

THE SPRINGBOK

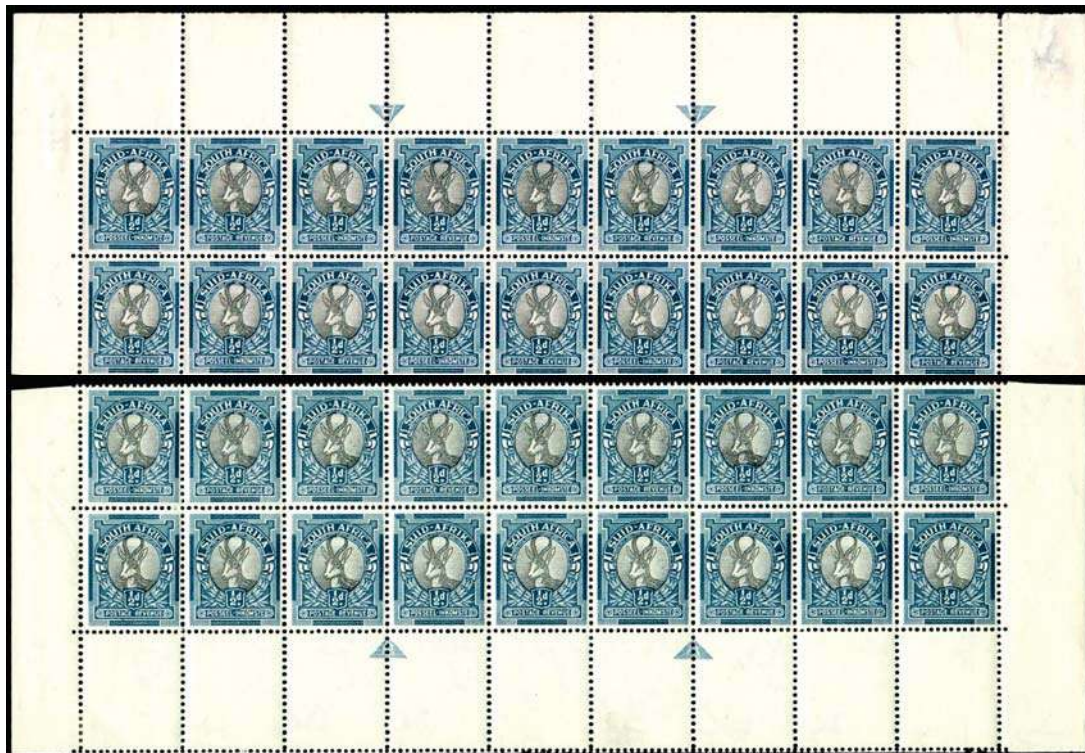
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SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY
QUARTERLY

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The Springbok is published quarterly for the benefit of Members of the South African Collectors' Society. It is not available to non-members. Contributions in the form of letters, notes, reports of SA related activities, articles, etc., are always welcome and should be sent to the Hon. Editor. All correspondence including a SAE will be acknowledged.

Editor

R W Ross
28 Duddon Drive
Walney Island
Cumbria. LA14 3TW

Editorial Panel

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

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Editorial:

In January of this year my wife and I holidayed in Mauritius. I had mentioned to a friend that we were going and they asked if I could bring some stamps back with me. A trip to the Philatelic bureau was arranged. Once there we found that the Postal history museum was housed in the same building. The staff were the most helpful people one could meet.



I had heard of the one penny and two pence stamps that Mauritius issued in 1848, but knew nothing else about them. There on display were the two original stamps which were bought and brought back to Mauritius by the government in the early 90's for \$2 million.

Thinking that these might be the most expensive stamps ever sold I contacted Francis Kiddle who informed me that there are two stamps which have sold for more money. They are the 3sk banco of Sweden \$2 million and the 1c British Guiana \$10 million.

What is the most expensive South African stamp ever sold? If anyone knows please let me know. *Ed.*

Membership Report from our Secretary Chris Oliver

We welcome to the Society:

- 1186 - Alan Cookson of Aylesbury
- 1187 - John L Wright of Preston
- 1188 - Ronald J. Klimley of Arizona, USA
- 1189 - Leonard Roux of Ipswich

The following members have not renewed their subscriptions and are, therefore, no longer members of the Society.

- Jeffrey Beasley (1174) Roger Enskat (1148) A.W. Kimberley (691) Albert Moffat (795)
- Stanley Gibbons (1089) Richard Solly (1058) Tony Robinson (1033)

Please vote for the best article in the Springbok during 2014 (voting form included with this magazine) and return to Chris Oliver by the revised date of 17th May by email or post.

The Wicks medal will be awarded during the Society Weekend 6/7th June 2015

Catalogue Review by The Springbok Editor

Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue Southern & Central Africa 2nd Edition 2014



If you collect stamps of Southern and Central Africa this new catalogue would be a good addition to your bookshelf. Published in full colour and priced at £32.95 it is considerable cheaper than the new SACC catalogue. Whilst it is not as comprehensive as the SACC, it does cover more countries. Many varieties and errors are listed.

Prices have been revised and updated and are listed in pounds sterling.

Control blocks and miniature sheets are not listed and in many cases it is only the basic stamps that are covered, there is however a guide to stamps on cover up to 1945.

New in this edition are listings of the Telegraph stamps and the 'Interprovincials' along with the stamps of the South African provinces which are now priced.

Stamp issues up to 1970 have been taken from Stanley Gibbons 2015 Commonwealth and British Empire Catalogue. Later issues have been revised and updated especially for this catalogue.

The South African Collectors' Annual Meeting

Leamington Spa 6-7 June 2015 Falstaff Hotel

The Society will be holding its meeting at the Falstaff hotel in Leamington Spa, the same venue where we meet in November for the joint Conference and all are welcome.

We still have the same rates for dinner, bed & breakfast of £60 for a single room and £90 for a double if there are two of you. As usual Simon Peetoom will handle the bookings so please email or contact him directly.

There is no fixed subject for this meeting, so feel free to bring along anything related to Union of South Africa, Republic South Africa, South West Africa and Namibia. We will have the usual mix of displays; the Abell Trophy one frame competition will be held on the Saturday afternoon, followed by The SACS AGM during late afternoon. An auction will be held on Sunday plus there will be a couple of dealers' stocks to peruse.

The schedule will be similar to previous years with an 11am start. The schedule is flexible, so if you have something you wish to show, please drop me a line. There is no need to take a set amount of time, so if you only have a few pages and only need five minutes to speak then that is fine. As not everyone likes to talk, if you want to show pages from your collection and not speak then feel free to do that too! Please let me know what you would like to bring along so I can arrange things and let others know.

If you have not attended a meeting before then why not give this one a try? Just come for the day; or just a couple of hours if you wish. Leamington Spa is a beautiful town, close to the M40 and the train station is close to the hotel where we meet. The hotel postcode is CV325JQ.

Simon Peetoom *Leamington Spa Organiser*

Simon@africastamps.co.uk

Tel: 07951571962



**New website offering fine
Southern Africa stamps and
specialised items.**



Email: info@AfricaStamps.co.uk

**Notification and Agenda of the A.G.M.
of the South African Collectors' Society to be held at
The Falstaff Hotel, Leamington Spa at 17.00hrs on Saturday, 6th June 2015.**

- 1. Apologies.**
- 2. Record of previous A.G.M.** [see Springbok 62/3 68]
- 3. Matters arising if not included elsewhere in the agenda.**
- 4. The Hon. Chairman's written report.**
- 5. The Hon. Secretary's written report.**
- 6. The Hon. Treasurer's report & statement on subscriptions for 2016.**
- 7. Reports from other officers of the Society, if any.**
- 8. Election of Officers and committee.**
- 9. Ratification of Library Fund.**

At present we allocate £200 per annum to enable the Hon. Librarian to purchase new books for the Library.
- 10. Society meetings and events :**
 - a) A brief report on those held. [if not already recorded in The Springbok.]
 - b) S.A.C.S. meetings in Carlisle and London in 2016.
 - c) Other meetings for S.A.C.S. in 2016.
 - d) LONDON 2015 EUROPHILEX,
 - e) British Philatelic Congress at Leeds.
 - f) Any others: Midpex and Swinpex
- 11. S.A.C.S. support for Youth Philately.**

In previous years we have made a donation to support this. Do we wish to continue so to do?
- 12. A.O.B. – if notified to the Hon. Secretary prior to the meeting.**

Report on the SACS Meeting held at the County Hotel Saturday 21st March 2015

By Malcolm Ridsdale

Attendees – David Haig, Roy Ross, Colin Moore, Max Whitlock, Peter Dix, John Wright and Malcolm Ridsdale with apologies from Vaughan Stone and John Ahmad.

David Haig welcomed everybody to the 46th meeting and particularly to John Wright who as a new member was attending for the first time.

Items through the Chair

The next meeting will be held on the 19th September 2015 and the following one will be held on the 19th March 2016 both at the County Hotel, Carlisle. The topic of the next meeting would be watermarks, flaws, phosphor bands and fluor coatings and perforations.

Attendees to bring examples to be considered and identified at the meeting.

Around the Table

Max Whitlock has put together some printing proposals and a cost review to be presented to the AGM in June. Roy Ross is undertaking a review of the new SG Southern and Central Africa Catalogue for inclusion in the next Springbok. He is also doing some detective work on the phosphor band issues within the RSA first definitive stamps.

Cont'

Carlisle meeting cont'

John Wright commented that he was having difficulty finding watermarks and phosphor bands on some of his stamps within his collection. It was agreed that this topic would form the basis for the discussion at the next meeting.

Peter Dix advised that he is still building his collection of Union Castle material, some of which he felt was getting harder to find.

Displays

Colin Moore

CM displayed blocks, panes and single stamps from the Union Animals sterling and decimal definitives.

David Haig

DH displayed Swaziland, Lesotho and Botswana QE2 definitives during the change over from sterling to decimal currency.

He then further displayed SWA control blocks from the 1970's and 80's and 1980 animal definitives plus booklets, control blocks from the RSA 2nd and 7th definitive series' and Homelands control blocks.

He also showed some older SA postcards that he had bought recently which included pictures of early mining company premises.

Peter Dix

Displayed paquebot marks on envelopes showing different designs and a variety of sizes. He included war time marks distinguishable by missing port details.

PD also showed a wide variety of Union Castle ship post cards cancelled with a range of post marks identifying their ports of call.

Roy Ross

Displayed blocks of stamps from the 4th definitive series of the RSA. This issue of the Buildings stamps has been widely collected and RR showed examples using the Rechromed plates. However a number of the blocks identifiable as being from these plates appear to show little improvement from previous printings. The question RR and the members at the meeting were left with was "were these plates Rechromed at all?"



Max Whitlock's Display

Max Whitlock

Displayed RSA postcards produced by the Post Office including the Phase 2 Pictorial Postal Cards with 1/2d and 1d imprinted stamps with different coloured pictures and with and without the coat of arms. MW commented that there were 16 issues and 32 cards per issue, so he may be collecting them for some time yet before he has a full set.

He also showed modern post cards with flowers and fruit from the 1990's and almost a complete set of the post cards produced for the 1995 Rugby World Cup

The meeting closed at approximately 2.45pm.

Website update from Otto Peetoom

On Thursday 29 January the website had its First Anniversary and approaching 6000 hits in its first year.

As January was coming to a close, the S.A.C.S. Philatelic scene was quiet and the hours of daylight are already improving and may well awaken some of our members from their slumber in their favourite easy chair. From California, Peter Thy sent in details of an Africa Theme to be held in Denver in May (see details below) this show clashes with the London 2015 event.

Members of the Stamp Trade feel that the London event may prove to be yet another *Slightly Larger Stampex* and a high proportion of the same faces at February Stampex will be there.

I for one will not travel to London and thought a trip to Denver ought to be fun, if anyone else has a similar idea, let me know. *U.S.A. and Canadian members please make an effort to attend, I have been invited to provide a display and will be a speaker at the 14 May Seminar and also during the stamp show.*

Whilst this Website has been relatively quiet during the early part of 2015, I have been hard at it developing a new site that covers Stellaland, Basutoland, Bechuanaland, Botswana and Swaziland.

Go to www.bechuanalandphilately.com or select a link on our *Collect Southern Africa* index page.

My long term aim is to develop a *Collect Southern Africa* theme on the Internet that ought to prove popular. I initially started this on my Rhodesian website by posting information on *The Rhodesian Philatelist* section. Under our *Collect Index* there are currently twenty subjects to choose from and the latest development is a section on the 1933 - 38 Voortrekker issues and the re-enactment of the 1838 Trek to the interior which is enthusiastically supported by Siegfried Mayr.

Input from others is either sporadic or slow and subsequently charity begins at home and I steadily plug away at the websites. In the last two weeks I have scanned and cropped about 800 images and a project to display a picture show of Bechuanaland/Botswana stamps from SG 1 to 1221 no longer seems as daunting as it was at the start.

Africa at Rocky Mountain Stamp Show in Denver 15 to 17 May 2015

Peter Thy in California advises

Almost fifteen years ago, in 2002, the *Philatelic Society of Greater Southern Africa (PSGSA)*, held an anniversary exhibition and meeting in association with the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show in Denver. This year, the PSGSA will again convene at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show in Denver and as part of the events, Tim Bartshe and Colin Fraser are organizing a full day seminar covering a number of themes relating to African Philately. This seminar will be held on 14 May, the day prior to the opening of the show. We have been involved with several prior seminars held in New York for the British Empire Study Group and this event will follow a similar format.

We will have about twelve presentations, each lasting half an hour. Computer and projector facilities will be available as well as traditional philatelic frames for presenting actual material or photocopies. In the evening, there will be a no-host dinner with a noted philatelist as the guest speaker. We would like to send an invitation to participate in this endeavour either as a seminar speaker, attendee to the show or most especially an exhibitor.

In 2002 we presented over 100 frames of British African material and displayed some of the greatest material in North America.

The jury this year comprises Rich Drews (Chair), Colin Fraser, Kathy Johnson, Peter McCann and Chris Dahle.

The show itself will be held May 15-17, 2015 and is a full American Philatelic Society World Series of Philately nationally accredited exhibition.

Full details of the exhibition can be found on their web site: www.rockymountainstampshow.com

South African Collector's Society

Income and Expenditure to 31 December 2014

	Income		Expenditure
Subscriptions collected	2,315.18	Purchase SA mag	336.00
Subscriptions S A Mag	336.00	Springbok 4 magazines	1,738.94
		Auction Costs	78.13
Auction Income NA	231.91	Rent London	65.00
Photocopy sales	449.33	Rent Carlisle	200.00
Eddie's books	69.00	Rent	10.00
Sundry	78.48	Books Library	155.65
	-	Stamp Insurance	136.50
Advertising Magazine	310.00	Abps and handbook	103.40
Package Circuit Surplus	190.47	Website	222.74
		Trophies	53.40
		Postage	1.53
Interest	40.53	Loss on Rand	56.39
		Leamington June	78.10
	<u>4,020.90</u>		<u>3,235.78</u>
Surplus for year	<u>785.12</u>		

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2014

Bank Current	7,690.07	Subs 2015	1,284.57
Cash	163.62	Insurance 2015 premium	136.50
S.A. Rands 5214 @18	270.22	Rent owed 2 years to D.Haig	200.00
Deposit Account	3,062.54		
N.arrow Auction Account	-		
Packet Fund Account	<u>99.92</u>		
	11,286.37		
Copier	1.00		
Trophies	929.40		
		Brought Forward	9,810.58
		Surplus for year	<u>785.12</u>
Totals	<u>12,216.77</u>		<u>12,216.77</u>

Accounts subject to independent review

A Report on the SACS London Meeting - 18 April 2015

By John Shaw

Despite apologies from our Chairman, Tony Howgrave-Graham, David Page, Lynne Lester and Francis Kiddle, there was a good turnout at this, our first 2015 meeting held, as usual, at the Calthorpe Arms in Holborn. Those attending were John Archer, Bob Hill, Tony Johnson, Rob Lester, Christopher Oliver, Simon Peetoom and John Shaw. The theme for this meeting was “Cinderella” and, after discussions about The June Leamington meeting the displays proceeded.

Christopher Oliver opened the displays with a selection of exhibition labels and associated ephemera, some nice items being a Nationalist Party poster, quite topical, a lovely 1936 Empire Exhibition telegram envelope in beautiful condition; another especially worthy item was a taxed cover bearing a Eucharistic Congress label.

John Shaw showed a miscellany, starting with airmail stickers, including a mint block of the first Orange label, the first two Imperial Airways stapled booklets and a later stitched example. There were examples of the LIBERTY AND VICTORY CAVALCADE covers, selections of Christmas and Easter seals on cover, some 1½d “Empire All-Up” material including British and South African posters and a mint strip of the bilingual Brown-orange stickers and, finally, a cover to Los Angeles franked with 2/3d in KG VI revenue stamps apparently taxed at \$2.10 but with only 7 cents collected!

Bob Hill’s sense of humour came through yet again in his display which included a 1908 Election Note Reminder – topical, and of course, from the Cape. A particularly nice item was a Cape of Good Hope general Dealer’s certificate with a splendid printed revenue stamp, then came a solicitor’s letter from Victoria West showing their telephone number in that town in 1934 to be just “3” – how things have changed! His last items were a Lloyds Contract with a ship penny fiscally used upon it, a Westminster Tobacco Company (Capetown and Johannesburg) insert card produced to put into the lids of their tins and boxes of tobacco and cigarettes and finally a query as to the origin of an imperf sheet of the POSSESSION ISLAND 5c stamp, which no one present could answer.

Rob Lester gave an excellent showing of philatelic exhibition labels and ephemera starting with the 1928 Durban Exhibition triangular labels; there are reputedly 18 different variants of these and Rob showed just six, which is at least five more than most of us possess. A lovely item was a cover from the exhibition bearing only a triangular label and surcharged 2d postage due. The best item of the afternoon, however, was a 1928 programme booklet, many pages and signed by all of the exhibition judges. The 1932 exhibition highlight was two covers each bearing the Red “Hobbies” label. The 1950 Selbourne Hall exhibition at Johannesburg was notable for its programme in which, included in the Jury, were such famous names as Commander Enoch, Dr Alec Kaplan, Bill Sheffield Sam Legator (whom I met in 1973) and Dr Harvey-Pirie. Lord Selbourne, we must remember, was the first Governor-general of the Union and it was the current Lord Selbourne, his grandson, who opened our centenary exhibition in London in 2010.



Finally, the 1952 exhibition was marked by labels, the catalogue and the dinner menu, Dr Harvey Pirie giving the speech on that occasion on “Our Hobby”.

Overall, this proved to be yet another most enjoyable meeting and there were no sandwiches left over for me to take home, and the meeting thanked John for providing them.’

○

Are you waiting for your post!

Picture taken inside Jo'burg mail hub of the piles of undelivered mail. Person went to ask about a parcel that had never been received. SA post is delivering current post but still have masses of undelivered mail from last year when they were off for months. Mail staff said he could look through the mail himself, but where do you start?

The SACS Library Update From the Hon. Librarian Malcolm Ridsdale

Further books have been generously donated to the Library from the estate of Ray Glanville Jones as well as a couple that have been recently purchased. They are detailed below, the first four are philatelic and the remainder mostly historical.

Wartime Airmails – Locally Registered and Foreign Air Services of British Africa produced by Chavril Press. This booklet highlights routes flown by locally registered Empire post carriers within British Africa and those foreign companies who provided services to and from the region.

Sir Maxwell Joseph – Collection of Postage Stamps from the Cape of Good Hope. This auction catalogue details the items sold at the auction in 1982.

The Royal Train Tours Their Postal History and Postmarks by Norman Hill. Number 6 in a series of pamphlets produced by Harry Hayes. Gives details of ten tours between 1925 and 1973 undertaken by various members of the Royal Family in differing parts of the Commonwealth including southern and central western Africa, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

The Reminders and Reprints of Transvaal 1910 – 1912 by Dr GH Jonkers and WJ Quik. Produced by the FVZA in the Netherlands in English and Dutch, the book attempts to provide an insight into the period that Enschede supplied stamps and postal stationery to the ZAR.

Jan Smuts by FS Crafford. A 1945 book being a biography that states to be an unbiased picture of Smuts.

Smuts – The Sanguine Years 1870 – 1919 by WK Hancock. A 1962 book, part one of a two volume biography that charts Smuts' early life to him becoming prime minister.

General Smuts by Sarah Gertrude Millin. A 1930's book based on papers, writings and letters collected by his wife and talks with Smuts' supporters and opponents.

Jan Christian Smuts by JC Smuts. A 1952 book written by Smuts' son reflecting his whole life.

Botha, Smuts and South Africa by AF Basil Williams. One of the Teach Yourself History Library books from 1946 covering SA history from the mid 19th century to the 1940's.

In South Africa by Frances Brett Young. A 1952 book detailing the history of the development of southern Africa.

South Africa – Background to the Crisis by Michael Attwell. A 1986 book on the difficulties in South Africa leading up to and including the 1980's as the conflicts deepened.

State of South Africa. A 1972 yearbook charting economic, financial and statistical information on the country.

The Story of South Africa by Leo Marguard. A 1968 book detailing a concise history of South Africa.

Rhodes by Sarah Gertrude Millin. A 1930's biography of the life of Cecil Rhodes.

South Africa – A Planned Tour of the Country Today by AW Wells. A 1930's journey through southern Africa including maps and photographs.

Port Elizabeth – The City of Industry and Commerce. An undated but probably 1950's book produced by the city's publicity association detailing PE's history and principle commerce and history up to the time of the book.

South Africa – a Historical Introduction by Freda Troup. Charts the history of South Africa from early times to 1968.

South African Heritage. Looks likely to have been produced by the Caltex oil company in 1965 and details the history of South Africa from Van Riebeeck to the 19th century and is well illustrated with line drawings.

The Cape Adventure by Ian D Colvin. A 1912 book of the early history of the Cape of Good Hope.

The Great Trek by Oliver Ransford. A 1970's book which in some detail at the Great Trek 1834 – 35.

The Choice Before South Africa by ES Sachs. A 1952 book written by a South African on the crisis facing the Union at that time.

If you wish to borrow any of the above or have an electronic copy of the complete lists of books, magazines and articles, you can do so by emailing Malcolm at (ridsdales@ntlworld.com). Please contact Max Whitlock (0164 2482877) if you require a paper copy.

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

South African Collectors' Society Meeting at Letchworth on 7th March 2015.

By Chris Oliver

The meeting convened at 2.00pm, with six members and four guests present, above Thomas Humfrey's philatelic emporium, Postal Pursuits in Letchworth Garden City. This was likely to be the penultimate meeting at this venue for the Society. A few of us had gathered prior to the meeting to peruse Thomas' stock. Bob Hill was asked to display first and he showed Cape rectangular stamp issues including those used in Griqualand West together with some postal stationery, perfins and cigarette duty stamps.



David Page

David Page's display was more social as he described the voyages of his uncle Cecil in the 1920s and 30s. Cecil was a schoolmaster on board ship. His first voyage was on HMS Curlew, a Ceres Class Light Cruiser, included Bermuda, California, the Panama Canal, Fanning Island and, upon his return after 3½ years, he married his sweetheart Agnes. On his next voyage on HMS Rodney he was in Iceland for the Millennium celebrations. In 1933 he was posted to Simonstown aboard the heavy cruiser HMS Dorsetshire and his voyages on the Africa Station included countries on the west coast of Africa and also Mozambique. Cecil was a regular correspondent with his family and David inherited this correspondence and the stamps that Cecil sent to his brother and sister from these far-off places; this is what kindled his interest in the hobby and particularly in South African philately.

Chris Oliver displayed some registered covers of the Republic of South Africa 1962 – 1982 with some experimental issues.

Rob & Lyn Lister's interest in the 1928 Durban Philatelic Exhibition was shown in Rob's display. This was the 5th major South African Exhibition and the second at which the Philatelic Federation of South Africa held their Congress. The display included pre-exhibition publicity covers.

We then had a short break to eat sandwiches and other goodies which Bob had provided, with our grateful thanks to him.

Tony Johnson had also taken on board the exhortation that all members attending should show something. His display started with a few pages from Canada and other commonwealth countries but finishing with some good examples of Union of South Africa stamps.

Bob Hill then gave another display which included a melange of covers with interesting markings, used from pre-Union times until the Republic of S.A. came into being. This presentation was, as usual, accompanied by some amusing anecdotes.



Tony Johnson

The meeting was brought to a close soon after 4.40pm.

Urgent request for Society Auction Material

The Auctioneer Nick Arrow is in serious need of material for the Auction in November

Without additional material the auction will be small

If you have anything for this auction, would you please contact Nick as soon as possible.

His details can be found on the inside cover of the Springbok. *Ed.*

A.B.P.S. Executive Bulletin for March 2015

Extracts form the Bulletin that may be of interest to SACS members.

NEW WEBMASTER

We are pleased to tell you that Maurice Buxton is starting as webmaster for the ABPS site. He is an experienced manager of websites and we are confident that he will oversee not only regular updating of the site but continuing improvement. Maurice would welcome any feedback and content.

Updates should be sent to him by email: mauricebuxton@gmail.com

ABPS DIRECTORY AND SPEAKERS LIST **IMPORTANT**

A major update is being undertaken of both the Directory and Speakers Lists, due to be published in 2015. Any contributions, updates and additions for this should also be sent to Rev John Walden. Please check your current details and advise us of any changes.

IMPORTANT **The closing deadline for any submissions is March 10th

We would also like copies of any Federation or Society Lists of Speakers.

Please send to handbook@abps.org.uk

EUROPHILEX LONDON 2015

ABPS is a major sponsor of this important event.

13th to 16th May 2015 at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London. Nearest Underground station is Angel (Northern Line).

Tickets can now be purchased for the first day at £10 from their website. All other days are free entry.

www.London2015.net

This is expected to be the premier event in 2015 in GB with around 2000 frames of competitive displays and over 100 dealers taking part. The special display is "Philatelic Events that changed the world".

We are looking for volunteers to assist at the event including manning the ABPS Information Stand.

Stamp Active will have a stand at the show and will be providing free goodie packs for all young collectors with a prize draw for any adult bringing a child U18 to the stand. There will be a treasure hunt and activities on the theme of Europe to complete.

MIDPEX 2015 Warwickshire Exhibition Centre , Leamington Spa, CV31 1XN, 4th July 2015 10:00AM – 5:00PM

Sponsored by Cavendish Philatelic Auctions

MIDPEX is the prestigious biennial exhibition first held in 1995 and attended by stamp collectors from across the UK. It brings together Specialist Societies with local, national and international dealers covering all aspect of Philately. It provides a shop window for Specialist Societies to show off their sphere of interest to other collectors, to recruit members and identify common ground with members of other Societies. It also provides an opportunity for Societies to promote their publications and research projects and for members to meet informally, particularly those members who find it difficult to get to meetings in London. The event in 2015 will be the biggest and best yet with more space allowing the introduction of post card dealers as well as stamps, thematics and postal history. Over 60 dealers and 40 Specialist Societies are expected to support the Show with many holding their regional meetings at the event.

AUTUMN STAMPEX 2015 is a Full National ABPS Exhibition from 16th to 19th September at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London. The event will celebrate GB Overprints Society 45 Years

Stampex is a full national exhibition with all classes.

Entry forms for the Stampex national competitions are now on the ABPS website.

THE PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN

The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain takes place at The Queens Hotel, Leeds, from 6th to 9th August 2015. The theme of the event will be the 1890's. Full details can be found on the ABPS website or please contact Paul Gaywood for more information. Email: gaywood@hotmail.co.uk

An article on Congress by Dane Garrod will appear in the April issue of Stamp & Coin Mart, in the shops around 13th April.

Cont'

EXHIBITION COMMITTEE

1. Spring Stampex 2015 results are on the FEPA website. It was a great show - 93 entries with a lot of Large Gold medals. The best in show was awarded to Howard Hughes for The Maltese Cross Cancellation. The Special Prize for Best in Show has been re-introduced as the Stampex Silver Mailcoach. A replica medal is being prepared for winners - this has been sponsored by the PTS. Incidentally, for those who have not heard, Graham Childs is retiring as Secretary of PTS and Stampex. Please have a look at the FEPA website for some excellent photographs of the show.

2. Frank Walton FRPSL has been awarded the FEPA 2014 Medal for Research for his book "The De La Rue Collection" in 6 volumes; one award is given per year.

3. York Fair National Exhibition is advancing well - the co-ordinator is Graham Winters, Wakefield. Maximum of 100 frames of postal history.

4. Gotha Bilateral National exhibition to be held 3rd to 6th September 2015 between UK and Germany. Going well - Graham Winters is Commissioner. Up to 200 frames of British exhibits. To celebrate 175 years since the marriage of Q Victoria and Prince Albert of Saxe Coburg

5. Turkey international to celebrate 100 years of Gallipoli is on very shortly. UK has four exhibits.

6. Hitchin Seminar Part II was held at Spring Stampex on Wednesday 18th February and all attended were successful in completing their training and are now accredited at UK county level. Certificates are being prepared.

7. New York 2016 - Bulletin and application forms are now available - please contact either Jon Aitchison or Francis Kiddle, Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner. Closing date August 2015.

OTHER NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

2015 Early September - joint UK/Germany national exhibition to be held in Gothe -celebrating 175th Anniversary of marriage of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. 200 frames available for UK exhibitors.

Singapore 2015 FIP Exhibition: 11th to 16th August: 50 years independence 2500 frames

Spring Stampex 2016: ABPS Pictorial Classes Thematic, Open and Postcards

World Stamp Show – New York 2016 28th May to 4th June: Javits Convention Center New York City

Autumn Stampex 2016: King George VI Society and Cinderella Societies throughout the world.

Spring Stampex 2017: Middle East celebrating 100 years of Iraq stamps.

Executive Centre has been booked by SWE for each Spring & Autumn.

Hiring available at £100 per 2 hours (subsidised) - contact Chrissie Baker.

Breaking the mould - Essen 2015 (European Thematic Championship) will combine with London 2015 to be a single international event held in two countries. This provides more frames for each exhibition. The top nine exhibits from Essen will be shown at London 2015, not judged, but available for candidate for 'Best in Show'. ECTP will have FEPA patronage and FIP recognition.

Please remember that the ABPS does **not** subsidize individual collectors' exhibition fees or the costs of Stampex.

NOMINATIONS INVITED FOR ABPS AWARDS

If you know of anyone who deserves recognition for their support of our hobby, why not recommend them for this award. Details can be found on the ABPS website or contact Susan Oliver for more information.

Nominations for Congress Medal and Awards of Merit must be sent to Susan Oliver by 1st March each year. Email: awards@abps.org.uk

THE BRITISH PHILATELIC TRUST has now been wound up.

Applications for funding should now be sent to **THE PHILATELIC FUND** c/o RPSL, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY .

From the Editors desk
2d Bantam Query

Kalman V. Illyefalvi asked a question in the last issue of the Springbok. Vol. 63/1 page 22.

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 perfs.

Three members have sent in information on this subject, for which we are grateful. *Ed.*

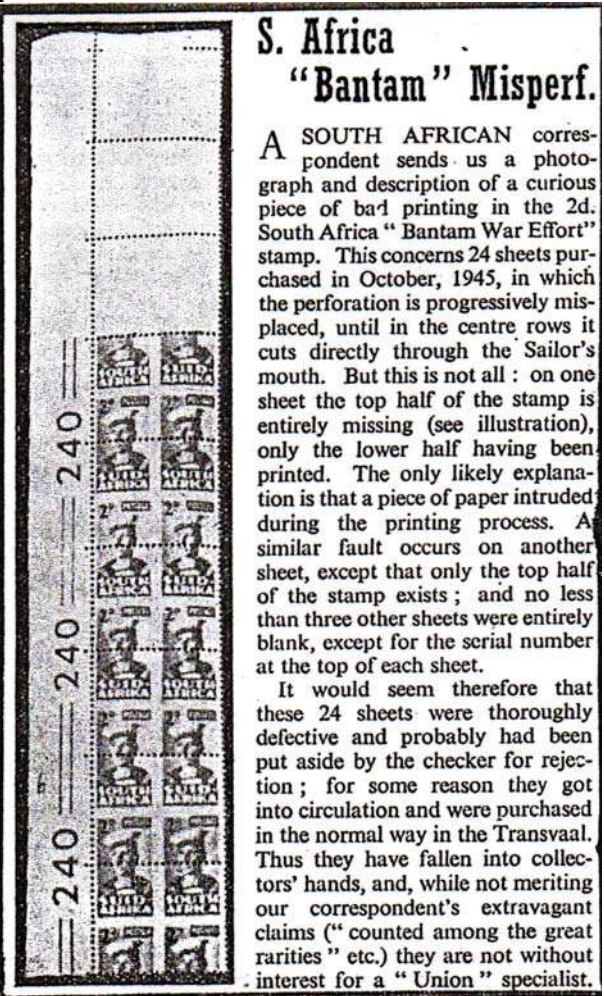
Ken Radley from Canada commented that Issue 1 had black numbers and all further issues had red numbers

Tony Howgrave-Graham has supplied this information and pictures: The first issue of the 1d in Jan. 1943 had black cyclometer numbers and I strongly suspect that the first printing of the 2d Feb. 1943 had the same. It is true all the later printings of the 2d have red ones. With regard to the misperf I attach copies of a couple of pages from my collection which includes a contemporaneous article on them as well as the "albino" printing. Also on the pages is an example of the blurred slogans that appeared on this issue.



V1 "star" row 1/1 (mp)
Complete misperf
through centre of stamps

April 1945 - Issue 5 - Cyl 39/3
The progressive misperforation and interrupted printing
& contemporaneous article on the same



S. Africa
"Bantam" Misperf.

A SOUTH AFRICAN correspondent sends us a photograph and description of a curious piece of bad printing in the 2d. South Africa "Bantam War Effort" stamp. This concerns 24 sheets purchased in October, 1945, in which the perforation is progressively misplaced, until in the centre rows it cuts directly through the Sailor's mouth. But this is not all: on one sheet the top half of the stamp is entirely missing (see illustration), only the lower half having been printed. The only likely explanation is that a piece of paper intruded during the printing process. A similar fault occurs on another sheet, except that only the top half of the stamp exists; and no less than three other sheets were entirely blank, except for the serial number at the top of each sheet.

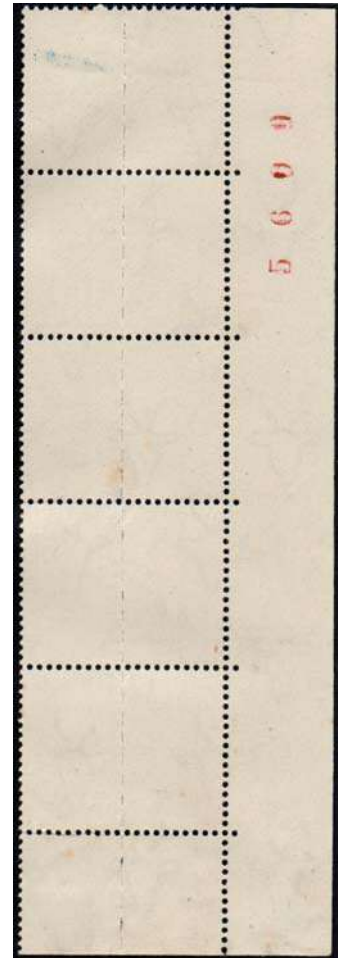
It would seem therefore that these 24 sheets were thoroughly defective and probably had been put aside by the checker for rejection; for some reason they got into circulation and were purchased in the normal way in the Transvaal. Thus they have fallen into collectors' hands, and, while not meriting our correspondent's extravagant claims ("counted among the great rarities" etc.) they are not without interest for a "Union" specialist.



Jan 1944 - Issue 2 - Cyl 6931/2
"Blurred slogans"



April 1945 - Issue 5 - Cyl 39/3
Gross misperforation
Sheet number 5599



"albino" printing
Sheet number 5600

A comment from Mike Tonking

The first Issue of the 2d. bantam had BLACK sheet numbers . The slogans in the right margin are very close to the stamps.

The second Issue had RED sheet numbers and in this case the slogans are further away from the stamps.

There are of course many other flaws to identify the two Issues.

Misplaced perforations do appear in Issues 4 and 5. I would suggest that in the example shown it is due to the adjustment of the perforator which gave rise to longer and shorter stamps. The true misplaced perforation showed a major shift as shown in the examples



Issue 4 - Misplaced perforations



Short and long stamps caused by perforator adjustment

From the Editor's desk
Another example of SG169a

In the previous Springbok Vol. 63/1 page 35 Otto Peetoom wrote the following:



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. 1959 3d.

Mike Tonking has sent in this reply:

Union Academy SG 169a I have an example in my collection thus accounting for four of the six examples that can exist.

Comments on Tony Howgrave-Graham's Auction Report Springbok Vol. 63/1

By **Mike Tonking**

With reference to the King's Head roll stamps with inverted watermarks I attended the Welz auction on 9th October hoping to be able to buy a used 1d. I was amazed at the prices and needless to say bought nothing. As a matter of interest Hagger notes in the 1986 Handbook that the 1/2d. and the 1 1/2d. Values with the inverted watermark are only known used, although the SACC lists the 1/2d both mint and used, although I have never seen the former. In rare cases the isolated or partially isolated perforation hole occurs near the top of the stamp which indicates reversed perforation i.e. The bottom sheet margin is perforated through instead the top of the sheet. Hagger records this as on the 1/2d. Value although it does also occur on the 1 1/2d value as shown below.



Coil Row 6



Coil Row 7



Coil Row 7

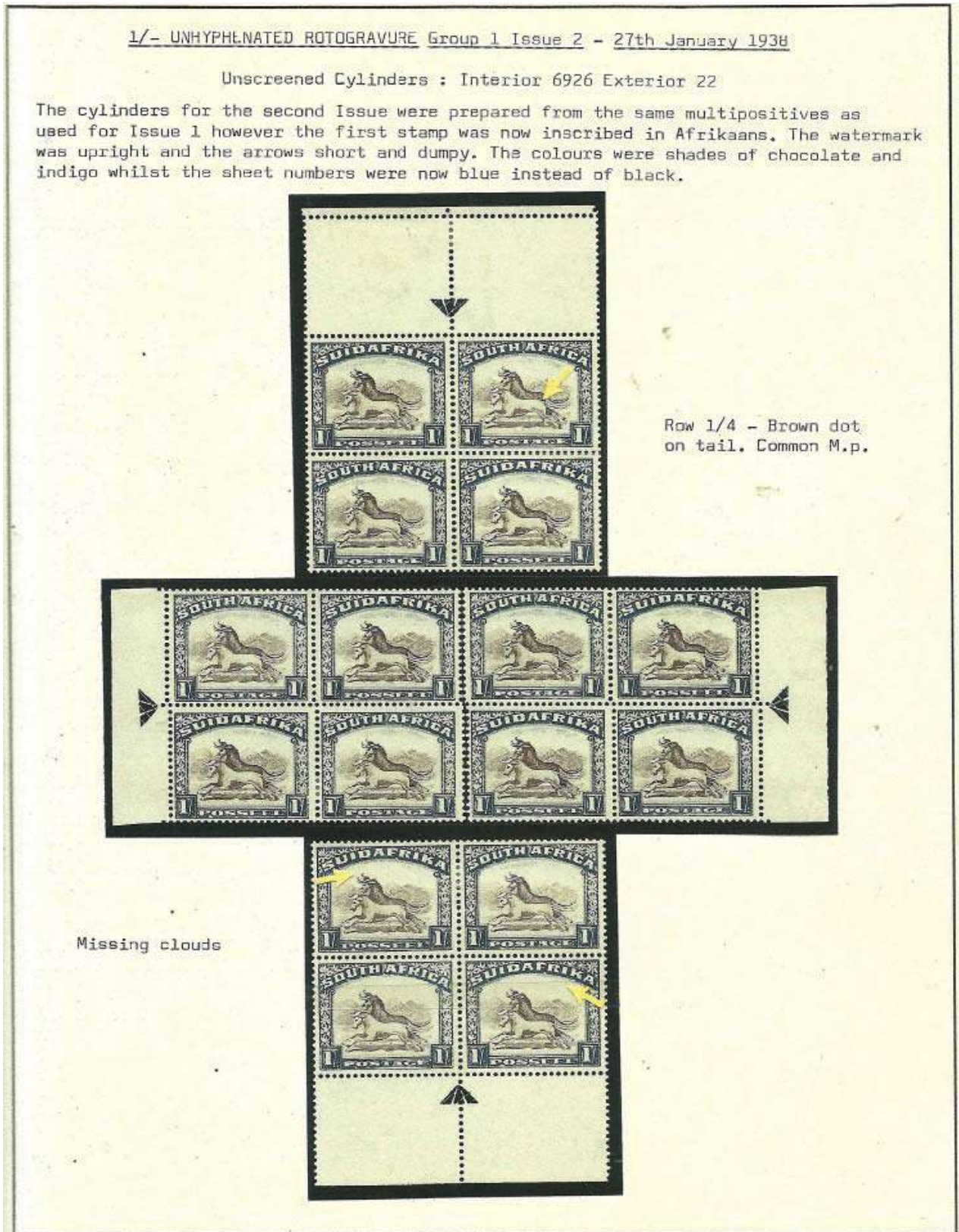
Reversed Perforation 1/2d. Value Partial isolated perforation hole near the top of the stamp

Reversed Perforation 1 1/2d. Value Partial isolated perforation hole near the top of the stamp. In this case the watermark is inverted.

I must agree with Tony Howgrave-Graham that the observations made by the vendor in the Murray Payne Sale 18 in two cases are not correct. In case of lots 600 and 601-1931 3d. With paper joins the vendor stated that there are only two examples known. I have an example and the late Jack Hagger had two examples in his collection.

Again in the case of lot 601-1938 1/- Issue 2 arrow block of four blocks as shown below. Although rare, there are clearly more than one block known.

I pointed out the above to Murray Payne prior to the auction and I do not know if the erroneous information influenced the prices realised.



1963.12.11 – TRANSKEI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

For the first time since the beginning of the Republic a new sheet format appeared which comprised 20 rows of 4 stamps. It is understood that this arrangement was an experiment and was done mainly for audit purposes as a sheet now worked out to a round R2 in value, not R2,50 as previously.



There seems to be two printings, as some of the sheets appeared on white gummed paper and the others on brown gummed paper.

The issue gained extra prominence by the discovery of a very fine interrupted printing, in which the green was omitted due to a stoppage of the printing machine (22 copies known to exist). Some prominent doctor blade smudges also occurred.



This article is reproduced from the RSA Stamp Study Group News letter by kind permission - Ed.

O

A Query from Kalman Illyefalvi

Union Postal Stationery

In going through my Union Postal Stationery, Union card Quik P4 was over printed ONE / PENNY (P6) and had a short life. Went on sale September 1920 and was withdrawn after one month as there was no Afrikaans version. How many were overprinted? How many were sold?

The South Africans, being frugal decided that they could use the cards, suitably overprinted for use in SWA. A quantity were overprinted and released in March of 1923. Apparently all six versions of the SWA overprints were done at about the same time. How many of each overprint? The Quik catalogue raises more questions than answers.

According to Quik P47, P48, P49, were overprinted in 1923 no exact date. P54, P55 March 1923. P58 Sept. 1923. Why were six different versions of the overprint? I have the following used examples.



Quik P47 Windhoek to Germany with $\frac{1}{2}$ d affixed 18 May 24

Windhoek to England with $\frac{1}{2}$ d affixed 2 Jan 25

Quik P54 Wilhelmstadt to Windhoek 10 Jul 25

Quik P55 Brackwasserw to Luderitz 8 Aug 23
Windhoek to Germany with 1d affixed 11 Apr 25

Quik P58 Outjo to Windhoek 26 Oct 23
Windhoek to Germany with 1d affixed 16 Sep 26

The domestic rate on postal cards reverted to $\frac{1}{2}$ d on 1st January 1926. The remaining stock of just Union overprints were destroyed at Pretoria on the 8th of December 1925. How many? What happened to SWA stock? Why were six different versions of the overprint?

The group represents an interesting area for study. I hope some of our members can fill in some of the blanks.

Thanks for any help.

If anyone has any information on this please let me know - Ed.

First Definitive Phosphor Bands Revisited

By Roy Ross

Whilst sorting some used RSA first definitive stamps recently using a U.V. Light, I noted that some phosphor bands were not as bright as I seem to remember the last time I sorted a similar pile of stamps.

Looking through past issues of The Stamp Study Circle newsletters I remember reading this article.

The article is reproduced here some 40 years after it was written and wonder if any phosphor bands have partially or fully disappeared? Have they stood the test of time?

Further to the article in the Springbok Vol.25 No.1 1977 a friend in the printing trade who is himself a philatelist has studied the issues raised in our previous correspondence and gone to considerable lengths to give what assistance he could and for which I am greatly indebted to him.

Firstly, let us deal with the half life of the organic "phosphors" usually employed for this class of work and the use of aluminium foil to counteract phosphor migration through paper.

His opinions are quoted as follows :-

With reference to your communications on the subject of phosphor bands and coating of postage stamps, I have undertaken to try and answer your queries.

As you will be fully aware there are many different types of phosphors and fluors, both inorganic and organic. Some of these materials have been investigated in depth by our company and are indeed used in a number of applications. It is our experience that fluors like Lumogen tend to be very much less stable against a wide range of circulation hazards, as well as deliberate falsification, than the phosphors. Depending on the chemical composition of the phosphors one can have a wide range of half life periods, phosphorescent colour effects and U.V. Wavelength limitations. All this is probably well known to you but I take the liberty of enclosing photocopies of a series of articles on Automatic Letter Sorting and Phosphorescent and Fluorescent Stamp applications.

To be more specific and answering your questions:

Q.1 Can phosphor bands and coatings disappear in a few years or is the life a long period as in the case with radio active isotopes?

A.1. We have no evidence that phosphors will "disappear" in the short term i.e. Up to 3/4 years, when stored at normal temperature and humidity. However, there is some evidence that under atmospheric conditions of high temperature and humidity some phosphors do exhibit a considerable deterioration in its phosphorescent properties.

Q.2. Can there be damage to stamps mounted in subsequent pages, below and above those on which phosphorised or fluorescent stamps are mounted.

A.2. Some phosphor type materials have the ability to migrate into paper stocks but this is usually limited to the one sheet and I have not seen any evidence of it continuing into a second sheet, including stamps. I would not, however, expect that these materials would migrate into greaseproof type papers usually used as interleaves.

Q.3. Will Aluminium foil act as a barrier to migration.

A.3. Yes definitely. It is my opinion, however, that Aluminium foil will most probably cause more damage than it will prevent. Any slight movement between stamps and foil over a period of time will most likely cause discolouration of the stamp, it being damaged by dark marks of aluminium oxides being rubbed off the foil.

Q.4. Is there any difference between the polished and matt foil surfaces.

A.4. I have no evidence that there is any significant difference though it might be expected that the polished side would cause least damage.

In general to summarise, some materials would probably migrate into some types of paper and could also in extreme atmospheric conditions "disappear". The incidence of this happening I am sure is very low indeed. My personal view of this is that if indeed it does happen then this should not be judged as an error in philatelic terms, as inevitably many tens of thousands more such errors will come to light over the years and may in the longer term result in whole issues losing their phosphorescence.

Cont'

The South African stamps, and others, where it is believed that genuine errors have occurred should in spite of losing their phosphorescent properties still exhibit some degree of spectral difference of the bar area (where bars were printed) or overall when compared to a good stamp under incident light.

The "Phosphor" lines on the normal Tete-Beche Watermark blocks printed from February 1969 to July 1970 are still strong and clear to the eye, after being kept in a loose leaf album with interleaves, in a bookcase in a cool room and there is no clear evidence of phosphor migration either.

All the three relevant issues consisting of A and B cylinder blocks were submitted for examination at the same time as the B cylinder block with the missing phosphor lines.

Mr Todd has referred to trouble with phosphor migration in Spanish, Australian and German issues. The chemical constituents of organic "Phosphors" vary widely both as to content and method of synthesis and all I can add is that the South African "phosphors" appear to be stable by comparison.

Even with additional use of normal interleaves with aluminium foil, there would always be the risk of forgetting to reinsert a normal interleaf, after rearranging a loose leaf album, and furthermore, oxides could be rubbed off onto a normal interleaf, which in its turn could be reinserted facing the opposite way and thus transfer oxide onto the surface of a stamp.

Following the examination of the blocks the following report was sent to me. We have carefully examined this particular block of four against the other stamps from the earlier and later issues. Using four different U.V. Emitters and a variety of shields so as to produce the widest range of U.V. Emissions from the shortest to longest wavelengths normally used we can detect no evidence of phosphor. Similarly, analysis by Spectrofluorimeter identifies no peaks, which are consistent with there not having been any phosphor on these stamps.

As I indicated in my last letter, I do not believe that it is possible that this type of phosphor could have been printed and subsequently due to some treatment or peculiar condition of storage could have sublimed or "disappeared" totally.

It must therefore be concluded that this particular block is part of an error sheet. It can only be a matter of speculation without a lot more detailed information, how this error sheet was produced but I am satisfied in my own mind that it is a genuine error.

One cause of error was suggested as a possibility in that if there was a break in the web on the Three Colour Goebels Machine at any particular point in or before the printing units, these units would trip out of impression, but there would be a small length of printed reel with blue and orange printed in front of the phosphor unit.

Following repair of the web and the restarting of the machine, this short length (it could be only 5 or 6 feet) could pass through unit 3 (phosphor bands) without printing.

This short length could easily escape notice, during examination to remove the damaged web.

Source: *The South African Stamp Study Circle News Letter No. 208 - January 1979*

O

Urgent request for Society Auction Material

Our Auctioneer Nick Arrow is in serious need of material for the Auction in November
Without additional material the auction will be small
If you have anything for this auction, would you please contact Nick as soon as possible.
His details can be found on the inside cover of the Springbok. *Ed.*

An early Interprovincial Item

By Tony Howgrave-Graham

I just picked up this nice early interprovincial item - Tvl, Natal & ORC used at Pretoria on 15 Aug 1910 (to Denmark) - it's the earliest proper I/p cover I've seen and shows that general public usage did take place before the 19 August announcement (albeit by only 4 days!)



Does anyone else have an example of an earlier item? Ed.

www.southafricanstamps.net

www.SWA-Stamps.com

Basutoland, Bechuanaland,
Pre-Union, South Africa,
South West Africa,
Namibia, Swaziland,
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OTTO PEETOOM (ORMSKIRK STAMPS)

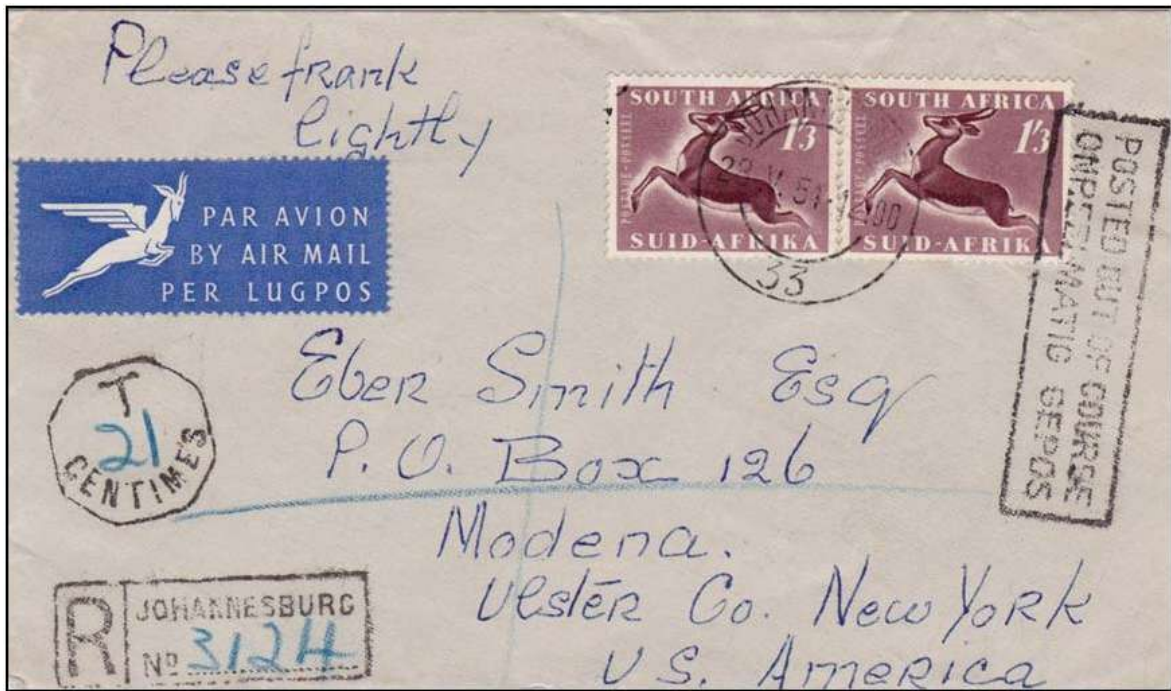
Rectory Road, Roos, East Yorkshire, HU12 0LD England

TEL: 01964 670239 INTERNATIONAL +44 1964 670239

Email: ottopeetoom@btinternet.com

A Query from Nick Arrow

Can someone please put me right on this cover? It seems to throw up all sorts of problems!



It is clearly posted on the 28th May. The earliest of the 3 timed postmarks is that of Johannesburg 117 (on the back), and examination of the original indicates that the time of the postmark is 11am. The stamps were cancelled by Johannesburg 33 postmark at 12 noon, and the third Johannesburg postmark (also on the back) is that of the Johannesburg 30 Post Office, which is timed at 1.30pm. It seems, at least to modern eyes, that this was pretty rapid transfer from Post Office to Post Office, getting 3 Postmarks from 3 Post Offices within a space of 2½ hours!



Cont'

At some stage it was registered, being given the R - number Johannesburg 3124, and it would seem logical that this was done at the Johannesburg 117 Post Office, although why the stamps were not cancelled at the same time is a mystery that I hope someone is going to be able to explain to me.

It was also marked "Posted Out Of Course", which is total mystery to me - I don't think I really understand these marks when I read something about them in the Springbok many, many years ago, and whatever it was I read then has been totally forgotten in the passage of time.

Lastly, it was marked for 21 centimes Postage Due, which is a little mystery in itself. The postal rate from South Africa to Johannesburg was 1/9, plus of course 4d for the postage due making a total rate of 2/1, so why the Postage Due? It might of course have been overweight, but the envelope was opened at the side and bears no signs that it might have been overweight - it is actually rather a nice neat cover, and certainly does not seem to have had anything heavy enclosed. It must be added, of course, that the only indication that PD was required is the hexagonal mark - there are no PD stamps, either in South African or American, attached, so I suppose that wiser counsel may have prevailed?

It was ultimately delivered to Modena on the 1st June, which shows that the twice weekly service of PAA between America and South Africa was an extremely good service at least at the time for delivery.

So the questions are -

- 1. Where was the item posted?
- 2. Where were the Registration markings applied?
- 3. What is the significance of the "Posted out of Course" cachet?
- 4. Why could the cover attracted a PD marking?

O

1d. ISSUE 20 - Misplaced Vignette. A Query from Mike Tonking



The Example shows row 4 stamps 5 and 6 with misplaced vignettes.
This is not listed in the SAHB however is noted in the SACC as a 'shifted centre'.



The small red dot under the 'E' in REVENUE on row 4/6 identifies Issue 20.

Since I am unaware as to how this flaw occurred I would welcome comments from members

Revisiting the First Hyphenated Roll Stamps to be Issued in Sheet Form 1/2d. (R14S)

By Mike Tonking

The 1/2d value R14S was the first hyphenated roll stamp to be issued in sheet form in 1935. It was the second roll stamp issue to be sold by Post Offices, the first being the 1d. R12S in 1930.

The 1/2d R14S is of particular interest for the following reasons:

1. It was the first roll stamp to be perforated 13,5x14 by the single row Grover appliance which had previously been used to perforate the 1927 third and fourth series of postage due labels. This perforator required a narrow perforation gutter between rows 6 and 7. The 1/2d. And the 1d. Values R14 and R15 were the only roll stamps to be so perforated.
2. For the first time two different perforating heads were used, one leaving a single hole in both left and right margins and the other a single hole in the left and two holes in the right margin. It is surmised that the reason for this was that a spare head was required to be used when the original head was withdrawn for repairs.
3. For some unknown reason the two printing cylinders revolved in the opposite way to normal thus printing the black four figure sheet numbers in the left margin rather than the normal right margin.
4. Short green lines were printed in both left and right margins between rows 21 and 22 which cannot be explained as the sheets were not always guillotined at this position.
5. There were three transpositions of the printing cylinders unlike the 1d. Value R15S which had none.

The R14S stamps were printed from the same cylinders used for all the roll stamps. Both interior and exterior multipositives were prepared from those used for the issue 4 sheet stamps. Rows 3 and 4 were re-used for the added rows 21 and 22. The inserted row 21 may be recognised by the darker frames and is slightly to the left of the row above. The gutter between rows 22 and 1 is slightly wider.

The cylinder transpositions occurred because there was no means of correctly aligning the interior cylinders by means of marginal marks on the cylinders. It was a matter of luck if they were correctly aligned. This did not occur in the case of R14S as there was no printing with the cylinders correctly aligned.

The identification of the three recorded cylinders transpositions may be made reference to colour, watermark and discrete cylinder flaws.

Two prominent flaws provide a good method of identification. The first is an almost vertical grey doctor blade line in the right of the vignette seen on row 21 stamp 11 of the interior cylinder which appears in all three printings in the following combinations:

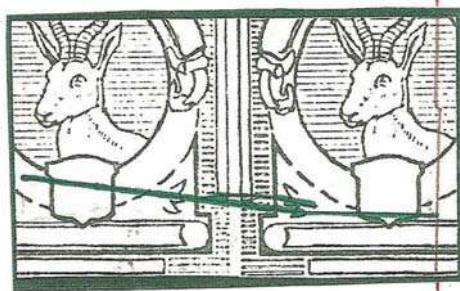


Step in vertical line

Printing.	Exterior Cylinder.	Transposition.	Language Setting.	Watermark.
First	Row 20	One Row	Afrikaans	Inverted
Second	Row 5	Six Rows	English	Inverted
Third	Row 22	One Row	Afrikaans	Upright

The second flaw which appears only on the second and third printings is an exterior flaw seen on row 22 stamps 10 and 11 consisting of almost horizontal green line extending through the bottom of the stamps.

Exterior cylinder
Row 22



Interior Cylinder
Second Printing row 5
Third printing row 22

The first printing had silver grey vignettes with the watermark inverted and the printing cylinders transposed by one row. The interior row 21/11 vertical line flaw is seen on the exterior row 20 and in this case it is an Afrikaans inscribed stamp. The example shows a single perforation flaw in the right margin.



The second printing was in normal green and grey shade again with the watermark inverted and in this instance there was a six row cylinder transposition. This had the effect of moving the interior cylinder row 21/11 vertical line flaw to row 5/11 which is now an English inscribed stamp.



The third printing was similar in colour to the second printing however the watermark was now upright and this immediately identifies this printing compared with the first two which had inverted watermarks. Another characteristic are the green smudges always found in the left margin. There was a one row transposition whereby the interior row 21/11 flaw moves to row 22/11 which is now on an Afrikaans inscribed stamp. In this example there are two extra perforation holes in the right margin indicating the use of a second perforating head.



Perforation Problems

The perforation of the second and third printings were poor in that there were many missing holes which necessitated the frequent changing of the perforation head. The second or spare head always perforated two extra holes in the right margin.

In this example from the third printing, rows 10 and 11, there were no less than fifteen missing holes. Row 10/1 shows a green mark above the 'RI' in AFRICA.



Etching Problems

Rows 3 and 4 of the multipositive were again used for the added rows 21 and 22. On row 3/8 there was a green dot to the right of the top bar which appears as a white mark on row 21/8 of the inserted row. This was probably due to a failed attempt to remove the dot.

Row 3/8 - Green flaw to right of top bar.



Row 21/8 - Flaw now white in added row.



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Postal Rates increase 1st April 2015

Category	2013	2014	2015
Standard Postage	R2,80	R3,00	R3,30
Airmail Postcard rate (APC)	R5,70	R6,05	R6,65
International small letter (ILR)	R6,60	R7,00	R7,70
B5 Rate – Medium	R5,60	R5,95	R6,55
B4 Rate - Large	R6,90	R7,30	R8,00
Aerogram	R4,20	R4,45	R4,90
Registered letter DL – small	R19,60	R20,80	R22,90
Registered letter B5 – Medium	R22,40	R23,75	R26,15
Econoparcel	R20,40	R22,80	R25,40

South African Collectors' Society
Archive of Study Collections
 Updated October 2013

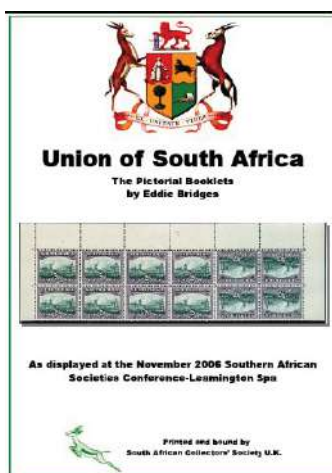
Printed and bound by
 South African Collectors' Society U.K.



SACS Study Collection # 1
 The Bantam war issues with printings and varieties.

Full colour copy-68 pages

Price: £12



SACS Study Collection # 2
 The Pictorial Booklets of the Union with seldom seen panes, specimens and varieties.

Full colour copy-116 pages

Price: £15



SACS Study Collection # 3
 The award winning collection of Officials with varieties, corrections to UHB listings, covering issues from 1926 to 1936 (sets 1-12)

Full colour copy-84 pages

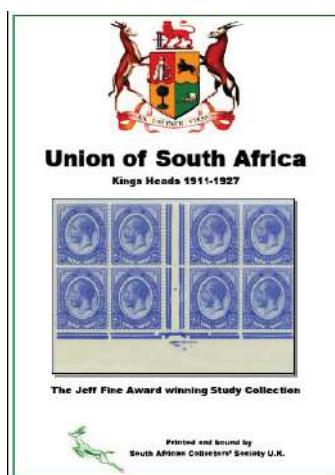
Price: £15



SACS Study Collection # 4
 Part two of the this award winning collection. Covers the period 1937 to 1950 (sets 12-23)

Full colour copy-112 pages

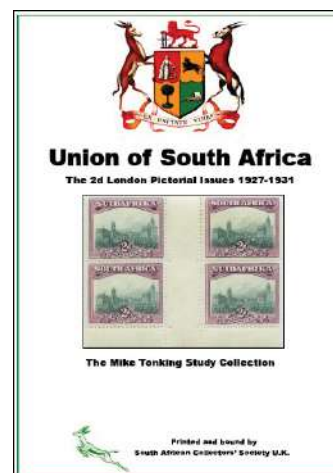
Price: £15



SACS Study Collection # 5
 The award winning Kings Head collection with much archival material. This collection has now been broken up and sold. A useful reference.

Black and white copy. 90 pages

Price: £12



SACS Study Collection # 6
 This fine collection of the 2d London Pictorial issues is as comprehensive as can be. The material contained herein formed the basis of the Monograph that was written on this issue.

Full colour Approx. 60 pages

Price: £15

Shown here are 6 of the 20 Study Collections that the Society print. The full list was printed in the Springbok Volume 61 No.4 and Volume 62 No.1 For more information please contact the Editor

The Half-Penny Springbok - A Review of the Final Printings 1947 to 1954

By Otto Peetoom

Introduction - The two low values of the Union definitives that are the most complex are of course the ½d Springbok and 1d Ship. One could easily go through a lifetime of collecting by studying the printings of these two designs. One man who seems to have done just that was Dr Gordon Ward whose work on *The Springbok Half-Penny* was serialised from June to October 1955 in *The Strand Stamp Journal* published by H.E. Wingfield & Co. in the Strand, London¹. Circa 1956 Eric Sherwood reprinted Ward's work in two booklets, the other being *The Ship Penny*. (Note - *The Springbok Half-Penny* booklet was advertised by Eric Sherwood in the March, April and May 1957 S.A.P. for 5/3 - Post Paid)

Invariably the inspiration to research a subject and write about it is triggered by a third party. I recently received an email from Dickon Pollard at Murray Payne who wrote: *There is a South African ½d which is not listed by SG or CW and I can't see it in the Handbook, either. It is from the screened series, but has the centre clearly screened and the frame unscreened. My question is - what Issue is it from? It is very clear.*

In my reply I said: *The place to look for that sort of thing is in the booklet **The Springbok Half-Penny** by Gordon Ward. It is Ward set 40 April 1949 Cylinder 7020a - 11b with a note - The only P (Screened) + R (Roto) issue.*

When I put my research hat on and started digging I realized that the subject is more complex than I had at first envisaged.

Relevant Union Publications - The majority may start with the Union handbook, but after my review and remarks in the November 2014 edition of *The Springbok* under *Union handbook review 1930-86* it is my opinion that the UHB is not as comprehensive or accurate as it purports to be.

Each subsequent edition copies the previous one, adds and subtracts a few things and rewrites previous info. This longstanding '*Bible*' of Union Philately is in urgent need of a systematic revision chapter by chapter. An enormous task that may not come to fruition during my lifetime.

This article is a review of a specific subject that focuses on three basic stamps listed as SG 114, 114c and 126. It draws on the resources available starting with back copies of *The South African Philatelist* (1947 to 1970). I extracted the Post Office information re dates and quantities printed. I scrutinized contemporary reports in the S.A.P. by the likes of A. Hilton Sydow and other known Union Philatelists of the past. On several occasions Gordon Ward, who acknowledges Sydow, is also quoted. The foregoing is supplemented by a stock book full of ½d Springbok stamps that I studied many years ago and refreshes my mind as I assemble this article.

1947 - 48 ½d Springbok Printings

In a perfect world we prefer to arrange and classify our stamps by the method of printing and/or date. Having collated and studied the information from the Government Printer I gain the impression that the production of low value stamps was continuous and never stopped. Starting in early 1947 Job 11662 had turned out 214,600 sheets x 240 stamps from cylinders 60/49 and 6912/6019.

Then two new sets of cylinders were used (48/6933 & 48/45) on which the frame is screened being SG 114 described as grey and green (frame only screened) (1947)

Dates noted are...*Delivered subsequent to 28.8.47 and...from 4.9.47*. Thus the issue was available by September 1947.

According to the literature these issues were either introduced by...*late 1947 or early 1948* (1952 UHB), *November 1947* (Ward) or *Late 1947* (1986 UHB). Classified by Ward as Group E2 - Set 35 and 35a and listed in the 1986 UHB as Issues 16A & 16B. Ward abbreviation C.S. = Cylinder Set.

Continuing Job 11662 - The next batch of 66,500 sheets reverted back to using old cylinders and the final four deliveries used a cylinder with the frame screened. The final 173,400 sheets were printed from a 180 set being cylinder 25/6912.

Part of Job 8218 delivered two batches from cylinder 86/82 (frame screened) 355,000 sheets in total.

Job 11662	Cylinders	Sheets Printed
Delivery Date		
After 19.2.47	60/49*	83,500 ²
Started 17.4.47	6912/7019*	11,600 ²
After 3.6.47	6912/7019*	119,500 ³
After 28.8.47	48/6933	35,000 ³
From 4.9.47	48/45	19,500 ³
After 30.9.47	6916/29*	66,500 ⁴
After 20.10.47	6912/6933	72,000 ⁴
After 22.12.47	48/6933	87,000 ⁴
Up to 10.2.48	48/6933	68,410 ⁵
	Total	563,010
Mar-Apr 1948	25/6912**	173,400 ⁵
	*Not screened	**180 Stamp sheets
Job 8218	Cylinders	Sheets Printed
After 1.6.48	86/82	290,000 ⁶
After 31.10.48	86/82	65,000 ⁷
	Total	355,000

½d **Frame screened** - Ward Group E2 numbered as Set 35, 35a, 35b, 36 and 38 - Set 37 is the 1948 booklet stamps. 1986 UHB - Issues 16A, 16B, 16C, 17 & 18.

1949 - 54 Screened ½d Springbok Printings

Ward classifies the *All screened* issues as Group - **E3** and remarks: *This is a very mixed group and one full of interest.*

It differs from the other sub-groups in that it is neither cross hatched nor yet does it have any R + P sets.

E3 is Ward Set 39 to 43. Set 42 being the June 1951 ½d Booklet Stamps. Listed in the 1986 UHB as Issues 19 to 22.

These **All Screened** stamps are grouped as SG 114c and were produced from four sets of cylinders. Certain confusion that arises from these four groups of cylinders is not immediately apparent. In the 1952 to 86 Union handbooks it refers to these printings as *All Screened* which is essentially correct.

Ward on the other hand defines two methods of screening and uses the abbreviations P = Photo screened and R = Roto screened. For instance, SG 114 (Ward 35 - 38), the frame is P = Photo screened. On the four groups in E3 (SG 114c) the first and the fourth are P + P and the other two are unique printings being P + R (second) and R + R (third).

Comments and observations published in the 1949 - 1954 editions of *The South African Philatelist* confirm that UHB issues 19 and 22 are similar and issues 20 & 21 are different.

Unfortunately none of the 1952 - 1986 UHB editions mentions that or clarifies the situation.

It appears that Ward's classification of Photo or Roto screening is very relevant to the four groups of 1/2d printings.

Extensive notes on cylinder 31/70 appeared during 1952 in the S.A.P. on pages 43, 61 and 177. T.B. Davie of Cape Town intimates that cylinder 31/70 and 7020A/B were both printed using *cross-lined* or *mesh screening* and this corresponds to Ward calling it Photo screening. Which of these phrases are thought to be technically correct I cannot say.

Screened Issue I - January 1949

Cylinders 7020A (Head) and 7020B (Frame)

Ward 39 - Both P = Photo screened - Issue 19 (1986 UHB)



Ward 39 - UHB Issue 19

Job 8218 Order for one million sheets

Previous Cylinder 86/82 - 355,000 sheets

Cylinder 7020A/B - 238,000 sheets - First delivery 14-12-48⁷

Job 8218 - 593,000 to date

The South African Philatelist **February 1949** page 21

Union Notes - *Sheets of the 1/2d denomination bearing the marginal imprints "Cylinder No 7020A" and "Cylinder No 7020B" appeared on sale at the GPO Johannesburg during the first week of January...Examination through a magnifying glass, however, will show one change in the fact that both the vignette and the frame of the new issue have been produced through a screen whereas only the frame was screened in the previous issue. The sheet numbers are in red, as before...*

The South African Philatelist **March 1949** page 39

Correspondents have noted the new 1/2d stamps, with marginal cylinder numbers, as now being generally available throughout the Union, and Mr. A.H. Sydow records their appearance at the Ysterplaat Post Office on the 7th January 1949; which is about the same date as on the Rand.

Screened Issue II - April 1949

Cylinders 7020A (Head) and 11B (Frame)

Ward 40 - Head P = Photo screened - Frame R = Roto screened. Remarks **The only P + R issue.** Issue 20 (1986 UHB)

Job 8218 continued - 199,000 sheets - First delivery 3-3-49⁷

Delivery up to 8.8.49 - 96,750 Sheets = Total 295,750⁸

Delivery up to 21.11.49 - 20,606 = Total 316,356 sheets⁹

Job 8218 - 909,356 complete

The South African Philatelist May 1949 page 75

Union Notes - *A new printing of the 1/2d postage stamp with the sheets bearing the old vignette cylinder "7020A" in the left-hand bottom corner and a new frame number "11B" in the right-hand bottom corner, appeared on sale at post offices on the Reef about the 12th April...The frames also appear to have been produced through a slightly finer, or different type of screen to that employed for the 7020B cylinder and in consequence the frame portion of the stamps is not so well defined as in the last printing. This, however, may only be due to factors arising in the process of printing the stamps.*

Note the underlined comment above clearly points out that the printing from this set of cylinders is different, that is because they are Ward P + R instead of P + P.

Comments on this issue continues in the May 49 S.A.P. and occupies a full page, the relevant remarks clarify that the frame on the stamps is quite different to the previous printing.



Ward 40 - UHB Issue 20

Observations - On 7020B the Green frame lines are clearly defined. On 11B the lines of shading are almost fusing together and the colour is bluish-green. Held up to the light, both frames are shiny. This is in sharp contrast to the next two issues as their frames, by comparison, appear dull or matt.

I also examined the four sets of cylinder issues under an ultra violet lamp, but that failed to produce any significant differences. - I thought it may be of interest to the readers to quote Ward's notes on his C.S. 40.

Ward 40 - Cylinder Set 40 (Plate 20 H/C)

This C.S. is remarkable in that it uses the same head cylinder as before (i.e. cylinder 7020A) but the new frame cylinder uses rows 2-21 of the multipositives instead of rows 1-20 as had been the case previously. The result of this is that the well-known multipositives flaws appear one row higher than before, and correspond to different head flaws (where there are any).

For example, the line between the horns on 1/3 is still in that position, since it is a head cylinder flaw, but is associated with a frame which was formerly 2/3 but has now been moved up. In the same way the multipositives flaws which are so obvious on 9/12, 14/1, etc., have now to be looked for in the 8th and 13th rows.

The first issue was in April, 1949, and the cylinders were 7020A & 11B. The first has a photo screen, the other roto. This is the only photo-roto C.S. in the whole springbok series, so that specimens from this C.S. are easy to identify. Serial numbers are in red and have four figures. The heads are usually in brown. This C.S. has been overprinted DOUANE and also in the third type of OFFICIAL.* This type is described on page 261¹⁰ of the Handbook/Catalogue.

There are no varieties peculiar to this C.S. since the head cylinder has already been used in a previous set (39) and the frame cylinders occurs again in set 41, where its varieties are discussed.

*OFFICIAL overprints on Cylinder 7020A/11B is noted in the April 1951 S.A.P. on page 50...Sheets of the half-penny postage stamps printed from cylinders numbered 7020A and 11B have been overprinted "Official-Offisieel" (small type)
Source - March 1951 Philatelic Bulletin

The South African Philatelist June 1949 page 91

Notes on the New ½d printing Cylinder No 7020A/11B

A.H. Sydow wrote...that Cylinder No 11B was prepared from a carbon tissue sheet printed from a 264-set Diapositive, i.e. 22 rows x 12 instead of 20 rows x 12. The two surplus rows not required in the finished sheets of stamps, were either varnished out after having been etched onto the cylinder, or the 264-set carbon tissue obtained from the Diapositive was reduced to a 240-set by cutting off the two extra rows of images.

In the August 1949 S.A.P. there are further extensive notes on this issue by Sydow mainly to do with the flaws on the sheet.

Screened Issue III - August 1949

Cylinder No 11A (Head) and Cylinder No 11B (Frame)

The first head inscription (Cylinder No. 11A) now reads up and on Issues I & II it read downwards.

Ward 41 - Head R = Roto screened - Frame R = Roto screened. Remarks *The only R + R issue*. Issue 21 (1986 UHB)

Job 5134 Order for one million sheets

Delivered since 29.11.49 - 215,950 sheets¹¹
Delivered by 14.6.50 - 153,370 = 369,320 sheets so far¹²
Delivered by 4.1.51 - 74,972 = 444,292 sheets to date¹³
Delivered by 4.1.51 - 54,990 = 499,282 sheets to date¹⁴

Job 5134 - 499,282 to date

In the September 1949 S.A.P. Sydow reported this issue was for sale at Ysterplaat Post Office on 4 August and provides details of the different layout of the sheet.

Sydow concluded: *The new sheets were noted on sale in Johannesburg on the 10th August and may have been available a few days earlier than this date.*

February 1950 S.A.P. page 26 ½d Cylinder 11A/B

Under a heading **Change in Colour and Form of the Cyclometer Numbers on Recent ½d Pictorials.**

Another report by Sydow reads...*It may not be generally known, but the five-figure sheet numbers in black indicate that this latest printing of the ½d stamps has been carried out on the larger of the two printing machines in use at the Government printing works in Pretoria.*

It is a three-colour machine as compared with the two-colour type generally used for the printing of the postage stamps and is fitted with a single comb perforator instead of the eleven-row multiple-comb equipment installed on the smaller, but faster machine. In consequence...a complete absence of "narrow row" of stamps frequently found at the centre of the sheets printed on the multiple-comb perforating machine.

An additional point of interest in this latest printing of the ½d pictorial stamp is that the lines of the Springbok's Head on the vignette portion of the design stand out with a distinct charcoal black appearance and in strong contrast to the frame, when the stamps are held up to a suitable position and viewed against the light.



Ward 41 - UHB Issue 21

The illustrated No. 11A is from the Charcoal Printing, the No. 11B is not.

Ward dates this issue as January 1950 which is clearly incorrect and comments:

Cylinder Set 41...Cylinder No. 11A reads upwards instead of down...*This is the only cylinder set in this sub-group to have the formula R + R and it is therefore easy to identify stamps of this issue. The fact that the heads are seldom if ever in a brown shade is also of assistance...cylinder 11B is peculiar in that it was prepared from rows 2-21 of the multipositives...all flaws on either cylinder are one row up. The old top row with the vertical line between horns on 1/3 is missing and a new bottom row, both head and frame, appears.*

Charcoal Centre - Ward stated:

Somewhere about the middle of the life of this C.S. an experimental or emergency printing was made on a machine not hitherto used for the half penny value. This printing differed from the normal in the following particulars:

1. *The head was printed in a very dark ink which was absolutely 'matt', i.e., when held up to light it appears not in the least shiny (as is usually the case) but remains dull and black. This is the easiest way of detecting what are well called "charcoal prints".*
2. *The perforation is as usual (14.7 by 14) but there is no perforation over-lapping at the centre of the sheet. This points to a difference of technique and it may be that a comb perforator of more up-to-date type was now available.*

3. The serial numbers differ from the usual in that (a) have five figure numerals, (b) are provided with serifs and (c) are printed in black.

These charcoal sheets were otherwise normal in design, flaws, etc. They are not uncommon. Sheets from cylinder-set 41 were overprinted DOUANE and also with type 11 of the OFFICIAL* series.

*OFFICIAL overprints on Cylinder 11A/11B is noted in the June 1951 SAP on page 94...Sheets of the half-penny postage stamps printed from cylinders 11A and 11B have been overprinted "Official-Offisiceel" (large type - reading down) Source - Philatelic Bulletin & July SAP page 110.

Illustrated at right Cylinder No. 11B with a five figure sheet number in black - from the Charcoal Printing.

In the October 1950 SAP on page 154 W.N. Sheffield produced a summary of printings and noted Cylinder 11A/B as August 1949 - First Printing. December 1949, second printing with five figure sheet numbers in black (Charcoal effect) February 1950



third printing, return to four-figure sheet numbers in red and printing similar in all respects to the August 1949 issue.

Note - Although the Author does not say so, it implies that the initial printing also had four-figure sheet numbers in red.

From the **Quantities Printed**, it suggests there were more than three printings and not as stated by Sheffield.

Observations on 11A/B - The vignette is very different to issue I & II and held to the light, the frame appears dull compared to the previous two cylinders. I have a nice large multiple of the charcoal printing on an album page that is described as '**Raised heads**' - this is an appropriate description. When holding the stamps to the light in order to observe the charcoal effect. The Springbok does appear to be proud of its surroundings.

The difference of the vignette between the four figure red serial number printing and the charcoal effect on the five figure black serial number printing is essentially a good reason to classify them separately, but then I came across a report in a 1955 S.A.P. that provides food for thought.

A Controversial Claim - Fact or Fiction?

According to Sydow and Ward the so called **Charcoal Printing** was confined to having been produced on a different printing machine that included a five figure sheet No in black.

I extended my search for contemporary information in the *The South African Philatelist* to 1970. To my surprise I came across a report in the April 1955 S.A.P. entitled:

Charcoal Centre 1/2d Springbok Stamps - Red Serial Numbers

A matter mentioned some three years or so ago by Mr A. Lichtenstein of Bloemfontein and Dr G.L. Faerber of Germiston, and unfortunately not recorded at the time, has recently been brought to light again by Mr R.T. Lilley, Johannesburg, showing us a portion of a sheet of the 1/2d Plate XXI Springbok stamps with the dull charcoal centres and four-figure red serial numbers in the margin instead of the five-figure black numerals.

At the time of its issue, the dull charcoal ("Rough") centres of the 1/2d Plate XXI printing was believed to be confined to those sheets bearing only the five-figure black serial numbers and notes to this effect were published on page 114 of the *Union Handbook of Postage Stamps*¹⁵. From information and examples that have since come to hand it is evident that the dull charcoal centre stamp was produced with both four-figure red and five-figure black serial numbers printed twice on the right hand margin of the sheets.

Mr Lilley also notes that the frames of these particular stamps appeared in three quite distinct shades of green light, medium and dark - and that the cylinder flaws on R17/5, 19/4 and 20/3 are constant on all three shades.

For the moment, the above report, can only be taken as read.

Screened Issue IV - December 1951

The final Cylinders for the 1/2d Springbok Cylinder 31 (Head) and Cylinder 70 (Frame)

Ward 43 - Head & Frame P + P = Both Photo screened. Issue 22 (1986 UHB)

Job 5134 continued - Order for one million sheets

The first part of this Job was 499,282 sheets of Cylinder 11A/B 31/70 Commenced on 13.11.51 - 105,371 sheets delivered¹⁶ No further deliveries for Job 5134 appeared in the S.A.P.

Job 5134 - 604,653 in total

Job 6112 Order for 25,000 sheets x 240 stamps

16,500 sheets delivered on 20.1.53¹⁷

8,700 delivered by 22.1.53 = Total 25,200 sheets¹⁸

Job 14150/3 Order for 14,000 sheets

14,500 sheets delivered on 11.3.54¹⁹

Job 106069 Order for 10,000 sheets

14,200 sheets delivered on 27.7.54²⁰

Total No of sheets for Cylinder 31/70 = 159,271

January 1952 S.A.P. under Union Notes by W.N. Sheffield New printing of 1/2d Postage Stamps from Cylinders 31 Interior and 70 Exterior

A new printing of the 1/2d pictorial postage stamps from cylinders 31 Interior and 70 Exterior appeared on the post office counters early in December.

The new issue shows a change in the language setting and the first stamp on the sheet is now inscribed in English instead of Afrikaans as in the 11A/11B printing...the reappearance of the vertical black line in between the horns of the Springbok on the

The Half-Penny Springbok - A Review of the Final Printings 1947 to 1954

third stamp of the top row indicates that the images for cylinder



31 have been taken from one row higher up on the glass plate than was the case in the 11A/11B printing.

In addition the movement of the green flaw in the top right hand corner of the frame design, from stamp No 12 in the 8th row of the 11A/11B issue to the same position in the 9th row of this latest printing, shows that the same procedure has been adopted for the transference of the frame images on to cylinder 70 and these factors, together with the language change, brings the setting of the stamps on the sheet back to the same position as that of the 7021A/7020B printing, issued in February 1949.

The Colour is described as a deeper if duller and more bluish-green frame and a distinct olive-grey centre compared to the previous 11A/11B with a more vivid deep green frame - usual red sheet numbers.

Extensive notes on this issue appeared during 1952 in the S.A.P. on pages 43, 61 and 177. T.B. Davie of Cape Town intimates that cylinder 31/70 and 7020A/B were both printed using cross-lined or mesh screening and this corresponds to Ward calling it Photo screening.

In April 1952 Davie devoted half a page in the S.A.P. in an attempt to provide guidance between the two sets of cylinders.

My own simple observation is that Issues I & II compared to III & IV, held to the light, the frames of the first two are shiny and the latter two are dull.

Ward in his Booklet also made a string of remarks and one comment provides a clue as to when he made his notes...*The sheets from this set were brought into use in December 1951 are still current...DOUANE and OFFICIAL (Type 10) overprints are recorded.*

Ward - Three States of C.S. 43

Three states may be discovered in printings from this C.S.

In the first state there are serious defects in the head cylinder. A very large black mark appears at the bottom of the sheet below stamps 4 and 5 and a small dot is present above the top left corner of 20/12. A small smudge has already been noted close to the cylinder number 31 and a much larger smudge covers much of the right side of stamp 17/12. It was perhaps this large smudge which made some repair essential and the second state shows it completely removed. The third state appeared in 1954 and shows the cylinder number 31 missing, except for a very small dot. The adjacent smudge has also vanished, but the black dot above still remains.

Cylinder 31- Faded or Omitted?

From my own observations the number 31 gradually faded away, whereas some of the contemporary comments indicate that it was considered as *'missing'*.

A paragraph - *Missing Cylinder Number Variety*, accompanied by an illustration, on the foregoing appeared in the October 1953 S.A.P. and a similar report followed in May 1954.

Union ½d Cylinder 70-31

Mr Sam Legator informs us that he has made a study of the ½d, Cylinder 70-31 with the "31" missing, and has found there are hundreds more such items than collectors imagine.

He has traced them with sheet numbers 0116 up to 1158 (which would mean at least 1000 sheets). He has been reliably informed that the "31" did not wear off from the cylinder but missed picking up the ink through a "wobble". Presumably it could start working again correctly after having been missing for a bit.



Cylinder No 31 fading on Sheet No 0491 and almost completely vanished on sheet No 1087

The above illustrations suggest that the contention of a "missing 31" is somehow flawed. I have four blocks ranging from sheet No's 0445 to 0491 that show various stages of fading and another four No's 1084 to 1088 with faint traces of the number remaining.

The last comment on the above subject appeared in the June 1954 S.A.P. reporting an example of a cylinder block over-printed OFFICIAL with the number "31 missing".

Quantities Printed

1986 UHB	Cylinders	Sheets Printed
Issue 19	7020A/7020B	238,000
Issue 20	7020A/11B	316,356
Issue 21	11A/11B	499,282
Issue 22	31/70	159,271

Regarding the quantities printed, the 1986 UHB includes the following notes

Issue 20...*The quantity printed was small compared to the other productions of this group.*

Issue 22...*like No 21, was also a very large one.*

O Dear, O Dear, O Dear!

Varieties on the Screened Issues

The majority of flaws are minor and often mere fly specks.
Cylinder 7020A/B UHB V4 - 10 list seven and Ward added another three. **Cylinder 7020a/11B** UHB V11 - 15 (Five)

UHB V16 - 18 found on Issues 20 & 21.

Cylinder 11A/B - UHB V19 (1) and Ward added another four
Cylinder 31/70 UHB V20 - 24 (5) and Ward added another 13.

Some of the better variations include a line between the horns on R1/3 UHB V1 on Issues 19 & 22. A white dart in the vignette (See illustration below) The most prominent variety is the Bush Tick Flaw, also listed as **SG 114cb** found on R3/4, Issues 19 and 20 and R2/4 on Issue 21 and was partly corrected during the use of these cylinders (See illustration below). It was completely removed on Issue 22.



Issue 19 R3/3 & 3/4 Flaws Issue 21 R2/4 Corrected Bush Tick

1948 ½d Reprint SG 126 - A Government Printing Anomaly

Described in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue by way of a footnote as an ‘economy printing’ and dubbed in the 1952 U.H.B. a **1948 Reissue** with a note: *In 1948, to use up a quantity of ready cut paper which had been in stock for a long time, a small printing of the ½d value was made from Plates 2 and 2. The stamps are distinguished from the earlier Pretoria issue by the pale olive-grey centre.*



August S.A.P. under “**Pretoria Printings**” **½d Typo Plate 2, On Sale again** - Mr R. Axer, of Cape Town, excited our interest during the earlier part of July with a letter bearing three ½d unhyphenated Union postage stamps and containing a report that sheets of the old ½d Pretoria Printing with jubilee lines all around and two nicks in the bottom right-hand corner (Plate 2)

A Puzzle Unfolds

Why was this printing not included in **Recent Printings** reports published in *The South African Philatelist*? Printers allot Job Numbers to their work plus quantities printed and as that information was not published, it led to a certain amount of speculation in the S.A.P. during August, September and October 1948.

were appearing on sale at some of the smaller post offices in that area...Mr Sydow points out...The sheet examined is described as being different to the 1928 printing in the fact that the current issue is printed in Grey and Green on very poor quality unwoven paper, whereas the earlier stamps were printed in Black and Green on white wove paper...one of the sheets examined by Mr Sydow showed the left-hand margin UNWATERMARKED...from a printing point of view, considers this 1948 issue a much better production...there have been no reports to indicate a large general distribution throughout the Union and apart from the Cape Town area, only one small post office on the West Rand is known to have had any of these stamps for sale...Mr Sydow believes, these stamps are a 1948 production, then it can only be due, as he remarks, to a shortage of paper or a desire to avoid waste by using up old stocks of flat-plate sheets. (The foregoing remark is either an Educated guess or pure speculation)

The above report concludes...Note - We have since learned from Mr J. Robertson, Johannesburg, that in conversation with the Controller of Stores he was informed that only small quantities of these stamps were available and they had been distributed to small offices.

September S.A.P. - Union Notes under a title **Re-Issue of Unhyphenated ½d Typo. Stamps**...recently appeared on sale again in Cape Town, reports have now been received...supplies...available at several of the smaller post offices in the Transvaal and O.F.S., but generally only small quantities.

In a conversation with the Government Printer on the subject...Dr A. Kaplan...was informed that the re-issue of the ½d...had been decided on for the purpose of using up a stock of cut paper...now that the printing had been completed there was very little likelihood of any further production...The official figures for the printing are not yet available, but we understand the issue amounted to 11,000 sheets.

October S.A.P. - A. Hilton Sydow summed up the events and concluded...Thus to Mr Axer belongs the credit for the discovery of the re-introduction of the Union’s unhyphenated and typographed ½d stamps...but it should be noted that almost simultaneously and independently they were found at a Transvaal P.O. on the West Rand and have since that time been on sale at a variety of places (mostly small offices) throughout the Union.

From the 9th July, 1948, onwards these stamps were on sale at the Mill Street P.O. and the Caledon Square P.O. in Cape Town. It was noted from used copies that at a later date they were on sale at Barkly West during July 1948.

SG 126 ½d Mint

Other than the August to October reports, from late 1948 to 1970 nothing else appeared in the S.A.P. about this issue.

The stamps are extremely common in mint condition which suggests the Stamp Trade and collectors may have acquired large quantities of this issue. Blocks and larger multiples are not difficult to locate.

As a result used pairs are elusive and used blocks or larger multiples very scarce, it suggests that it is one of scarcest Union low values in used condition.

SG 126 - Used and on Cover

On cover it was initially extremely rare until the East London Burmeister covers came onto the market, but it is still very scarce. Dates and places of use added much new information to the subject, yet July 1948 usage seems to elude me and the majority of dates are in an August to December 1948 range.



A pair from a larger multiple used at JULES STR JOHANNESBURG XII 48 - Also seen 30 VIII 48 on Block of 4

The majority of correspondence to Burmeister originated from the Cape Province and that is reflected in the data I have collated. * = On Cover

Cape Province

Abrahamsvlei XI 48*
Barkley West - SAP report
Cape Town - SAP report
De Aar 4 SEP 48*
East London 1 to 4 IX 48* & 4 X 48
Grahamstown AUG/ 2 SEP 48*
Idutywa 6 IX 48*

King Williams Town 24 VIII 1948*
Kowie West 30 DEC 49*
Port Elizabeth 13 VIII* & 18 VIII 1948
Sterkstroom 12 VIII 48*
Uitenhage 13 X 48
Umtata 29 X* & 1 XI 48*
Xuka Drift 21 NOV 48*

Orange Free State - Bloemfontein 17 AUG, 3 SEP & 7 IX 48, Kroonstad 11 XI 48 (On cover).

Transvaal - Bantjesloo 23 XII 48* (Philatelic block of 12) Birchleigh 30 NOV 48 (Block), Heidelberg 23 VIII 48, Johannesburg 25 V 49 and 22 V 51. Jules Str. Johannesburg 30 VIII and XII 48, Pretoria 11.2.49, MAR 50 (Philatelic) and IX 54, Wakkerstroom 25 X 48 (On cover)

1958 Late out of period use, on an unaddressed postcard Philatelic Services, Pretoria 8 II 58 (Philatelic)

1947 - 1951 ½d Roll (Coil) and Booklet Stamps

There was a large and continuous production of Coil stamps that were either in rolls of 506 or 1012.

The vast majority were mono-coloured; however there was a bi-coloured printing from cylinders 39/54 circa August 1947. The last order for ½d Springbok coil stamps commenced delivery on 23 May 1950 and was not completed.

The foregoing suggests that ½d stamps used in vending machines was discontinued about mid 1950.

From 1947 - 50 a total of 22,715,858 roll stamps were printed.

Booklets - Two different versions were issued, a 3/- booklet in 1948 and 3/6 in 1951 (SG SB18 & 19). Both included two ½d panes of six that total 6,766,080 Springbok stamps. Thus the coils and booklets added 29.5 million ½d stamps to Post Office supplies. A detailed review of the coil and booklet stamps will be subject to another article.

Dr Gordon Ward Obituary - S.A.P. September 62 page 153 *Dr Gordon Ward's death is reported in the British Philatelic Press. Although probably not known personally to many in South Africa his writings on our stamps are familiar to Union students, particularly those of the ½d Springbok and 1d Ship and his assiduous studies of them will be much missed.*

Post script - The 1954 new Animal Definitives finally replaced the 1926 to 1954 Union definitive designs and as a consequence the last printings of the screened Union issues tend to be far more common in mint condition than used.

Once the Republican period started in 1961, it is very noticeable that notes, reports or articles on the Union soon declined in the pages of *The South African Philatelist*.

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Marginal Arrow block on an envelope paying a 2d surface rate to England, cancelled **EAST LONDON 1 IX 48**

Envelope to Burmeister & Co. East London with a vertical strip of three, paying the inland rate, postmarked **KROONSTAD 11 XI 48**

SG 126 on Cover - At the time of writing this I can account for some twenty plus covers, the vast majority being singles in combination with a 1d, paying a 1½d Inland postage rate. The most spectacular cover I know of, I sold during 1990, being an envelope with a block of twelve (4 x 3) Registered (4d) and posted (2d) from PRETORIA on 11 FEB 49.

The Half-Penny Springbok - A Review of the Final Printings 1947 to 1954

1949 - 52 Supplementary ½d Values

UPU Commemoratives ½d - Job 3266 - 230,271 sheets x 120 stamps were delivered between 15.9.49 and 16.11.49 of which 14,450 sheets were overprinted S.W.A. making a total of 215,821 ½d sheet available to Post Offices to supplement their stock of ½d Springbok definitives.

1952 Van Riebeeck ½d - Job 7883 - 71,000 sheets x 120 stamps delivered by 28.2.52, 6,000 sheets overprinted S.W.A. total of 65,000 ½d supplementary sheets.

Notes

- ¹Articles by Ward - Reported in S.A.P. November 1955 page 191
- The South African Philatelist* Union Notes - Recent Printings
- ²August 1947 page 113, ³November 1947 page 161,
- ⁴March 1948 page 33, ⁵June 1948 page 89, ⁶January 1949 page 1,
- ⁷June 1949 page 89, ⁸October 1949 page 153, ⁹February 1950 page 24
- ¹⁰This is an incorrect page reference (261) and is 272 -
- No 089 - 1952 UHB, ¹¹April 1950 page 49, ¹²August 1950 page 118,
- ¹³March 1951 page 34, ¹⁴June 1951 page 92 ¹⁵Page reference to the
- 1952 U.H.B., ¹⁶March 1952 page 42, ¹⁷March 1953 page 37,
- ¹⁸July 1953 page 113, ¹⁹July 1954 page 117, ²⁰February 1955 page 13

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KOWIE WEST
30 DEC 49

UMTATA
29 X 48

GRAHAMSTOWN
2 SEP 48

Messrs. Burmeister & Co.,



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DE AAR 4 SEP 48 - 1½d surface rate to East London

Acknowledgements - My thanks to the following for their input on used copies of SG 126
 Simon Peetoom, he supplied eighteen covers, Mike Tonking (Used block of 4), Jan van Beukering (2 used examples),
 Morgan Farrell (8 used singles & multiples), Chris Palmer (Pair & block plus Philatelic cover with block of 12)
 My thanks to numerous others who responded to my email to say they could not help

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