
THE SPRINGBOK



Volume 4, No. 2. March/April, 1956

" THE SPRINGBOOK "

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

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THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

Dear Member,

As always seems to happen around the beginning of the year, there are some resignations from those kind enough to advise us of the fact and the usual lapses for causes unknown. Your lists therefore will need some revision.

Rarely does a reader write in comment about our issues but we had a chuckle just recently. Our last issue brought just two letters within two days of each other. One said in effect how much the article on the 1d ship was liked and that postal history was uninteresting to the writer. The other said the article on the 1d stamp was appreciated for its zeal but left the writer uninterested and why not some articles on postal history! We ask you - who would be an Editor?

It was interesting to be told by a member that a 2d official pair, mint, with both stamps showing the diarsis variety was discovered in an Exchange Packet after it had been seen by about a dozen members whilst another Packet gave a "hawk-eye" a twisted horn variety on the 1/-d recess printing again after it had been through a dozen or more hands. Both items priced as normals.

With each issue we give ourselves a headache trying to think up some idea which will cause our members to show more interest. If there is the need for it, we are quite prepared to list the names of members and their particular interests, who would like to exchange correspondence with others of similar tastes.

In the Spring, a young man's fancy turns to love, so it is said. Maybe we are not quite so young because ours turn to Scotland where we shall be making our annual migration to Bridge of Allan, Stirlingshire to be located at the Allan Water Hotel during April 14th. It will be a pleasure to renew acquaintance with our Scottish members who are exceptionally kind to, and tolerant of, the "foreigner from South of the Border"!

EXCHANGE PACKET

A reminder please to price over the stamps rather than under them as the latter only causes confusion and discourages buyers who may not be quite certain as to the actual prices.

Should you have cause to replace a stamp after removing same from a sheet, please be so kind as to indicate and sign your name alongside, as replaced stamps are always a cause for immediate suspicion as to whether substituting has been taking place.

If you can speed the circulation of the Packet by suggesting a re-arrangement of the mailing list please advise immediately.

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BANTAM WAR EFFORT.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d & $1\frac{1}{2}$ d issues

by Heretic.

I am in a position to add somewhat to the notes by Mr R. J. Clayton and Mr W. G. R. Wilby in "The Springbok" Vol. I. page 94, and Vol. II. page 58. I have a pair of $1\frac{1}{2}$ d B.W.E. which is certainly singly rouletted and equally certainly is irregularly screened. It is therefore the first printing which is irregularly screened (cylinders 7019/1) and the second printing which is regularly screened (cylinders 43/1).

The $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamp BWE. was the subject of some study by me recently and I think Mr Clayton is right in thinking that there are at least two different types of screening though they are not so easy to distinguish as in the $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. I have a triplet which has a piece of margin attached and is thereby shown to be from Printing II. This has the regular screen. Another triplet is proved by the date of the postmark to be from Printing I (if the Handbook is correct). This has the irregular screen. Also there is a single stamp with a piece of margin attached and showing the retouch which appears on the top line of printings IV and V. The margin shows it to be from printing IV and it is irregularly screened. If I am right in this, then at least printing II is from a different plate and the Handbook is wrong in attributing it to cylinder 40. I have another triplet which is regularly screened and which is postmarked with a date which is not easy to make out but I think it is sometime in 1943. Can anybody check the date of printing II which is given in the Handbook as July 1944?

I should also be most grateful if anybody could examine under a low power microscope printings III and V and publish the results. There are some other stamps in my collection which are certainly irregularly screened but I cannot determine from what printing they come. I do not venture to assert it but the screen does not look to me quite the same as that of printings I and IV. I think it is finer. In that case there is presumably a third cylinder and I wonder if it is from printing V. This however is very far from proven.

If anybody would be kind enough to lend me specimens which can be identified as printings III and V, I have a microscope which should enable me to answer this question.

Mr E. G. Kinsey of Richmond has found an aeroplane in imminent danger of crashing - the 4d value of the 1929 air set showing a broken strut between the wings on the left side of the plane as one looks at the stamp. Can any member indicate the sheet position - it does seem to be a constant although unrecorded variety?

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"SPLINTERED HORN" - UPRIGHT WATERMARK

by B. R. Powell.

From our HB/C, plus the Supplement, to which we Union Collectors now have access, containing as they do such a wealth of detail, it would, of course, be churlish to seize on one item and say - 'The HB/C is incorrect, there is an upright watermark, the HB/C gives only Inverted watermark.'

I refer to the excellent new summary in the Supplement dealing with our old favourite, the first Roto Springbok $\frac{1}{2}$ d. In the interim between the issue of the HB/C and the Supplement, there has obviously been much study with consequent new light thrown on the first three 'Plates'. (I put 'Plates' in inverted commas because I question if that is the right name for them, as a note on page vi of the HB/C suggests). But my thoughts for the moment are confined to the "Splintered Horn" printing - IF printing it is!!!

Since I have cultivated a more than passing interest in Union Roto methods, about which, let me confess at once, I have only a limited and purely theoretical knowledge, I have pondered on the CAUSE of the Splintered horn stamps.

In the October, 1934 issue of Gibbons Stamp Monthly, there is quite a long article dealing with the then newly noted Splintered horn variety, giving particulars of its appearance, the position and nature of flaws, etc. now well-known to all students of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. The writer, Mr C. P. Rang, one of our Society Members, advances certain pros and cons on the cause, and says "Although it is evident that no alteration has been made to the master negative (the equivalent of the master die in typographed or engraved stamps) it is nevertheless almost certain that some intermediate operation in the manufacture of the plate must have differed from that of earlier printings to account for the changed appearance.'

That seemed to be that, (I only came across the article just after the war) and the Handbook published in 1946 gave no further information. Whenever possible I sought enlightenment, but without success.

Now we have available to us the very comprehensive articles on the $\frac{1}{2}$ d in the Strand Stamp Journal by Dr Gordon Ward, complete with his characteristic challenges to outdated theories and clichés - (e.g.) 'The term 'Cleaned Plate' is due for super-annuation'. Dealing with the Splintered horn, he illustrates two stages of it and explains its cause quite simply as 'This is due to the same under-inking (which causes the splintered horn), no modification of the cylinder appears to be involved.

But a visit to the South African Collectors' Society Exhibition in London last month (and what an Exhibition it was, thanks to all concerned) started new thoughts. On show was a very nice mint block of 4 owned by Dr N. Pattinson.

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In the Exhibition Catalogue it was shortly described by Mr A. J. Brown as 'Cleaned Plate and Splintered horn se-tenant', followed by a question mark. A challenge, to say the least of it, as he intended. (I fell for it, hence this article). At my request, Mr Brown has kindly given me further details, and writes 'There is no doubt that this block contains both the 'splintered horn' and the so-called cleaned plate printing se-tenant. A description of the block would be - both left-hand stamps 'cleaned' plate U36C, top right stamp normal splintered horn U36D, bottom right stamp a pale impression of U36D, definitely paler than normal 36D'. He continues 'My first theory was that it might have come from the corner of the sheet, as quite often the corner stamp of a sheet is paler than the rest, probably due to the pressure of the roller being lighter at this point, I had hoped that some minor flaw would have enabled me to 'plate' the block, but that was not to be, so my theory remains unconfirmed. I am sure, however, that this variety is due to under-inking or possible overdry inking, or to uneven pressure over the sheet, and have never believed that the 'cleaned plate' and 'splintered horns' were due to any special treatment of the cylinder before printing, and I think this tends to bear me out'. 'The block is UPRIGHT watermark'. Through Mr Brown, I got in touch with Dr Pattinson, who kindly sent me the block to see; he modestly claims having no theories to advance, but will welcome any further information regarding it.

So where do we go from here?

We now have then what appears to be 2 stamps of the 'splintered horn' in a vertical pair. This would be quite alright if they were not attached to an issue (or printing) quite different in appearance and catalogued as a different Plate or Printing. Further, it is with Upright watermark, which, so far as I know, has not been recorded in the 'splintered horn' printing.

Mr Brown's theory of lighter pressure is supported, I suggest, in examples like 'white faced buck' HB/C 44f & G, and 'white faces' Silver Jubilee HB/C 58-61, but again, those examples would only appear to occur in isolated instances in each sheet. It would be interesting to know whether whole sheets of the splintered horn have been seen. I have seen a horizontal block of 10 advertised. Or, has 'cleaned plate' and 'splintered horn' se-tenant, been recorded before.

It would appear that had the right-hand pair of this block of 4 been found separated, it would have been recorded as 'splintered horn' with UPRIGHT watermark. I wonder if other Members have 'splintered horn' with Upright watermark, or - perhaps, any other plate than 'cleaned plate' se-tenant with 'splintered horn'.

I cannot quote instances, but I think it is known for 1, 2 or more rows of stamps in a sheet, not necessarily Union or Roto, to be a much lighter impression than other rows of the same sheet. Did this happen with the 'splintered horn'? If so, 'splintered horn' with Upright watermark could be quite frequent, as 'cleaned plate' is catalogued as upright watermark only.

Will someone please 'shoot me down' and tell me all the answers!!!

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THE HUMBLE HA'PENNY

VARIETIES AND PLATE FLAWS

GROUPS 5 to 7.

by CAECULUS.

1. Varieties - Flaws of major importance on account of size or interesting character, and therefore "Album worthy".
2. Plate Flaws - Some of the more prominent minor flaws which are of use in assigning a stamp to its particular printing.

MULTIPOSITIVE FLAWS

<u>No.</u>	<u>Row & No.</u>	<u>Plates</u>	<u>Description</u>
3	6 x 1 A	XVI	A cluster of green dots in both central loops of ribbon (scroll) on right, and continued in margin higher up.
	5 x 1 A	XVIII XIX XX, XXI	
13	18 x 11A	XV, XVI.	Green smudge under R end bottom bar.
16	19 x 4E	XVII to XXI	Green mark in white line under A of Postage.
20	14 x 1A	XVI	Large Green flaw R of extreme bottom of left bar
	13 x 1A	XVIII XIX XX, XXI	
24	3 x 4A	XV XVI	Spot on nose and "Tagged ear" (not illustrated) -- a large rectangular black mark through base of left ear. Tag has been touched out but spot on nose remains
	3 x 1A	XVII	
	3 x 4A	XVII XIX	
	3 x 4E	XX	
	2 x 4A	XXI	
28	4 x 3A	XIX	Green smudge in margin L of L bar near top.
40	1 x 3E	XV Cyl 6916 XVI XVIII to XIX	Vertical line extending downwards from tip of right horn.
	1 x 3A	XX	
	1 x 3E	XXII	
45	9 x 12A	XV Cyl 6916 XVI	Green mark on top of right hand top square
	9 x 9A	XVII	
	9 x 12A	XVIII, XIX	
	8 x 12A	XX, XXI	
	9 x 12A	XXII	

Note: Flaws No. 24 and 40 are not found in the first printing of Plate XV from unknown cylinders. Flaws 3, 13, 20 & 35 may possibly be found on both Pl. XV printings.

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PLATE XV.

The HORNS as shown on sketch are distinctive of the first printing from unknown cylinders. The outlines of the right horn and the outside of left horn have a serrated and uneven appearance. The inside of the left horn has a solid line. On the 2nd printing from Cyls 6916/29 the horns have solid outlines.

PLATE XVI

1	14 x 6E	Cyl 6933	Green flaw covering ends of 3 lines shading opposite Top R square
11	16 x 8E	Cyl 45	Green stroke from ornament at R end Postage label diagonally downwards
12	5 x 7E	Cyl 45	Large green dot in R bottom corner
13	18 x 11A	Cyl 45 and 6933	Green smudge in margin under R end bottom bar - also in Plate XV - See Multi Flaws.
26	7 x 10A	Cyl 48	Black dot L of head between eye and base of ear
31	5 x 8A	Cyl 6933	"White flower" in top L. square.
33	16 x 9A	Cyl 45 & 6933	Large green dot in top margin left of top bar
39	3 x 3E	Cyl 48	Black projection sloping downwards from inside tip of Bucks right horn.
Not illustrated - 5 x 11E			Split left ear on Cyl. 48.

PLATE XVII

180 Stamps in 20 rows of 9

14	15 x 3A		Damaged from under O M
23	1 x 9A		White dot in lower left vertical bar
32	20 x 11E		Large green flaw top left corner
42	18 x 9		Large green flaw over A F
Not shown (6 x 1E		Large green leaf shaped mark on buck's neck under cheek bone.
on chart (18 x 5 - 19 x 4		"Fly swarms" clusters of black dots in vignette.
chart (19 x 5. 6. 7		

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PLATE XVIII

17	18 x 6E	STA of Postage badly flawed
35	A	Ends of 3 top lines shading strengthened adjoining top bar left.

PLATE XIX

5	2 x 7A	Large green spot in outer central loop of scroll R.
7	2 x 6E	White flaw edge circle and cutting into scroll central R.
8	2 x 12E	White break lower black line shading on neck
9	16 x 9A	Large white "disturbance" in leaves R of value tablet
15	12 x 9A	Defective second E in Porseel.
22	20 x 9A	Snake on Buck's cheek
25	3 x 3E	White flash edge circle L centre.
29	20 x 5A	An effervescence top of left bar.
30	12 x 12E	Green dot over top left bar
34	4 x 12E	White flaw over U outside circle
43	8 x 7A	Green mark over R.
38		Green dot in white line over and between H & A and under top bar. Also green dot in L bar of H.

PLATE XX

<u>No.</u>	<u>Row & No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
8	2 x 12A	As Pl. XIX but on English stamp
2	A	White dot in right bar near top
21	17 x 5A	White flaw in bottom left bar
22	20 x 9E	As Pl. XIX but on English stamp
25	3 x 3A	" " " " " Afrikaans "
36	1 x 6E	Small white break in heavy frame Line over U of South
4. 19. 37. 44 & 46		As XXI but one row higher.

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PLATE XXI

4	12 x 12A	Diagonal line sloping downwards from frame upper central right margin
2	A	As XX but one row lower
10	20 x 3E	Black spot on R of right bar at bottom
19	11 x 1A	White break N.W. of W ornament of Porseel tablet
21	16 x 5E	As Plate XX
24a	2 x 4A	Tag in ear removed but spot on nose remains (See Multi flaws)
36	1 x 5E	As Plate XX
46	A	White break 2nd line shading N.E. corner
37	16 x 10A	Green dot under L end top bar one line of shading down.
44		Green dot Top margin just R of top bar

PLATE XXII

6	20 x 12E	White scratch lower central right bar
18	9 x 4A	White scratch near left and bottom bar
27	11 x 9E	Small black mark R of Buck's right ear
41	12 x 3A	Small black stroke inside tip of buck's left horn
47	9 x 4A	Green spot R of top right square near margin

DESCRIPTION OF CHART

<u>No.</u>	<u>Row & No.</u>	<u>PLATES</u>
1	14. x 6 E	XVI Cyl 6933
2		XX. XXI
2	6 x 1 A M	XVI. XVIII to XXI
4	12 x 12 A	XX XXI
5	2 x 7 A	XIX
6	20 x 12E	XXII

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Description of Chart cont'd:

7	2 x 6 E	XIX
8	2 x 12	XIX -E- XX A
9	16 x 9A	XIX
10	20 x 3E	XX, XXI.
11	16 x 8E	XVI Cyl. 45.
12	5 x 7E	XVI Cyl 45.
13	18 x 11A M	XVI Cyl 45 & 6933
14	15 x 3A	XVII
15	12 x 9A	XIX
16	20 x 4 M 19 x 4	XVII to XXI
17	18 x 6E	XVI. XVII. XVIII.
18	9 x 4A	XXII
19	11 x 1A	XX, XXI
20	14 x 1A	XVI. XVIII to XXI
21	17 x 5A	XX, XXI
22	20 x 9	XIX A - XX E
23	1 x 9A	XVII
24	3 x 4	XV to XIX A XXE
24a	2 x 4	XXI A (Tag removed)
25	3 x 3E	XIX
26	7 x 10 A	XVI Cyl 48
27	11 x 9 E	XXII
28	4 x 3A	XIX
29	20 x 5A	XIX
30	12 x 12E	XIX
31	5 x 8A	XVI Cyl. 6933
32	20 x 11 E	XVII
33	16 x 9 A	XVI Cyl. 45
34	4 x 12 E	XIX

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Description of Chart cont'd.

35		XVIII
36	1 x 6 E	XX XXI
37	16 x 10 A	XX XXI
38		XIX
39	3 x 3 E	XVI
40	1 x 3 M	XV XVI E XVIII, XIX E XX A XXII E
41	12 x 3A	XXII
42	18 x 9E	XVII
43	8 x 7 A	XIX
44		XX. XXI
45	9 x 12 A M	XV to XXII
46		XX. XXI
47	9 x 4 A	XXII.

Although members are notoriously shy about revealing anything remotely concerning their displays, we have been "tipped off" that Mr A. H. Adams of Dartford managed to focus a little light on Union stamps by gaining third place in the Dartford Society Chairman's Cup competition and a similar position in the London Transport Philatelic Society Competition. Congratulations, Mr Adams!

Mr M. R. Gluskey of Marlpool, Derbyshire informs us that he may be able to assist any member requiring stamps photographed, the cost being purely nominal. Enquiries direct please.

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GLASGOW GROUP MEETING

The February Meeting of the members of the Glasgow Group took place on Friday, 10th, in the Christian Institute, Bothwell Street. Only a few members turned out to view Mr Anderson's display of the "Unhyphenated Twopenny" possibly because this exhibit had been shown to the Glasgow members two years ago. Unfortunately it had not been made clear that since then Mr Anderson had completely remounted his material besides adding a considerable number of new stamps.

A separate page was devoted to each stamp in the sheet and by this means examples from the different printings could be easily compared. The display made it perfectly clear which varieties were common to each plate several examples of each being shown. The writing up and occasional sketch making it an easy matter to pick out the varieties on the various stamps. One quite remarkable feature of the display was the consistency with which the different colours appeared in each printing. One could in many cases tell at a glance from the colour alone which printing the stamp came from. Especially was this true of the stamps from the first plate. Mr Anderson was congratulated on the tremendous amount of work which he had done on this stamp and he modestly replied that there was still a good deal more work in front of him.

After the main display Mr Archer tabled the original Artist's Drawings for the 6d. value of the recently issued Pretoria Centenary stamps showing the portrait of President M. W. Pretorius and for the unissued Kruger Commemorative stamp of 1949. Also shown were a series of Engravers Proofs for the latter stamp which were of particular interest in view of the recent series of articles which have appeared in the South African Philatelist under the pen of Dr K. Freund. The Glasgow members feel much indebted to Mr Archer for giving us the opportunity of viewing such material and congratulated him on his good fortune in having it.

The next meeting of the members of the Glasgow Group will take place on Friday 9th, March in the usual meeting place. Dr Simpson from Edinburgh will give the display which will be confined to the One Penny value showing Van Riebeck's ship. A specially good turn-out is requested to meet Dr Simpson and Mr Wilkie who will accompany him.

E. L.

In the Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies' Bulletin No. 18 there is kindly mention of the Society for which we make grateful acknowledgement in these pages.

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AUCTION REALISATIONS DURING 1955

A RESUME by VOORTREKKER

This resume has become an annual feature of our magazine, possibly because most collectors have to consider the money they put into their stamp collection. The great majority of genuine collectors, as distinct from "investors in stamps", do not expect to realise their stamps at a profit when they come to sell, although it is only natural that they would be extremely pleased if in fact they were fortunate enough to recover their original outlay with a tax free profit in addition.

Provided a collector is prepared to take the time to study and acquire a bit more knowledge about his stamps than the next fellow, then there is no reason why he should be much, if anything, out of pocket when he comes to sell. It must be remembered however that stamps, like everything else, have fashion trends, some continuing to lie in the doldrums for several years until suddenly there is an awakening of interest and a corresponding increase in price.

South Africa being a large country with many collectors within her own borders does not, and is not, likely to suffer the same extremes in demand as many of the smaller countries and British Colonies. At the time of writing it is unquestionable that there is a steady demand for fine and unusual material which is not being satisfied for the simple reason that the material is just not available. It is only when one of the relatively few important collections of Union stamps are being sold that the ordinary collector has a chance to acquire anything out of the ordinary, and to do so he must in most cases be prepared to pay a considerable premium over the catalogued quotations.

During the year 1955 collectors were fortunate in that three valuable collections were broken up and sold by H. R. Harmer, Ltd., of London. Two of these, the Mummy and Stein collections were the subject of a special article in the July/August issue of this magazine. The third collection was also offered by Harmer's at their sale on 11th October last and the more important realisations from that sale are included in these notes.

Among the earlier issues Sherwood obtained 10/- for a block of 1d. O.R.C. used in C.G.H. while a top marginal strip of 4d. King's Head with missing horn in the watermark realised 20/-. He also offered control strips of the 2½d. 1/- and 1/3 obtaining 20/-, 40/- and 47/6 respectively. Harmer's too offered control blocks of four of the high values which made good prices, 2/6 (2) realising £6.10.0, 5/-, £11.10.0, 10/-, £17 and £1 (S.G.24a) £55. A complete mint set ½d. to £1 realised £15 at Harmer's who also sold a mint collection to the 10/- value, with some control blocks, 770 stamps in all, which went for £60 against an estimate of £20/30. The same firm obtained £17 for a set of 13 "Specimen" stamps (excluding the £1 value) the top value realising £2.5.0. at Sherwood's November sale. A wide variation was noticed in the prices obtained for the 2d. no watermark error which sold for £9 at Harmer's April sale and only made £4 in October.

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Turning to the Air stamps of 1925 Harmer's sold a pair of the 3d. (one thinned) with the error, imperforate between stamp and margin for £52 against a catalogue value of £25. The same error in the 9d. value realised £6.10.0. A mint block of 2 of the top value showing the two principle varieties ("Strut" and "Stroke through 9d") went for £8 while Sherwood knocked down a set of the 1925 forgeries at his October auction for 30/-. An interesting air mail item was a "Handley Page" Cape Town - Johannesburg cover, cachet rather faint, which Harmer's sold for £20. Only four covers are stated to exist.

Perhaps the most interesting lot among the 1926/29 issues was a mint set 2d. to 10/- comprising two of each value, all in different colours and each over-printed "Specimen", some stamps a little creased or thinned, which occasioned lively bidding at Harmer's October sale before being knocked down to a South African bidder at £180 against an estimate of £70. The same firm sold a mint collection comprising 328 stamps of the 1926/29 series, which included 34 photographs of unadopted designs. Estimated to realise £15 it made no less than £42. It is perhaps worth noting that several examples of the Harrison "Springbok" essay were on offer during the year and made 40/- to 50/- each. Sherwood offered the 5/- engraved perf. 14 + 13½ obtaining £4 for a mint pair and 30/- for a used pair with heavy cancellation. He also sold a mint pair of the 10/- value for £3.10/- and obtained 22/6 for four corner blocks of the ½d. Pretoria printing from Plate I.

In March Harmer's sold 300 mint pairs (some in blocks) of the 1930/45 ½d. (S.G.42) for £13 while a block of the 1d. value without watermark realised 63/-. There was also a useful collection of these issues offered comprising 640 stamps, with some varieties but no marginal arrows (values to 10/-) which sold for £38 against a valuation of £25/30. Sherwood sold a small collection of 1d. values with A D and E controls plus covered pairs, all used, which made £3. 2. 6 while a used pair of the 6d. with upright watermark made 20/- and a used pair with "Mole Hill" variety sold for 22/6.

Among the later Hyphenated issues Harmer's offered a mint collection to 10/- values, over 800 stamps in all, and including some cylinder numbers and a few arrow blocks which sold for £63 while Sherwood got 17/6 for a mint strip of 22 1d. monocoloured roll stamps showing several varieties. The same auctioneer also sold arrow blocks of the 1953 4½d., 1/3 and 1/6 stamps which realised 17/6 in June.

To mention two lots of commemorative stamps in passing, Sherwood sold used vertical pairs of the 1935 Silver Jubilees for 17/6 and a complete set of 21 panes of the 1d. JIPEX sheets for £3. 2. 6.

Turning our attention to the Postage Dues it is worth recording that Harmer's sold a mint block of four of the 1914/22 1/- for £5.10/-, Sherwood obtaining 30/- for a single copy. The latter auctioneer also sold Plate Proofs of the frame of the 1927 issue in green and in rose which made £2.10/- each. A collection of 996 stamps all mint, with many in blocks and panes was sold by Harmer's for £26 against an estimate of £15. Who said that Postage Dues were not popular?

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A mint collection comprising about 900 "Official" stamps was sold by Harmer's for £48 which was approximately the auctioneers valuation. Several interesting lots of "Officials" were offered by Sherwood including a used pair of the 1½d. with "diaeresis" variety which realised 27/6 while he obtained £3.12.6 for a used block of the same stamp. A complete right hand pane (half sheet) of the 1930 1d. with B control made £5.12.6 and a mint single copy of the 1926 2d. was sold for 7/6.

Finally it is worth putting on record that Harmer's sold a number of unspecified duplicates in a cardboard box together with bound volumes I - XIV and unbound volumes XV - XXX of the South African Philatelist which made no less than £18 against the auctioneers valuation of £7/10.

GLASGOW GROUP MEETINGS

The December meeting the subject of which was the "Animal Series" was sponsored by Mr R. J. Archer. The members were certainly unanimous in their opinion that it will be a long time before the new stamps can hope to take the place of the old in the affection of collectors. They also disapproved of the policy of the Editors of the South African Handbook in giving catalogue rank to comparatively minor blemishes. They felt that such a policy would do more harm than good to the hobby in the long run as it would tend to frighten away would be collectors of South African issues who had no time for "fly speck" philately.

Mr Archer tabled a most interesting collection of these issues which included examples of the different printings in their various shades. He also showed the different Jubilee lines which appear on each side of the sheet on certain printings and of course the so-called varieties were there for good measure. At the conclusion of his main display Mr Archer exhibited blocks of the new Covenant stamps but unfortunately the views of the members attending the meeting are unprintable.

Our first meeting in the New Year was held on January 13th, when Mr Lauder showed his collection of Travelling Post Offices. He explained that the display was divided into three sections:

- (1) Sea Post Offices. (2) T.P.O.'s. (3) Mobile Post Offices.

The first section included four complete examples of the early types of Shipping Postmaster, Cape Town cancellation as well as an entire showing the use of the Cape Colony Ocean Post Office to cancel an O.R.C. stamp instead of the more usual C.G.H. stamps.

The second part of the display included a fine range of early covers of the Boer War period some having passed through Army and others Civil Travelling Post Offices. There was a good range of the later types and Mr Lauder explained the various routes by means of a map.

The display was concluded with an interesting selection of the Mobile Post Office marks mainly in complete covers.

" T H E S P R I N G B O K "

Members were reminded that the next meeting would be held on Friday, 10th February which would take the form of an "Open Night" to be followed by a short display of Unhyphenated Varieties from Mr Anderson.

LONDON GROUP MEETINGS

There was a slightly smaller attendance at the January meeting of the London Group held on the 10th. at Brixton, when quite a bit of time was devoted to discussing the plans for the next Exhibition to be held in conjunction with the 1956 Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 29th September, 1956.

During these discussions and arising from previous deliberations at the last Annual General Meeting, the following Committees were elected:

Exhibits Committee: Messrs A.J.Brown, R.J.Lawrence, E.W.Merriman

Administrative Committee: Messrs E.G.Kinsey, D.Parker, G.M.Whitten.

and in each case the London Chairman and Secretary will be "ex officio" members and the Secretary will act as co-ordinator. Elsewhere in this issue an appeal is being made to members to offer material to make the main show of 1d issues as complete if not more complete than the 1st value on show at the 1955 Exhibition.

The remainder of the evening was devoted to discussion of members' queries and several unusual items were seen - some being "unanswered queries". The next meeting was fixed for 14th February and will be an Auction.

W.A.P.

The February meeting covered an auction at which 40 lots were offered and mostly sold.

In addition the following meetings were arranged -

- 13th March: Air Mails, JIPEX and Postal Stationery
- 10th April: Officials
- 8th May: Annual General Meeting
- 14th August: Exhibition plans.
- 11th September: Collection of material for Exhibition.

W.A.P.

" THE SPRINGBOK "

THE 1956 EXHIBITION

As you will have read elsewhere in this issue the main theme for this year's Exhibition to be held at the Cora Hotel, St. Pancras, London on Saturday, 29th September next, will be the 1d van Riebeck ship. With much more space at our disposal it is hoped to make this show even more complete than was the $\frac{1}{2}$ d value on show last year.

At the January meeting of the London Group, a special sub-committee was formed to deal entirely with Exhibition material and this committee now appeals to all members to let them have details of any items of the 1d value which they think would be of interest. The type of material required particularly is large blocks and arrow blocks of the earlier rotogravure issues, etc., Flaws and varieties whether or not they are recorded are always of great interest. There must be a wealth of material available among members and any help will be greatly appreciated by the committee, as they have a colossal task before them.

Offers in the first case should be sent to Mr A. J. Brown, 17 Wimbledon Park Court, Wimbledon Park Road, London, S.W.19.

PRESS REFERENCES:

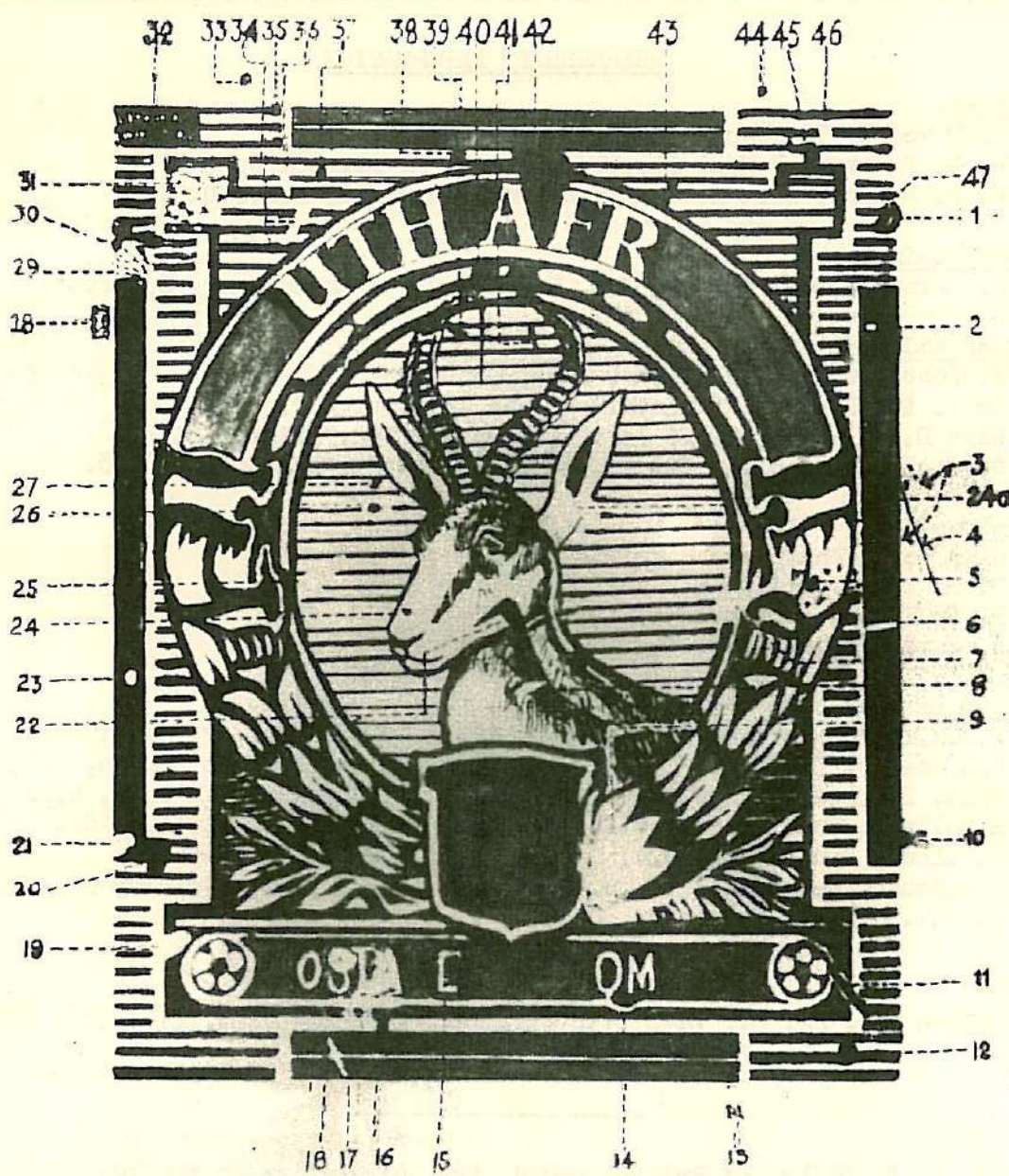
SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST:

- October 1955. Union Notes - Extra horn variety on 1/-d London; Unrecorded 1d Pl.XI varieties; new printing of 1d Wildebeest. Earliest Transvaal Pre-Stamp Covers. Kruger Essays (Dr. Freund). The Machadodorp 1900 Postcard (Rossouw). O.V.S. Commando Brief (A.C.Fenn). Unrecorded British A.P.O., 1901.
- November 1955. Union Notes - 1d Hyphenated without watermark; New Zoological Registered Envelopes; current 1d with trimmed margins. Varieties of current Union postcards. Kruger Essays: 11 (Freund). $\frac{1}{2}$ d Bantam Retouched top row (Caeculus).
- December 1955. Union Notes - Recent Printings; varieties on Kruger and Pretorius stamps. Teppex Report. $\frac{1}{2}$ d Bantam Retouched II (Caeculus). Kruger Essays III (Freund).
- January 1956. Union Notes - Covenant Stamp varieties; Mixed fount on $1\frac{1}{2}$ d Official; Plating flaws on 6d Pretoria Cent.; Flaws on Animal series. Index to 1955 volume. New Republic IV (Harvey Pirie). Union 4d Triangular (Official correspondence).

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE: Varieties of the 3d Groote Schuur (Sutton) 30/1/55

STAMP MAGAZINE: "South Africa - General Issues" (Page) - brings up-to-date Mr Page's series on the Pictorials. (Dec.55)

STRAND STAMP JOURNAL: "The Springbok Halfpenny" by Dr Ward, continued in the December, January and February issues, and concluded in the March issue.



Note - **FLAWS OF PLATES XV TO XXII**
Horns are those of 1st printing of Plate XV - Unknown Cyls

" THE SPRING BOOK "

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

New Members.

312. H. Maycock, 55 Osborne Road, Manchester 19.
313. R. R. Brookes, 7 East Shrubbery, Redland, Bristol 6.
314. H. A. Browne, West Ave. & Wheat Rd., Vineland, N.J., U.S.A.

Member rejoining.

224. J. Berman B.Sc., Box 31, P.O. Northlands, Johannesburg, S.Africa.

Changes of Address.

105. F. Webb, 70 Grosvenor Road, Sale, Cheshire
110. Dr J. McD.Simpson, 61 Liberton Road, Edinburgh 9.
140. Miss D. M. Spear, 50 St John's Road, Clifton, Bristol 8.
286. C. C. Seaford, M.C., Flat 3, 42 Cleveland Square, London, W.3.

Resignations.

111. Miss G. M. Thompson, Haywards Heath.
117. F. H. Darn, Hailsham
164. P. S. Roots, Bournemouth
251. H. Davidson, Gateshead.

Membership Lapsed.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 85. F.D.M.Lowry, Heswall | 204. A.Delbarre, Avion, France |
| 124. H.E.Tester, Isleworth | 206. J.Joseph, East London, S.A. |
| 147. F/Lt. R.F.A.Wren, Royston | 226. J.Michelson, Jo'burg, S.A. |
| 154. L.Hellman, East London, S.A. | 227. J.Babb, Ontario, Canada. |
| 175. G.J.Louw, Rondebosch, S.A. | 271. P.B.Evans, Stockton. |
| 197. H.O.Nouss, Ferguson 21, U.S.A. | 282. J.M.Snyder, Winthrop 52, U.S.A. |
| 202. Dr G.I.Faerber, Germiston, S.A. | |

Deletions.

Please delete Nos. 22, 81, 149, 153, 172, 194, 196, 200, 203, 216, 223, 228, 229,
246, 250, 254, 256, 262, 264.

Mr W. G. R. Wilby, of Bristol would like information on two postal cancellations which he cannot find recorded in the more recent Postal Guides -

- (1) Is a 1/-d G.V. showing "20 AUG 14 MOORDDRIFT".
- (2) Is a 3d black and orange G.V. showing "17 NOV 15 CROCODILE COURT" TVL"

The February issue of the "Stamp Magazine" carries a full column report of the Exhibition in London whilst the American "Stamps" again has reference to the Society in one of its recent issues bringing yet more enquiries from the States. To both magazines we offer our warmest thanks for their helping hand.