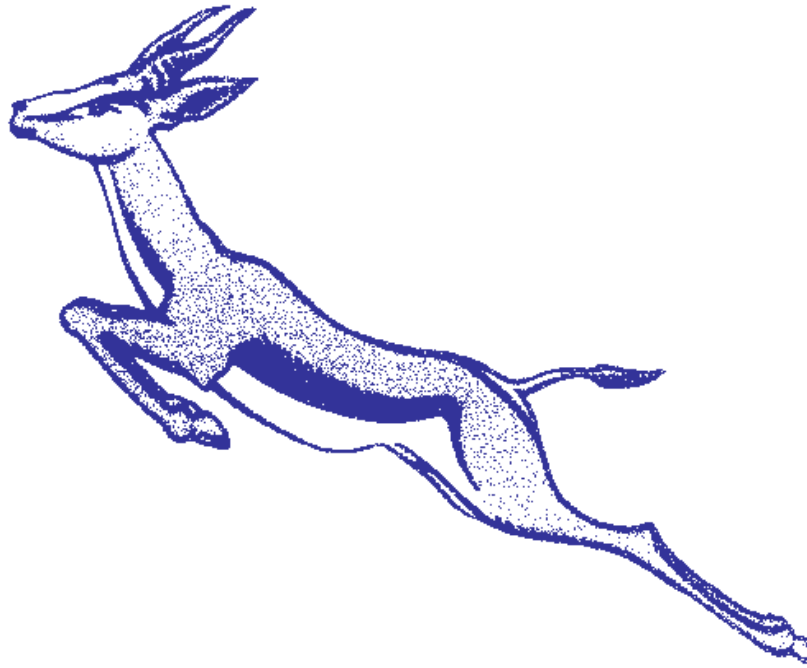


THE SPRINGBOK



SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY QUARTERLY

Vol. 58

No. 3

Jul/Sep 2010



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The Springbok

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Contents

Articles

Page

Report on the Regional Meeting Salisbury	John Shaw	55
Brian Trotter signs Roll of Distinguished Philatelists	Eddie Bridges	57
South African Digest-Newspaper Wrapper	David Macdonald	58
The OFFICIAL/OFFISIEEL double overprint variety on the Ship penny	Roald Sand	63
RSA Study Series 1965 ITU Centenary	RSA Stamp Study Group	68
Service Suspended Covers Part 1	Robert Johnson	71
1935 Reduced Airmail Rate	Nick Arrow	76
Book Review: The Legacy of Lydenburg	John Shaw	77

Regular Features

Events for your Diary-2010	54
From the Editors desk	54
Membership Matters	58

Advertisers

Harmers	FP		
David Loffstadt	60	Otto Peetoom	59
Philatelic Friends	62	Argyll Etkin	IBP
AfricaStamps.co.uk	60	Stephan Welz/Sotheby's	BP
Paul van Zeyl t/a as Rand Stamps	67		

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.

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Editorial Panel

E. Bridges
C. Oliver
J.L. Shaw

Events for your Diary 2010

London Meetings commence at 1.30 pm
Carlisle Meetings commence at 10.00 am

20th Feb.	SACS London meeting	Subject: Maritime Mail
24-27th Feb	<u>SACS display at Stampex</u>	
27th Mar	SACS Carlisle meeting	Subject: Victorian & Edwardian SA 1860-1910
29th May	SACS London meeting	Subject: Hyphenated Pictorial high values [6d +]
5th Jun.	SACS Leicester meeting	Subject: Open meeting
7th Aug.	SACS Salisbury meeting	Subject: All day open meeting
*Sep.	SACS Carlisle meeting	Subject: Abel Trophy competition
25th Sep. .	SACS London meeting	Subject: SA in WW II
27th Nov.	SACS London meeting	Subject: Open meeting

* Date still to be confirmed

12-14th Nov. Southern African Societies Convention Falstaff Hotel Leamington Spa

Other Events for 2010

24-27th Feb.	Spring Stampex, Business Design Centre, Islington, London.
25-27th Feb.	Spring Philatex, Royal Horticultural Halls, Vincent Sq. London
5-6th May	Philatex Extra, Royal Horticultural Halls, Vincent Sq. London
8-15th May	London 2010 , Islington
12th June	Swinpex in Swindon
22-25th July	British Philatelic Congress at Kenilworth, Warks.
16-19th Sep.	Autumn Stampex, Business Design Centre, Islington, London
27-31st Oct.	Jo'burg 2010 in Sandton, Johannesburg
4-6th Nov	Autumn Philatex, Royal Horticultural Halls, Vincent Sq. London.

**For further details, please contact the secretary. We have several joint meetings in the year.
Please support these events.**

From the Editors Desk

This has been a year of very little activity on my stamps due to my illness. I am happy to report that I am now hopefully in the final stretch with the doctors positive that I will make a full recovery.

You will see that I have left several of the requests for information in this issue as I had no responses from them in the last issue. My plea for articles has had a small response. Thanks to Roald Sand, our member in Norway who has responded. His study of the double Official overprint on the one penny ship is published in this issue. A few other short articles have been forwarded to me and I am grateful to these members for putting the effort in. I am however still in need of more as my reserve articles are now more or less depleted. One article (display) I had in reserve was the Interrupted Mails pertaining to South Africa by Robert Johnson. Part one is now published in this issue.

Our Leamington Conference is now fast approaching and I am sure it will be a good weekend again as always. The auction catalogue for the auction to be held on the Sunday is included with this issue of ***The Springbok***.
Happy reading.

Eddie Bridges

Report on the August 2010 Regional Meeting in Salisbury

By John Shaw

These regional meetings seem to be gathering popularity, and they cater for some who find it difficult to attend London meetings. The scout hut at Downton, near Salisbury, was an excellent venue, with ample parking space, and just a pleasant short walk for a pub lunch. Ten people attended the meeting these being Nicholas Arrow, Tony Howgrave-Graham, John McClellan, Christopher & Susan Oliver, Sebastian Payne, Andrew Round, John Shaw and guests Barry and Patricia Smith.

Tony Howgrave-Graham gave the main display, showing bantam War Effort stamps, the purpose of issue being saving of paper. The main interest lies in the slogans printed (or not) in the sheet margins and, to a lesser extent, the 11th row flaws, resulting from the inking and printing cylinders being different sizes. Some noteworthy items included the scarce ½d Issues 3 and 3A, 1½d Issue 1, 2d with blurred slogans and another grossly misperforated, 1/- with "smoking gun" variety and matching corner blocks of the 1d with total absence of slogans due to a dry print – quite stunning and possibly a unique assembly. Other highlights for me were the lovely blocks with the "slogans printed on stamps" varieties, the 6d, with blue slogans, on orange stamps being quite spectacular; this is the finest assemble of these I have ever seen and I believe most, if not all, came from the "Wunsh" collection, and possibly the Legator collection before that.. Tony also showed usages including a 5/6d rate from Canada, 3d used on vehicle excise licence and some bantam revenue stamps, where the year date appears beneath the head; highlights of the revenues were the 5/- with error of inscription, the largest recorded block (of six) of the £10 and a complete unit of three of the £25. All-in-all most interesting and up to Tony's usual high standard.

Next, guest Barry Smith showed photocopies of part of his Large Gold medal airmail collection, which he is also working on for the November centennial exhibition in South Africa. Working back-to-front, his first session showed post World War Two material including the 1946 re-introductions of the internal services, the Empire Air Mail scheme, a BOAC "Test letter", King's Flight cover and many first direct flights, including DC7B West Coast service, De Havilland Comet crash covers and a wonderful "Damon Runyan Trust" round-the world cover advertising America goods, with cachets from 45 major cities covering 28 countries. Out of order, Barry's next showing included mouth-watering earlier items such as the Gayford & Nicholetts Cranwell flight, 1931 Davenport crash cover (with manuscript date amendment), Tommy Rose Pietersburg, HL Brook "Praga Baby", Schlesinger air race, Boadicea crash cover (one of two known), KG VI Coronation pigeon post, the Louise Bonny Australia- Capetown and Geneva-Capetown Mittlehozer flights. I have a decent collection of South Africa airmails, including RD Allen's silver medal collection, but most of the above-mentioned are absent from it.

John Shaw then showed the first London pictorials, mainly the Bradbury Wilkinson printings, but with the Waterlow ½d and 1d on first day cover, the 4d triangular in complete sheets and English and Afrikaans packets used for the pre-cut single triangulars. The BWs included a specimen set in pairs and inscriptional pieces for all known perforation groups of all values including the very rare 2/6d and 5/- Group II. The late Bob Lawrence, my mentor, once complained that for our 1970s exhibition he would probably have to leave these two spaces blank, but they did mysteriously appear on the day, and then disappeared back into a black hole. Having spent over 30 years putting these together, John now has the task of doing it all again for left and right panes!

Chris Oliver concluded with a most interesting study of the standard rate self adhesive animal stamps, including essays, imperf booklet proofs and Dennis Murphy rejected designs. These were followed by the development of the issued stamps from 1998-99 including different formats and logos, irregular phosphor blocks, sheet stamps with elliptical perforations and the Summer 1998 paper trials. Chris later showed World War One material with a lovely "Springboks welcome home" booklet, coloured greetings cards, a variety of redirected, Army Base Office and censor marks; concluding were pictorial envelopes, photographs of troops returning to Capetown and a post-card to Switzerland with a fine "POST FREE – PRISONER OF WAR" circular marking.

All-in-all, this was a most enjoyable occasion and hearty thanks must go to our organiser, Nicholas Arrow, for making it all possible.

A photographic record of the event is shown on the next page. Photos courtesy of Chris Oliver. Ed.



Tony Howgrave-Graham showing his Bantam War Issues



Barry Smith showing part of his award winning Airmails collection



Nick Arrow showing some Republic Protea Issues



John Shaw showing his London BW pictorials



Some of the regional meeting audience listening to Barry Smith

Brian Trotter Signs Roll of Distinguished Philatelists

SACS member, Brian Trotter signed the Roll at the recent Philatelic Congress held at Kenilworth here in the UK. We congratulate Brian on this very prestigious honour and wish him well in his future philatelic endeavours. For those who don't know, Brian was also chairman of the London 2010 exhibition and has several award winning collections on Southern African material several attaining Gold at International exhibitions in recent years. Brian together with myself has also been involved with organising the annual Southern African Societies Conference which celebrated its sixth year in 2009. The first informal gathering was in Chester in 2003. Brian has taken a well earned break for the 2010 Conference and passed the task on to Simon Peetoom, assisted by myself. Thanks to Chris Oliver for the photographs.

Eddie Bridges



Brian Trotter signing the Roll



The RDP's at Kenilworth

Membership Matters

By Chris Oliver

It is with deep sadness that we have to report the passing of **John Leddington** of Leicester on the 7th September. Member Mike Berry attended his Memorial Service in Leicester, representing the South African Collectors'

It is with regret that we have received the resignation of member Bob Martin (987)

Dealers

If you are a dealer and would like to place an advert, please contact the Editor for rates.

Wanted

I am looking for Positional pieces on the Large war issues. If you have any duplicates spare, please let your Editor know with asking price. Part sheets also acceptable.

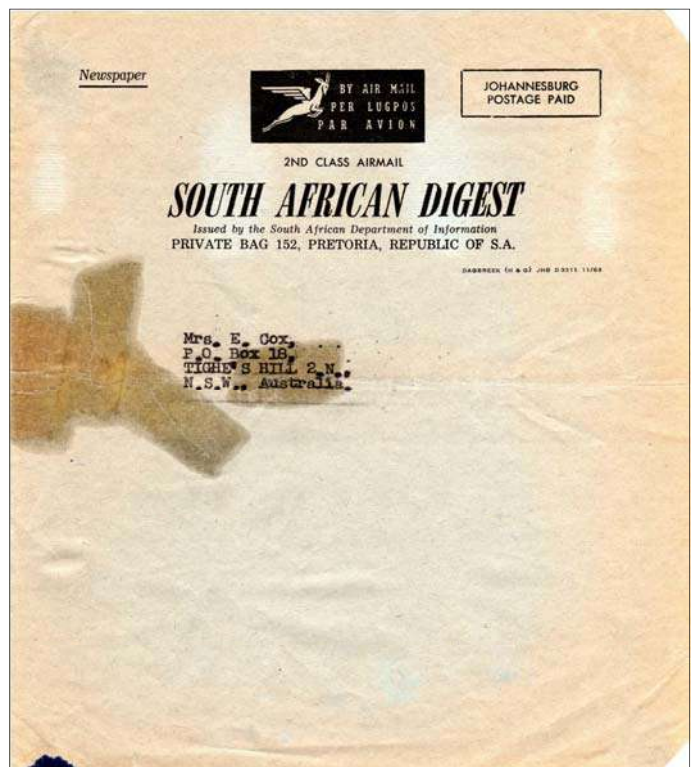
Eddie Bridges

Members may submit wants (lists or specific items) for publication in *The Springbok*. **This is a free service!**

South African Digest – Newspaper Wrapper

By David Macdonald

I have discovered, in amongst items received in an auction lot I obtained about 2 years ago, a newspaper wrapper issued by the South African Department of Information for the 'South African Digest'. The printer reference indicates it was printed by 'DAGBREEK (H&G) JHB D 3311 11/63' so I judge it to have been available shortly after printing in November 1963. Unfortunately the wrapper has been damaged by sellotape, now shown by staining marks. The wrapper appears to have been used as there are adhesive marks on the reverse (top) and front (folded bottom third hidden in scan) to an addressee in N.S.W., Australia. Can any member supply additional information on this and similar newspaper wrappers?



Articles Needed

Your Editor is in dire need of articles short and long. The in basket is now completely empty. If you feel inspired to do something but do not know how to go about it, please let me know and I can try and help.

I prefer articles in digital format (sent via e-mail, on a cd or you can call me and I will send you a memory stick to save it on. I can accept MS Word or Publisher files. The home pc versions of MS Worx are also ok as I can convert these.

If you do not have pc facilities, do not despair as I will take typed manuscripts or hand written articles. These just take a bit of time to type up but I am prepared to do this if it gets an article into print!

Eddie Bridges

South Africa South West Africa

Fully illustrated lists available for the above countries. Two lists available for South Africa, one featuring better single items, sets and varieties and the second, Postal History. If you would like a copy, please contact:

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Can your collection help ongoing research?

If you are attending the Salisbury meeting on the 7th August, Bas Payne will welcome sight of any of the following or can help in further research, he would be grateful.

Good examples of Union or pre-Union parcel post marks or official parcel labels

Sheet number blocks of first Union bilingual definitives (SG 42-49, 54-64, 114-122 and related issues)

good examples of Transvaal double-circle postmarks dating between 1894 and 1902

good examples of Union and pre-Union machine postmarks (either with slogans or with lines) pre-1945

If you have any of the above material please bring them to the meeting so that they can be noted and photos can be taken as needed. This can be done on the day - there won't be any need to lend the material to anyone. Any help will be profusely acknowledged ...

Alternatively if you cannot attend the meeting, you can send scans to Bas Payne at bas.payne@gmail.com

Military Cachets used on Robben Island

George Cafetzoglou (a South African Dealer and Collector) and Jim Findlay of the WW2 Study Group are compiling a listing with illustrations of World War 2 military cachets used on Robben Island.

To date they have recorded eight but feel there must be more. When one reads the history of Robben Island during the War, there were many servicemen and woman being trained on the Island.

If you have any cachets used on the Island during the war, please let Jim have a scanned copy (preferably JPEG, 300dpi) with size measurements and date of use.

Please also record any "Passed by Censor" cachets (letter size, length of cachet, English only or bilingual as it will be useful to include these.

Jim Findlay can be e-mailed on agrecon@telkomsa.net

1948 Royal Silver Wedding Issue

Michael Molineaux.

I am relatively new to collecting South Africa, as well as being a new member of the Society. I have a question that I feel sure that someone in the Society can answer and I thought that you might be willing to put it in the Springbok for me.

"In the November/December 1949 issue of the West End Philatelist Dr. K. Pennycuik stated that it is possible to plate every position of the 1948 Royal Silver Wedding issue and listed all the identifying characteristics of each stamp in his article.

Unfortunately, probably due to a printing error, no characteristics were listed for the stamp in the position Row 5 Stamp no.6. The West End Philatelist did not publish any correction of this omission and I have not seen it in any subsequent copy of the original article.

Whilst this will not matter very much to those who collect mint stamps, as pairs and multiples should give them the position, if you only collect used stamps then multiples, or even pairs, are not so readily available. Can anyone who has the stamp in question give me its identifying characteristics, please?"

Michael can be contacted at michaelmolineaux212@btinternet.com

If you do not have access to e-mail, please let your Editor have the information (on any of the above) who will pass it on.

CAN YOU HELP PLEASE

---oOo---

CENSORSHIP OF SOUTH AFRICAN MAIL DURING WWII

The two published works on this subject are by JH Harvey Pirie in 1953 and John Little in 2000. Before his death, Chris Miller was, with the agreement of John Little, working on a new Study on this subject that would include a lot of new material. He was working closely with Tom Mullins who lived in South Africa but who has, unfortunately, also passed away

A questionnaire based on Chris and Tom's papers is being prepared and the purpose of this notice in the Journal is to ask for help please from anyone who has any covers censored by the South African authorities, or who has a general interest in this subject.

If you will contact me at –

davidlee8@btinternet.com or telephone 01273 589 455

or 18 Rosemary Close, Peacehaven, East Sussex BN10 8BY

Once it is available, I will send you the questionnaire for completion and return. Although it will be several pages, hopefully it will not be an onerous task to complete it. And the end result – if we can get enough responses – should bring our knowledge of this subject right up to date and make collecting the covers more interesting.

LOOKING FOR THE UNUSUAL (OR THE USUAL)



1892-4 Cape of Good Hope ½d slate/white Postal Stationery Envelope with addit. 1d KEVII red tied by manuscript WALVIS BAY 5/7/09 in black pen, to Swakopmund, with very neat arrival postmark 12.7.09.

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The OFFICIAL/OFFISIEEL double overprint on the ship penny

By Roald Sand

When studying the different copies of the 1d. roto issue 8 with double overprint, the varying offsets of the two overprints is striking. Looking closer reveals a slight rotation of one of the overprints.



Figure 1: Rotation of overprints

Seen under a microscope, the angled overprint was the first to be applied. The copies from the lower part of the sheet reveal the cause of the printer to make a "correction" by applying another overprint. The word "OFFISIEEL" falls outside frame of the stamps and into the perforated gutter. This "correction" seems not to have been assessed a happy solution, as other copies of misplaced/rotated overprints on the 1d. of set 9 (UHB -86) without a second overprint exist. The ones included in Dr Ian Matheson's Large Gold collection (Published by SACS) shows the same degree of misplacement as the first of the double overprint, without being corrected.

A number of misplaced OFFICIAL overprints exist on various stamps of the Union. Only three issues have received a double overprint. These are the halfpenny of set 7, the penny of set 9 and the halfpenny of set 10 (two different doubles).

The halfpenny of set 7 is recognized as being applied to one sheet only. The penny of set 9 is stated to be more than one sheet existing. So far, I have only seen copies from one sheet. The number of units examined by me is 10 comprising 12 pairs, representing 10% of the sheet. The copies are distributed in positions throughout the sheet, except for the lower left quarter of the sheet, where I have not seen any. Maybe this part of the sheet exists as a larger block in a collection somewhere?

All the pairs studied by me fits into a pattern that could indicate being bought as a full sheet and divided carefully into pairs and blocks. All units seen are in bilingual pairs or blocks of 4, giving 6 pairs in a row. (Stamps 1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12, stamps from column 5-6 have not been seen). No copies seen so far are singles, triples or pairs from positions destroying the possibility of having 6 pairs from the row of twelve.

To help me in my studies of the double overprint, I have made a representation of the overprint, produced in Adobe InDesign software. The fonts used in this mock-up resemble the types used in the overprinting closely enough to serve the purpose. I have made a calculation of the angling of the two overprints (0.3755 degrees) and superimposed two overprints according to the known positional pieces. This is shown in Figure 2. (shown on next page)

This representation gives a picture of the offsets of the two overprints in the different positions of the sheet, and enables me to position any copy of the stamp within the sheet. It will not give an exact replica of the overprint on the stamps, as the representation will give a geometrically regular pattern with exactly even spacing of the words horizontally and vertically, which is not the case in the typeset form used for the overprinting.

In the representation of the overprint, I have added the listed varieties and marks from the UHB, both basic stamps (stV) and overprints (opV), and "The Ship Penny" by Gordon Ward (GW).

The following stamp varieties of the basic stamps have been identified:

- V4 in position 2/3 of the sheet: Red spot in sea (11th row).
- V2 in position 7/4: Two red dots above middle of top frame line (MP).
- V13 in position 20/7: Red smudge in first "A" of "AFRIKA"

Figure 3:
Stamp variety V4: Red dot
in sea Position 2/3, lower
left stamp



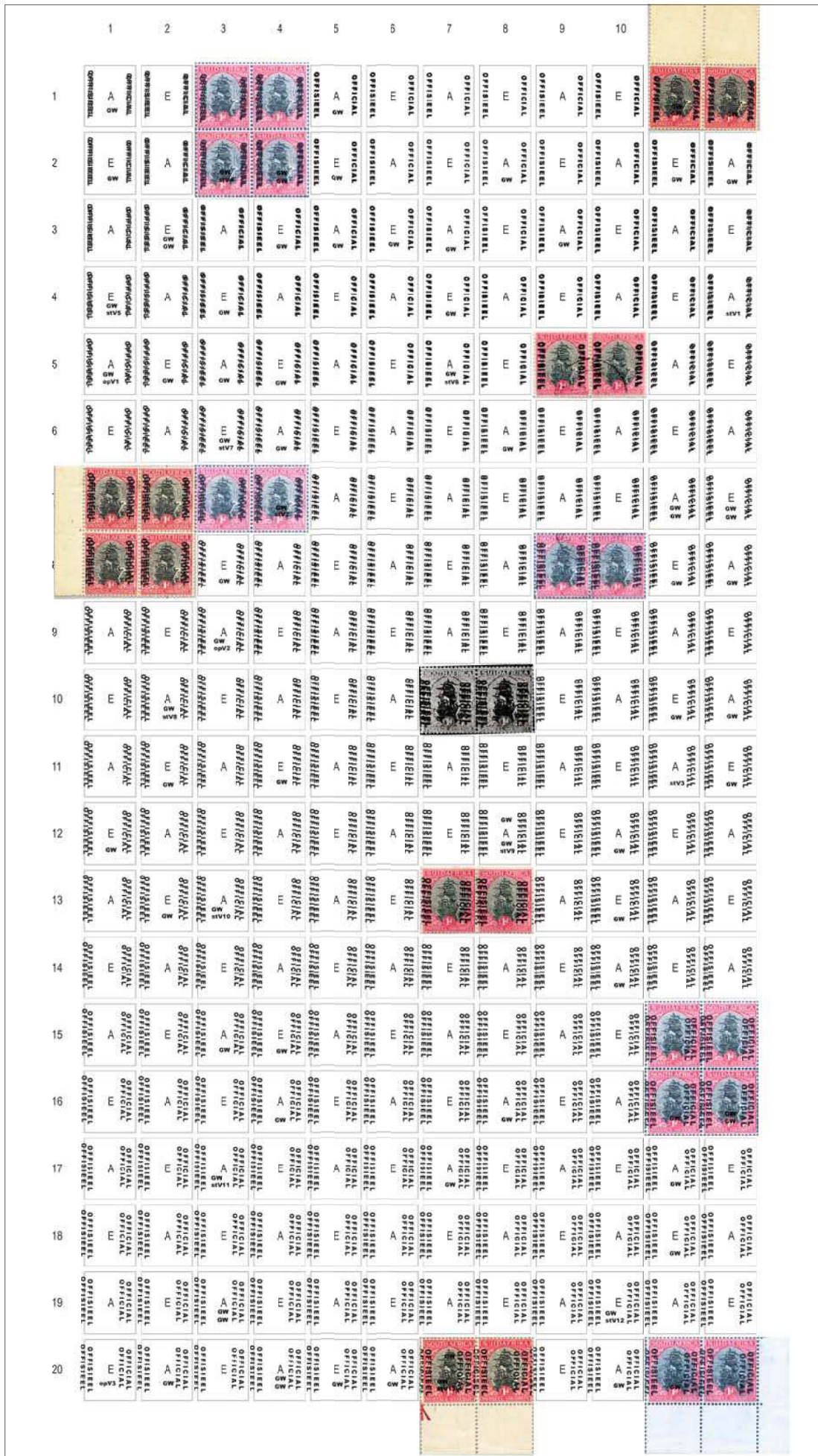


Figure 2

The following copies have been identified from attached margin or by flaws identified by Gordon Ward:

- Position 1/11-12: Flaws in Gordon Ward "the Ship Penny" (issue 20, figure 20)
- Position 20/7-8: Part bottom arrow
- Position 20/11-12: Corner marginal



Figure 4:
Part bottom arrow and
Stamp variety V13: Red
smudge in "A" of "AFRICA"
Position 20/7

This leaves me with 6 pairs positioned by identification marks. The remainder copies are positioned by the relative position of the wording OFFICIAL/OFFISIEEL of the two overprints.

None of the varieties in the overprint has been seen. The pair in position 8/7-8 comes from an illustration in the UHB and is very coarse, so I have some doubts about the positioning. One pair is postmarked (position 8/9-10), but the date and place name are not legible.

The two overprints coincide in position on stamps of row 2, position 7-8. On these stamps, and the ones surrounding them, the doubling of the overprint will be barely noticeable. Maybe there are copies in collections not identified as having the double overprint. Please have a closer look at your own copies.

I ask fellow philatelists who are in possession of copies or know of copies of the double overprint on the ship penny, to send me a scan, 300dpi. Then we might be able to get an answer to my question: Are there more than one sheet existing of the 1d. ship double overprint?

For invaluable help in this study, thanks go to:

Dr. Anthony Howgrave-Graham

Dr. Ian Matheson

Robert Hisey

Roald can be contacted by e-mail at:

roald.sand2@getmail.no

Note:

If anyone requires a file of the mock up of the illustrations, please let the editor or Roald know. They may be better to examine if printed out on a A3 page, which is obviously not possible in this journal.

Leamington Spa Weekend Conference

Dates as per the Events for your diary at the beginning of this journal.

If you need a hotel room, please advise Simon Peetoom of your requirements. His tel. number and e-mail address as follows:

Tel. no. 01619 268422
E-mail: info@AfricaStamps.co.uk

A good weekend not to be missed!

Information on Air Mail labels sought

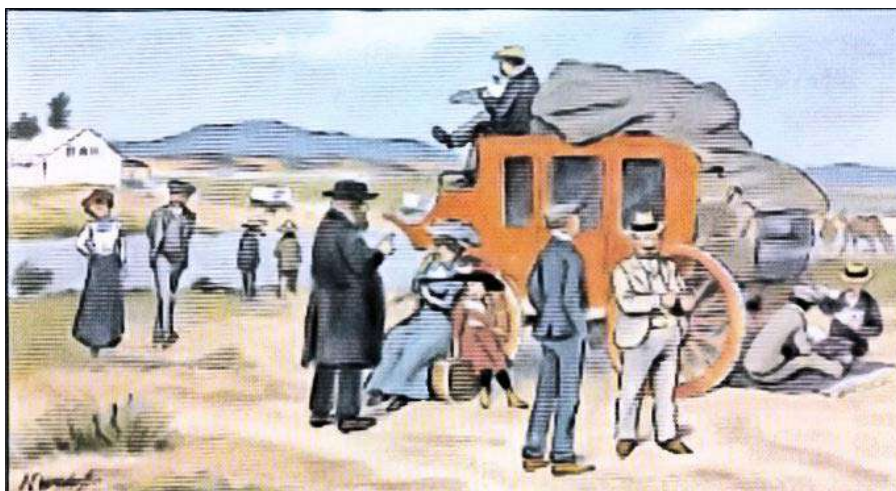
David Macdonald [david.a.macdonald@btinternet.com] has sent the following request. If anyone can help, please contact him by e-mail.

For sometime I have been looking at Air Mail etiquette labels with a view to writing an article on them from their inception until at least about 1990 depending on what information is sourced. The article is presently well on its way but I need to try and get more information of labels since about the mid to late 1980s. Unfortunately letters sent to the SA Philatelic Bureau, Pretoria have not been answered in the past, so no info from there.

I am aware of an article written on the subject - SA Philatelist, December 1989 by Howard Cook, Philatelic Society of Natal, titled 'Airmail labels of South Africa' .

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e-mail: paulvz@mweb.co.za; Tel +27 (0)12 329 2464; Fax +27 (0)12 329 3157

1965.05.17 – ITU CENTENARY

Designer: Unknown

The Centenary of the founding of the International Telecommunication Union was celebrated by the issue of two commemorative stamps. The first International Telegraph Convention was held in Paris in 1865. The ITU has headquarters in Geneva. South Africa has been a member since 1881, through the Cape Colony joining in that year.



SACC 250



SACC 251



Commemorative Date Stamp

The Post Office issued a special Official Souvenir Postcard to commemorate the event. This was the first of the official series of FDC's. It was not numbered and there were two printings. A special date stamp was made and used in Pretoria. The postmark was designed by N W Meadows.

Samuel Morse sent his first public message over a telegraph line between Washington and Baltimore on 24 May 1844, ushering in the telecommunication age. Ten years later telegraphy was available as a service to the general public but telegraph lines did not cross national borders. Because each country used a different system, messages had to be transcribed, translated and handed over at frontiers, then re-transmitted over the telegraph network of the neighbouring country.

Setting up telegraph links often required a huge number of separate agreements. In the case of Prussia, for example, no less than fifteen agreements were required for the link between the capital and the frontier localities bordering other German states.

On 17 May 1865 the first International Telegraph Convention was signed in Paris by founding members from 20 European states.

The telephone was patented in 1876 and wireless telegraphy – the first type of radio communication – invented in 1896. The first *International Radiotelegraph Conference* was held in Berlin in 1906. The year 1920 saw the beginning of sound broadcasting at the studios of the Marconi Company.



At the 1932 Madrid Conference the Union decided to combine the *International Telegraph Union* of 1865 and the *International Radiotelegraph Convention* of 1906 to form the **International Telecommunication Union**. The new name and logo came into effect on 1 January 1934.

The *International Telecommunication Union* is an international organisation established to standardise and regulate international radio and telecommunications. In 1947, after the Second World War, ITU held a conference in Atlantic City to develop and modernize the organisation. Under an agreement with the newly created United Nations, it became a UN specialised agency on 15 October 1947 and transferred its headquarters in 1948 from Bern to Geneva. It has French, English, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese as its official languages.

The Commemorative Post Card

The identifying features of the Post card is done from the number of diamonds as seen on the back.



According to The S A Philatelist of July 1965 the postcards were not printed in the stamp printing section of the Government Printing Works, but in another department on the Heidelberg Automat Platen Press.

The postcards were only obtainable from the Philatelic Bureau. The demand was much larger than was expected and the 5 000 of the Bureau ran out early in May and another 5 000 were ordered and delivered. A new type was made and the same machine used. The second issue was in the size and style of the first, but with several differences on the back of the card, eg the spacing between the lines of printing has been increased so that the text is slightly higher. The horizontal line at the bottom has only two four pointed stars in its centre, compared with three, and, in the third line of the second paragraph, the I of international is missing from the first issue but not from the second.

The Stamps

Printed on RSA watermarked paper with Pane A on the right of B on the Goebel I830 machine and perforated by the eleven row appliance. The same multipositive was used for both panes.

Varieties

2½c - Common to Panes A and B

R5/3	Blue "apostrophe" above 6 of 1865
R7/4	Blue horizontal curved line below 65 of 1965
R8/4	Long blue horizontal line below 1965
R9/3	Blue dots within upper arc of orange ring
R9/5	Two diagonal blue lines below V of VAN
R10/3	Blue dot on right arc of white ring
R19/4	Large blue dot below 6 of 1865

2½c - Panes A and B

Pane A	R4/1	White dot above T of South
	R6/2	Two blue dots VAN
	R7/2	Large white "cloud" right of c of 2½c
	R17/5	Large white smudge touching top of right of globe
	R5/2	White dots right of white ring
Pane B	R4/1	Tiny orange dot right of 6 of 1865
	R4/4	White dot below U of Suid
	R6/3	Tiny white dot between P and U of Republiek
	R12/4	White dot below c of 2½c

500 000 sheets were ordered. 17 300 sheets were delivered on 27.4.65, and total to date 425 601 sheets. New cylinders. Single pane stepped up on step and repeat camera; double exposed on Bouzard M/C; printed and perforated on M/C 830. RSA coated paper.

12½c - Common to Panes A and B

R3/3	White dot at lower left of telegraph wire
LR17/3	Brown dot at 1 o'clock of globe

12½c - Panes A and B

Pane A	R7/1	Small white dot left of S of South
	R8/4	Two tiny green dots above 65 of 1865
	R10/2	White "cloud" between hyphen of Suid-Afrika
	R12/1	Thin white horizontal line touching centre of left frame line
	R15/4	White smudge below R of Afrika
	R16/3	Tiny white dot left of R of Republiek
	R18/4	Tiny brown dot at 2 o'clock of globe
Pane B	R3/4	White dot right of lower half of reflector
	R7/1	Cluster of white dots round lower portion of 12½c
	R9/3	White "cloud" below top right frame line
	R10/5	White dot in O of OF
	R12/2	White dot below U of South

On an order for 15 000 sheets, a first delivery of 7 900 sheets was made on 27.4.65, the total delivery of 17 401 being made up to the final date 10.5.65. New cylinders. Same printing details as 2½c.

<p>1965 I.T.U. Cards by Dr H.J. Roubenheimer, RDPSA</p> <p>There has been a deal of confusion regarding the issues or printings of the official ITU Card No 1 in 1965 and a distinction has been claimed between these printings, while a degree of rarity is claimed for the one printing.</p> <p>The curator of the reference collection of the South African Stamp Study Circle showed two of the printings at a meeting in May 1974 and then it was claimed that there was a third. The report appeared in the society newsletter of that month. Mr Felix Reinders of Philatelic Services later queried this third printing and made available the file on that matter for inspection. Briefly, this is the result of that inspection.</p> <p>The Government Printing Works submitted a proof of a proposed card on 24 March 1965. The text was in a frame with Afrikaans on top and English below with an ornament – a diamond on left and right with an O between – between the two (this incidentally had "International"). This was proof corrected and another proof submitted; it had the frame omitted and the language setting was Afrikaans on the left and English on the right with no ornament (diamonds) below.</p> <p>A final proof, or rather a "pull" on a sheet of paper, was submitted identical to the preceding one except that it had the ornament below as follows: dash, small diamond, large diamond, small diamond, dash, and all in black.</p>	<p>But the I of International was missing (it is my conjecture it was not noticed) and the printing went on to an order for 5000. Whether this 5000 was delivered in one batch is uncertain but the printing data of all were identical. It was subsequently found that there were differences in the paper, whitish and off-white, and in the blue of the printing, deep and light in this lot.</p> <p>It soon became apparent from orders received by the Post Office that 5000 cards would be insufficient and more were ordered, but this time there were to be no mistakes and the Post Office required another proof, which was approved on 10 May 1965, and 4000 cards were delivered well before 17 May, the date of issue of their ITU stamps. They were put on sale at the Philatelic Congress in Port Elizabeth.</p> <p>These cards had a new setting, the inscriptions were bolder and the lines more spaced. International had its I and there were two diamonds in the ornament below.</p> <p>Conclusion There were two printings of the ITU official Card No 1, both issued before 17 May 1965.</p> <p>The first had three diamonds below with the I of International missing. There was a whitish and an off-white paper and there were depths of blue in the printing.</p> <p>The second had two diamonds below and International had its I.</p> <p>A number of cards without the I had a neat I added by hand (not by the Printing Works) and these may have led to the confusion.</p> <p>SA Philatelist, April 1965, p.63, July 1965, p.135, April 1968, p.91</p>
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Sources:

The Special & Commemorative Postmarks, Cachets & Covers of South Africa 1892-1975 – Hasso O Reisener, p.91
SA Philatelist, April 1965, p.63, July 1965, p.135, April 1968, p.91
Philatelic Bulletin No 52, April 1965
RSA Handbook Q31 and WA1
Dr J H Roubenheimer, SA Philatelist, September 1974, p.235

Service suspended covers Part 1

By Robert Johnson

The following are extracts from a display by Robert on Service Suspended Covers. The text accompanying each cover should be self explanatory. Thanks to Robert for allowing us to publish these here. If any members have any further covers to add to the list, please let your Editor have details and a scan.



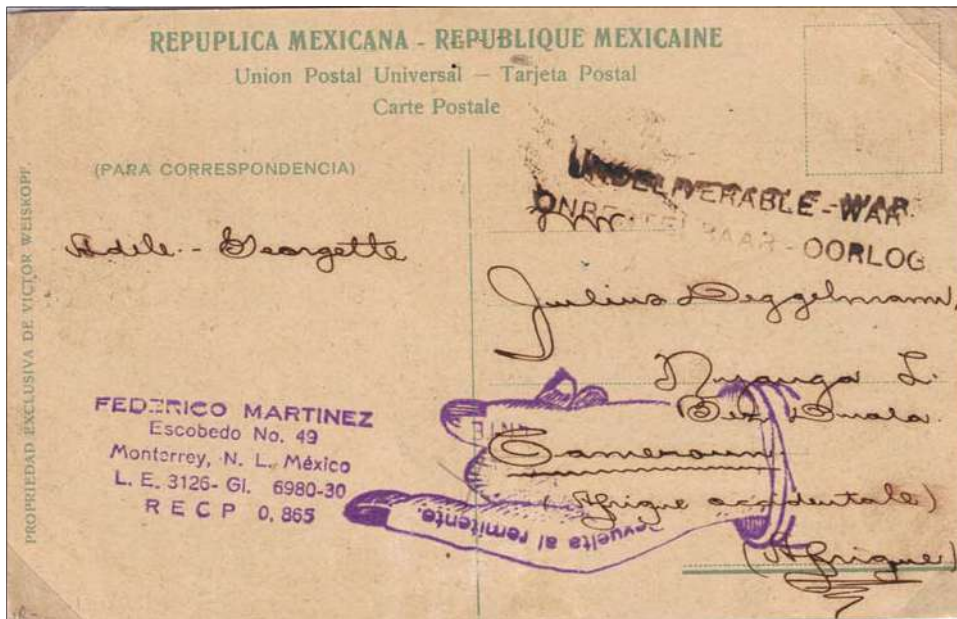
First World War
South Africa to Germany
August 1914

The 'Undeliverable-War' mark applied in Cape Town [cds on the back in the same colour]
The cover was posted in Cape Town on the 25th July 1914 addressed to Germany. War was declared between Great Britain and Germany on the 4th August 1914 and by this time the item was in London. It was returned and was dealt with in Cape Town on the 28th September 1914.



First World War
South Africa to Germany
August 1914

The 'Undeliverable-War' mark applied in Cape Town [cds on the back in the same colour]
The cover was posted in Cape Town on the 25th July 1914 addressed to Germany. War was declared between Great Britain and Germany on the 4th August 1914 and by this time the item was in London. It was returned and was dealt with in Cape Town on the 1st October 1914.



**First World War
Mexico to German
Cameroons
February 1915**

The 'Undeliverable War' mark applied in Cape Town. This Post Card from Mexico is addressed to a place near Douala in German Cameroons. At the time of posting in February 1915, Germany still held its colony which was not surrendered until 18th February 1916. Routed via the USA and the UK to South Africa as Mexico was neutral and was entitled to have its mail dealt with, it was sent back from Cape Town because of war operations and the inability to deliver to an enemy country.



**War in Abyssinia
United Kingdom to
South Africa
December 1935**

The Diverted to 'Ordinary Mail' mark was applied in the United Kingdom. Italian military operations started in Abyssinia [Ethiopia] on the 3rd October 1935 and affected the air route for airmail to British naval personnel in the Simonstown base. Known covers are to members of the crew of HMS Carlisle and its Royal Marines complement.



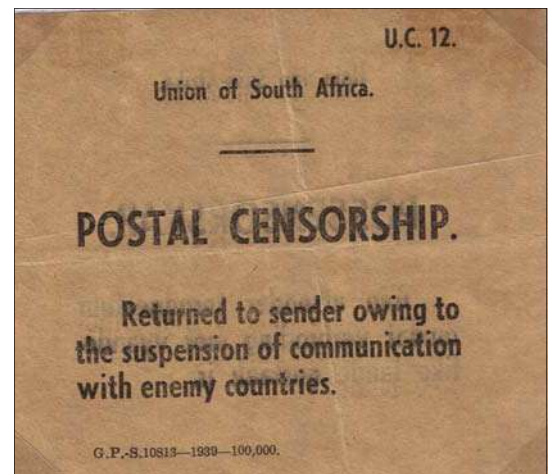
Second World War
South Africa to
the Netherlands
May 1940

The 'Mail Service Suspended' mark was applied in South Africa [Cape Town]. This airmail letter was posted on the 3rd May 1940 to travel on the route via Egypt and the Mediterranean. The Netherlands were invaded by Germany on the 15th May 1940.



Second World War
South Africa to
Belgium
April to May 1940

The 'Mail Service Suspended' mark was applied in South Africa [Cape Town] as well as the insert. Belgium was invaded by Germany on the 10th May 1940 and postal services to Belgium from Great Britain were formally suspended on the 22nd May 1940



Second World War
Mozambique to the Netherlands via South Africa
April to May 1940



The 'Mail Service Suspended' mark as well as the censorship label was applied in South Africa [Cape Town]. The Netherlands were invaded by Germany on the 10th May 1940. As the letter was from a neutral country, it was forwarded via Portugal [after endorsements] and censored [and probably held] by the Germans.



**Second World War
The fall of Singapore
South Africa to Singapore
November 1941**

The 'Airmail Suspended' mark was applied in Johannesburg and endorsed in manuscript 'No service/Return to sender.'
The airmail letter was posted on the 29th November 1941. It was caught up in the effect on communications of the Japanese advances in Malaya in December 1941. The letter was returned after the fall of Singapore to the Japanese forces on the 15th February 1942.



**Second World War
Sierra Leone to Japan
October to December 1941**

The 'Mail Suspended' mark was applied in Cape Town.
This surface letter was posted on the 21st October 1941. It was censored in Sierra Leone before starting its sea transit to Japan via South Africa. This item would probably have been near Singapore before being turned back to South Africa because of the declaration of war on Japan by Great Britain on the 8th December 1941. The 'Mail Service Suspended' mark and the dual language 'Return to Sender' mark, [repeated on the back] were applied in Cape Town. The item was back in Sierra Leone on the 5th May 1942.

1935 Reduced Airmail rate

By Nick Arrow

Internal airmail rates for South Africa were originally fixed in 1929 at 4d per ounce for carriage by air, plus whatever was the appropriate surface rate. On the 27th January 1932, the airmail rate was amended to become an inclusive rate of 4d per half ounce (ie a total fee of 4d with no surcharge for the surface delivery - the South African airmails for the 1931 'Christmas' Flight were carried at this rate either by concession or because the postal service was confused as to the correct rate for the new service). On the 1st November 1933, the internal airmail rates were reduced to 3d and on the 1st January 1935, there was a further reduction, from 3d to 1½d for letters and from 2d to 1d for cards.



Illustrations 1a (left) and 1b (right)

Illustrations 1a and 1b are of a cover posted at Pietersburg on the 3rd January 1935, which was flown from there to Windhoek in South West Africa, where it arrived on the 4th January. The Imperial Airways service (Flight No AS 200) from Croydon Aerodrome to Cape Town passed through Pietersburg on the 3rd January where the mail was collected and placed on board the Atalanta airliner Artemis. After an overnight stop at Johannesburg, the Artemis took off (on the 4th January) to complete its journey to Cape Town, via Kimberley, where the mail for South West Africa was unloaded and transferred to the waiting South West African Airways air service to Windhoek, arriving on the same day - see Illustration 1b.



Illustrations 2a (right) and 2b (above)



Illustrations 2a and 2b are of an even more interesting cover which was posted on the 1st January 1935 (a Tuesday, the day on which the new rates were introduced) at Upington and delivered to East London on the 3rd January. Upington was the last intermediate stop of the South West African Airways service from Windhoek to Kimberley, and the feeder service passed through Upington on the 1st January where the mail for connection with the Imperial Airways service was taken on board. The northbound service (Flight Number AN 200 - Atalanta airliner 'Amalthea') had left Cape Town early that very morning and collected the mail from South West Africa at Kimberley, reaching Johannesburg on the same day.

This item was taken off at Johannesburg and placed on board the South African Airways service to Durban which left the following morning (Tuesday). In Durban, it was transferred to the SAA coastal service to Cape Town which left on Wednesdays, calling at East London en route on the 3rd January, which was a Wednesday.

By any standards, this cover was zig-zagging across South Africa for the 2 days it was in transit, but the service must have been considerably quicker than if the item had gone by surface mail. Delivery of the item involved a fairly precise timing with the mail service changing from SWAA to Imperial Airways to SAA with considerable precision.

Did Mr Greenbaum intend such a complicated route for the envelope that he sent to himself? Almost certainly so, as he was an aerophilatelist, albeit on a rather more modest scale than Robertson (or Wyndham etc).

What these covers, which are of course totally philatelic, demonstrate is that the air service in 1935 could be relied upon to get the mail from A to B very efficiently, bearing in mind the various route changes, and extremely economically. The fact that they both involved various airmail carriers of the period, with intricately interwoven routes adds to the fun of incorporating them into one's collection.

BOOK REVIEW BY JOHN SHAW

THE LEGACY OF LYDENBURG

This is the fourth of the Anglo-Boer War centenary books by Harry Birkhead RDPSA and Joh Groenewald RDPSA. It is a learned publication by the distinguished joint authors who have researched in depth both the British Army provisional stamp issues of September 1900, following the British occupation, and the historical background to Lydenburg, the latter liberally spiced with maps, photographs and anecdotes; it makes easy and compelling reading. One anecdote I enjoyed was that when the liquor stocks at Lydenburg ("Place of suffering" in remembrance of a first voortrekker settlement) were taken over upon the occupation, they were actually paid for by the British Army. Once taken, resupply of Lydenburg was difficult and prompted General Buller to wire Lord Roberts requesting "1,000 trek oxen at once".

The Lydenburg provisionals were the last of a series, following those of Rustenburg, Wolmaransstad and Schweizer-Reneke. At the time there were both military and civilian postal services running virtually in parallel and the political authorities stated that all captured ZAR stamps be sent to Pretoria for overprinting (V.R.I.) and not done locally. Such, however, was the enthusiasm of some collectors in the military, that these issues were born and one Captain Labouchere ordered the local overprinting and surcharging of just over 4,800 ZAR stamps, plus 617 items of postal stationery. The stamps came into use on 21 September 1900 and were sold out by 4th October.

The authors examined some 190 of the surviving examples, probably much more than 50% extant, and have carried out a wonderful survey of the dates of use and setting of the overprint, even to attempting a plating study. With their discussions on the "long tailed R", the "Swash letters", then some characteristics of the known forgeries – the Fournier "Straight tail", the Lydenburg "Clean", the "Dancing letters", Middleburg and others made me wish, with this information, I had some of these as patients in the Expert Rooms. The 1895 ZAR 1d commemorative stamp is also known with a Lydenburg overprint or surcharge, but all of these are now recognised as fakes or forgeries, despite one example in the Royal collection been given a clean certificate by us in 1939! Almost certainly, these were made either by Labouchere or one WF Weber, who also concocted a series of covers to the famous, such as Smuts and Botha, with made up addresses; indeed, some of Weber's registered covers to London actually went through the post unsurcharged, one to S Gibbons.

The authors also explain the mysterious use of a civilian POA43 (post office agency) postmark on military but leave the LIJDENBURG postmark still as a mystery, and considering it as either an old canceller, never before put into use, or bogus

The softback book has 78 pages and is published by the Philatelic Federation of South Africa and available from PhilFed Books, PO Box 123537, Queenswood 0121, South Africa, details are ISBN 978-0-620-41688-7, but no price is given. The quality of research is typical of the high standard from these two eminent philatelists, (no plug but now my good friends) and it is well worth a place on your bookshelf.

Members Smalls

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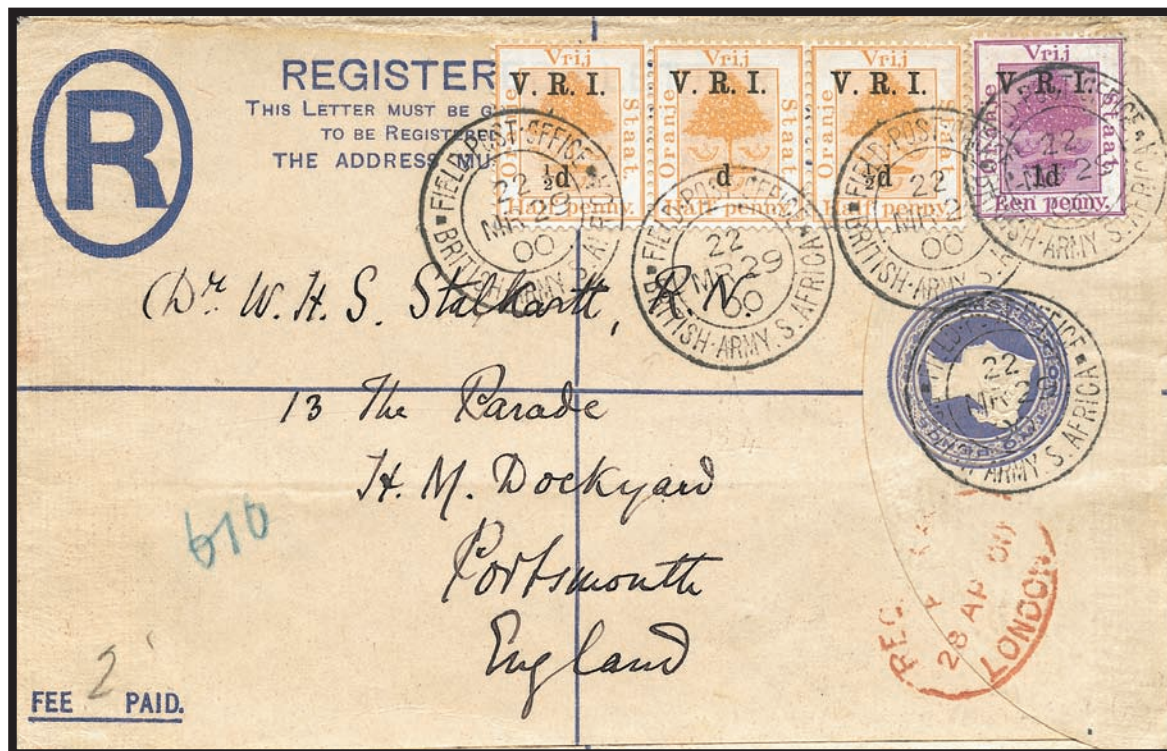
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Shifted overprint



Missing '1/2' in strip of three

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