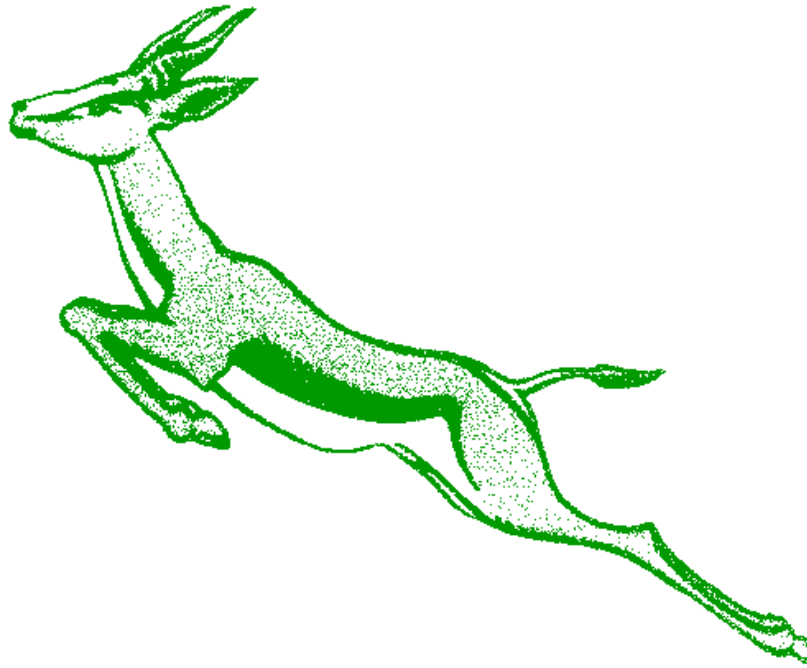


THE SPRINGBOK



**SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY
QUARTERLY**

Vol. 59

No. 2

Apr/Jun 2011



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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.

Editor

Eddie Bridges
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D-49328, Melle Riemsloh
Germany

Editorial Panel

E. Bridges
C. Oliver
J.L. Shaw

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

First of all I wish to apologise for the late publication of The Springbok. I do not want to make excuses but my personal circumstances have not been easy this past year. The company I have been working for asked me to move back to Germany early this year as I was looking after a small company near Hanover and commuting weekly. This was putting a strain on my family and we decided to move to Germany to cut down on the travelling. We tried selling our house in the UK but the market was not ready. Despite this I bought a house in Germany (my wife did not want to move into rented accommodation!) and we moved in June. The house was not ready but we had to get out of ours in the UK as the tenants wanted to move in. The result is all our stuff was in storage for a month before we could move into our house. I did not have a study so had to have one built before I could unpack my stamps. Now several months later, things are slowly starting to return to normal despite still having to live out of boxes till we get everything unpacked!

The result is that I have not had time to look at stamps at all for most of this year. I am starting to get withdrawal symptoms!

If you have sent me something for publication and do not see it, please let me know. It might have been misplaced during the chaos!

Please also note my new address and telephone number on the inside Front Cover.

Email address remains unchanged.

Eddie Bridges

Membership Matters

By Chris Oliver

We welcome the following new members:

No. 1157	R. J. Fergusson	Lewis, UK
No. 1158	Jan van Beukering	Bloemfontein, South Africa
No. 1159	Peter F. Grimley	Leicester, Leicestershire, UK
No. 1160	Graham A. Chard	Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, UK

Rejoining Member:

No. 1007	Colin Touzell	Southampton, UK
----------	---------------	-----------------

Resignations:

No. 1138	Michael Molineaux	Telford, UK
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Stamp Album Closed

David Lowry (Member 85) has closed his albums after many years of membership.

Please note: New contact details for your *Editor*

Kochs Buesche 8
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Record of the A.G.M. of the South African Collectors' Society held at The Falstaff Hotel, Leamington Spa at 17.00hrs on 12th November 2010.

By John Shaw

1. Present: John Shaw (chairman), Nicholas Arrow, Richard Barnett, Eddie Bridges, Eric Day, Bob Hill, Tony Howgrave-Graham, Nicholas Lindstrom, David Page, Sebastian Payne, Simon Peetoom, Otto Peetoom, Malcolm Ridsdale, John Richardson, John Sussex RDP, Brian Trotter RDP, Max Whitlock, Paul van Zeyl, Richard Johnson (rejoined member)
2. Apologies were received from Bill Branney; Francis Kiddle RDP, Christopher Oliver, David Osborn; Godfrey Mellor, Peter van de Molen, Bob Hill; Mike Berry; Tony Johnson; Alan Macgregor.
3. Record of previous A.G.M. was proposed for adoption by Sebastian Payne and seconded by Nicholas Arrow and agreed by those present.
4. Matters arising if not included elsewhere in the agenda. None.
5. The Hon. Chairman's report. This year must have been one of the most eventful in the history of our society. Firstly, our own celebration for the centenary of the founding of the Union was marked by a wonderful Village Green display by members at Spring Stampex, with the ceremony opened by Lord Selborne. Then the centenary of the opening of the first Union Parliament in Johannesburg last month, an event sadly missed by three of our stalwarts; Christopher Oliver our secretary was our representative there and he will report on the exhibition later. Between these two events was the election of Brian Trotter to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, this being the most prestigious award in philately. The Leamington conference was Brian's brainchild and he was also supremo for the London 2010 International. The demands on his time have scarce abated, since next year he becomes president of the Royal Philatelic Society. So it was appropriate that he should hand over his Leamington mantle to Simon Peetoom, and this is Simon's first conference in the hot seat, so to speak.

Leamington continues to provide an excellent annual conference, not least in the opportunity to meet friends from other allied societies. Also, it provides excellent opportunity to dispose of duplicates and estates of deceased, or no longer interested, members. Sales of the Derek Milledge and Les Elmore estates over the past two years have proved popular to the buyers and beneficial to the families, although Leamington would not appear the most appropriate medium for more substantial estates, such as that of Fred Clark.

The venue for the London meetings, the Calthorpe Arms in Holborn now appears to be settled. Attendances at meetings continue to disappoint, especially as the displays, for me, have always been worth the journey, notwithstanding the idiosyncrasies of my SatNav in getting me there. The availability and cost of meetings venues continues to give concern to most societies but we, at least appear to be in a stable and viable position for the present; nonetheless, other costs sadly oblige us to recommend a small increase in the annual subscriptions, and I hope you will all support this.

Concerning the society officials, Eddie Bridges appears to be making a good recovery from his illness and I have been somewhat slowed down by operations on both knees; Bill Branney, having handed over the exchange packet to Tony Johnson and the postal auction to Nicholas Arrow, after many years of sterling service, is now able to really enjoy working on his own collection. I thank all the officials and helpers, present and recent, for the good work they are doing on behalf of the society, and without whose work we would not have a society. My thanks not least must go to Christopher Oliver, our secretary, who is the "glue" that holds the society together. Despite illness, Eddie Bridges has continued to edit the Springbok, regarded outside our society as a fine publication. I would draw your attention to his plea for more articles for the magazine and try to contribute, no matter how short the article. Finally, I thank you all for your support and wish you a successful and fruitful conference.

6. The Hon. Secretary's report. The exhibition staged by the Society at Spring Stampex proved a great success. The society gained a number of new and rejoining members because of this. Our thanks go to Eddie for masterminding this event in spite of being hit by unexpected health problems at a critical time in the organization. We must also thank Brian Trotter for allowing us the use of his team of frame erectors and mounters in a 'dry run' for London 2010.

Since last November we have held two meetings in Carlisle, one in Leicester, one in Salisbury and four at our new London venue at Calthorpe Arms, Greys Inn Road, London WC1X 8JR. All of these were quite successful. We hope to have equally good meetings in 2011. Bill Branney won the Abel Trophy this year and looks forward to receiving it soon. One of our stalwarts in Leicester, John Leddington, sadly passed away in September. Our condolences were sent to his widow.

In South Africa, at the International Philatelic Exhibition in Johannesburg, I attended part of the Congress of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa to see how such things work in the southern hemisphere. For various reasons, but mainly due to the size of the country, the congress there is confined to one day to discuss the business of running the Federation, rather than the three or four day social event of the Philatelic Congresses of Great Britain.

The Court of Honour at the Exhibition contained 75 pages of Africa from the Royal Collection; some items from the philatelic archives; 1655, Batavia Connection exhibited by Mr. Tay Peng Hian; a frame of the Cape 1900 Table Mountain stamp design exhibited by Geoffrey Herdman and Dr. Chris Board's display of the production and execution of the Union Commemorative stamp of 1910. The latter, by an S.A.C.S. member, was particularly well received.

In a large conflux of competitive exhibits some of our members received awards: Bob Hisey achieved a gold medal for his S.A. officials; Mike Tonking a large vermeil for his De La Rue Georgians of S.W.A.; Mike Smith gained a gold medal for his O.F.S. postal stationery and Francis Kiddle a large vermeil for S.W.A. King's Head postal stationery.

Congratulations to them all.

British dealers almost outnumbered the locals and the S.A.P.O. was disappointing in that it had very little specifically produced for the exhibition on sale and no special cancellations, although it publicised that more would be available. In desperation, I purchased a smiler sheet produced with the show logo thereon.

It was a great experience, however, and I was able to meet members and friends who until recently were just names on my e-address list.

My thanks to all of our committee and workers for the society, John Shaw, Max Whitlock, David Osborn, Eddie Bridges, Malcolm Ridsdale, David Haig, Tony Howgrave –Graham, Nick Arrow, Tony Johnson, Morgan Farrell and Cedric Roche. Thank you all for your support.

7. The Hon. Treasurer's report and ratification of annual subscription. The financial report was circulated and had been checked by Eric Day, our examiner. (See elsewhere in the Springbok for the accounts). The income has held up but like the real world our costs for magazine production have increased and bank interest is nearly 74% down, which is why we had excess expenditure of £209 compared to excess income in the previous year. The 2010 annual accounts are not too good because we have spent a net £2500 after Eddie Bridges' efforts in book sales; also, I have so far had to pull £1500 off deposit so the funds are down on the previous year and may have to top up before the end of next year. A positive note which Max Whitlock will explain is that he has earned the society back £750 for the photocopier which effectively means the society has had "free" photocopying. I hope this gives the members an overall picture of the society accounts and I would like to pass on my thanks to Bill Branney, for the way he has run the packet and auctions and my best wishes to Tony Johnson and Nick Arrow in their new roles which will also help society funds.

8. Annual Subscription. The Hon Secretary had prepared figures which detailed the new postage rates from South Africa indicating those wishing to receive the South African Philatelist would need to pay an additional R344 (£35) on top of the £15.00 the committee is proposing. (Note that surface mail for the SAP is not an option since most SAPs sent this way get lost). Existing SAP subscribers would be given the option of cancelling this part of their subscription. Several members expressed concern over the "general" rather than specialist nature of the SAP but Richard Johnson stated that the SAP was now embarking on the publication of more serious articles.

It was proposed by Nicholas Lindstrom and seconded by Max Whitlock that the reports submitted above and the increase in annual subscription should be accepted; this was carried unanimously.

9. Reports from other officers of the Society. None had been received from those officers who were not present but Simon Peetoom gave a brief résumé of the website and Max Whitlock and Nicholas Arrow gave brief reports on their work, inviting questions.

10. Ratification of Officers of the Society. Simon Peetoom had volunteered to act as webmaster and Leamington conference organizer; Nicholas Arrow had volunteered to run the postal auction and Tony Johnson the exchange packet, the latter two offices previously held by Bill Branney, who, we hope, will enjoy a well deserved peaceful retirement working on his collection. All other officers indicated their willingness to stand again. It was proposed by Max Whitlock and seconded by David Page, that Nicholas, Arrow, Tony Johnson and Simon Peetoom be elected to the posts mentioned and the remaining officers should continue in office; carried unanimously.

11. Ratification of Library Fund. It was agreed that the society should continue to allocate £200 per annum to the Hon Librarian to purchase new books.

12. Society Meetings and Events:

- a. The Salisbury and Cambridge regional meetings have already been reported in the Springbok
- b. Johannesburg International – is included in Hon Secretary's report above.
- c. Spring Stampex – report will appear later.
- d. SACS meetings in Carlisle and London (CEO to insert dates please)
- e. West Country meeting in 2011 – dates?
- f. British Philatelic Congress Portsmouth – details please
- g. Midpex – decision on a table to be taken later
- h. Swinpex – it was decided not to take a table for 2011

13. Society website: The UKPhilately website was no longer supported by ABPS and this vehicle for advertising our meetings has now been terminated. Simon Peetoom has established a SACS website for which he is to be commended; Simon was tasked to determine whether this could be linked to the ABPS website. There was discussion on whether to publish our auction lists on the website, making them available to non-members; it was agreed that only members could have access and bid in society auctions and if published, then rules should be devised to protect the lists from unauthorized eyes.

14. S.A.C.S. support for Youth Philately. It was proposed by John Shaw and seconded by Tony Howgrave-Graham that the society should again make a donation of £100 to help Youth Philately; agreed unanimously

14. A.O.B:

- a. Congratulations to Brian Trotter on his election to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.
- b. Cover Packet. Max Whitlock advised that there was still a lot of tidying up to do with cover packets in circulation and payments there from and so he was not yet in a position to hand over the running of the cover packet.

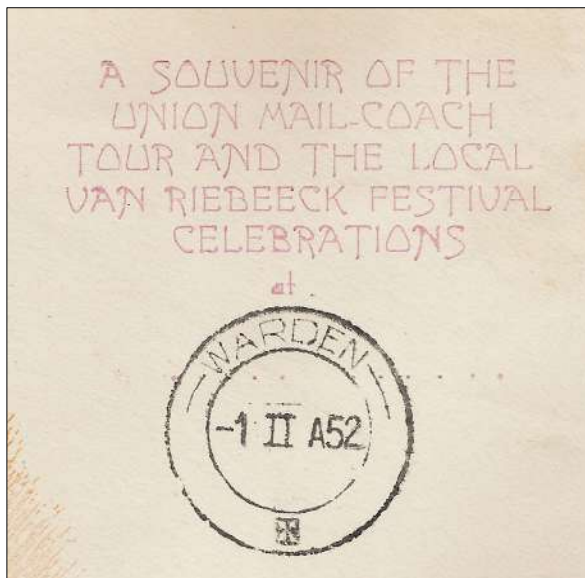
Since there was no other business, John thanked all for attending and the meeting adjourned at 17.50hrs.

Notes: At the dinner following the AGM, John Shaw presented Nicholas arrow with the Wickes Medal for literature and Brian Trotter presented John Shaw with the Tony Chilton Memorial Trophy for the best judged Saturday display.

Tercentenary Celebrations - 1952

By Nicholas Arrow

As collectors, we are a funny lot! Some years ago, I was going through a dealer's stock and I came across the cover illustrated below. I noted the red endorsement at the top of the cover (also illustrated below, but enlarged) As I had not seen this endorsement before, I bought the cover, put it into the cover album to await mounting and largely forgot about it - every time that I came across it, I realised that I would have to do something about it sooner or later, and forgot about it all over again!



Then, on a visit (in 2007) to see my Mum in Somerset West, I made my usual pilgrimage to see Ken Joseph and to plough through his stock, when I came across a similar item. "What", I asked, "is this?" Ken indicated that he did not know, but he had a feeling that his father Benje had made some research and written an article for the SAP about 20 years earlier. I purchased the cover and, true to his word, Ken sent me a copy of the article once he had found it, along with another cover that he had found in the mean time.

Summarising the article, as a part of the Tercentenary Celebrations, it was arranged that mail coaches should run from various points, converging on Cape Town (a kind of reverse arrangement to the Ox Wagon Trek covers of 1938). There were no less than 7 starting points, being Windhoek (SWA), Messina (Northern Transvaal near to the S

Rhodesian border), Grobersdal, Ohrigstad and Nelspruit (all in Northern Transvaal), Amsterdam (Eastern Transvaal) and Port St Johns (Eastern Cape). The covers prepared for the Celebrations by the Cape Town Philatelic Society (Reisener SC19/20) were endorsed with the 6-line red mark centre, and seem to have been available for use by those who wished to have a souvenir of the mail coach visit. The red mark (which is quite faint on the original reads "A Souvenir of the / Union Mail Coach / tour and the local / van Riebeeck Festival / celebrations / at", with, in this case, the location (Warden) being neatly completed by the postmark. I should add that the two other examples I have are both completed in manuscript.

One of the other two examples I have is on the Afrikaans printed cover (SC19) and the endorsement is in Afrikaans, so it would perhaps be fair to guess that the covers in English (SC20) had the endorsement in English and the Afrikaans covers (SC19) had it in Afrikaans. All my covers are from the Mail Coach run from Ohrigstad (route #5).

Two other points may be considered relevant. First, all 3 of my covers are franked with a pair of the 1d ship officials. Secondly, it is obvious that the special covers produced by the CT Philatelic Society were obviously produced well in advance of the actual celebrations, a matter which is not made clear in Reisener, who only refers to the celebrations and the van Riebeeck special post mark (Reisener 95 & 97).

I would be interested to hear if any other members have similar covers. I showed these at the SW meeting of the Society, and nobody made any claim to familiarity with them at all, although one member thought he might have got one stuffed away somewhere (sounds familiar!). Also if anyone has one of these covers that he would prefer to turn into cash, I would like to have first refusal.

PS I said in the opening paragraph of this article that collectors are a funny lot. It would be true to say that they are also rather a forgetful lot, as, once I had composed this article, in 2008!, I carefully saved it in order to send it to Eddie for publication in the Springbok, but promptly forgot to do anything about actually sending it to him!

However, my mind was jogged when I noted on eBay another Mail Coach cover - I was able to purchase this and it is reproduced below. The good news is that it shows an Afrikaans language cachet on an Afrikaans language cover, so my guess that the cover matches the cachet in the choice of language still holds good. The bad news is that not only is the postmark wholly illegible, but that the space where the cover was posted has been left blank.

The differences are that (a) the cachet is in green as opposed to red, (b) the stamps are a pair of ½d Officials and (c) it was somewhat official, as it was sent to the Cape Town Exhibition office.



Concerning the postmark, on close examination, the last 2 letters are "AL", and the letter before that most likely is a "D", ie the place where it was posted ends in "dal". The likely candidates are Citrusdal (route 2 from Messina) or Groblersdal or Jacobsdal (route 3 which started from Groblersdal).

Any further information about these covers would be much appreciated.

The Start Date for the Interprovincial Period

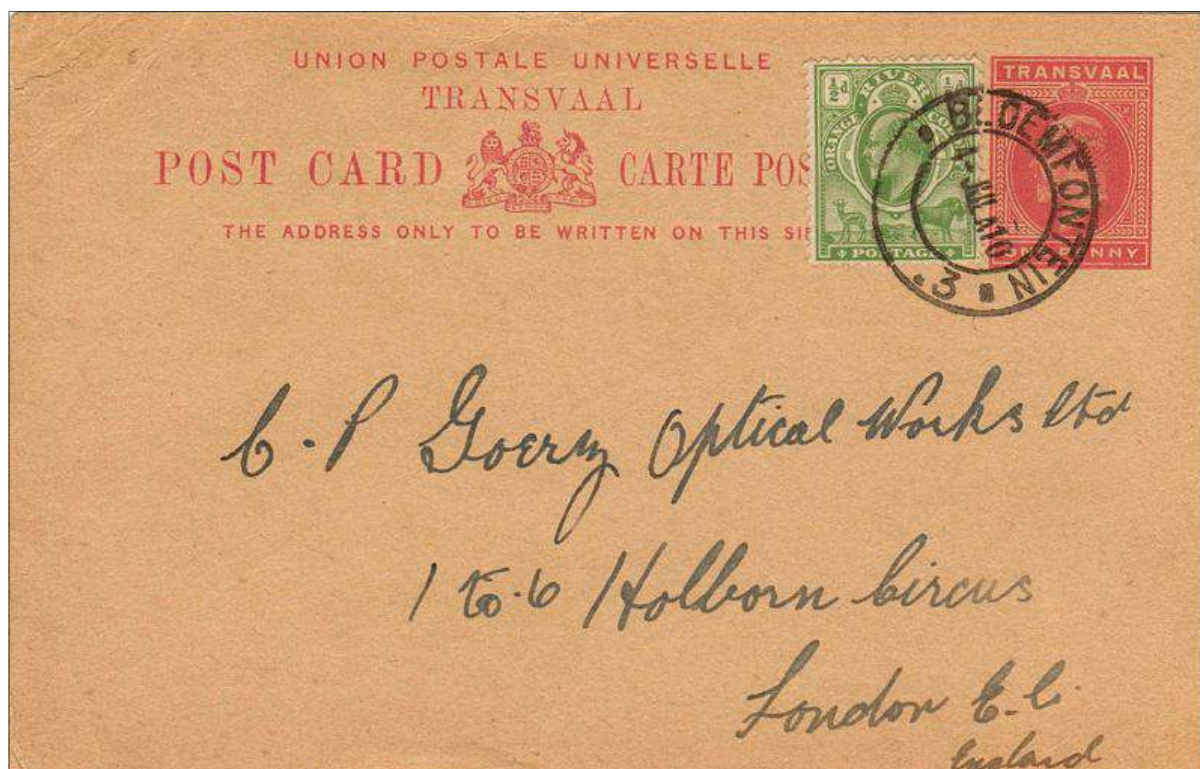
By Tony Howgrave-Graham

I was intrigued by Mike Tonking's query as to the start date of the Interprovincial Period. It's true that the handbook still states 19 August 1910 but I assumed that this was just because it was out of date and was superseded by the discovery of the Cape Colony Post Office Circular, number 344, leading to a general acceptance that the date should be 1 June 1910.

Mike's question about whether this only applied to the Cape made me revisit my interprovincials. What became clear on looking through was that the vast majority of mail during June, July and August 1910 was franked by its own provincial adhesives. However I have a Natal 2/6 telegraphically used at Johannesburg on 1 June 1910 so the rule was known by post office staff and applied outside the Cape. Natal & Transvaal produced the only available 2/6 stamps. I have further examples of the Natal stamp used at Jo'burg on 6 July and at East London on 7 August (again these are probably both used telegraphically). Another early example is an ORC ½d NGR perfin used in Durban on 4 July. This being an official stamp it is again clear that authorities outside the Cape were aware, though I have seen revenues "interprovincially" used prior to 1910.

But what of the general public. It would seem that they were largely, but not totally, unaware. I have a Natal 5d pair used in the Cape on 4 June but not being on cover I can't comment on its status. This leaves just one item. A Transvaal 1d UPU card uprated by an ORC ½d used at Bloemfontein on 4 July. The card is to a photographic shop in England so I should be grateful for a postal historian's opinion. The length of the message (24 words) means, I think, the card should bear 1d. So why the added ½d?

By the end of 1910 interprovincial items from the general public are much more numerous and during 1911&12 are common. By 1913, of course, they were almost the norm outside Transvaal as the only stamps reprinted were those of Transvaal until the King's Heads appeared on 1 September.



Responses to the Editor please!

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**
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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!

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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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Meeting of the West of England Group on 28th May 2011

By Chris Oliver

We met at 11.00hrs in the Harnham Scout Hut, Salisbury with five members and three guests present and with apologies received from John Shaw.

Tony Howgrave-Graham commenced the morning presentations with a display of S.A. Revenue stamps. He drew attention to inter-colonial use of revenues in 1907 prior to the interprovincial use of which he had many examples. A quantity of his material had been found in a Natal Sheriff's day book. We were treated to a representative display of all seven issues of the Revenue stamps of South Africa including a £200 stamp.

Barry Smith presented two displays prior to lunch. The first two frames marked the 100th anniversary of the flights from Kenilworth to Muizenburg and return flights and the large and small wing "flying sixpence" cards. Large wing was produced in Cape Town and the small wing in Transvaal. His next two frames described the post-war Springbok service.

We adjourned to the Old Mill for a congenial lunch and re-assembled at about 14.30hrs.

An interesting display, showing the postal history of the Cape was presented by Robert Johnson.

Bas Payne then explained that he was undertaking a study of the double-circle postmarks of ZAR 1893 – 1910 and showed examples of some of these. He would be interested in receiving information on other examples which members may hold.

Chris Oliver had brought a more light hearted subject and displayed the booklets of the Republican period from 1993 when S.A. re-commenced the issuing of booklets.

Nick Arrow finished up the afternoon with some more aerophilately based on the "Horseshoe" Route with covers between South Africa and the various destinations which were added from time to time as the service developed.

All present considered it an interesting and worthwhile meeting and thanked Nick, warmly, for organising it. Next year it is hoped to organise a meeting at the same venue a little earlier to avoid the May bank holidays.



Robert Johnson at the Salisbury meeting



Nick Arrow at the Salisbury meeting

What happened to the Atlas Catalogue of R.S.A.?

By Odd Gunnar Skagestad

For intelligent communication, common languages and common yardsticks are necessary tools. Likewise, for us stamp collectors, catalogues are a *sine qua non*.

Although the undersigned had been a stamp collector since 1951 - at the age of seven – it was not until 1984 (when I was posted to Cape Town for a 3-year assignment as the Consul of Norway) that I seriously started collecting South (and Southern) Africa.

For me, this was, in the philatelic sense, a totally unfamiliar and uncharted territory. Immediately, the need arose to acquire a stamp catalogue which could guide me into this exciting but slightly bewildering landscape. As a starter, the Stanley Gibbons (Vol.1) provided a useful tool with a wealth of fascinating information – its colourless, somewhat dull layout and generally drab appearance notwithstanding.

At the same time, however, I discovered the South African Colour Catalogue (SACC), and became the happy owner of a copy of the 6th edition (1983-84). From the very outset and up to the present, the SACC – in its subsequent editions – has been an invaluable guide and companion during innumerable hours spent at exploring the spell-binding world of South African stamps. After the brutal murder in 2009 of the catalogue's founding editor and publisher Lutz Heffermann, one might well have felt some uneasiness about the future fate of the SACC – would new editions be forthcoming, and would the catalogue live up to the exacting standards which Mr Heffermann had accomplished to create? The 30th edition, which appeared in April 2010, put paid to any doubts in this respect. Or did it really? In a book review in The SA Philatelist, June 2010 (p.81), the reviewer Mr Paul van Zeyl (of Rand Stamps) declared that "*The long-awaited SACC is squeaky clean but collector unfriendly*". Among other peculiarities, it was noted that the catalogue's new co-ordinator/publisher, Mr Nick Troester, omitted placing his name anywhere in the publication (perhaps anticipating some negative feedback?). The reviewer went on to urge collectors let Mr Troester (who can be contacted at razztro@iburst.co.za) know if and where he could improve the next edition. In my opinion a sensible suggestion.

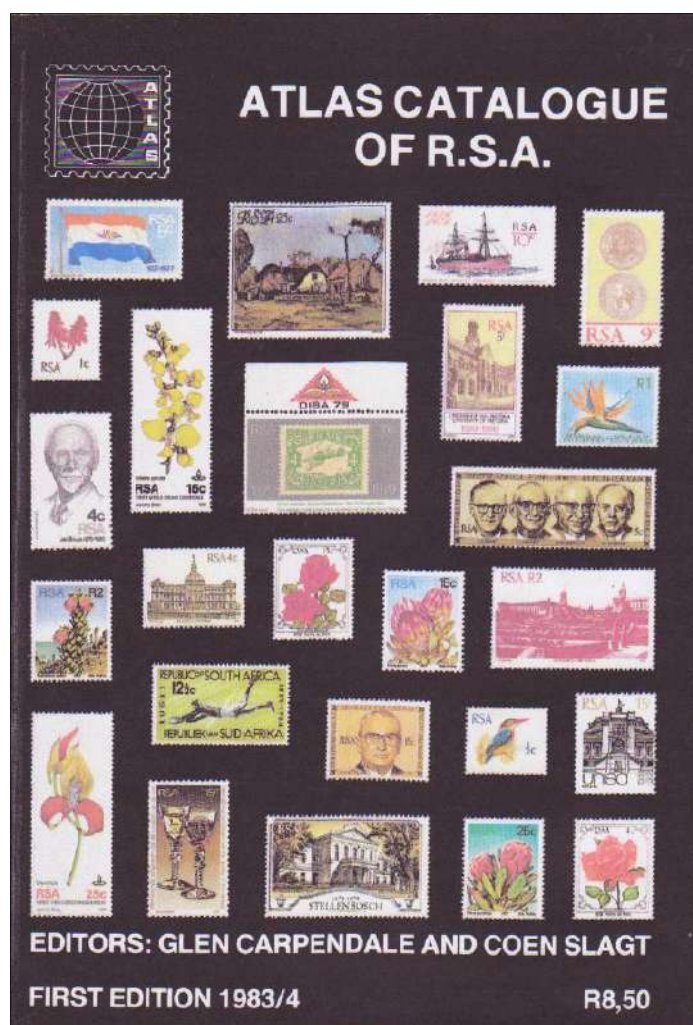
Reverting to the time (1984) of my initial encounter with collecting South African stamps, I then also had the delightful experience of coming across a slim (108 pages) volume proudly titled the Atlas Catalogue of R.S.A. Dealers I spoke to in Cape Town gave the unanimous verdict: This was the very best catalogue of South African stamps, - better than the SACC especially as far as definitives were concerned. And indeed, with an incredible amount of detailed and useful information, presented with a neatly illustrated and reader-friendly layout, at R.8,50 this catalogue did turn out to be an excellent buy. In addition to the main section of definitives and commemoratives in chronological order, the Atlas Catalogue of R.S.A. also contained – *inter alia* - exhaustive presentations of souvenir sheets and miniature sheets, first day covers, S.A.A. flight covers, commemorative postmarks, postal stationery and a whole breathtaking section dedicated to instructions on how to sort out Groups I to IX of the 1st Definitive series, as well as a guide to the specialised listings of the 2nd (de Jong series), the 3rd (Proteas) and the 4th (Buildings) Definitives.

The only obvious shortcoming of the Atlas Catalogue was announced in its title: Being confined to the R.S.A. issues, collectors of Union material would necessarily have to rely on other catalogues, like Stanley Gibbons or SACC.

Another matter of more calamitous nature was – at that time - yet to reveal itself. The names of the editors – Glen Carpendale and Coen Slagt - appeared in bold letters on the front cover, proudly announcing that this volume was the “FIRST EDITION 1983/4” (see illustration). Judging on the basis of the fine quality of this first edition, one would have ample reason to harbour high expectations with regard to the next – and subsequent – issues. Indeed, to leave no doubts about their noble and ambitious intentions, Messrs Carpendale and Slagt made it clear in the catalogue’s Foreword that there would be more to come. Appealing to the readers for assistance (“We need your help”) in improving the contents of “our next issue”, the editors also made it known that work had started on preparing new catalogues on Union and S.W.A. stamps.

Unfortunately, none of this seems to ever having materialized. As far as I have been able to ascertain, The Atlas Catalogue of R.S.A., First edition 1983/4, turned out to be a one-off event. A brave attempt at achieving excellence of a more lasting nature, but what went wrong? Can anyone tell us what really happened to the Atlas Catalogue of the R.S.A.?

Anyway, although this promising project never came to fruition as a publication to be issued as an annual or a regular fixture, for the period which it covers – i.e. from 1961 to 1983 - the Atlas Catalogue of the R.S.A. remains unsurpassed as a standard reference catalogue.



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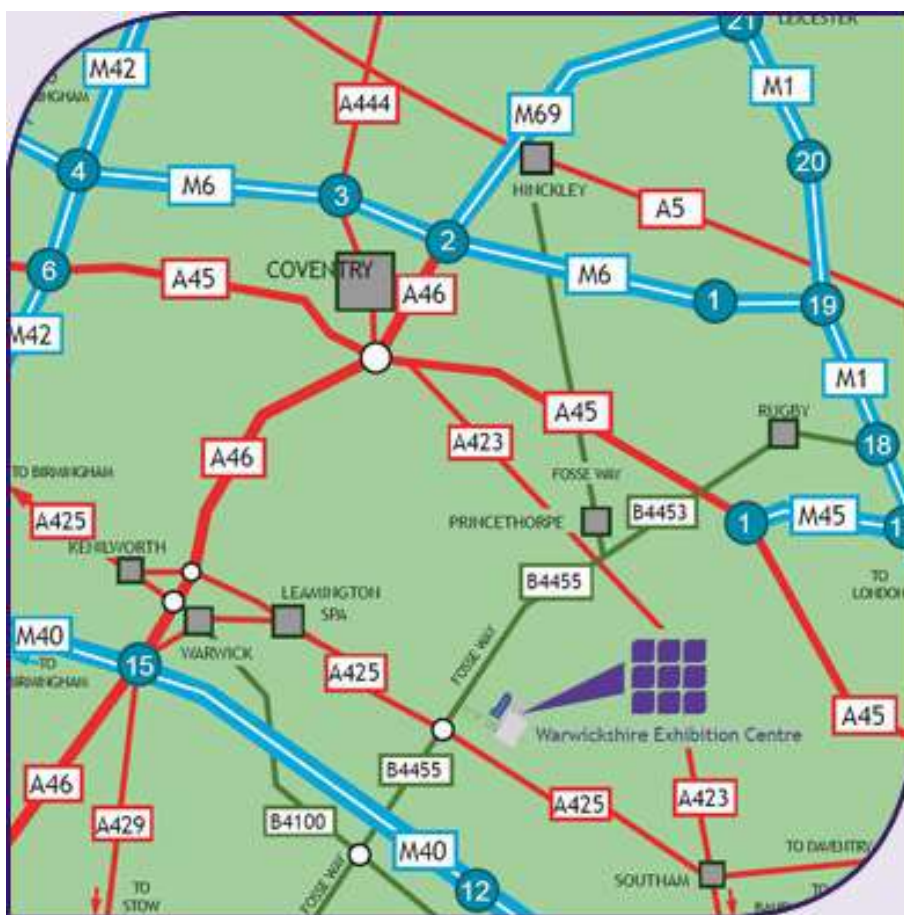
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I am urgently in need of more books for the circulating packets. If you have any nearly ready, please finish them as quickly as possible so we can keep the packets coming.

I have had reports of packets being badly packed and being torn when received by the next member. Please ensure you pack all packets securely when you send them on..... See the notes in each pack if you need a refresher on what this means. Also it is really important to ensure that all packets are wrapped in a waterproof plastic bag inside the outer envelope, to minimize the risk of packets getting damp in the post. This is obviously disastrous for mint stamps. Unless it gets damaged, the plastic bag that the packet starts with should be used for the whole circuit, but if it gets damaged it is important to ensure that it is replaced.

Also some packets are sometimes getting badly held up by members. Please try to forward any packet to the next member in 3 or 4 days. It is important when you phone the next person on the list that you get a response from them to be sure they are not away - if you cannot get a response to your phone call please go to the next person on the list and leave later members to send the packet to those that got missed earlier. So, please check the circulating list prior to posting and if an earlier space is not signed, try that person again.

Finally, please let me know when you send a packet on so I can keep track of it and chase it along if necessary. If you don't make any purchases an email notification that includes the packet number will suffice.

Thank you for your cooperation - following these simple guidelines will keep packets in good condition and moving smoothly.

Tony Johnson

South African Airmail Queries

By Nicholas Arrow

Help please! I have two queries concerning mail sent from England to South Africa.

1. My first query concerns a cover sent from Cheltenham which is addressed to East London. It bears an English 1½d stamp which is clearly postmarked the 8th August 1929. There is also a South African 4d stamp which is postmarked the 26th August 1929.



Assuming that the postmarks are genuine (ie they were been impressed on the dates they respectively bear, the only way so far as I can tell that this could have happened is if the cover was flown on the inaugural flight of the first Union Airways service which of course took place on the 26th August 1929 - indeed the cover is endorsed with instructions for it to be so carried. The postal rate for mail from England was 5½d.

The problem that I have with the cover is that I have never previously seen an item from England carried on this flight in which the mailing fee was paid partly by English and partly by South African stamps. There were indeed many odd combinations of stamps on incoming mail intended for the inaugural flight of the new service (most of which seem to have emanated from the fertile imagination of Capt Smye!) but, however odd a franking may have been, all that I have seen have the total fee for the flight paid for in advance of the mail being sent to South Africa - never have I seen an item when one of the stamps making up the total fee was cancelled in England and the other stamp, making up the total fee payable for the carriage by air of the item, was cancelled at the end of the flight.

Can anyone comment about this please?

2. My second query concerns a cover carried from England addressed to Port Elizabeth. It bears English stamps to the total value of 6d, the correct letter rate for an airmail item to South Africa. The London F.S. Airmail postmark on two of the stamps is anything but clear, but there is a pencilled note, which seems to be possibly in the handwriting of Francis Field, "4 Sep 1935". Under strong magnification, I think that this date is indeed correct. In addition to the postmarks, there is also a black/purple smudge which defaces all the stamps. It is marked at the left "By Imperial Airways / First direct air / dispatch London - / Port Elizabeth". It is addressed to D H Handover c/o Vacuum Oil and on the back is the usual boxed "Imperial Airways / Airway Terminus / Victoria, London" applied to mail emanating from Imperial Airways - there are no other marks on the back at all. D H Handover is a regular sender or recipient of official mail from Imperial Airways. I have, incidentally, seen a very similar cover which was offered for sale on eBay but I did not acquire it.



There is also a letter dated 12 Dec 1978 from Francis Field to a previous owner of the cover, which says, simply, that he did not think that any IA records exist, but that "if it is addressed to or from an official or to the Imperial Office and bears routing instructions, these would be exact and reliable - these items being sent for permanent records purposes".

However, there is a host of "but's" to all this.

First of all is the fact that there is no arrival mark. South African postal authorities, very conveniently, seem always to have applied a back-stamp to any cover which was flown on a new service.

Secondly, the service between Johannesburg via Bloemfontein to Port Elizabeth (part of Union Airways original routing in 1929) had been discontinued in 1933 because of course there was the regular Imperial Airways service via Johannesburg to Cape Town, which rendered obsolete the link via Port Elizabeth.

Thirdly, no-one yet has ever given a mention to any new service to Port Elizabeth, from England or from anywhere else within South Africa. Burrell in his excellent reference work "Par Avion in Southern Africa" makes no reference to any such new service.

And finally, Port Elizabeth aerodrome was not even functioning at the time, as it had been closed in 1934, not to reopen until 1936! I suppose that this detail might not have been overly important to someone in England, as Uitenhage was deputizing for PE so far as aerodromes were concerned, but still one would have thought that Imperial Airways would have been aware of this.

So why was this cover, clearly from IA to one of their representatives, prepared and sent?

Help, please!

South African KGV Definitive Inking Varieties

by Morgan Farrell

In the 1986 Handbook Catalog, each value of the 1913 KGV definitives has a variety listing of "deformed letters due to inking". What exactly does this mean though? Are these varieties arbitrary and non-constant in that they appear on any position of the sheet depending on how heavily inked they were? Or is there wearing of the plate involved in which certain stamp positions on the sheet continued to have the same inking varieties over a period of time?

Stephen Rich chronicled the varieties that he was aware of as early as 1921 while the stamps were still in use. He made no reference to any of them being the result of over-inking. G.W.Reynolds only made mention of over-inking as it related to the relatively larger numbers of letter varieties that seemed to occur on the 4d and 6d values. He stated that he thought that the varieties of the 4d did not appear to be the result of over-inking and that those of the 6d over-inking was "undoubtedly the cause of these misprints". This notation was echoed by J. Ritchie and a similar note appeared in "Postage Stamps of the Union of South Africa" in 1936. Simenhoff listed many of these varieties but didn't refer to over-inking as the cause. This was also true of the Handbooks from both 1946 and 1952. It wasn't until the 1960 version of the Handbook that an attempt was made to explain inking varieties. It stated in part "...shows up as broken or missing letters in the place name and arises from over-inking or solidifying of the ink, in the recesses of the plate during the printing process." It's in this volume that the "deformed letters due to inking" varieties are first listed as such. This practice was continued in both the 1979 and 1986 Handbooks.

In "The De La Rue Georgians of South Africa", H.E.Lobdell addresses the flaws on these stamps in a much more satisfactory manner. In all he describes six different types of varieties. Four of them are - errors in the original plate, damage such as cracks, retouches, and double strikes. The other two types are described as follows; varieties caused by legitimate wear such as are to be observed in the lettering in later printings of the 4d and 6d and, varieties produced by cloggings due to hardened ink, such as progressive elimination of white letters in the 6d". These two explanations sound to me like they can be readily melded together into a single explanation of many of the inking varieties in the 4d and 6d as well as the other values. Lobdell does go on to say that it is often difficult to assign many flaws to individual categories, especially those last two.

All of this leads me to believe that some inking varieties are in fact constant and occur in the same position of the sheet repetitively and others are in fact arbitrary in position from heavily inked sheets. To know the complete story of each and every variety, one would have to examine hundreds of complete sheets printed over long periods of time. As impossible as this would be, even this might not answer all of the possible questions. I suppose then that we are left with making the best analysis of each stamp that we are able to with the information that is available and/or obvious.

Some Varieties -

A well known and cataloged inking variety is the "SOJTH" variety of the 1/2d. This is the broken "U" variety of row 2, stamp 4, of plate 1. I have seen a scan of this stamp and I continue to search for it but it was corrected (by cleaning of the plate?) early on and it is extremely rare.

Another well known and cataloged variety is the missing "Z" from "ZUID" variety. An early example is shown in (III. A) with the "Z" partially missing and an example of the completely missing "Z" and the frame line above it is shown in (III. B). This well known variety clearly illustrates that at least some of the inking varieties are a result of wear as described in the 1960 Handbook and by Lobdell. It also demonstrates that this flaw, and likely others, is progressive in its development.



Illustration A



Illustration B

Two rather common inking varieties are those with center stroke of "F" in the word "OF" missing as shown on a 2/6 shilling stamp in (III. C), and the "A" and "N" of "VAN" being unconnected at the foot where they are normally connected as shown on a 4d stamp in (III. D). Both of these flaws are seen in all values but are more commonly seen in some values more than others. My observations are that some of these varieties are developed constant varieties (especially the "OF" flaw) and others can occur randomly on any stamp that is from a heavily inked sheet. Deciding which is which is possible in some instances and impossible in many others.



Illustration C



Illustration D

As already noted, it was seen early on that the 4d and 6d values ended up with a large number of varieties caused by wear and inking. I have assembled several of these in my collection and I can show that several are both constant and show progressive development. In the 6d the vast majority of these varieties are seen in the letters in "OF SOUTH AFRICA" and even more so in the words "POSTAGE-POSTZEGEL". Organizing these into like varieties is difficult but possible. (III. E) shows an example of "POSTZEGEL" with broken letters and (III. F) is likely a stamp from the same position in a more advanced state of deterioration. (III. G and III. H) are two parts of the same stamp. It shows "OI" for "OF", "AIRICA" for "AFRICA", POSIAGE" for "POSTAGE", and only the letters "POS" of "POSTZEGEL" are not completely deformed. This stamp may well be an example that has constant varieties but that are somewhat exaggerated due to heavier than normal inking.



Illustration E



Illustration F



Illustration G



Illustration H

For the 4d, Lobdell lists a variety with only four jewels in the crown instead of the normal seven. This is shown in (III. I). In fact examples can be shown with four, five and six jewels. This may again be a variety that is constant in some position (or positions) and yet can also show up arbitrarily on other positions from heavily inked sheets.

(III. J) shows a block of four with the following flaws; upper left stamp has "F" of "OF" with missing center stroke, "F" of "AFRICA" with missing center stroke and six jewels in crown; upper right stamp shows "F" of "AFRICA" with missing center stroke and five jewels in crown; bottom left stamp has "F" of "OF" with missing center stroke and five jewels in crown; bottom right stamp has "F" of "OF" with missing center stroke, "F" of "AFRICA" with missing center stroke, and five jewels in crown.

(III. K) shows "F" of "OF" with missing center stroke, "SOUTH" has a partially missing top to "S" and the right part of the top stroke to "T" missing. The "F" of "AFRICA" has a missing center stroke. (III. L) shows what must be a more advanced state of this same stamp with "F" of "OF" missing the center stroke, "SOUTH" as "SOUIH" along with the same damage to the top of the "S", and "AFRICA" as "AIRICA".

(III. M) shows a pair with both stamps having "AFRICA" as "AIRICA".



Illustration J

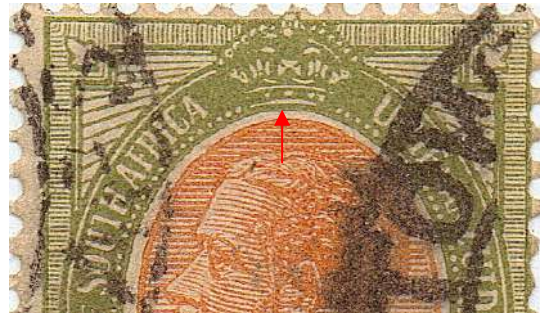


Illustration I



Illustration K



Illustration L



Illustration M

The 1d value had a printing in 1921 that was heavily inked. From my observations, most of the inking varieties of this value come from this printing. I have yet to establish any of these to be constant, though they may well be for this printing at least. (III. N) shows a stamp with the "A" of "VAN" missing. (III. O) shows three stamps with various deformed or missing letters to the words "POSTAGE-POSTZEGEL" For the 1d value the Handbook catalogs a few specific varieties that it implies are constant. I have not observed these yet.

Many years ago I found a ten shilling value with the word "POSTZEGEL" having an "I" for the letter "T" and the top stroke of the "Z" missing. Some 20 years later a similar example turned up. That these are the same variety seems to be confirmed by the crowns of each. They have nearly identical inked out portions. See (III. P and III. Q). There are known scarce missing letter varieties such as the 2d stamp with the "EVA" variety and the five shilling with missing "VAN". To date, neither of which have shown up in my searching. (III. R) though shows a one shilling stamp that appears to be the king of all missing letter varieties. Entire words are missing. It should be noted that there are no signs of any chemical or other disturbance to this stamp. This is most certainly a result of a very heavily inked sheet or a portion of a sheet. In one of my last correspondences with Jack Hagger, I sent him a scan of this stamp. He had never seen anything like it.



Illustration N



Illustration O



Illustration P

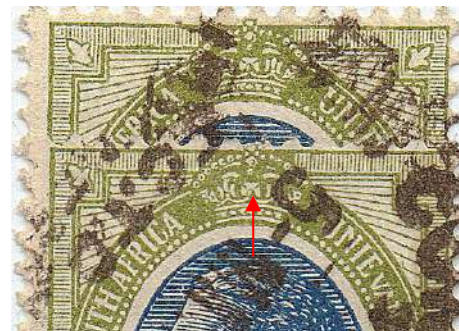


Illustration Q

Lobdell shows two pages of lists of varieties of all values and all types as reported to him by others. In most cases he cautiously describes them without reference to their causes. Many of them are obviously the result of inking and I would assume that most are constant, at least for a time. In fact I have found many of them so in those instances at least I can confirm that they are. I have found others as well. At some point I would like to compile a list with scans and ask others for their contributions in an attempt at finally creating a complete list. Lobdell suggested that the list would never be complete though and he may well be correct. This is a definitive issue that saw heavy usage for 13 years. The possibilities may be endless. For now though, this writing is only meant to be a discussion of this category of the KGV varieties.



Illustration R

Our study group has many knowledgeable members that surely have items in their collections that would add new information. I sincerely hope that they will contribute to this discussion. I would very much like to hear from anyone with ideas or scans. Please contact me at mtf3@usfamily.net.

In the future I hope to write about my observations of the many cracked plate varieties of these stamps - both large and small.

References:

Postage Stamps of the Union of South Africa by G.W. Reynolds (1921)

The Stamps of the Union of South Africa by Stephen Rich (1921)

The Adhesive Postage Stamps of the Union of South Africa by J. Ritchie (1926)

Postage Stamps of the Union of South Africa by Philatelic Society of Natal (1936)

Standard Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of the Union of South Africa by L. Simenhoff (1930)

Handbook Catalogs of 946, 1952, 1960, 1979, and 1986

The De La Rue Georgians of South Africa by H. E. Lobdell

Correction to the UHB (Hagger 1986)

By Tony Howgrave-Graham

Whilst preparing some lots for the auction I've come across quite an important error in Hagger - page 191, the Cape Centenary 1d transposed panes.

Unless every item I've seen is the rare transposed version, Ca should read "dot below 53 with broken O" (not unbroken) and Cb should read with "O unbroken". Given that one is valued at "5" and the other "100" I think it would be in members interests to be aware!

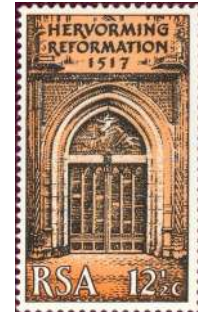
1967.10.31 - REFORMATION

RSA Study Group

Two commemorative stamps and an official cover were issued to celebrate the 450th Anniversary of Martin Luther affixing the 95 Theses to the gate of the Castle Church in 1517. The postmark was designed by N W Meadows.



SACC 274



SACC 275

Martin Luther was born on 10 November 1483 in Eisleben (Northern Germany). He studied Philosophy and Law in Erfurt. After a thunderstorm Luther promised to become a monk and entered the Augustinian Monastery. He was ordained as priest in 1507 and paid a brief visit to Rome in 1510-1511, after which he became professor of Theology in Wittenberg where a university was founded in 1502.

As early as 1516 his lectures on the Epistle to the Romans reflected a certain reformative trend and on 31st October 1517 he affixed his 95 Theses in Latin to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, which served as a notice board for university-related announcements. These were points for debate that criticized the Church and the Pope. The most controversial points centered on the practice of selling indulgences and the Church's policy on Purgatory. His aim was to start an academic debate and not to cause a rift in the Catholic Church, but the theses were translated in German and widely distributed, without his permission.

His dissent marked an outbreak of a new force of discontent which had been pushed underground but not resolved. The quick spread of discontent occurred to a large degree because of the printing press and the resulting swift movement of both ideas and documents, including the 95 Theses. Information was also widely disseminated in manuscript form, as well as by cheap prints and woodcuts amongst the poorer sections of society.

In 1521 he was excommunicated by the Diet of Worms. He found sanctuary in Wartburg Castle in Eisenach, where he began his translation of the New Testament from Greek into German.

On 13 June 1525, at the age of 42, Luther married Katharina van Bora, previously a nun. They had six children.

In 1530 the Lutheran Creed was submitted to the Diet of Augusburg. Luther's famous translation of the Bible, his two Catechisms, his hymns and numerous pamphlets contributed greatly to the firm establishment of the Protestant faith.

Luther died on 18 February 1546 and was buried in Wittenberg. Although Luther was not the first nor yet the only reformer, he was the initiator of the actual Reformation, which is said to have ended with the Peace of Westphalia in 1648.

The All Saints' Church of Wittenberg, more commonly known as the Schlosskirche (Castle Church) was completed in 1509. Luther usually preached in the City Church, but his funeral and burial took place in the Castle Church. Philipp Melanchthon delivered the oration. When Melanchthon died in 1560, he was buried close to Luther in the Castle Church.

The church was seriously damaged by fire in 1760 also destroying the wooden doors to which Luther nailed his theses. It was quickly rebuilt and later further restored. To commemorate the 375th anniversary of Luther's birth in 1858, the doors were replaced with bronze doors that bear the Latin text of the Theses.

In the tympanum over the door is a painting, depicting Luther and Melanchthon kneeling before a Crucifixion against the backdrop of Wittenberg. Luther is holding his German Bible and Melanchthon is holding the Augsburg Confession.

FDC

The FDC features Luther nailing the theses to the door. Thin blue lines may be seen in various places along the edges of the paper. They are guide marks for the cutting of the paper from large sheets, according to the article in the SA Philatelist of December 1967.

The inserted stiffener depicts an open book with window shapes to the left and right. On the other wide is a description in Afrikaans and English of Luther's life.

STAMPS

For the first time:

- (a) The abbreviation "RSA" replaced the bilingual name of the country.
- (b) There are no central gutters between the 2½c stamps, the perforations merely running through the printed portions of the stamp (the 12½c stamps have the perforated gutters)
- (c) The words "Postage Posgeld" are absent, although the stamps were for postage purposes only.

2½c

Designer: W F van Reenen from a portrait by Lucas Cranach the Elder, copied from an old book in Dutch on church history in the Reference Library of Johannesburg.

RSA watermark facing right, indistinct in parts. Printed on white coated Harrison paper. Two panes, A being on the right of B with 100 stamps (5 rows of 20) per pane, according to the Handbook. The S A Philatelist of December 1967, however, states that Pane A is below pane B. Printed on the Goebel 830 machine. Perforation was done by the 11 row appliance, gauge 14x15. The left and right margins are perforated through, while the top and bottom are imperforate except for the single extra hole at each end of the vertical rows of perforations. The central comb join is at the arrow.

Pane	Row	
A	1/5	Tiny white dot in bottom right corner
	3/1	One large and cluster of small scarlet dots at left of neck of Luther's habit
B	4/9	Tiny brown dot at bottom right of 2½c
	5/9	Vertical wavy brown line through neck on left

560 000 sheets were ordered, 5 670 delivered on 12.10.67 with a total of 540 312 sheets delivered.

12½c

Designer: N W Meadows

The design shows the door of the Castle Church on which Luther is said to have nailed his 95 theses on 31 October 1517.

Swiss coated paper, RSA watermarked, the mark being tête-bêche formation, facing left and right. Only one pane, consisting of 100 stamps (5 rows of 20). Perforation was done by the single row appliance within the Goebel 840 printing machine, gauge 14x15. The left and right margins are perforated through, the top and bottom margins are imperforate except for the single extra hole at each end of the vertical rows.

No varieties were noted in the Handbook and the SA Philatelist.

15 000 sheets were ordered and 15 000 sheets were delivered on 9.10.67.

Sources:

The Special & Commemorative Postmarks, Cachets & Covers of South Africa 1892-1975 –

Hasso O Reisener, p.97

SA Philatelist, December 1967

Philatelic Bulletin No 66, September 1967, No 67, October 1967

Handbook Q54

Insert FDC 6

10/- Query UHB 53

By Tony Howgrave=Graham

I thought I'd found a new variety but see that it had been noted by earlier collectors. It occurs on an English stamp and takes the form of 2 largish blue smudges which look rather like large footprints in the foreground. - the variety occurs with the frequency one would expect from a cylinder flaw and is, in fact, rather better than several of those that are listed in the handbook. - it isn't listed and despite the years it is still un-positioned - could anyone with access to large blocks manage to resolve this for me.



The variety is difficult to see. If anyone has better copies, please let the Editor have a scan. For archive purposes and updates to UHB.

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 <p>1d Imperf Frames, Museum Proofs, 24 Pairs Exist. £600</p>	 <p>1/2d Imperf Centres, Museum Proofs, 24 Pairs Exist. £600</p>	 <p>Harrison Essays 1d Springbuck "Muster". £120</p>		
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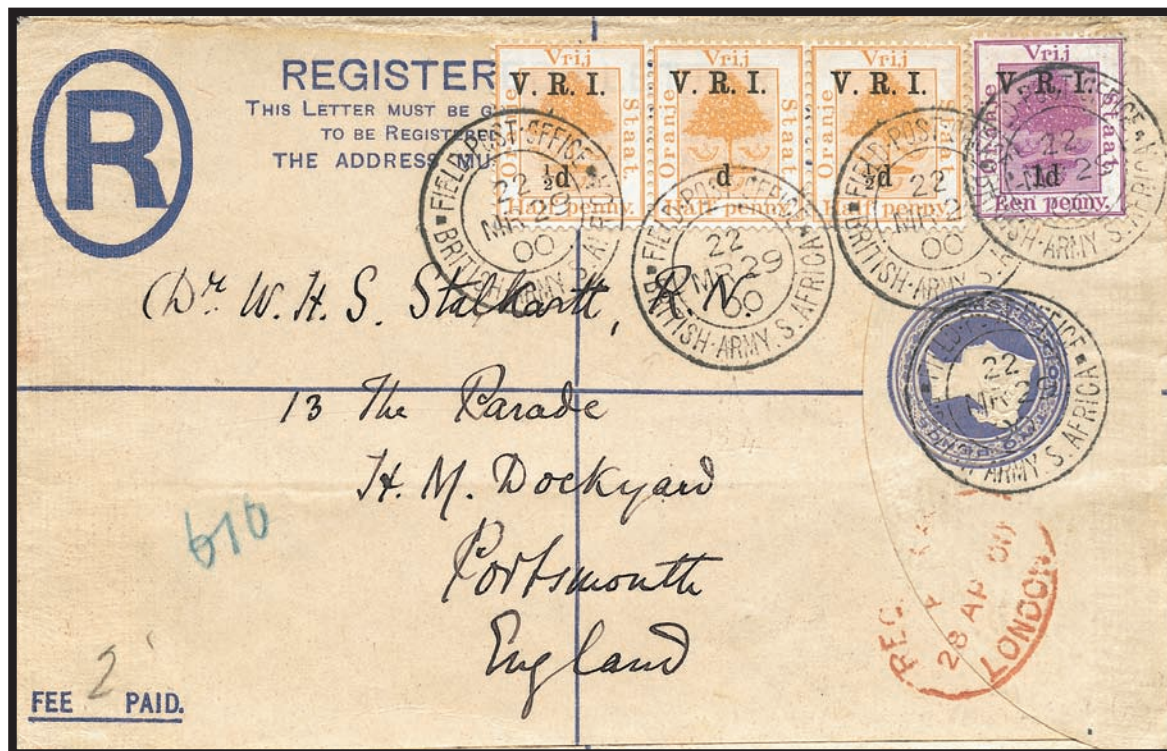
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