
THE SPRINGBOK



Volume 2, No. 4.

July/August, 1954

" THE SPRINGBOK "

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Editor:

C. E. Sherwood, 105 Marford Crescent, Sale, Manchester, U.K.

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All communications to be addressed to the Editor, who invites correspondence for publication, but does not accept responsibility for views published.

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Closing Date for publication Volume 2, No.5 will be August 30th.

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The Magazine is available by subscription to the Society, only 10/- per annum.

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The Editor's Chair

As we sit typing these Notes, with one eye on the weather and the other on the date of our holidays, August 7th to 21st, we wonder if we shall be the lucky ones to have this year's summer!

With the various adjustments to membership as shown on the last page, we stand now at the figure of 214. However, the more members we can enrol, the more knowledge we should bring to ourselves so please keep looking for that new member.

As is reported on another page, we were fortunate enough to be able to attend a meeting of the London Group Committee and congratulate them on the excellent room for meetings made available by their worthy Chairman, Mr F. C. Abell. We have no hesitation in stating that members who could, but do not attend the Group meetings, are missing an excellent opportunity. Keep a look out for the dates of meetings and decide forthwith to go along. We know if you go once, you will go again, and again.

At the Committee meeting we were pleased to be able to discuss various aspects and to have the views of the members present. When this magazine was launched, we set ourselves certain standards which were to be maintained and one was that there should be no advertising matter, but every page devoted to information, articles, news, etc. As many readers will know, most magazines, papers, journals and the like rely on their advertising income to carry the burden of the expenses. As we have not any advertising, all the expenses have to be met otherwise, and it is with the greatest reluctance we have to increase the subscription to 15/- per annum, commencing with the next issue. We are loath to make this increase, but feel members would rather we did so, than reduce the quality of the magazine. Are we right?

The Annual Meeting of the Society will take place in London, and as will be noted, the London Group are anticipating providing a display whilst the proceedings will probably terminate with an auction. Full details will be announced in the September "Union Notes on South Africa", but meanwhile we hope members will reserve that date in their diary, so that we may have the pleasure of meeting many new members, together with those we are coming to know so well by their regular attendance.

From time to time no doubt, overseas members of the Society may be visiting this country and we feel that some members in this country would like to offer them hospitality. If this be so, would said members advise us accordingly so that we know with whom to put in touch our overseas friends.

The C.F.S. and Basutoland Philatelic Society's News Letter No.14, dated June 1954 reports that the Durban Congress has decided to recognise the "Darmstadt Trials" as proper official trial printings, on account of certain information received from the Postmaster-General recently. They will therefore be listed in the forthcoming supplement of the Handbook. The Handbook-Committee has also stated that, in reversion of their former opinion, the so-called "Official" (Booyen's) Essay (Handbook p.79) has no official status. The same circular reports that the Supplement to the Handbook will in all probability not appear until next year.

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THE L.A.B. SHARPE COLLECTION

On May 20th, 1954, a display was given by the Royal Philatelic Society at 41 Devonshire Place, London, W.1., of part of the L.A.B. Sharpe Bequest of South Africa. The meeting was informal, the display being mounted in exhibition frames, and it was possible to examine the stamps in detail at leisure, an ideal method for such a specialised subject. By the courtesy of certain Members of the R.P.S., a number of S.A.C.S. Members were able to be present as guests, an opportunity to view a collection of South Africa such as seldom is presented in this country.

The circumstances of the bequest are rather unusual, as L.A.B. Sharpe was never a member of the Royal Philatelic Society, and indeed that body was only apprised of his action in leaving his collection to it by his executors. One cannot help feeling what a remarkable tribute this was to the regard in which the Royal Philatelic Society is held by serious collectors everywhere.

L.A.B. Sharpe had collected the stamps of Southern Africa for many years, including the earlier issues of the four colonies, with particular emphasis on the Boer War period, and in the case of the Union of South Africa, to which part of the collection this display was almost entirely restricted, he was fortunate to be comparatively early in the field. The range of this portion of his collection was comprehensive, and there was no facet of Union collecting which he neglected. The task of selecting some two hundred and fifty pages of large size from between two and three times that number was made by Messrs A. J. Brown and A. F. Cuddon-Smith, who ensured that all the most important items in the collection were on view.

It is felt that a report of the more important items contained in the collection may be of some value for record purposes, and for that reason all such items have been noted below.

INTERPROVINCIAL PERIOD. A wide range of interprovincials were shown, including covers and combination pieces; of particular note were a 5/- C.G.H. used at Mbabane, Swaziland; a combination of Transvaal/Union stamps with the large Shipping postmaster Cape Town mark, dated 1913, and a combination of Transvaal/.O.R.C./C.G.H. cancelled by the smaller Assistant Shipping Postmaster mark in red, dated 1910.

THE 1910 2½d COMMEMORATIVE. Several unusual pieces were noted - the violet "Specimen" overprint on an Official Notice to postmasters showing the stamp to be "Now On Sale". The smaller black "Specimen" overprint was also shown, and a die proof on sunk card. First day covers from Durban, and Welverdiend, Tvl.

THE 1913-21 KING'S HEAD SERIES. The interesting photographic reproductions of the Immelman Essays, and strips of the Mackay Essays in yellow, red, brown and violet. A particularly interesting range of die proofs included.

2½d value, frame only.

Head only as used for all doubly printed values.

½d as used for Postal Stationery, head and frame complete.

1d head and frame complete.

1/- head and frame complete.

1½d as used for Postal Stationery, head and frame complete.

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All values were shown with "Specimen" overprint, including the $1\frac{1}{2}$ d, $1/3$ and £1. Amongst many varieties of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d value were examples of all the plate numbers in blocks, and a cover with $\frac{3}{4}$ d Cigarette Tax stamp on the front and $\frac{1}{2}$ d K.G.V. on reverse both used as postage dues at Fordsburg on the 11th December, 1922.

In the values from 1d to 1/- were examples of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d in corner blocks with co-extensive Jubilee lines, a single 2d with plate no.1. in the dark plum shade, a range of 6d's with the missing "Z" at various stages of development, and a $1/3$ with watermark inverted. Many other varieties were shown, with the high values including both £1 values, the later shade a plate number copy. Unusual were several "freak" covers franked with bisects - such as a bisected 1d with a single normal 1d, a bisected 3d, and a 1d roll stamp bisected with a normal $\frac{1}{2}$ d roll. These were put through the post at busy times by collectors and overlooked by the postal officials, in the period in 1920 when the postal rate had been increased to $1\frac{1}{2}$ d, which formed the "reason" for such bisects, and are merely philatelic curiosities.

THE 1926-30 PICTORIAL SERIES. A number of the Harrison Essays were shown:

- In "screenless" photogravure on imperf. card, in black violet and blue, in strips of three.
- In red, perforated 14.
- In blue and purple, red and green, and blue and black, perforated $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13$, in "screened" photogravure.

Proofs included the $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d Waterlow, the 1d Pretoria in both colour combinations, and the 6d Pretoria colour trials, perforated and imperforate.

Of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d London and Pretoria printings were noted a miniature sheet of arrow and corner blocks of the London $\frac{1}{2}$ d, corner blocks from plates 1 and 2 of the Pretoria $\frac{1}{2}$ d, and corner blocks of the 1d value from all three plates. An interesting piece came from a corner of sheet of Pretoria $\frac{1}{2}$ d showing five strong impressions of the head-plate offset on the back. Among the rarities were a block of four of the Pretoria 1d with the frame albino, due to a dropped cliché - a very faint impression of the outside frame line is all that shows of the frame, the headplate being a normal impression. Sharpe states that only five copies of this error are said to exist. Other rarities were a block of six 1d's with three stamps imperforate on all four sides, and a block of four with two stamps imperforate on three sides. Panes of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d stamps from the London and Pretoria booklets were shown, and the rare typographed tete-beche varieties were represented by a pair of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d and a block of four of the 1d.

..... To be continued.

U. 096a - 2d official overprint upwards. Following the Editor's note in the last issue, Mr D. Milledge writes to say that recently he found two single copies in a dealer's stock, mixed with a selection of O.101 and priced accordingly. One stamp is English and the other Afrikaans, but the postmarks do not match. They are average used condition though one has damaged perforation at the corners. Spacing of overprint $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm. One hears of the owner of a postmark showing the year "50" and time 15.15. The letters "RIA" are visible. Any more fortunate owners?

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LONDON GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting was held on Monday, 24th May to discuss future activities when it was agreed that the policy of working through the Handbook/Catalogue should be continued next season. It was noted that the present membership formed a relatively small percentage of the members of the Society which were within reach of the meeting place and those not members of the Group are assured of a cordial welcome to the London Group meetings when they recommence on 14th September next.

Co-inciding with this Committee meeting, Mr C. E. Sherwood was on a short visit to London and was invited to attend the meeting to learn first hand the various activities of the Group.

During the course of the meeting, the future policy of the Society was discussed at some length and Mr Sherwood gave the Committee a comprehensive history of the Society's inception and progress since its formation in 1946, but also expressed some concern at the lack of enthusiasm of some of the members; particularly in the support as regards subject matter for the Society's magazine "The Springbok". He emphasised that it was a magazine evolved as a medium giving members a chance of expressing their own views and ideas and solving their queries.

Dealing next with the economics of the Society, Mr Sherwood indicated that the subscriptions from members did not cover the working expenses of the Society, and the publication of the magazine which was quite a costly business. From the discussion which followed, it was quite clear that if the present standing of "The Springbok" and its frequency of publication is to be maintained, it will almost certainly be necessary to raise the annual subscription to the Society to 15/- per annum. In this eventuality, the London Group Committee unanimously expressed its willingness to give this matter its full support, realising that quite obviously the Society could not run at a loss.

Enlarging on the fact, Mr Sherwood said he thought the time had come with the growth of the Society to a membership of over 200, for the members to take a more active part in the Society's affairs and felt that a General Purposes Committee of the members was desirable. He expressed the wish for someone to turn to for advice and to obtain suggestions for the improvement of the facilities for the members.

The London Group Committee stated that they were quite prepared to serve on this Committee and the hope was expressed that members representative of the various areas, e.g. Glasgow, would serve also. In view of the increasing membership in the Union of South Africa itself, and also America, representatives from these countries were desirable also. It is realised that such a Committee will not be able to hold meetings, but views could be obtained by post.

If members have views to express on the present organisation of the Society or suggestions for its improvement, Mr Sherwood would appreciate hearing from them in order that the matter may be further discussed at the Society's Annual Meeting to take place in London, late September.

Coupled with the meeting, it is hoped that the London Group will stage an exhibition of Union stamps.

F. C. Abell, (Chairman, London Group).
W. A. Page, (Hon. Sec., London Group).

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A BEGINNER'S ADVENTURE WITH SPRINGBOK (cont.)

by A. C. ADAMS

I now turn to stamps (b) having horizontal lines on either side of the thick top and bottom lines.

All are printed by the Government Printer, Pretoria by the rotogravure method, having Suid-Afrika hyphenated, all perf. 15 x 14 (also booklets and coils).

It is stated that all rotogravure printing must include a screen and this may cause some collectors to be confused by statements in the Union Catalogue that some issues were not screened. To avoid technical detail it will be assumed that the Union Catalogue statements are correct and that the non-screened masses of colour were broken by lines in the design and that the screened stamps had the masses of colour broken by a screen. See further notes re screening in regard to "cross hatch" designed stamps and the group following.

Group (b) can be separated as follows:-

- (i) 1937/1947. "Not screened" size $18\frac{1}{2} \times 22\frac{1}{2}$ mm.
 - (ii) 1947. "Not screened" size $18\frac{1}{4} \times 22\frac{1}{4}$ mm. vertical gutter between stamps 2mm.
 - (iii) Nov. 1947. "Not screened" (Cross-hatch design) size 18 x 22 mm. vertical gutter between stamps $2\frac{1}{4}$ mm.
 - (iv) Frame "screened" only; late 1947 and 1948 - cross grained screen on top of cross-hatch design. Size 18 x 22 mm. vertical gutter between stamps $2\frac{1}{4}$ mm.
 - (v) 1949 onwards, stamps all screened.
- (i) and (ii) "Not screened". Using a magnifier the horizontal lines around the Springbok's head appear to be continuous (unbroken); the lines of the frame appear to have straight edges (no indentations) the top and bottom horizontal bars have white lines (varying in visibility according to inking) sloping upwards from right to left; their larger size than those following also classify them.
- (iii) is the uncommon cross-hatch design, "not screened". The Union Cat. states "The cylinders were not screened and a characteristic feature of these stamps was the cross hatched design of the white oblique lines in the top and bottom horizontal bars of the frame. Fine cross hatching also shews up in each of the dark coloured vertical columns of the left and right hand sides of the frame and on some of the stamps a distinct square mesh design of these lines can be seen in the semi-circular tablet carrying the name. It should be noted, however, that where over inking has occurred, the cross hatching or meshing feature is sometimes difficult to distinguish and such copies should be checked up for size, not more than 18 x 22 mm."
- (iv) It is stated the frame only is "screened" on stamps having the cross hatch design. The horizontal lines of the frame and the top and side bars, with the aid of a magnifier, appear to have serrated edges; if not inked too heavily, these lines will appear as a series of angular dots, the screen design being much finer than the cross hatch design. These stamps are far from common.

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- (v) The frame and the vignette are "screened"; the magnifier shews the outside edges of all lines to be serrated and the lines around the Springbok's head are clearly broken by a cross grained screen.

The collector should not take too much notice of the great variety of shades (save in the case of the 1948 reissue where the Springbok is very pale and was issued late enough for collectors to be certain of it): he should always be on the lookout for arrow blocks especially before the "all screened" issues, to enable identification to be made where shades possessed do absolutely match the arrow blocks.

The wise collector will always endeavour to purchase mint copies of the more modern Springboks with cylinder numbers and/or arrows attached or he should be certain to make a note of the cylinder numbers from which stamps are taken: then he can shew the shades having similar cylinder numbers. This of course applies to all denominations, but as previously stated, this article is designed to assist the collector who has pairs of stamps without any side margins whatever.

There are 9 plates of (b)(i); 3 plates of (b)(iv) and 4 plates of (b)(v).

W A N T E D

Mr H. J. Entink, 38 Nerissa St., Burwood, E.13, Vict., Australia, wants Control blocks of four, mint, plates 1/A to LLI/F, Union Cat. Nos. 37 to 37F.

Mr E. E. Jones, 318 So. Laramie Ave., Chicago 44, Ill., U.S.A. wants U.26 and 26A on cover and will exchange Boer War cancellations or U.S.A. stamps.

Mr H. O. Nouss, 405 N. Elizabeth Ave., Ferguson 21, Mo., U.S.A. appeals for a copy of the first issue of "The Springbok" being willing to pay up to £2.

A doctor member in this country tells me that having a nephew in Johannesburg, he asked him to obtain a block of the new 1/3d. Springbok stamp to include the one suggesting the male sex. It appears the nephew sent his wife to the post office and "she got slightly mixed up, and mystified the P.O. official by asking for a male figure with an outrageous deformity. And they refused to sell it to her. ----- a pretty prudery." It seems that after a struggle, the nephew managed to get the block. Well, well, so Mrs Grundy lives in South Africa, too!

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SOUTH AFRICAN FIRST FLIGHTS (cont.)

by E. G. Kinsey

- 3rd Apr., 1935: Return flight - regular air mail Cape Town - Windhoek via Kimberley.
- 7th May, 1935: Return flight to London - first all the way by air.
- 6th Aug., 1935: Germiston - Capetown by South African Airways - return flight on the 9th. Route different from Imperial Airways one, which was closed from 1st April, 1936.
- 7th Feb., 1936: Mail from Capetown connected with inaugural flight from Khartoum on 13th Feb. to Kano (Nigeria) (Apr. 14th).
- 26th Nov., 1934: Mail from Capetown connected with opening on 4th Dec., 1934, of Lahore-Karachi feeder service.
- 30th July, 1935: Mail from Capetown connected with inaugural flight of extension of Salisbury - Blantyre feeder service to Beira on 1st Aug., 1935, as a direct Salisbury-Beira service whilst mail from Capetown on 3rd Aug., 1935 connected with first flight to Beira, via Blantyre on 5th August, 1935.
- 1936: Empire Exhibition, Johannesburg. Souvenir Cards sent by Air Mail to anywhere in world for ½d. First "all-up" air mail.
- 12th Oct., 1936: Germiston - Bloemfontein - Port Elizabeth. Return flight same day.
- 6th June, 1937: Flying-boat "Courtier" inaugurated East Coast route from Durban via Nile to England.
- 1st July, 1937: Empire "all-up" Air Service to London @ ½d per half ounce. Feeder services commenced between Johannesburg and Durban and Sorenceo Marques to expedite mail from flying boat service.
- 22nd July, 1938: First "all-up" service to New Zealand.
- 1st Nov., 1938: Second service to S.W. Africa by Northern route, Johannesburg - Palapye - Maun - Gobabis - Windhoek. The existing southern route via Kimberley, Lepington and Keetsmanshoop was amalgamated and round trips in both directions commenced on 1st November.
- December, 1938: Special KLM flight to South Africa in connection with Voortrekker celebrations. Mail was stamped on reverse with 1938 Voortrekker S.A. stamps and flown back to Amsterdam (arr. 31 Dec.) A similar flight took place in Jan. 1952 in connection with the Van Riebeck celebrations. No other S.A. mail appears to have ever been carried by KLM

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- 21st Aug., 1939: Capetown - Keetmanshoop - Windhoek, extended to Outjo and Ohopuko (S.W.A.) and Mossamedes, Sobito, Soanda (Angola).
- 28th Feb., 1942: Johannesburg - Bulawayo - Susaka - Elisabethville - Leopoldville by South African Airways, thence by Pan American Airways to Lagos, Bathurst, Brazil and Trinidad to Miami. Alternate weeks by Sabena Airways who inaugurated service from Johannesburg on 28th Jan., 1942.
- 30th Apr., 1946: Internal Air Services resumed on "all up" basis.
- 10th Nov., 1945: "Springbok" Service by B.O.A.C. and South African Airways using Avro "Yorks". Johannesburg, Nairobi, Khartoum, Cairo, Castel Benito (Malta substituted in Jan. 1946) Hurn - to expedite service which had been resumed from South Africa to England for civilian air mails, from Oct. 1944. The England - South Africa service was resumed only on 14th Sep., 1945.
- 2nd Oct., 1947: S.A. mail accepted for first time by Pan American Airways from Johannesburg on their F.A.M. 18 route (Accra to New York) which was extended on 4th May, 1947 to Johannesburg.
- 27th Nov., 1948: Return experimental flight Johannesburg - Sydney via Indian Ocean by Quantas Empire Airways - 300 souvenir covers signed by Pilot, L. R. Ambrose.
- 1st Apr., 1950: Empire Air Mail Scheme re-introduced within African Postal Union @ 2d per ounce.
- 1st Apr., 1950: Johannesburg to Dar-es-Salaam via Salisbury and Blantyre, by Central African Airways.
- 2nd June, 1950: Ladysmith, Makhotlong and Maseru (Basutoland) by Drakensberg Air Services (Ppy) Ltd.
- 10th Nov., 1950: Johannesburg to London, via Swingstone, Brazzaville, Kans and Tripoli, by B.O.A.C. "Hermes" Service.
- 31st Mar., 1951: Johannesburg to London via Sydda (Palestine) by South African Airways "constellation" service.
- 5th May, 1952: Return flight Johannesburg to London via Livingstone, Entebbe, Khartoum, Beirut and Rome by B.O.A.C. "Comet" Jetliner Service. From July, 1952, Cairo was substituted for Beirut, special covers again being issued.

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6th Sep., 1952: Return flight regular air service Australia - South Africa via Cocos Islands and Mauritius by Quantas Empire Airways from Johannesburg by Constellation "Charles Kingsford Smith".

It is fitting to chronicle these flights at this time since 1954 is the Silver Jubilee Year of Imperial Airways (now B.O.A.C.) who, with their associated companies, were responsible for so many of the flights as part of their pioneering of the Empire Airways. Since writing the above I have obtained two back copies of the "Springbok" and have read with great interest in Vol.1, No.4., Mr Stewart's excellent article which deals very fully with some of these flights and with various aspects of the history and background, and I have also been able to see a copy of Wyndhams most excellent work dealing with the history of the Union airposts up to the mid-thirties. On some of the commercial flights listed, very very little South African mail was carried. I am indebted for some of the information to the Airmails of South Africa by N. C. Baldwin in the series of pamphlets published by Francis J. Field, Ltd., of Sutton Coldfield.

Any additions or corrections will be welcomed in the interests of completeness of those flights where South African mail was carried.

Mr E. G. Kinsey has shown the Editor a print of the large 1½d gold mine stamps which has a thick greenish line from centre left stamp to the right bottom corner and it appears as though the line might carry on to the stamp below. It would appear that this cannot be a constant variety as the flaw is so prominent it could hardly have been missed.

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PRESS REFERENCES

SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST (April 1954): "Union Notes" illustrates a "Double Strike" King's Head 5/-; a sheet serial number variety on the current 3d and an unrecorded printing of the unhyphenated 1d - plate VIA. The Swaziland overprinted stamps are dealt with by Dr Harvey Pirie and Mr Gilbert describes some of the cancellations of Basutoland in continuing their serial articles on these two countries.

SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST (May 1954): "Union Notes" contains further references to misaligned perforations, this time on the 1937 Coronation stamps; machine cancellations from Basutoland, etc. S. J. Hagger writes on the multopositive (page "G.W." in last month's Springbok). Characteristics of the 1951 booklet stamps. A "cracked plate" variety of the K.G.V. 1/- Union is noted by T. A. Harper and G. N. Gilbert's "Basutoland" article lists more cancellations.

SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST (June 1954): "Union Notes" contains the Official list of printings from 22.10.1953 to 21.1.1954; a "phantom ladder" on the Pretoria 1d; worn cylinders on the 6d from 6930/6, etc. More information is added to Mr Newland's notes on the "Condensed type of Bloemfontein postmark." G. N. Gilbert concludes the Basutoland Postal History with a list of Post Offices, past and present, and Dr Harvey Pirie contributes a further instalment of his Postal History and Stamps of Swaziland.

STAMP COLLECTING (18th June): In the series "Specialists' Choice", number 17 is devoted to the Union of South Africa, contributed by A. E. Gould.

A.J.B.

Mr L. H. Twiss reports having a K.G.V. 5/- purple and light blue used copy, H.C.13a, with the letters "UNI" and the frame above and below the letters all missing as are three dots below where the letters should be. Any light to be thrown on this?

Mr W. A. Page reports receiving a First Day Cover from the Port Elizabeth Congress showing special cancellation of a double circle with the date "21 VI 54" inside and the words "Medical Congress Mediese Kongress" parallel round the top half and "Port Elizabeth" in the bottom half. News to your Editor!

Mr Chas. F. Congdon writes that he now possesses the 1/2d G.V.1913 double print sold by auction in London 27.1.53, Lot 260, although he was not the auction buyer. Mr Congdon points out that this item has been judged a fake by the B.P.A.

Your Editor was informed recently of a block of eight of the 1d van Riebeck ship type with top margin attached and showing part arrow at right, i.e., rows 1 and 2, stamps 3, 4, 5 and 6. The arrow and very smudged impression of the frames suggest plate 15 of the 1944 printing, U.45A.Vc, but there seems to be no trace of a watermark. Not being listed, information would be welcomed.

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THE SCREENED ROTOGRAVURE POSTAGE STAMPS AND POSTAGE
DUE LABELS OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

by

A. Hilton Sydlow, A.S.A.A., C.A. (S.A.)

Rotary photogravure or rotogravure is a photo-mechanical process of intaglio or en creux etching on very highly polished surfaces of copper-faced cylinders from which impressions are printed mechanically in the web, that is to say, on long reels or webs of paper.

From about the end of the year 1935, two methods of rotogravure have been employed at the Government Printing Works in Pretoria in connection with the production of the Postage Stamps and the Postage Due Labels of the Union of South Africa, namely, Unscreened or Screenless Rotogravure and Screened Rotogravure. These two methods have been utilised solely in certain instances and in combination in other instances anent certain of the bicoloured stamps and labels as exemplified thus:-

- (A) Silver Jubilee Stamp depicting the profile portrait of H.M. King George V.
 - a. Portrait on Interior Cylinder as a Line Subject - Unscreened Rotogravure.
 - b. Frame Design on Exterior Cylinder as a Line Subject - Unscreened Rotogravure.
- (B) Coronation Stamps depicting the profile portrait of H.M. King George VI.
 - a. Portrait on Interior Cylinder as a Continuous Tone Subject - Screened Rotogravure.
 - b. Frame Design on Exterior Cylinder as a Line Subject - Unscreened Rotogravure.
- (C) Huguenot Anniversary Stamp depicting the Drakenstein Valley Rural Scene.
 - a. Vignette on Interior Cylinder as a Continuous Tone Subject - Screened Rotogravure.
 - b. Frame Design on Exterior Cylinder as a Line Subject - Screened Rotogravure.
- (D) Regular 1½. Stamp depicting Gold Mine Scene and Johannesburg City Buildings.
 - a. Vignette on Interior Cylinder as a Line Subject - Screened Rotogravure.
 - b. Frame Design on Exterior Cylinder as a Line Subject - Screened Rotogravure.

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From the above-mentioned Categories "A" and "B" it will be observed that only Line Subjects can be used in connection with the etching of rotogravure cylinders without the employment of a screen. Continuous Tone subjects can be used only with the aid of a screen in connection with the etching of rotogravure - vide Categories "B" and "C" ut supra. Line Subjects can, however, be used anent the etching of rotogravure cylinders with the aid of a screen - see Categories "C" and "D" aforementioned.

Sketch No. 1 depicts an "Orange Tree" as a Line Subject on a sixpenny denominated stamp printed from Screened Cylinder No.6930. Note the representation of the intersecting screen line effect in white encompassing the small black squares. Sketch No.2 depicts an "Orange Tree" as a line subject on a sixpenny denominated stamp printed from Unscreened Cylinder No.9. In this instance, note the absence of the intersecting screen line and square dot effect.

S C R E E N S

Cross-lined screens as depicted in Sketch No.3 are generally used in connection with the production of rotary photogravure or rotogravure printed stamps. As a matter of interest, the reader should examine through a magnifier, for example, the photogravure printed postage stamps of Dominica ($\frac{1}{4}$ d), Grenada ($\frac{1}{4}$ d), Gold Coast, Great Britain, Mauritius, North Borneo, Seychelles, Virgin Islands; the lower values of the Royal Silver Wedding stamps of the Crown Colonies; certain of the Harrison Essays of the Union of South Africa, and also the Harrison Envelope stamp of the Union with the Van Riebeck ship vignette. The reader should also examine through a magnifier and compare the foregoing stamps with, exempli gratia, the O.P.S. Centenary stamps, the Cape Triangular Centenary stamps, the Van Riebeck Tercentenary stamps, the Royal Visit stamps, the Natal Settlers stamp, the National Defence stamps of the Union of South Africa in conventional and in miniature format.

Two types of cross-lined screens have been utilised in connection with the production of the Union and of Southern Rhodesian rotogravure postage stamps. These have been termed the Coarse Cross-lined Screen and the Fine Cross-lined Screen. The difference between a coarse lined and a fine lined screen is exemplified on Sketches Nos. 9 and 10. Sketch No. 9 depicts a ratio of white line to black square of 1 to 4, whilst Sketch No.10 depicts a ratio of 1 to 3.

The usual ruling of a screen is 150, 160 or 175 lines to one inch, and the ration of white line to black square is 1 to 3. A 175 ruling to the inch with a ration of 1 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ is also used. For fine detail in stamp production, a 200 ruling with a ratio of 1 to 3 is often used.

The minutely etched ink-hollows or cups are spaced so close together on the surface of the copper-faced cylinder after being with the aid of a cross-lined screen that on a printed impression taken therefrom the effect of a continuous tone is seen when it is held at the normal viewing distance. Under a magnifying glass, however, the said continuous tone effect is seen as a mesh-work composed of coloured dots

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enclosed by colourless (white) lines. These coloured dots were printed from the minute ink-hollows. The etched ink-hollows are of well-nigh uniform size, but they vary in depth according to the graduation of colour tone which they represent. See Sketch No. 7.

The ink-hollows derive from the etching of the minute squared cells formed by the intersecting lines of the pattern screened on the Carbon Tissue. See Sketch No.3 which portrays an enlargement of a cross-lined screen showing the white (or transparent) lines and the black (opaque black) squares as they appear on the glass or celluloid plate. Sketch No.5 depicts an enlargement of the mesh design printed by direct contact on the gelatine coated carbon tissue sheet by the action of very potent light emitted by an arc lamp projected on to the screen portrayed on Sketch No.3. The light passes through the white lines - see Sketch No.3 - but not through the opaque black squares. Consequently, the black lines are printed on the Carbon Tissue - See Sketch No.5 - but not the white squares. The actual design is printed on the "whites" of the Carbon Tissue via the multipositive.

The object of furnishing the carbon tissue with the mesh design (See Sketch No.5) in its gelatine resist is to prevent the eventual etching of the copper immediately underlying the lines of resist (black lines in Sketch No.5) after its affixation to the surface of the copper-faced cylinder. The unetched lines (see Sketch No.7) underlying the correlative lines of resist (black lines of Sketch No.5) are shown as white lines on Sketch No.7. These white lines represent the "doctor blade" rests. Sketch No.8 depicts the "doctor blade" resting on the "white line" rests.

The process of contact printing on the carbon tissue sheet described afore is almost similar to the familiar method of utilising a photographic printing frame for the production of a contact print from a negative. The contact printing of a screen on a carbon tissue sheet is done in a vacuum frame. It may be mentioned that overexposure thickens the screen lines, and in consequence influences the size of the squares or dots.

The black lines on Sketch No.5 represent the screen lines encompassing the white squares or blanks which subsequently receive the print of the stamp design from the multipositive.

On the printed paper, the different colour tones are denoted by the different thickness in minute relief of the ink yielded by the correlative ink-hollows of different depths on the surface of the cylinder. See Sketch No.7.

The continuous tone effect at the normal viewing distance and the correlative mesh-work effect through a magnifier will be perceived on the following Union stamps:-

- a. The Vignette depicting the "Church of the Vow" on the bicoloured Voortrekker Monument stamps. (Interior Cylinder).
- b. The profile portrait of H.M. King George VI and its concomitant background depicted on the bicoloured coronation stamps. (Interior cylinders)

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- c. The whole of the design of the monocoloured 1d coil stamp with the vignette of the Van Riebeck ship. (Single cylinder).
- d. The sheet Marginal Slogans and numerals of the miniature National Defence or War stamps.
- e. The face and mantle of Maria de la Quellerie on the 1d stamp of the Van Riebeck Tercentenary issue.
- f. The numeral and frame of the current 1d postage due labels printed in carmine-pink.

Through a magnifying glass it will be perceived also that the demarcation of design in colour from background in white are represented by serrulated lines. The mesh-work effect and the serrulated line effect are very clearly exemplified on the Matabeleland Commemoration stamps of Southern Rhodesia, which were produced by the screened rotogravure process at the Union Government Printing Works, Pretoria. The serrulated edge effect will be remarked, exempli gratia, on the following stamps of the Union of South Africa:-

- a. The thin outer line of the frame design of the 1d Voortrekker Commemoration with the Wagon-wheel vignette. (Exterior Cylinder).
- b. The triangle enclosing the Cape of Good Hope stamp on the 1d and 4d denominations of the Cape Triangular Centenary issue.
- c. Many of the miniature advertisements set-tenant to the 1936 booklet $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d stamps, also overprinted "JIFEX".
- d. The gravure "SATISE" AND "SADIUFU" rotogravure overprints on the 1d and 2d Van Riebeck Tercentenary stamps.

It may be mentioned here that on the original master design the mesh-work effect and the serrulated-edge effect are absent entirely for both Line Subjects and Continuous Tone Subjects.

Examples of coarse and fine screenings are found on the 1d Van Riebeck Tercentenary stamp. Vide the serrulated-edge effect on the overprinted letters "SATISE" which emanated from a coarse cross-lined screened cylinder. Vide also the mesh-work effect on the face and on the white mantle of Maria Van Riebeck derived from a fine cross-lined screened cylinder.

IRREGULAR GRAINED SCREEN

An irregular grained screen has been used in connection with the production of certain Union postage stamps, to wit, Cylinders Nos. 31, 60, 1 and 25 of the Universal Postal Union Commemoration set; Cylinders Nos. 12, 21 and 38 of the Third Voortrekker set; Cylinders Nos. 44A and 44B of the 3d denomination (Groote Schuur) and Interior Cylinder No. 11A of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. (Springbok head) denomination.

Sketch No. 4 portrays an enlargement of an irregular grained screen and shows the irregular "whites" and "black" as they appear in miniature on the glass or celluloid plate. Sketch No. 6 represents a print of the irregular grained screen on the gelatine coated carbon tissue produced in similar manner as for the cross-lined screen as described ut supra. The irregular "whites" of Sketch No. 4 evolve the "doctor blade" rests on the periphery of the etched cylinder, whilst the irregular "blacks" EVOLVE THE irregular ink-hollows.

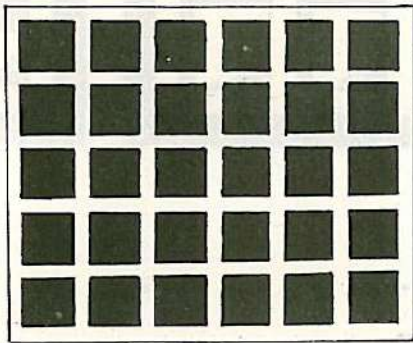
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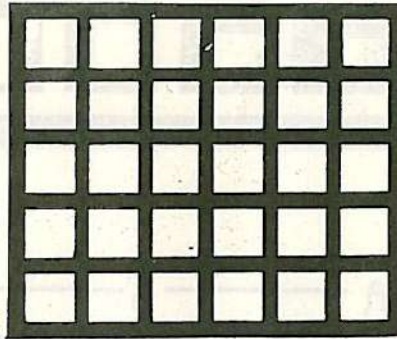
NO. TWO



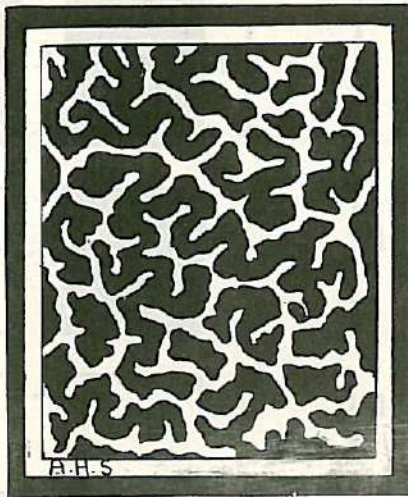
NO. THREE



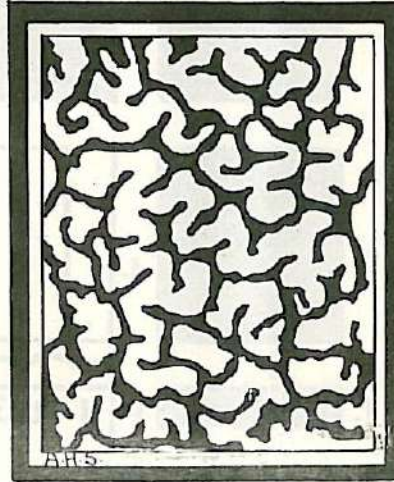
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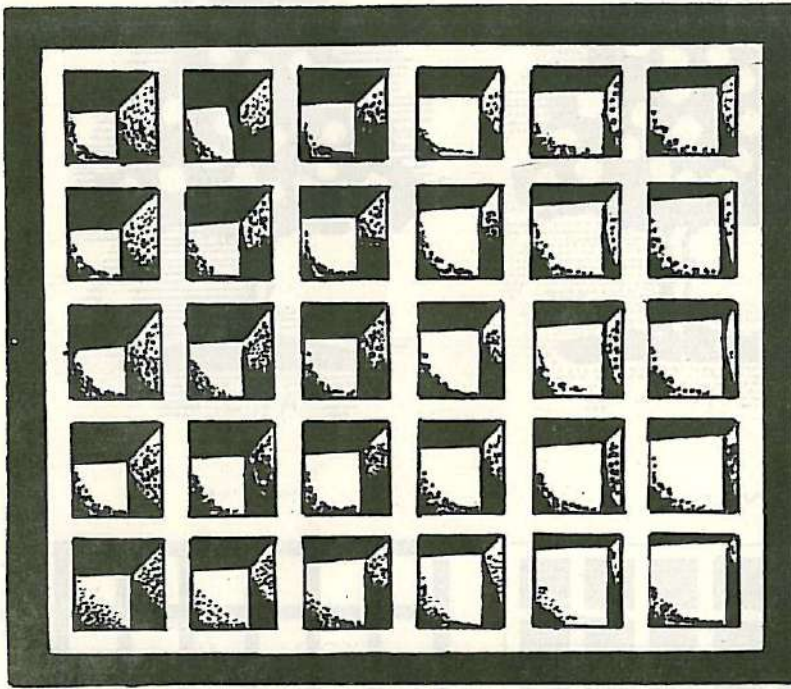
NO. FOUR



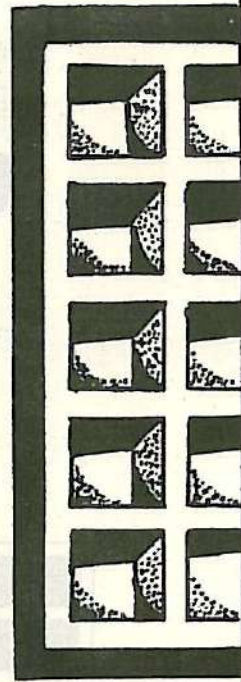
NO. SIX



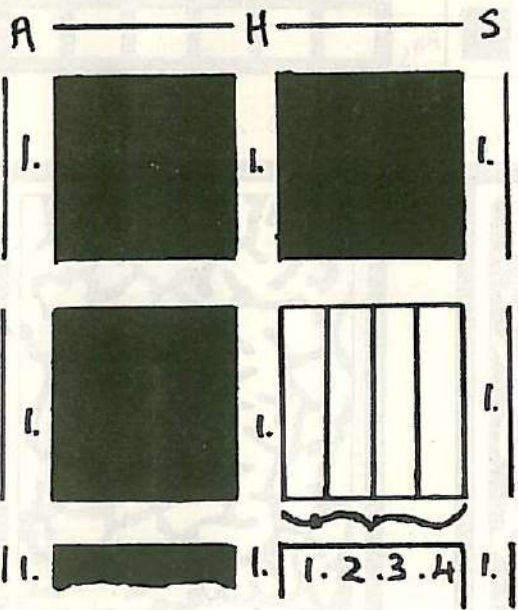
NO. SEVEN



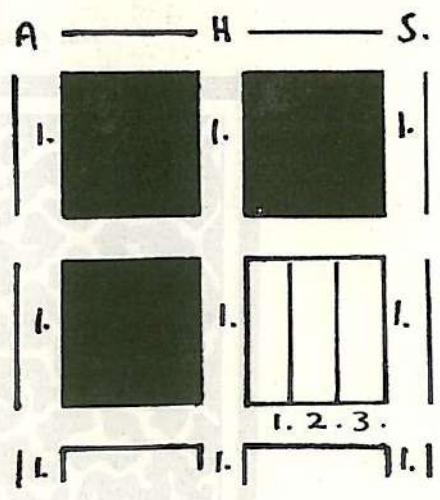
NO. EIGHT



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NO. NINE



NO. TEN

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SCREEN-SCRATCH ON RECENT PRINTINGS

As a consequence of the interest of Mr W. A. Page, we have official information regarding this persistent variety. After writing to the South African Government Printer on the subject, Mr Page received a reply from the Publicity Officer in Pretoria which we are authorised to publish.

"Your letter addressed to the Government Printer regarding defects in the printing of recent postage stamps has been forwarded to me for attention.

In connection with the scratch-marks observed on the stamps, the Government Printer states that when postage stamp printing cylinders are being prepared, it is necessary to expose the light-sensitive carbon tissue twice - once on a photogravure screen and once on a stamp positive. Any defects in the screen will therefore appear on the carbon tissue and will eventually be etched into the printing cylinder.

The photographic screens are made by placing the master negative of a photogravure screen on a photographic plate in a vacuum frame and exposing them to light. During this process it was discovered that the glass of the vacuum frame was scratched rather badly and that these scratches were being reproduced photographically on the copy screens which are of a very fine ruling, 200 lines to the inch. Although these screens are touched up very carefully it is impossible to remove the scratch images completely.

The positive copy screen is next masked out in order to give a safe edge for the carbon tissue and this mask remains in the same position for all stamps, the position of the scratches remains more or less constant, except when the tissue, after having been exposed to the screen, is reversed end-to-end on the stamp positive.

The foregoing information may be published by you."

28th June, 1954.

Signed Publicity Officer.

(The above information will, I know, be quite helpful to many readers, and we are indebted to the Publicity Officer and Mr Page. Ed.)

CONGRATULATIONS to member Mr C. B. Tregurtha for carrying off the West Cornwall Societies' Ogden Trophy for the 1952-53 and 1953-54 seasons and also the Hadfield Craven Trophy this year with a display of South African rotogravure issues.

CONGRATULATIONS to a member who prefers to remain anonymous for his third place tie with an entry describing the Union rotogravure printing methods illustrated by specimens of the 1st springbok, in the "Grant" Cup competition at this year's meeting of the Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies.

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

New Members:

- No. 287. A. T. Spangenthal, P.O.Box 4646, Johannesburg, South Africa.
288. R. V. Cullinan, Sunlawn, Olifantsfontein, Transvaal, S. Africa.
289. A. H. Adams, 12 Sackville Road, Wilmington, Nr Dartford, Kent.
290. Eugene E. Jones, 418 So. Laramie Ave., Chicago 44, Ill., U.S.A.

Change of Address:

147. F/Lt R. F. A. Wren, No.2 Officers' Mess, R.A.F. Bircham Newton, King's Lynn
Norfolk.
193. Rev. G. C. Coates, 91 Harvest Road, Englefield Green, Surrey.
206. J. Joseph, P.O.Box 569, East London, South Africa.
224. J. Berman, 206 Beverley Heights, Killarnen, Johannesburg, S.A.

Resignations:

219. Miss M. J. Brick, Dublin.

Membership Terminated:

82. H. Hodkinson, Derby.

Membership Lapsed:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 57. O. G. Holmes, Leeds. | 83. Sqn Cdr H.G. Wells, Lossiemouth. |
| 85. F. D. M. Lowry, Heswall. | 111. Miss G. M. Thompson, Haywards Heath. |
| 142. R. Hetherington, Morecambe. | 144. Dr T. B. Berry, S. Africa. |
| 145. J. P. Shingler, S. Africa. | 151. A. Liothenstein, S. Africa. |
| 161. Pretoria Railway P.S., S.A. | 174. D. C. Carruthers, S. Africa. |
| 180. T. M. Hyltin, U.S.A. | 182. F. H. E. Fuller, St Andrews. |
| 184. C. Swain, Yeovil. | 187. C. Kachelhoffer, S. Africa. |
| 189. C. R. Reynolds, S. Africa. | 192. I. E. Wunsch, S. Africa. |
| 195. L. Feinstein, S. Africa. | 199. F. E. Hamilton, U.S.A. |
| 202. Dr G. I. Faerber, S. Africa. | 217. E. S. Smith, S. Africa. |
| 212. E. Hunt, S. Africa. | 220. V. Zimmerman, U.S.A. |
| 218. W.G. Campbell-Paterson, S.A. | 226. J. Michelson, S. Africa. |
| 225. Comdt L. Simenhoff, S.A. | 233. R. J. Hore, Truro. |
| 232. J. Charles, London. | 235. K. A. Wald, U.S.A. |
| 234. A. Grantzow, U.S.A. | 238. C. J. Hardy, Burnham-on-Sea. |
| 237. C. R. Purvey, Canada. | |

CHECK LIST OF RECENT PRINTINGS

It is hoped to make this a regular feature to keep members fully informed. Each issue will therefore have details of printings reported since the previous number of the magazine.

- March. 1d ex cylinders 31/70. brown centre and pale blue-green frame.
April. 1/- ex cylinders 66/3. black-brown centre, blue frame.
April 24th. 1d ex cylinders 54/48 (new) grey-black and carmine.
June. 5/- ex cylinders 8/72 light black centre and grey-green frame.

News from Mr J. Robertson to the effect that letter-cards are now on sale minus the printed stamp. Sold only in bundles of 500 at 32/6 per bundle. No change in design otherwise.