

ISSN 0955 - 6753



THE SPRINGBOK

**SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY QUARTERLY
Volume 60 No. 4**

Web Site: www.thespringbok.africastamps.co.uk



December 2012

Whole Number 320

Contents

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 (temp)

Eddie Bridges
Kochs Buesche 8
D-49328, Melle-Riemsloh
Germany

Editorial Panel

T. Howgrave-Graham
C. Oliver
J.L. Shaw

© South African
Collectors' Society,
2012

ISSN: 0955-6753

Vol. 60 Iss. 4 Whole No.320
Founded 1947

Articles	Page
Open Letter from our new Chairman	Tony Howgrave-Graham 87
Record of the AGM held at Leamington in November	88
Plate 2 of the Pretoria Typographed Ship	Tony Howgrave-Graham 91
The Weekend at Leamington Spa	Chris Oliver 93
Society Notices	98-99
The Leamington Auction	Tony Howgrave-Graham 100
Leamington Auction Results	100
11th Row Flaws	Tony Howgrave-Graham 101
A Philatelic Query	Chris Oliver 103
A further request for Christmas seal information	Eddie Bridges 103
The 1931 Christmas Stamp Issue	Eddie Bridges 104
German SWA Post Offices Map	Chris Oliver 105
SACS Accounts for 2011	106
South Africa's Stamp Issuing Programme for 2013	107

Regular Features

Editorial	85
-----------	----

Editorial

I think most will be surprised to see me editing *The Springbok* again. This is only a temporary measure till our Society finds a new Editor. It has been a turbulent past year which I am sure we will all be glad to see the back of. I have agreed to do this issue as no one has yet come forward to take on the post of editor and the alternative of no issue did not sit well with all. The Springbok is the life blood of the Society and has been published in an unbroken run for 60 years now. I must stress that this can only be a temporary measure as it is just not possible for me to devote the time that it needs to do a good journal. I will however endeavour to keep the journal going till a replacement is found. If you are unable to take on the job of Editor, then please help by contributing articles, short or otherwise to lighten the load and keep the pages filled. I look forward to a positive response from the membership.

Eddie Bridges



The front cover

I started the year off with a query on a Christmas Seal booklet and now am ending the year with a further item on Christmas Seals. I think I have found possible evidence that the 1931 Christmas seals were not printed by Robinson & Co in Durban as published to date in various Handbooks/ Catalogues but by the Government Printer.

See article elsewhere in this issue.

SPOT A WINNING DEALER
...IN JUST TWO QUICK STEPS
 Identify PAUL VAN ZEYL t/a RAND STAMP AUCTIONS
 in this picture



Contact him to discuss how we can help each other,
 to get a "win-win" (auction or direct sale) result at
 Email: paulvz@mweb.co.za
 Tel +27 (0)12 329 2464; Fax +27 (0)12 329 31

BRITISH EMPIRE SPECIALISTS QV-KGVI INCLUDING SOUTH AFRICA

Sets, Single items, Postmarks, Varieties, Revenues,
 Postal History, Postal Stationery.

If you have a wants list please contact us
 We publish a buy/bid catalogue of British Colonial
 issues and a Postal Auction Catalogue covering the whole
 world, these catalogues are produced three times a year,
 if you would like copies please contact:

DAVID LOFFSTADT
 P O Box 107 Bromley, Kent BR2 8ZA
 Tel: 020 8462 7185 Fax: 020 8462 7387
 E:mail davidloffstadt.stamps@yahoo.co.uk

Member of PTS for over 30 years.

South Africa - South West Africa

Comprehensive Price list available
 Featuring everything you dream of
 By post or PDF email

We also produce lists for
 The Rhodesias, Nyasaland, Basutoland,
 Bechuanaland, Swaziland, East Africa,
 Tanganyika & K.U.T.



OTTO PEETOOM (ORMSKIRK STAMPS)
 Rectory Road, Roos, East Yorkshire, HU12 0LD England
 TEL: 01964 670239 INTERNATIONAL +44 1964 670239
 Email: ottopeetoom@btinternet.com
 Website: www.southernafricanstamps.net



My Website offers a
 comprehensive range of
 Southern Africa Stamps
 and specialized items



Email: info@AfricaStamps.co.uk

Enfield Stamp Centre

Old fashioned stamp shop in North London
 Open Wednesday Friday & Saturday
 9am to 4 pm

Stamps, collections, accessories, newsletters
 & Postal Auction



**One of the few family run shops
 still trading in the traditional way
 Come and see for yourself**

192 - 194 Lancaster Road
 Enfield Middlesex EN2 0JH
 Tel 0208 367 265
 Email enfieldstamp@btconnect.com

RICHARDSON & COPP

Malcolm Richardson
 Alistair Copp



**Extensive Stocks of
 British Commonwealth and
 Western Europe**

Shop open every Thursday & Friday 9.30 to 5.00
 30 Minutes by train from London



4 Station Road West
 Oxted Surrey
 RH8 9EP
 Tel 01883 714082
 Fax 01883 716854

The South African Collectors Society Thank all our Advertisers for their Support

Open letter from the new Chairman

Tony Howgrave-Graham

Dear Member,

Having been voted in to take over the chairmanship of the Society at the AGM in November I thought I would introduce myself and, after the ructions of the preceding 9 months, outline what I consider the core values of the Society. It is essentially an amateur Society run by amateurs. Those who perform functions within the Society give freely of their time and those of us who don't, or haven't in the past, contributed much to its running are grateful to them all for their efforts. The absolute core value is that the Society should provide an ambience of friendliness and welcome to all and be a place where everyone can feel comfortable, where the inexperienced can gain knowledge without being made to feel stupid and where the more expert can share experiences, somewhere where everyone can gain from each other.

In 1998 Typhoon Otto hit Taiwan dumping nearly 16 inches of rain before going on to the Fujian Province of China and dumping a whole lot more. In 2010 Hurricane Otto flattened the Virgin Islands. 2012 proved to be the SACS' turn to suffer as Tropical Storm Otto hit. Within a few months this caused 4 resignations, or threats of resignation, from committee members including the key posts of editor, secretary and treasurer! Some repair work is still required, particularly the post of editor for which we are desperate. So if you can help in any way please put your head above the parapet. The job is one that can be split into compiling, printing and distribution so please note the "any way" in the previous sentence.

As we get older we tend to become quickly judgemental and intolerant so I offer this cautionary tale. A few years ago I was reluctantly dragged off shopping to John Lewis in Southampton. New curtains, I think. There was metered parking outside John Lewis, but for ½ hour only. I was aiming for a longer stay car park when Twiggy, my wife, said I should go to the short stay and feed the meter. "But they check that" says I. Having aspersions cast on my manliness and suggestions made that I was a total wet, I acquiesced, but with the unveiled threat that she'd better hope we didn't get a ticket. After ½ hour looking at material out I popped and re-fed the meter. Another ½ hour later out I popped again, all ok & the meter fed again. The next ½ hour saw the material chosen and the order placed and out we went to be greeted by the parking ticket slapped on the windscreen. To say I was tolerant and forgiving wouldn't be entirely accurate. "I told you so" & "How could you be so stupid" seem to come to mind. Still chuntering as we drove home and having noted that the offence was coded "j" I demanded of poor chastened Twiggy that she looked up the wording used to describe "feeding the meter". Code "j" was dutifully looked up with not a hint of recrimination out came the answer "not displaying an in date tax form"!!

So let's not be judgemental. There were many reasons for Otto's frustration and his analysis of the Society and how it could be improved were mostly spot on. Many of his suggestions have already been implemented and many of the remaining ones may well be. He also has a lot to offer the Society philatelically so I hope he'll forgive my stormy analogy and continue to play a part in the Society. Let's all bury the hatchet and stick to the core values of the opening paragraph.

New Editor Required

If you feel that you would like to give it a go, please let either Tony, Chris or myself (Eddie) know. If you would like more details before you decide, please give me a ring on Tel: +49 5226 594 1992 and I will be happy to discuss with you. All that is required is a bit of enthusiasm, a PC and a working knowledge of either MS Word or Publisher. The Springbok can be produced in either.

It is a challenging but rewarding job and requires about 20-30 hours every quarter. See my Editorial in Issue one of 2012.

The Society journal is the thread that keeps all the members together and informed as to the activities in the Society.

Eddie Bridges

Record of the A.G.M. of the South African Collectors' Society held at The Falstaff Hotel, Leamington Spa at 17.00hrs on 10th November 2012.

1. Apologies.

Were received from Ken Southall; Martin Taylor; David Haig; Roy Ross; Vaughn Stone and Nicholas Lindstrom. 23 members attended. John Shaw took the Chair.

2. Record of previous A.G.M. [attached]

3. Matters arising. None

4. The Hon. Chairman's written report.

This year is again tinged with sadness due especially to the passing of two more of our most valued members, Bill Branney and Eric Day. Bill was virtually "Mr Carlisle" and our Northern convenor and also ran the postal auctions and the packet. Eric, who was also our Examiner, attended most London meetings and always came along with a fine display, usually his beloved airmails.

We stood in memory of Eric and Bill.

It has also been a turbulent year on the society side, with the resignation of Eddie Bridges as editor, and then the resignation of Otto Peetoom, his successor.

Comments on the society accounts and the constitution have also caused the committee to examine both aspects. For the latter, David Macdonald and Nicholas Arrow have produced a revised constitution and, after much consideration and discussion, the committee ask you to approve this. Much of the problem with the society accounts has been in their presentation and, hopefully, after much committee discussion, and the help of John Richardson, our new examiner we hope they will be presented in a more user-friendly and understandable fashion.

Obtaining good society officers, who can work harmoniously with one another, is difficult in all voluntary organisations, not just philatelically and we should always be looking for our own replacements, rather than hanging on to office ad infinitum. Chris Oliver has done an excellent job as secretary but feels it is time to step down; most helpfully, he has stated that if no volunteer is available immediately, he will stay on for further year; thank you Chris for all your work for the society. Also, since I have now been chairman for eight years or more and, having also suffered a very nasty illness this year, and two lots of surgery during my term, I am stepping down as chairman and I am proposing Tony Howgrave-Graham to take over from me. The committee also seem to wish to "kick me upstairs" to fill the vacant office of president. Tony, who has done such a fine job running the Leamington auctions, is handing this job over to Nicholas Arrow.

Another matter for discussion is the feasibility of a summer meeting at Leamington during which we may also hold a committee meeting and/or AGM. I wish to thank the officers of the society for their work during what must be described as a difficult year, and thank Simon Peetoom, in particular, for organising the Leamington weekends. Again, I thank you all for your support and wish you a successful and fruitful conference.

John Shaw November 2012

5. The Hon. Secretary's written report.

You will be aware that Eric Day and Bill Branney passed away earlier in the year. David Osborn and I attended Eric's funeral and I sent our condolences to Bill's widow. We were represented by three of our members at Bill's funeral. Bill was an Honorary Member of the Society and our Hon. Auctioneer & Packet Superintendent until his health started to deteriorate three years ago. He only missed one meeting of the Northern Group since he helped re-found it. Eric has been sorely missed as our financial examiner and a regular attendee at London and Leamington Spa meetings.

Eddie Bridges finally succumbed to work and family commitments and relinquished his post as Hon. Editor after eight productive years for which we must thank him. Otto Peetoom has satisfactorily issued two interim editions but we are now looking for an Editor once more.

My thanks to Nick Arrow & David Macdonald for their hard work in producing the updated constitution for the Society.

Since last November we have held two meetings in Carlisle, one in Salisbury, one in Letchworth and three in London. The Abell Trophy competition was held in Carlisle this year on 29th September 2012.

The Calthorpe Arms has been booked for two meetings on 2nd March and 5th October 2013. We will be holding South African Collectors' Society meetings in Letchworth on 20th April and in Leamington Spa on 1st June in addition to these and the usual two meetings in the County Hotel, Carlisle on 23rd March and 21st September.

c.e.o. october 2012

6. The Hon. Treasurer's report.

The accounts for the year 2011 are attached. These have been presented in a simpler format to that in previous years. Some discussion took place concerning whether an income & expenditure or an accrual form should be used in the future. Hon Treasurer to discuss this with the Financial Examiner and report to the committee. Otto Peetoom and others, felt that the Society should discontinue this option which allows South African members to remit their subscription and auction payment in Rand as it was considered that this did not benefit the Society financially. The funds so raised are normally retained in S.A. to pay our dues to the Philatelic Federation of S.A. and other expenses. Neil Cronje made a plea for retention of this facility. The continued membership of Philatelic Federations was raised. John Sussex spoke in favour of supporting organised philately and his view was accepted.

The accounts were proposed for adoption by Neil Cronje & seconded by Richard Barnett.

7. Ratification of annual subscriptions for 2013.

These will be U.K. £18.00 [no change]; Europe £21.00; Overseas £24.00 [R 325 in S.A.] Increases are mainly due to increases in postal charges, therefore a subscription rate of only £10.00 will apply to members who receive the Springbok electronically. Those in the U.K. who receive the S.A. Philatelist will be charged an additional £31.00

8. Reports from other officers of the Society.

Hon. Librarian.

Main use of the library is from photocopies of abstracts from books and journals which we hold. A new library list has been prepared to enable it to be circulated to all members before the end of the year.

Malcolm Ridsdale - October 2012

Auctioneer's report – 2012.

There have been only two, comparatively small, auctions this year. These have not proved financially viable in real terms. The main reason for the lack of support is that I have received virtually no new material from the Members during the last 2 years- it is noticeable that when new material is offered, it is usually the subject of eager bidding. A subsidiary reason is that probably members prefer to send their better lots to the Leamington Spa Auction - sadly, the commission from this Auction does not benefit the Society at all. I have considered the future of the Auction generally. With the backing of the Committee, I have returned all the unsold material (with a few exceptions) which I have to the various Vendors, and invited them to submit new material for sale. I have also amended the Rules to ensure that there is a minimum commission per lot of 25p, which hopefully, will improve the quality of material to be offered for the future. In a few cases, where the return postage would be extremely expensive, I have retained the material, combining it to make up more substantial lots with higher reserves. The success of this remains to be seen. For the future, I will be offering a member's collection in the early part of 2013, the proceeds of which we are to share on a 50/50 basis. I hope to be able to offer at least three postal auctions a year, as well as the Leamington Spa Auction. I have also been promised parts of other member's collections, which I hope will ensure that there is a good supply of material for the immediate future.

Nicholas Arrow.

Cover Packet Superintendent.

The packet requires more material and participants.

9. Ratification of the New Constitution.

After a short discussion this was approved by 54 Members, which is over one third of the membership.

10. Election of Officers and committee.

John Shaw proposed as President by Chris Oliver, seconded by Tony Howgrave-Graham. Tony Howgrave-Graham proposed as Chairman by John Shaw & seconded by Nick Arrow. David Osborn and Chris Oliver would remain as Treasurer & Secretary, respectively.

The three general committee members are:
Roy Ross proposed by Chris Oliver and seconded by David Haig.
Nick Arrow proposed by Bas Payne and seconded by John Shaw.
Simon Peetoom proposed by John Shaw and seconded by Chris Oliver

Other Officers are willing to continue in office:

Max Whitlock as Cover packet Secretary and Distribution Manager.
Tony Johnson is Stamp Exchange Packet Secretary.
Nick Arrow is in charge of the Auctions.
David Haig is Northern meeting convenor.
We have no Editor, at present.

The Officers and Committee were elected en bloc, following a proposal by Eddie Bridges, which was seconded by John Sussex.

11. Ratification of Library Fund.

At present we allocate £200 per annum to enable the Hon. Librarian to purchase books for the Library. This amount is only occasionally reached and it was agreed to continue it.

12. Society meetings and events :

- a) S.A.C.S. meetings in 2013. These had been recorded in the hon. Secretary's report.
- b) 95th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain to be in Gloucester – 27th/30th June 2013.
- c) S.A.C.S would not be taking a table at Midpex or Swinpex 2013. Would investigate the suggestion of taking one at the annual S.A. Federation Exhibition.

13. S.A.C.S. support for Youth Philately [Stamp Active Network].

In previous years we have made a donation to support this. Do we wish to continue.?
£ 50.00 was agreed. Hon. Secretary to investigate the need for stamps by S.A.N.

14. A.O.B. – if notified to the Hon. Secretary prior to the meeting.

(a) Concerns raised by Otto Peetoom.

Much of these matters had been discussed under the Hon Treasurer's report.

Twenty Wicks Medals had been purchased by the Society as this number seemed economically sound. It was considered that the S.A.C.S. would still be in existence in a further eighteen years time. The support for the National P.S. Show was a one-off payment. The committee will consult on any changes regarding the exchanges of magazines with other societies.

(b) Clarification of postage holdings by the Society [Otto Peetoom] Discussion on this was followed by a heated debate which was brought to a close by the Chairman.

(c) It was suggested that the rules for the Abell Trophy Competition should be amended to include Pre-Union material and this was agreed.

The meeting closed at 18.20pm.

HARMERS
ESTABLISHED 1918
Philatelic Auctioneers, Experts and Valuers

South African stamps feature regularly in Harmers specialised "All World" Auctions.

For further information on buying and selling opportunities please contact us at the address below.

Harmers, No. 11, 111 Power Road, Chiswick, London W4 5PY
Tel: 020 8747 6100 Fax: 020 8996 0649
info@harmers.com www.harmers.com

PLATE 2 OF THE PRETORIA TYPOGRAPHED 1d SHIP

By
Tony Howgrave-Graham

Plate 2 of the Pretoria printed 1d ships is probably the scarcest of the 3 plates though the handbook suggests this honour goes to plate 3. It is, however, certainly the most interesting due to its tendency to crack. This was probably because of excess hardening of the copper from which the plates were made.

The cracking on rows 19 & 20/9 are particularly interesting and probably form a better article than they do display.

Fig.1 shows a plate block with the 2 cuts in the centre plate jubilee line under row 20/12. This is from an early printing before any cracking developed.



Fig. 1

Fig.2 shows 20/9 with a centre plate crack developing. There are 2 white flaws in the left of the sails and a black line in the sea bottom left of the ship.

Fig.3 again shows 20/9 with the crack further developed. The white flaws in the upper portion of the ship are larger and a white flaw has developed in the sea where the black line had been. Further, the centre plate jubilee line has broken. One can also just see a crack developing in the stamp above, row 19/9. It appears as a white flaw in the left mast.

Fig.4 shows even further cracking on 20/9 and now quite obvious cracking through the stamp above, row 19/9.

Fig.5 shows disaster! On 20/9 the centre cliché has fallen out! This was quickly replaced so examples are rare. The block also shows that the crack on row 19/9 is getting bigger.

Fig.6 shows the replaced cliché on 20/9. It can be identified as the centring is slightly different from the surrounding stamps. It is confirmed by looking at 19/9 where the crack is getting bigger still and also below, where the jubilee line is still broken.

Fig.7 is similar but shows the crack on 19/9 now spreading right across the ship. Alarmed that it might follow the example set by 20/9, and fall out, a repair was performed.

Fig.8 shows this repair. It is the final state of the plate. The cliché was rather crudely stuck together causing the "twisted ship" variety. This is a very scarce variety being so late and one well worth looking for as it's not entirely obvious. Row 20/10 is still centred differently from its surrounding stamps and the jubilee line beneath it is still broken.



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 2



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

THE WEEKEND AT LEAMINGTON SPA

By Chris Oliver

On the evening of the 9th November a group of almost twenty philatelists invaded the lounge bar of the Falstaff Hotel in Leamington Spa, taking over some 85% of the space. These were gathering, like starlings, for the annual, enjoyable, conference of Southern Africa P.S.'s before being summoned by our convenor, Simon Peetoom, to the dining room. After the meal, discussions resumed in the bar for those more robust and enthusiastic among us.

After a hearty breakfast and a brief but more formal welcome, including our visitors from South Africa, Mike Tonking, Richard Johnson, Neil Cronje, Paul van Zeyl and Jan van Beukering, from the convenor we settled down to a series of invited displays which would be judged by those present, before dinner, to determine who would be the recipient of the Tony Chilton Memorial Trophy this year. Displays are invited from members of the seven constituent Southern Africa Societies. The late Tony Chilton was a member of six of these societies and had been active in improving liaison between them.

In giving the first display, Alan Drysdall ascertained that behind many philatelists there lurked a railway enthusiast. In explaining the expansion of the Central African Railway (C.S.A.R.) between 1902 –1919 and resultant postal development, Alan pandered not only to the philatelist but to the steam engine buff. C.A.R. had inherited trains from Transvaal Rail, which had, originally, been financed by the Dutch. A rack & pinion rail was in use between Waterval Onder and Waterval Boven. Material shown included a decidedly delicate stencil cut "CAR" for free frank privilege; perfins and overprinted stamps for similar reasons and some forgeries of the overprinted stamps perpetrated after 1905. Alan also explained that a late fee of 1d was charged when the posting box on Johannesburg station was used but if later than this a fee of a shilling was needed if delivered to the T.P.O. This was exemplified by a superb cover with multiple 1d stamps to make up the shilling. Railway stamps were shown and Alan advised that the Union Railways had copied the last used by CAR. Alan continued his display showing numbered cancellation date stamps, a CAR mark, post 1910, with the "C" excised, a rare Pretoria Station postmark with the full name included and some pictorial postcards used as interim receipts, concluding with a luggage label and a seat reservation ticket of CAR.

Tony Stanford showed Bechuanaland with the British un-appropriated dies complete to the £5, with fiscal usage and a specimen set. Particularly nice was a K.G.V. jubilee stamp of G.B. overprinted Bechuanaland Protectorate. In 1885, Bechuanaland was a "one-street" country with only isolated hamlets elsewhere in the vast tract of land. Berkeley was the main hub for mail to the Cape from Bechuanaland and Stellaland for which a rate of 4d pertained. Covers displayed included multiple rates from up-country. Tony showed Matabeleland postal development including Tati revenue stamps. Ghanzi lies on the Eastern fringe of the Bechuanaland Protectorate, with 400 miles of the Kalahari Desert separating it from Francistown and the other settlements to the East. The Ghanzi Post Office opened in 1922 and received and sent mail via the rail head at Gobabis in South-West Africa, 200 miles to the South-West. The mail was transported by a native postman with a donkey to carry both mail and supplies for the journey, which took two weeks each way, providing a monthly service. From Gobabis mail went to Windhoek to be processed and transported to its destination. It took a month for mail to reach other destinations in the Bechuanaland Protectorate.

An embossed KGV size G Registration Envelope overprinted BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE with embossed 4d puce surcharged 'DUTY 5½d' addressed to London and uprated with ½d green to pay 6d rate for a 1oz registered letter. All stamps are tied with GHANZI double ring cds dated 8 June 1923. On the reverse are Gobabis transit mark dated 18 June and Windhoek dispatch mark dated 23 June. On the front is a London registered oval dated 16 July.



4d grey-green surcharged 'DUTY 5½d' addressed to London and uprated with two 2d and ½d to pay the 10d rate for a 3oz registered letter. All stamps are tied with GHANZI double ring cds dated 17 June 1922. On the reverse are Gobabis and Windhoek transit marks dated 6 & 8 July. On the front is a London registered oval dated 31 July.

The next display was from a joint collection of Lyn and Rob Lester presented by Rob. The topic was the Union 2½d commemorative stamp and the display included a very fine assembly of proofs, three types of specimen – including one horizontal – a wonderful array of first day covers and multiple frankings, all of which has taken much time and dedication to put together. Rob posed the question on whether, as often quoted, post offices in S.A. only opened for a short time on 4th November 1910, as evidence seemed to prove otherwise. This 2½d stamp was never demonetised but ceased to be valid upon the introduction of decimal currency in 1961. The date of latest use as displayed was 28th June 1952, prior to this weekend, is now revised to 31st May 1960. We also saw two full sheets of the stamps of which one was intact.

The fourth display was presented by Nick Arrow and was very visual, being a selection of advertising covers. He split the display into various sections showing general advertisements and those for hotels & accommodation, leisure, tobacco, agriculture, clothing, education, machinery, travel, engineering and social science. Most of these were well engraved, eye catching examples which included an iconic view of Mount Nelson Hotel in Cape Town.

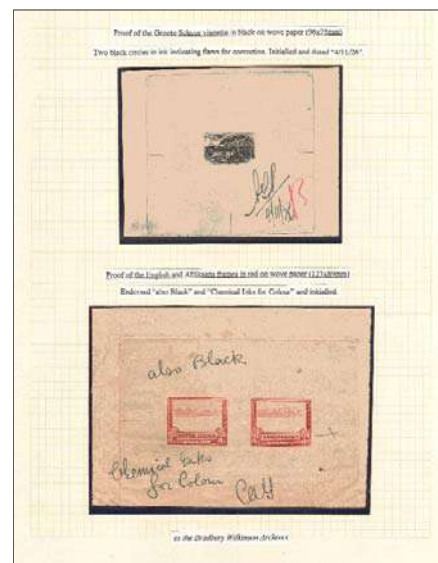


The item that started Nick off on advertising covers.

Following a break for lunch it was time for another joint display. On this occasion by the, now, the President and the Chairman of the South African Collectors' Society. John Shaw and Tony Howgrave-Graham gave what John called a "Mutt and Jeff" joint display of the first pictorials in which they had borrowed from each others' collections in order to give optimum coverage of the subject (Tony did not object to the Mutt and Jeff bit as long as he was Jeff). John showed the essays leading up to the printing contracts comprising examples of virtually all the known "Springbok" essays, including the rare bi-coloured im-perforates, the Harrison miniature sheets, and three De la Rue ship penny essays these being the only examples in private hands. Tony showed Bradbury Wilkinson recess stamps, with proofs and specimens, the former including stunning examples of the 2d, 3d and 4d; apart from the 10/- inverted centre, just about everything known was on show including blocks of the 2d and 4d with inverted watermark, blocks with the 2d "split d" in both perforations, all the perforation varieties in imprint pairs or blocks and several pieces with oval perforations. An important section comprised the Bradbury Wilkinson archive blocks of all printings.



Unique frame proofs for 3d Table Bay that never was



Proofs of centre & frame for the issued Groote Schuur 3d



Imperf colour trial with perforated SPECIMEN

The last of the six displays was presented by John Sussex. The postal history of German South West Africa is not often seen but John provided some excellent material accompanied by some historical narrative to give social background to WWI and the subsequent mandate of the territory to South Africa. By 1870 Germany had become an imperial power and was seeking to join the land-grab in Africa. German traders and missionaries had settled in Tanganyika and South West Africa and so these territories were ideal for German expansion. Mass colonisation did not take place until 1904-07 when 14,000 German troops were brought in to quell the Herero Rebellion. Rates of 1 mark and 4 marks were established and a series of cachets for army units, corps and companies were introduced together with temporary hand-stamps and railway cancellations. Germany transported two aeroplanes to S.W.A. by sea. These were assembled and used for airmail services. Ports were blockaded by British ships during WWI. S.A. and British troops had free post during the campaign (sometimes). John showed censored mail, mail detained in Cape Town, a red cross cachet via Berne, some POW mail via Angola and to the officers camp in Fort Napier and Albrecht.

Following this votes were cast for the best display of the day with the winner to be announced at dinner that evening. The S.A.C.S. members adjourned for their A.G.M. which is reported upon elsewhere.

One of our members whom we share with his membership of other Southern Africa philatelic societies is Bob Allison. Bob has particularly done a lot for the Orange Free State Study Circle and the Transvaal Study Circle. He was one of the signatories to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa this year and Colin Hoffman and Richard Johnson facilitated his signing, at this event. The latter had carefully carried the Roll from S.A. so that ceremony could be carried out in the company of other signatories of this and of R.D.P.'s from Britain. We were treated to a champagne reception whilst Richard gave some background to the history of the Roll and Colin presented Otto Peetoom with a S.A. Congress Award for articles in the S.A. Philatelist, June 2011 to April 2012

"South Africa - Major Varieties of the Union of South Africa	October 2011
1926 1/2d Springbok (London printing with double print of frame	December 2011
1927-29 Pretoria-Typo 1d Im-perforate on Three or Four Sides	April 2012"

Colin also announced that the Manfred Weinstein Memorial Medallion was awarded posthumously to the late Peter Prime, who produced three outstanding 'definitive' reference works based on original research: *The History of the Medical & Hospital Services of the ABW* (1998). *British Army Postal Cancellations of the ABW* (2003) and *British Press Censor Cachets of the ABW* (early 2012). Richard Stroud received the medallion on behalf of Peter's widow.

The signing ceremony then took place with Bob's family looking on and much flashing of cameras and congratulations.

After dining, it was announced that the Tony Chilton Trophy had been won by Lyn and Rob Lester, who were presented with the prize and a miniature, for them to keep. Other S.A.C.S. awards were the Wicks medal to Nicholas Lindstrom for the article " Using Rotary Blade Damage to Study Union Stamps" in the Springbok Vol. 59 No. 4, and the Abell Trophy which had been won by Roy Ross in September 2012. Both recipients had sent their apologies and the awards would be presented to them at a later date.

On the following day we again convened for short displays by members.

Paul van Zeyl – To recapitulate some of Richard Johnson's remarks of the previous day Paul presented some aspects of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of S.A. It is well known that the highest accolade in philately is to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, at Congress in the UK, and we are blessed with several in our society membership, Francis Kiddle, Brian Trotter, Alan Drysdall and John Sussex, among them. What is less well known is that there are similar honours in Canada and South Africa. Paul gave a fine discourse on the South African RDPs, most of whom, quite naturally come from South Africa itself.

Of particular interest was one Hylton Sydow, (co author of the 1952 handbook) who, because he was of Cape-Malay origin, was virtually ignored by the national and philatelic press of the time, notwithstanding his prolific writings and research. Paul's display was peppered with press cuttings, other ephemera and related covers. Paul can always be relied upon to both interest and amuse.

The next presenter was Derek Lambert about the WWI campaign in Rhodesia, particularly along the border between German East Africa and Northern Rhodesia. Derek displayed marks of each of the nine base camps except that 7 & 8 are not known and there is only one example of camp 2 known. There were ten Field Post Offices. He explained about the use of overprinted stamps of Nyasaland being used and of the naval expedition on Lake Tanganyika.

Our third display was from John Gledhill on Zululand postal stationery of which there were only two designs. The ½d' and the 1d values which were also used on reply paid cards. Two dies were used with plenty of shades and colour changes. Two overprints were also produced although a combined reply card with type B overprint has never been seen but both parts exist separated.

Jan van Beukering displayed King's Head coils showing the streamlined production compared with that of sheet stamps demonstrated by a diagram of the sheet before cutting. We also saw a perfin coil with the name B.H. Lawrence Co.

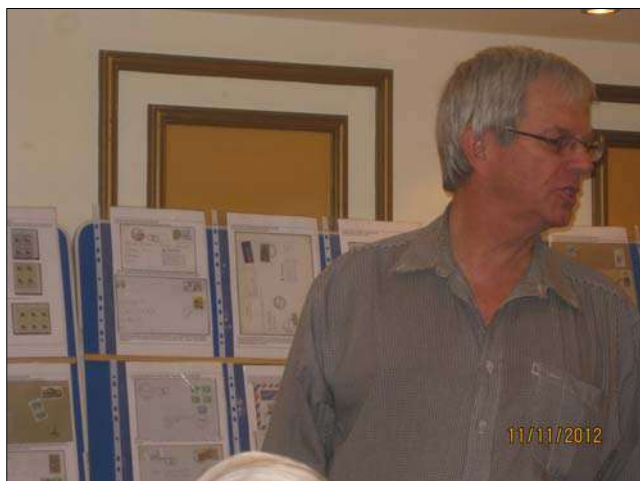
More from the Anglo-Boer War appeared in Richard Stroud's admirable social philatelic display. Lumsden's Horse was raised in India from a force comprising tea planters; station superintendents, postal workers etc. The British Army would pay them once they arrived at Hoot Nek but would not contribute to the cost of their transport from India to S.A. Lady Curzon established a fund raising campaign to provide this cost. Richard continued with a description of some of the personalities present. One such was Captain Pugh who wrote home a letter of woe, reminiscent of the famed monologue by Gerard Hofnung, complete with a sketch. Pugh joined the S.A. Constabulary after the main force had returned to India, but was shot dead during an insurrection a short while later.

Our next display was from Richard Barnett on Rhodesia & Nyasaland booklets showing by means of a diagram how nine pages per sheet were obtained.

Chris Board described and displayed the use of numerals in triangles as a post office marking used in Transvaal between 1887 and 1894. He showed the differences between wide and narrow numerals and included the unusual destination of Costa Rica on one item.

Chris Oliver displayed some items of WWI interest including several variants of civil censor tapes used in South Africa. He enquired whether anyone could advise him more on these tapes.

Neil Cronje expounded on the postage due policy of S. W. A. and displayed examples. The use of postage due stamps in S.W.A. ceased in 1981 but resumed at the end of that year due to large stocks of these stamps remaining. Used copies are scarce from this date on. From 1972 the paper used was R.S.A. watermarked paper. South African stamps were used in Walvis Bay 1903/04 until 1989. Labels of surcharge from that period are still in use in independent Namibia. Neil showed that an honour system using yellow stickers was in operation in S.W.A. and Frama labels were also used.



Neil Cronje in full flow

A pot-pourie of material was displayed by Bob Hill. This included a postcard from the Cape of Good Hope which is a public house in Birmingham (not S.A.); various directional markings and a card with a hand-stamp from a postmaster to a collector which was contrary to regulations.

Humour was not far from much of the material shown and this was no exception when Richard Stock displayed humorous postcards from the Anglo-Boer War.

Rob and Lyn Lester displayed various photographs relating to the Lobdell King's Heads.

Simon Peetoom's contribution was a bisected 5c stamp of 26th April 1968 on which he would like an opinion.



The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa.

Robert Johnson produced some revenue stamps of the Cape for his display. These included a Bill of Exchange of 1810 as a base at the Cape was important to victualing H.M. Fleet during the Napoleonic Wars.

During most of the weekend Simon Peetoom; Paul van Zeyl and Otto Peetoom had been at their tables dealing.

Nick Arrow had brought the items, for viewing, which he intends to offer in the next S.A.C.S. Postal Auction as well as overseeing the viewing of the material at the live auction sale which followed after lunch on Sunday. All of them were thanked warmly for helping the weekend to be a success. The biggest vote of thanks of all goes to Simon who arranged and organised the weekend to be one of the best ever, whilst he participated in everything and ran a business as well. Well done Simon. This should generate more attendees next year to see whether it can be repeated. Those who have attended previously know that this is bound to be the case.

Two auctioneers and one clerk appeared early in the afternoon with quite a few others for the 557 lot auction. The first tranche taken by Nick Arrow and the next by Tony Howgrave-Graham with yet another change or two before the end at about 4.30pm. All three were thanked profusely for their efforts and we understand that the resultant commission has augmented the Leamington Spa fund handsomely.



Bob Allison signing the roll



Our Distinguished Philatelists at the signing!



Lyn and Rob Lester, winners of the Tony Chilton Memorial Trophy for the best display on the Saturday as voted for by the attendees.



Our Otto receiving his Congress Award from Richard Johnson

Subscriptions are now due.

You should have, with your magazine, a single page containing details of the subscriptions for 2013. Bear in mind that you can, if you wish, receive the Springbok by e-mail for a reduced subscription of £10.00. U.K. members can pay by Standing Order to keep their subscription static for three years. South African members can pay their subscription, in Rands, to Cedric Roche. Members in North America can make payment to Morgan Farrell.

If any U.K. members wish to subscribe to receive the South African Philatelist you will need to make due payment to the Hon Secretary / Membership Secretary before 7th January 2013. Remember this is not covered by any standing order arrangements.

Philatelic Federation of South Africa

In addition to Bob Allison and Emil Bührmann being asked to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa and the awards to Otto Peetoom and the late Peter Prime, mentioned in the conference report, further awards were made to some of our members at the 74th Congress of the Federation held on Friday, 19th October 2012.

Skinner Cup was Awarded to Dr Neil Cronjé.

Jack Hagger Award was made to Paul van Zeyl:

The History of the Suid-Afrikaansche Republiek/Transvaal to 1896, Parts 1-6, Feb. to Dec. 2011

Congress Awards for articles in the S.A. Philatelist, June 2011 to April 2012 were also made to

Gerhard Kamffer &	<i>Native Tax Stamps and Labels used in South Africa</i>
Cedric Roche	<i>and South West Africa 1910-1961</i> Jun, Aug 2011
MJH Tonking	<i>South West Africa Officials 1927-1955 Revisited</i> Feb 2012

THE SPRINGBOK

WE ARE IN NEED OF AN EDITOR. IF YOU CONSIDER THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO HELP PLEASE SPEAK TO THE CHAIRMAN OR THE SECRETARY.

Tony Howgrave-Graham : 01725 510067

Chris Oliver : 0208 940 9833

YOU CAN ALSO HELP BY CONTRIBUTING ARTICLES AND NEWS FOR THIS EXCELLENT MAGAZINE

New Society Constitution

"At the AGM, the Society adopted the New Constitution which had been circulated to all the members with the brief Newsletter sent out in October. The reasons for circulating the new Constitution then were explained at the AGM, but basically, it is accepted by the Committee that there may be adjustments which members may consider will improve the Constitution. The Committee would like to open the new Constitution for a sort of Consultation Period, and members are invited to submit the suggestions, all of which will be considered, even if they are not accepted! Closing date for comment is 30th April 2013.

Please therefore send in to Nicholas Arrow at The Beeches, Axminster Road, Musbury EX13 8AZ (nicholasarrow@btinternet.com) your thoughts as to how the Constitution may be improved.

THE COVER PACKET

MEMBERS SUPPORTING THE COVER PACKET HAVE DWINDLED IN RECENT YEARS. IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO LET IT DIE. MAX HAS SOME MATERIAL BUT COULD ALWAYS DO WITH MORE GOOD QUALITY CARDS AND COVERS.

MOST OF ALL HE COULD COPE WITH QUADRUPLE THE FIVE MEMBERS WHICH THIS PACKET NOW HAS. PHOTOCOPIES ARE CURRENTLY CIRCULATED BUT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO CIRCULATE BY E-MAIL TO SAVE POSTAGE COSTS STILL FURTHER. CONTACT MAX WHITLOCK FROM HIS DETAILS INSIDE THE FRONT COVER OF THE SPRINGBOK.

THE LEAMINGTON AUCTION

By Tony Howgrave-Graham

This year's sale was a bumper one and comprehensively beat previous records with total sales exceeding £25,000. There were two 4-figure bids though both acquired their lots for £800. The 2 lots concerned were lot 47, the cracked plate Baden Powell and, perhaps more surprisingly, lot 240, the 1½d block with "green" centres. This lot actually had the honour of attracting the highest bid. The realisations are all published with this *Springbok* so I'll only mention a few others and make some general comments. Varieties remain very popular with the good Cape "PENCB" & "THE.EE" overprint varieties making £70 & £100 respectively. The King's head 5/- with "UNI" obliterated made £550. The unhyphenated 1/- corner pair with the "twisted horn" and a doctor blade flaw made £200, the pair with misplaced centres (lot 220) £250 and the Issue 2 with "dart" variety £90. All the Darmstadt trials sold. The block of 4 with springbok's head watermark, lot 183, made £150. Conversely the section on coil issues was left almost entirely untouched. The air covers did mostly sell with the Kenilworth-Muizenberg card making £180 and the Cobham card, lot 378, reaching £500. Contrary to reported trends the SWA also sold well, mostly around reserve but with the collection, lot 518, making £580 and the 2nd setting 10/-, fu, lot 524, £350.

There were quite a number of unsolds though many of these have since been bought. I think the sale was probably a bit too big for our pockets so expect a little more modesty in future. The results do show again, however, that taking commissions into account Leamington is a good place to sell, as well as to buy.

My thanks to Susan Oliver who has book kept all the Leamington auctions I've run using her Argyll-Etkin expertise, and to all the helpers and distributors of lots. Also thanks to Nick Arrow who, due to the size of the auction, cut his teeth with some live auctioneering. Please note that Nick is now taking over the Leamington, as well as the SACS, auctions. Just one final request - if you're postal bidding and going to be away at the time of the sale, please let Nick know and make arrangements for posting and payment beforehand.

LEAMINGTON AUCTION RESULTS

Lot 1 - £13, 2-£7, 3-£21, 4-£10, 6-£50, 9-£20, 12-£40, 13-£50, 14-£1, 15-£16, 16-£40, 17-£15, 18-£3, 19-£130, 20-£70, 22-£180, 23-£170, 26-£70, 27-£100, 28-£80, 31-£100, 32-£80, 33-£26, 34-£30, 35-£15, 36-£17, 38-£9, 39-£10, 40-£10, 41-£32, 42-£20, 44-£15, 45-£45, 46-£280, 47-£800, 48-£320, 49-£150, 50-£105, 51-£110, 52-£240, 53-£210, 54-£170, 56-£35, 57-£250, 58-£120, 59-£45, 61-£170, 64-£16, 65-£10, 66-£15, 67-£12, 68-£15, 70-£10, 71-£30, 72-£100, 74-£270, 75-£60, 76-£85, 77-£230, 78-£750, 79-£550, 80-£35, 81-£180, 83-£100, 85-£95, 87-£30, 91-£3, 92-£15, 94-£340, 96-£30, 97-£75, 98-£42, 101-£18, 106-£18, 110-£30, 111-£8, 112-£13, 113-£22, 115-£75, 116-£45, 117-£35, 118-£50, 119-£70, 120-£40, 121-£20, 125-£70, 126-£24, 127-£20, 128-£35, 129-£20, 130-£30, 133-£10, 134-£14, 135-£15, 136-£26, 137-£26, 140-£160, 141-£22, 145-£48, 150-£550, 152-£45, 157-£28, 159-£5, 161-£20, 162-£180, 163-£80, 166-£25, 167-£24, 168-£45, 170-£38, 171-£90, 173-£220, 177-£120, 178-£25, 179-£50, 180-£40, 181-£42, 182-£55, 183-£150, 184-£65, 185-£40, 186-£35, 187-£40, 188-£40, 189-£40, 190-£52, 191-£40, 192-£30, 193-£45, 194-£30, 195-£65, 196-£3, 197-£8, 198-£38, 200-£22, 203-£24, 205-£40, 206-£18, 208-£220, 209-£80, 211-£50, 213-£20, 214-£7, 216-£200, 217-£70, 220-£250, 222-£70, 223-£90, 224-£220, 229-£160, 230-£35, 231-£7, 232-£20, 234-£4, 235-£30, 236-£40, 240-£800, 241-£100, 244-£5, 245-£140, 247-£380, 248-£70, 251-£14, 252-£12, 254-£32, 255-£28, 256-£17, 257-£5, 258-£28, 259-£26, 260-£4, 261-£48, 262-£250, 264-£110, 267-£650, 270-£35, 271-£25, 273-£40, 275-£50, 276-£190, 278-£28, 281-£250, 290-£150, 291-£50, 293-£300, 296-£100, 300-£280, 301-£52, 303-£10, 304-£16, 320-£95, 321-£170, 322-£60, 323-£14, 325-£5, 326-£12, 327-£40, 329-£75, 332-£30, 333-£4, 334-£25, 338-£13, 339-£10, 340-£5, 341-£20, 345-£60, 346-£120, 347-£10, 348-£130, 350-£28, 351-£4, 352-£14, 353-£7, 354-£52, 355-£7, 356-£9, 359-£18, 360-£3, 361-£30, 362-£6, 364-£40, 365-£55, 366-£12, 367-£21, 370-£58, 371-£5, 373-£180, 374-£70, 375-£130, 376-£120, 377-£85, 378-£500, 379-£42, 381-£150, 382-£250, 383-£13, 385-£12, 386-£5, 387-£8, 388-£25, 389-£13, 392-£300, 393-£13, 394-£35, 395-£19, 396-£65, 397-£16, 398-£16, 399-£11, 400-£48, 401-£42, 402-£80, 405-£300, 407-£35, 410-£25, 412-£9, 413-£13, 414-£480, 415-£17, 416-£25, 417-£13, 420-£15, 421-£32, 424-£800, 425-£35, 426-£42, 430-£18, 432-£150, 433-£7, 435-£50, 438-£150, 439-£55, 440-£28, 442-£40, 443-£18, 444-£12, 445-£15, 446-£32, 448-£10, 449-£5, 450-£10, 451-£38, 452-£15, 453-£52, 454-£160, 455-£20, 457-£2, 458-£2, 459-£200, 462-£25, 464-£25, 465-£25, 467-£25, 471-£80, 472-£3, 474-£25, 475-£5, 476-£11, 479-£6, 480-£10, 482-£30, 483-£20, 484-£11, 485-£2, 488-£50, 491-£3, 497-£30, 498-£30, 501-£42, 502-£65, 503-£62, 504-£4, 506-£20, 507-£15, 508-£4, 509-£7, 510-£20, 511-£8, 512-£28, 513-£58, 514-£12, 516-£42, 517-£15, 518-£580, 521-£55, 524-£350, 525-£55, 526-w/d, 528-£50, 529-£25, 531-£55, 538-£20, 539-£2, 540-£35, 541-£60, 542-£40, 543-£30, 544-£20, 545-£20, 546-£48, 549-£75, 556-£20, 557-£10.

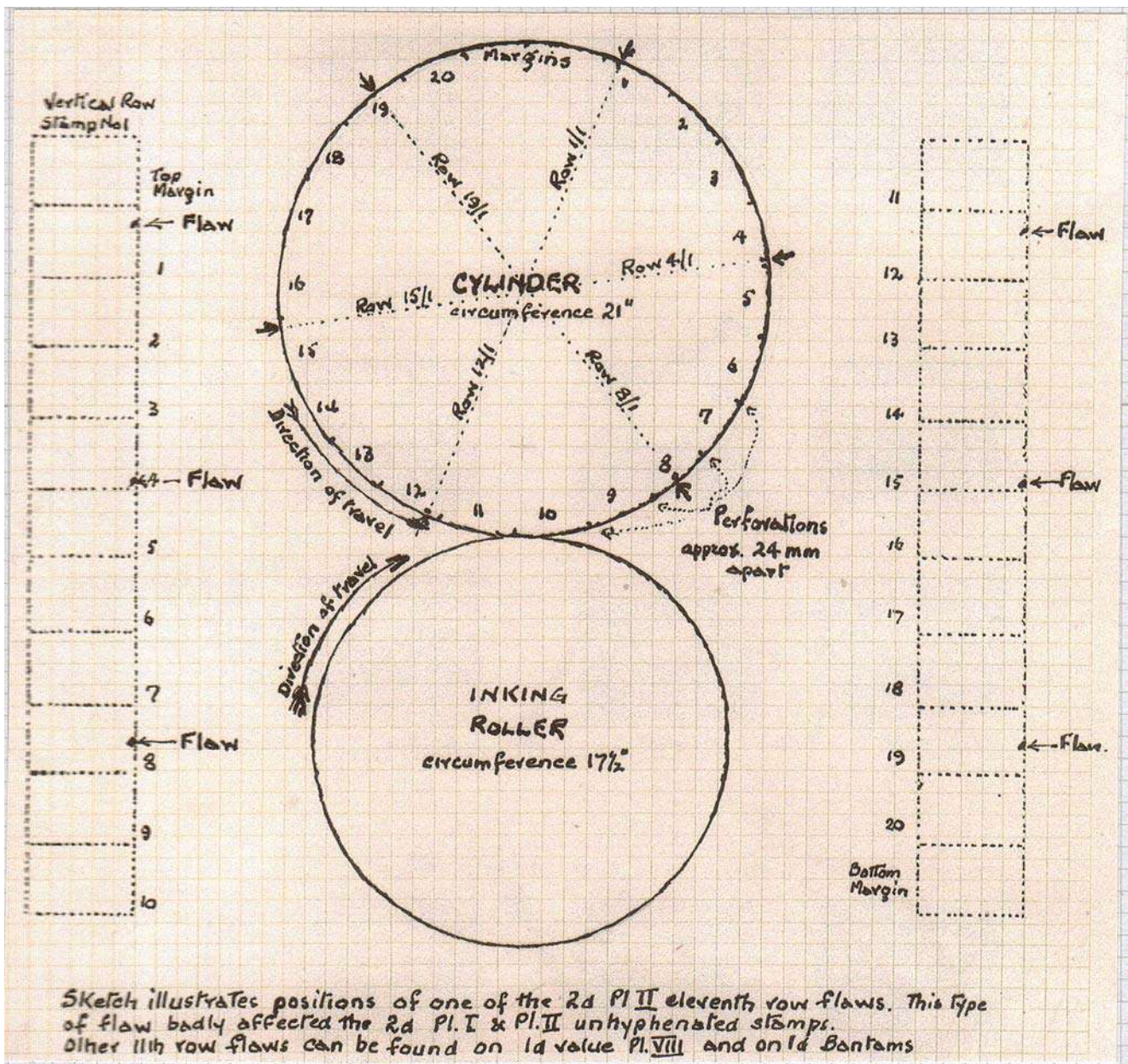
Provisional total £25,762

11th ROW FLAWS

By Tony Howgrave-Graham

As with the 2d generally I'm aware of the previous work on 11th row flaws but, having become interested in them, it became clear that few people really understood how they had developed and just how numerous they are on Issues 1 & 2 of the unhyphenated 2d. I first came across them on the bantam war efforts where Hagger devotes 2 paragraphs to them on p170 of his 1986 handbook. Mike Tonking kindly attached scans of the "St Elmo's Light" flaws on rows 6 & 17/3 of Issue 8 of the 1d. They were listed as cylinder flaws in previous handbooks but have now attracted "11th row" in brackets alongside.

The diagram below (Fig.1) is taken from the Anderson collection:-



Continued on next page:

The much discussed problem of what caused these flaws was finally solved in 1957 when Mr Booyesen of the Government Printing Works explained that they purchased their xylol from the local steel works. Xylol is a solvent used with various inks to obtain the right consistency for rotogravure printing. Because of the origin of the xylol it was sometimes contaminated by metal shavings. Being heavier than the xylol these would tend to sink to the bottom of the container so that when the dregs were used they were heavily contaminated and this would tend to happen with the later printings. The inking cylinder was made of a rubber compound and had a circumference 5/6ths the size of the stamp cylinder (in this case the frame cylinder). The ink trough was below the inking cylinder and as it turned bits of metal became embedded in the rubber. What it took me some time to realise was that the bits of metal didn't directly cause the flaws on the stamps but that they damaged the frame cylinder in similar fashion at six different sites in the same vertical position, as is neatly shown in the diagram. The frame cylinder consisted of 22 units (20 stamps plus the top & bottom margins) so that a very similar flaw appeared six times in a vertical row. Every 11 rows this would be in the same position on the stamp which meant the "same" flaw appeared with the opposite language setting.

Tracking these flaws down has been fun. Some of them are really quite large and it's nice to be able to predict where a flaw should be and then find it. By their nature they developed at different times so the collecting possibilities are endless and with enough copies and blocks one should be able to work out which order they developed in. For myself I'll settle for "before" and "after" and note the odd stamp or block which has one flaw but not another.

At the end of the last article I showed a flaw from Issue 1, so this time I'll show one from Issue 2. The excellent "POSSEEU" variety (Fig.2) was given in the 1952 handbook as Va under Issue 3. As this was wrong it disappeared from later handbooks and hasn't reappeared despite possibly being the best flaw on the unhyphenated 2d. It is, in fact, an 11th row flaw appearing on row 3/4 of later printings of Issue 2. Its counterpart on 14/4 (Fig.3) shows a similar bar on the "E" of Postage. So, theory says it should appear on another 4 stamps in vertical row 4. Sure enough on 7/4 (A) and 18/4 (E) (Fig.4) it appears in the sky to the left of the right buildings. Measurement says it should also appear high on 11/4 and in the top margin. On 11/4 the bottom left serif of the "I" of Afrika is missing on about 40% of copies and I'm sure represents the same flaw with the rest of it lost in the shading. Examination of my top arrow block failed to show it in the margin but looking at Mike Tonking's study collection I checked his arrow blocks and sure enough on his second example, there it is! Very satisfying!

In the next article I'll list the more sizeable 11th row flaws that appear on Issues 1 and 2 including the seven on vertical row 4 of Issue 1. Sorting these out caused me great problems as three of them are very similar.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

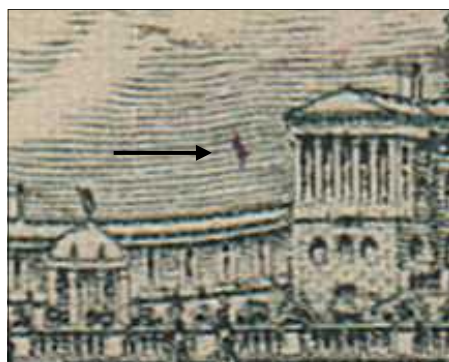


Fig. 4

A PHILATELIC QUERY

The following e-message was received by the Hon Secretary, if anyone can help on these please let Chrisknow then he can forward a reply to Mr. Wilkinson.

e-address: olivers.of_ham@virgin.net Postal address: see inside the front cover of the Springbok.

Dear Sir,

Although I am not a collector of South African stamps per se - my interests are in the fields of postage due and to pay mail - I occasionally need information on postage rates from South Africa and incidentally from many other countries as well, to the UK in former years.

Although Michael Furfie has done a splendid job with his book on overseas rates to the UK the one essential thing he has omitted (with good reason) is the question of AIRMAIL rates from overseas countries to Britain and even surface rates after about the late 1950s - because he states that most mail was transmitted by air since that time (this is not correct!).

I have a number of surcharged covers sent from SA to the UK where the surcharge in Britain cannot be calculated or explained without knowledge of the airmail rates from that country to Britain and I wonder if you or any member of your Society can assist me in my endeavours. The period I am interested in is around the early 1950s (1951-1954). I would like to know what the SA airmail rates to the UK were in those years and especially if that former country used "proportional" rates - that is if a first step cover cost X d. did a second step cover cost 2X d. and so on.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely, Sean Wilkinson

A further request-Christmas Seals

From Eddie Bridges

I am working on the listing of the Christmas seals and if anyone has a comprehensive list of when which denomination booklets appeared, I would appreciate a copy. The Union Handbook is not correct in all years as I have samples of denominations that are not listed. For example some years had 3/- booklets and not 2/6 as stated. I am also looking for scans of the 10/- booklets for most years as these seem to be scarce. I am not sure they were issued all years the literature states they were. If anyone has large holdings of these booklets, please let me know. Email: e.bridges@krohne.com



For further information see our website
www.stephanwelzandco.co.za
or contact Morné de la Guerre

Landline +27 (0)11 880 3125 Fax +27 (0)11 880 2656
Email morne.dela.guerre@stephanwelzandco.co.za



Johannesburg
13 Biermann Avenue
corner Oxford Road & Rosebank

Telephone +27 (0)11 880 3125
jhb@stephanwelzandco.co.za

Stephan Welz & Co.

AUCTIONEERS OF DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS

Postal Address – P.O. Box 52431
2132 Saxonwold. South Africa

The 1931 Christmas Stamp Issue

By Eddie Bridges

I have been working on the Christmas Seals of the Union period of South Africa as it appears there are still many unanswered questions, one of which is below. The existing literature states the following:

This issue was designed by Betty Walpole and a **new** printer in Durban, Robinson & Co. won the contract to print the stamps. They were printed screened rotogravure in sheets of 120 stamps (6 rows X 20) on plain wove un-watermarked paper. No tete-beche format. The stamp size was 20.5X27.5mm. The stamps were now perforated 14 and for the first time had black sheet numbers, twice per sheet.

The top sheet margins had the letter A above the second stamp similar to the 1931 Unhyphenated 3d Pictorial. (See illustration)

The language format was now bilingual with the word Christmas always appearing at the top of the stamp and Kersmis at the bottom. The Afrikaans spelling now changed again. No country name or year appeared on the stamp. The colours blue and pale blue. The stamps could now be collected singly and not in pairs as the previous two issues.



The stamps as issued in 1931

I first saw this letter A in the margin when the late Godfrey Mellor showed his Christmas seals at Leamington a few years ago. At the time I did not think much more about it but when I aquired a sample earlier this year again with this control in the margin, I went to look at my other Union issues that had this A control in the margin.

These were Unhyphenated 1d Roto printings from Issue 1 in 1930 and the 3d Unhyphenated Roto printings of Issue 1, the first printings with the upright watermark issued in 1931. The resemblance of these stamps with the letter A control (the only Union stamps that had these A controls in the margin), was just to close to not have been printed by the Government Printer.

A quest for further information in South Africa has drawn a blank so far. I have made contact with various collectors of these seal, including dealers but no positive information has been forthcoming. Access to the archives of the Christmas Stamp fund (in Durban?) is difficult as no one knows anything. It will need a local collector to go digging if the Archive still exists.

When comparing the stamps including the measurements made, I can only surmise that these were printed by the Government Printer and not a private printer as stated in the literature.

Incidentally, the Christmas Seals are of the same size as the 3d Groote Schuur issues and all subsequent Christmas seals printed were in this horizontal format of 27.5 x 21.75 mm. Perforation was 14 same as the Union 3d Issue! I leave you to decide!



The three samples to the left show the uncanny similarity of the Control A in the margins together with the cyclometer numbers.

The distance between the control A and the 4 digit number is 17 mm on all the samples I have. (7 x 1d and 5 x 3d)

As far as I can tell, the fonts are all the same as well.

I am therefore inclined to say that these stamps were printed on the Goebels 830 machine in Pretoria. All in the period 1930-1931. After 1931 these A controls were no longer used.

SACS Accounts to 31 December 2011

<p>South African Collectors Society Income and Expenditure to 31 December 2011</p>	<p>Income</p> <p>subscriptions 2,095.78</p> <p>South A Philatelist 455.00</p> <p>Auction Income NA 156.05</p> <p>Auction Income NA 50.20</p> <p>Packet Income 132.83</p> <p>Cover profit 208.89</p> <p>Advertising Magazine 359.00</p> <p>Copier Profit for year 240.40</p> <p>Sale Booklet 5.00</p> <p>Interest 2011 -</p> <p>Loss for Year 40.74</p> <p>103.00</p> <p>3,848.89</p>	<p>Expenditure</p> <p>Printing Costs 4 Springbok 1,526.40</p> <p>Postages 4 Springbok 742.49</p> <p>Purchase SA mag Library 33.19</p> <p>Purchase SA mag Members 431.27</p> <p>Room Hire 284.00</p> <p>4 meetings costs London</p> <p>2 meetings costs Carlisle</p> <p>1 Meeting Leicester</p> <p>1 Meeting Salisbury</p> <p>260.01 Annual</p> <p>151.00 5105 abps 8255.00 advert in handbook</p> <p>60.00 advertising re nov 2011 at ears court</p> <p>40.75 max whitlock filing system in case of plan b</p> <p>40.00 2011 fees</p> <p>75.87 0 melior £20/library 546.80 postage CEO 69.87</p> <p>40.06 Postages</p> <p>84.00 chandlers meeting 16/04/2011 at royal</p> <p>16.95 engraving costs</p> <p>50.90 Accounting loss for Rand value at 31/12/2011</p> <p>3,848.89</p>	<p>Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2011</p> <p>Money held by Chris Oliver</p> <p>Money held by Ceairc Roche</p> <p>Money held by Tony Johnstone</p> <p>Insurance company asked twice for money</p>
<p>Stamp Insurance</p> <p>abps and handbook</p> <p>nat phil soc</p> <p>Storage boxes</p> <p>Miscos</p> <p>Study expenses</p> <p>Packet costs</p> <p>J Show Card meeting</p> <p>Abel trophy</p> <p>Exchange Loss</p>	<p>1526.40</p> <p>742.49</p> <p>33.19</p> <p>431.27</p> <p>284.00</p> <p>2 meetings costs</p> <p>1 Meeting</p> <p>1 Meeting</p> <p>260.01</p> <p>151.00</p> <p>60.00</p> <p>40.75</p> <p>40.00</p> <p>75.87</p> <p>40.06</p> <p>84.00</p> <p>16.95</p> <p>50.90</p> <p>3,848.89</p>	<p>Subscribers in advance 2012</p> <p>Owed to D.Haight</p> <p>L.Syle balance</p> <p>Brought Forward SACC Funds</p> <p>Loss on the year</p> <p>Total Liabilities</p>	<p>1,075.78</p> <p>24.91</p> <p>401.54</p> <p>5,132.86</p> <p>294.01</p> <p>6,929.20</p> <p>1.00</p> <p>150.40</p> <p>684.00</p> <p>7,764.60</p>
<p>Subscriptions in advance 2012</p> <p>Owed to D.Haight</p> <p>L.Syle balance</p> <p>Brought Forward SACC Funds</p> <p>Loss on the year</p> <p>Total Liabilities</p>	<p>429.00</p> <p>100.00</p> <p>1,183.31</p> <p>6,155.29</p> <p>103.00</p> <p>8,663.29</p> <p>7,764.60</p>	<p>Total Assets 7,764.60</p> <p>Photocopier shown as an asset of Society but written down to a £1.00</p>	

South Africa's Stamp issuing programme for 2013



Gift of the Givers and Rescue South Africa –	22 February 2013
International Year of Water Cooperation –	20 March 2013
Beautiful and Endangered Butterflies –	10 May 2013
South African Bird series: Birds in flight –	14 June 2013
Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden – 100 years –	1 July 2013
19th World Transplant Games (Sport) –	19 July 2013
Port Elizabeth Centenary –	26 July 2013
Cederberg Wilderness Area and South African Rock formations –	8 August 2013
Union Buildings Centenary –	6 September 2013
Symbols of South African Cultures –	20 September 2013
Achievements of the South African Post Office –	9 October 2013
Rivonia Trial 50th anniversary –	26 November 2013
World Aids Day – 25 Years –	29 November 2013

From the Editor:

You may have noticed that we have no items on the Republican period, even though a large number of our members collect the Republican period. If you would like to see more of this period, please advise the Editor who may be able to solicit some articles for this period. Better still put pen to paper, or in this case finger to keyboard and send us something!

Articles can be on the stamps, modern postal history, aerophilately, postal stationery, revenues or postage dues.

I look forward to your items for publication!

Argyll Etkin Limited

Specialists in all aspects of Philately with particular interest in Southern African territories & our stock includes an interesting range of material

AUCTIONS - We usually conduct several Major sales each year

17 Waterloo Place - (Corner Pall Mall) - London SW1Y 4AR

Tel: +44 (0)20 7930 6100

Fax: +44(0)20 7930 6109

E-mail: philatelists@argyll-etkin.com

Website: www.argyll-etkin.com

We welcome visitors Mondays to Fridays 9 - 5



JOHNSON PHILATELICS

DEALERS IN FINE STAMPS & POSTAL HISTORY



Pretoria Typo's 1d Imperf Plate Proofs.
£285



Harrison Essays
1d Springbuck.
£90



Pretoria Typo's 6d
Colour Trial/Plate
Proof. £150



Harrison Essays
1d Springbuck.
£65



Pretoria 1d Spectacular
Offset Block. £275



1d Imperf Frames,
Museum Proofs,
24 Pairs Exist.
£600



1/2d Imperf Centres,
Museum Proofs, 24
Pairs Exist.
£600



Harrison Essays
1d Springbuck
"Muster". £120



Pretoria Typo's
1d Imperf Colour
Trial/Plate Proof.
£160



Pretoria
Typo's 1/2d
Imperf at
Left. £550



c1953, Group
of Four Photo-
graphic Essays.
£240



Airmail 9d Green Imperf. £725

Contact Richard Johnson for these & other selected South Africa. www.johnson.co.za     
P O Box 32091 Summerstrand 6019 Port Elizabeth South Africa Tel: (+2741) 5833159 Fax: 5833187 Email: info@johnson.co.za
Prices Exclude 14% VAT for SA residents.