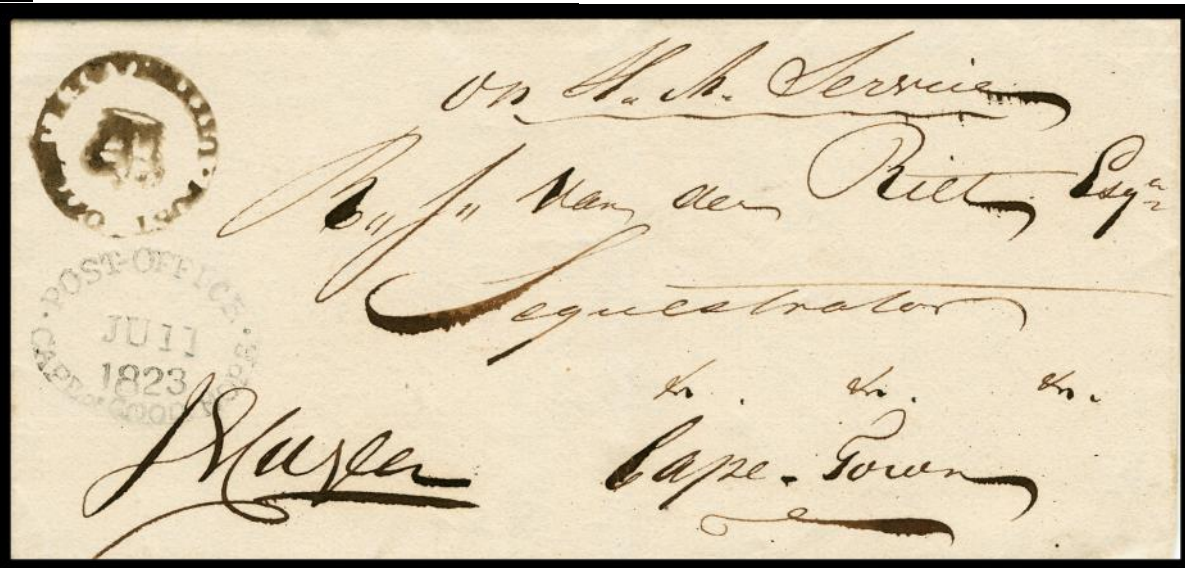
The Old Slave Lodge became the Cape Court in January 1815. It became the Cape Supreme Court in January 1828. As a consequence, it was the destination for many items of Cape postal history, as well as the source of outgoing judicial mail. It is likely that the post office was deliberately housed alongside government offices in the Old Slave Lodge in order to facilitate the communications by which the colonial administration ruled the Cape. By the mid-20th c. the building would be remembered as the 'Old Supreme Court' rather than the 'Old Slave Lodge'.



By 1820, all handstamps in use at the Cape were undated with the exception of the Packet Letter datestamp. This prevented the post office from knowing exactly when a

Fig 21 - Post Office Cape of Good Hope Datestamp. Days 1- 9 of any month appear twice ie. before and after the month.

Fig 22 - 1823. Wrapper from Uitenhage to Cape Town (Old Slave Lodge). The Uitenhage Post Office CiC handstamp has been applied on dispatch. The Post Office Cape of Good Hope Datestamp has been applied on receipt in Cape Town. The signature of



Slachters Nek's Maqistrate', Colonel J. Cuyler, is bottom left.

letter had entered the postal system and how long its delivery had taken. In 1822, an oval Post Office Cape of Good Hope datestamp was introduced for the exclusive use of the Cape Town post office. (Fig 21 and Fig 22 on the previous page). It is similar in appearance to the Packet Letter datestamp of 1816.

Crozier would remain at the heart of what was undoubtedly the most important GPO building of the colonial era, one that used and or introduced all the classic hand and datestamps, including all but the first two shown on the front cover of the Springbok, as well as the first adhesives. Sadly ill-health would force his resignation in 1852, thereby denying him the glory of introducing the Cape's first postage stamps, the Perkins Bacon triangulars of 1853. These would be introduced in the Old Slave Lodge post office by his successor, Postmaster General Johannes Adriaan Le Sueur.

In 1873, the GPO moved from its premises in the Old Slave Lodge to a building on the corner of Church and St George's Streets. From the start, this building lacked the space to accommodate all the services of the rapidly expanding Cape Post Office. As a result, numerous other buildings distributed around central Cape Town were used as branches for a variety of different postal services. Only when the St George's Street building was vacated in 1897, did the GPO move into the large, modern Victorian building shown on the front cover of the The Springbok's October 2021 issue (*and page 68 of this issue*).

The figures below conclude a brief and incomplete introduction to the first two post offices at the Cape of Good Hope and the main hand and datestamps recorded used by them.

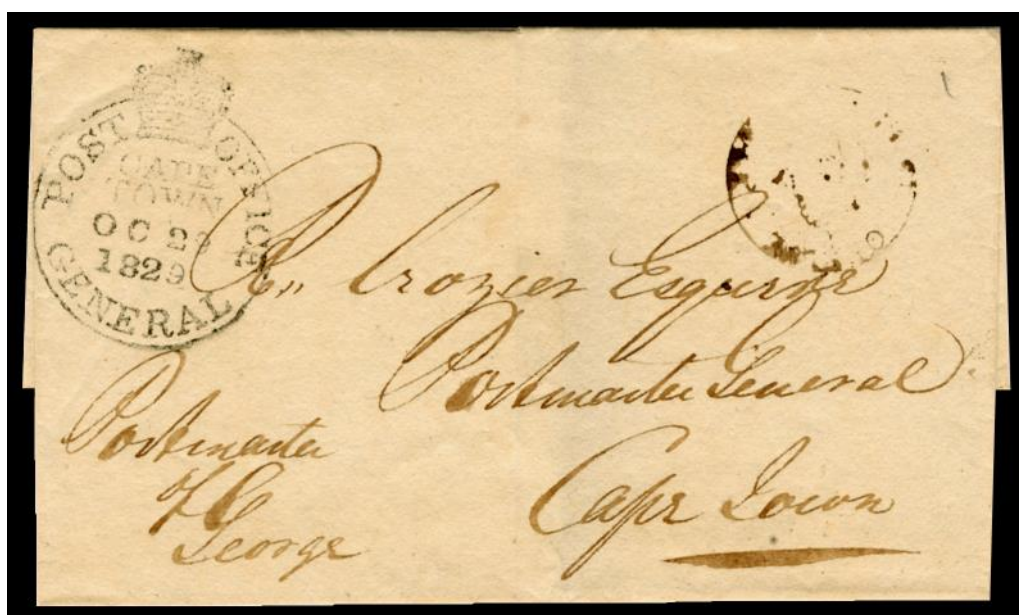


Fig 23 - 1829. Wrapper from Postmaster George addressed to Robert Crozier, Postmaster General, Cape Town, then occupying offices in the Old Slave Lodge, now the Colonial Government Offices. The Cape's first South African Post Office is up-and-running. (Robert Hill Collection.)



Fig 24 - The third dated letter handstamp, most often seen as a GPO receiving datestamp.



Fig. 25 - The George Crown-in-Circle town handstamp.

## *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. I haven't received a new issue since the one described in Springbok 357

We have not had a new issue of the **RSA Study Group Newsletter** since the last Springbok. The **last issue** we received dealt with the second definitives printed on the De La Rue Giori press.

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. Early Forerunners are now available online to all collectors. Follow the link <http://www.psgsa.org/>

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. We have had a new issue since the previous Springbok.

# 'THE HYACINTH COVER' - ATTRIBUTING BONC 1047 TO SIMONSTOWN

Steve Hannath

Among my collecting themes is 'Simonstown and the Royal Navy base between 1813 - 1975'. When I learned that a scarce Simonstown WW1 boxed rectangular 'Omnibus' Paquebot mark was coming up for auction, I decided to seize the moment and go for it. My aggressive bid won me the lot at the reserve price. (Fig. 1.)

The cover is embossed naval stationery from 'H. M. S. HYACINTH', the flagship of the Cape Station. The reverse flap was sealed with red wax showing a mounted knight above 'ROBB', the surname of the sender. It is a proving piece for the Royal Navy Double Circle 'PASSED BY CENSOR' handstamp that was used aboard HMS Hyacinth. A poor copy of this mark is listed as 6B74 in British Naval Post & Censor Marks of the First World War. (Dr. M. H. Gould.)

The boxed rectangular Omnibus PAQUEBOT handstamp was supplied to all Cape Colony ports, including the Simonstown naval base, some time after 1900. The cover was once in the collection of Roger Hosking, the author of 'Paquebot Cancellations of the World'. Hosking lists this Simonstown Omnibus Paquebot mark as No. 2737, rating it 'D' (rare) and "only recorded in 1915". Three, maybe four, such Simonstown Paquebot marks, are recorded.

A classic pre-WW1 British gunboat, Hyacinth saw action in Somaliland and the Persian Gulf (Dubai). Once a part of the Royal Navy's Channel Fleet before joining the East Indies Station (Indian Ocean), (Fig 2), HMS Hyacinth joined the Cape Station (Simonstown) in 1913 as the flagship



Fig 1. 1915. HMS Hyacinth Ship Stationery - 'Passed by Censor' Proving Cover. Dispatched HMS Hyacinth via Zanzibar, received Simonstown '28 APR 15'. GB 1d red obliterated with unknown BONC. Scarce Omnibus Paquebot mark.

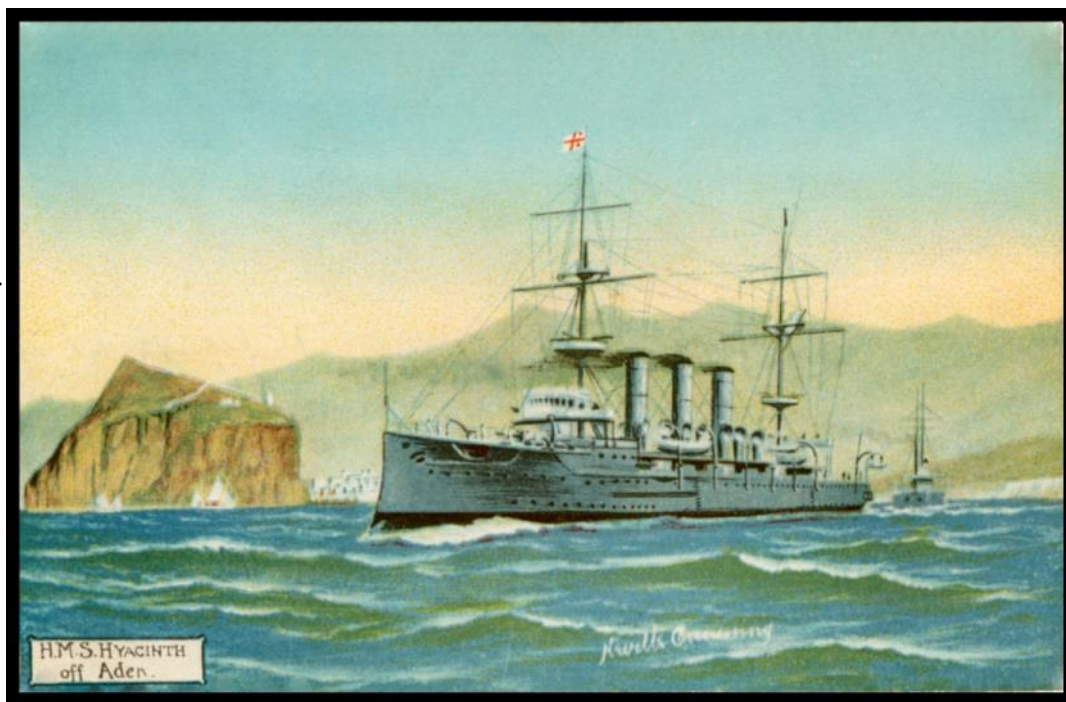


Fig 2. Circa 1906. Postcard. HMS Hyacinth, flagship of the East Indies Station, off Aden.

of Rear Admiral Herbert King-Hall. In 1915, when this cover was posted, HMS Hyacinth was based in Zanzibar from where she enforced the blockade of GEA (German East Africa) while searching for the Königsberg, a German light cruiser hiding in the Rufiji delta.

Normally, mail from Zanzibar to GB would go through the Suez Canal. However, in 1915 a Turkish offensive had closed the Suez Canal, forcing naval mail from Zanzibar to be routed south via Simonstown. Typically, mail carried on Royal Navy ships arriving in Simonstown would enter whatever fleet mail system was operating at the time. This cover was presumably transported to Simonstown by one of the merchant ships supporting the GEA war effort. On arrival in Simonstown, it was taken by a crew member to the Simonstown Post Office which processed it according to UPU Paquebot requirements - the GB stamp was accepted and cancelled with an unknown BONC (Barred Oval Numeral Cancellor), the cover received with a Simonstown Datestamp and its scarce Paquebot postmark. It then entered the South African overseas postal system.

The cover has an unremarkable post-Union SIMONSTOWN Double Circle datestamp, No. 8 in Ralph Putzel's 'The Postmarks of South Africa'. This datestamp is commonly seen on civilian and naval mail before WW1 and into the late 1920s. Its date of '28 APR 15' is only partial but the Year is confirmed as 1915 by the LONDON receiving backstamp 'MY 21 15'. (Fig 3). The date is consistent with the scarce if not rare use of this PAQUEBOT mark in Simonstown in 1915 "only".

The most intriguing question about this cover is "What is its BONC numeral?" (Fig.4)



Fig 3. 1915. Part cover reverse showing HMS Hyacinth embossing, seal and London receiver. Fig 3. 1915. Part cover reverse showing HMS Hyacinth embossing, seal and London receiver.

Fig 4. 1915. An enlarged view of the Hyacinth BONC.



Previously, the only BONC associated with Simonstown was No. 27. Experts are divided as to when this was introduced. It was previously believed that BONC 27 was issued to Simonstown in 1864 and last recorded used there on 30th August 1901 (Mordant.) However, the subject is not BONC 27's date of issue but rather "what is the BONC numeral cancelling the Hyacinth cover?" In all the time before the discovery of the 'Hyacinth cover', from the mid-1860s to 1901, only BONC 27 has been recorded used in Simonstown. If the Hyacinth cover's BONC is anything other than No. 27, it will be quite a discovery! And a rarity! Sadly, the BONC number is indistinct. As I only casually viewed the cover before buying it, I never thought it would be anything but '27'. Also, as the Hyacinth BONC ends in a '7', I assumed it to be a very poor BONC 27 when I originally viewed it on-line in the auction catalogue that described it as '17'. That had to be wrong, I thought. It was. It had to be '27', I thought. I now know it isn't. As a Simonstown collector it came as a great shock and wonderful surprise to discover that absolutely by co-incidence I had acquired what was probably the first example of an unrecorded non-27 Simonstown BONC!

Looking at it under a magnifying glass reveals little. The BONC numeral appears to be a four numeral BONC - "Something. Something. One? Seven.". This is not enough to go on but the fact that it ends in '7' provides a HUGE clue. Robert Goldblatt, (Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope, 1984), and David Mordant, (The Barred Oval Numeral Cancellers of the Cape of Good Hope from 1863 to 1963, 2020), both list Cape BONC numerals going no higher than 2001. Therefore, if this is a four numeral BONC, (as I it would seem to be), the first numeral is either a 1 or a 2 and the number cannot be any higher than 2001. So...

#### The First Numeral

As the number ends in a 7, it cannot start with a 2. (2007 does not exist.) It must be a '1'.

#### The Second Numeral

The large space created for the second numeral looks a bit like two slightly curved 1s standing side-by-side. The second and third numeral both occupy a lot of space. Their numerals have to be wide enough to fill the space. A '1' will be too thin. The most likely candidate is a 0 given the space and what we can see. As it curves down on its bottom left it is unlikely to be a '4'. Only two four numeral BONCS are known starting 14 - 1402 and 1412. As the Hyacinth BONC numeral ends in a 7, it cannot be either of these. Given the little detail there are no remnants of numbers '2 - 9'. I think this is most likely a 0.

#### The Third Numeral

This, the second last numeral, looks like a 1. However, it has a wide space before the pillar of the 1 which is

close to the last obvious 7. The only numeral with a straight tall RHS pillar that can fill such a space is a 4.

#### The Fourth and Last Numeral

About this there is no doubt. It is clearly a 7.

I emailed a scan of the cover to David Mordant who is an expert in BONCs. I suggested '1047'. I was disappointed to learn that David thought that it was possibly BONC 1147 but pleased that he did not totally exclude '1047'. I think the second numeral space is too wide - a slender '1' does not warrant the space.

I needed an example of BONC's 1147 and 1047. I thought that if I could place one of these BONCs over the Hyacinth cover's example, I would be closer to understanding which one it was. As I did not have either BONC among my accumulation, I tried the internet but to no avail. Desperately I went fishing. Who better to speak to than Bob Hill, I thought. He has a large collection of Cape postmarks and is generous with his knowledge.

"Both Goldblatt and Mordant list BONC 1147 against CAPE," I told Bob. (In other words, no-one has yet reported a specific town known to use it.) "It existed but neither know where it was used", I said, adding as an afterthought that "the BONC might also be 1047". There was a long pause. The mills of the Gods were grinding away. Oh, says Bob, "BONC 1047.... That's very interesting. I have two sheets of BONC 1047 on piece, all very late use, roundabout the Royal Visit in 1947, plus one on cover. I will make some copies and send them to you". Then, talking from memory he told me all he knew about this remarkable BONC that was last recorded used in Cape Town in 1963.

According to Postal Cancellers of the Cape of Good Hope. Vol. 1. The BONC of 1864, (Frescura and Nethersole), BONC 1047 was first used in Cathcart in September 1899 to December 1902. During this time it was used at Hendersons, a hotel outside Cathcart, in April 1900. It was returned to the GPO Stores in Cape Town some time after 1902. Robert Goldblatt's Postmarks of the COGH lists it as used in Stellenbosch, presumably before Union in 1910. Frescura and Nethersole say "BONC 1047 found use as an obliterator at the Cape Town Post Office" and that its period of recorded use in Cape Town is April 1926 to April 1963. During the Royal Visit in 1947, the GPO Cape Town used BONC 1047 to cancel and obliterate uncancelled stamps that had travelled through the post, as well as lightly or partially struck ones. (Fig. 5)



Fig 5. 1947. Royal Visit use of BONC 1047 in Cape Town.

True to his word, Bob sent me scans of two sheets of BONC 1047. This allowed me to recreate BONC 1047 (Fig 6) in Photoshop and to place it over the Hyacinth cover's postmark. The result is an impressive match, as much as it can be given the ink bleed on paper, the difficulties of accurately tracing over what's visible in a partial postmark and then accurately positioning it. Nevertheless, given what little detail we can see in the Hyacinth's BONC, the recreated BONC '1047' makes a very good fit. (Fig. 7)

Fig 6. BONC 1047 as recreated from Fig 5.



Is this enough to warrant the records being updated to include the use of the peripatetic BONC 1047 in Simonstown in 1915?



Fig 7. BONC 1047 superimposed over cover piece making a plausibly good fit.

### ***South African Philately Club reminder***

The lockdowns we have endured recently have forced many of us to make a much greater use of digital resources as well as attending Zoom meetings. I suspect that even as things return to normal many of us will continue to use these resources as well. The South African Philately Club 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. To join the Club, create a new Topic and or answer one that is already in the Forum go to the link below.

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

# POSTCARDS AND POSTMARKS OF TOWNS & VILLAGES IN THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE DURING THE PERIOD 1880-1915. Part 3

## Bob Hill

### GRAHAMSTOWN (1817-Current)

Circular date stamp of 1891, 25mm single circle. CGH at base, two dots above, time code letter month before day.

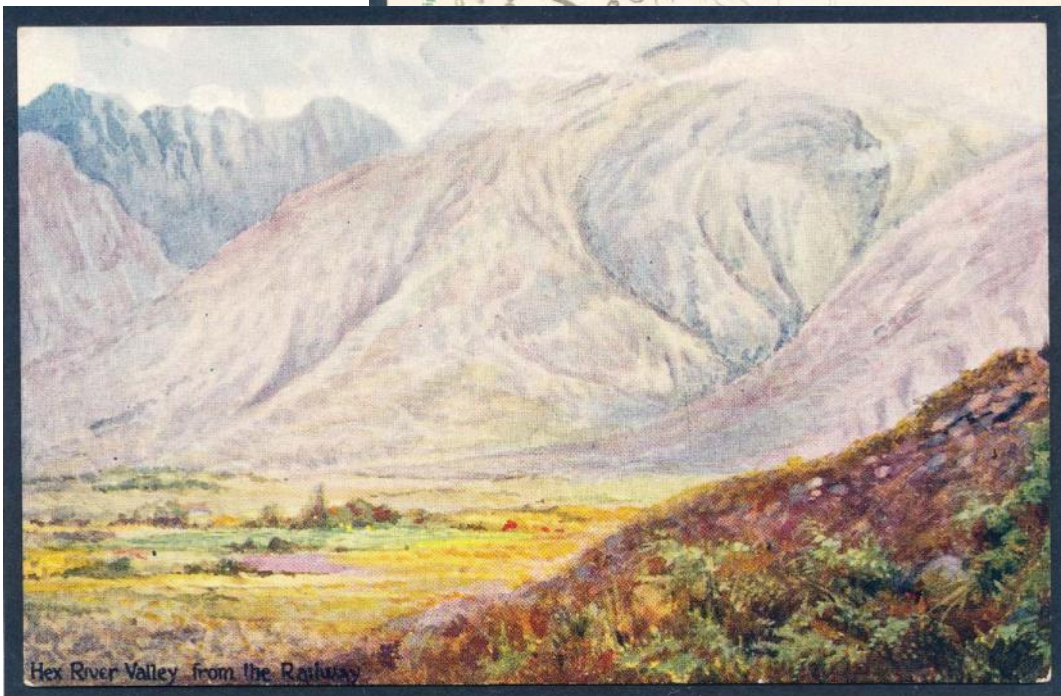
Type:- 10 Putzel:-20



Postcard circa 1906 showing "Grahamstown - High Street from Railway Station".

### HEX RIVER (1871-98) (1910-13)(1950-Current)

22mm single circle date stamp of 1864 with "Cape Colony" at base. Has month before day but no time code letter. Putzel type 2. Note the postcard was used during the "Hex River Station" period (1903-10). Such mail is



listed as extremely rare by Putzel.

Postcard circa 1905 showing the 'Hex River Valley from the Railway'.

**HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT**

Single circle date stamp of 1869-82. 22mm single circle with month before day and time code letter. The date the Parliament Office was open from is not known but it closed on 26th June 1912.

Type: 2 Putzel: 40



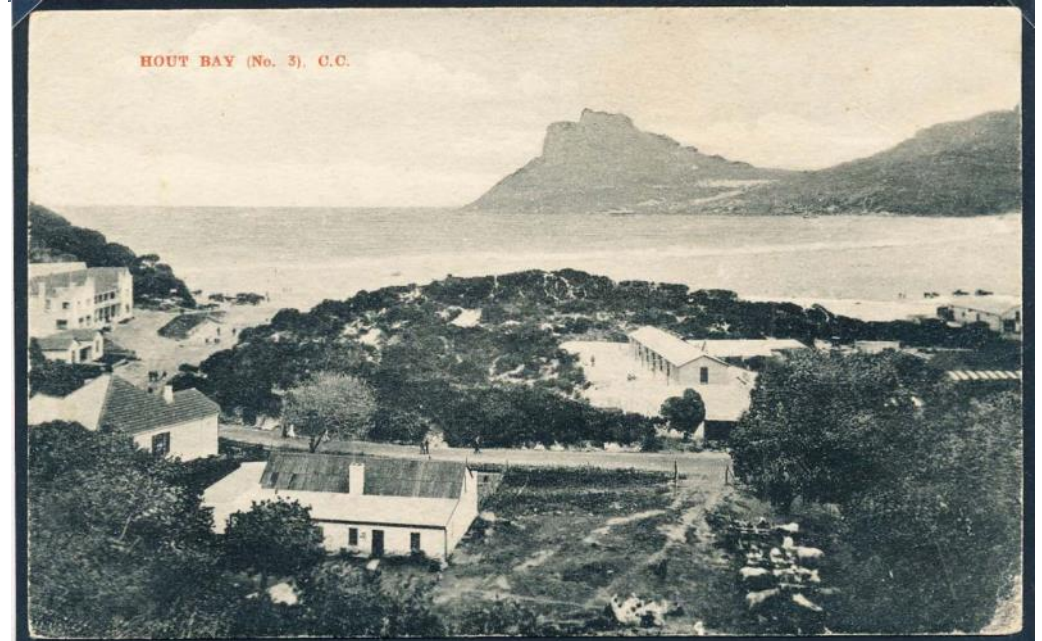
Postcard circa 1900 showing the "Parliament House and Queen's Statue. Cape Town".



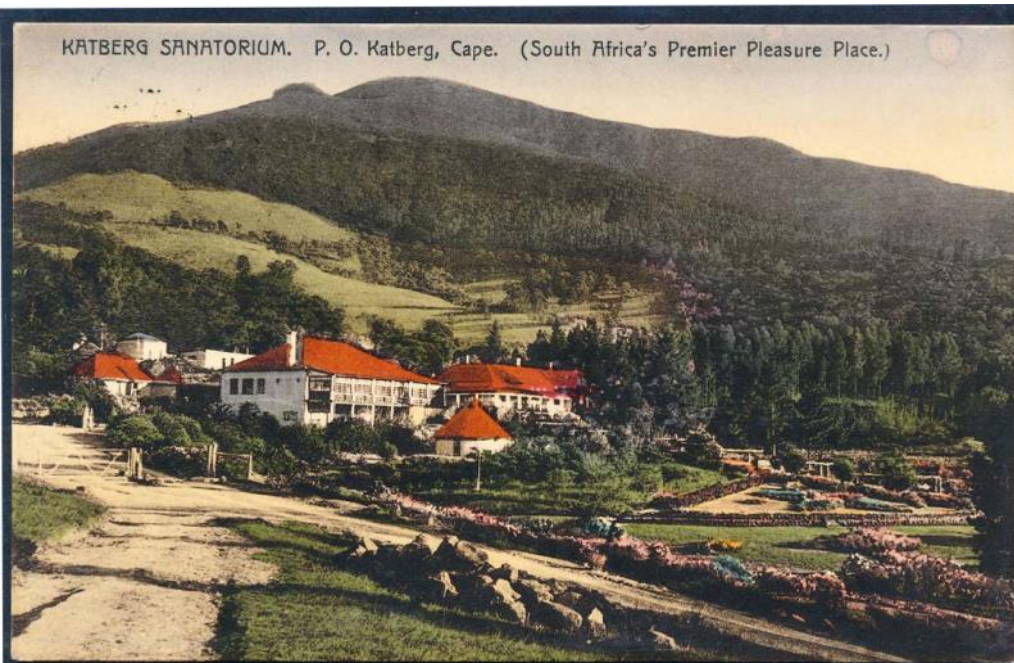
**HOUT BAY (1891-1915) (1916-Current)**

Circular CGH date stamp of 1891. 22mm single circle with CGH at base and two dots above. No time code and month before day. This date stamp was issued 6 weeks after the 2nd period commenced.

Type: 2 Putzel: 50



"Postcard circa 1900 showing "Hout Bay (No 3) C.C.".



**KATBERG (1862-69) (1879-1913) (1938-86)**

22mm single circle date stamp of 1864 with "Cape Colony" at base. Has month before day but no timecode letter. (Not listed by Putzel.)

Type: IX Putzel 200  
Office: R

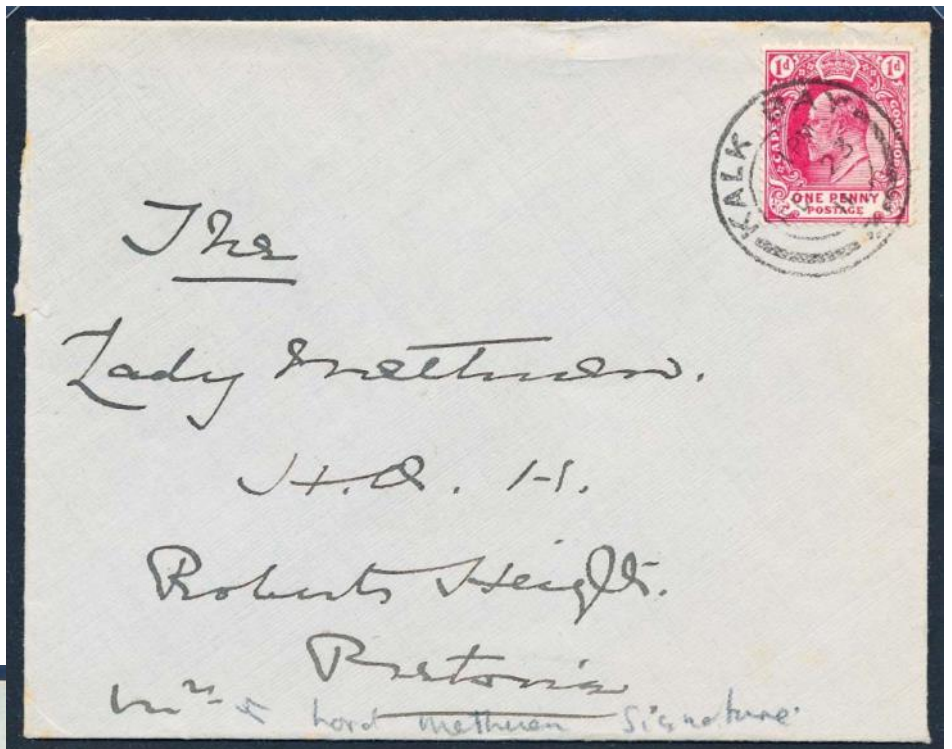


Postcard circa 1930 showing "Katberg Sanatorium. P.O. Katberg, Cape. (South Africa's Premier Pleasure Place)."

**KALK BAY (1847-68) (1882-Current)**

Cover sent by Lord Methuen (initials bottom left) to his wife at Robert's Heights cancelled with a 25mm double circle date stamp of 1900-02 with cross at base enclosed by curved bars. Time code as time of day and month before day.

Putzel type 5.



Postcard circa 1904 showing "Kalk Bay".

**KENILWORTH (CAPE) (1883-91) (1895-Current)**

Double circle date stamp of 1900-02, 25mm circle, Cape at top. Cross at base enclosed by curved bars. Time code as time of day and month before day.

Type:- 4A Putzel:- 20



Postcard circa 1905 showing "2nd Avenue, Kenilworth".

# ***SOUTH AFRICAN POST OFFICES - Part 1***

***Lyn & Rob Lester***

**Introduction.** 'The Union PMG Report of 1910' states "that at Union there are the following: 1086 Post Offices and Agencies: 22 Travelling Post Offices; 9 Ocean Mail Offices and 540 Field Cornet Mails." We have long strived to find 4 November 1910 cancellations from each of the 1086 post offices on the Union-stamp and to complement that collection we wondered if it was possible to collect post cards that also illustrate the 1086 Post Offices.

Our interest in Post Cards that illustrate Post Offices in South Africa from the 1910 period gave us another area of collection into which we could expand. Whilst we do not classify ourselves as true deltiologists, deltiology being the study and collection of postcards, there is a certain attraction for a philatelist in the collecting and study of old postcards. They illustrate a snap shot of social and historical development of a country, and in particular the origins and growth of the postal system.

This presentation is 'the story so far' as we have been collecting postcards of Post Offices for over ten years and have only just got around to writing them up thanks to the Covid pandemic. Suitable postcards are particularly challenging to find in good condition. Of course there are the common picture postcards of the large city post offices, such as Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban, which are readily available, but to acquire images of small village post offices throughout South Africa that operated in 1910 is quite difficult. Added to that unused post cards, which generally are in better condition, are not dated whilst used post cards, in our opinion, should have clear, readable date stamps preferably from the post office they illustrate.

In addition to the post card showing the image of the Post Office we thought that a brief history of the place illustrated including where possible its location, the origin of the place name, along with indicative illustrations of early post marks and references to the start of the postal system serving the place would complete each individual sheet. Where possible any information about the post office is also included.

The images of the postmarks shown in the display are taken from Ralph F. Putzel's and Alex T. Visser's publications, 'The postmarks of South Africa and Former States & Colonies'. Their use in the display comes with Alex Visser's endorsement and approval. Therefore the following display includes just over 100 pages illustrating about 86 different Post Offices with associated information. We have a long way to go before we collect the remaining thousand Post Offices that, according to the Union PMG Report of 1910, exist!

If anyone has a post card of a Post Office not included in this multi-part article, then we can give it a good home.

*Note: The first image (shown on the following page) I originally used for the front cover of issue 356 of the Springbok, but without Lyn and Rob's explanatory text. This stimulated Steve Hannath to produce the fascinating 2 part article on the first Cape Post Offices of which part 2 is on page 57 of this issue. Clearly I must use misleading images on future covers in the hope of stimulating articles! - Editor*

## ***Presentations needed.***

*Zoom has proved a wonderful tool for philatelists. It enables us to show our collections to other philatelists and to explain why our particular areas of interest have attracted us. It enables other philatelists to see a philatelic display of material they may be less familiar with and broaden their knowledge.*

*I need offers of varied presentations in order to keep our Zoom meetings interesting to other members. If you have anything you would like to talk to others about please contact me on [tonyjohnson26@btinternet.com](mailto:tonyjohnson26@btinternet.com). I am very happy to advise anyone on how they can best show their material via Zoom and offer any help I can.*

## ***Book your conference place now***

Contact Simon Peetoom on Tel: 0795 157 1962, email [simon@africastamps.co.uk](mailto:simon@africastamps.co.uk) to book yourself two really enjoyable days of excellent displays, socialising and ending with Nick Arrow's final auction.

**Adderley Street Cape Town, Cape Colony** "Picture of Cape Town General Post Office, Cape Colony photographed by T. D. Ravenscroft, Rondebosch and published by P. S. & Co.', Box 1205, Cape Town. The image dates from around 1900. Used Post Card, addressed to Glasgow, Scotland with a double circle date stamp, HEIDELBERG TVAAL 4- JUN. 06 3 - - - PM'.



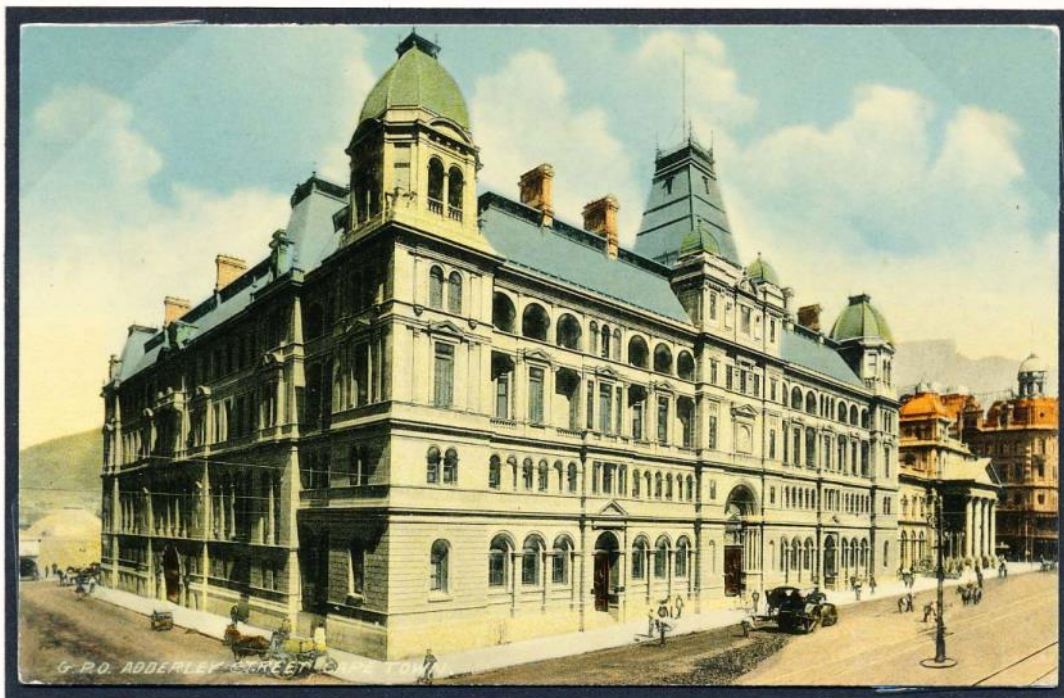
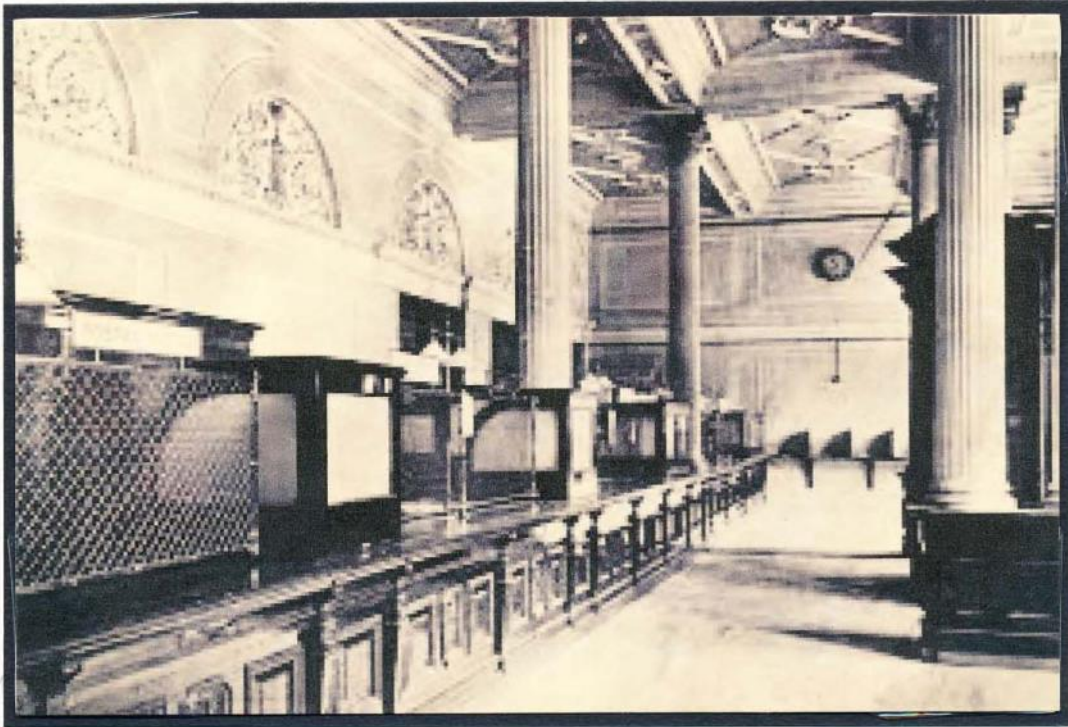
Cape Town, is the legislative capital and second largest city in South Africa. It was founded in 1652 with the landing of Jan van Riebeeck and employees of the United East India Company, who established a stopover for shipping bound for the Dutch East Indies and the first European settlement in South Africa.

The first Post Office was opened at the Castle in 1798 for ocean borne letters only. Postal services commenced in 1803. The office was moved from the Castle to Grave Street in 1809. In 1836 the office moved again to Bureau Street where it remained until 1872 when a new General Post Office opened in St. George's Street. Adderley Street Post Office replaced St George's St. in August 1897 and remained the main Cape Town Post Office until January 1940, when the G.P.O moved to new premises. Adderley Street Post Office was demolished in 1946.

A Picture of the Interior of the West Hall of the General Post Office, Adderley Street, Cape Town, Cape Colony is shown on the facing page. The Post Office had three entrances on Adderley Street, one which gave access to the East Hall, one to the West Hall, and a central entrance to the main staircase which led to the administrative offices on the upper floors. Posting boxes were located in Castle Street facing the railway station and adjacent to this was the 'publishers window' where newspapers and bulk correspondence was received. Also close by was a special entrance for private boxes.

In the East Hall the postal services offered included Parcels, Postage Stamps, Postal Drafts, Poste Restante and the Registration of Businesses. Within the West Hall the services included Money Orders, Postal Notes,

Revenue Stamps, Savings Bank Business and Telegrams. Public waiting rooms were located on the mezzanine floor and the second floor was allocated for persons having business with the Post Office administrators. On the fourth floor was the central tower containing the flag staff, used for signalling to the general public the arrival of the mails from the steamers from England. Adderley Street Post Office opened to the public in 1898 and was the main Post Office in Cape Town until 1940 when a new Post Office opened close by, which was built on the site of the old opera house.

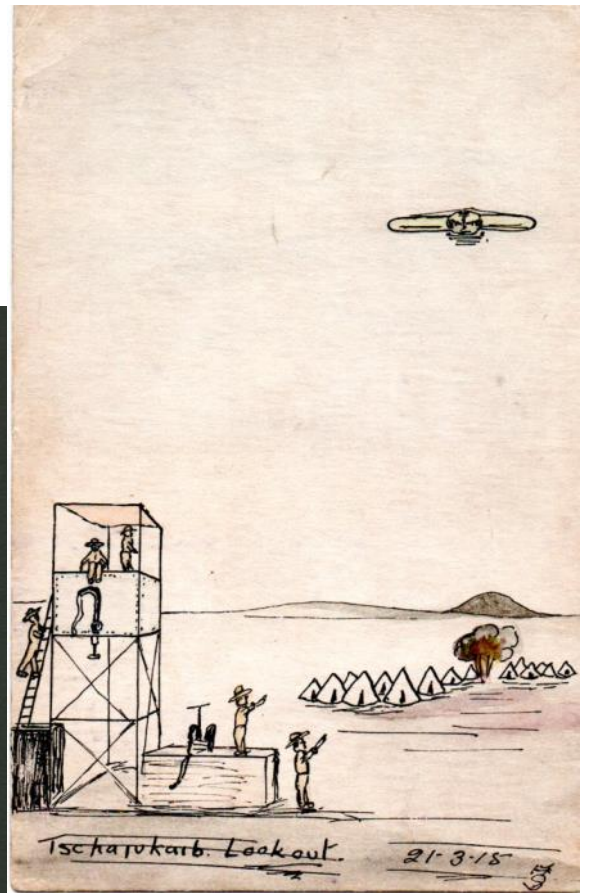


Picture of the G. P. O. Adderley. Street, Cape Town, Cape Colony, published by 'Spes Bona' series Cape Town. No 195. The image dates from around 1905 and the post card is unused.

## SOUTH WEST CORNER

Cover from Jim Findlay's collection (sent following Tony Howgrave article in the last Springbok)

The card to the right was sent by Trooper Arthur Savage 3<sup>rd</sup> Mounted Rifles (Natal Mounted Rifles) to his mother in Kimberley. It has the dumb 4 datestamp at Luderitz. It is the German Aviatik P-14 aircraft flown by von Scheele on 21 March 1915 bombing what is probably the NMR lines. The railway water tower has the look-out.



(Note both these cards are reduced - Ed.)

### SYNCHRONICITY IN THE SOUTH WEST CORNER (from Steve Hannath).

I picked this up for a song at London 2022. When I got home from the London show I

found my copy of the 'The Springbok' (January 2022) had arrived and was lying in the hall. I viewed it eagerly and was pleased to read Tony's article 'Central Force at the Start of WW1' and see his lovely postcard dated 23/1/15 showing a 'C' Force camp with 'lines' of Bell tents and a German aircraft flying overhead.

Synchronicity had struck. Only a few hours earlier I had purchased an ad hoc 'postcard' made out of a piece of scrap card that was also from 'C' Force and dated 7/2/15, some two weeks later than Tony's. Interestingly, mine also had a hand-drawn image showing Bell tents with an aircraft overhead. Despite some issues, mostly the fact that the card might have been reduced - I am not convinced it has been - I bought it because I thought the aircraft was a particularly interesting feature of the drawing. At the time of posting only the Germans were using aircraft in SWA. To me, this had to be a German plane flying over a South African Army camp.

Tony's authoritative article confirms this. Many thanks. Keep up 'South West Corner', please!

The 'postcard' was drawn by 'E', 'H' or 'I' Mullins 1915'. It is addressed to 'E P Mullins, Bank of England, London EC' where it arrived on 'MAR 12 15'. The detail on the right of the card shows that on 7/2/15 Mullins was serving with the 'Rand Light Infantry, C. Coy, C Force, Tschaukaib, German South West Africa.' I understand from Putzel's Comprehensive SWA handbook that Tschaukaib is a railway station between Luderitz and Aus, the line along which 'C' Force advanced into southern GSWA. If we were to travel to southern Namibia and to visit Tschaukaib today, I imagine that we would most likely recognise the rather distinctive range of low hills in the background over which the German aircraft is flying.

Apparently, 'Tschaukaib' is Nama for 'Sandfontein', according to Putzel. Presumably he means 'a spring in the desert'. Sandfontein, the site of the actual battle where the Union Forces were trapped and defeated in September 1914, is some 150 miles south-east of Tschaukaib. Possibly the Tschaukaib spring or well was one of the southern ones poisoned by the Germans as they attempted to weaponise the absence of water against the in-

vading UDF forces. By far the greatest proportion of the South African campaign was spent transporting water and fodder for its troops and horses rather than in actual fighting.

I cannot decipher the rest of the inscription below 'Africa'. The postcard has a fair strike of the Luderitz 'ARMY BASE PO 4', a just about passable strike of a crowned purple oval 'DoD OFFICIAL FREE ACTIVE CITIZEN FORCE' handstamp and a curious, partial blue boxed rectangular bilingual Passed By Censor with what appears to be 'No. 4A', a numeral that I thought was commonplace but which Putzel does not appear to list. As stated my motivation for buying this was the drawing. The postmarks are just a bonus.

## THE 1934-7 WINDHOEK EXHIBITION CANCELS - HELP!!

Tony Howgrave-Graham



Putzel lists three exhibition cancels B49, 50 & 51. The first is in Afrikaans (TENTONSTELLING), the second in German (WERBESCHAU) and the third in English (EXHIBITION).

But what was the exhibition? The Germans had agricultural exhibitions in 1899, 1902, 1910, 1913 & 1914. In 1934 the town clerk, George Kirby, was commissioned to lay out a show ground with a large exhibition hall for industrial and agricultural shows. This he did but it appears there wasn't an exhibition there until 1954!



This raises a lot of questions I haven't the answers to - so, a request for help. Presumably a 1934 show was planned. Why did it never take place? The post office producing three cancellers suggests they were enthusiastic about things. Was there a post office at the show grounds? At this time these would usually be skeleton relief cancellers. If they were used at the main office why weren't they more generally used and why were they used from 1934 to 7 for a show that never happened? The final usage seems to be associated with the GVI coronation. Any ideas will be gratefully received.

*Note all images are slightly reduced - Ed.).*



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