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THE SPRINGBOK

SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY
QUARTERLY

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Unlisted in SACC Handbook see page 15

Contents	Page	Contents	Page
Society News:		Articles:	
Obituary David Crocker RDPSA	3	SG035 Comment	Mike Tonking 3
Leamington Convention Report	4 - 6	1st Definitive 10c control block	Ed. 14 - 15
Website Report Otto Peetoom	22	10c Unusual stamp printing	Mike Tonking 16 - 17
		RSA 1st Definitive punch holes	Mike Tonking 18 - 21
		1st Definitive 2c unlisted variety	Roy Ross 21
Features:		SWA Interesting cover	Mike Tonking 25 - 27
Society Auction Report Nick Arrow	7 - 8	SWA 1914 Postal history	Tony Howgrave-Graham 28 - 31
Auction Report for 2014	10 - 13	SG62a 1/- Gnu Omitted Frame	Otto Peetoom 32 - 34
South African Stamp wins award	9	Union Rarities	Otto Peetoom 35
What's in a name	23		
Naming Pages on Websites	24		

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

Material urgently needed for the next Springbok

Membership

Welcome to new member 1185 Jaco Beyleveld from Westville, South Africa

The following have not renewed their membership and have therefore resigned

1135 Mike Mercer
1092 Russell Boezak

DAVID CROCKER RDPSA

We were sorry to hear of the death of David Crocker on Friday 9th January in Montagu, South Africa. David was a leading dealer and collector and was known to philatelists not only in South Africa but also internationally. He was known for driving a hard sale but he was a generous natured soul and a good friend. He made several visits to the UK, recently to attend exhibitions such as London 2000, Stampex 2006 and the ABPS weekend show in Sheffield in May 2011. In South Africa he attended the SAPDA shows regularly, and of course the Internationals held there, and he would also travel abroad to visit other International Exhibitions. Frequently David was invited to judge at these exhibitions and, often, to chair the jury which he much enjoyed.

David formed many interesting collections, including such countries as Tibet and Ukraine he exhibited often and won many medals. For his Trident Overprints of Ukraine he achieved a Vermeil in Dubai (2006); Large Vermeils in St. Petersburg and Jakarta (2007 & 2008 respectively) and a Large Gold in the South African National Show of 2009. He was invited to be a signatory to the Role of Distinguished Southern African Philatelists in 1986. David had an enquiring mind and carried out much research on his collections, he was a hard worker, always interested in finding new items for his stock, keeping an eye on the philatelic scene, worldwide.

In 2006 David joined the South African Collectors' Society as he had heard good reports of us in South Africa. David had been in hospital for some weeks but sadly did not recover from his illness.

To Rose Marie, Jennifer, Anne Marie and Michael we send our sympathy. R.I.P

Chris & Sue Oliver

A Comment on the 2d Official SG035 in Springbok Vol. 62/4 Page 107

By Mike Tonking

The President's ramblings covering the 2d. Official SG 035 reminded me of the story related to me by the late Jack Hagger in 2002 in which he explained why it was not included in the 1986 Handbook.

"When the Printing Works went over to overprinting the Officials by stereo, the forme which did the small mine 1½d was not dismantled right away and a couple of sheets of the 2d.'s were taken in and overprinted with it. A pair of them were treated with an undecipherable postmark and included in a packet of used Officials which went to a collector who was very keen on them and who of course saw that they were something new. Gibbons were told and catalogued them. It became known that Suklje the Benoni dealer had a sheet of them and Bill Sheffield arranged that he and I should go and check that the stamp and overprint were genuine.

The stamp and overprint were of course perfectly genuine, and we asked how he had come to acquire it. His story was that he went to Pretoria from time to time and as he was a packet maker bought sheets of the Officials to put in them! As he was well known for the Bantams with the inverted overprint we knew what had happened and did not include it in the handbook we were working on.

The story is that Suklje sold half a sheet to Stanley Gibbons on condition they stuck to a ceiling price they had agreed on and I am sure those now offered came from their half sheet of which I would imagine they still have more than a few left "

That is the story he told me for what it is worth. As John Shaw notes, it is doubtful if the full story will ever be told.

**A RECORD OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICA PHILATELIC CONVENTION AT LEAMINGTON SPA
HELD ON 7TH – 9TH NOVEMBER 2014 AT THE FALSTAFF HOTEL.**

By Chris Oliver

Some delegates had gathered at the hotel on the evening of the 7th November for a social and a good meal.

The business of the convention started on Saturday when some more of us had arrived. Simon, our convener, had arranged for some better display frames at this meeting, much to the relief of those presenting. About 40 people attended, together with fleeting visits from some who only stayed for a short time. The usual raffle was well supported.

Chris Board gave the first of the invited displays and his subject was Cape Postal Stationery. This consisted mainly of Victorian postcards. A local post office provided the opportunity to produce the first postal card in 1878, but very few were used before 1882. These were often badly cut and it is not known how many were on a sheet. By 1882 a 1d rate was introduced throughout the colony including eventually Bechuanaland & Mashonaland. The display continued with variants on the 1½d International U.P.U. Postcard; surcharges and examples of illustrated postal cards. and, following a change in rate, thin paper illustrations produced in Germany were stuck over the 1½d postcards presumably in Cape Town. We saw 1d and 1½d news-wrappers; reply cards; postal cards and colour & format variation on 1½d pictorial postcards. On the Maskew-Miller pictorial cards a local scene was printed directly on the reverse side. The Post Office, not to be outdone, also produced its own illustrated card by adding a small vignetted scene on the address side, copying an idea from Argentina. The “South African Mail Service” produced a series of 1d UPU cards with a colour picture with a generic “Castle Liner” on the left and the name of the ship on which it was for sale, on the right. The surcharged 1d postal cards were overprinted for use in O.R.C in 1900. Chris finished his display with a selection of Edwardian postal stationery including several photographic essays and proofs.

The second presentation, by Roald Sand, employed PowerPoint beside a display of the material. Roald has been studying, the Union Official sets 1 to 6 issued between December 1926 and 1931. Stamp values were high compared with a postal clerk's wages so overprinting of stamps for official use was undertaken. Conversely this created a market with collectors' for stolen overprinted stamps. The practice of overprinting officials ceased in 1954. This is a challenging but limited collecting area and has some attractions. The speaker explained that the first set was excellently printed but by the time that set six was produced the plates were worn and printing was far from exact, especially on the ½d value where the top of the sheet differs from the bottom due to progression of wear. There were 71 varieties per half sheet on the ½d value. Roald showed, on the screen, the varieties of the deforming “O” and described the sheet location for these. Sheet numbers and marginal arrows have recently been examined by students of the Official Issues.

Even more modern material formed part of Richard Barnett's display on Zimbabwean inflation mail. The former name of Rhodesia was often included on postmarks until the end of 1979 but after this date the slugs were obliterated or removed. Richard showed the rates for each year since independence, with the exception of 2008, to indicate that hyperinflation had commenced with the airmail rate introduced on 10th June 2002. Initially stamps were overprinted with new values but from 2005 N.V.I. (no value indicated) stamps were used to avoid the use of multiples of stamps to achieve the required rate. From 18th February 2009 some financial stability has been achieved by pegging the local currency to the American dollar and allowing the use of the Rand to purchase goods and services.

Otto Peetoom took Ascension Island as the theme for his display and a more detailed account of this presentation can be viewed on the website of the South African Collectors' Society www.southafricacollectors.com This island, in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean although initially a dependency of St. Helena, is central for cable routes feeding Southern Africa with North America and the U.K. The display included some pre-stamp material and early use of British stamps in the island but the amazing part of this presentation was the Die Proof material and Specimen stamps of the KGV & KGV1 period and beyond with the repeat design on the QEII Specimen issue of 1956. The stamps, which are attractive and colourful, are prone to varieties and paper tone variation. These were included in the display.

A postal history display by Richard Stock concerned the Zulu War 1879, the Second Boer War 1899-1902 and the Bambatha Rebellion 1906. Interesting correspondence from some of the participants was included. Some correspondence, it was explained, concerned the award of the Victoria Cross to an officer during an action at Hlobane Mountain in March 1879. There were also references to the Scott-Douglas correspondence killed in action shortly before the battle of Ulundi. Boer forces invaded northern Natal in 1899 and advanced rapidly, capturing Newcastle and Dundee. They besieged Ladysmith and the British forces defended a perimeter of six miles. Richard's material included mail from temporary post offices set up by the Boers, items to and from the siege area, mail trapped by the siege and released at the end of the conflict, a short-lived F.P.O. 9 mark used at Colenso, emergency cancellations and P.O.W. mail. Correspondence from R.J.L. Tindall following his capture at Elandsplaagte on 21st October 1899 and his time as a Transvaal P.O.W. was shown.

The final section featured mail sent during the Bambatha Rebellion in 1906 caused by the imposition of a poll tax on natives of 21 years and over. It was put down in 12 months.

The last of the invited displays was given by Eddie Bridges who has been studying the printings of the 2d & 3d Pictorial definitive stamps, comprising the Bradbury Wilkinson printings; the Pretoria unhyphenated and the Pretoria hyphenated printings. Eddie had carefully examined the bottom two rows of the inter-pane printings of the Bradbury, Wilkinson printings. These were from the archive sheets sold by Robson Lowe in the 1980's. The printing dates had been recorded on the upper inter-pane blocks which indicated more printings than recorded in the literature. All the perforation variations were shown. Dots and lines had been introduced to assist alignment of the perforation and guillotining of sheets but these differed from issue to issue. There were similar perforation problems experienced in the unhyphenated Pretoria printing of the 2d. The initial 3d Bradbury, Wilkinson and unhyphenated issue was in black & red with the second unhyphenated issue changed to blue to suit U.P.U. convention. These Issues included the well-known window flaw and one of the last hyphenated printings used intense blue of which several certified examples were shown. All the items shown were in blocks of four or larger and mounted on double pages to suit.

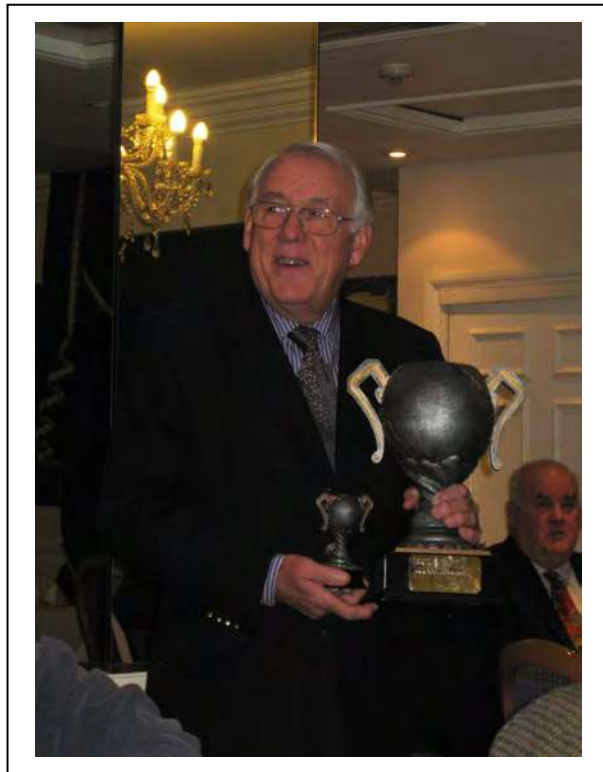
These concluded the displays for Saturday so the winners of the raffle were announced and votes for the best display of the day were collected from those present. Most of us convened, later, in the bar prior to a convivial dinner. During this time the Tony Chilton Memorial Trophy was awarded to Richard Stock for giving us an insight into the social and postal history of the Boer War.



John Shaw presenting the award



Enjoying the displays



Richard Stock with the Tony Chilton Trophy

On Sunday morning an early start was made to see short contributions from some others present.

First away was Otto Peetoom who showed a miscellany of interesting material. His first frame comprised photographic examples of proposed stamp designs from the Bradbury Wilkinson archive 1922 – 24, as released by S.A. postal authorities. This was followed by an update on the Robert Falcon Scott letter sent from S.A.; an inverted “Official” overprint on cover; A Mercier mission cover to Zambezi via. Chindi & Fife which took 10 months in transit; a military cover; Southern Rhodesian archival postal stationery; used postal stationery when long postal stationery envelopes are rare used and mint and finally some aerogrammes.

Bob Hill had some postmarks and postcards, themed around the apartheid system, to show us. He explained about the Shepstone Compounds built to ensure that diamonds remained on the mining site and also displayed Indo-native cancellations, a Durban Bantu cancellation and a Non-European parcel cancellation. Bob's presentation then included a 1935 notice of the closing of a Bantu Post Office; segregated Homeland cancellations; Gold Mine returned mail and four pages of Cape material.

Cont'

Leamington meeting cont'

A display of 1923 S.W.A. Postal Stationery by Denis Firth started with that issued on the same date as the first stamps of that territory under S.A. jurisdiction. The Dutch overprint was "Zuid-West Afrika" but later issues show the overprint as "Zuidwest Afrika". Denis showed comprehensive examples of both issues.

Carol Bommarito displayed one cover from the Cape to Massachusetts via the Falkland Islands circa 1860's. It was considered that this interesting item related to the whaling fleet.

Robert Johnson presented a social scenario of S.A. comprising early picture postcards of people, industries, buildings and ships etc.

The display by Brian Trotter was of surcharged pre-stamp and stamped mail. Postage due rates changed with a 4d rate 1846 -79; 3d rate 1879 - 82; 2d rate 1882 - 88 and 1d rate 1903 -11. A cover from the Warren Expedition to Bechuanaland was surcharged 2d because his wife had moved to a new address. We were advised that there were different rates adopted for British Bechuanaland at 2d and the Bechuanaland Protectorate with 2d + 2d (4d) at this time.

Alan Drysdall returned to his beloved railway posts in his presentation. The S.A.R. (Transvaal Rail) was essential for Witwatersrand industry. Coal was carried from Boksburg to Johannesburg on the Rand Train, a 3'-6" gauge railway of S.A. which was extended to Springs. Alan showed post cards and other illustrations featuring the stations on the Rand Train line of pre-Boer War times. Krugersdorp was a fine example of railway architecture.

Regiments of the Indian Army served in S.A. during the Boer War. Richard Stroud explained that this did not include Indians fighting in British or S.A. units but contingents raised by Lumsden in India. This included white Indian nationals from the whole sub-continent (Lumsden's Horse) and a second company embarked 26.02.1900 & 30.04.1900. with Lieutenant Walker its first casualty. The story of some of the members of Lumsden's Horse was shown in their correspondence and can be induced from the postal history in Richard's display.

Tony Stanford's display of the Postal Stationery of the Cape, Transvaal and British Bechuanaland showed the various G.B. overprints which can be encountered.

Eddie Bridges has, with others, been examining the 1927 & post 1930 postal stationery cards which have scenic pictures on the face in grey and ½d Springbok stamp impressed on the reverse.

From the items shown, Eddie considered that two post 1930 issues had been made and would like scans of examples, either used or unused.

The next display, by John Shaw, was of the pictorial issues described as Waterlow or Bradbury Wilkinson printings but in which De la Rue had a hand. The inclusion of the Delville Wood memorial on the Rotogravure 2d prompted the question of what was Delville Wood. John explained that the wood in Belgium was the scene of a terrifying slaughter of S.A. troops during WWI. His display included the Royal Mint engraving of the London Printing by Nicholson from which Waterlow's dies were taken. John also displayed 1d ship stamps from three plates and a rare sideways watermark on the London Printing.

Chris Oliver presented some artists sketches for the RSA Antelope stamps, some proofs of the first Antelope booklet and some trial printing sheets produced by the Government Printing Office.

Our last display was by Tony Howgrave-Graham who presented a miscellany of S.W.A. with some coil stamps, proofs of the unissued Kruger commemorative by A.S. Konya, provisional rubber cancels and hand-stamps, converted German SWA handstamps, a registered mail item of 1921 and an example of the cancellation of the returned letter office in Windhoek.

We then adjourned to reassemble for another of Nick Arrow's splendid auctions. Following this Nick and his team were thanked for their efforts but the accolade was reserved for Simon Peetoom who had, yet again, spent a lot of time and effort into achieving another splendid weekend.



Enjoying the displays



Nick in last-minute preparation

2014 SOCIETY AUCTION REPORT

by Nick Arrow Auction Manager

In the last year, both Auctions at Leamington Spa had good results, and in addition the smaller postal Auction in January saw many lots, which had previously not been sold, find good homes. If one is going to talk percentages, the lots sold in the January Auction was 58%, in the June Auction 54% and in the November an incredible 66%, thanks to some very healthy post-sale bidding!

These results are very encouraging - it is noticeable that, time and time again, the better material will always find a market, and, thanks to an upsurge in interest in RSA, the more modern material is also changing hands and, in some cases, at excellent prices.

I am seriously short of material. The Leamington Spa Auctions have relied too regularly on two of three Vendors and, unless you start to turn over your duplicate material, there is of course a risk that the number of lots will reduce substantially, with a consequent loss to the Society. Please therefore let me have any material which either is surplus to, or simply will not find a home in, your collections, so that other Society members can acquire them for the benefit of theirs.

Please will members carefully consider the bidding steps. After £20, the next bid is £22, then £25, £28, £30 and so on. A bid of £27 will not secure the lot if someone else has already bid £25. The bidding steps are set out on the Bidding Sheet - it is not rocket science!

Secondly, please will all bidders, at least in the UK, send in a cheque made payable to "SACS" (NOT to me personally) with the amount left blank but endorsed "Not to exceed £XX" ((the maximum of your bids with a bit over for P&P). This helps enormously at the end of the Auction. Bidders by email should also follow up their emailed bids with a cheque - an email will simply improve your place in the queue of bidders, so that someone bidding an identical amount at a later date will not outbid you, even if he places a higher but irregular amount! Cheques sent by unlucky bidders will simply be destroyed by me at the end of the auction, so that there is no security risk attached.

Finally, a word about PayPal. This organisation enables money to be immediately transferred, but the service is not free. If you pay me £100 by PayPal, I actually receive £96.40, which means that I then have to chase up the change. To pay me £100, it is actually necessary to send me £103.73. The calculation actually is £(the total of your lots + 20p divided by 0.966). I have now arranged a separate PayPal account for the Society, so that there is no confusing the Society's money with my own - a heinous offence in my old job!

I would suggest that those who have English Bank Accounts (and who have NOT let me have a cheque in advance of the Auction Closing date!) arrange Bank transfers to the Society's account - there are 2 so I will not confuse matters here, as I will always let members have the correct account - by the BACS system, which is more or less free, particularly if done on-line. I am aware that International Bank Transfers can cost rather more than PayPal, so this system is less attractive for those with Bank accounts out of the UK.



AfricaStamps.co.uk

New website offering fine Southern Africa stamps and specialised items.



Email: info@AfricaStamps.co.uk

Auction 38 Held at Leamington Spa November 2014
Unsold Auction Lots

If you would like to purchase any of these Lots please contact The Auctioneer Nick Arrow

Lot	Price				
5	£8.00	146	£30.00	280	£2.50
6	£70.00	155	£20.00	281	£6.00
7	£20.00	156	£100.00	282	£25.00
8	£45.00	157	£45.00	283	£7.00
9	£2.50	159	£4.00	284	£7.00
12	£75.00	160	£25.00	285	£25.00
13	£50.00	161	£10.00	288	£4.00
15	£7.00	163	£2.50	289	£2.00
16	£75.00	165	£17.00	290	£20.00
19	£20.00	174	£15.00	291	£15.00
20	£15.00	175	£25.00	292	£8.00
21	£25.00	178	£25.00	294	£14.00
22	£100.00	188	£18.00	297	£24.00
25	£50.00	189	£40.00	298	£6.00
26	£140.00	191	£8.00	300	£7.00
27	£5.00	192	No Lot	301	£2.00
28	£15.00	195	£2.50	302	£3.50
29	£30.00	211	£10.00	304	£2.00
30	£32.00	212	£3.00	305	£5.00
32	£15.00	213	£48.00	308	£15.00
33	£130.00	219	£10.00	311	£75.00
34	£20.00	220	£50.00	318	£10.00
41	£20.00	221	£30.00	319	£9.00
50	£5.00	222	£18.00	321	£8.00
55	£10.00	230	£40.00	323	£30.00
56	£20.00	234	£40.00	324	£45.00
57	£130.00	235	£35.00	325	£30.00
59	£8.00	236	£25.00	330	£2.50
61	£14.00	239	£3.00	333	£4.00
63	£30.00	264	£40.00	334	£10.00
64	£42.00	265	£20.00	335	£25.00
116	£50.00	267	£25.00	304	£25.00
129	£45.00	268	£5.00	342	£20.00
132	£25.00	269	£4.00	343	£13.00
133	£4.00	270	£6.00	344	£13.00
138	£40.00	271	£10.00	345	£10.00
139	£6.00	274	£14.00	346	£12.00
140	£40.00	277	£6.00		

South African stamp wins World's Most Original Format category at international competition

The South African Post Office took part in “The best stamp of the World” international competition that was held in Spain for stamps that were issued by Postal Administrations during 2013. Countries that took part in the competition included Brazil, Canada, Finland, Italy, Russia, Sweden and the UK.

There were a number of categories and South Africa won the category for the “World's Most Original Format”!

[Photo by staff member at the South African Embassy in Madrid]



The stamp forms part of the “waterwheel” design that was done on 2013 for the International Year of Water Cooperation and promotes responsible water usage and competed in the category against entries from countries such as Finland, France, Russia and Spain. We were the only country from Africa that took part in the competition.

The award certificate was received on Friday, 31 October, by the South African Embassy in Madrid, Spain on behalf of the Post Office.



[Photo by staff member at the South African Embassy in Madrid]

The stamps were designed by Annemarie Wessels (artist) and Rachel-Marie Ackermann (from Philately) and Philately’s Thea Clemons prepared and submitted our entry for the competition.

AUCTION REPORT FOR 2014

By Tony Howgrave-Graham

I know I said I'd write these reports 6-monthly because the yearly ones were getting too big but there was, I'm afraid, very little on offer in the first half of 2014. Argyll-Etkin had an auction on 28 Feb which included the last offerings from the work master plates made by the specialist dandy roll manufacturers Edwin Amies & Sons Ltd.. Each lot consisted of a numbered metal plate with impressions of a watermark affixed and represented the first stage in watermark production. Two of the 20 lots were blocks of 12 of the multiple Springboks' head watermark and each made £158. Not bad for something so completely different and rare.

Otherwise the year was really split between Spink, Welz and Murray Payne. It's nice to see our South African friends Stephan Welz getting some better material again. They even had a fine 1d black on a nice 6 May 1840 FDC! It was estimated R1,800,000 to R2,500,000 but failed to sell - still, quite a coup to be able to offer it. Another good thing about them is that they are now using the sale-room.com which gives us all a chance to bid live. On a negative note, I do wish they'd redesign their catalogues which have become messy in the extreme. The descriptions are hard to read and the illustrations very variable. Many pages are made up of meaningless fragments of lots. They badly need a philatelist to control the excesses of their design team. Murray Payne stole the prize for "best sale of the year" with their July auction but I'll take a few general topics first and end with this sale.

So, turning to some realisations, how many of you have King's head coil stamps with inverted watermarks? They are the sort of thing one hopes one will just come across by chance. My total tally after some 20 years of looking is a big round zero! Stephan Welz had 7 in their October sale (*Figs 1 & 1b*). The actual realisations,



Fig. 1

Fig. 1a

Fig. 1b

including commission, are given in Rands with approximate sterling equivalents in brackets. A used ½d (lot773) made R10,030 (c£550), another (lot774) even more at R11,800 (c£650). An unmounted mint 1d (lot775) made R28,230 (c£1,500) whilst another (lot776) also described as unmounted but presumably mounted, made R17,700 (c£980). Used copies of the same (lots 777&8) made R3,776 & R5,900 (c£200 & £320). The 1½d (lot779 & *Fig.1b*) made a staggering R59,000! (about £3,200 and this despite a reported small tear in its left edge!). I think these prices explain why I've never found one and probably won't ever own one! They make the booklet ½d pair with sideways

watermark, though, look a very good buy at Leamington a few years ago. Strangely, given their scarcity, Spink also had a used 1d (*Fig.1a*) on offer in their May auction. It had some colour loss and a corner crease but still made £137.

Staying with the King's heads, the later printings had a centre plate jubilee line removed from the central gutter by rows 5 & 16 of the right panes. Spink had a 10/- (Fig.2) in their May sale. It was described as having a small flaw on the neck and estimated £100-120. It failed to sell, and failed again when offered at only £70 in November. Quite surprising really. Welz had the same in an inter-panneau pair (*Fig.3* and exceptionally rare) in October. This made R20,060 (c£1,100). And Spink again had the £1 in a vertical pair (*Fig.4*) in their November sale. This was quite heavily gum toned but still made £1,500.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

Staying with the £1's but moving to SWA Welz had a forerunner block of 4 used at Luderitzbucht in 1920 (Fig.5). This made R35,400 (abt £2,000). They also had a used block of 4 from the 1923 1st setting (Fig.6) which made R44,800 (abt £2,600) and a Setting III set all in used blocks of 4 (Fig.7 for £1) which made R28,320 (abt £1,650).



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 9

Meanwhile a mint top right corner control block of 4 of the 1st setting £1 (Fig.8), mounted in the margins only, made over £15,000 at Spink! A nice block of the 1st setting 1d's with the overprint grossly misplaced (Fig.9) made R11,800 (c£695) at Welz in May. Before leaving for RSA I'll just mention the nice roto 2/6 slate & brown. A used block of 4 (Fig.10), described by Spink (July) as superfine but appearing to have several short perfs on the bottom right stamp, made £185. It does have a nice clear August 1940 postmark. There's another fine block of 4 on eBay at the moment cancelled September 1940 but it has a silly asking price of £480!



Fig. 8



Fig.10



Fig. 11

So, on to RSA. The market is quite strong for the unusual but remains very weak for the mundane. People seem to be buying up the former in an effort to jazz up their exhibits. Welz had several such items in their May sale. A gloriously misperfed block of 4 1969-72 5mm phosphor 7 1/2c (Fig.11) made R3,540 (just over £200). A 1972 10c control block of four with a classic corner fold-over misperf (Fig.12) made R3,776 (c£220).



Fig. 12

A pair of 1977 6c proteas missing their values (*Fig.13*) made R1,888 (c£110) and a corner pair of the 25c missing green (*Fig.14*) made R2714 (c£160).



Fig. 13

The 1987 Bible Society 40c (variously described as unissued, withdrawn or banned) continues to sell well. A cylinder block of 4 made R24,780 (just short of £1,500) but I rather preferred a commercially used copy from



Fig.14

Hex River on 10 Nov 1987 (*Fig.15*) offered by Spink in November which made £300.



Fig. 15

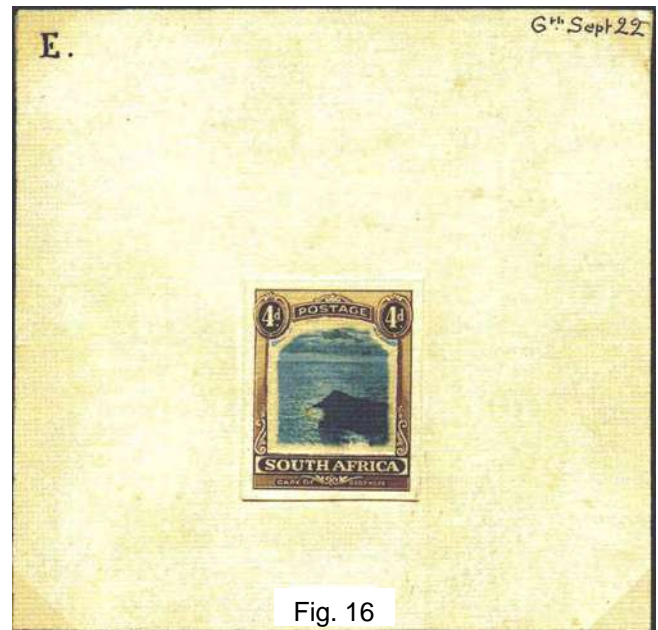


Fig. 16

Finally, on to the Murray Payne auction of 29 July which, as I said, has to collect the "best in show" prize for the year. I'll start with the De La Rue essays prepared for the 1922 competition to design the new (and first) pictorial issues. The competition was considered a failure and looking at the entries one can understand why. They are, however, interesting despite being variably toned. A 3d springbok made £950, 4d Cape Point (*Fig.16*) £1,000, 1/- Drakensburgs £600, 1/3 Rhodes Monument £650 and the £1 Union coat of arms £900. A similar Waterlow 2d Union Buildings for the same competition made £650. My favourite of these essays was the one prepared by the Department of Works in

1924 in pen and coloured ink and featuring a 2d Union Buildings and 3d Table Bay based on the Mullins drawings (*Fig.17*). Surprisingly it failed to sell at a start price of £2,700 whereas smaller black and white versions on linen or on yellowish paper did sell for £550 and £375 respectively.

Two Pretoria typographed ½d blocks also caught the eye. An unmounted block of 6 (*Fig.18*) with a corner fold which occurred after the printing of the frame and before the printing of the vignettes resulting in "missing centres" (completely on 2 stamps, and partially on 2 more) plus the picking up of partial offsets of the frame, made £3,500. A fascinating item.



Fig. 17 (reduced)



Fig. 18

The other was another block of 6 with the ultimate paper inclusion affecting the frame only (Fig. 19). This made £1,000. It's the same block that I reported from the Welz sale in April 2007 where it made R6,900 (about £500 at the time). So a good increase. A Pretoria 6d "colour trial" in grey-black & red-orange also appeared as a used pair on a philatelic Jacobson cover. It made £300 so probably wasn't worth the grief it caused to the man who smuggled it out of the Government Printing Works. He got caught and was sentenced to four months hard labour!



Fig. 19

Turning attention to the unhyphenated rotogravure there was some good material on offer. The Darmstadt trials seem to be going through a revival in popularity. Despite being misfiled under the hyphenated they made a near double estimate of £600. This included 10 pairs, 4 blocks of 4 and a block of 6. So that makes just over £30 a pair which is probably reasonable. Now, a

cautionary tale! We've seen the ½d block above doubling in realisation over 7 years. Well, things can also decrease by nearly the same even more quickly. As you know I've been following the 2d's with missing frames in these reports. Lot 593 in this sale was the strip of 5 from Issue 3 with the lower 2½ stamps missing their frames that I reported sold by Grosvenor in May 2011 for £13,244! This raised eyebrows at the time as prices had been £7-9,000 and it proved to be an expensive "rush of blood" as it now made £7,250. So a loss of £6,000 which will have been added to substantially as Murray Payne only charge vendors' commission and this can be anything up to 30%.



Fig. 20

As usual I was pretty impecunious at the time but I did take a fancy to the two side arrow blocks of 8 of the 3d black & red (wmk. inverted) with a paper join (Fig. 20 for the right arrow block). These were estimated at £600 each but I didn't feel able to bid above £700. They actually made £800 and £750. The 3d blue (Issue 2) with paper join is much scarcer but a block of 4 with part join only didn't catch the eye and was passed out at £500. The window flaw in a vfu pair of the black & red with upright watermark made a surprising £240. The 1/- was also well represented. Blocks of 8 (wmk. inverted) which were similar to the 3d's mentioned above with fine paper joins (without arrows but the right block having serial numbers) made £450 and £550. Issue 2 of the 1/- is a lot scarcer than Issue 1 and only exists with the watermark upright. The bottom arrow block of 4, mm, had the statement "this is the only such block known to the vendor". This led to me scurrying to my collection as I thought I had one. I did, and I'm sure I've seen a few others. In fact, the control portions of Issue 2 seem to be more common than other portions of the sheet. Anyway it made £375, a figure I suspect bolstered by the statement. The next door bottom left corner block of 4 with "dart" variety was heavily mounted and made £190 whilst the right corner block of 4 with the "collared gnu" and "T" varieties, in better condition, made £300.

Amongst the hyphenated a bottom left corner block of 4 of the 1½d with the "green centres" made £600. A used block of 4 with two stamps showing the mine dump shading completely missing made £275 and a block of 4 with dramatically overinked frames made a surprising £600 despite some Perf separation and a crease. Murray Payne had a further auction in November. Again it contained some good material but I couldn't see it live due to other commitments and they haven't posted the results despite having had over a month to do so.

So that just leaves me space to wish you all a very Happy New Year and successful philatelic hunting.

1st Definitive 10c Control Block with Hand Written Numbers?

From RSA Stamp Study Group newsletter No. 342



A 10c Control Block from the RSA 1st Definitive Series with “handwritten Control Block and Sheet numbers” was recently reported. We had not yet seen the original and could only speculate on the image supplied.

There were at least 5 printings with these control numbers between June 1968 and March 1970. First in Group V – the Redrawn issue of 1967 on Swiss paper with RSA TB Watermark, then in 1969, Group VI, on Swiss paper with a 5mm phosphor frame and again in 1970 (Group VII) on Harrison paper with a 3mm phosphor frame. As the same plates were used in all printings the cylinder numbers 254 (brown) 253A (green) appear in the same position and agree with the position of those on the image. It is debatable whether these numbers were retraced by hand or actually written in by hand.



Sheet number Type II

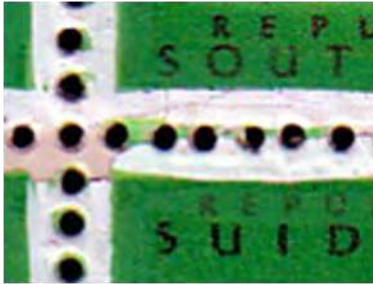


Sheet number Type I

The sheet numbers are 5 digits black, but not the “Type I”, the resemblance is closer to the “Type II” which places the printing either in Group VI – Swiss paper with 5mm Phosphor bands, or in Group VII – Harrison paper with 3mm phosphor bands.

Then we managed to get our hands on the actual item. It was also shown to a few people with expertise in the 1st Definitives and the general consensus, based on what was visible, was that it could be a printing ‘freak’ from the beginning of the printing run before the tension on the paper was established and while the plates were most probably still damp with thinners or xylol. This could have caused the white edge to turn bluish and the ‘smearing’ of the colours because the ink did not dry fast enough.

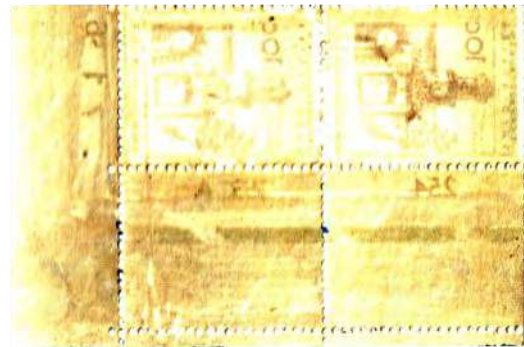
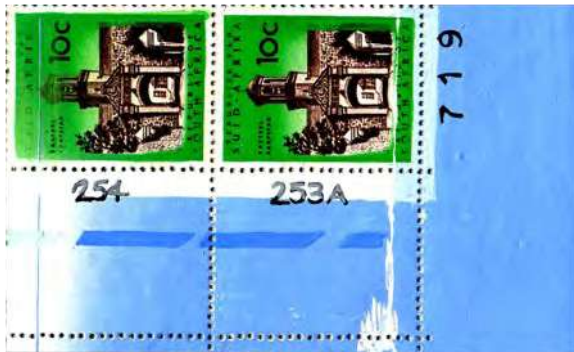
Next the control block was exposed to UV light, and that was when the ‘true’ colours became visible! It could be established that this control block came from Group VII, the Harrison paper with RSA TB watermark printing and was supposed to have 3mm phosphor bands around each stamp. But it was virtually impossible to see the phosphor bands.



A green, highly fluorescence had been used to ‘highlight’ the outer edges of each stamp, and the perforated border area around each stamp was turned white again with a white substance that reminds of liquid ‘Tippex’ which was used for typewriter corrections before the age of PC’s. The edges of a single stamp of the same printing were marked with a light green (bottom & right) and dark green (top & left) highlight marker pen and showed a similar effect under UV light.



The white border or selvedge area was ‘painted’ with a bluish substance that also reminded of ‘correction fluid’.



Front and rear as seen under bright white light

The extreme treatment this control block received as a whole makes it clear that this was not an attempt to forge or create a variety. This was done for a specific purpose. But for what purpose?

Before the age of personal computers, digital photography and software programmes like Photo Shop, food photography was quite a tricky and specialized business - and could still be the case. Food had to be touched up with colourants etc. so that the photographic end result would look attractive and delicious – in the process the food also became completely inedible!

Is it possible that this control block received some similar treatment to be used in a colour magazine or some publication? Alternative views and opinions will be appreciated to find an answer to this intriguing enigma.

This article is reproduced from the RSA Stamp Study group Newsletter No. 342 by kind permission - Ed.

An Unusual Stamp Printing By Mike Tonking

March 3rd 1971 saw the issue of the second distribution of the third Issue of the 10c definitive value which was printed on Harrison new glossy paper having the RSA TB watermark facing left and right. The same interior cylinder 254 and exterior cylinder 253 as originally used for the first 10c issue in June 1968 were used again. The 3mm phosphor bands were applied by cylinder G6. Printed on the Goebels 840 press with five figure black sheet numbers Type 11 14x13,75 by the Grover two row small hole appliance. Printing records show that by December 1971 127 200 sheets against Job number 56295,38 and 15 100 sheets against Job number 65518,70 had been delivered.

Now we come to the unusual printing. For some unknown reason on March 1971 a very small third distribution was made using the same printing cylinders however in this case the stamps were printed on Harrison old matt narrow paper having the same watermark. Since this paper was only 190mm wide it was possible to print a single 'A' pane of 100 stamps (5 rows x 20). It was reported that there was very little of the narrow paper in stock and thus very few sheets were printed. The numbers are unknown and were included in the numbers of sheets recorded above. In fact, most unusually, these sheets were not issued separately but just included with the second distribution sheets.

The use of the narrow paper gave rise to another problem concerning the perforation. In order for the Grover perforator to handle the narrow paper it was necessary to move the pegs for the perforation register punch holes, which had to be brought closer together and for the first time it was necessary to make punch holes in both the top and bottom of the sheet above and below stamp 13 and 14.

Identification of this very small printing may be made by reference to the punch holes and the sheet numbers which were reported to be between 03515 and 04303 on about 100 sheets seen.

It is indeed a complete mystery as to what prompted the Government Printer to go to all the trouble of using narrow paper to print such a small number of sheets instead of just printing more of the second distribution to complete the order.

Fig. 1 Group 3 Issue 3 - Second Distribution - 3 March 1971
Panes 'A' and 'B' -Harrison Glossy Paper



Fig. 2 Group 3 Issue 3 - Third Distribution - 10 March 1971
 Pane 'A' - Harrison Matt Narrow Paper.
 Punch Holes above and below stamps 13 and 14
 Sheet number in correct range



Fig. 3 Group 3 Issue 3 - Third Distribution -
 10 March 1971
 Pane 'A' with sheet number in correct
 range.



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The RSA First Definitive - Punch Holes

By Mike Tonking

The Republic of South Africa first definitive postage stamp issues commenced on 31st May 1961 and ended when the issues were withdrawn in November 1974. During the thirteen year life there were numerous changes in paper, watermarks and perforation. In all cases the stamps were printed by the Government Printing Works, Pretoria, by rotogravure from screened cylinders.

Four different printing presses were used commencing with the Goebels 830 which had four figure red sheet numbers, this was followed by the Goebels 840 which had five figure black sheet numbers. The third press was the Albertina 815 which was only used for the majority of the 21/2c value issues and finally the De La Rue 841 press which saw limited use in 1973.

Although both the Goebels 830 and 840 as well the De La Rue Giori 841 presses were all equipped with in-built perforators their operation slowed down the printing process and the majority of the stamps printed on these presses were in fact perforated externally on the Grover two row appliance. The Grover 840 press could print stamps at a rate of about 6000 sheets per hour however when the in-built perforator was the press speed dropped to about 600 sheets per hour. The Albertina 815 press was not equipped with an in-built perforator and the printed sheets had to be externally perforated.

For the successful operation of the Grover perforator it was essential that the sheets were correctly aligned on the perforator bed. To effect this two punch holes were made in the sheet margins during the printing process. Normally the holes were made in the top and bottom margins of the 'B' and 'A' panes or where the stamp format was horizontal in the left and right margins. Usually one of the holes was surrounded by concentric circles in the colour of the interior cylinder. Fig. 1



Fig. 1 Top and bottom punch holes. Bottom one with concentric circles

The Grover perforator was equipped with adjustable pegs which fitted through the sheet punch holes and correctly aligned the sheets for perforating operation. Between 5 and 7 sheets were perforated at a time.

In only two instances a 6mm square replaced the concentric circles, seen on the 1/2c Group 3 issue 1 and the 1c Group 4 issue 1. Fig. 2

The position of the punch holes was not constant although they were in the same positions for a number of distributions for any one value.

Examination of 105 punch hole positions covering all values showed 30% were between stamps 13/14, whilst 58% were fairly evenly divided between 6/7, 7/8 and 14/15.

The following eight values 2c, 5c, 10c x 2, R1, 4c x 2 and 9c were at times printed in a single pane format. In this case there were two punch holes either in the top and bottom or right and left sheet margins depending on the sheet format.

It is of interest to note that the punch hole method of sheet alignment was used until around 1978 when it was replaced by a feed tray system which was stated to be more suitable. Why it took 17 years to find this out is not known.



Fig. 2 6mm square replacing concentric circles

References:
 Stamps of the Republic of South Africa handbook/catalogue 1975.
 Stamp Study Circle Newsletters' - Various.

The First Definitive Punch Hole Positions

Value	SACC	Group	Issue	Dist.	Cyl.	Panes	Top	Bottom	Left	Right	Position
1/2c	197a	1	2	1	104/45	4	?				?
	236	2	1	1	10/11	2	B	A			13/14
	236a	2	2	1	G7/16	2	B	A			13/14
	261	2	3	2	213/211	2	?				?
	261a	3	1	1	213/211	2	C	D			?
	281	3	1		264/266	4	B	A			3 6mm square
	287	3	2	1	246/266+G4	4	C	D			3
	287a	3	2	2	264/266+G4	4	C	D			3
	287d	3	3	1	264/266+G45	4	C	D			3
287e	3	3	2	264/266+G45	4	C	D			3	
1c	237c	3	4	1	260/261	4			A	B	7/8
	262a	3	4	2	260/261	4			A	B	7/8
	282	4	1	1	273/274+G45	4			C	D	8 6MM SQUARE
	288	4	2	1	273/274+G45	4			A	B	6/7
	288a	4	3	1	414/415+G4	4			A	B	6/7
	288b	4	4	1	414/415+G45	4			A	B	6/7
	288c	4	4	2	414/415+G45	4			A	B	6/7
	315	4	4	3	414/415+G45	4			A	B	6/7
	326	4	5	1	572/573	4			A	A	6/7
	326	4	5	2	572/573	4			A	A	6/7
1 1/2c	263b	2	3	1	286/87	4	A	B			3/4
	289	2	4	1	286/87	4	A	B			3/4
	289a	2	4	2	286/87+G4	4	A	B			3/4
	289b	2	5	1	286/87+G49	4	A	B			3/4
2c	238	2	1	1	236/237	2			B	A	7/8
	264	2	1	2	236/237	2			B	A	7/8
	290	2	1	3	236/37+G45	2			B	A	7/8
	290b	2	1	4	236/237+G49	2			B	A	7/8
	290c	2	2	1	412/413+G49	2			B	A	6/7
	290b	2	2	2	412/413+G6	2			B	A	6/7
	290c	2	2	3	412/413+G6	1	A	Pane only	A	A	6/7
	290b	2	2	4	412/413+G6	2			B	A	6/7
	316	2	2	5	412/13 no phos	2			B	A	6/7
	316a	2	3	1	447/448	2			B	A	6/7
	327	3	1	1	483/484	2		Punch holes B pane only	B	B	6/7
2 1/2c	201	1	1	1	Y4/Y1	4	BD	AC			13/14
	212a	2	2	1	3/5	4	AC	BD			13/14
	212b	3	1	1	12/11	4	AC	BD			13/14
	229	3	1	2	12/11	4	AC	BD			13/14
	239	4	1	1	17/23	4	AC	BD			13/14
	265	4	1	2	17/23	4	AC	BD			13/14
	291	4	2	1	17/8 Y32	4	AC	BD			14/15
	291b	4	3	1	17/8 Y32	4	AC	BD			14/15
	291a	4	3	2	17/8 Y32	4	AC	BD			14/15
	291c	4	4	1	12/8 Y32	4	AC	BD			14/15
	291d	4	4	2	12/8 Y32	4	AC	BD			14/15
	291e	4	5	1	418/419+G6	2	B	A			14/15
	291f	4	5	2	418/419+G6	2	B	A			14/15
	3c	240	3	1	1	G8/G15	2			B	A
266		3	2	1	238/239	2			B	A	7/8
292		3	2	2	238/239	2			B	A	7/8
292		3	3	1-4	238/239	2			B	A	7/8
292a		3	3	1-4	238/239	2			B	A	7/8
292b		3	3	1-4	238/239	2			B	A	7/8
317		3	3	1-4	238/239	2			B	A	7/8
328		4	1	1	516/517	2			?	?	Some sheets Grover perforated
328a		5	1	1	574/575	2			?	?	

First Definitive Punch Holes - Page 2

Value	SACC	Group	Issue	Dist.	Cyl.	Panes	Top	Bottom	Left	Right	Position
4c	293	1	1	1	420/418	2	B	A			14/15
	293	1	1	2	420/418	2	B	A			14/15
	322	2	1	1	466/463	2			B	A	6/7
	322a	2	2	1	482/479	2			B	A	6/7
	329	3	1	1	546/543	2			B	A	6/7
	329a	4	1	1	576/579	1		Single pane			?
	329b	4	1	2	576/579	1		Single pane			?
	5c	267a	2	2	1	282/283	2	B	A		
294		2	3	1	282/283+G51	2	B	A			13/14
294a		2	3	2	282/283+G48	2	B	A			13/14
319		2	3	3	282/283+G48	2	B	A			13/14
294c		2	4	1	282/283+G50	1		Single pane			14/15
330		3	1	1	551/552	2	B	B			14/15
330b		3	1	2	551/552	2	B	B			14/15
6c	295	1	1	1	421/284+G6	2	B	A			13/14
	331	2	1	1	624/623	2	B	B			4/5
7 ¹ / ₂ c	268a	2	2	1	285/284	2	B	A			13/14
	296	2	3	1	285/284+G36	2	B	A			13/14
	296a	2	4	1	285/284+G9	2	B	A			13/14
	296b	2	4	2	285/284+G9	2	B	A			13/14
9c	297	1	1	1	409/422	2	B	A			14/15
	320	1	1	2	409/422	2	B	A			14/15
	332	2	1	1	518/519	2	B	B			4/5
	332	2	2	1	595/597	1		Single pane			14/15
10c	216b	2	1	1	51/121	2	B	A			13/14
	232	2	1	2	51/121	2	B	A			13/14
	232a	2	1	3	51/121	2	B	A			13/14
	269	3	1	1	254/253	2	B	A			13/14
	298	3	1	2	254/253	2	B	A			13/14
	298	3	2	1	254/253+G36	2	B	A			13/14
	298a	3	3	1	254/253+G49	2	B	A			13/14
	298b	3	3	2	254/253+G6	2	B	A			13/14
	298b	3	3	3	254/253+G6	1		Single A pane			13/14
	298b	3	4	1	471/470+G50	1		pane			14/15
	333	4	1	1	512/511	2	B	B			4/5
12 ¹ / ₂ c	241	2	1	1	3/1/6	2	B	A			7/8 green
	241a	3	1	1	13/12/10	2	B	A			7/8 green
	241b	3	2	1	224/223/222	2	B	A			7/8 rosine
	299	3	3	1	405/410+G9	2	B	A			14/15
15c	242	1	1	1	206/208	2	B	A			13/14
	270	1	2	1	281/280/279	2	B	A			13/14
	300	1	3	1	296/298+G48	2	B	A			13/14
	323	1	3	2	296/298+G6	2	B	A			13/14
	323	2	1	1	467/461	2			B	A	6/7
	334	3	1	1	641/643	2			B	A	6/7
20c	217	2	1	1	27/6/60	2	B	A			7/8
	233	2	1	2	27/6/60	2	B	A			7/8
	233	2	1	3	27/6/60	2	B	A			7/8
	271	3	1	1	244/243/242	2	B	A			13/14
	301	3	2	1	407/408/406+G49	2	B	A			14/15
	301a	3	2	2	407/408/406+G6	2	B	A			14/15
	321	3	2	3	407/408/406+G6	2	B	A			14/15
	301a	3	3	1	474/473/472+G50	2	B	A			14/15 no concentric circles
	*	335a	4	1	1	515/514/513	2	B	B		

First Definitive Punch Holes - Page 3

Value	SACC	Group	Issue	Dist.	Cyl.	Panes	Top	Bottom	Left	Right	Position
50c	272a	2	2	1	424/423	2			B	A	6/7
	272c	2	3	1	437/436	2			B	A	6/7
	336	3	1	1	522/521	2			B	A	6/7
R1	235	1	1	3	12/117/	1		Single pane			?
	243	2	1	1	G11.4/6	2			B	A	13/14
	273	2	2	1	258/259/257	2			B	A	7/8
	273a	2	2	2	258/259/257	2			B	A	7/8
	273a	2	3	1	439/440438	2			B	A	6/7

First Definitive punch hole
By Roy Ross

This sheet of stamps, which is on the front cover, is not listed in the SACC catalogue. It is however reported in the SA Republic handbook published many years ago. It is the third distribution, issue 2, April 1971 and has been rarely seen. The issue was only printed in an 'A' pane and is impossible to identify from the previous issue without the two punch holes on either side of the sheet and the remnants of an extra arrow in the left hand margin. 2c cylinder 413 412 April 1971 on Harrison matt paper with 3mm border.

This pane is another example of the use of the Grover external perforator, which used two pins to hold the sheet in place whilst the sheet was being perforated. Two punch holes in the left and right margins. One in the printed concentric hole.



2d Bantam Query from Kalman V. Illyefalvi

Kalman writes: I recently purchased a bottom right block of 12 of the 2d Bantam with the accounting numeral in the margin Black. He believes it should be in Red. Does any member have any information on this? He would also like to know more about the item in Fig.2 Misplaced perforations.

Answers to the Editor please and I will publish the information: *Ed*



Black sheet No.



Misplaced perfs

Fig.2

O

Website Report By Otto Pectoom

Much time and effort went into the Society Website from August through to November. I undertook a total reconstruction of the basic frame layout of the site. This was reloaded on 21 October and other improvements will be implemented during this coming year.

The section *Collect Southern Africa* has had much added to it and will continue to grow.

Allotted Bandwidth

Right at the end of October our allotted monthly bandwidth was exceeded and during November it promised to do the same. The foregoing probably does not mean a great deal to the reader, thus in simple terms, our basic website was provided with a 1GB monthly bandwidth. If it is exceeded our host suspends the website from the internet until the 1st of the following month or it may be restored by paying for an increased allowance.

The society email account uses a percentage of band width and each time I add or change data it uses part of the allowance. Both the foregoing usages are minimal as the main source of use comes from people looking at the actual website. Again the foregoing will not prove critical as it is merely a philatelic site and our URL is not **Amazon!** The demon that devours the monthly allowance is search engines like Google as they systematically crawl through each page, all text and every single image is analyzed.

How it works, I cannot say, but it makes sense, how else can a search engine determine the worth of- or rank a site unless it systematically dissects it.

The necessary measures have been set in place and our website will not exceed bandwidth limits again. During December I implemented changes and our website now enjoys unlimited hosting and simply means we will not run out of space.

Pages From My Southern Africa Collection

Robert Johnson put forward this suggestion and he wrote:

When you introduce the idea say it is just that - all that is involved is scanning the pages and sending them just as you would look at them at a display. No extra writing up needed. Everyone should be able to do 8 x pages at jpeg 300dpi.

All that is needed is that the pages should be one general subject. In my case just CGH revenues on original documents picked at random to give an idea of the range.

I have already implemented the above suggestion with a slight modification. Robert suggested eight pages, whereas I suggest anything from one to ten pages.

Whilst the idea of a simple scan of a page, including the text, ought to mean little work. The downside is that the text is not searchable by Google. The object is to ensure that everything on our website is searchable. My aim and intentions are that people who have not heard of our Society will find our website.

That in turn may encourage them to join the Society.

The vast majority of Philatelic Websites are dormant, out of date or lack the necessary content to raise their searchable profile with Google. Please refer to my article elsewhere in this journal - **The Value of Naming Pages, Folders and Images on Websites.**

What's in a Name

By Otto Peetoom

UGIE is in Griqualand East, 18 kms Southwest of Maclear at the foot of the Drakensberg.

Known for the M.T.R. Smit Children's Haven for underprivileged, abandoned and abused children. M.T.R. are the initials of Mattheus Theodorus Rehuel Smit, I have not been able to establish his status, but he wrote several books circa 1930's.

Ugie was founded in late February 1863 by a Scotsman William Murray (born 15 July 1837) William arrived on a steamer at Port Elizabeth on 24 August 1862 with his wife Ann and baby daughter.

The Reverend William Murray, member of the Free Church of Scotland, was sent by the London Missionary Society to the then Cape Colony in South Africa to do missionary work amongst the Griquas of Adam Kok III who settled during 1862 in the present Kokstad area. He was also qualified as a medical doctor.

The family travelled to Grahamstown by Coach and from there proceeded by ox wagon through Fort Beaufort to Hackney in the district of Queenstown and were caught in a snowstorm at Katberg and shortly after reaching Hackney, his baby daughter died on 9 September 1862 and his wife the following day.

Towards the end of February 1863 a deputation of the Griquas left I Nxu Drift by ox wagon to fetch Murray. The wagon leader was April de Wet, the driver of the oxen was Jacob Franks and he was assisted by Gert du Plooy and Tom Croutz. They returned to I Nxu Drift at the evening of 8th March. As Murray got off the wagon, he looked around him and went on his knees next to a rock and prayed. Oh, God is this my destiny...If so...Abide with me... William stood up and to remind him of the area he grew up in the New Deer province in Aberdeenshire in Scotland, he decided to call the place Ugie.

His father was a shoemaker and small farmer on the banks of the Ugie River near New Pitslego.

The Ugie River originates in the mountains near New Byth, flows through the Bucnan Hills and then into the North Sea at Peterhead near the city of Fraserburgh. The railway line between Aberdeen and Fraserburgh crosses the Ugie River between Maud and Strichen stations. The Scots pronounce Ugie as Oogie and is derived from the word Oorie of the Vikings in Iceland and means to get cold, literally to shiver of the cold.

The M.T.R. Smit Children's Haven

The Children's Haven originated during the Great Flu of 1918, when a substantial number of parents died and children were orphaned. This led to the establishment of an orphanage at Ugie in the North-Eastern Cape, as a community based and community driven, non-subsidized welfare organization.

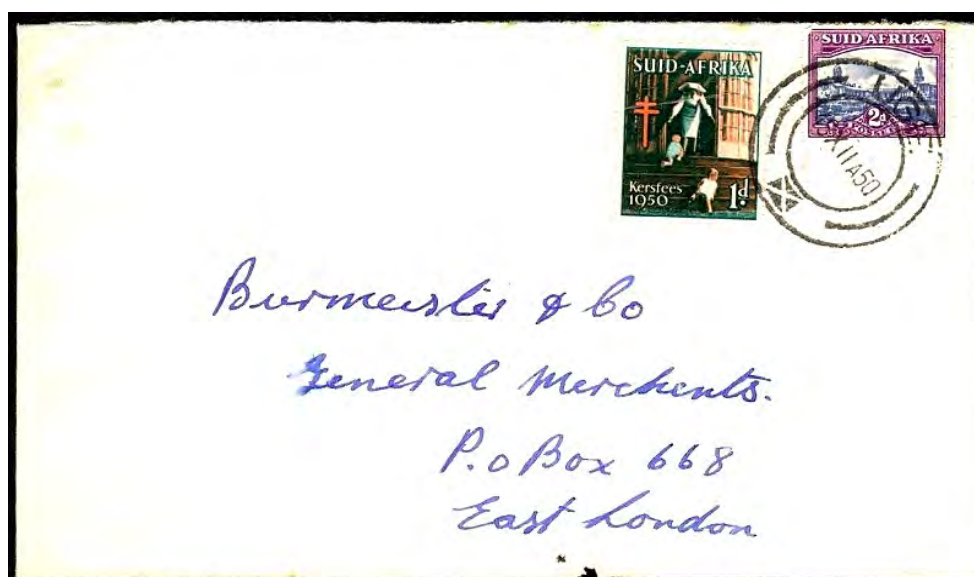
The Children's Haven was officially established in 1922, when the Government admitted the first children to the orphanage.

M.T.R. Smit Children's Haven, named after its founder, relocated to Port Elizabeth in 1987, in an effort to improve its capacity to render services to the community. This materialized after lengthy discussion between the Government, community leaders, church denominations, and the Department of Education. The Children's Haven is a multi-racial institution, currently provides accommodation for 100 statutory children between the ages of 3-18 years. The Haven also aims at providing accommodation for the mentally disabled children who have been removed from parental care in terms of the Child Care Act.

Postscript

Much of the Burmeister correspondence originated from small towns and Postal Agencies in South Africa and whenever I come across a postmark of a place I have not encountered before, I always look it up and locate it on a map.

We are fortunate nowadays to simply Google anything and everything and the above information was gleaned in such a manner.



The Value of Naming Pages, Folders and Images on Websites

By Otto Peetoom

Introduction - I am not an IT person or a website expert, merely a 68 year old stamp dealer who took a series of lessons earlier this year on what to do and what not to do on websites. By nature and Profession I am a practical person and I have come to realize that IT people can soon lose most of us with their technical jargon.

Thus the trick is to turn the tables and bring them down to our level. This made me a lot more comfortable and over months I have thought out several practical avenues on mastering my own websites that is logical, practical and above all do-able.

Html text (this is the code behind each page) at first looked daunting, but with initial guidance, it started to make sense and I embarked on a practical course of self education. Starting with a blank page and looked at the code. Add something and look again, slowly build a page and keep looking at the code.

I have now more or less reached the stage, that if there is anything wrong on a page I am able to locate and fix any problem.

Google is Magic - I don't pretend to understand the technology that put it there, yet there ought to be a sequence in the Titles used that allows a clear path for a Google search. The most neglected field is the correct names attributed to images.

Even, so called Professional Web designers, who may charge thousands of pounds for their services do not adhere to such a simple requirement. Anyone can ascertain the title of an image on a website. Simply right click on an image and hit Properties and the title and location of the image is revealed.

A search in Google can be either by **WEB** or by **IMAGES**. Thus if anyone searches my name by images, you will find my wife Gill and I in No 1 spot and numerous philatelic images relating to my websites are also present.

A friend of mine operates a business that produces plastic tableware and as may be anticipated the firm has a website. One category targets schools and on that page there is a Featured Product called an *American Styled Tumbler* which is illustrated. A right click onto it tells me its title is *library-thumbnaill.asp?loc=2&i=86-6.jpg&x=178&y=178*

Needless to say Google Images are not going to find the tumbler or feature this product. But if the image was named *American_Styled_Tumbler* and placed in a folder called *Tableware_for_Schools*, it would certainly stand a much better chance of being found on the internet.

The South Africa Collectors' Society website is still in its infancy as it has been up for less than a year, but images searches already indicate that it is going in the right direction. For instance put into Google **Collect Southern Africa Ascension** or any of the other subjects covered in that section of the site and it will appear high up on page one, go to images and numerous of the sites images appear at the top of the page.

Appreciating the Value of Named Images



An image for the website was received as **img 056** and I renamed it.

013_FPO_15_Wynberg_Hospital_SC

There are no gaps between words as each space in html is denoted by %20 and creates a URL a mile long.

For example with a space between the words instead of underscore it would read

013%20FPO%2015%20Wynberg%20Hospital%20SC.jpg

Thus the path of the image is

http://www.southafricacollector.com/11_Collect_Southern_Africa/28_South_West_Africa/1914_1922_Occupation/013_FPO_15_Wynberg_Hospital_SC.jpg

A Searchable Google Route is

The SACS website URL

Folder 11 = 11_Collect_Southern_Africa

Folder 28 = 28_South_West_Africa

Within is a Folder 1914_1922_Occupation

The image = 013_FPO_15_Wynberg_Hospital_SC.jpg

Whenever possible images in folders can be named without a reference No (13) provided there is an option to keep them in order such as by date, SG No, Lot No or alphabetical sequence.

As an image

FPO 15 Wynberg Hospital SC (single circle) becomes a searchable entity. The image only went up in mid December, so it will require time for Google to find it.

Many individuals would simply retain *img056* and put it into a folder called *Images* or *Library* in which case the foregoing tells Google absolutely nothing.

I am confident that its logical route to the SWA Occupation will turn it into a searchable image. I look forward to seeing it on Occupation images with a direct route to the Society website.

Should you Google **Collect Southern Africa South West Africa the Occupation Period 1914 - 22** by Web, it already appears on page one.

Interesting South West Africa Covers

By Mike Tonking

In 1929 a certain A.J. Broughton of Pretoria received two registered covers, both in the same handwriting sent from SWA post offices of Otue and Otjiwarumendu, two of the more unusual post offices in South West Africa. One wonders if he was a postal history collector as it seems likely that the covers were sent for philatelic purposes. Another Marienel cover cancelled 24.6.1929 Fig. 1 also to A.J. Broughton would suggest his philatelic interest. The Otue cover is dated 15.4.1929 and only a day later the Otjiwarumendu cover was posted. Since the post offices were more than 300km apart it seems unlikely that he posted them himself. Some journey in 1929. It is more likely that in both cases that he posted the covers in an envelope asking the postmaster to post them back to him.

In both cases the correct 4d. Registration fee was charged and the normal rate of 1d/oz was correctly applied to the Otue cover however the Otjiwarumendu cover had a 3d. Stamp for the foreign rate. Did the postal official make a mistake?

Of interest are the registration marks, firstly the Otue cover has a rubber stamp ROTUE and No. 193 added in manuscript, whilst the Otjiwarumendu reads "REGISTERED OTJIWARAMENDU NO 132" in blue manuscript.



Fig. 1 Registered cover to A.J. Broughton cancelled 24.6.1929 MARIENAL (Putzel B5)

The Otue cover Fig. 2 is cancelled with an altered German canceller dated 15.4.1929 (Putzel B2) and backstamped KALKFELD with another converted German canceller dated 16.4.1929 (Putzel B20) as well as WINDHOEK R.L.S (registered letter service) dated 18.4.1929 with altered German canceller (Putzel B14oc). Otue is a very small farm store situated on the Otue railway sidings.

The Otjiwarumendu cover Fig 3 is cancelled 16.4.1929 (Putzel B1oc) and backstamped WINDHOEK R.L.S 17.4.1929 with an altered German canceller (Putzel B14oc). It is reported that this post office was opened in 1917 then closed and was reopened 15.4.1929 closing on 30.4.1931.

Covers from this post office are rare and I have only seen two other covers Fig. 4 and 5 posted to W.J. Giovavetti who was a prominent member of the Pretoria Philatelic Society and died in 1950. Both covers are cancelled OTJIWARUMENDU 2.5.1930 and unusually S.W.A does not appear on the canceller. The first cover Fig. 3 was registered with two SWA 4d perforated triangular stamps and the second with the same date was unregistered with four 1d. SWA overprinted stamps. It seems likely that these were philatellically prepared and sent to the postmaster to post back to Pretoria to secure the postmark.



Fig. 2 Registered cover to A.J. Broughton cancelled OTUE 15.4.29 with altered German canceller (Putzel B2) and backstamped KALKFELD 16.4.29 (Putzel B20) and R.L.S WINDHOEK 18.4.29 (Putzel B14oc)

All the above shows that philately was alive and well some eighty years ago.

Cont'



Fig. 2 Registered cover to A.J. Broughton cancelled OTUE 15.4.29 with altered German canceller (Putzel B2) and backstamped KALKFELD 16.4.29 (Putzel B20) and R.L.S WINDHOEK 18.4.29 (Putzel B14oc)



Fig. 3 Registered cover to A.J. Broughton cancelled OTJIWARUMENDU 16.4.29 with altered German canceller (Putzel B10c) and backstamped R.L.S WINDHOEK 17.4.29 (Putzel B14oc)

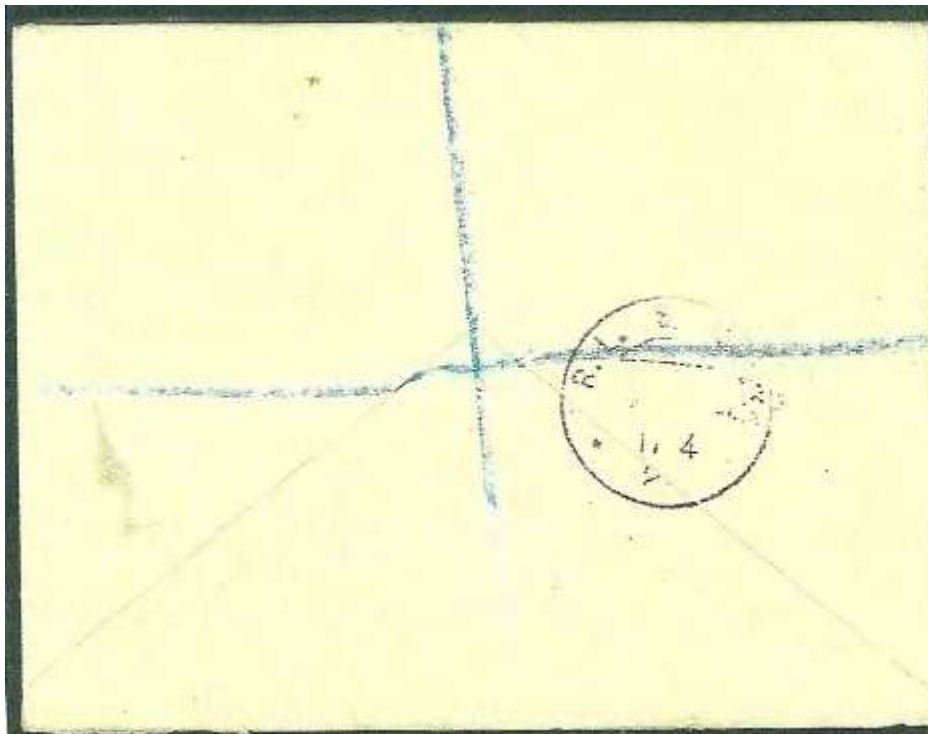


Fig. 3 Registered cover to A.J. Broughton cancelled OTJIWARUMENDU 16.4.29 with altered German canceller (Putzel B10c) and backstamped R.L.S WINDHOEK 17.4.29 (Putzel B14oc)



Fig. 4 Registered cover to W.J. Giovavanetti cancelled 2.5.30 without S.W.A on canceller not listed by Putzel and no registration cachet just number 154.



Fig. 5 Ordinary cover to W.J. Giovavanetti cancelled 2.5.30 also without S.W.A on canceller

South West Africa
By Tony Howgrave-Graham

How nice to see some SWA in the *Springbok* again with John Ahmad's article. I really do encourage members to look at this material as it arguably provides some of the most interesting postal history ever in the world, let alone Southern Africa!

One minor point regarding his statement that the postage due marking on his OAS cover from Bloemhof was applied in error. This was, in fact, very deliberate. On 4 Sep 1914 the PMG reported to the Secretary of Defence that the Controller of Posts at Cape Town had received a large amount of unfranked mail to overseas destinations from troops in the field. The same letter drew attention to the IPU directive that such mail should be stamped (1d in the case of the UK). Another letter from the same source to commanders in the field reiterated that such mail should be franked, though by way of concession it agreed it would forward unfranked mail to its destination but that tax marks would be applied. This was followed up on 20 October by yet another letter stating that all incoming unstamped mail to troops in the field would also be charged.



Fig. 1

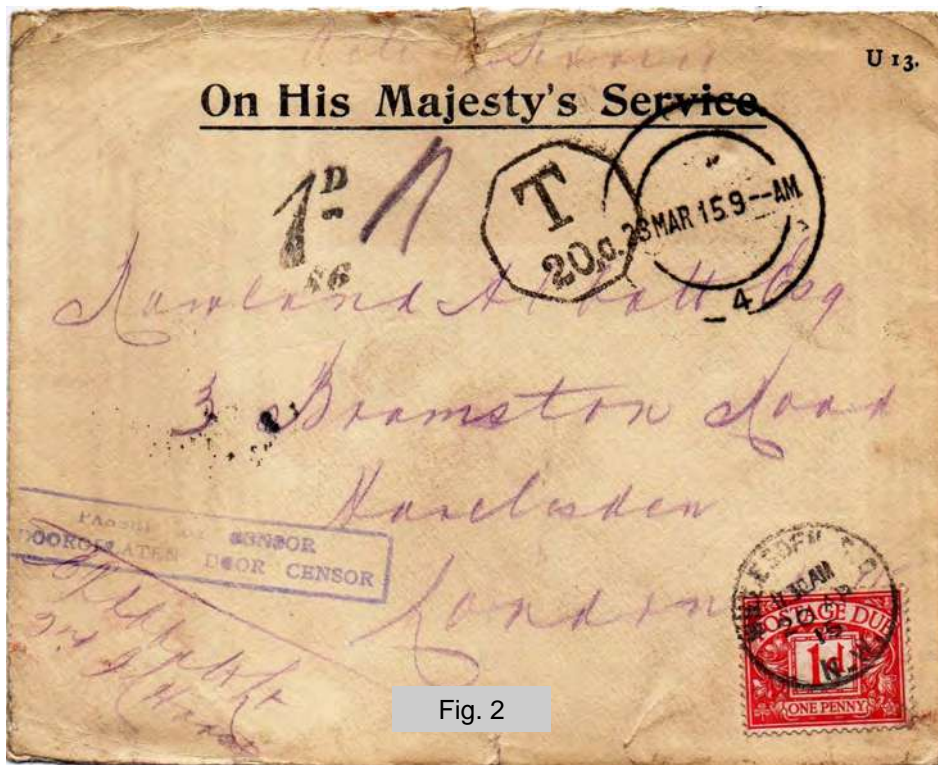


Fig. 2

This didn't go down at all well with the commanders, or the troops, but that didn't stop Maj Sturman (commanding the SA Field & Telegraph Corps & later PMG) telegraphing the current PMG on 7 November complaining that troops were still failing to prepay overseas mail. On the same day Cndt A Erasmus filed a formal complaint against the Army Postal Services for charging the "due" at double rate.

The arguments continued but the post office stood its ground and produced a directive on 23 November stating that free mail was only acceptable to family and friends in the Union, Rhodesia or the Protectorates. It had to be endorsed "On Active Service" and must be posted at an Army Post Office. This only produced more complaints and nitpicking so that the PO had to accept (on 8 Dec) that the Dutch "Op Aktieve Dienst" would be equally acceptable!



Fig. 3

Despite the post office insistence troops never did accept that they should be paying anything whilst on active service and this continued throughout 1915. Mail continued to pick up its 20c tax mark. It's actually quite rare for this to have been charged in the UK. I show an item from Luderitz on 12 Nov 1914 to Fife (Fig 1) where the PO decided to charge it at ½d and another (Fig.2) also from Luderitz but on 23 Mar 1915, to London, where they've opted to charge 1d despite it being on an OHMS envelope. John's example is the first I've seen where they've opted to charge a double rate 2d! The vast majority have

the tax mark obliterated on entry to the UK as with (Fig.3) which includes the very scarce Central Force AB-PO4B on 7 Jan 1915.



Fig. 4

Some mail exists prepaid 1d, almost invariably from Officers who felt they had to comply with orders! Lt Vallency with the 5th Reg^t SAMR was with the Eastern Force and provides a good example. Mail from the Eastern Force is scarce but he always attached a 1d adhesive as on the rare cover dated 15 Apr 1915 cancelled FPO19 at Boesmansputs (Fig.4).

Cont'

John's postcard from Sister Tanner on the *Ebani* is also interesting. It is stated that the *Ebani* was present throughout the whole campaign but I can't actually confirm that it served the Central Force at Luderitzbucht before December 1914. The number of casualties would have been very small before the campaign started properly and it may well be that John's card represents its first appearance at Cape Town. It was staffed by the SA Medical Corps which fits with the addressee. It had a cachet for mail posted on board (Fig.5) which was in green and read "HOSPITAL SHIP "EBANI" / S.A. Expeditionary Force". This is dated 18 Dec 1914. It is certainly reported as being off Walvis Bay on Christmas Day supporting the Northern Force landings at Walvis Bay. It is a very difficult cachet to find. Harold Thompson has an example dated 15 Feb 1915. This is cancelled ABPO1 rather than the usual Cape Town. **Does anyone else have examples?** It would be interesting to know the dates.



Fig. 5

It's next claim to fame was the day after the surrender when the ship brought Botha back from Swakopmund to Cape Town for his rapturous reception, leaving Lukin behind to iron out the details.

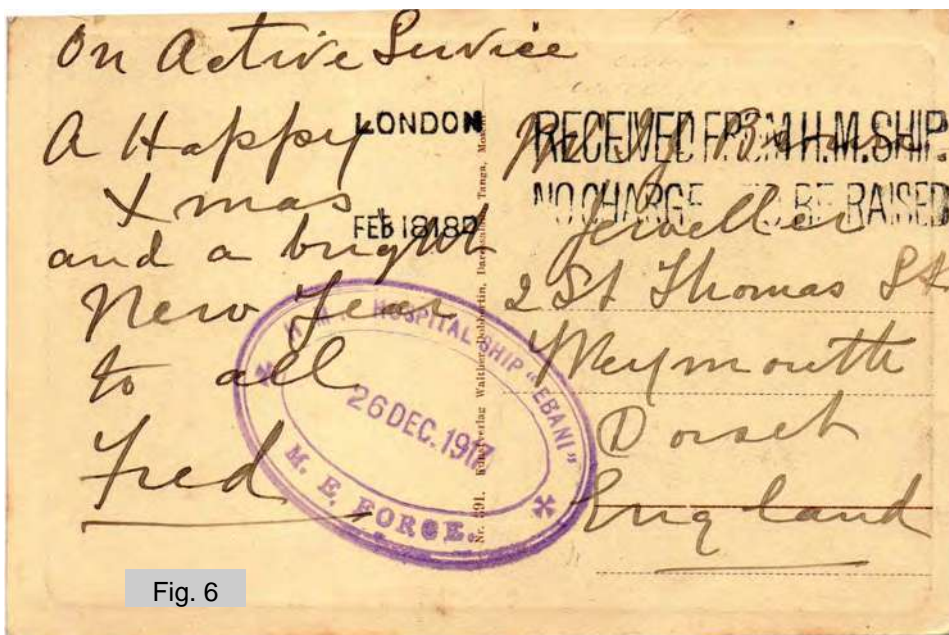


Fig. 6

Dr Yukaden showed an interesting postcard of 3 Dec 1915 which featured in a SWA Stamp Study Group newsletter. It shows a similar double ringed oval "HOSPITAL SHIP "EBANI" / M.E.F." cachet on a postcard probably originating from London. This confirms that the ship went back to the UK after the SWA campaign for refurbishment before serving as a hospital ship again in the Mediterranean. It then went on to support the

East African Campaign as shown by (Fig.6) on a postcard of Schulstrasse, Tanga where the cachet has slightly changed to read "H.M. HOSPITAL SHIP "EBANI" / 26 DEC 1917 / M.E.FORCE".

Finally another ship with South African connections that became a hospital ship is the Union Castle Line *Carisbrook Castle* (Fig.7) with a note on the back saying "*This is the Hospital Ship that brought me home ... Allan*". This made 64 round trips from Southampton to Cape Town with the mail and an Ocean Post Office on board between 1898 and 1910. It then transferred to the East African route. It was converted to a hospital ship in 1914 and served Northern France. It was finally broken up in 1922.



Fig. 7

REGISTERED SOUTH WEST AFRICAN POSTAL HISTORY & POSTAL STATIONERY WANTED

I am a keen collector of registered postal stationery, envelopes, postcards and airletters of SA over-printed with South West Africa in different fonts, mainly from the 1920's onwards up to around 1950. I collect mint or used and 'Specimens'

I also collect Banknotes of South West Africa (Standard Bank, Barclays Bank and Volkskas Bank) from 1920 to 1960

THEMATICS FOR SALE : I have numerous thematic sets with Birds, Flowers, Trees , Fish, Plants and Solar themes in unmounted mint condition.

SALE : COMPLETE COLLECTION OF POSTMARKS OF NATAL

Dated about 1975. Postcards cancelled from every Post Office in Natal at the time.

Numerous other items of South Africa—If there is anything that you are keen on, do enquire as I may have some for sale e.g. Complete sheet of the 1/2d grey on green Springbok, Issue 17 of May 1948 showing all the listed varieties detailed in stamps of South Africa Handbook.

Please Email: Alan Ginsberg at grebsnig@hotmail.com with any offers or enquiries about the items mentioned above or Tel: 079507807891 during normal working hours.

The 1948 1/- Gnu with Frame Omitted SG 62a

By Otto Peetoom

My initial article on this subject was published in the June 2012 edition of *The South African Philatelist*. Subsequent information has come to light that allows me to update and rewrite the original version.

The January 1948 reprint of the hyphenated 1/- Gnu was the last unscreened rotogravure printing using interior cylinder 14 and exterior cylinder 6027, listed in the 1986 Union Handbook as Group III - Issue 4. This printing is easily identified as each stamp has a characteristic mark in front of the foremost Gnu's head.

The missing frame variety

In the June 1949 edition of *The South African Philatelist* on page 91 under **Union Notes: Current 1s "Frameless" Variety**

Copies of the current 1s stamp entirely without frames have recently been seen in Johannesburg. The variety appeared in four adjoining rows and it is the opinion that the absence of the frames was due to the presence of a loose piece of paper lying in the roll and in the course of the printing process it became dislodged at a point somewhere between the frame cylinder and the vignette cylinder.

I am sceptical of the above explanation and believe it is caused when the print mechanism is stopped while there is a sheet on the apparatus, when restarted it takes a second or so before ink is again transferred to the sheet in question.

The 1960 edition of the Union Handbook (Golden Jubilee) for the first time listed a missing frame variety as V7 priced at £50 and both the 1979 and 1986 editions valued it at R400.

Some of the British Catalogues included the variety, the Liverpool based *Commonwealth Stamp Company* 1960-61 KGV1 edition listed and priced at £18 which was a far cry from the *Bridger & Kay* 1966-67 KGV1 catalogue who also included it, but valued it at £180!

Stanley Gibbons was very slow to include this missing colour in their catalogues, it did not make it into their *Two Reigns* editions. Was not in the 1980 Part I, but featured in 1983 priced at £400, thus its first inclusion was either 1981 or 1982.

The South African Colour Catalogue lists it as a pair SACC 61a and in the 2013 edition valued it at R300,000 unmounted and R200,000 mint.



A New 2013 Find

Until recently none of the known 1/- frame omitted varieties had been seen as a single, thus they were either in pairs or larger multiples

That changed towards the end of 2013 when a right marginal single came to light in a Sandafayre auction. This item has a B&K handstamp on the back of the margin and suggests that its immediate neighbour on the left is almost certainly another single with a total omission. My progressive reconstruction of the original portion of the sheet confirms that this single is from Row 15, stamp 6.

It seems that the original sheet was sold, circa April 1948, over the counter at the Rissik Street post office in Johannesburg. Partial omissions of the frame affect six possible pairs on rows 12, 13 & 16 and total omissions of the frame colour occur on rows 13, 14 & 15 with sixteen possible singles.

In the 1979 Union Handbook, facing page 164, there is an illustration of the block of fourteen, attributed to M.J. Rall's collection and another pair ex J.B. Bloom is featured on the following page.

Spink 24 October 2013 - The J.B. Bloom Collection



Jacob Bloom passed away in 1992 and his Union collection remained in the hands of his family for another two decades before coming to auction at Spink. In Lot 2156 his pair of SG 62a is described as having...*large part original gum; folded through the vertical perforations*. Estimated £6000 - 8000

Having looked at its perforations I will hazard a guess that it is the middle pair ex row 14 or 15.

The Rall multiple

After the original sheet was split up, the largest remaining multiple was a left marginal block of fourteen (2 x 7) being the first two stamps on rows 11 to 17. It was part of Thys Rall's collection and included in a 1 July 1992 Stephan Welz auction and sold as lot 317 for R14,300 (£3010).

Following the Sale the Rall's multiple was split into four units: A marginal block of four with the Rissik Street cancel With the lower pair having a wedged shape omission Ex Rows 11 & 12 - Illustrated below

Offered by Grosvenor on 13 September 2000 as lot 398 and incorrectly described as a C.T.O. block of SG 120 which is the 1950 1/- screened rotogravure printing.

I bought this item and sold it in September 2006; it reappeared in the 12 March 2013 Murray Payne auction as lot 549 and sold for £1350.



A by favour 1 APR 48 RISSIK STREET datestamp was applied to a normal stamp at the top right corner of the piece and I assume the owner wished to have this as a form of provenance.

The 1948 1/- Gnu with Frame Omitted SG 62a

The Rall's multiple continued

The cancellation was added after the sheet had been split as the adjacent block (the Lamont Smith unit) does not feature any part of the postmark in question.

Two marginal pairs with total omissions Ex Rows 13 & 14



The pair from row thirteen was sold on 13 September 2000 by Grosvenor auction as lot 386. The pair from row fourteen I saw in a dealer's stock during the early 1990's and I believe it was sold to a Cape Town collector. Both pairs are illustrated above.

The Lower Portion of the original Rall block of fourteen
A marginal block of six, top pair frame omitted, middle pair partially missing, Lower pair normal Ex Rows 15, 16 & 17



This impressive item appeared in a Spink sale soon afterwards and I bought it for approximately the price the owner had paid for the original block of fourteen. I sold it during 1998 at the ILSAPEX Exhibition in Johannesburg. It has since featured in an advertisement placed by Doreen Royan.

Other Known Multiples

Besides the Rall multiple and the Bloom pair, two other blocks of four are known to me and both are from rows 12 & 13.

The 2002 Harmers Block

Harmers offered a block in their 29 August 2002 auction as lot 1597, being a right hand marginal block of four with two digits of the sheet number in red found on row 13.

The upper two stamps are normal and on the lower stamps the frame is almost completely missing. Stamp five has a 95% omission and stamp six 85% and this unit fits next to the Lamont Smith block.



I bought this block and tucked it away for several years and sold it during 2006. It reappeared in a 25 June 2013 Murray Payne auction as lot 577, featured on their front cover, estimated £4000 and sold for £5250.

The Lamont Smith - De Villiers block

A block with the lower pair showing a total omission plus a normal pair with a wedge of the frame omitted on one stamp, sold in Stephan Welz, Lamont Smith sale, on 14 June 1989 as lot 542 and featured on the front cover of the catalogue. Estimated at R3000 - 3500 it sold for R6480 (£1490)



The Lamont Smith block was resold by Stephan Welz on 7 November 1990 as lot 696 for R7776 and then acquired by Professor David W. de Villiers. It became part of his Union collection which, after his death, was sold by Stephan Welz & Co on 2 August 2005. The block featured as lot 851, estimated R20,000 - 25,000 and realized R109,250 (£9500)

The De Villiers block was bought by Stanley Gibbons at £9500 against their catalogue value of £5000 (in 2005) and soon afterwards featured on their website at £15,000. I suspect it became part of an investment portfolio. Yet in subsequent years that price is not reflected in their Commonwealth catalogue and only after eight years, in 2013, did it peak at £15,000.

The 1948 1/- Gnu with Frame Omitted SG 62a

The Original Roll Multiple

Row 11

Row 12

Row 13

Row 14

Row 15

Row 16

Row 17

Sheet Reconstruction

	Total	Total	Total	Total	
	Total	Total	Total	Total	
	Partial	Partial	Partial	Partial	
	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	

An attempt in understanding Stanley Gibbons Policy

In each Gibbons Stamp Monthly there is a stamp investment advertisement and in the March 2012 G.S.M. it states...*rare stamps have returned investors over 11% a year on average for the last 40 years.*

2014 SG 62a is Re-classified

Up to 2013 the Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Catalogue listed the variety as SG 62a and priced it as a single stamp. The foregoing policy was applied to all South African missing frame varieties due to the fact that a missing frame removes the country name. Unless an accurate re-construction is possible, it would be impossible to determine whether the name ought to be in English or Afrikaans.

Suddenly the SG policy of listing South African missing frames as single entities undergoes a strange modification and the description of SG 62a is changed to **Frame omitted (Vertical pair with Normal)** Effectively this description only fits the Lamont Smith block as it does not apply to any of the other known pieces. It intimates that the Lamont Smith block has or may be split into two units. Either way the modification of its original description *Frame omitted (Single Stamp)* is in my opinion an unfortunate mistake.

During 2014 Autumn Stampex I pointed this anomaly out to Hugh Jefferies, the Stanley Gibbons catalogue Editor and I ponder what description for SG 62a will appear in the 2016 Commonwealth catalogue?

Comparing SG 62a with other Missing Colours

Taking into account the number of possible single stamps with total omissions I compare this variety on the 1/- Gnu with those on the 1937 3d Groote Schuur with their centre or frame omitted listed as SG 45e and 45f. The total number of single units for the 1/- Gnu with total omissions of the frame is sixteen.

For SG 45e there is a unique pair with omissions on both stamps plus a pair with a total missing centre on one stamp only and gives a total of three single units.

The 3d with its frame omitted SG 45f is only known in a unique block of eight with five total omissions.

The Erratic Price Increase of SG 62a compared to 45e & f

Given that the Lamont Smith block sold for £9500 in August 2005, in the table on the next page there is a systematic record of SG catalogue values from 2006 to 2015. The prices reflect a single unit.

Despite the fact that the rarity of SG 45e and 45f is miles ahead of SG 62a, they have steadily lost ground to the 1/- Gnu and the current alleged value is almost on par with them.

Are we led to believe that whilst SG 45e only managed to gain £2500 in seven years, meanwhile the mighty Gibbons' Gnu galloped £8500 ahead in the same number of years?

The above figures suggest that in nine years from 2006 to 2015 the mammoth Gibbons' Gnu has risen 373% with an Annual average of 41% p.a.

Comparing the 1/- Gnu with Frame Omitted to Other Union Rarities

The Erratic Price Increase of SG 62a continued

Year	SG 45e	SG 45f	SG 62a
2006			£2,750
2007			£3,250
2008	£12,500	£12,000	£4,500
2009	£12,500	£12,000	£5,000
2010	£12,500	£12,000	£5,500
2011	£12,500	£12,000	£6,000
2012	£13,500	£13,000	£7,000
2013	£14,000	£14,000	£7,500
2014	£15,000	£15,000	£7,000
2015	£15,000	£15,000	£13,000

The GSM statement said that *rare stamps have returned investors over 11% a year* but it appears that SG 45e & f are obviously not worthy of an annual increment of 11%. In seven years they only achieved a mere 2.85% p.a. but should we apply a SG 62a factor to these missing colours 45e & f would be at £42,500 and £40,800 respectively per single stamp.

Appreciating Catalogue values

A Dealer's price versus catalogue value is an ongoing debate by all and sundry. Some thirty five years ago, when I first started in the Trade, an old time dealer informed me that SG catalogue values were easy to understand. If the company have the stamps in stock they are overvalued and if they do not their prices are unrealistically low.

There is an element of humour in the foregoing as I have on several occasions said to others that I am able to quote a price for any stamp at a mere 10% of catalogue with the provision that I do not have said item in stock!

Prices of Union Rarities and other Comparisons

I have previously written about such comparisons of Union varieties e.g. for many years the ½d King's head with partial double print had a film star price as compared to the ½d Springbok double print SG 30d.

Pricing Major varieties ought to be done by comparing them to the numbers known and the value of other pieces of the same country. Such an exercise often reveals that certain items are either grossly over- or undervalued.

The 1959 3d union Academy SG 169a

This is another Union rarity of which there are only a possible six with its deep blue omitted along the top row of a sheet. To date I am only able to account for three examples.

The illustration at top left is a pair I bought on 11 March 1992 from Harmers as lot 1201. At the time it was catalogued £1100 as against £850 for a SG 62a single.

It stagnated at the same level for decades and only in recent years has its value shown a reasonable increase.

The right corner marginal pair of the Academy missing colour featured in the Lamont Smith sale as lot 580. The same pair changed hands again and was lot 601 in the Stephan Welz 3 July 2002 sale. Estimated at R16,000 - 20,000, it realized R17,600 about £1400 plus.

For many years these were the only examples I was aware of. In October 2013 Spink's Bloom Sale offered a pair, being stamp No 3 on the row as lot 2190 and a few months later it featured in a Stanley Gibbons pricelist.



An Obscure Missing Colour - The 1953 4½d Merino Ram with Yellow Omitted

Another missing colour that I was not aware of until recently is the 4½d Merino Ram with yellow omitted. This item surfaced in the Spink Bloom Sale in October 2013 as lot 2188 with a note stating that only two used examples are known. It is accompanied by a 19 April 1969 P.F.S.A. certificate No 1507.

I was amazed that this rarity suddenly turned up, I searched through old copies of the S.A.P. but have not been able to trace any reports on this particular item.

Whilst it has found a way into the catalogue as SG 146a, it is only priced at a mere £2750.



A Final Observation on SG 62a

Taking the above into account, the 1953 4½d Merino Ram with yellow omitted is eight times rarer than SG 62a, the 3d Centre omitted SG 45e five plus, the 3d frame omitted SG 45f three plus and the 1959 Union Academy almost three times rarer than the 1/- Gnu.

In 2015 SG 146a only rates at £2750, SG 169a was £2500 in 2008 and has managed to crawl up to £5,500 by 2015.

References:-

Illustrations from Stephan Welz Auctions 1989 (Lamont Smith) 1992 (Thys Rall) July 2002 & 2005 (De Villiers) Spink (Bloom) 2013
Commonwealth catalogues: Stanley Gibbons, Bridger & Kay and Commonwealth Stamp Company, Liverpool
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