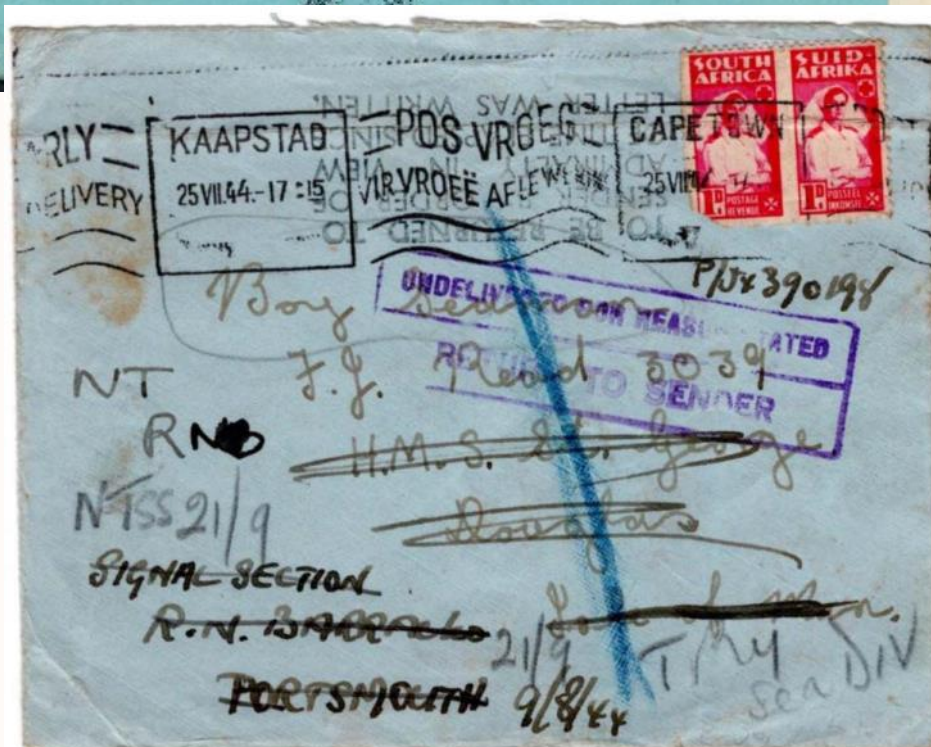


THE SPRINGBOK

SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS'
SOCIETY QUARTERLY
www.southafricacollector.com



Articles dealing with both these covers can be found in this issue.

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We are also a sponsor of the Stamps in Schools Project

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MEETINGS FOR 2022/3

*Letchworth - 8th April 23, 10am to 5pm at the Mrs Elizabeth Howard Hall
(please contact Bob Hill or Rob and Lyn Lester (above) if you plan to come, or for more details)*

*Sothorn African philatelic societies conference, Strawberry Bank Hotel, Meriden -
November 5th and 6th, 2022*

Zoom meetings of the Society—Presentations needed

We have had a number of enjoyable Zoom meetings of the Society during the last 2 years. If I can get offers for presentations I hope to hold another on 3rd December, a month after the Meriden meeting.

We plan to continue these meetings during the coming year, at the same time as before i.e. at 4pm (BST or GMT in winter). 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 by enabling a number of members to join us who aren't able to get to the 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

Editorial

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

The Springbok was awarded a large vermeil medal at Stampex 2017

Editor

Tony Johnson

Editorial Panel

T. Howgrave-Graham

C. Oliver

J.L. Shaw

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Vol. 70 Issue.4 Whole No. 360
Founded 1948

This issue is back to normal size after the bumper issue last time. We have the usual assortment of articles, appeals for help and other items of interest. Most of the articles this issue are continuations of the various interesting articles from the previous issue, but in addition we have a fascinating collection of covers in Tony Howgrave-Graham's SWA corner.

Getting new articles is key to keeping this magazine of interest so if you have any collections/displays that might be of interest to our members please consider writing an article based on them and send me scans of some of the items included. If you need help with the scanning parameters please let me know; I will be able to help.

As I write this I am looking forward to seeing some of you again at the Southern African Philatelic conference in Meriden next month and am eagerly looking forward to the various displays we will see. I will also hope to purchase some new items at the auction which Simon Peetoom has organised. You will find the auction listing, bidding sheet, etc accompanying this issue so if you can't attend make sure you get postal

bids into Simon in good time.

You should also find accompanying this issue your renewal demand to maintain your membership for 2023. Please pay Nick Arrow promptly so you don't forget and allow your membership to lapse.

Finally my apologies for last month's error in my editorial last month. I am still not entirely clear how the careless 'cut and paste' that led to this after it had been proof read happened but it necessitated Rob organising the printing of a loose insert he and Lyn had to insert in each copy. Thank you Rob & Lyn!

Tony Johnson

Auction at Meriden

Simon has agreed to organise the usual auction at Southern African Philatelic conference on 5th and 6th November at the Strawberry Bank Hotel, Meriden. The list of items on offer will be found with this issue of the Springbok.

However, to maintain the usual standard in future auctions Simon will need more items to offer. So, if you have any suitable material please let Simon know and he will tell you where to send it. When you contact Simon please briefly tell him what you are offering.

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SHORT AUCTION REPORT AND PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS

John Shaw

Normally, our auction reports are written by our chairman, Tony H-G but, at the time of writing, he is moving house and so I agreed to write this report on some of the South Africa items in a Stanley Gibbons "E" auction—a strange experience since there is a "Ping" after each lot is sold or passed.

This was a three-day whole world sale, day one being collections and mixed lots, day three being Great Britain, and with a dozen or so South Africa lots, including some real gems. Tony was interested in some Mafeking and got outbid on everything. There was a useful lot of Bradbury inscriptional pairs which would have possibly helped me complete my left- and right-hand pane inscriptional pieces. It was estimated £400 to £500 but the rare 2/6d Group II was missing and the almost as rare 5/- Group II had some of the margin missing; it fetched a realistic £750 plus premium. A Hagner page of Waterlow and Pretoria plate proofs maybe should have had a nought added to the estimate of £140 and fetched a more realistic £1200.

To me the star of the show was a wonderful Pretoria first 6d marginal mint block of four with inverted watermark, estimated £1,500 to £1,800 and which I really wanted but I was the underbidder and it went for a staggering £3,000 plus premium, so more than the catalogue value of £3,400. Both Tony and I have used blocks of four of this stamp, as usually found with a Rosebank cancellation; these are scarce but not nearly so much as the mint. RDA, our late president/chairman, was fond of saying all the first issue mint officials were "stolen property" since none were legally sold to the public, although later on the officials could be purchased from the post office and used normally.



The one lot I did buy was the official 2/6d in a mint block of eight from Row 5/1 to 6/4 and with 6/2 and 6/3 both showing the dieresis variety, for £1,200 which was the lower end of the estimate. I have the variety in pairs with dieresis on just the English and just the Afrikaans stamps, but the se-tenant pair had so far eluded me, probably since dealers would split large blocks to offer more affordable varieties. This is just like the scarce left marginal arrow blocks of the unhyphenated 2d indigo & violet where there is a variety on the R10/1-2 pair and another on the R11/1-2 pair. Just to explain, this comes from the November 1947 set 21 (which also included the 1/- value). A se-tenant pair with the variety on the 1/- stamp is even scarcer and I recall being unsuccessful in the Grosvenor Patrick Williams sale trying to buy a used pair for Tony H-G. Another fea-

ture on these varieties is that R6/1 and R6/2 both the English and Afrikaans overprints are shorter than normal. Note also that the 1/- diaresis variety also appears on the 1/- value of Set 19 R1/5 and 1/6 but there is no 2/6d stamp recorded for this set.



It is interesting to recall that, when a relative beginner, I was included in a survey of what were the scarcest of the officials; the others, part of the “old guard” were Alec Page, Robert McDougal, RDA, Jim Nunnally, Robbie Merson and my mentor Bob Lawrence and there was over 80% agreement between us on the scarcest ten items.

Note that the second E in offiisieel, with the diaresis, is shorter than the first E, see detail below.



Electronic Packet

Roy Ross has offered to take charge of the Electronic Packet initially proposed by David Page for us. It will essentially be an electronic version of the circulating packet we ran until about 3 years ago. This enables vendors to send items for sale (stamps or covers) to the organiser. Scans of these will be sent by email to members who want to participate so they can indicate any items they want to purchase and Roy will arrange that these are sent. Although David had put together the details of the procedure he was proposing Roy will need to decide if they work for him and refine them as necessary.

However before starting work on this Roy naturally wants to sound out the interest from potential purchasers and vendors. If you would like to use this system to sell items you no longer need and/or would like to join the packet, please send an email to Roy (roy.anne@tiscali.co.uk) indicating if you would like to participate.

Natal Flood Disaster Charity Booklet.
RSA Booklet No.2

Folder
1st December 1987
Value: R2.60 10 stamps - 5 x 2
Printer: Post Office Dept Printers
Size: 139 x 44mm
Paper 135gm Dukuza gloss
Printing: Lithography - 4 colours - Cyan, Magenta, Yellow and Black.
Style: Open end envelope
Layout: 6 per sheet 2 x 3
Quantity Printed: 30,200

SACC 642

The original pane had 5 x 5 rows of stamps

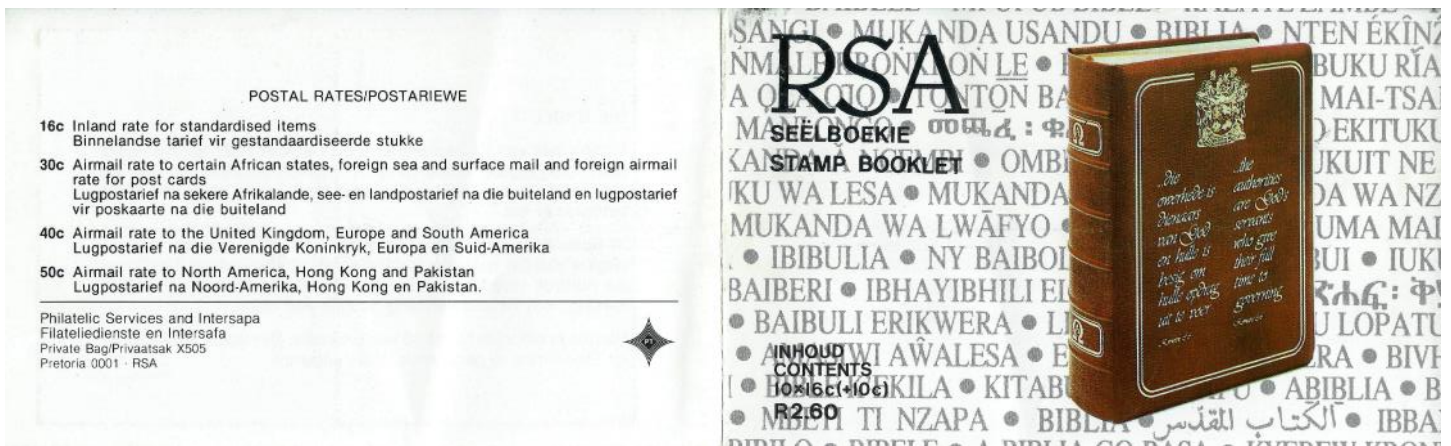
Stamps used from a single pane for the booklets - 4 rows of 5 x 2

Booklet: Stamps attached using left margin

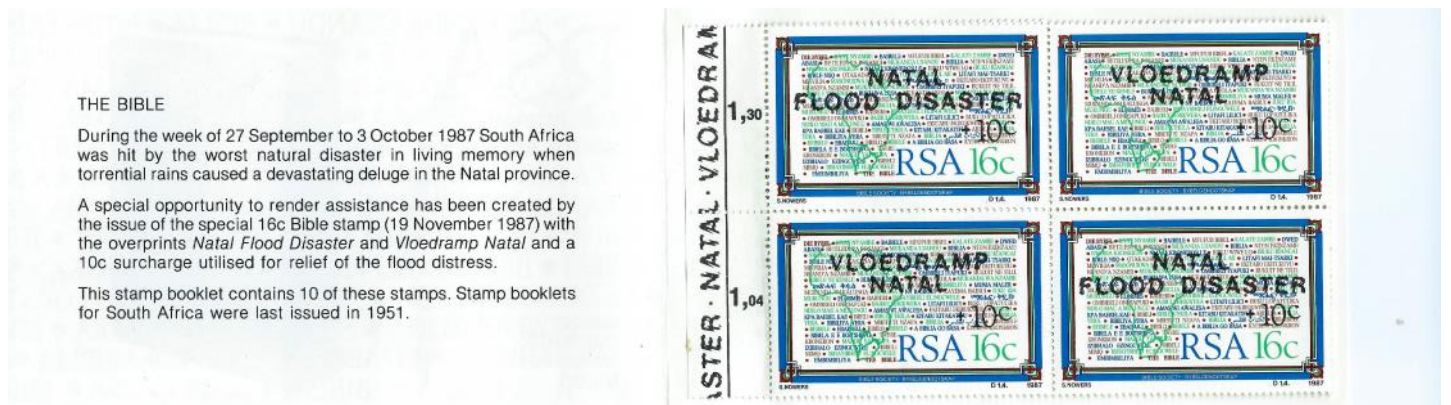
Booklet A - "STER.NATAL.VLOEDRA" with value indicators in left margin 1,30 and 1,04. First stamp overprinted in English

Booklet B - "ER.NATAL.VLOEDRAM" with value indicators in left margin ,52 and ,26. First stamp overprinted in Afrikaans.

Front and Rear cover



Inside cover with stamps



A number of covers are known with the wording on the front with only half the words showing on both the top and at the bottom, which was the result of imprecise guillotining.

Booklet 'A'

Booklet 'B'



DIAS 500

During the week of 27 September to 3 October 1987 South Africa was hit by the worst natural disaster in living memory when torrential rains caused a devastating deluge in the Natal province.

A special opportunity to render assistance has been created by the issue of the special 16c Dias 500-stamp (3 February 1988) with the overprints *Natal Flood Disaster* and *Vloedramp Natal* and a 10c surcharge utilised for relief of the flood distress.

This stamp booklet contains 10 of these stamps. Stamp booklets for South Africa were last issued in 1951.



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National Flood Disaster Charity Booklets. Fourth Issue

13th April 1988

The sheet stamps that were used for these booklets were the 16c (French Huguenots - SACC 650) overprinted (10c surcharge) alternately in English and Afrikaans. The wording was changed from the previous issues. "NATIONALE VLOEDRAMP" and "NATIONAL FLOOD DISASTER" in two vertical lines in black sans-serif print 3.5 capitals for the first letter of each word and lower case for the rest.

Number of sheets printed: 58,400 sheets

Sheets: 3 panes per sheet. 5 x 5 stamps per pane.

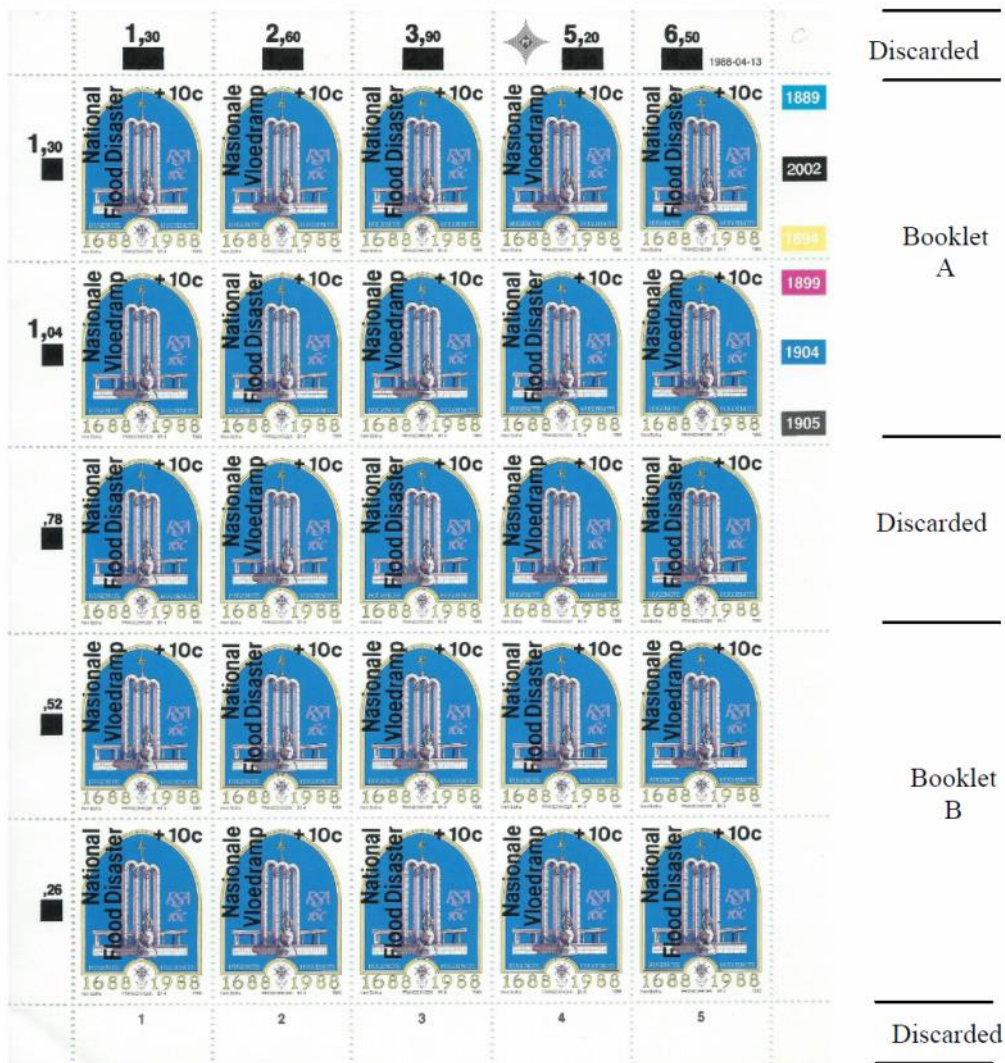
Printing: Lithography - Plates 1889 blue, 1894 golden yellow, 1889 red, 1904 bright blue and 1905 black. An additional plate 2002 was used for the black overprint, surcharge, to block out the old values and print new values in the top and left margins.

Paper : Harrison Phosphorus coated with PVA gum.

Perforation: 14 x 14.25

To make the booklet sheetlets: The left and right margins were retained and the top and bottom margins along with the third row of stamps were discarded which resulted in two booklet panes per sheet.

Separation of a pane to obtain booklet sheetlets



National Flood Disaster Charity Booklet. 4th Issue

RSA Booklet No. 4

SACC 662

Folder

Date of release: 13th April 1988

Value: R2.60 10 stamps - 5 x 2

Printer: Post Office Dept Printers

Size: 125 x 90 mm

Paper 135gm Dukuza gloss

Printing: Lithography - 4 colours - Cyan, Magenta, Yellow and Black.

Style: Open end envelope

Layout: 6 per sheet 2 x 3

Quantity Printed: 24,510

The original pane had 5 x 5 rows of stamps

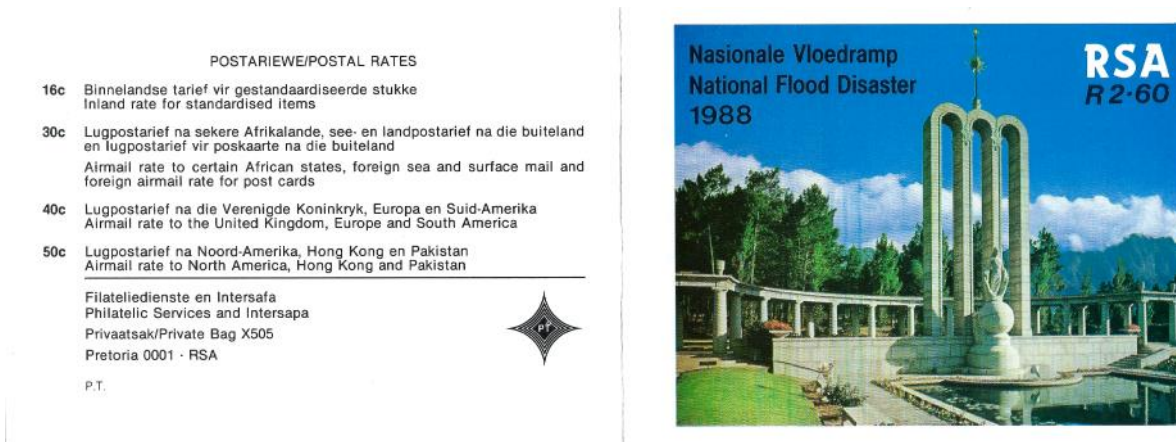
Stamps used from a single pane for the booklets - 4 rows of 5 x 2

Booklet: Stamps attached using left margin

Booklet 'A' - Value indicators 1,30 and 1,04 in left margin. Plate numbers 1889, 2002, 1894, 1904 and in right margin. First stamp overprinted in English.

Booklet 'B' - Value indicators ,52 and ,26 in left margin. Right margin does not have any printing. First stamp overprinted in Afrikaans.

Back and front covers



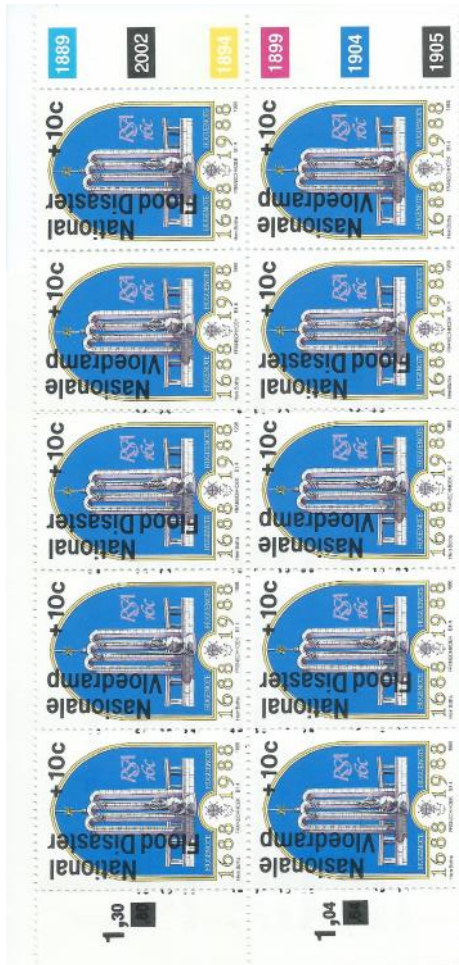
Inside cover with



Booklet 'A'

Booklet 'A'

Booklet 'B'



DIE NASIONALE VLOEDRAMP

Groot dele van Suid-Afrika is van September 1987 tot Maart 1988 herhaaldelik deur verwoestende oorstromings geteister en tot rampgebiede verklaar.

'n Verdere geleentheid tot noodleniging word geskep met die uitgifte van dié Hugenote-seëlreeks met 'n toeslagoordruk van 10c. Elk van die waardesoorte is afwisselend met die woorde **Nasionale Vloedramp** en **National Flood Disaster** oordruk.

Die gedenkkoerf toon 'n lugfoto van 'n oorstroomde plaaswerf in die Oranje-Vrystaat, wat met die vriendelike vergunning van die dagblad **BEELD** gebruik word.



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Acknowledgements: The Stamp Booklets of Republic of South Africa. By - Frank van Rensburg 1997

ZAR and Transvaal date-stamps until Union: a working catalogue.

A plea for help.

Bas Payne (bas.payne@gmail.com)

The discovery of gold on the Rand, in the mid-1880s, led to the explosive growth and development of Johannesburg, which from a small settlement in 1885, became the largest and richest city in the southern hemisphere only ten years later. The postal services of the ZAR also grew explosively – before 1880 there were

<p>Add 4x</p> <p>24 mm DC/ZAR</p> <p>HEIDELBERG / Z.A.R., 5-stars at sides, date as dd mmm yy</p> <p>5 MEI 97 BP - 1 SEP 99 D&vdH, then 16 AUG 00 PC – 21 DEC 00 D&vdH on occupation issues</p> <p>Later altered to Put 6</p> <p>HEIDELBERG wider and Z.A.R. much narrower than in Put 4; no tcl.</p> <p>Outer circle damaged above "DE" from APR 98</p>	
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relatively few post offices and fewer than 200 pre-1880 covers are known to have survived; by 1899 the ZAR had something like 600 post offices and agencies, and Johannesburg was handling tens of millions of letters each year. This growth and wealth ultimately triggered the South African War of 1899-1902, with all its consequences, ending in the British annexation of the Transvaal; much of the postal infrastructure was destroyed and had to be rebuilt.

Despite this historic interest, the postal history and postmarks of the ZAR and Transvaal have received less attention than the Cape, Natal and the Orange Free State. Recently, Alex Visser and I started to address this by embarking on the compilation of a detailed illustrated catalogue of the postal date-stamps of the ZAR and Transvaal between 1863 (the date of the earliest known date-stamp) and Union in 1910, which is an important starting point for the documentation and better understanding of the area's postal history.

Six parts have already been published in *The Transvaal Philatelist* in the past three years, covering A - Jeppestown, and are freely available on the website of the South African Philatelic Federation (<https://stampssa.africa/resources/>); the next part is in press. A typical entry is shown here (see Fig. 1); it gives a brief description, earliest and latest recorded dates, and other information when available, usually with two or three life-size images.

Figure 1

We are very aware that this is a work in progress - we are grateful to the fellow collectors who are kindly contributing images and information; but we are very aware that there is a lot more information out there, and plan to produce and publish updates in due course.

As just one example of the value of putting the available information together, new light is being cast on the "triple-circle" date-stamps which were introduced between 1902 and 1909 at a number of offices in Transvaal and continued in use until as late as the 1970's at one office. Two of them (BRAKPAN – see fig2, and BRUGSPRUIT) have "T" in the lower part of the outer circle, which has led to the suggestion that they were telegraphic date-stamps; others have "R.O" in the lower part of the outer circle, indicating that they were used at railway offices. We now have records of triple-circle date-stamps from more than 30 offices (see examples of three of these in figure 3). More than half of these had no telegraphic facilities during the period the date-stamps were issued; two-thirds were nowhere near railways. Clearly while some of these date-stamps were issued for and used at railway offices, and the "T" on others may have some telegraphic implication, there is no simple single-function explanation for this group of date-stamps. One possible explanation could be that they were engraved by the same engraver – the style of the lettering is similar and unlike many other Transvaal date-stamps; but as yet we know too little about the procurement and production of these date-stamps to know whether this is a credible explanation.

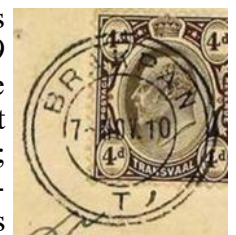


Figure 2

The purpose of this note is to ask fellow collectors who have ZAR and Transvaal date-stamps, on stamps or on covers, to send us scans of what they have to add to the information that is available. We're not just asking for images of unknown date-stamps; as we are interested in



Figure 3

date-ranges and in usage, almost any stamp or cover may provide important information as long as the office and date can be identified. Scans should, if possible, be 300 dpi or 400 dpi; and should be sent to bas.payne@gmail.com; any help will of course be suitably acknowledged.

Editor's note: A range of other postmarks Bas sent me showing office and date are shown as Figure 4. These are the sort of examples which Bas would like to receive scans of from others. However, his request is not limited to these examples though; any postmark from the ZAR and Transvaal that shows the office and date.

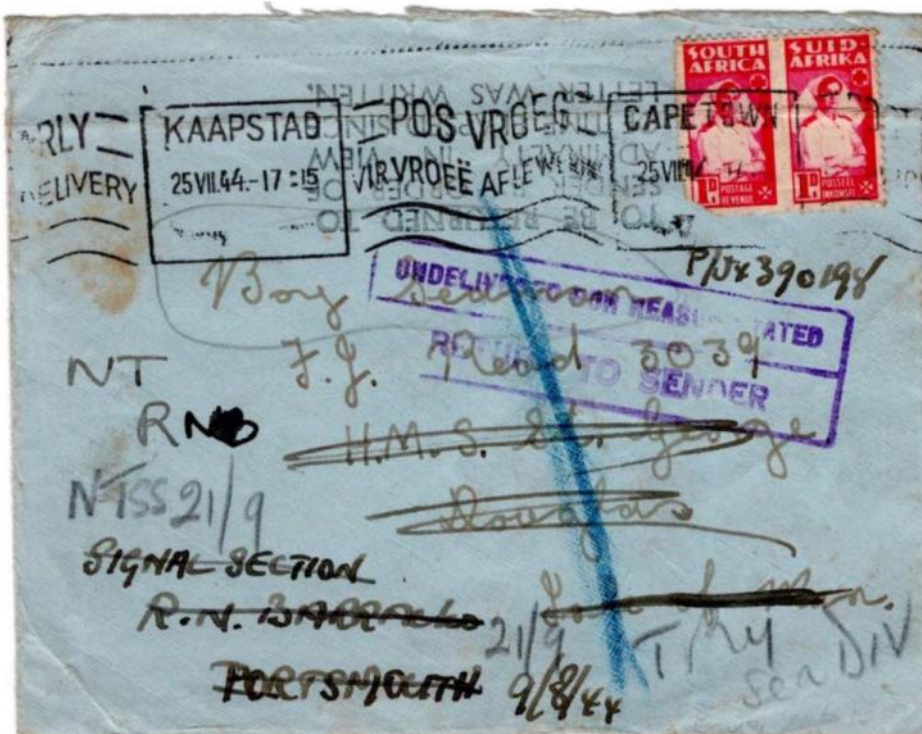


Figure 4

A QUERY Nicholas Arrow

I recently acquired, as part of a collection, a simple cover shown below. At first glance it seems to be fairly typical of wartime covers, having been redirected and finally noted as being undelivered. Posted in Cape Town on the 25th July 1944, it was obviously redirected, ultimately being returned to the sender – there is a partial backstamp (the flap is missing) of Cape Town of a date in May 1945. However, it does raise a few unusual and interesting points.

For a start, the cover, which is addressed to “Boy Seaman/F J Read/HMS St George/Douglas/Isle of Man” is clearly franked 2d. The normal rate for surface mail from South Africa to England was 3d and yet no Postage Due was claimed and the letter is NOT marked “On Active Service” (which would for surface mail normally be free) although the address of “HMS St George” might be a bit of a hint that the recipient was on Active Service – at least sort



of. He was clearly posted, at least temporarily, at HMS St George¹. Query no 1 therefore is whether the 2d was allowed as a kind of concessionary rate, or perhaps through a misunderstanding of the postal Regulations, both by the sender and the South African Postal Office, or possibly by a reluctance to charge PD on a letter from home to a trainee to become a member of the Services.

Query no 2 is more intriguing. It is very difficult to see on the scan of the cover shown above, but just to the left of the stamps is a cachet (upside down!) which is extremely difficult to read. However, the wording of the cachet is “To be returned to /sender by order of / Admiralty in view / of time elapsed since / letter was written”. It would seem that the letter was forwarded on to the RN Barracks in Portsmouth and possibly the squiggle just below the stamp was the recipient’s Naval Number, but no further attempts were made to forward on the letter. Any ideas at all? One would sincerely hope that the addressee had not been killed or perhaps his first posting of Active Service duty.

¹ HMS St George was a training facility of the Royal Navy, located in Douglas, Isle of Man, the Navy's only Continuous Service Training Establishment. Cadets were billeted at HMS St George (formerly Cunningham's Holiday Camp which had been requisitioned for the War) and training was carried out at Ballakermeen High School.

Union Cinderella - Part 5

Lyn & Rob Lester

We continue our series of articles featuring Union Cinderella with a further five labels which depict quite different and diverse events as well as industries from South Africa.

1928 Natal Province Olympic Games Association Appeal Fund

A red label printed on white gummed paper measuring 42mm by 23mm rouletted with at least one side imperforate suggesting a booklet format. The central image shows a parade of athletes within a stadium. To one side of the label is an image of a Springbok head and to the other side a value tablet showing 1d. Above the images are the words 'Natal Prov Olympic Games Asscn' and at the base, 'Appeal Fund'.



In 1928 the Olympic Games were held in Amsterdam in the Netherlands. The games started on 28 July and finished on 12 August. The South African team consisted of 18 men and 6 women. They participated in 25 events in 7 different sports. These were athletics, boxing, cycling, rowing, sailing, swimming and wrestling. South Africa won a gold and two bronze medals. The gold medal was won in the 110 hurdles on 1 August. The two bronze medals were in the ladies 4 x 100m freestyle swimming relay on 9 August and the other in the men's bantamweight boxing on 11 August.

Sidney James Montford Atkinson, known as Sid, was the gold medal winner and he lived all his life in Durban, Natal. Harry Isaacs won the bronze medal for boxing and lived in Johannesburg. The 4 x freestyle swim-



ming bronze medal ladies were Mary Esther Bedford from Durban, Rhoda Lillian Rennie, from Benoni (but lived in Johannesburg), Kathleen Russell, who was only 15 years old in 1928 and lived in Durban, but later moved to Johannesburg, and Frederika Jacobs van der Goes from Pretoria.

We have only seen two used labels and both have the same date stamp of 3 April 1928 from Durban at 6 pm. We have not seen this label used on cover.

1941 South Africa Sugar a Key Industry

Two similar labels, one printed in English and the other printed in Afrikaans, measuring 51mm by 32 mm with the same image, printed se-tenant in yellow, red, green and black on white gummed paper. The image shows a sugar cane mill in the centre of the label with growing sugar cane to the left and bags of processed sugar to the right. To the top of the English label are the words, 'South African Sugar' with 'A Key Industry' to the base. The Afrikaans label reads, 'Suid Afrikaanse Suiker' and 'N Grondnywerheid'. In the white margin of the label at the base are the printer's initials, 'W. B & D'



The labels are fixed to the rear of a censor cover from Durban to St Gallen in Switzerland. The cover is date stamped 'Durban 92 28 IV. 41 17.30'. This is the earliest use of this label we have seen on cover.

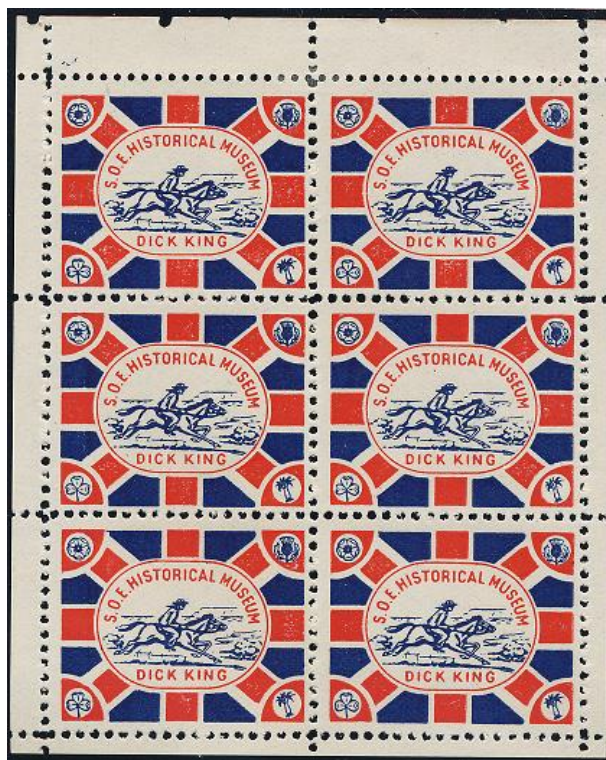
The first sugar cane in South Africa was planted by Edmund Morewood on the North coast of Natal in 1848. In 1887 there were more than 74 mills along the coast of Natal crushing between 1 and 2 tons of cane a day. In 1939 annual sugar production had reached 475,000 tons a year with 23 factories and mills in operation using 145,000 hectares of land to grow sugar cane.

1942 Dick King Centenary Label

On the night of 25 May 1842, Dick King, a young Englishman, hunter and wagon driver undertook the longest endurance horse ride in South African history – 600 miles in 10 days. The journey from Durban, Natal to Grahamstown in the Cape Province was required to summon additional English forces to help with a besieged Captain Smith and a small contingent of men held up in the Durban fort and about to be overrun by the Boers. Through Dick King's efforts the garrison at Durban was saved and the Government awarded him £15.00 for his remarkable achievement.

King was accompanied by his native servant Hdongeni KaXoki, aged 16, for 200 miles of the journey, but for the last 400 miles and 7 days he travelled alone. His horse 'Somerset' stood 15 hands high and was trained in a military school, originally being owned by a retired English Officer. A statue of Dick King riding Somerset stands in the centre of Durban (see overleaf).

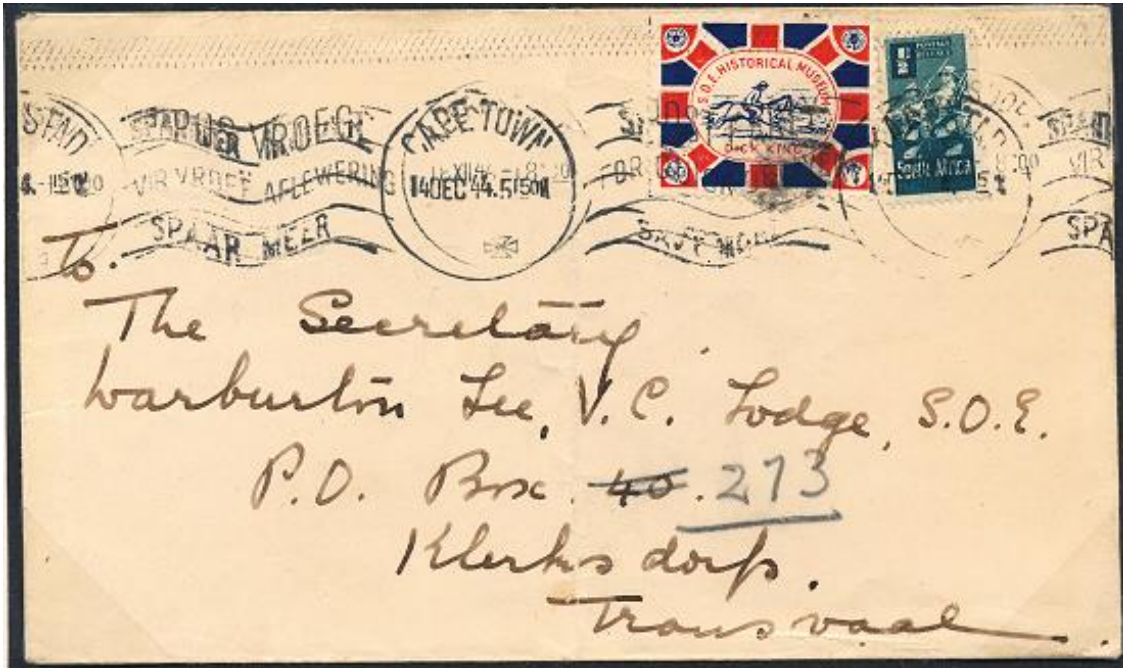
To celebrate the centenary of this epic horse ride a special label was issued in 1942 (see overleaf). The red and dark blue labels were printed on white gummed paper in small sheets containing 6 labels with selvedge all round (see over). They measure 31mm by 26mm and are perforated 14. The label contains an image of Dick King riding Somerset, within a representation of the Union flag and the words 'S. O. E. Historical Museum' above the image and 'Dick King' beneath. 'S.O.E.' are the initials for 'Special Operations Executive' an undercover wartime agency set up by Winston Churchill during World War II. An image of a rose, thistle, shamrock and leek, representing England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales appear on the four corners of the label.



On the facing page is a cover addressed 'To, The Secretary, Warburton Lee, V. C. Lodge, S.O.E., P. O. Box 40, (later changed to 273) Klerksdorp, Transvaal, with ½ d bantam war stamp and Dick King label tied with Cape Town bi-lingual postal slogan 'Post Early for Quick Delivery' 14 DEC 44 5.15PM' and Klerksdorp bi-lingual postal slogan 'Spend Less Save More' 18 XII 44 - 18.00'.

This was the earliest tied label we had seen until very recently when we acquired a cover addressed to Cleveland, Transvaal, which is illustrated on the facing page, and has a Johannesburg bi-lingual postal slogan date stamp 'Post Early for Quick Delivery Johannesburg E 20 VIII 39 - 8 : 00'

As it appears this label is genuinely tied by the post mark, it demonstrates that the label was in use in 1939 at least 3 years before the Dick King centenary in 1942. Maybe other members have copies of this label tied on cover before 1942 and can offer an explanation as to the date of issue of the label. This recent discovery brings into question whether the label was actually issued to celebrate the centenary of Dick King. Any thoughts from readers would be really appreciated. Maybe the label relates to the opening of the S.O. E. Historical Museum although the S.O.E. was only formed in 1940 by Winston Churchill.



1946 Dunlop 1896 to 1946, 50 Years in South Africa

Red, orange and black label printed on white gummed paper with the word ‘Dunlop’ in large capital letters across the top with two circular coin type images under. One is dated 1896 with an image of an ox-waggon and the other dated 1946 with the image of a motor car. At the base of the label is a ribbon motif with the words ‘50 Years in South Africa.’ The label has two sides rouletted and two sides imperforate suggesting a booklet format and measures 36mm by 35mm.

Shown overleaf is a commercial advertising cover from S. Cohen Ltd, of Windhoek to Bloemfontein with a 2d South West Africa stamp and label tied with a machine cancel, ‘Windhoek 21 XIII 46 12:30’ Earliest date label seen by us used is 21 December 1946.

1951 25th Anniversary of General Motors in South Africa

A silver (appears light blue), dark blue and red label printed on white gummed paper showing an image of a springbok leaping over the red and white ‘General Motors’ logo used from 1938 to 1964. The image is contained within a blue circle with the dates 1926 and 1951 to either side of the logo in a silver band. The rouletted label was released in 1951 to celebrate 25 years of General Motors manufacture in South Africa and measures 25mm by 32mm.

General Motors South Africa, GMSA, a wholly owned subsidiary of the internationally based global car maker General Motors Company, was established in 1913 in South Africa and began assembly operations in Port

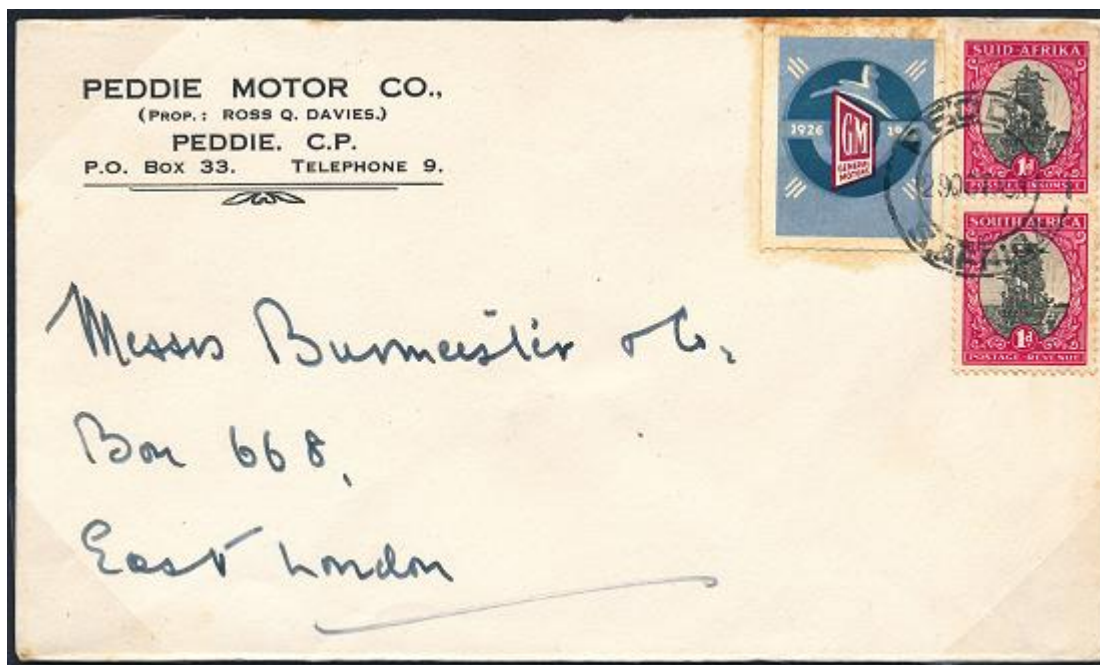


Elizabeth in March 1926. In April 1926 the first South African General Motors made car was produced and in July the first Chevrolet came off the production line and was sold to the South African public. General Jan Smuts, however, used imported Cadillacs as ministerial cars from 1919.



The advertising cover shown on the facing page, from the 'Peddie Motor Co,' Peddie, Cape Province, addressed to Burmeister in East London, has a vertical pair of 1d Van Riebeeck ship stamps and a G M label all tied with a date stamp, 'Peddie S. Africa 29 OCT 51', the earliest date we have seen the label used on cover.

Finally a note of thanks to those members who have e mailed us with comments about the labels we have featured to date and especially to those who have sent through images of labels we do not have. Whilst not for the purist, we are pleased at the interest these articles are generating. We hope, with due acknowledgement, to include some of these labels in future articles. As usual if you have anything that you think may be of interest please send a scan to Lyn28lester@hotmail.co.uk.



Our Grateful Thanks.

Our thanks to those who responded to the query we raised about the Perfin 'S.S.U' or 'U.S.S.' featured on page 40 in Springbok 358.



For those purists, however, who think that stamps with holes in them are defaced and should be consigned to the waste bin along with tea bags, we can understand their point. For Perfin collectors we may actually have an answer. In this respect particular thanks must go to Dr Chris Board who e- mailed us with the suggestion that 'S.S.U' or 'U.S.S' stood for 'Union Steam Ship' Company which ultimately grew into the Union Line. Chris advises it was registered as a company in 1857 according to the company history Union Castle Chronicle and that the Union Steam Ship company was recorded in the Eastern Province Commercial directory for 1884 merging with the Castle line in 1900. Looking more closely to the location of the full stops suggests that 'S.S.U' is the correct way of reading the initials.



It also ties up with a label we have on a cover dated 9 October 1899 from the Union Steam Ship Company. For now we are satisfied that we have an answer and thanks again to all who responded. Of course if you have a better suggestion please advise us by e-mail, Lyn28lester@hotmail.co.uk.

Rob & Lyn Lester

POSTCARDS AND POSTMARKS OF TOWNS & VILLAGES IN THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE DURING THE PERIOD 1880-1915. Part 5

Bob Hill

KOWIE WEST(1853-Current)

Circular CGH date stamp of 1891. 25mm circle with CGH at base. Two dots above with month before day. No time code letter and **not listed in Putzel**.

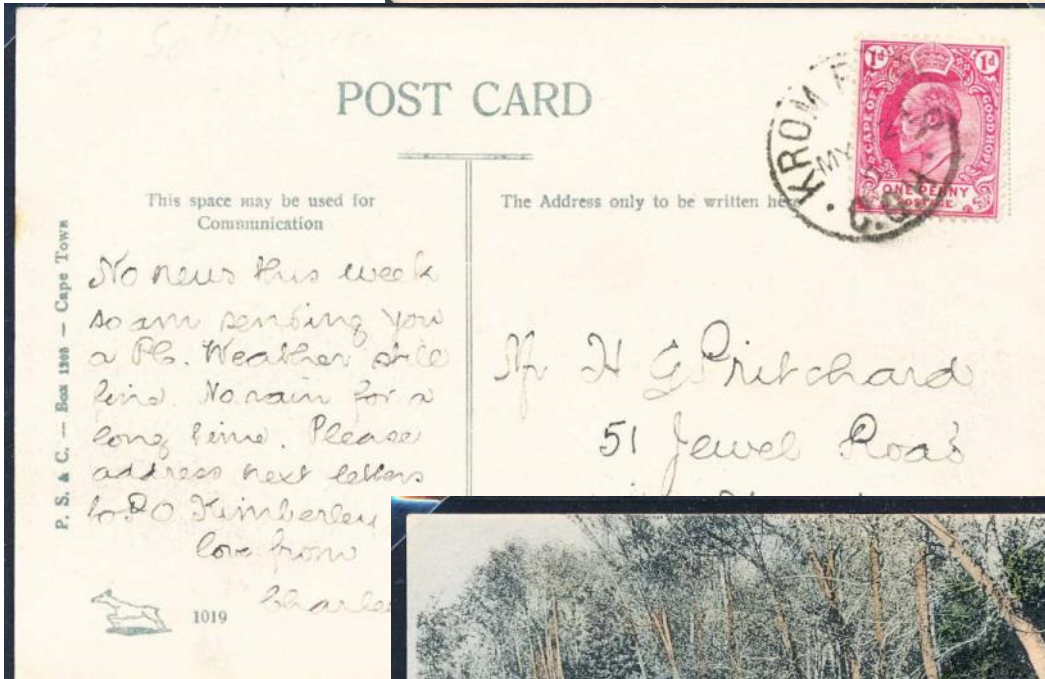
Type: 1. Putzel: 16



Postcard circa 1908 showing "Kowie West"



Kowie West, and Lagoon.

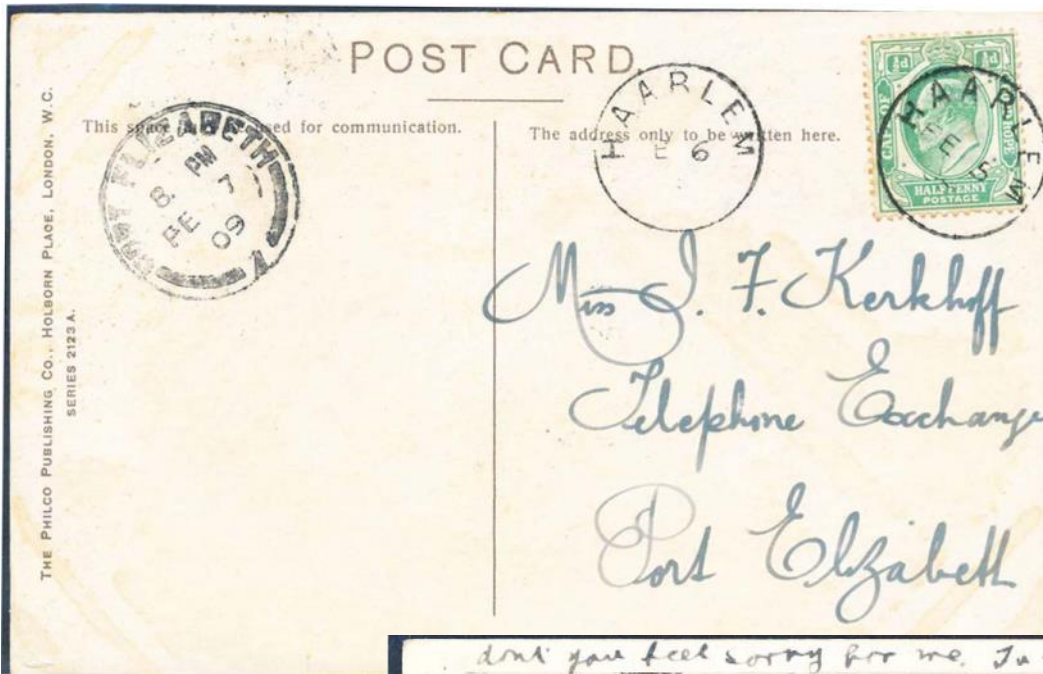


KROM RIVER (1880-1903)

Postcard from Krom River franked by the 25mm single circle "CGH" datestamp of 1891 which has "C.G.H." at the base, has month before day but no timecode letter. Putzel type 1.



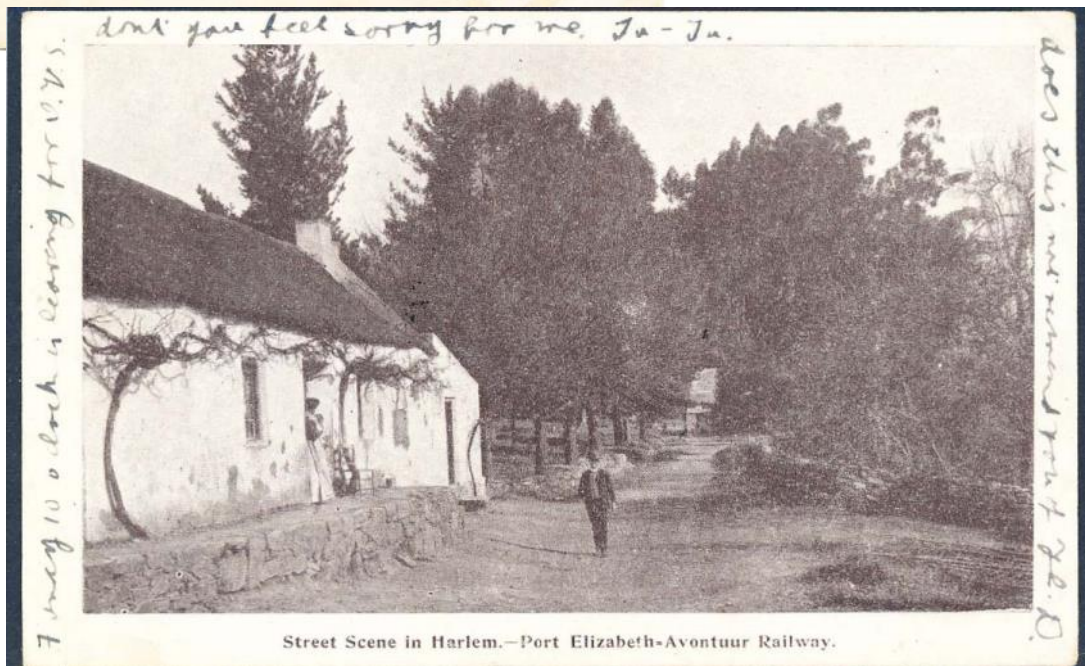
View of the Krom River at Wellington.



**HAARLEM (1875-6)
(1885-Current)**

Two 22mm single circle date stamps of 1869-82 with month before day and no time code. Putzel type 2. Note that both cancels have no year slugs and one shows "Feb 5th" the other "Feb 6th". The arrival date stamp is a Port Elizabeth double circle date stamp of 1900-02. Putzel type 22.

Postcard circa 1912 showing "Street Scene in Haarlem - Port Elizabeth - Avontuur Railway. Note Harlem is spelt with only one "A" not two as on the date stamps.



Street Scene in Harlem.—Port Elizabeth-Avontuur Railway.



**MIDDLEBURG (1853
–Current)** A post office was opened in 1853 and is still in use today. The town was called Middleburg because it lies in the centre of a circle formed by the towns of Graff-Reinet, Cradock Steynsburg, Colesburg and Richmond.

Single circle date stamp of 1864. 23mm circle. Cape Colony at base, time code letter and month before day. Type:- 4A Putzel:-20



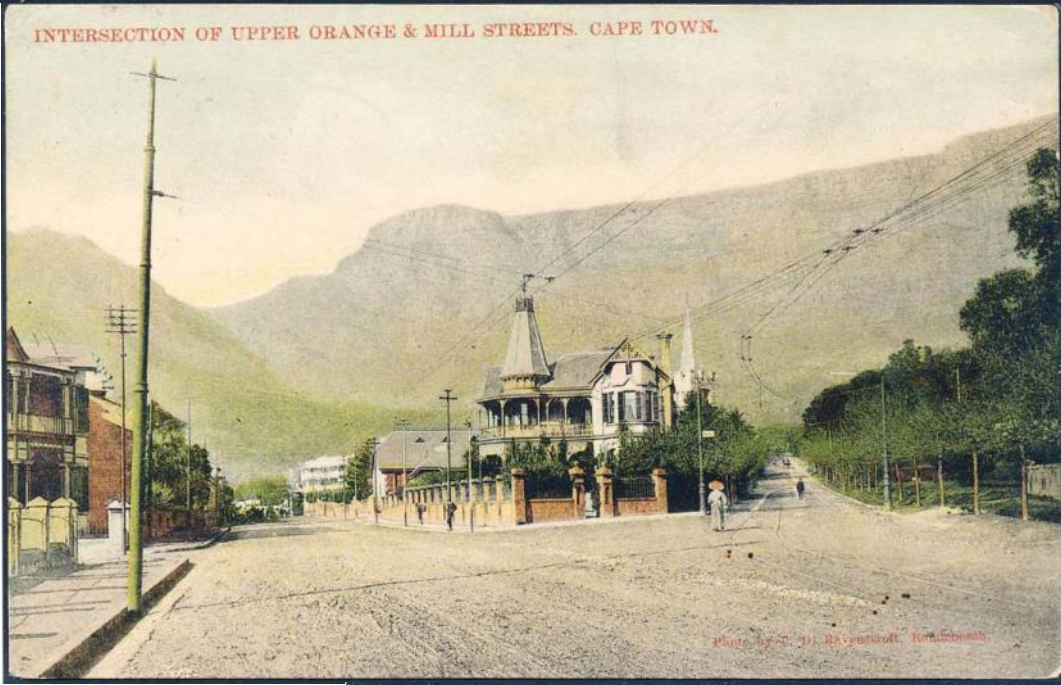
Postcard showing "Market Square - Middleburgh C.C."



**MILL STREET
(DATES UN-
CERTAIN)**

Cover franked by two 25mm single circle date stamps of 1869-82 with "Mill Street" at top and "Cape Town" at bottom. Has time code letter and month before day. Putzel type 2. Note the office was originally called "Gardens. 7.0." and later "Mill Street Gardens". The date the offices merged into "Mill Street" are not certain

*Jan Luffwinder P. H. Verbeek
Herrnhut.
Sachsen.
Germany.*



Postcard circa 1900 showing "Intersection of Upper Orange & Mill Streets. Cape Town"

**MOLTENO (1880-
Current)**

Single circle date stamp of 1869-82, 22mm single circle with month before day and time code letter.
Type: 3a Putzel:20



Postcard circa 1900 showing "Smith Street, Molteno".

Published by Hallis & Co, Port-Elizabeth, Photo by A. Lomax.



MOSEL BAY (1853-Current)

Single circle date stamp of 1869, 22mm circle. Time code as time of day, month before day. Type:-10 Putzel: 20



Postcard circa 1905 showing "Mossel Bay".

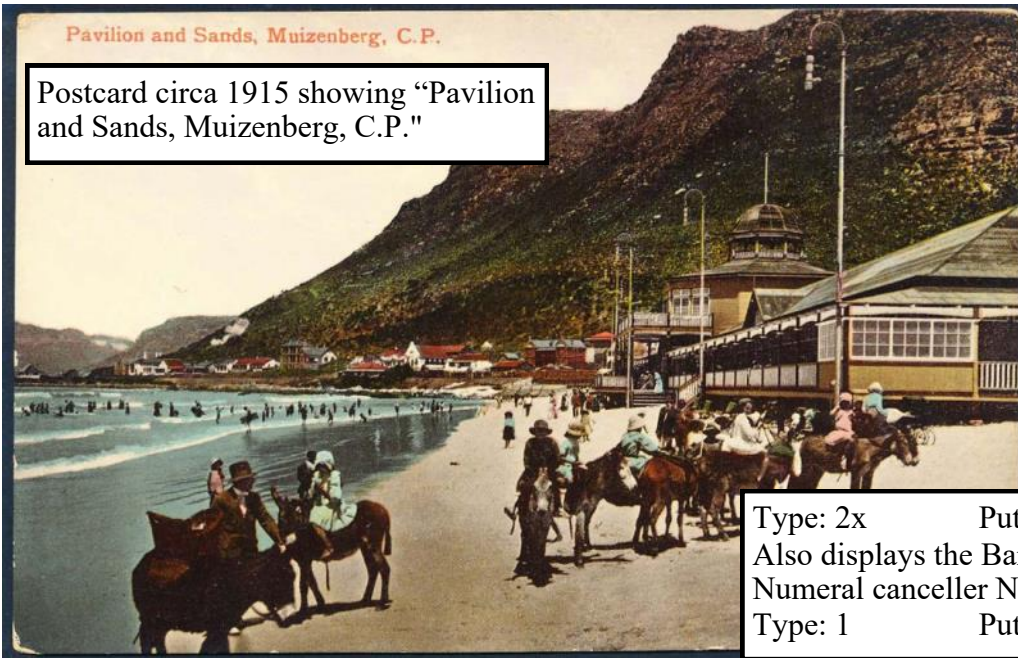
MOWBRAY (1853-Current)

Single circle date stamp of 1869, 24mm circle, time code letter, month before day.

Type:- 5 Putzel:-20



Postcard circa 1905 showing "Slasbeck River Bridge, Mowbray". The sender comments that this is a small town on the way to Cape Town.



MUIZENBERG (1877-Current)

Circular CGH date stamp of 1891, 22mm circle with CGH at base. Time code letter and month before day.



Type: 2x Putzel: 20
Also displays the Barred Oval Numeral canceller No 396.
Type: 1 Putzel: 60



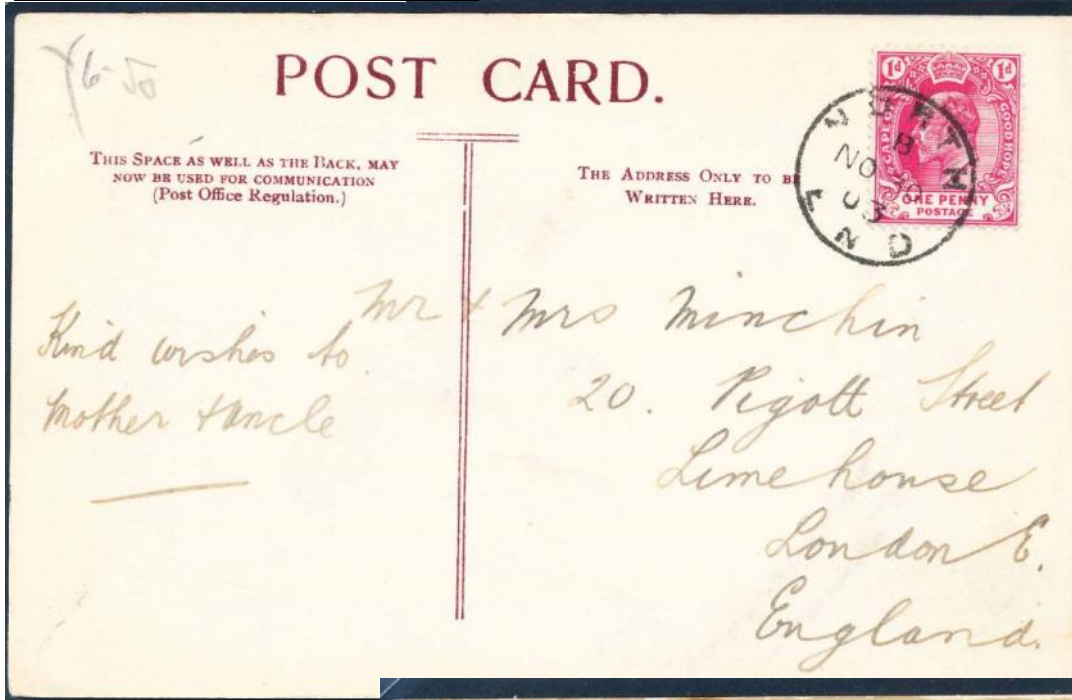
**NEWLANDS (1820-77)
(1892-1952)**

Single circle date stamp of 1869, time code letter and month before day. This example with time code letter is not listed in Putzel.

Type:- 5 Putzel:- 16

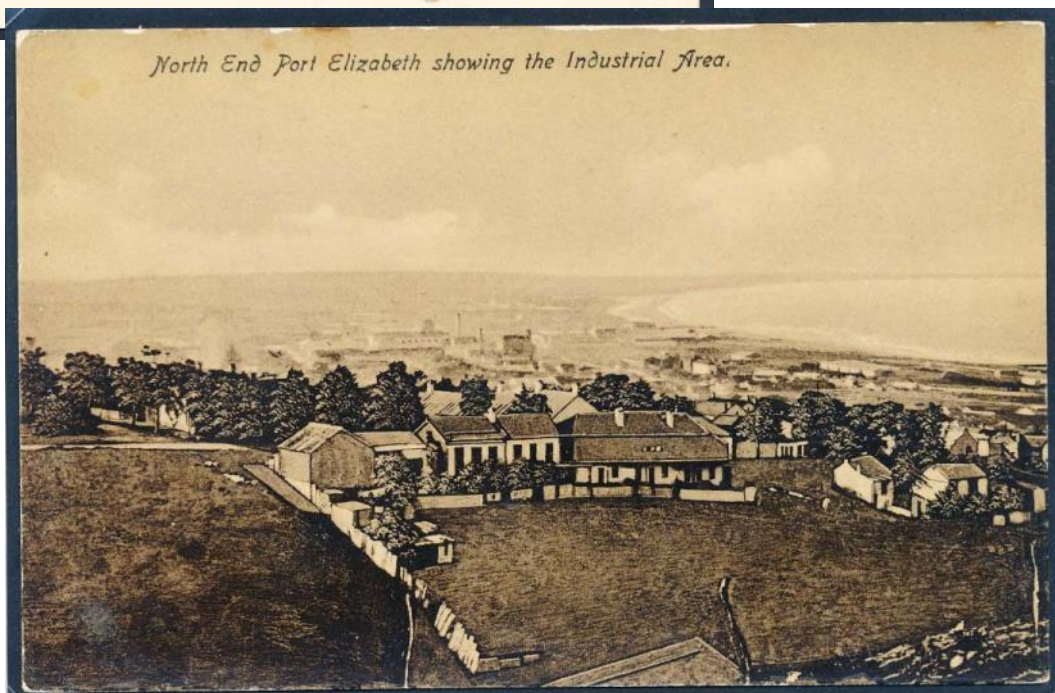


Postcard circa 1905 showing "A view of Newlands Avenue, Newlands C.C. and a Bit on The Liesbeek. Mowbray. C.C.".



NORTH END (1880-85)(1894-Current)

24mm single circle date stamp of 1869-82 with the name top and bottom. Has time code letter and month before day. Putzel type 2.

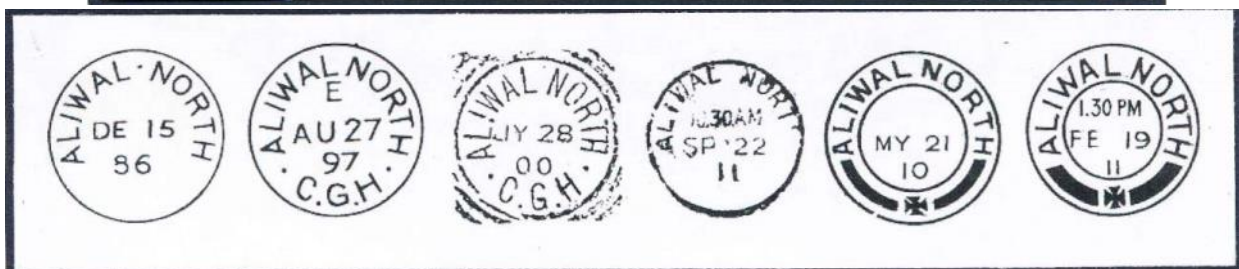
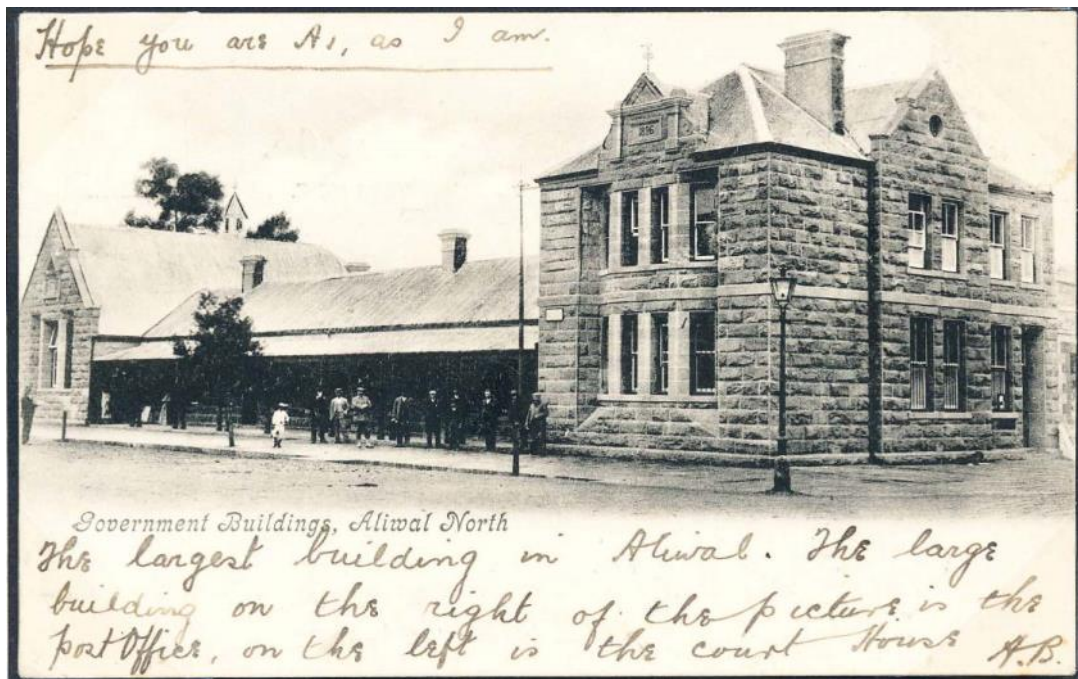


Postcard circa 1905 showing "North End Port Elizabeth showing the Industrial Area".

SOUTH AFRICAN POST OFFICES - Part 3

Lyn & Rob Lester

Aliwal North, Cape Colony. Picture of the Government Buildings in Aliwal North, Cape Colony. The image dates from around 1900 and the post card is unused but addressed Coleraine, Ireland. Message written on the front of the card reads "The largest building in Aliwal. The large building on the right of the picture is the Post Office, on the left of the Court House." The old post office building was constructed from local sandstone and has a distinctive red tiled roof covering.



Aliwal North is a town in the Eastern Cape, named 'Aliwal' in 1850 in tribute to Sir Harry Smith, Governor and High Commissioner of the Cape Colony from 1847 to 1852. He named the settlement in memory of his victory over the Sikhs at the battle of Aliwal during the first Sikh War in India in 1846. It is located at an historic fording place across the Orange River just below its confluence with the Kraai River. The town includes two hot thermal springs with high concentrations of minerals and gases which are a tourist attraction. The first Post Office opened in Aliwal North in 1850 and has remained in operation since that date, although it was closed between 1899 and 1900 due to the Boer War. Aliwal North has been recently renamed and is now known as Maletswai.

Barberton, Transvaal. Barberton, is a town in the Mpumalanga province of South Africa and is situated in the De Kaap Valley being fringed by the Makhonjwa Mountains. It lies about 220 miles east of Johannesburg. The town was named after Graham Hoare Barber (1835 - 1888) who discovered a rich gold-bearing reef in the area in 1884. Large amounts of money flowed into Barberton and the first stock exchange in the Transvaal was established in 1885 along with the start of the Sheba Reef Gold Mining Company. In 1896 Barberton was connected by railway via the Pretoria to Lourenco Marques line, but flourished only for a short period as miners moved away to newly discovered gold fields. Barberton became a municipality in 1904. Initially a postal agency opened on 23 September 1885 and the first Post Office opened on 1 October 1886. It has remained in operation since that date.

'Real Photograph' picture (overleaf) of the Post Office in Barberton, Transvaal published by 'SAPSCO', Real Photo. Box 5792 Johannesburg. The image dates from around 1900 and the post card is unused.



Benoni, Transvaal 'Real Photo' picture of the Post Office & Standard Bank in Benoni, Transvaal published by J. W. Aitchinson, Benoni News Agency but printed in England. The image, of Taylor Street, dates from around 1912 and the post card is unused.



Benoni, is located on the East Rand about 25 miles due east of Johannesburg, and is now part of the industrial complex of Witwatersrand noted for iron, steel and brass. Originally an isolated farm, the area was named by

the surveyor-general Johan Rissik in 1881 'Farm Benoni', after the Hebrew name meaning "son of my sorrows" given by Rachel to her son in the book of Genesis. In September 1887 gold was discovered and the Chimes Mines were established by Cornishmen. The village became known as 'Little Cornwall' for a time. In 1904 the name Benoni was decided upon for the township. On 1 October 1907 due to rapid growth Benoni became a municipality. The first Postal Agency opened on 12 May 1891, closing for a time in 1901 due to the Boer War. It opened as a Post Office on 1 February 1902 and has remained in operation since that date.

Bethal, Transvaal. 'Real Photograph' picture of the Post Office Bethal, Transvaal. No publisher's details printed on rear of post card. The image dates from around 1905. Used Post Card, addressed locally to Pretoria, with a double circle date stamp; 'BETHAL 23. JAN. 08'.



Bethal, is a farming town about 100 miles east of Johannesburg, producing maize, sunflower seeds, sorghum, rye, oats, barley and potatoes as their main crops. The town originated after a few inhabitants of nearby Standerton, 40 miles to the south of Bethal, bought and moved into an old farm called Blesbokspuit. The town was established on 12 October 1880 and was named after the combined Christian names of the wives of the owners of the farm, Elizabeth du Plooy and Alida Naude making 'Beth + Al'. The town became a municipality in 1921. The first Post Office opened on 1 February 1886, but was closed during the Boer War in late 1900. Records show it was open again on 15 September 1902 and it has been in continuous use since then.

Bloemfontein, Orange River Colony. Picture (overleaf) of the Post Office in Bloemfontein, Orange River Colony. The image dates from around 1895. Used Post Card, addressed to London, England with a double circle date stamp, 'BLOEMFONTEIN O. R. C. - 2 - 28 SEP 03'.

Bloemfontein, is the judicial capital of South Africa. The origin of the name is disputed. Many believe it is derived from the Dutch, 'Bloem' for flower and 'Fontein' for fountain, which when combined means 'fountain of flowers.' A colonial legend however, cites an ox called 'Bloem' which was taken by a lion near a fountain on the property of Rudolphus Martinus Brits, a pioneer farmer and early settler, hence 'Bloemfontain.' A further suggestion is that the place was named after Jan Bloem II (1775 - 1858) a native leader who settled and farmed in the area. Bloemfontein was officially founded, however, on 26 March 1846 as a fort by the British Army, under the command of Major Henry Douglas Warden. As the capital of Orange River Colony it became

a municipality in 1880. The first Post Office opened in 1875 using part of the old Parliament building. A new Post Office opened on 22 June 1893, and although closed 1899 to 1900 has remained in operation since that date.



Picture of the General Post Office, Bloemfontein, Orange River Colony. The image dates from around 1900. Used Post Card addressed to Coleraine, Ireland, with a double circle date stamp 'ALI WAL NORTH 4. PM MY 25 5'



Picture of General Post Office, Hotel Imperial, Bloemfontein, Orange River Colony, published and copyright by G. R. & Co, P. O. Box 1018, Cape Town. No. 674. The image dates from around 1905 and the Post Card is unused.



A forgery?

Editor's note: I received the scan below, with an inverted SWA on the bottom left stamp, from a non-member (Abed Najjar) with the query: "I cannot find any record of this error and wonder if you or any of your colleagues or Society members have come across such an error. My guess is that it was spotted early and corrected but I would very much appreciate your input. "

I sent it to Tony Howgrave-Graham and Simon Peetoom who I thought the most likely people I knew to have seen this error before but neither have. Tony was adamant it is probably a forgery

But maybe one of our members knows differently or can add more?



Auction at Meriden

Simon has agreed to organise the usual auction at Southern African Philatelic conference on 5th and 6th November at the Strawberry Bank Hotel, Meriden. The list of items on offer will be found with this issue of the Springbok.

However, to maintain the usual standard in future auctions Simon will need more items to offer. So, if you have any suitable material please let Simon know and he will tell you where to send it. When you contact Simon please briefly tell him what you are offering .

SOUTH WEST CORNER

Tony Howgrave-Graham

INSTRUCTIONAL MARKINGS IN THE OCCUPATION PERIOD

Instructional markings during the occupation period (1915-22) seem quite difficult to find. The only ones I'm aware of are at Windhoek and Luderitzbucht, apart from a straight line "UNKNOWN" used at Okahandja in 1918.

Figure 1 shows the triple boxed "NON RÉCLAMÉ / UNCLAIMED / ONAFGEHAALD" of Windhoek which always seems to be in black and used here in March 1916. It was still in use in 1922.



Figure 1

The post office weren't very kind as Rudolf Otto is listed as a farmer in Kuibis and the office there would very likely have known him. The 3-bar address obliterator is in purple. This also appears in black and occasionally used more horizontally as was, probably, its original intention. Figure 2 is a 1918 unfranked letter from France. It's not clear why it travelled so far for nothing but as well as the box above it has the triple boxed "INCONNU / NOT UNKNOWN / ONBEKEND". This is also always in black and I also have it used in 1916. The boxed "RETOUR / À L'ENVOYEUR" I think was applied at the RLO in Cape Town.



Figure 2

Moving on to Luderitzbucht I've added Fig.3 (on the facing page) because it's a real curio. The sender is the same as the previous item but to a different addressee and it was sent a month earlier. The address is "A. S _ O _ All" "Occupation Anglais". I've never seen this before and it presumably represents "Afrique Sud-Occidentale Allemagne". It was censored at Cape Town with a "19/99" ring and appears to have been opened there and resealed using the bottom margin of a plate 4 1d. I suspect a new one for collectors of censor seals! It has "advertised / unclaimed" in red manuscript and eventually got back to Paris 5 months later. Figure 4 (on the facing page) is also interesting. Sent in February 1916 it is cancelled by a fair strike of the scarce Kub "Postagentur" cachet with a 17 February Gibeon (Head Office) cds. It shows the two main instructional marks for Luderitzbucht, a 4-line "UNDELIVERED FOR / STATED REASON / RETURN TO ADDRESS / SHEWN ON COVER" and the 2-line "UNKNOWN / UNCLAIMED", both in blue. I

also have both in black on a 1917 cover. The letter is to Alfons Ohnewald (a "shlosser" at Luderitzbucht) and from Hubertus Mehnert of farm Nababis, post Kub. Both are listed in the 1915/16 Addressbuch so neither post office seems to have tried too hard because there's also a manuscript "unknown at Kub" on the left of the cover. Figure 5 (on the facing page) shows another envelope where one can understand why it wasn't delivered despite it being local! It has a straight line "ADVERTISED" which I haven't seen again.

These markings may be a bit "back of album" but they're scarce and often interesting and I would be interested to know if members can come up with any not mentioned here.



Figure 3



Figure 4

Figure 5

Membership Renewal

It is that time of year again. Membership renewal subscriptions are due by the end of the year to continue your membership into 2023. A renewal form is accompanying this issue of Springbok.

I suggest you do it as soon as you read this so it doesn't get forgotten as normal life intrudes!

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. However, I have not seen a new issue since the last Springbok.

We have not had a new issue of the **RSA Study Group Newsletter** since the last Springbok. However I received an email from the editor telling me that there has been no new issue since Covid-19 because there have been no new stamp issues!

I don't have permission to forward either of these newsletters to members but if anyone is interested in either I am happy to put them in touch with the respective Editors. 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. The latest issue came recently and has a number of articles that I am sure are interesting, judging by the images!

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