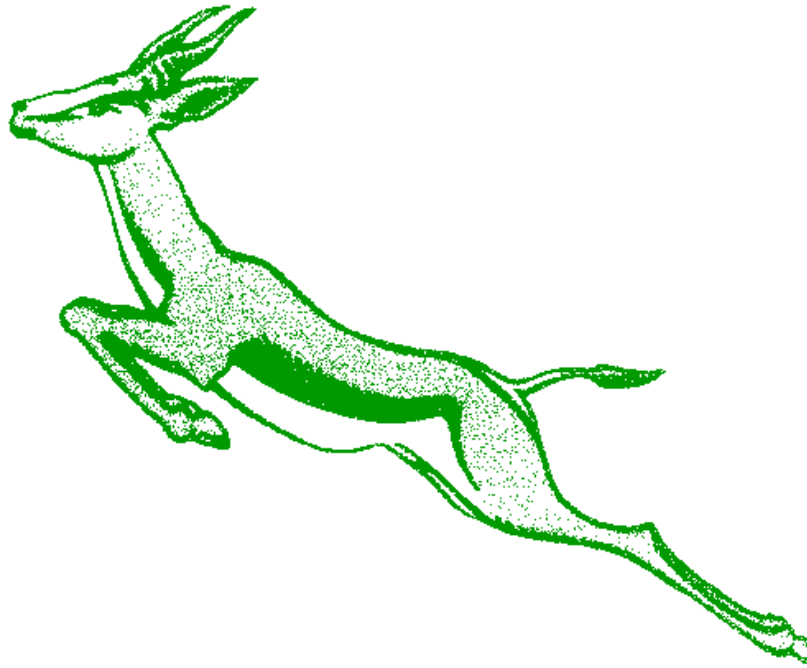


# *THE SPRINGBOK*



## **SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY QUARTERLY**

**Vol. 59**

**No. 1**

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# *The Springbok*

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*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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## Events for your Diary 2011

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

19th Feb.	SACS London meeting	Subject: Commemoratives
26th Mar.	SACS Carlisle meeting	Subject: TBA
16th Apr.	SACS Joint meeting with Cinderella Club at the "Royal" London	
21st May	SACS London meeting	Subject: Large War Effort Issues
28th May	SACS Harnham Salisbury	Subject: (full day meeting)
16th Jul.	SACS Leicester meeting	Subject: Open meeting
17th Sep.	SACS London meeting	Subject: More WWII
24th Sep.	SACS Carlisle meeting	Subject: TBA
25th Sep.	SACS London meeting	Subject: SA in WW II
26th Nov.	SACS London meeting	Subject: London Pictorials

**11-13th Nov. Southern African Societies Convention Falstaff Hotel Leamington Spa**

### Other Events for 2011

23-26th Feb.	Spring Stampex, Business Design Centre, Islington, London.
24-26th Feb.	Spring Philatex, Royal Horticultural Halls, Vincent Sq. London
5-8th May	A.B.P.S. Show at Sheffield
11th June	Swinpex in Swindon
16-19th June	British Philatelic Congress at Portsmouth, Hampshire
2nd July	Midpex, Coventry
14-17th Sep.	Autumn Stampex, Business Design Centre, Islington, London
3-5th 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

We are at the start of a new philatelic year again and looking at the proposed calendar, it almost feels like an anti-climax compared to the hectic activity of last year.

I have had no feed back on the question I posed in the last issue whether everything is fine in ***The Springbok***. Is the content and layout ok or should we introduce a few changes to update the look? No replies lets me assume everything is fine. We do not want to get too complacent. Any ideas and proposals welcome.

We have a new advertiser this month in the form of Grosvenor Auctioneers who are advertising an auction featuring South African material in May. Keep a look out for the Catalogue on the Website or contact them for one.

Thanks to all who responded to requests for articles. I still need a few more so keep them coming!

In this issue we feature two articles by two of our members in Norway which is very pleasing. Hopefully this will encourage them to keep researching and putting pen to paper.

On another note, I must apologise for the late arrival of this issue. This has been due to various factors but also due to a heavy workload. I currently am running a second company in Germany together with my corporate responsibilities for the Group I work for. This has meant that I spend most weeks in Germany and am only home weekends.

**Eddie Bridges**

## Membership Matters

By Chris Oliver

### We welcome the following new members:

No. 1151	John Simms	Marske, Redcar, UK
No. 1152	Odd Gunar Skagestad	Oslo, Norway
No. 1153	Siegfried T. Mayr	Fogelsville, PA, USA
No. 1154	B. Sutcliffe	Rushden, Northamptonshire
No. 1156	Dr. Nolan Wendgrove	London

### Rejoining Member:

No. 1017	Richard Johnson	Port Elizabeth, South Africa
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### Resignations:

No. 583	Len Barnes	Kent
No. 997	Tony Sansome	Wiltshire
No. 825	Clive Colley	Gloucester
No. 1143	Jon Aitchison	Hertfordshire

Details and minutes of the AGM will be published in the next issue due to time constraints and space.

## 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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## Southern African Societies Annual Conference Leamington Spa 11-13 November 2011

Please remember this date.

Tony Howgrave-Graham is also looking for auction lots for the auction on the Sunday. Last year we had a fantastic auction with many quality lots. If you are thinking of selling part or all of your collection, this is a good opportunity to get good results without the associated costs of a mainstream auction house. Alternatively, if you have duplicates or excess material, please let Tony know. He may be contacted on:

Tel. no. 01725 510067

E-mail: [ajbmhg@btinternet.com](mailto:ajbmhg@btinternet.com)

Please have a look through your material and root out those items that you have been meaning to sell on to buy something else! Better material always sells well at this auction!

---

### 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.

Similar material on our regular postal auctions. Auction Catalogues viewable on the internet at: [www.philatelicroads.com](http://www.philatelicroads.com) or printed catalogues available on request.

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# S.A. stamps in 100 Years – Quo Vadis?

By Odd Gunnar Skagestad

A few months ago - on 4 November 2010, one hundred years had passed since South Africa's first postage stamp was issued, - the 2 ½ d deep blue, displaying the portrait of King George V (SACC 1 in the [S.A. Colour Catalogue](#)).

The *very first* South African stamp? Of course not, - postage stamps had by then been in use for more than half a century in South Africa. It all actually started in 1853 with the Cape of Good Hope so-called "triangulars". During the subsequent decades, postage stamps were issued by the postal authorities in viz. Natal, the Orange Free State, the ZAR/Transvaal, not forgetting the proliferation of more or less temporal regional and local issuing authorities in the course of colonization and consecutive wars.

But in 1910 South Africa for the first time appeared on the world map as a single unified country. Only from then on did the country exist in the capacity of a stamp nation in its own right. So, when discussing the development of South Africa as a stamp issuing entity, it is appropriate to start with the 2 ½ d King George V – a stamp which, equally appropriately, was issued on the occasion of the opening of the Union Parliament.

This is an anniversary which (one would have presumed) would have called for a healthy measure of self-gratulatory retrospective indulgence as well as some level-headed analyses of the developments which have taken place during these 100 years – and also some reflections on current developments and possible future perspectives.

A striking feature of this 100-year-span has been the ever-increasing volume of new issues. Dry statistics will tell a story of almost continuous growth, which has gradually morphed into a picture of not only wildly exponential growth but an overall proliferation of seemingly limitless dimensions. During these 100 years the S.A. Postal authorities (whether Union or Republic) have issued a grand total of **1986** postage stamps (counting the main catalogue items listed in the [S.A. Colour Catalogue 2010/11](#), 30<sup>th</sup> Edition).

Thus, the first 20 years (1910-29) saw a total of **37** issues, i.e. an average of **1,9** per annum.

During the next 20 years (1930-49) an additional number of **82** stamps were issued, bringing the average up to the level of **4,1** new stamps each year.

The following 20-year period (1950-69) brought an increase of **166** new items, which entailed an average to the tune of **8,3** per year.

A further **430** new stamps were issued during the 20-year period 1970-89, skyrocketing the annual average to the hefty figure of **21,5**.

And during the past 20 years (1990-2009) we have seen the well-nigh unbelievable figure of **1272**, giving an average of no less than **63,6** new stamp items each year.

Why this enormous increase in the number of new stamps? Could it be the postal needs or requirements – an ever-increasing demand by the market for new stamps to affix to their letters and parcels? Or is this spectacular growth in volume due to other factors, like changes with regard to the stamps' functions?

The postal functions of stamps have remained basically unchanged since the One Penny Black came into existence in the UK in 1840. The demand of the market for a practical receipt for a uniform, pre-paid postal transaction is still with us. But already from the outset, the stamp has been on the defensive vis-à-vis challenges in the market-place, by the emergence of – and the competition from - other and newer technological solutions and alternative options of communication. The telegraph had already been invented when the stamps entered the

arena, soon to be supplemented by the telephone. The use of stamps would eventually face competition from cancelling machines, later on from the telex, and a number of years thence, from the fax. By the end of the 20th century the Internet, e-mail and sms-texting had universally become everyday means of communication, subsequently to be extended to the so-called “social media” like Facebook and Twitter. So where has this left our traditional and much-beloved stamps?

The electronic means of communications have not made the postage stamp completely superfluous, redundant or obsolete. One would, however, be very hard pressed to discern any increased postal need/requirement/demand which would necessitate or justify the ever more frequent new stamp issues.

This leaves only the second possibility – that postage stamps have assumed or been assigned functions which cause stamps to be issued for completely different reasons than the original postal ones.

One such reason may be temptation (on the part of the S.A. Post Office) to capitalize on an inflated stamp collection market (so-called “cream-skimming”). This is a motive which used to be considered not too respectable, and would place the issuing country in disreputable company, - along with so-called “operetta states” or “Banana Republics” (a common definition of a “banana republic” used to be a place notorious for its “Mickey Mouse currency” and “wallpaper stamps”).

The remarkably strong growth (and subsequently huge volume) of new stamps issued by the S.A. Post Office could easily lend credence to the notion that RSA has joined the suspect company of Banana Republics. But the simple greed motive, the covetous lust for fleecing the naïve collectors – those pitiful victims of their own compulsion to acquire all the new stamps that are issued – is certainly not the whole story.

A probably more important driving force is the conscious policy of the S.A. Post Office (as is also the case of postal authorities in other countries, including my own home country of Norway) to use the issuing of new stamps as an opportunity to present their country in such ways that they would like to get across (domestically, but above all to the international audience). These small bits of paper represent, among other things, the jurisdictional authority of the issuing state. They are, in effect, a state’s most prominent “visiting card”. Thus, what we see is an expression of what is called “public diplomacy”, which includes building a favourable reputation/opinion or project a favourable image of one’s own country in the minds of the outside world. This is an exercise which most countries indulge in nowadays, and the postage stamp is an object which is uniquely well equipped for performing this particular function.

Nevertheless, what we see (in South Africa as well as elsewhere) is also a galloping inflation with regard to motives with which the issuing authorities deem fit to adorn their stamps. Gone are the days when you would expect a stamp to show an official-looking symbol such as the portrait of the head of state, the national coat-of-arms, or commemorating some particularly important event in the history of that country. The threshold for displaying new motives has been consistently lowered. Today any thinkable kind of motives – from the most spectacularly eccentric to the most insignificant and meaningless ones – are now used as pretext for producing new stamp issues.

One may well wonder what will be the outcome if this development continues. This is, however, a big IF. The postage stamp – such as we hitherto have known it – may eventually be history. Various factors are at play, that may contribute in this respect. One factor is the general (global) trend towards partial privatization of a service that previously, from the outset, was seen as a governmental monopoly (and as such, even a signature mark of the state authorities). This is increasingly not the case any more.

Even more importantly, the very identity or distinctive character of postage stamps – the qualities that make them into attractive collector items as well as credible symbols of the state – are in the process of being obliterated as a result of the inflationary issuing policies. When a new stamp issue is about as interesting as a bit of wallpaper, the enthusiasm and commitment of collectors will dry up. In its turn, such a development may also eventually cause the wantonly expansionist issuing policies to come to a halt.

Dear South African fellow stamp collectors: I am not writing this article in order to predict or prophesy the death – imminent or further ahead – of our wonderful hobby. I do however – on the backdrop of the 100 years anniversary of S.A. stamps - think it is highly pertinent to take a hard look at the developments which we have already observed for what is becoming an increasingly long period of time. Where are these developments leading us? Are we comfortable with letting this wildly inflationary situation continue, letting our hobby be reduced to randomly collecting insignificant pieces of paper – and if not, what can be done about it? These questions should be subjected to a serious debate, and the situation should be addressed by the stamp-collecting community in close dialogue with the issuing authorities (*in casu* the S.A. Post Office).

Having said this much, I'd also like to congratulate South Africa on its proud postal and philatelic history, and extend my best wishes to the future of South African stamp collecting!

***Any comments on this issue to the Editor please!***

---

## **Update to Portishead Convention**

**By Nick Arrow**

Portishead 2011 annual convention will be held at the Gordano School - Portishead on Saturday August 13th.

The South African Collectors' Society will not have a meeting at this event but many other Specialist Societies and Study Circles will be present. It should be a good day out if you are in that area.

## **South African Collectors' Society Meeting Harnham**

This meeting will take place on the 28th May in the Scout Hut again, same as last year. It promises to be a good meeting again. If you are in the area, please support this meeting.

# THE SOUTH WEST AFRICA OFFICIALS 1927 – 1955 REVISITED

By Mike Tonking

## INTRODUCTION

The South West Africa Officials issued between 1927 and 1955 are a philatelic challenge as so little is known about them. Scant reference was made in the South African Philatelist and little appears to have been written about them despite the unusual errors of all kinds. The following account is an attempt to describe the different issues and flaws and, by no means, answers the multitude of unanswered questions.

## BACKGROUND TO THE OFFICIALS

Prior to 1926 government departments both in the Union and South West Africa were supplied with ordinary postage stamps, free of charge, for use on overseas mail. This system was open to abuse whereby the stamps could be used for private mail. In September 1926 postage stamps overprinted for official use on correspondence to countries outside the Southern Africa Postal Union was authorised. On 7 October 1926 Treasury Circular No. 33 ordered that they be brought into use on 1 December 1926 and that they were not to be "sold, exchanged or otherwise disposed of to the public. This directive was not always obeyed and sales to the public were approved by the Treasury on 13 April 1929 which was then effected in the Union on 6 June 1929.

The first Union Officials consisting of the 1/2d., 1d., and 6d. London Pictorials and the 2d. King's Head were issued on 1 December 1926 whilst the same values overprinted for use in South West Africa were issued on 16 March 1927 as reported by Eichele.(1979)

The following dates of issue are given by various catalogues : SASCC 1926 (December), SG 1926 (December), Michel 1926 (Dez), Scott 1927 with no month stated..

Postal Officials were instructed to keep their eyes open by UNION P.O. Circular No.447 of 17.1.1927 which read as follows : " OFFICIAL POSTAGE STAMPS : Government Departments are now being supplied with postage stamps overprinted 'Official(Offisieel) for use on mail matter addressed to overseas destinations. These stamps are not at present intended for use on inland mail matter, the existing arrangements for the franking such matter remaining in force. Instances where articles for Union addresses are observed in the post bearing 'Official' postage stamps should be reported to the Assistant Post Master General, the department of origin and the place of destination stated"

## THE FIRST SWA OFFICIAL ISSUE - MARCH 1927

Most references report that ten sheets or 1200 pairs of each of the four values were overprinted. In May 1927 the South African Philatelist reported that although they had not seen the stamps a certain Mr. J. Ritchie had visited the Government Printer and was shown the special forme used for overprinting the Officials which was done in a single operation. The overprint took the form of "South West Africa OFFICIAL" and "Suidwes Afrika OFFISIEEL" in black ink with English and Afrikaans on their respective stamps as shown in (Fig. 1) The London Printing was used for the 1/2d. value whilst the Pretoria Printing for the 1d. and 6d. values and the King's Head for the 2d. value. The overprint quality was good and few flaws are recorded.

By the time approval had been given to sell Officials to the public in April 1929 about half the sheets of the first Official issue had been distributed amongst the various Government Departments nonetheless James Venning, the Director of Posts of South West Africa, authorised the sale of the remainder to the public in May 1929, a month earlier than in the Union. There cannot have been too many left to sell and it is recorded that there were only 180 pairs of the 2d. value of which 120 pairs were sold to Mallet-Veale. The small overprinting of the first Official issue accounts for the relative rarity of these stamps. It is, of course, not known how many were illegally obtained prior to the authorised sale to the public.



Fig. 1

## THE SECOND SWA OFFICIAL ISSUE – MAY 1929

Just as the sale to the public of the first issue commenced the second issue appeared which consisted of the same four values however in this case 100 sheets (12000 pairs) of the 1/2d., 1d., 6d. and 200 sheets of the 2d. value were overprinted. This meant that these stamps were relatively plentiful. The 1/2d., 1d. and 6d. values were Pretoria Printings whilst the 2d. was a London Pictorial. The overprint forme was now altered with the stamps being alternately overprinted OFFICIAL or OFFISIEEL across the top of the stamps with the letters S.W.A. at the bottom 17mm below the top overprint on the 1/2d., 1d. and 6d. values and 13 – 14mm on the 2d. value. A full stop after OFFICIAL/OFFISIEEL was only printed on the 2d. value. (Figs 2 and 3.)

The 2d. stamp was printed in two panes each consisting of 60 stamps (30 pairs), with the same overprint being applied to each pane which meant that all the flaws were exactly in the same positions on each pane. Problems were experienced with the full stop as it was missing on no less than eleven stamps in each pane. In three instances the missing stop occurs on adjacent English and Afrikaans inscribed stamps. This overprinting was made on Issue 3 of the 2d, London Pictorials.

It is reported that a single sheet of the 1d. stamp was overprinted on paper with the watermark inverted being the only instance recorded in all the South West Africa Officials.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

## THE THIRD SWA OFFICIAL ISSUE – AUGUST 1929

There must have been quite a run on the Officials as only four months later the third Issue appeared. The number of sheets overprinted is not known however it was probably large as the next Issue was some two years later in 1931. The same values were again overprinted with the difference that the same overprint was now placed vertically reading from bottom to top. Fig. 4. The 2d. overprint was now applied to Issue 4 of the London Pictorials with S.W.A. printed immediately below OFFICIAL/OFFISIEEL. (Fig 5) Exactly the same overprint flaws occur in the same positions as on the previous Issue proof that the forme used, apart from the new position of S.W.A., was the same.

One flaw of note appears on row 7/4 of each pane where the 'S' of S.W.A. was printed in line with the 'I' of OFFISIEEL instead of the normal position under the second 'F'.



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

## THE FOURTH SWA OFFICIAL ISSUE – 1931

The fourth Official Issue made in 1931 saw a significant change in the Official overprints which from now on were in red rather than black ink and S.W.A. was no longer printed. This was the first Issue to be overprinted on the first South West Africa Definitive which were used for the remainder of the Official issues. The same four values used previously

were now overprinted OFFICIAL which measured 12mm and OFFISIEEL which measured 14mm with letters 1,5mm high on alternate English and Afrikaans stamps. (Fig 6) On the 1/2d. and 2d. values the overprint is central at the bottom of the stamp, on the 6d. value it is centrally placed above the middle and on the 1d. value it is towards the top left corner. No major flaws have been recorded. The number of sheets overprinted is not known and it is also uncertain if there were a number of overprintings during the 14 year period before the final Issue in 1945.



Fig. 6

## THE ADDITIONAL 11/2d. VALUE – 1 JULY 1938

On 1 March 1937 a 11/2d. stamp was issued as an additional value to the first definitives. This stamp was overprinted for Official use and issued on 1 July 1938 with OFFICIAL/OFFISIEEL in red ink on alternate English and Afrikaans stamps. Fig 7. The letters were now 2mm high and OFFICIAL and OFFISIEEL measured 15,5mm and 17mm respectively. The overprinting was relatively weak and faded in appearance with a number of minor flaws the most prominent of which was on row 10/2 where the last 'L' in OFFICIAL became an 'I'. The number of sheets overprinted is not recorded. It is reported that a double overprint exists which is also known to have been forged.



Fig. 7

## THE FIFTH SWA OFFICIAL ISSUE – 1945-1950

The same four values from the first definitives as well as the additional 11/2d. value were now overprinted in red with thicker letters than the previous Issue. OFFICIAL/OFFISIEEL measured 15mm and 16,5mm respectively and were printed on alternate stamps in different positions for each value. Apart from the difference in overprint length between this and the final Official Issue the middle arm of the 'E' is longer. (Fig.8.) It is reported that a single sheet consisting of two panes of the 1d. value received a double overprint which is considered to be genuine. In about 1980 it was reported that one pane was sold to Stanley Gibbons and the other to Robemark. It could then be purchased for R400/pair !

There is some doubt about the double overprint reported on the 11/2d. stamp. There were a number of minor overprint flaws the most prominent of which was the row 2/1 flaw where there was a 'D' for 'O' in OFFISIEEL.

The one real mystery concerns the 2d. stamp which, contrary to the other values, was overprinted by John Meinert Printers in Windhoek around 1947. Why this was done and how the local printer managed to exactly duplicate the overprint is not known. It is unfortunate that John Meinert Printer's records were destroyed in 1999 so we will probably never know how many stamps were overprinted and why?

The 2d. value is rare which must reflect the small number overprinted. It is recorded that the 1/2d, 11/2d and 6d. stamps are known with a dark red overprint. The number of sheets overprinted is not known.



Fig. 8

**THE SIXTH AND FINAL SWA OFFICIAL ISSUE – 16 NOVEMBER 1951**

The final and most complex South West Official Issue appeared on 16 November 1951 again overprinted on the first definitives. It was first reported by the South African Philatelist in June 1952 which stated that the 1d., 11/2d., 2d. and 6d. values were overprinted. In this case the overprint, again applied in Pretoria, had larger thicker letters with OFFICIAL and OFFISIEEL measuring 17mm and 18mm respectively. The shorter middle arm of the 'E' in OFFISIEEL helps identify this Issue. The overprint was printed in the centre of the upper half of the stamp. No details of the number of sheets overprinted have been recorded.

Information from the South African Philatelist would indicate the following overprinting sequence :

**First Printing – 1d., 11/2d., 2d. and 6d.**

The right panes were correctly overprinted with the English and Afrikaans overprints on the correct language stamps.

The left panes had the top five rows correctly printed however on the lower five rows the overprints were transposed with English and Afrikaans overprints on the wrong stamps. This was caused by the fifth and sixth horizontal rows both starting with the English overprint. (Fig. 9)



Fig. 9

**Second Printing – 11/2d. and 6d.**

The left and right panes were identical and in the first instance incorrectly overprinted with the vertical rows having on language only. Since the stamp language in the horizontal rows alternated it resulted in overprint transpositions occurring in five horizontal rows of each pane. This resulted in any block of four stamps one horizontal pair would be correctly overprinted and the other transposed. This error was soon spotted by the Government Printer after a few sheets had been printed, corrected, and the majority of the order then correctly printed. (Fig. 10)



Fig. 10

### **Third Printing – 1/2d.,1d.,11/2d.,2d. and 6d. – July 1952**

All five values were now correctly overprinted without flaws. This included the 1/2d. stamp which is not reported as being overprinted in the first printing. There is however some confusion here as the Director of Posts advised that it was and then was not available with the first printing.. Mr. J. Robertson in the South African Philatelist of October 1952 was adamant that it was only overprinted with the third and final printing.

All told there appears to be little information on the date sequence and number of sheets overprinted in the final Official overprinting.

### **THE END OF THE SWA OFFICIALS**

On 26 January 1955 it was announced by the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Windhoek that “ postage stamps for use by Government departments on official correspondence and issued by the Postal Administration of South West Africa will no longer be overprinted ‘Official/Offisieel. Existing stocks will continue to be sold until they are exhausted” So ended the Official overprint story about which so little is known.

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## **INTERPROVINCIAL USAGE ?**

**By Mike Tonking**

The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910 – 1961 by the late S.J.Hagger RDPSA states that the Interprovincial Usage period was from 19 August 1910 – 31 August 1913 when the Colonial stamps of each province would be accepted by all provinces for the prepayment of all postage and telegraph charges. This was confirmed by the notice in the Government Gazette dated 19 August 1910.

However an extract from the Cape Colony Post Office Circular, number 344 of 1 July 1910 reads :

“ Use of Postage stamps of other Union Provinces in the Cape of Good Hope –

On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> June instructions were issued to all offices by telegraph to accept postage stamps of the Transvaal, natal and Orange Free State in prepayment of all postal and telegraph charges. Postage stamps issued by the Provinces of the Cape of Good Hope are being similarly accepted in other Provinces of the Union.. (23,335/10) “

From the above it is clear that, in the Cape at least, postage stamps of the other provinces were accepted from 1 June 1910 which was then reconfirmed by the circular of 1 July 1910.

Does this then mean that the Interprovincial Usage in the Cape should be from 1 June rather than 19 August 1910 and what was the case in the other provinces ?

Perhaps some member could shed some light on this question.

# 1966.05.31 - 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC

## RSA Study Group

### Designer: Cecil Skotnes

The Fifth Anniversary of the Republic of South Africa was commemorated by the issue of four stamps in bilingual pairs. A special datestamp and an official commemorative cover No 3 were issued by the Post Office as well. The special datestamp was used in the Philatelic Bureau for postmarking first day covers. The celebrations included a large military display held at Voortrekkerhoogte (former Roberts Heights) close to the Voortrekker Monument. The State President took the salute at the march past.



On the day of the Republic Festival the Philatelic Bureau was closed and a section was transferred to the Main Office, Church Square, where it used the special datestamp to postmark mail posted or handed in for the first day cancellation. Post Offices at three points were opened at the Voortrekker Monument, all using almost identical datestamps.

The datestamp was commended in the press for its excellent design. The joined hands are the hands of co-operation and goodwill. The torch depicts enlightenment, freedom courage and honour. The radiations of light form a wagon wheel linking us to our heritage from the past. The message of the datestamp may be interpreted as follows:

“With malice towards none and goodwill towards all, let us face the future with courage, wisdom and honour, ever mindful of our heritage and responsibilities, to blaze a new chapter in the struggle for perfect nationhood and freedom”.

During the period 18 May to 4 June 1966, as announced, but closed June 3, a military post office unit provided postal facilities to the troops from all parts of the country at camps in the Pretoria area. The Postal Agency was known as No 1 Field Post Office. It was the first of its kind in South Africa. A special datestamp was designed and was used again for later events and exercises.



31 May was a public holiday but all main Post Offices and country branch offices were open from 8.30 to 9.30 am for the sale of these stamps and for the servicing of first day covers. The main post office at Pretoria, the temporary post offices at the Voortrekker Monument and the No 1 Field Post Office were open all day for that purpose too.

A philatelic exhibition (16 to 21 May 1966) was arranged by the Cape Philatelic Societies to coincide with the Republic Festival celebrations and postal facilities were made available at the exhibition. A souvenir cover with similar emblems (The red disa, a head of a bontebok and a Knysna loerie) was provided by the organizers.



A special sleeve or slogan was used at the Post Office Exhibition, held in the Rautenbach Hall of the Pretoria University. Here a stamp cancelling machine was installed and operated with a normal Pretoria die. It was in use from Monday, 23 May to Saturday, 28 May and again on Monday, 30 May 1966. The Post Office Exhibition closed before the date of issue of the commemorative stamps. The slogan appears on the right of the circular Pretoria postmark with the letter A. On the last day, during demonstrations, the die was reversed to a position right of the slogan. The die was also inverted. Thus three different types are found. A normal Pretoria datestamp, No 70, was also in use at the post office counter during the exhibition.

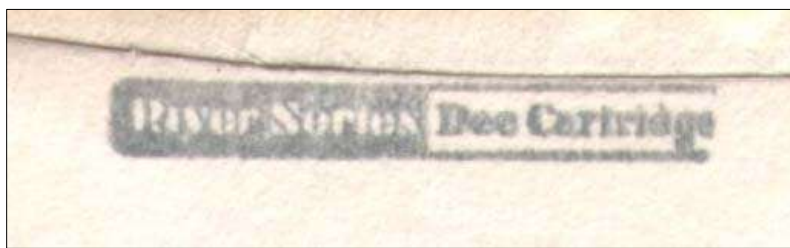
### FDC NO 3

The cover was also designed by Cecil Skotnes but was changed to a design by the Publicity Branch of the Post Office, with the concurrence of Skotnes. The cover was the first to be given a number, No 3. Decorated stiffener cards were supplied with the cover, of which 70 000 were printed. The stiffener card has a brief outline of the history of the Republic on the one side, and the other side is decorated in colour with the country's flag, the Coat of arms and a symbolic flight of steps in green.

Covers have been seen with either the black or the blue missing. Stiffener cards have been seen with distinct variations in the depths of shade of the basic colours, also single colours missing.

A complete set of eight stamps in bilingual pairs was affixed to the cover, and on request covers were supplied with single stamps in sets showing either Afrikaans or English.

A reprint of the cover was made, which can be distinguished from the original printing by the presence of the printer's logo under the closing flap on the back.



Covers printed in different colours and with raised letters also were provided for presentation to VIPs. No announcement was made of such issues which only became known when these covers started to make their appearance on the market. Five different covers at least appeared as illustrated in the following table:

No.	Airmail label	Map of SA	Emblem	Frame Letters	Printing
3	Blue	Blue	Grey	Grey	Normal
(a)	Gold	Gold	Silver	Silver	Raised
(b)	Blue	Blue	Silver	Silver	Raised
(c)	Silver	Silver	Gold	Gold	Raised
(d)	Blue	Blue	Gold	Gold	Raised
(e)	Gold	Gold	Silver	Silver	Raised

The special plastic pocket in which these covers were enclosed, tend to discolour the gold printing to a dull greenish shade, but apparently this does not reduce the value.

### THE STAMPS – Designer Cecil Skotnes

A competition was announced in February 1965 and close on 140 entries were received, including excellent designs and original ideas, but not one was suitable for use as a design worthy of the occasion. Cecil Skotnes was then commissioned to submit designs for the stamps.

His first sketches comprised a bare rock, a primitive plant, a mature tropical tree and a representation of the advent of mankind. These designs were rejected and Skotnes donated them to the Africana Museum. The indications are that Skotnes was also not quite satisfied with his work and he produced four further designs in a surprisingly short space of time.

The second designs comprised a silhouette of a typical South African flat-topped mountain, an undefined bird (the highest value), industry (by means of a mine headgear and an electric power station) and a mealie plant.

The Department effected only minor alterations, eg changing the colours of the two middle values. It was also not happy about allocating the top value to the bird as it would have suggested air mail and it was re-allocated to the 2½c and the mountain design given the highest value. The remaining two values were also switched, 1c for industry and 3c for the mealie. Cabinet then recommended a few further changes, substituting industry for the diamond.

A debate also ensued on the name of the country. The committee decided to leave it at "RSA", but Cabinet was not disposed to depart from showing the full bilingual text. Eventually consultation with the Government Printer and the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs resulted in unilingual stamps.

After the stamps were issued, criticism was voiced in a weekend newspaper,

The SA Philatelist of June 1966, p.123 reports, inter alia:

"Immediate public reaction towards the new Republican Festival designs register sharp disappointment and indignation so it is as well that the artist, Mr Cecil Skotnes, is unperturbed by press controversy and public criticism of his works.

The severe censure with which these stamps have been received was readily predictable and does not come as any surprise. After being conditioned to expect conservative art on our postage stamps, it was certainly a shock to most to suddenly discover abstract patterns of symbolism.

... We, as a people, are conservative in our approach to life ... in our religious beliefs, ... in our sense of morals and fashion ... in our business methods and ... in our appreciation of 'the arts'.

.... Whatever one feels about the merits of this issue, it should be readily conceded that a change from the traditional to something more contemporary has long been overdue and this breakthrough into the symbolic field is certainly to be welcomed."

The stamps were printed by the Government Printer by means of the rotogravure printing process on the Goebel 840 machine and were on sale for three months at all post offices.

### 1c

The design symbolizes the mining industry, representing the diamond, yellow for gold, green for copper and black for coal. It was inspired by Mr Harold Macmillan's statement when South Africa became a Republic. He said that South Africa and its people had as many facets as its diamonds. The Cabinet requested this design.

### SACC 254



Two panes A and B, A being on the right of B, each pane consisting of 100 stamps (5 rows of 20). The top left corner stamp (R1/1) is English. The stamps were printed on RSA water-marked paper, the mark facing right. Perforation was done externally by the Grover two row perforator, gauge 14.

The stamps in the top left corner of Pane B show what appears to be a marked mis-alignment. The yellow figure in the top centre is displaced downwards and to the left leaving a white corner. The displacement diminishes towards the bottom of the sheet.

<b>Pane A</b>	R1/4	Two black dots in left lower side of diamond
	R1/10	Black dot in right lower side of diamond
	R1/18	Black dot in left corner of diamond
	R2/13	Black dot in left side of lower yellow figure
	R2/15	Tiny black line in lower gutter below first A of Afrika
	R2/19	Black dot in second top facet of diamond
	R3/3	Green dot below top frame line near left corner
	R3/5	White dot just below centre of right frame line
	R3/19	Whitish dot in left corner of green figure on right
	R4/8	White dot in left corner of black figure on top right
	R4/16	White dot above O of OF
	R5/9	Green dot at apex of green triangle above diamond
	R1/1	Horizontal white line above 1961
	<b>Pane B</b>	R1/3
R1/12		Large whitish "cloud" at right frame line three-quarters down
R1/18		Large whitish "balloon" above 61 of 1961
R2/11		Tiny black hairline in top gutter near right corner
R3/3		Short green hairline at centre of left side of top yellow figure
R3/4		Black dot near centre of bottom yellow figure
R3/12		Long horizontal faint line from left margin ¾ up
R4/18		Horizontal row of large whitish dots below and to the left of the bottom point of the diamond
R5/1		Whitish line just above and to the left of the bottom point of the diamond
R5/8		Thin black vertical line in the right lower prong of the top yellow figure

### 2½c

The white bird against a back-ground of elliptically shaped bands in colours is a symbol of freedom and the future as depicted in the upward thrust of the motif.

### SACC 255



Panes A and B, A on the right of B consisting of 10 stamps (20 rows of 5). The top left corner stamp is Afrikaans. Printed on RSA watermarked paper, the mark being upright.

Perforation was done externally on the Grover two row appliance, gauge 14.

<b>Pane A</b>	R3/5	Whitish dot right of bird's tail	
	R8/1	Tiny blue dot in top gutter three quarters from left	
	R9/5	Blue dot in top gutter one third from left	
	R10/5	Blue dot in centre of bird's tail	
	R12/1	Tiny white dot at tip of left wing of bird	
	R14/4	Two blue dots on bird's shoulder, left and right	
	R19/5	Tiny white dot above tip of bird's beak	
	R20/3	Three tiny blue dots along bird's left wing	
	<b>Pane B</b>	R5/1	Two tiny blue dots in top gutter above 96 of 1966
		R5/4	Whitish line through base of left green band
R6/1		Blue dot in right green band below wing	
R6/3		Blue dot on bird's neck, left	
R7/2		Broken second 1 of 1961	
R9/5		Whitish ring in the blue below 19 of 1966	
R13/3		Black dot on right margin of green band just below right wing	
R16/1	Black dot on bird's tail		
R17/3	Tiny black dot in right gutter opposite 1966		

### 3c

Two maize plants depicting agriculture and a young and growing nation. The brown colour represents our soil and the red the blood of livestock.

There is only one pane, horizontal and the sheets have 100 stamps of 5 rows of 20. The top left corner stamp is English. Printed on RSA watermarked paper, the mark facing right, with most sheets showing no watermark, the rest being faint.



### SACC 256

Perforation was done internally by a new single row comb appliance, perf 14x15.

R1/19	Small yellow dot below top frame line centre
R2/17	Brown dot above central bottom leaf
R2/20	Small yellow dot below bottom left leaf
R3/19	Yellow dash between the two top central leaves
R5/1	White splashes in centre left red space
R5/13	Small brown dot in stem of left plant at the bottom
R5/14	Tiny brown dot in top central leaf
R5/17	Tiny white dot right of tip of top right leaf

### 7½c

A silhouette of the typical flat topped South African mountain with the sea in the foreground; the sky, the sea and the mountains depict the first three lines of the national anthem.

### SACC 257



There is only one pane consisting of 100 stamps, 20 rows of 5. The top left corner stamp is Afrikaans. Printed on RSA watermarked paper, the mark being upright and, if not entirely absent, is barely discernible. Perforation was done internally by the Goebel 840 machine by a new single row comb appliance, perf 15x14.

There were two printings, the first from cylinders 87-118-9, followed in July 1966 by a second, from cylinders 87-118-4. The printing details of the two were identical.

### Issues 1 and 2

R1/1	Brown dots lower left of 7 of 7½c
R1/18	Thin blue line through upright of T of South
R2/1	Brown smudge at foot of 7 of 7½c
R4/1	White dot left of centre mountain
R8/1	Whitish ring at top right of centre mountain
R10/1	Blue dot on right slope of centre mountain and white dot above P of Republic
R11/2	Black dot in gutter at top right corner
R13/1	White dot above P of Republiek

### Issue 2

R1/4 and 5	Blue line in top gutter above vertical gutter between stamps
R3/5	Blue dot on top frame line above 66 of 1966

**A small reprint of the stamps on RSA tete beche instead of RSA watermarked paper was subsequently made for inclusion in presentation albums distributed during the 1969 UPU Congress in Tokyo.**

### References:

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## 1966.12.06 – VERWOERD COMMEMORATION

### RSA Study Group

**Designer:** Portrait drawings by Dr Irmin Henkel

Special stamps and an official cover were issued to commemorate Dr H F Verwoerd, the Prime Minister, exactly three months after his assassination on 6 September 1966 in the Houses of Parliament in Cape Town by a messenger, Dimitrio Tsafendas.

The Post Office did not use a special datestamp but made use of the existing Voortrekker Monument datestamp for first day covers. The Voortrekker Monument datestamp was also chosen because Dr Verwoerd delivered his last speech there on 31 May.



**SACC 258**



**SACC 259**



**SACC 260**

Dr Hendrik Frensch Verwoerd was born in Amsterdam, Holland on 8 September 1901 and came to South Africa as a two year old child. He received his education at Wynberg Boys' High School before the family moved to Bulawayo in Zimbabwe. There he attended Milton High School and was awarded with the Beit Bursary. In 1917 the Verwoerd family moved back to South Africa and settled in the small town of Brandfort in the Orange Free State.

Starting in 1919 Verwoerd studied at the University of Stellenbosch obtaining the BA-degree (cum laude) and his Masters degree (cum laude) in 1922. He went ahead with his doctorate and became chairman of the Students Council, where he served with his future wife, Betsie Schoeman. In 1924, his final year at university, he was promoted to doctor in Philosophy including Psychology as study field.

He arrived in Germany in 1925 on a bursary and studied at the universities of Leipzig, Hamburg and Berlin. He got married to Betsie in Hamburg and the couple then toured Europe and left for the USA where he did some more research. At the age of 26 he became the first professor in Sociology at Stellenbosch, changing to the Chair of Sociology and Social Work in 1933.

In 1936 he organised the National Conference at Kimberley on the Poor White problem. Upon the founding of the newspaper, Die Transvaler, he became editor, a post he held till the election in 1948 led to his appointment as Senator.

He was Minister of Bantu Affairs from 1950 to 1958, when he succeeded the late J C Strijdom as Prime Minister. In 1960 he entertained Mr Harold Macmillan, the British Prime Minister, as his guest during his visit to South Africa. In the same year David Pratt made an attempt on his life at the Rand Easter Show. In 1961 he attended the Premiers' Conference in London that led to South Africa's withdrawal from the Commonwealth.

On 5 October 1960 the Union of South Africa held a Referendum to decide whether its form of government should be changed to that of a Republic. Of the 1 800 748 voters on the Roll, 1 633 772 polled. There were 850 458 votes in favour of a Republic and 775 878 against. Apart from this there were a few hundred rejected votes.

#### FDC 4

On one side the stiffener is pale sage-green in degrees of depth with the three stamps, 1¼ in size, whilst the other side is on white paper, giving a short biography of Dr Verwoerd in Afrikaans and English. In the English version, paragraph 3, line 2, Stellenbosch is spelt with only one l.

#### THE STAMPS

The portrait of Dr Verwoerd on all the stamps was from sketches made by Dr Irmin Henkel with the background design done by Hans Kumpf, an employee of the Government Printer, where the printing was done by the roto-gravure process on the Goebel 830 machine.

The original portrait intended for the 2½c and 12½c stamps was not suitable for a stamp and a second portrait was commissioned, which was then accepted. The background design also underwent a few changes before being accepted.

It was felt that one stamp should be vertical and Dr Henkel was requested to do a third portrait. This portrait was used for the 3c value added to the set.

#### 2½c

Upright watermark. Two panes, A being on the right of B, each pane consisting of 100 stamps (20 rows of 5). The top and bottom margins are perforated through, the left and right margins being imperforate except for the extra hole at each end of the horizontal lines of perforations. Gauge 15x14.

<b>3c</b> Wa-	<b>Pane A</b>	R1/1	Green diagonal hairline right of left tower
		R2/1	Faint green diagonal hairline through right of right tower
		R6/4	Cluster of green dots left of left tower
		R11/1	Green vertical wavy line right of right tower
		R11/4	Two black dots left of Republic
		R15/1	Short green diagonal line above the right of the left tower
		R16/4	Cluster of green dots between head and left tower
		R19/3	Long diagonal green line to right of right tower
	<b>Pane B</b>	R3/2	Long diagonal hairline down stamp on right of left tower
		R4/1	Numerous short green lines and dots at left of hair
		R7/1	Long green diagonal line through right tower up to the margin
		R14/4	Numerous black dots around mouth on the right

termark facing right. Two panes, A being below B, each pane with 100 stamps (5 rows of 10). The left and right margins are perforated through, the top and bottom margins are imperforate except for the extra hole at each end of the vertical rows. Gauge 14x15.

<b>3c</b> Wa-	<b>Pane A</b>	R1/8	Small dot on collar on the right
		R1/12	Dot on chin
		R2/3	Green dot below ear on the left
		R2/15	Black dot on forehead, centre
		R2/16	Tiny black dot above V of signature
		R3/6	Tiny wavy horizontal black line above eyebrow on the right
		R4/11	Tiny black dot to right of cheek
		R4/17	Broken O of OF
		R5/9	Long thin curved vertical black line in top left corner of stamp
		R5/10	Large white mark left of hair
	<b>Pane B</b>	R5/18	Tiny black dot above V of signature
		R1/7	Tiny green dot in a white halo below 3c
		R1/10	White mark at centre of right margin
		R1/15	Small green line below hyphen of Suid-Afrika
		R2/1	White mark between eye and margin
		R2/10	Tiny black dot above shoulder on the left
		R2/13	Black dot on jacket's left lapel
		R3/3	Tiny black dot to right of hair
		R3/12	Tiny black dot below and to the left of right eye
		R4/10	Tiny black dot above 1901
R4/12	Large irregular green and white area below 3c		

**12½c**

Upright watermark. Two panes, A being on the right of B with each pane consisting of 100 stamps (20 rows of 5). The top and bottom margins are perforated through, the left and right margins are imperforate except for the extra hole at each end of the horizontal rows. Gauge 15x14.

<b>Pane A</b>	R5/2	Long diagonal blue line below 12
	R7/1	Tiny black dot above first A of Africa
	R9/1	Tiny white dot halfway down stamp below 12½c
	R10/3	Long faint diagonal blue line to the left of forehead
	R11/2	Tiny white dot below d of signature
<b>Pane B</b>	R13/3	Tiny white dot above first 6 of 1966
	R15/1	Blue dot below c of 12½c
	R4/1	Tiny black dot in top gutter above P of Republiek
	R4/2	Cluster of tiny blue dots below c of 12½c
	R4/5	White dot 5 o'clock of c of 12½c
	R8/2	Tiny white dot below large 1 of 12½c
	R10/1	White dot below v of signature
	R13/4	Tiny white dot above large 2 of 12½c
	R16/3	Tiny blue dot to left of mouth
	R18/2	Tiny white dot above t of South
	R18/5	Diagonal rows of short broken blue lines to the left of Suid-Afrika
	R19/1	Short blue vertical line to the right of ear
	R19/4	Tiny blue dot below RE of Republiek

**References:**

The Special & Commemorative Postmarks, Cachets & Covers of South Africa 1892-1975 – Hasso O Reisener, p.96

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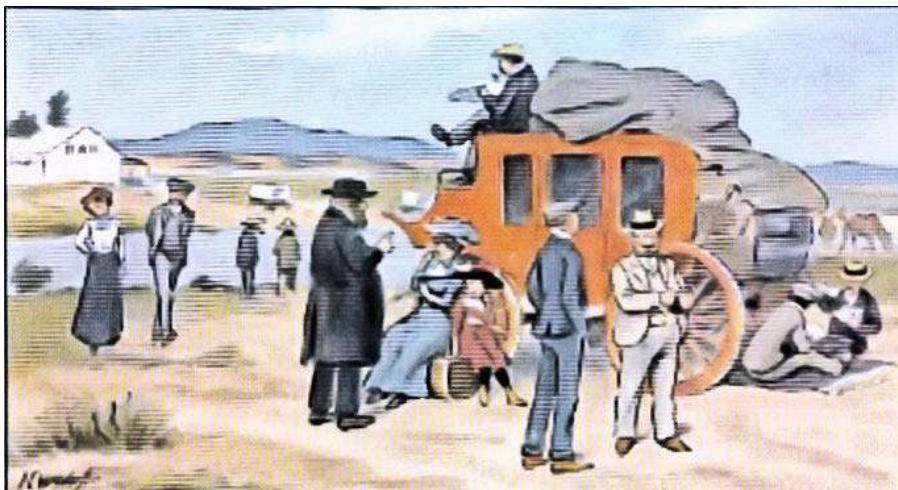
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# The OFFICIAL/OFFISIEEL “mixed fount setting”.

By Roald Sand

The Government printing works in Pretoria used a Linotype machine for setting the words OFFICIAL and OFFISIEEL for overprinting definitive stamps up to 1950 when a stereotypy technique was applied.

The Linotype was operated by a typographer using a keyboard, where one line of text could be assembled and molded into a slug. I have no knowledge of the length of the slugs used. Was there one word or more words in each slug? Maybe the answer is that it was a mix? Information is needed.

## The 2d. denomination

The 2d. exists with two different mixes of the fount sizes. See figures 2 and 3.

The two different settings are apparent in stamps 9/6, 10/6, 19/6 and 20/6. See figures 1,4,5 and 6. The four positions of the sheet exist with and without V2, small fount in “OFFICIAL”.

In figure 4, the lower right corner block shows V2 on 19/6 and 20/6. The corner block from the same position in Matheson’s collection includes the “normal” size fount in 19-20/6, and shows a broken “O” in “OFFISIEEL” in pos. 20/5 and a broken “C” in “OFFICIAL” in 20/6. See figure 5. These varieties are not present in the block in figure 4.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1		E				B
2		E				B
3		E				B
4		E				B
5						B
6						B
7						B
8						B
9		A		E		E
10		A		E		E
11		A		E		E
12		A		E		E
13	B				E	E
14	B				E	E
15	B				E	E
16	B				E	E
17				B		E
18				B		E
19				B		E
20				B		E

A = Small font (Afrikaans) = V1  
 E = Small font (English) = V2  
 B = Small font (Both) = V3

**Figure 2:** First (?) “Mixed fount setting” of the 2d.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1		E				B
2		E				B
3		E				B
4		E				B
5						B
6						B
7						B
8						B
9		A		E		
10		A		E		
11		A		E		E
12		A		E		E
13	B				E	E
14	B				E	E
15	B				E	E
16	B				E	E
17				B		E
18				B		E
19				B		
20				B		

A = Small font (Afrikaans) = V1  
 E = Small font (English) = V2  
 B = Small font (Both) = V3

**Figure 3:** Second (?) “Mixed fount setting” of the 2d.



**Figure 1:** First (?) "Mixed fount setting" block of 4 from rows 8-9, stamps 5-6, with V3 both words smaller on pos 8/6 and V2 smaller "OFFICIAL" on 9/6.



**Figure 4:** First (?) "Mixed fount setting" of the 2d. Small founts in "OFFICIAL" (V2) pos 19/6 and 20/6



**Figure 5:** Second (?) “Mixed fount setting” of the 2d. From Dr Ian Matheson’s Large Gold collection. No small founts

I have also studied a full sheet of the overprinted 2d. issue 8. The sheet number is 0031. The layout is as shown in figure 2. Figure 6 shows a part of this full sheet. The number of varieties are:

2d	First (?) setting	Second (?) setting
Short “OFFISIEEL” V1	4	4
Short “OFFICIAL” V2	24	20
Both words shorter V3	16	16



**Figure 6:** First (?) “Mixed fount setting” of the 2d. Part of full sheet No. 0031

The alteration of the setting was done by changing four smaller "OFFICIAL" to the "normal" "OFFICIAL". (or the other way round). In the layout of the settings (figures 2 and 3) all the varieties and the "normals" were in lines of four, with the exception of 9-10/6 and 19-20/6 in the second (?) setting, where they are in pairs. This gives an indication of slugs bearing mostly four words in a row.

I have measured the spacing of the words (vertically on the sheet) in the overprint from "O" to "O", both in "OFFICIAL" and "OFFISIEEL". Here I find a pattern which gives an indication of the slug sizes in sheet no 0031.

The typographer would have to press the space key a certain number of times to get approximately the correct spacing to make the words fit the stamp size. The adjustment between the Linotype slugs had to be filled in with blank slugs or spacers, not necessarily giving exactly the same word spacing as in the Linotype slug. The stamp images are offset 24,12mm vertically. The closest the typographer could match this in a Linotype slug was approximately 23,9mm for the "normal" fount and approximately 23,75 in the "small" fount. The overprint in the sheet shows a regular pattern. The rows 1-4, 5-8, 9-12, 13-16 and 17-20 have the regular spacing from the Linotype machine, while the distance between rows 4 and 5 is approximately 24,4 – 24,2mm, between 8 and 9 is 24,8 – 25,2mm, between 12 and 13 is 24,1 - 25,7mm and between 16 and 17 is 23,5 – 24,6mm. This matrix of measurements can be of assistance in positioning some blocks of stamps.

From this, the slugs seem to be in lines of four words in the first (?) setting of the overprint on 2d. in set 22. The second (?) setting includes some smaller slugs of two words. I have not had the opportunity of measuring large enough blocks of this setting to come to a conclusion. Readers may possibly be able to help.

### The 1/- denomination

Also set by a form of 120 images, the setting was quite similar to the 2d. second (?) setting. Bob Hisey has shown in his Large Gold exhibit that positions 3/2 and 4/2 in the sheet are without varieties, where the 2d. has V2.

### The 2/6 denomination

The 2/6 overprinted with 60 images has a layout of the fount sizes that is not compatible with any part of the 120 image form of the 2d. or the 1/-. This is demonstrated by the block of four from the upper left corner of the sheet in Dr Ian Matheson's Large Gold collection. This block shows a small fount in "OFFICIAL" (V2) on stamp position 1/1. In the 2d. and 1/- there are no V2 in column 1. Further, this block shows one single word in a slug.



*Figure 7: Corner block of the 2/6 from set 22, from Dr Ian Matheson's Large Gold collection showing small fount in position 1/1.*

It is unlikely that founts of different sizes were assembled in the same slug. I believe it was possible to do this in the Linotype machine, but it was a matter of changing magazines. I do not know which type of machine was used. There were different techniques of shifting magazines, by a lever, or by lifting in a new magazine. I am open for further information. Please comment!

There are several videos showing the operation of Linotype machines on different web-sites. For instance:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nf0hDWOmWA>  
<http://www.archive.org/details/Typesett1960>

For invaluable help in this study, thanks go to:  
Dr. Anthony Howgrave-Graham  
Dr. Ian Matheson  
Robert Hisey

# AUCTION REPORT for 2010

By Tony Howgrave-Graham

This has reverted to a yearly report for 2010 because there was a real paucity of material on offer during the first half of the year though, as you will see if you read on, I was probably in a first quarter mind set when making this decision because April and May saw some quite significant action. Spink offered a few nice items in April. Interestingly it included some of the missing colours that finished my last report. This time the 1963 Red Cross 12½c missing its cross fetched £2,000 (£2,228 with commission compared to just £1,475 in the same auction house only 5 months earlier!). The nice 1972-4 1R strelitzia bottom marginal strip of 3 with missing & partly missing orange (also illustrated in the last auction report) made the same (as against £1,722 in the December sale). These were Figs.4&7 in the last auction report and I had hoped a "price" might be established. However, there seems to be a 55% variance! Even more surprising in this sale was the 1964 Nursing 12½c with missing gold (in corner pair with normal). This made a 3x estimate and double catalogue £3,560!

Also in the same sale were Cobham survey flight cards. One dated 18 Nov 1925 at Marignane with a green vignette and estimated £800-£1000 only made £550 (=£665) and one from South Africa (*Fig.1*) signed on the reverse and with a copy of his book and sounding very like the lot sold at Harmers 6 Apr 2004 for £1850 (see auction report for 1st ½ 2004) was estimated at £5-600. It is reported sold for £250 (=£307)! So - auctions can be pretty strange affairs!

Next up sale wise was Grosvenor on 19 May when the vast John Forrest collection of postal history was offered. Most of the material was pre-Union but there was some Union and it proved that South African cancels can be worth a bit. The interprovincial items sold well. A nice 1911 Gumtree in violet on a Transvaal ½d postal stationary card made £114, Roodewal RO (on ORC card) the same and Bothsabelo (Tvl) on an ORC 1d ps card made £132. Even without the interprovincial interest an unrecorded 1919 Donnybrook double ring, possibly a relief canceller (*Fig.2*), made £120. The South West Africa was interesting having some scarce to very rare cancels and with all reaching good, to very good, prices. Two Albrechts covers (B1 on an OAS env, & B3 on an officer POW env) made £240, Berglands (B1), Kolmanskop (B3) and Tses (B4), each on a pc, made £324 and the very rare 1916 unnamed SA Field Tel. & Postal Corps with "HATSAMAS" added in ms, made £420. This was cancelling a 1d pair + ½d on envelope to Bern. I've managed to locate 3 examples of this cancel, but no more as yet. It is B1 in Putzel and he says he's never seen one which is made clear as he shows an oval cancel rather than the circular one it actually is. So why is it only rated at 4000 points? It is certainly much scarcer than the Kuibis B2 which is afforded 8000 points! A superb example of this (*Fig.3*) made £144, but it was on a Busch card which in my experience means it'll fetch 50-60% of a non-Busch item. This would suggest that the Putzel points should be reversed. Finally, the most surprising realisation was for a 1924 Keetmanshoop railway envelope (*Fig.4*). Yes - very nice - I was bidding for a bit. It had an estimate of £120-150 which is pretty high for a railway cover. They usually make £30-£40. For a nice non-philatelic item you could probably double this. This was such a cover. I even bid on to £100 - the price realised, however, was £288! Quite remarkable! Also of SWA interest was a 1923 Bechuanaland registered envelope from Ghanzi to UK routed out through SWA with Gobabis transit marks. It made £156. I hadn't thought of SWA as a country for transit mail. Also interestingly, was another similar item from the same correspondence in the SWA collection where the cover didn't get cancelled until reaching Gobabis.

The Argyll Etkin sale was a day later on 20 May. Again mostly pre-Union but it did contain some SA & SWA. 8 of the 11 SA lots before the officials failed to sell and one that did, a vertical pair 1932 1/- with a doctor blade flaw, was a surprise at £72! The officials were led by the left arrow B4 of SGO35 (*Fig.5*). A unique positional piece, um, and ok, it's a clandestine issue, but I still thought it might fetch more than its £4,300. It's catalogued £6,500 as 2 unpositioned pairs. The 1947 2/6 official with the diaeresis on row 6/2, Imm, made £430 and the 2d with inverted overprint, SGO45a, um, £650 (*vide infra for both at Spink*). The SWA included 2 OAS postcards with the relatively common boxed FPOs 31 & 37. They made a surprising £227 given that they failed to sell at Leamington a couple of years ago reserved at just £35 each!

Next up was Stephen Welz on 26 May. I had thought there wasn't much of interest in this sale but I have to confess this must have been the result of my being penniless at the time and not looking properly! I was delighted to see three machine cancelled interprovincial covers described as very scarce and given a 3-figure estimate as I own several similar. I was less delighted to note, however, that they remained unsold! Of the things that did sell the 1913-24 set to £1, og, made £320 and the same with the £1 being the pale olive shade £510. Used sets with good looking £1s made £160 & £117.

There must have been something a bit dodgy about the second £1 as another used example centred markedly to the left made £149. A 1929 UPU presentation folder with the odd tone spot only made £117 but, for me, the main interest was some superb 1½d lots. I've not seen the 1st issue with missing centres before and didn't even know they existed though they are listed in Hagger. A block of 12 with the bottom marginal pair missing their centres (*Fig.6*) was estimated 100,000 to 150,000R and realised approx.£17000. Another block of 4 with very blurred frames (*Fig.7*) made nearly £550, proving that the similar missing gold error on the medium format 1½d wasn't quite as rare as Grosvenor suggested (see earlier auction reports) a really nice serial No. block of 8 with the stamps variously affected (*Fig.8*) estimated 60-80,000R failed to sell. Moving to the much more mundane, but still rather nice, was a used strip of 3 + single of the 5mm phosphor ½c (*Fig.9*), grossly misperfed. Probably overestimated at £145-180 it was unsold, though I think I could have been tempted at the presumed reserve of £100.

Of the SWA the 1923 1st setting overprints made just over £1000 each for the "E" & "A" specimen sets. The issued set, um, made just over £1900. The 2nd setting trio (vfmm) made £900 and the 3rd setting (bold overprint) 5/-, 10/- & £1 all in um control pairs (*Fig.10 for £1*) made £1170. The 1931 pictorial set of 12 values in inscriptional pairs perforated up, and down, fine mm, made £480. The 1923 Gp.1 1d PD, variety imperf between, made a twice estimate £1700.

So we move into the second half of the year and Eddie is muttering that there was plenty of material around for a "first half" article. I'd have to say, having looked properly, that I'd agree! Anyway on to Spink in July to whom I'd entrusted with some of my mint officials. The 1927 6d inverted watermark pair, SGO4w, lmm, made a just over full catalogue £1350. A block of 4 1930 2d, perf 14x13½, lm/um with the split "d" variety made £295. The 1932 set 2/6 (SAHBO31) made £737 for the spectacular bottom 4 rows. The same set 1/- with the top row in marginal pairs (thus with arrow & twisted horn variety) + the bottom double row made £712. The 1935 set 10 ½d with double overprint, mm, made £439 and the 1947 2/6 with diaeresis on row 6/3, mm, £614 whilst the 2d SGO45a made £1167 (compare these with Argyll Etkin previously). However, in case you think Spink sells everything colossally well spare a thought for the 1940 5/- & 10/-, both with stamp varieties (the 5/- with broken bucket & 10/- with ball in frame), both og and catalogued £620 without varieties. They made £123.

Murray Payne had a sale on 21 September where the 2/6 with diaeresis on row 6/2, um, made £650, the 2d O45 £800 and the 1940 5/- with broken yoke pin variety, um, £140. The 1940 10/- without variety, um, made £375.

There were a number of other items in this sale which may be of interest to members. All the mint were well centred and unmounted. The 1927 "proofs" or "trials", or more likely "samples", each in a marginal B4, made £190 each for ½d in red & black, 1d in green & orange & 1d in red & black. The 6ds made slightly less at £180 imperf & £170 perforated. The 1930 1d tête-bêche pair made £800, a 1938 2d indigo & violet pair £250 (showing that the post auction purchaser of the same, albeit lmm, but with the "balloon flaw" at Leamington got a bargain at the £160 reserve less 10%!). The 1/- with "twisted horn" variety (wmk up) £180 & a hyphenated ½d coil perf gutter block of 16, £190. A lovely positional serial number block of 6 of the 1st hyphenated 6d with the "falling ladder" variety (*Fig.11*) made £275 and the large war effort 3d with "WRAC smoking" £70. A block of 4 unhyphenated 2d postage due with the doubled "D" in a block of 8 made £200 and returning to the officials a pair described as the 1933 1/- with 21mm spacing, but seemingly by shade what is listed in the handbook as 1935, set 11, with the "twisted horn" variety made £275 whilst the same used made £230.

So, on to Leamington. I know I sing its praises every year when, seeing as I run it, I possibly ought to be more modest! - but it continues to grow and provides an excellent selection of specialist material from a few £s to £100s such as is not really available anywhere else with low reserves.

These reserves still seem to upset the odd postal bidder who has bid double reserve yet fails to secure the lot. The reserves, though, sometimes really are low. If people are keen I could perhaps put the reserve first followed by an estimated value. You'll have to shout if you would like this as it would involve more work. The sale totalled 5-figures for the first time at £11,640. Most areas sold very well but again the Republican material fared badly as did, more surprisingly, the more ordinary SWA. I have heard it said that this is universally the case at the moment but I have to say, looking at e-bay, some very ordinary material seems to have been selling quite well! You'll all have had copies of the auction and a list of realisations so I won't dwell but will just pick a few highlights. The most bid on lot was the recess printed 2d, perf group III, bottom right corner B4 from the final printing with the "windmill" flaw and missing perf holes. A rare item it made a 4x reserve £300! The rare group II perf pair with the "split d" variety, lmm, made £140. Perhaps the most surprising realisation was the um marginal 5/- block of six containing the "broken bucket" variety on row 9/1. Cheaply reserved at £40 it ended up making a well above what I would have put on as an e/v, £150! Lot 496, the 1st hyphenated 6d "ladder flaw" in a similar positional B6 to Murray Payne's, but with the non variety strip lmm rather than um, made £220.

Finally the used 1913 10/- with inverted watermark made £600. It received several postal bids of £550 and one more cunning one of £580 but eventually sold in the room. I had been expecting it to make a bit more, probably nearer to £800. It was found by the same "explorer" who, last year, found the 1926 ½d booklet pair with sideways watermark. Perhaps we should all be a bit more vigilant. One in a million events always seem like impossible odds but with a million events, the odds are evens!

Anyway, on to Spink again on Nov. 18 where yet another 1963 Red Cross 12½c missing red (ie the cross) fetched even more at £2,824 (that's £1475 to £2228 to £2824 in under a year!) and then off again to South Africa where Welz had a sale on 29 October. There was rather less of major interest but some bench marks for unmounted King's heads with the 10/- making £215 (twice), the £1 green & red £536 and the pale olive green & red £750! - all quite surprising! The 1947 Royal Visit colour trial set of 9 yet again failed to sell at an e/v of £2,700 to £3,600 (ie £3-400 each). The owner of this material is clearly going to hang on until inflation catches up with actual "value"! It would be interesting to see what it would reach unreserved.

Spink featured yet again with another sale on 8 December. Staying with the King's heads, imperforate colour trials of 1d or 2½d values made £798 each (see Fig. 12 for selection). The 2½d in 5/- colours only made £553 due to a crease. The SWA King's heads were also on offer again and for comparison with Welz (*vide supra*) the "E" specimen set of 12, "fine mint", made £921, the "A" set £860 whilst the issued set, large part og, the 10/- with a few toned perfs, made £612 (compared to £1900 at Welz for fine um). The setting II set of 3 "fresh mint" made £798 and the setting III sets made £332 for the bold overprint and £356 for the thin. The setting II 5/- in a marginal pair (Fig. 13) without the stop after "Afrika" made £921 and the same variety on 10/- (Fig. 14), £1720.

So that just leaves Grosvenor's December sale. Here the 1923 setting I 10/-, fine mint, made £780 and the £1, £360 whilst the setting II trio made £744. Another trio but with "a red surface mark" on the £1 only made £360. In the photograph it looks like a small printing flaw rather than anything extraneous so it may well have been good value. Anyway, here's hoping you all find plenty of "good value" in 2011.





Fig. 7





Fig. 9

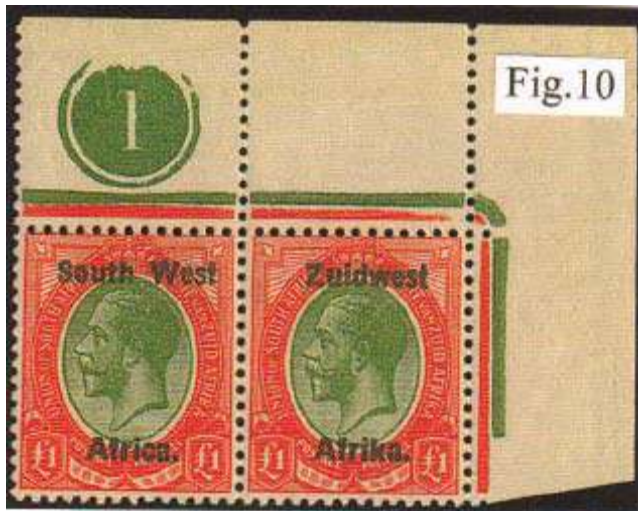


Fig.10



Fig.11

Fig. 12



Fig. 13



Fig.14

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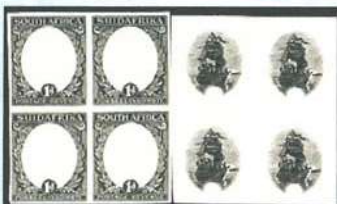











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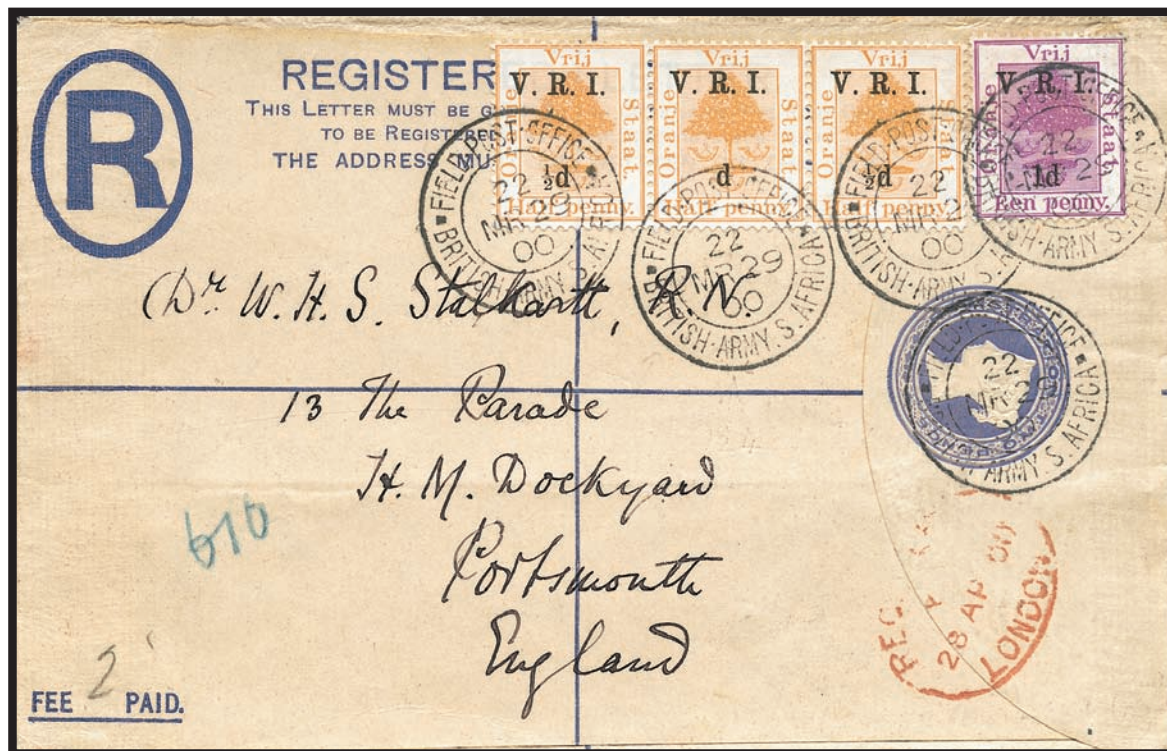
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