

THE SPRINGBOK



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SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY QUARTERLY

Volume 61 No. 1



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January 2013

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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.

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Editorial

The editorial in this issue takes the place of a welcome to the new Editor on the inside back page.

The Front Cover

We illustrate blocks of the Large War Issue potentially signed by the designer. Our member Peter Panall in Australia has queried this before but no response. He has exhausted his searches for information and is hoping that one of our members could help. Possibly someone in South Africa could do a little digging? See page 7.

Articles and Publications

The in basket is now empty. Please advise our new Editor (see IBP) if you are working on something so he can plan ahead. He will desperately need support with articles etc.

Roy Ross can be contacted on the following email address: roy.anne@tiscali.co.uk

I am also working on some publications namely Post Cards of the Union, Christmas Seals of the Union Period, The War Issues as well as the Hyphenated Pictorials. If anyone feels they might have information that might be of use, could they please contact me. This could lead to further articles for the Springbok so we can share the information with the membership.

Eddie Bridges

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The President's Ramblings

When I joined our society many years ago, Eric Sherwood was our president, having been preceded by just one other, ES (Ted – Edward Stewart) Lauder, who 'discovered the Stewart Blue shade of the first Union stamp. Reg (RDA) Allen was our chairman, Alec Page our secretary, and we had a good range of talented specialists in support. Of these, I recall very well Bob Lawrence, whom I regarded as my mentor, who just loved the ship penny, Robert McDougall who was the authority on the ½d springbok and the 2d Union buildings, Roland Jonas for Silver Jubilees, Jim Nunnely for KG V heads and officials, Robbie Merson for 6d orange trees and postage dues, Prof Victor Dix for Darmstadt trials and Dr "Pat" Pattinson for proofs and essays, not to mention those terrible twins Merriman and Mason who did so much work on the plating of the ship penny. So there were many experts the new collector like myself could approach and nearly all of those mentioned became my good friends. Little did I think, with such talent around, that years later I would become president, not that I either sought or aspired to the position.

Keen to learn from this wonderful crowd, even as a serving RAF officer, I tried my best to attend most London meetings and developed special friendships with Robert McDougall, an ex-Lancaster pilot, with Bob Lawrence and Alec Page. Sadly, both Bobs died in the mid 1970s, but Alec and I were friends for about 40 years. Often, when attending a meeting in London I would stay with mother-in-law in Rochester at the weekend and do any odd jobs she required, then I would telephone Alec to say I would be driving past Dartford at about 3pm that Sunday afternoon, and could I call in for an hour-or-so; the visits were carefully structured, with tea, cucumber sandwiches and fruit cake in the front room, and Alec telling of his latest music purchases and holidays in such exotic places. Then we would go up to the stamp room and show each other our latest treasures, then more tea and eventually the hour-or-so would extend to such degree that I usually found myself driving back to Lincoln at about half past midnight, or later.

After we moved from North Yorkshire to Lincolnshire Eric Sherwood and his wife Gladys would often come to stay with us, quite often uninvited and at a moment's notice and they loved our large garden and paddock and, despite frequent flypasts of the RedArrows, the quiet atmosphere; both were, sadly, in failing health but Eric came during my term there as president of the Lincoln Philatelic Society and gave a fine Union display there. He also persuaded me to join the editorial board, together with RDA and Alec Page, an office I have held ever since.

When Eric died, the committee decided to amalgamate the offices of chairman and president and this was taken on by RDA. Shortly after we moved to London when RDA was well into his 90s, the committee considered it appropriate to split his duties, RDA remaining as life president and nominations called for the office of chairman. In the event there were two nominations, the excellent Bill Branney and myself and, by a stroke of fate I was elected. After eight years in the post, I decided to make way for new blood and, as you know, was "kicked upstairs" – a great honour and privilege. I am so pleased that Tony Howgrave-Graham has taken on the job of chairman and that other up and coming (albeit retired from paid work) members are taking on some of the important offices of the society, and without whom the society would wither on the vine.

Abell Trophy Competition

It is intended to hold the Abell Trophy Competition at the June meeting in Leamington Spa.

The Abell Trophy rules are as follows:

- Not more than nine pages on any topic related to the objectives of the Society.
- Posted entries are acceptable and should be sent insured and post paid in both directions.
- Good quality colour photocopies or scans on stiff paper is also acceptable, but must be the entrants own material.
- The competition will be judged by those present.
- The trophy will be awarded for one year. (this year will be an exception as Roy Ross the last winner only received it in September)

AGM at Leamington Spa

The AGM will also be held at Leamington Spa in June this year, a departure from previous years. This meeting in June has been designed to get the Society back on a healthy footing after all the problems of the last year, finding officers for the Society and a new Editor. We are happy to report that things are now moving in the right direction and the Society looks forward to a healthy future. The Society is now entering its 66th year and as can be seen from the Journal number, *The Springbok* is entering its 61st year of continuous publication!

***Please note that this meeting is not a replacement for the annual Southern African Societies meeting in November, which will take place again this year. This is a SACS only meeting!
Visitors are always welcome.***

Report on the meeting held in Carlisle on September 29th 2012

By Malcolm Ridsdale

Attendees – 7 Members, Colin Moore, David Haig, Max Whitlock, Roy Ross, John Ahmad, Eric Hammond and Malcolm Ridsdale

Apologies – Vaughan Stone, Peter Dix, David Briggs, David MacDonakl, Ray Glanville Jones and Jim Grassom

David Haig opened the meeting in the Chair and welcomed everybody to the 41st meeting. In memory of Bill Branney the meeting rose to reflect on his recent passing and his contribution to the SACS. The meeting and the SACS received compliments via Max Whitlock from Mrs Maria Branney who sent her good wishes and thanks to society members who had been supportive after Bill's passing away.

Items through the Chair

The 2013 meetings have been booked to be on the 23rd March and the 21st September, both at the County Hotel, Carlisle. The topic of the meetings would be none specific with attendees encouraged to bring any aspects of SA stamp collecting that appealed to them.

Around the Table

The members present held a general discussion around the SACS issues that had surfaced over the few months before the meeting was held. Whilst no formal views were to be shared, it was generally felt that some disturbing comments had been aired publicly and was hoped that after the AGM at Leamington some of these remarks would be put to bed and the SACS could progress appropriately to the satisfaction of its members.

The Abell Trophy

There were three entries for the trophy.

- **Roy Ross**

His display centred around the Empire Exhibition of 1936. It included commemorative and postal covers with mine dump stamps particularly showing the varying stages of the missing gold variety. He also showed blocks of four and eight of this variety in mint and used condition.

- **David Haig**

His display included covers of the 1938 foundation stone ceremony of the Voortrekker Monument and the commemoration of the Monument unveiling in 1949. Additionally he displayed a number of KLM special flight covers from 1938 that were known as the 1st and 2nd Dingaans Flights and a 25th anniversary of the Monument cover from 1974.

- **Colin Moore**

He displayed blocks of 48 / 60 of the London printing of the Penny Ship. Additionally there were pairs and blocks of four that showed a range of varieties associated with this issue.

The voting of the displays showed support for all of the entries but the winner was Roy Ross and Eric Hammond presented Roy with the salver with congratulations from the members present.

Displays

Roy Ross

RR displayed a range of the 1961 decimal animals principally being the lower values up to 5c in pairs, blocks and complete sheets plus a FDC of the complete issued set. RR commented that this display was work in progress and he still has to obtain a number of other blocks to make the display more complete.

Colin Moore

CM displayed a number of mint SA and SWA exhibition and federation miniature sheets from the 1970's.

The meeting closed at approximately 2.45pm

Correction to the Springbok Vol. 60/4

In the last Springbok I should not be allowed to claim any glory from the excellent map of German S.W.A. Post Offices. This is entirely the work of Ian Hodgson and I only scanned it for the magazine as I considered that it should be included.

Chris Oliver

Abell Trophy Winner 2012



Roy Ross presented with the Abell Trophy by Eric Hammond



Mine dump without shading. A nice item from Roy's display

Designer of the War Issues

By Peter Pannall

In all the articles on the War Issues that I have read it is stated that the artist of the 1/2d, 1/- and 1/3 values is unknown.

Some time ago I obtained at auction corner blocks of the 1/2d and 1/- values. Each was signed in the selvage by 'Hugh(?) Henderson' who was stated in the catalogue to be the designer. Unfortunately the items were from an estate so further details from the previous owner could not be obtained by non-psychic means.

Since then I have tried to get further information on H. Henderson from the internet, South African genealogy sites, press archives and several letters to SA Postal services and the Government Printer, none of which were answered. I am now putting scans in The Springbok in the hope that the name may mean something to someone, or that some member, particularly in South Africa, may know how to get access to any relevant records of the period. Any suggestion of further avenues of enquiry would be welcome. Of course, even if successful, the designer may not be the artist but it would be nice to know.



Responses please to peterpannall@yahoo.com.au and the editor at e.bridges@krohne.com as I have an interest in this issue as well and currently working on a publication.

Rare Zululand Covers in Auction

by Colin Such

The auction house Warwick and Warwick has reported that their auction to be held on March 6th contains a number of Zululand QV covers, new to the market. The correspondence is addressed to the Speed family of Aylesbury, Bucks. Unfortunately the covers have not been very well stored and most show signs of their age. However in the hoard of 8 covers are some very rare postmarks, including 2 never previously reported on cover.

The first cover, dated January 1894 is posted from Nqutu, a small village 140 miles north-west of Durban. It was routed via Rorke's Drift and Durban. The next 5 covers, dating from December 1894 to June 1895 are all from Nkandhla, about 30 miles south-east of Nqutu. They were routed via Eshowe and Durban. However it is the final 2 covers which are really exciting. They are dated January 1896 and April 1896 and are both from Ntingwe. The former was routed via Eshowe and Durban and the latter via Nqutu, Dundee and Durban. In the standard book on Zululand postmarks by Davis and Joseph, it is stated that the Ntingwe post office was only open for 9 months and it is probable that it closed down because the area never developed fully, or else it was too close to the existing post office at Nkandhla. Whatever the reason, covers bearing the postmark seem to be unknown and the auction contains not one, but two covers.

It would be fascinating to discover the identity and occupation of the sender of these envelopes. What was an Englishman doing living in remote Zulu villages only 15 years after the defeat of the Zulus by the British army? The number of civilians writing letters from these tiny settlements was very small and the number of letters which have survived is even smaller. How would the postal journeys have been completed? My guess would be by horse-drawn transport, as it took either 2 or 3 days for the letters to reach Durban from these isolated villages.



One of the rare Ntingwe covers to be auctioned.

South African Airmails Display

Nick Arrow will be exhibiting his South African Airmails at the next BAMS (British Air Mail Society) at its Solent Group Meeting on Wednesday 10 April 2013. If anyone is interested in seeing this display which should be well worth the effort, please contact Nick Arrow on nicholasarrow@btinternet.com or John Berridge the organiser on tel: 023 80221925. Venue is not fixed yet, but will be a daytime meeting most likely in Southampton.

South African Airmails Second Edition

Nick Arrow has also advised that his book "South African Airmails" Second Edition will be available by the early part of February at a cost of £30. For those within the UK the price includes P&P but those outside of the UK will have to add P&P. See also background information for this book else where in this issue.



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Description:

A general all world auction, containing 8 Zululand QV covers, new to the market, including 2 covers with P.O. NTINGWE postmarks, never previously reported on cover. The Ntingwe post office was only open for 9 months and it is probable that it closed down because the area never developed fully, or else it was too close to the existing post office at Nkandhla.

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Wartime Airmails between South Africa and the United States of America

By Nicholas Arrow

The writer would wish to express his appreciation to John Wilson, whose research on this subject was published in the *Air Post Journal* (Journal of the AAMS) in December 2011 and in *Cameo* (Journal of the West African Study Circle) in January 2012 under the title "*Pan American, FAM-22, Special Missions, 1942 and 70 years of misunderstanding*". It is to him, and those who assisted him in this research, to whom full credit for debunking the "myth" of FAM 22 should be given.

Prior to the outbreak of hostilities in September 1939, mail between South Africa and America had two possible routes. The most likely route from SA to the USA was via Imperial Airways from Durban to Hythe, and then on the Transatlantic Route to New York. Mail for South Africa from the USA would most likely be sent on the Pan American Airways Southern Transatlantic Route (Foreign Air Mail contract 18) to Marseilles and thence via Imperial Airways to Durban.

As part of FAM 18, PanAm had been flying mail to and from England direct since June 1939 (so of course had Imperial Airways). After War was declared, Imperial Airways stopped their service straight away, but PanAm's two services - the "Southern" and "Northern" Routes) were affected by the requirement that PanAm should not enter the War Zone, so the Northern service had to stop at Foynes in Ireland, while the Southern service stopped at Lisbon.¹

The entry of Italy into the War on the 10th June (with disastrous consequences to all civil air mail services in the Mediterranean) did not affect either of these air mail routes. The southern route was serviced regularly², and mail from South Africa was certainly possible via Lisbon.³ In addition, PanAm's services were frequently "round-trips" from New York to Ireland and return via Lisbon, Natal, Port of Spain etc.

A more direct route from America, however, was across the Southern Atlantic from Natal (Brazil) to Bathurst (Gambia). Alternatively it was possible to fly from America to South Africa through Léopoldville in the Belgian Congo across the Southern Atlantic to Natal (Brazil), Trinidad etc to Miami, which is where the idea of Panam's FAM contract 22 has grown up.

PanAm had hoped before the War to be a major (if not the major) airline on the World's stage, and to this end, following their successes in the Caribbean and South America, and in spanning the Pacific, had turned its attention towards Europe, Africa and, more extensively, India and the Far East. Spanning the Atlantic by the comparatively short leap across the Southern Atlantic to Léopoldville and crossing Africa at its narrowest point was the obvious answer. Plans were made for a service, using Boeing 314 Clipper flying boats, plying between Miami and Léopoldville on a regular fortnightly timetable. A contract to this end (generally referred to as FAM 22) was made, and propounders of FAM 22 hold fast to the ideal of this service taking place on a regular basis throughout the War. However, the exhaustive research by John Wilson, referred to above, has established that this simply did not happen.

The first PanAm flight made under FAM 22⁴ took place on the 6th December 1941. The route of the inaugural flight was from New York, via Bermuda to San Juan (where the passengers and cached mail from Miami connected) and thence via Trinidad, Belem and Natal (Brazil), Bathurst (Gambia), Lagos (Nigeria) to Léopoldville.⁵ Sabena already had a service from Léopoldville to Johannesburg, enabling mail from America to reach South Africa. Consequently, an air mail link between South Africa and America was achieved although mail to South Africa from any stage of this initial service is very scarce. No mail was accepted from South Africa for the return flight. However, PanAm's aspirations for their world service had to be shelved when, on the 7th December, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour, and America entered the War.

A further 12 round trips (the frequency of which were governed by military necessity and certainly not by any timetable) between Miami and Léopoldville took place between 20th December 1941 and 17th October 1942, the American Civil Aeronautics Board cancelling the contract "in the latter part of 1942".⁶

However, as part of the American War effort, PanAm flew many "Special" (ie secret) Missions to the west coast of Africa.⁷ These went to Fisherman's Lake, with frequent trips also being made to Lagos, and these missions carried mail, in both directions. As the War continued, the rather unnecessary trips to Lagos⁸ were phased out.

In addition, BOAC started flying services (using Boeing 314A flying boats) from Baltimore clockwise via Foynes etc to Lagos via Bathurst etc, Port of Spain and Bermuda on an irregular basis⁹ from December 1942, these flights becoming weekly by April 1943.¹⁰ In November 1943, these started and finished at Poole¹¹ although from April 1944 these flights did not take in Lagos before crossing the Atlantic between Bathurst and Natal.¹²

An air mail service to America, however erratic, was thus created via West Africa, albeit that it was very expensive - the rates were 2/- per card and 4/- per half ounce for letters, reduced to 3/6 on the 28th August 1944.¹³



References:

¹American Air Mail Catalogue

²There was a temporary suspension after America entered the War, while America sought assurances from the Portuguese Government concerning landing rights in the Azores - Civil Aviation Intelligence Summary 135 (14th January 1942)

³The northern route was operated (although suspended during the winter months because winter conditions would prejudice the success of such a long flight) to Foynes in Ireland, and again mail from South Africa could have been routed in the summer months via Foynes. Bearing in mind the simpler routing through Lisbon, it would seem unlikely that much, if indeed any, mail was flown via Foynes and once Italy entered the War, such a routing would have been impractical

⁴The term "FAM-22" was only used by the US Post Office Department, never by Panam

⁵American Air Mail Catalogue

⁶Letter from PanAm's Atlantic Division Manager dated 26th January 1943 - Civil Aviation Intelligence Summary 194 (3rd March 1943) rather belatedly also reported the cessation of this service

⁷Some Special Missions took place before the flight on the 6th December 1942, although no mail was carried

⁸Visits to Léopoldville, as originally envisaged before the War, became wholly unnecessary

⁹Civil Aviation Intelligence Summary 181 (2nd December 1942)

¹⁰Civil Aviation Intelligence Summary 201 (21st April 1943)

¹¹Civil Aviation Intelligence Summary 232 (24th November 1943)

¹²Civil Aviation Intelligence Summary 251 (5th April 1944) - this would effect a saving of roughly 3,000 miles on a round trip

¹³Monograph by Hugh Amooore when giving a display to the ASSA on 15th October 2011

The National Philatelic Society is on the move

The British Postal Museum & Archive is relocating and unfortunately the National Philatelic Society library has now moved away from Freeling House. The library postal address for Journals is:

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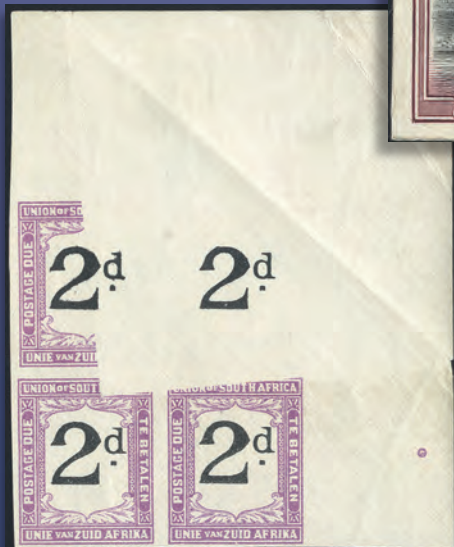
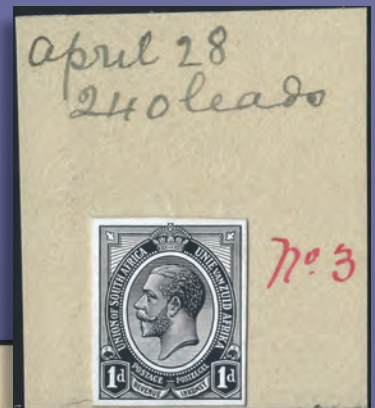
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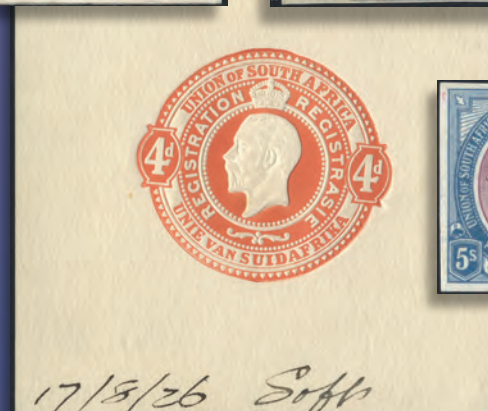
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Auction Report - June to December 2012

By Tony Howgrave-Graham

The second half of 2012 saw some fine material on offer. I've included two June auctions missed from the last report which had to be produced quickly for the first of Otto's *Springboks*. The number 1 spot for Union material seems to have been grabbed by Grosvenor who provided three of the six auctions I'll comment on.

Their 13 June auction offered 32 lots of Union and 42 SWA. 17 of the former and 31 of the SWA remained unsold and those that did sell were mainly below estimate. This probably reflects the estimating as much as anything though modern varieties do seem to sell sparsely. It did, however, provide some items of interest. The 1924 £1 pale olive green & red made £458 um but only £277 fu. I don't know why the used sell so variably. It is actually a genuinely scarce stamp and a lot scarcer than the mint. Two nice used blocks of the 1927, perf 14, 10/- went quite cheaply, too. A B6 made £108 and a part inscriptional B4 (+ a pair) £102. Another "cheapy" seemed to be the unhyphenated 2/6 with watermark inverted which only reached £66 "fine mint". The bantam war efforts with missing roulettes, however, surprised with a ½d B6 (2 units, bottom unit um) reaching £1686 and a similar 1d block £1565, the same as a marginal um B4 of the 2d. A 2d "fine mint" pair with the same made £482. Of the SWA the setting VI £1 green & red, um (minor gum crease) made £108 and the same fu £217. A striking top right corner B12 of the 1926 ½d with one stamp showing the "est" of West missing made £6020 despite a crease affecting the variety stamp. The 1954 definitive set of 25 colour trials, um, made £783 though the same in serial number B4s failed to sell estimated £2800-3000. Finally just to prove that missing roulettes aren't a guarantee of a good sale, the 1923 1d PD with this variety, um and cat R120,000 in the SACC, failed to attract a bid estimated £5-6000.

So now we move on to our SA friends at Welz who had a sale on 20 June. I'm taking the rand as 13 to £1 so the prices are approximate but include, as ever, the commission. The London typo ½d & 1d pairs with one of each language setting of the 4d on a 1 Jan 1926 fdc made £182. The Pretoria ½d in a marginal pair (*Fig.1*) imperf between the stamp and left margin made £345. A booklet 1d single (*Fig.2*) with **watermark sideways**, used, made £454. Tête-bêche pairs of the 1d made £817 & £545 despite having identical "fine/very fine mint" descriptions and looking much of a muchness in their photos. This again demonstrates that one shouldn't read too much into realisations. A 1d pane of 6 without selvedge and straight borders on the other 3 sides but overprinted "SPECIMEN" made £272. A nice marginal B4 of the Pretoria 1d with partly missing frames due to a foldover (*Fig.3*) made £998. A gold medal winning exhibit of the Darmstadt trials, beautifully presented and with some unique items made an approximate £20,000! An imperf pair of the 1947, Issue 17, ½d (*Fig.4*), um, made £635 (it was stated that only 24 such pairs exist so, presumably, 4 rows of a single sheet). A 1927 imperf proof B4 of the 1d PD in rose made £254 and for RSA collectors, another of my favourite missing colours, ie black from the 1974-7 20c hornbill (*Fig.5*) made £227 showing that striking varieties don't necessarily have to break the bank. A scarce B4 of the recess ½d opt SWA with the top pair showing the overprint omitted, fine mint, made £590.

The "main event" of the year was probably Grosvenor's 5 October sale featuring some mouth watering material from Patrick Williams' estate. It also provided another informal SACS meet as well as an entry for the "wooden spoon" award for worst described lot of the year, if not ever!

I'll start with my favourites, the 1930-45 unhyphenated rotogravure. A marginal strip of 4 of the 1d with the last stamp tête-bêche made £903. The tête-bêche 2d in a fine mint strip of 3 reached £4,575. A bottom left corner B10 (5x2) of the 1d with the bottom stamps and a half missing their frames made £289 due to some foxing whereas a fine mint B4 (*Fig.6*) made £783. I've been tracking and positioning the Issue 3 2d with missing frames. This time the piece on offer (*Fig.7*) was positional as it was attached to a corner block. The frame is completely missing from row 16/2 and almost completely missing from 17/2. It is interesting to note that the 2 stamps that fill the gap at the left, 17 & 18/1, appeared as *Fig.10* in my 2011 report, and they were used! Anyway the current lot made £8,669 and was bought by a member so we may be privileged to see it ourselves at one of the Leamington meets.

Moving on to the hyphenated a nice bottom corner B8 of the Issue 11 1d, imperforate, made £458 and a later 1d corner block (rows 13-20/11&12) with the bottom stamps and most of row 19 missing their frames, £626. A marginal B4 of the 1½d (SG57) completely missing gold on one stamp, almost completely on the stamp above and partially missing on the 2 right stamps, um, made £1565.

Turning to the officials a marginal pair of the unhyphenated ½d with double overprint made £458. The 6d in a bottom marginal half row with OFFISIEEL inverted on row 20/6 (*Fig.8*) made £1445 and the Issue 3 hyphenated 1/- with the diaeresis variety on both stamps (here row 6/2&3), used, described as fine but in fact rubbed, made £720. The poor 2d with inverted overprints, SGO45a, um, made £662 (still only ¼ the price of the equally rare SGO35 - sorry, I'll try not to mention this again but may not be able to resist!).

Next, the "wooden spoon" entry. Lot 2212 was a 4 volume collection of officials with the other offered lots removed. It sounded like a remainder and was estimated at £1000 to £1200. Given the quality of the separately offered material one could expect to find some goodies in it but not such items as it in fact contained. The describer, whilst mentioning things like the stop variety on the 6d had failed to mention such insignificant things as a hyphenated 1/- margin to margin strip of 6 with the distal overprints transposed, or indeed, an um pair of SGO35 (catalogued a mere £4,000!). The viewers did the describer's job for him and the lot made £12,642!! It did exclude any postal bidders from having a chance, however.

Of the SWA the 1923 1st setting set (+ litho ½d to 2/6) made £1565 and a fine 10/- B4 (Fig.9) with the "Wes." for "West" variety, £3130. The variety items in fact all generally sold well including the 1927-30 SWA ops where a top left corner B8 (4x2) 1d with a dropped overprinting causing the top pair to be unoverprinted, made £867 (compare with the ½d block at Welz, *vide supra*) and the 1/- perf 13½ (down) with missing stop in a top marginal B4 made £987.

Argyll Etkin had some rarely seen material on 26 October from a broken down collection of the 1926 triangular 4d. The collection clearly showed the interesting aspects of this basically cheap & largely ignored stamp, so I'll cover it in some detail. A beautiful and fine proof (Fig.10) made £5,538, the same as 2 proof copies (Fig.11) on a BW card. The latter surprised me a bit as I would have valued it at most at half the realisation! Described as "unique" it was last seen in the 1989 Meintjes sale where it realised 3937R (about £800 at the time). A cleaner similar card in the Meintjes made 4725R and I know of at least one other card as well, so the only unique feature of the Argyll Etkin card was the "ES" (Edward Sturman) initials twice at the left. Three colour trials perforated SPECIMEN made £2528 (Fig.12 for the copy in brown), a similar non-specimen copy in brown made £783. The Madagascar specimens (strips of 3 of the 1926 ½d & 1d + 3 "A" 4d singles on piece) made £1324, a slightly toned Bechuanaland specimen (Fig.13) £325 and another overprinted COLONIAS in blue at Lisbon, £662.

The rest was less rarified but interesting. The small bordered version of these stamps were issued on 1 Jan '26 in packets of 60 of the same language setting. Lot 834 was 6 empty packets, 3E and 3A, 5 with BW wax seals and one with a paper one. Along with 60 stamps as would have been in such a packet the lot made £301. An FDC with ½d & 1d pairs + 1 of each language setting 4d made £325 (quite a bit more than the £182 at Welz, *vide supra*). Interestingly the Argyll Etkin realisation is about 4 times what a similar cover made in the Meintjes sale compared to a 7 times differential for the BW proof card, underlining the current popularity of proof material. Two FDCs with just the 4d triangulars, both in both language settings, made £193 & £169. The sheets of 4d stamps didn't officially appear in post offices until 12 April 1926. Wide margined copies originate from these sheets so these, or multiples, shouldn't appear before 12 April. However two philatelic looking 1 January FDCs, each with a pair, opposite language settings on each cover, made £554. Another good pair of covers, each with a B4 of each language setting cancelled 10 April (early) and 12 April (1st official day) made £385 looking better value than any of the other FDCs, including the Welz one!

There followed quite a few examples of usages on cover. I'll only mention one which appeared with a single 2d on an Ocean Letter with two Durban Shipping Postmaster cancels. These are incredibly rare. An article, I think by R D Allen, stated that one would be fortunate to see one in one's lifetime, let alone own one. I'm lucky enough to have one and this copy was bought by another member who put it up at Leamington. It realised £1625 and I was accused by the purchaser of pushing the bidding up to unreasonable levels! Being penniless at the time I had to plead not guilty but it's reassuring to know that there are at least a few other people interested in these scarce Shipping Postmaster cancels!

That just leaves 2 further auctions:- Spink on 15 November where a fu King's head 10/- with inverted watermark made £1364 and a 1935 ½d coil strip of 22 + a 1d strip of six with one showing the dark frame of row 21, £310. Then Grosvenor again on 6 December where the 2d grey & lilac with the "airship" flaw, um, made £48 and a reoffered bantam ½d unit with missing roulette (but with one stamp creased), £265.

So - a Happy New Year to you all and let's hope 2013 produces some more interesting material for us.





Fig.3



Fig.6



Fig.4



Fig.7



Fig.9



Fig.5



Fig.8

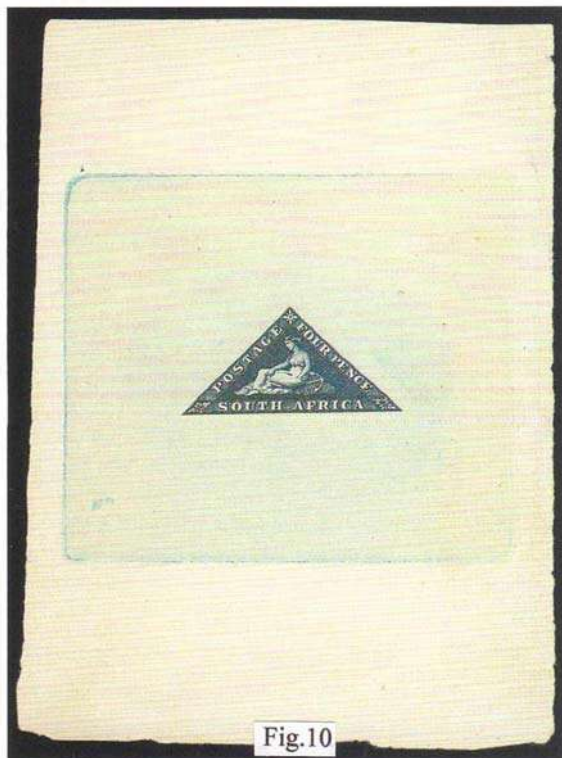


Fig.10

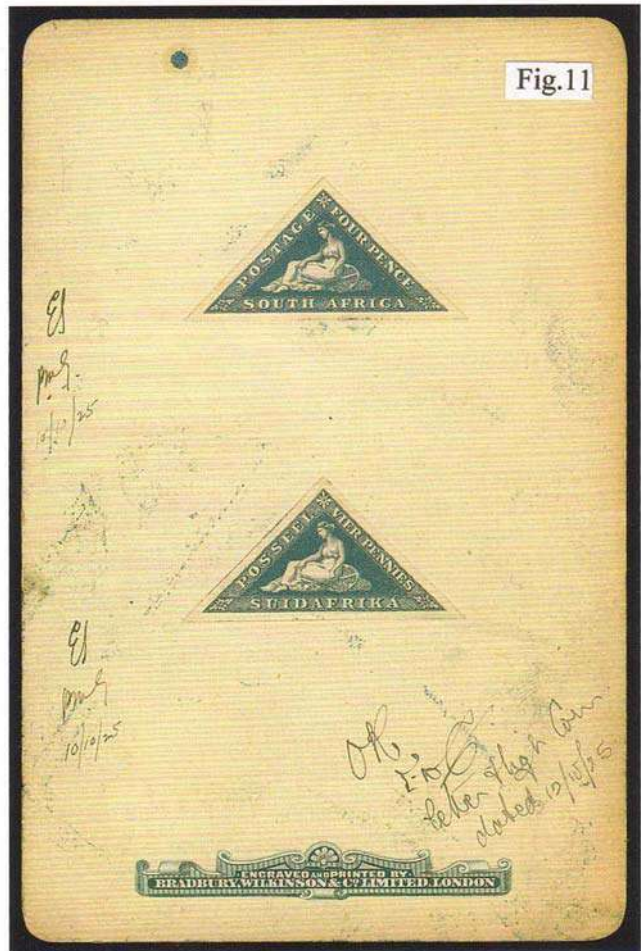


Fig.11



Fig.13



Fig.12

The SACS Library

You will be aware that a list of a portion of the Library's contents was sent out with the last Springbok. To complete the picture below are the headings under which the contents of the Library are detailed to give you the complete picture of what the Library has within it.

Philatelic Books
Aeroletters

Non Philatelic Books
SA Philatelists
Post Office Stones

Philatelic Catalogues,
Setempe

If you wish to see the complete lists of books, magazines and articles under these headings you can do so by emailing me (ridsdales@ntlworld.com) for an electronic copy or by contacting Max Whitlock (0164 2482877) who will be able to send you a paper copy. I hope that members use the Library and find it supports their particular interests.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance in your search for information.

Malcolm Ridsdale, SACS Hon Librarian

New South African Airmails Book

Up to the summer of 2008, South African Airmails was a subject sparsely dealt with by any authorities. There were only 3 main works, by Wyndham, Stern and Burrell, along with the Society's publication of the listing by Uys dealing with the period from 1961 to 1981. These books were difficult to get hold of - in particular the really definitive work (Burrell's "Par Avion in South Africa") was almost unobtainable, certainly at any reasonable price. As a consequence, unless one had been a member of the ASSA for some years, collecting South African Airmails, particularly with reference to the more modern material, had to be conducted in something of a vacuum, with the collector obtaining material more or less on an ad hoc basis and relying on his own instinct as to what was available. In an attempt to fill this void, "South African Airmails" was published by Nicholas Arrow in the summer of 2008 - the book was reviewed by Ken Sanford in *The Aeroletter* Issue 96 at page 26. This was the first comprehensive work which was intended to bring together all the various threads of the subject, up to February 1994. This book looked forward to a probable supplement, which was issued in July 2010. However, the author has now turned his attention to a second Edition, and *The Aeroletter* can now reveal that this new Edition is now nearly ready for issue.

The new book will follow the layout of the original, dividing South African Airmails into 3 main periods, with the Chapters (outlined in the review of the first Edition) and Listings following the original precisely. However, the book has been entirely rewritten and is believed to be rather more authoritative. In particular, the Chapters on (a) the War Period and (b) after 1981, both of which were dealt with in a rather cursory fashion in the original book, have been entirely and substantially rewritten. In addition, the new edition sports not only 1 but 2 indices (of people, pilots and planes, and the second being a brief, albeit incomplete, listing of its own), in the hope that the new Edition will be rather more user-friendly than the original.

The result is that the book is very much more substantial than the first - 6 introductory pages plus 276 pages (as against 8 and 203 respectively). The author claims that the extra pages are filled with facts, rather than plain verbiage, and hopes that this expansion will justify the price tag of £30 (the same price as the first Edition) plus P&P, even for those who bought the first Edition.

Anyone who wishes to obtain a copy of this exciting new book should get in touch with the author at "The Beeches", Axminster Road, Musbury, East Devon, EX13 8AZ, UK or on the phone at 44 (0) 1297 552482 or 44 (0) 7973 253 951, or by email at nicholasarrow@btinternet.com.

Philatelic sleuthing brings a thief to book

Submitted by Dr. Chris Board

A translation of an item in *News & Notes/Aktualiteit* titled "Filateliesespeurwerk laat dief aan die pen ry". *The South African Philatelist*, Vol 69:5, September 1993, p. 162

A.R. (Tony) Chilton's alertness, when Chairman of the Transvaal Study Circle, Treasurer of the O.F.S. Study Circle and Membership Secretary of the SA Collectors' Society of Great Britain, has ultimately lead to unique Union essays that had gone missing from the State Archives in Pretoria, being returned to the country. This led ultimately to a court case about the theft.

As reported in *The SA Philatelist* of July/August 1992, p.121, and September/October/ November, p. 156, a lot comprising 17 essays for stamps to commemorate the formation of the Union of South Africa, was withdrawn from the Christie's Robson Lowe Auction of 7 May 1992. This was after Chilton had pointed out that he had studied this material in 1983 at the Union Buildings, and that some time later 22 items, including these 17, were the subject of an article he wrote and had published in *The Springbok* July/August 1985, p. 76.

In February 1993 Chilton had again noticed some of this material listed in the catalogue of an auction to be held by Harmers in London on 11 March 1993. This time it consisted of eight essays on eight pieces, divided into seven lots from Lot 743 onwards. Contact was made with Cedric Roché RDPSA, at the time the outgoing president of the Philatelic Federation of SA, and Henk de Lange, Vice-Chair of the SA Philatelic Traders' Association (SAPDA).

SAPDA's Chair, Julian Gecelter, had pointed out in a letter to Harmers the likely irregular provenance of the material, but no reply was received. According to Roché, Harmers contended that only a Court Order would prevent them from proceeding with auctioning the lots. Harmers also obtained a letter from the Post Office Museum in Pretoria confirming that it was not the property of the Museum - which of course it never had been.

The Director of the State Archives, Frank Nel, was alerted to the situation, but he said there was no proof that it was the property of the Archives as it had not been catalogued nor had it been entered in the Acquisition Register. Luckily Danny Swart, RDPSA, at present [1993] Vice President of the Federation and a colleague of De Lange, recalled that he had made a note of the number of the file in which he had earlier come across this material when he was doing research.*



Furthermore, in August 1992, i.e. between the two auctions, some of this material was offered out of hand to Des Hyland, a collector based in Cape Town. This offer had consisted of 14 pieces on which 17 essays were depicted, apparently the very same lot which had been withdrawn at Christies. Hyland declined the offer, but had made colour photo copies for himself, hence there was thus a record [of the missing lots].

Only then could the State Archives be persuaded to file a case with the Commercial Crimes Investigation Branch of the SA Police. The investigation was undertaken by a member of the Police Force who had been a collector as a boy, and who had, according to Roché and De Lange, carried out his investigations with considerable zeal and dedication.

On the strength of proof of ownership and the existence of clear illustrations as well as a sworn affidavit by Chilton, the Prosecutor-General's Office was able to instruct a British lawyer to obtain a Court Order. The lots were withdrawn two days before the Harmers' auction and confiscated in the name of the Republic of South Africa.

According to the police investigation it came to light that the material had been sold to Stanley Gibbons in Johannesburg. Stanley Gibbons had given their full cooperation to the investigating officer. Gibbons, in turn, had sold it to Nick Troester, a dealer.

Following this Stephanus Johannes Ferreira (38), a former Assistant Director and Head of Developmental Aid Services in the State Archives Service in Pretoria, was convicted [of the theft] in the Pretoria Regional Court by Magistrate O.B. Booysen. Ferreira was sentenced on 25 June 1993 to a fine of R6,000 or six months in gaol, suspended for five years. He was also ordered to pay the costs of the British Court Order which amounted to R21 000.

On behalf of SAPDA, Henk de Lange said "The duty of any dealer or philatelist to instigate an investigation if he has any suspicion that material has been obtained unlawfully".

Uncertainty still surrounds the whereabouts of the essays that were the subject of the Court case but were not seized at Harmers. In total 13 essays were involved in this case, while Chilton had illustrated no fewer than 22 essays in his article of 1985.

Translation by E.C.Liebenberg, May 2012

*Afternote

Dr Chris Board, who worked closely with Tony Chilton on this incident, points out that Danny Swart had clearly been provided with the file reference which had been written on photocopies of the missing essays made by him while working in the Archives in 1983.

Chris is hopeful that this article will jog some memories and if you have any further information regarding the above, please contact the Editor who will pass the information on.

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Leamington Spa Meeting

June 2013

I want to publicise the 2013 June 1st meeting at the Falstaff Hotel. Although initially planned as a day meeting, it would appear that there is enough interest to make it a two day meeting over the Saturday and Sunday. The hotel has offered us the same rate of £60 per person for dinner, bed and breakfast for a single, £90 for a double, so it will still be excellent value.

This is a SACS only event, unlike the joint conference in November. I am planning a mixture of a few displays in the morning up to lunch following a theme or topic like we do at the London meetings. After a longer lunch break we can run the one frame competition for the Abell Trophy.

It is planned for there to be a few dealers in attendance, including myself.

On the Sunday I think we should have another loose theme, possibly more light-hearted and less serious to "show what you brought" and then run the short auction. I envisage a finish around lunch time/2pm.

I can be contacted via email on simon@africastamps.co.uk

Simon Peetoom

50c BUILDING SERIES REPRINT CYLINDER S39 21.6.85

By Mike Tonking

The 50c value of the 4th Definitive Building Series was the last to be printed on the De La Rue Giori press before it was taken out of service in 1985. At that time myself and the late GJ. de Swardt were involved in the plating of the Building Series and were puzzled by the assertion (catalogued) that the 50c S39 reprint made on 21.6.85 was from a re-chromed cylinder. It was never possible to obtain information from the Government Printer on the matter. Evidence would suggest that it was merely a reprint made from the original S39 cylinder. Some years before the Government Printer described the process of re-chroming as follows: The cylinder to be re-chromed was placed in a plating bath and the electrical current reversed to remove all traces of the original chrome plating. This would, of course, remove any of the original flaws which had existed on the original chromed surface. After completing this operation the electrical current was now run in the normal direction and the cylinder freshly chrome plated. It can be shown that the original flaws found on cylinder S39 were again present on the reprint. This could not occur if all the original chrome was removed. Additionally some new flaws seen on the reprint can also be found on later printings of the original S39 issue. In this case the flaws had developed during the original printing run.

Identifying flaws on original cylinder S39 8.2.84 Pane

- A. C112 -Dot above horse's right ear. Fig. 1
- B. C111 -Dot 1 mm to right of small tower. Fig. 2
- C. C2/2 -Dot below 'S' in RSA. Fig. 3
- D. SM -Dot above 'I' in 1982. Fig. 4

Identifying flaws on original and additional flaws found on S39 reprint 21.6.85 Pane

- A. C112 -As above plus scratch from dome to 'R' in RSA. Fig. 5
- B. C III -As above plus additional dot to right of small tower. Fig.6
- C. C2/2 -As above plus C112 -Dot to right of whip top. Fig. 7
- D. SM -As above plus C112 -Dot between horse' s ears. Fig. 8

Figures illustrating these flaws on the next page.

Original Cylinder S39 Flaws 8.2.84



Fig. 1 C1/2



Fig. 2 C1/1



Fig. 3 C2/2



Fig. 4 SM

Reprint Cylinder S39 original and additional flaws 21.6.85

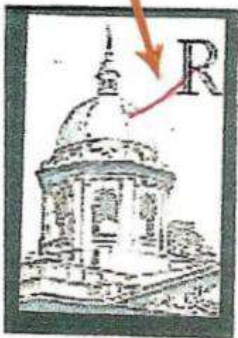


Fig. 5 C1/2

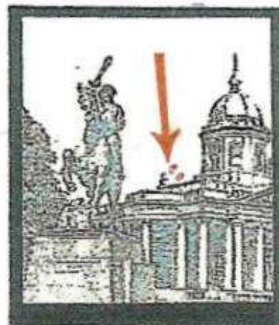


Fig. 6 C1/1



Fig. 7 C2/2



Fig. 8 C1/2

11th Row Flaws

Following the article on 11th Row Flaws by Tony Howgrave-Graham in the last issue, Mike Tonking has kindly sent some scans of his Flaws on the 1/2d Bantam War Issue which shows some nice 11th Row Flaws. This is reproduced on the next page. He has also sent further scans of 1d Bantams, 2d Union Buildings and on the 1d Unhyphenated issues. These hopefully will be published in a future issue as further space is not available in this issue. I will pass these on to the new editor.

Mike has been a contributor to *The Springbok* for many years and I hope he will continue to do so for many more to come. As this will be my last Springbok, I would like to express my appreciation for the support I have had from Mike over the years. I hope he will continue to support our new Editor as well. (see page 23)

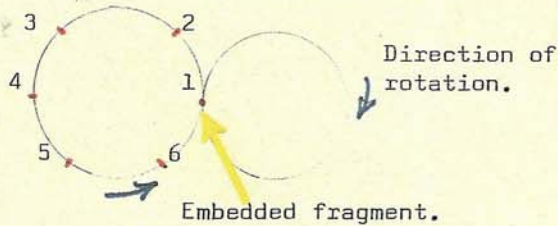
Union of South Africa

BANTAM WAR EFFORT - 1/2d. Value - Issue 1 - Eleventh Row Flaws

These flaws were caused by fragments of metal which became embedded in the inking roller during printing. Since the roller was five sixths the diameter of the cylinder six equally spaced marks were made round the cylinder surface, each duplicated at intervals of eleven rows.

Printing cylinder
21" circ.

Inking roller
17,375" circ.



Row 5/17
White spot - Mult.



Row 5
Afrikaans



Row 16
English

Sheet No.
11 rows
apart.



Row 8
English



Row 19
Afrikaans,
Early shade
shows only
deepest
etched spot.

Row 9/18 - Green spot
lower gutter - Mult.

3,66 Stamps apart

3,66 Stamps apart

3,66 Stamps apart

New Editor for the Springbok

It is with great pleasure that we can announce that Roy Ross has stepped forward to take on the role of Editor of *The Springbok*. This is a welcome development after the past twelve months of turbulence and uncertainty. What the Society now needs is stability in the publishing of its Journal and the continued support of its membership with contributions of articles, news etc.



The Society has undergone some changes in the past few months with fresh blood joining the committee and some new ideas to take the Society forward. One of the important issues of any Philatelic Society is the ageing membership and the stagnation of the Society. All Societies need new members and more importantly new committee members every few years to prevent this from happening. We in the South African Collectors Society have been very fortunate that we have not reached the point of stagnation as we have had some very hardworking committee members over the years. Two of the biggest jobs in our Society are the role of Secretary and the role of Editor. With out these two positions being filled with enthusiastic members, the Society will stumble. After eight years as Editor the time has now come to get some fresh ideas in. Chris Oliver has also indicated that he would like to step down as Secretary in the near future.

I am happy to say that I have known Roy Ross for many years and I am sure that his past experience in editing another journal (Classic Car Club) and his enthusiasm for South African Philately will stand him in good stead. Roy has already a publication on the Empire Exhibition in Johannesburg under his belt so he is not new to philatelic writing.

He has indicated that he feels more comfortable with the philately of the Republican period, so we will most likely see the imbalance between Union and Republican articles being redressed.

I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to the membership to support Roy in his endeavours with articles, news snippets, items of interest on any topic within the collecting area of our Society.

On behalf of the Society I would like to welcome Roy to the post of Editor and wish him all the success and many happy hours of fun putting the Springbok together every quarter.

I have had many happy hours of fun putting *The Springbok* together maybe to the detriment of my own collection over the years. Hopefully I will be able to go back to some parts of my collection that has remained untouched for many years!

My sincere thanks to all those who supported me over the years. Hopefully you will continue to support the new Editor and that some members who have not contributed to do so in the near future. Remember, the Journal is your journal. Without input, it will die!

Eddie Bridges

Membership News

Member, Harry Glazer (Member No. 554) has decided that after 42 years of membership of the Society it was time to start scaling down. He has advised that his albums have for all intents and purposes been closed. We would like to thank Harry for his staunch support of the Society and wish him well.

95th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain

This congress will be held in Gloucester from the 27th to 30th June 2013. The theme will be **AFRICA** and the Chairman of Congress will be Colin Hoffman. It is felt that it would be appropriate if SACS could contribute something to the theme which is relevant to our collecting area. Any ideas and thoughts to Tony Howgrave-Graham or Chris Oliver please.

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£65



Pretoria 1d Spectacular
Offset Block. £275



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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
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