

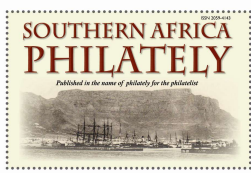
THE SPRINGBOK



**SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY
QUARTERLY**

www.southafricacollectors.com

Volume 63 No. 3



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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.

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Editorial

On page 83 of this issue is a New Journal. "Southern African Philately" produced by Otto Peetoom, Simon Peetoom and Brian Trotter. The first issue is free, follow the links on page 83. In 2016 there will be three issues. Journal subscriptions for 2016 UK £10 Europe and overseas £15. If you collect Southern Africa this excellent journal will be of interest to you.

The next issue of the Springbok will be going to the printers at the end of November. I am extremely short of material and articles for the next issue. Without members contributions I can not put an issue together.

The Society Study collections are at present being updated and it is anticipated that these will be ready for printing at the end of November. I know that some members have placed orders for some copies and I apologise for the delay. If anyone else is thinking about purchasing copies would they please let me know as it would greatly help the printing process.

Some confusion has arisen about who gets what regarding the auction lists. Could I therefore remind members who receive the Springbok via email that they can view the list on the society website. Members who receive a paper copy of the Springbok will have the auction list sent with the Springbok.

Membership

Welcome to new members Bill Cochrane 1191 Fife Scotland. Via website. Brian and Karenza Ring 1192 South Africa

Awards

Josh Spoor Vase. Nick Arrow has been awarded the Josh Spoor Vase from the BAMS at the society AGM held on the 6th June 2015. This award is presented to a member who made the greatest contribution to the content of the Air Mail News. Nick wrote an article about the Domier Do-X

SACC Wicks Medal. The Wicks Medal for the best article in the Springbok for 2014 was presented to Otto Peetoom for his contributions, in particular the 1910 Capetown Pageant & also the 1950 2d Official reading upward [SG 035].

SACC Abell Trophy was competed for by six members at our annual meeting held at Leamington Spar. Lyn Lester was the winner with her display of the 1892 South Africa & International Exhibition at Kimberley.

World Stamp Show NY2016

May 28th - June 4th 2016 Javits Center New York

More packet exchange books needed!!

Report from the Packet Exchange Secretary.

As I write this the last packets have just finished circulating that I am currently able to make up. I have a number of books that have already been seen by a number of our members, but some have been seen by some sections of the list and some by others. Thus I do not have enough to make up a packet for any further mailings without more books. So, if you have any material available that you can make up into books it would enable the exchange packet to continue. If I don't receive any more books in the autumn I will have to assume that there is insufficient material for the packets to continue and close the service.

Please help if you want the service to continue.

Tony Johnson

Auction Report - June 2015 by Nicholas Arrow

The Auction at Leamington Spa achieved a rather better result than I had at one stage hoped. There were 263 lots on offer, of which 155 were sold, a total of just under 59%. The total value of the lots sold was £3,824.50, which, for a smaller auction than normal, was a satisfactory result.

Fortunately the administration is becoming much simplified, thanks to Tony Johnson who has designed a programme which is beginning to become almost completely idiotic-computer-nerd-Auctioneer-mistake-proof (no small job that!) and I am hoping that my job will soon just be compiling the auction and entering the bids, with the computer doing the rest!

For those who are paying by PayPal, it seems that we are still not getting the calculations right bearing in mind what PayPal take to operate the system, and it seems a lot simpler to add a straight 4% to the total cost of the lots plus P&P to ensure that the total payable to the Vendors is achieved and the Society's commission. I would be just as happy (probably more so!) if the money was paid directly by Bank Transfer to the Society's Bank Account were, although I understand that the Bank's fees in some countries will exceed 4%!

The probability now is that for the January and June Auctions the Auction List will not have colour illustrations, but in greyscale. The cost of the colour illustrations is becoming rather expensive and not justified by the sales achieved. However, all the illustrations for all the auctions will be put in colour on the Society's website and I am beginning to become sufficiently computer savvy as to enable the illustrations to be sent to Otto without putting Otto to fruitless hours of sorting out my muddled offerings!

The November list will include illustrations which will all be in colour.

Concerning the minimum reserve, as anyone will appreciate, offering lots for (say) 50p is not economic - it is a huge amount of work for a commission of only a few pence. As you will read elsewhere, for November, we are hoping to have a minimum lot value of £5, even if this does reduce the number of lots, although I will be making an exception so far as the Literature section is concerned.

I am still very **short of material**, so please will you ALL look out the material that is now surplus to your collections and send it to me. If you wish to lot the material, then great, but if not I am quite happy to put the material into realistic lots and suggest a reserve. I do realise that it takes time for this material to get itself sold, whereas you can try eBay and get a result within a month at the most, but so far as I can see, the result for much of the material on eBay is that it is not sold! At least in the Society Auction, there is a good chance of a fair sale, to an appreciative purchaser, and a few pence in it to help the Society's financial position - generally a win-win situation.

After the auction, the list of unsold lots will be published on the Website, and if anyone wishes to buy an unsold lot at reserve, please get in touch - I will deal with requests on a first come first served basis. Members who are not on the internet should write or (better) telephone as to whether any particular lot was sold.

Important Announcement Regarding The Auction held at The Annual Southern Africa Conference.

Each year there has been an auction held at the Conference held at Leamington Spa in November. Over the years this has been run by the S.A.C.S. auctioneer and the money raised has been used to pay for the amenities at Conference. In 2012 there was a very successful auction which meant the Leamington Spa Fund received a huge shot in the arm. The 2013 & 2014 auction realisations have been more modest, covering our costs with a small surplus.

The proceeds of the Conference auctions have always gone towards the November Leamington Spa conference Fund and the modest costs will still be met from this money. There will be a breakdown of 2013 & 2014 monies in and out of the Leamington Spa fund available at this year's conference.

There will be some minor changes to how the auction is organised. The Conference Auction remains open to anyone, either as a buyer or a vendor. It will still be run along the same lines and to the same rules (i.e. those of The South Africa Collectors' Society) as it always has been and Nick Arrow has agreed to continue to be our auctioneer. There will be a suggested minimum lot value of £5 and the total number of lots will be limited to around 350 if enough material is received. These figures will be kept under review. If you want your material to specifically go into the S.A.C.S. auctions (currently two per year) then please make Nick aware when sending him the lots.

The November auction catalogue will be available to view via the internet prior to the conference and I will forward the link in my usual "Round Robin" emails. The catalogue will be posted to SACS members who receive a Springbok hard copy. The November Conference auction is also open to anyone, so if you have a friend who would like to bid either forward the link to them or they can receive a hard copy of the conference auction catalogue then please request one from me (my details are in the front of The Springbok).

Simon Peetoom

A REPORT OF THE WEEKEND MEETING AT LEAMINGTON SPA 6TH & 7TH JUNE 2015 by Chris Oliver

Some arrived on Friday night, some on Saturday morning but a number of us assembled on Saturday 6th June for a start at 11.00, when Otto Peetoom instilled interest in some aspects of the hobby which others could have made boring.

His power-point display covered a variety of items starting with early adhesive NCR parcel labels of 1940's, first yellow then white from 1947. One blue from 1935 could probably be a scam. Next a study of the comparatively rare use of the 1948 ½d Government Reprint SG 126, from the East London Burmeister correspondence including late use in 1954, and booklet use. A study of mechanised meter franking from commencement in 1927 up to 1961 followed. We then saw some entertaining pictorial envelopes, some items from the East London Stamp Exhibition of January 1927 and continued with S.A. towns with 'Otto' in the name.

Nick Arrow's display was of the 1977 RSA Protea definitive issue of which the basis had been purchased from the sale of Alec Page's collection. Several of us had been under-bidders. He had been surprised to find that 143 cylinder blocks were listed, for this set, in the Atlas catalogue and with fired interest had now developed the study. The issue was, suitably, launched at the Kirstenbosch Gardens, as noted on Nick's T-shirt. Irritatingly, the rotogravure printing changed the cylinder without changing the control numbers. Nick explained that perforation changes were many, as the in-built perforator contained on the Drury printing machine slowed the process. This was overcome by the additional use of Kroll or Grover perforating machines on some sheets and occasionally the Bickel machine.



Nick Arrow, in the Kirstenbosch T-Shirt, giving his display



Rob Lester in display mode

In 1941 The War Train project was launched by the South African Government to aid awareness of efforts of their forces in the second war, encourage recruitment and promote savings bonds & other money raising schemes to pay for the war. John Shaw explained that he got his inspiration for collecting this material from a display given by the late Alec Page. Following a two day jamboree in Milner Park, Johannesburg, the train started on a journey, on 22nd March, which visited all provinces of the Union. This included 23 stops prior to its destination at Cape Town on 18th April. Mail received one of two unilingual cancels and, often, the oval cachet of "1st Battalion / Railways and Harbours Brigade". The project was a major success so a second trip was organized which included The Rhodesias, Bechuanaland and Belgian Congo where it terminated. Union cancellers could not be used outside Union territory, so the oval cachet is the only means of identifying mail from the train in these instances.

After a break for lunch, Rob Lester give a display on the 1926, triangular 4d stamp which was supposedly issued on 1st January although the earliest known use is 2nd January. Stamps were bilingual, imperforate Rotogravure printed by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co., for issue in packs of six pre-cut, stamps. Sheets comprised 120 Dutch stamps & 120 English stamps. In Rob's display was an airmail use of the triangular stamp and a cover with one cancelled by a slogan postmark. 3,000,000 stamps were delivered to the S.A. High Commissioner in London. Some were used on pre-stamped envelopes, some were sent to South-West Africa for overprinting for use in that territory and the remainder were used within the Union.

Bob Hill showed a miscellany of interesting items from his collection based upon the development of the docks in Cape Town. The Alfred Docks developed from a single jetty to eventually be renamed Cape Town Docks. Examples of Alfred Docks c.d.s.'s and double ring cancellers were shown, together with Union Castle rubber stamps for use on board ship. The Victoria Basin development extended the docks area although cancellers only say Cape Town Docks. Reclamation from the sea added the Duncan Docks which have been, subsequently, demolished. Containerisation saw the Ben Schoeman Docks built and added to the Cape Town dock complex. Bob displayed a number of Shipping Postmasters marks and some pictures of a ship on fire in the docks in 1905 and a fire at the docks c.1930's.

Cont'

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After a short break the nine page Abell Trophy was competed for by six members. Lyn Lester proved the winner with her display of the 1892 South Africa & International Exhibition at Kimberley. The winner was announced & the Trophy was presented later at dinner, that evening.



JOHN SHAW PRESENTING THE PRIZES! TO LYN AND TO OTTO

Another slightly longer break followed the A.G.M. of the Society, after which we were able to sample the improved catering at the Falstaff Hotel and exchange a few yarns. The Wicks Medal for the best article in the Springbok for 2014 was presented to Otto Peetoom for his contributions, in particular the 1910 Capetown Pageant & also the 1950 2d Official reading upward [SG 035].

On Sunday morning we were treated to series of shorter displays.

Chris Oliver produced a sequel to his display on Republican booklets, given last year. He had acquired and devised the best method of displaying two proof sheets of Easipost booklets and, from the late Bill Branney's collection of these booklets had gained a clearer understanding of the numbering of booklet stations. His display endeavored to show this information in a clear manner.



CHRIS OLIVER AND PETER GRIMLEY GIVING THEIR DISPLAYS.

Peter Grimley had been studying Registration labels up to 1950, and had a number both on and off cover to show us. Registered mail labels predate the use of adhesive stamps. There were examples of rubber stamped Registration marks displayed. Peter explained that no literature on the coil labels of the Union existed. The best source on Registration Labels was produced by the late Jimmy Mackay.

In July 1872 the Transvaal experienced a new rush of immigrants, this time for diamond prospecting, and the population exploded accordingly. Rob and Lyn Lester displayed some more material on the lead up to and philatelic information on the 1892 South Africa & International Exposition at Kimberley. This included a book on the exhibition. They require more information on the 1st Trade Exhibition, held later in that year.

Richard Weaver's display was of the second airmail stamp issue as used in South West Africa. This included many varieties on the stamps and on the bilingual overprinting.

Our Chairman, Tony decided on displaying a miscellany of philatelically interesting material, having shown much of his material on previous occasions. He started with a display of parcel labels including the interprovincial period. We then saw the first airmail issue, S.A. stamps used in Tristan-da-Cunha and K.G.V. heads used in Swaziland. Tony's display continued with Official high value stamps including a pair of the last 5/- from row 1 with the top margin guillotined off (the issue was overprinted in half sheets and the top margin couldn't be accommodated as the same forme was used for the top and bottom halves), and to finish, a card from Amsterdam with 2½d G.B. (1963) stamp + a 3c postage due of South Africa.

Bob Hill displayed another of his pot-pourris comprising cork cancels of Natal on cover, C o G.H. 1906 Bread Riot cover with a perfin., O.F.S. Money Orders with good cancels, Manuscript cancellations c 1915's, Vernouk Pan skeleton cancellations with a background of Campbells trials and various Table Mountain



OUR CONVENER AT WORK



BOB HILL'S KIT-KAT DISPLAY

In an interlude during his display, Bob, who has often shown his love of chocolate bars, displayed a frame of his Kit-Kat material, with particular reference to South Africa. All present found this both amusing and entertaining and brought the weekend displays to a close.

We all then adjourned for a short lunch break before those, who remained, assembled for the afternoon live auction conducted, most ably, by Nick Arrow.

Tony Howgrave-Graham thanked our Leamington Spa convener, Simon Peetoom, on behalf of us all, for organizing and managing another successful weekend.

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

1. Apologies. These were received from:

John Richardson	Tony Johnson	David Page
Bas Payne	Eddie Bridges	David Osborn
David Briggs	Mike Tonking	Francis Kiddle
Paul van Zeyl	Roy Ross	Mike Berry

2. Record of previous A.G.M. [Springbok 62/3 68] Proposed for adoption by Bob Hill, seconded by Nick Arrow and agreed.

3. Matters arising if not included elsewhere in the agenda. There were none.

4. The Hon. Chairman's report. Tony Howgrave-Graham

At the risk of this report sounding a bit like a repeat of last year's I'm happy to say that the Society still seems to be in good shape. This, in large part, is due to the Peetoom family where Simon has continued to arrange the very successful Leamington weekends and Otto has put a huge amount of time and effort into improving the website so that it has become a flagship for the Society. The number of new members has just about kept pace with the losses and most have been as a result of the website. My thanks to them and to Roy Ross, whose editing and production of the *Springbok* has brought universal acclaim as well as raising the profile of the, previously rather neglected, Republican issues. My thanks, also, to Chris Oliver whose tireless efforts keep the whole show on the road and ticking over smoothly.

Thanks are also due to Nick Arrow for running the Society auctions so adeptly and to those who put in work behind the scene, especially Max Whitlock who arranges printing and distribution of the *Springbok*, auction lists and notices. Finally thanks to all the members who have contributed with articles for the *Springbok* or website and even those who just attend meetings. A Society is only as good as its members so, as usual, I would urge members to put their heads above the parapets and participate in any of these ways.

Congratulations are due to our long standing expert member Mike Tonking who was awarded the Manfred Weinstein Memorial Medallion by the South African Congress last year. This was for his "outstanding research", article writing and willingness to share his knowledge. Repeated congratulations, Mike, it was richly deserved.

Congratulations are also due to Nick Arrow who won the American Air Mail Society's George Kingdom Literature Award for his 2nd edition Airmail book.

So that just leaves me to wish you all much success in your philatelic Endeavour's this year and we look forward to seeing the results in any of the meetings or in a *Springbok* article!

5. The Hon. Secretary & Membership Secretary's report. Chris Oliver

Attendance at meetings in London and Northern meetings at Carlisle continue. The Letchworth meeting was much better attended but will cease after our 2016 meeting, when Tom Humfreys moves to France. We will have to review our venue for day meetings in the East-Midlands. This weekend meeting goes from strength to strength, mainly due to Simon's excellent organization. Our Auctions, Circulating Packet and Magazine continue to flourish but all are in need of suitable material to enable them to thrive.

Our oldest established member, having joined in 1953, passed away recently. We have enrolled nine new members since the last A.G.M. although another eight members have dropped by the wayside, so we are barely holding our membership numbers. Over a third of our members are now E-members.

My thanks to our Officers and Committee who have helped over the last year, and more.

6. The Hon. Treasurer's report & statement on subscriptions for 2016. David Osborn

Neither the Hon. Treasurer nor the Hon. Independent Examiner were able to be present.

The Hon. Treasurer has reported that the income this year is down to just below £800. However the funds are good in that we have £9500.00 in cleared cash funds at the end of 2014. The accounts have yet to be examined.

We are able to keep the subscriptions at the present level for 2016.

The accounts were, therefore, proposed for adoption, subject to audit, by Bob Hill, seconded by Rob Lester and approved on this basis.

7. Reports from other Officers of the Society.

Hon. Editor's report

The number of pages in the Springbok increased last year, averaging 36 pages per issue. 40 pages is about the maximum size that overseas email recipients can comfortably download.

Cont'

The extra pages did however increase the postal costs. Therefore I can't see the Springbok getting any bigger. If there comes a day when there are far too many articles to be accommodated in the Springbok then we may have to move to 5 issues per year.

The quality of paper now being used is significantly better than previously, at no extra cost. After negotiating with the printers the print price per issue and the paper cost have remained about the same for 36 pages as it was for 24 pages.

The quality of some of the images in the Springbok does frustrate me but I can only work with what I am sent. Not everyone is computer literate and I appreciate that it is difficult for some members to provide good quality images. If we want to see the Springbok remain in its 36 page issue then we must accept the odd poor image. A poor image is better than nothing at all.

There has been a very positive response to the Springbok lately from members and if we want to see a good range of articles I urge members to please keep sending them into me. I will together anything that you send me. Provide me with the words and pictures and I will do the rest.

Hon. Librarian's report:

The Library is thriving and gets more enquiries from overseas than from G.B. Some information can be scanned and sent by e-mail providing that these are not too large. Much of the money allocated to the Library last year had been used and a similar amount would be of benefit to the society. Nick Arrow proposed and Simon Peetoom seconded that this is done. Agreed.

Hon. Distribution Manager's report.

Postal distribution covers about 65% of members. Printed paper rates overseas is to change but should not cause any problems.

Auctioneer's report:

The Society's Auction programme has settled into a pattern of 3 auctions per annum, one postal Auction held in January, with two live Auctions held in June and November at the Society's meetings in Leamington Spa.

In the case of the two live auctions, the material offered is mostly material which has not been offered before. This seems to work reasonably well, and the disposal rate for the two live auctions in 2014 was 54% in June and 67% in November.

For the January Auction, I try to dispose of material which has been offered before, and the success of these auctions is anticipated to be less - the January 2015 Auction proved a point here in that only 42 out of a total of 178 lots was sold, i.e. 24% only, a very disappointing result and the worst sale rate that I have experienced since taking over as Auction Manager.

There is a limit to the number of times I can continue to serve up "stale" material. The Rules indicate that after the material has been offered once, the reserve will be reduced, so in theory, sooner or later, the unsellable become the desirable, but the main problem is that the number of active bidders in the society is limited and most of them will have the more mundane material, as well as a generous proportion of the more unusual items.

To make the Auction more commercially viable for the Society, obviously I need a great deal more material. I shall try to arrange that the June Auction is larger than the November Auction - in 2014, there were 251 lots in the June auction compared with 346 in the November auction, so that the Society will benefit from the material submitted to be sold, rather than the "black hole" of the November auction, in which there is no account of the proceeds at all.

To improve the Auction's profitability, I propose to discontinue the practice of illustrating the Auction List, certainly insofar as coloured illustrations are concerned - It is possible that greyscale illustrations will improve the look of the list without adding greatly to its cost. Although this will be somewhat disappointing, having the Auction list with illustrations in colour adds spectacularly to the Auction cost - it also adds considerably to the time spent on final production of the auction list, as arranging the illustrations attractively in the list is a fiddly job which, with my somewhat inadequate computer skills, leads to a great deal of frustration. I do believe that some of the material should be illustrated and I intend to consult with Otto as to the best and most efficient way of transmitting copies of the material in the auction to him so that he can install it on the Society's web-page - at least this will enable interested purchasers to see illustrations of the more desirable items. As this may discriminate against members who are not familiar with the internet, and how to manipulate the society's web-page, I will continue to offer to members the facility of seeing copies of lots in which they are interested - I have for example copied several lots to overseas members who have been interested in some of the lots not illustrated in the list. I propose that I should make a charge to members who want to have physical copies of lots (i.e. not sent through email), refundable if they acquire the lots, all proceeds being payable to the Society and I would like this to be authorised by the Society in its Annual General Meeting.

Cont'

Concerns regarding the Auctioneer's report from Tony Howgrave-Graham.

With regards to the comments that stale material doesn't sell I agree though it's sometimes surprising how an interesting item will remain unsold twice and then attract competitive bidding. However I think it would be reasonable to offer 3 times on reducing reserves and then give the vendor the option of paying for the return or offering again unreserved.

My concerns arise over the proposals to stop illustrating items and favour the June auction. Illustrations improve the interest and appearance of an auction and draw people's attention to sections of the auction. Colour should be considered for items over £100 and some in the £40-£100 range and should be done at the auctioneer's discretion but in the current auction, for example, it's difficult in cost terms to justify full colour pages for lots 192 & 195 and over ½ a page for 224. It's very nice to have colour illustrations in the text but, again, it adds hugely to the cost. I would suggest having one or more (depending on available material) colour pages and the rest b&w.

With regard to favouring the June auction, the November one always outsells it because there are more people present. Everything should be done to attract sellers and demonstrate that good items sell well and that means offering them in the best place. It would be preferable to revisit the use made of profits from the November sale than artificially skew things.

I fear that the raison d'être of the auction is being lost. I see it primarily as a service to members rather than a money making exercise. Looking at the big auction houses they are charging 30-35% in total in commission and are not very interested in middle range items (by this I mean items in the £50-£300 range) and have no interest in smaller items. The Society should be able to benefit from this situation if we could attract people to think of selling through us first rather than last, or not at all. This means publicising the cause and bullying potential vendors to produce material when they give up a topic or stop collecting and to leave instructions for disposal of collections after death.

It also means being vendor friendly. Neither of the 2 proposals above could be considered such. To do this one has to demonstrate that good items sell well and publicise this.

Two excellent vendors have disappeared from the scene recently so we need to find replacements. I would suggest a major recruitment drive by getting everyone to talk up the auction at every opportunity. It would also be useful if the auctioneer gave guidance as to what type of material sells best in post auction reports. Standard issues which are over catalogued don't sell well as individual items. If we can get the vendors in everything else, including the money, will look after itself.

8. Discussion resultant from Hon. Auctioneers' reports.

This concerns both this meeting and the joint Southern Africa Societies meeting in November.

Simon Peetoom needs fiscal transparency if he is to run the November meeting successfully.

Nick Arrow to provide his expenses for scrutiny by Simon. Nick & Simon to agree their views in connection with running the November weekend. Other participating societies are to be encouraged to provide lots for the auction and to publicise it. Both of the live auctions are to be publicised. Society Auctions are a good place to sell as larger auction houses are not particularly interested.

9. Election of Officers and committee. All officers & committee were willing to stand. There were no other nominations.

Proposal to elect all en bloc was made by Peter Grimley, seconded by Bob Hill and agreed.

10. All society meetings had been reported in the Springbok & website.

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? Proposal to grant £50, as last year, by John Shaw, seconded by Malcolm Ridsdale and approved.

12. A.O.B. – S.A.C.S. occasional monographs & their printing.

The matter was discussed. In principle, the members feel that we should continue with these projects. Rob Lester suggested that a permanent record should be made of all displays given at S.A.C.S. meetings and deposited in the library. Rob would be prepared to scan these if required. To be discussed further.

Eddie's current monographs should be reproduced as previously. If this is done by Eddie, we may wait awhile, as his time for this is limited and American paper sizes are not easily adapted. He is happy for Roy to take this role over, if he wishes to, as he now has the binder. He is unhappy with the reproductive quality of some of illustrations and wishes to re-scan them before forwarding them to Roy. He would hope to achieve this by the Southern Africa Conference in November, which he hopes to attend.

Some members were unhappy with "in-house" printing. They consider that an outside printer should be employed on all printing to achieve a better and cheaper job. Other members did not agree and felt that the current situation worked well and cheaply. Otto did not feel that American paper sizes were a problem. After much laboured discussion on this and a resultant impasse, the Chairman brought the question to a close.

The Annual General Meeting closed at 18.30hrs.

SOUTHERN AFRICA PHILATELY

Published in the name of philately for the philatelist



The Leamington Southern African Philately Conference

The Concept

Since 2003 Conferences have been staged at the Falstaff Hotel in Leamington Spa and anyone with an interest in *Southern Africa Philately* is welcome and does not need to be a member of any particular society.

Saturdays are devoted to invited displays and invariably produce an excellent range of topics covering every aspect of Southern African Philately. At the conclusion of the day, the attendees cast their votes for the best display of the day.

The winner is announced after dinner and presented with the *Tony Chilton Memorial Trophy*. On Sunday, whoever has brought something along may show whatever they wish and as a result such displays vary from a few pages to several frames. The afternoon auction concludes the Leamington weekend.

The Expanded Concept

Recently Brian Trotter, Simon and Otto Peetoom agreed that it would be worth expanding the Leamington concept by adding a journal and website to this initiative, and Otto agreed to develop these. There is an array of different Southern African specialist societies, and the aim of this venture is to help coordinate these various interests under one umbrella.

There will be no constitution, no committees, no AGM's or minutes of meetings, simply pure *Southern Africa Philately* that is not intended to be in competition with anyone else.

The Website

Information and the latest news will appear on this page. When issue No 1 is ready for distribution, there will be a link on this page that will allow interested parties to download a journal in PDF format.

www.southafricanstamps.net/Southern_Africa_Philately.htm

A New Journal - Southern Africa Philately

This venture will shortly be up and running with the publication of the first journal. Issue No 1 will be published in September 2015 and be available free of charge.

The first journal will have 40 pages covering a wide variety of Southern African philatelic topics. Printed copies of the journal will also be available from a number of dealers during Stampex and will also be on the counters of some stamp shops.

The Future

As from Issue No 2, the journal will only available by subscription and will be mailed out as a hard copy. During 2016 there will be three issues.

Journal subscriptions for 2016 (three issues) - UK **£10** *Europe and Overseas* **£15**.

Submission of articles is open to anyone and may be emailed to ottopeetoom@btinternet.com

We seek support from all of the philatelic societies to continue to publicise the November Leamington Southern African Conference. This year it will be held from 6 to 8 November (information from Simon Peetoom). We wish to use the funds generated from the Leamington Conferences so far to promote *Southern Africa Philately* and we hope to continue to raise the profile of the November Conference, especially around the world.

Brian Trotter, Otto Peetoom and Simon Peetoom
briantrtoter@btinternet.com and simon@africastamps.co.uk

ITU First Day Cards

By Roy Ross

The International Telecommunication Union. Two Diamonds or Three Diamonds

All cards have either two diamonds, Fig.1 or three diamonds, Fig. 2 at the foot of the card. The wording is identical but the space between the paragraphs is larger on the two diamond card making the print look larger.

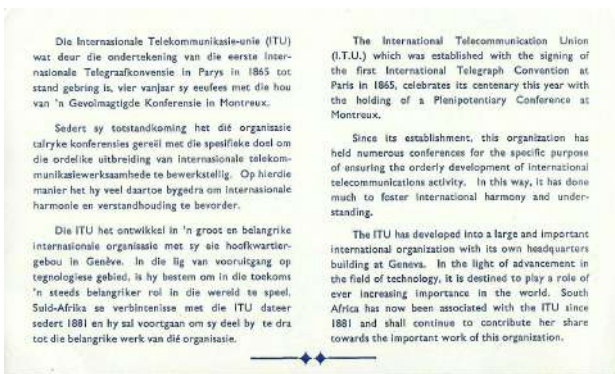


Fig. 1

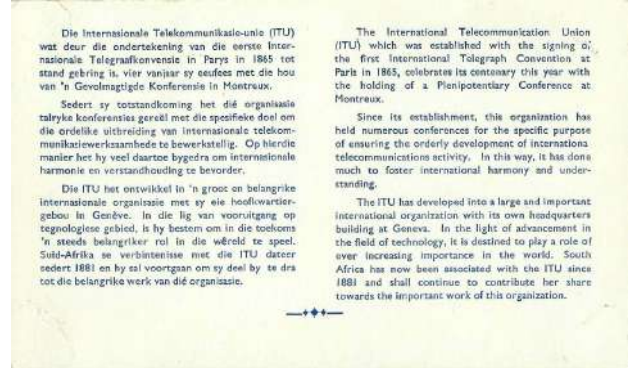


Fig. 2

There were two values of the stamp issued. Blue 2½ cent and green 12½ cent and as can be seen on the examples shown, different combinations were put on the cards, and cancelled with different postmarks.



ITU postmark Pretoria 17-V-1965



Natal postmark 17 V 1965



ITU postmark Pretoria 17-V-1965



Capetown postmark 17 V C65

The SACC lists the cards as F.D.C. (card) No.1 (2 diamonds) R650 (£33). F.D.C. (card) No. 1 (3 diamonds) R750 (£38) Add 40% for unaddressed (£46) (£54). This pricing makes them probably the most valued covers in the Republic issues.

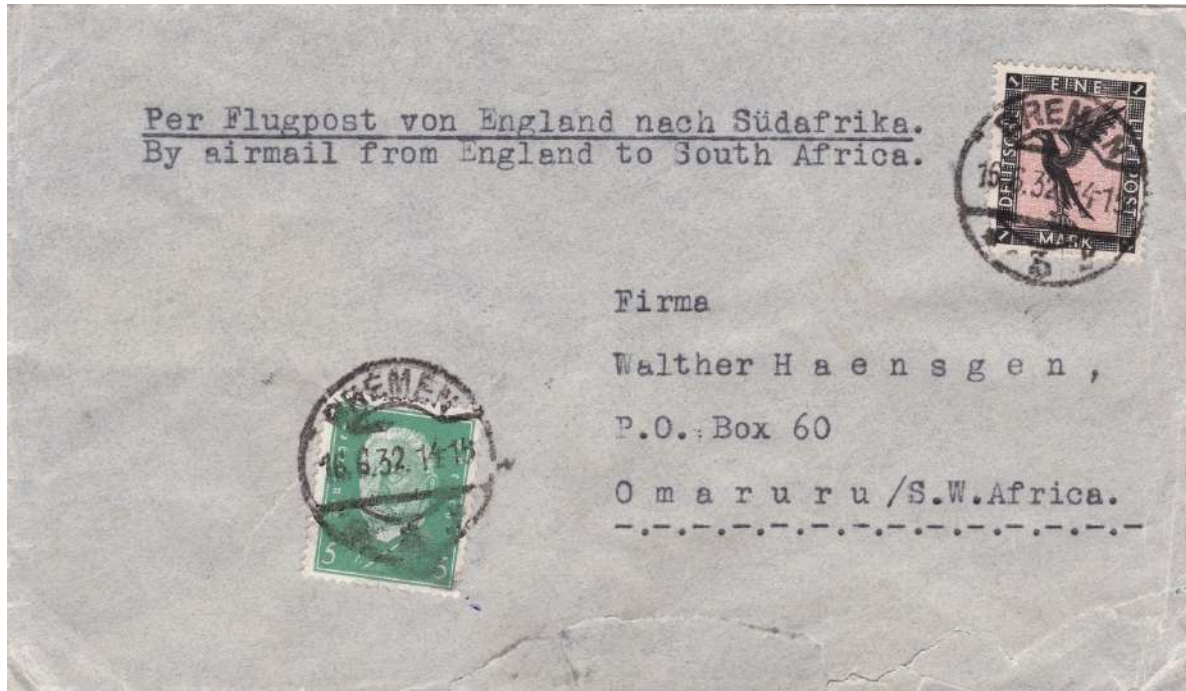
The last card shown is not a scanning error, it is actually larger than the others and is printed on a different paper. Fakes are know of these cards. Could this be a fake?

I would be very interested to hear from any members who have examples of these cards and maybe we can determine just how many prints and cancellations there were?

What is the reason for C65 instead of 1965 on the date stamp last card?

NOT A LOT OF PEOPLE KNOW THAT!

By Nick Arrow



I found this rather scruffy piece of paper in a book I recently bought - it was apparently being used as a bookmark. It is a straightforward commercial cover, sent from Bremen to Omaruru in South West Africa. It was posted on the 16th June 1932 in the afternoon (between 2-6pm). It was realised pretty quickly by someone in the German postal service that it would not get to SWA as quickly as presumably the sender wanted if it went via England, because the Imperial Airways service had already left from Croydon the previous day, and so the item was sent, almost certainly by train, to Berlin, where it arrived just after midnight on the 17th June (see #1 below). It was then put on board the Deutsche Lufthansa service to Athens, and linked up with the IA service there on the 18th.

The item reached Johannesburg on the 25th June, where it stayed overnight. The plane left early the following morning and this item was then taken off the service at Kimberley, put on to the link service run by South West African Airlines and flown to Windhoek, where it arrived on the 27th June (#2 left). It was then sent to Omaruru, almost certainly through the SWAA service, finally reaching its destination on the 29th June (#3 left).



Basically, therefore, a very ordinary cover, which does not exactly grace the album page with either looks or scarcity, hardly justifying its inclusion in a collection as a spacefiller.

However, on checking “ Movements of Aircraft on Imperial Airways’ African Route 1931-39”ⁱⁱ, I noticed that although the aircraft was on time leaving Johannesburg, for some reason it arrived at Cape Town 2 days late, a flight which would normally be accomplished in a single day. What went wrong?

Sadly, I don’t know and I don’t think it is possible to find out now, over 80 years later. But I have been advised by Peter Wingent that the plane made an emergency landing at Touws River, for reasons that have not been recorded, before flying on to Cape Town, arriving there on the 28th June, some 2 days after schedule. It seems therefore highly probable that the plane ran into extremely hostile weather conditions on nearing Cape Town, which justified an emergency landing at Touws River, which led to its late arrival at Cape Town. *Cont’*

Cont'

Wyndhamⁱⁱⁱ describes the creation of the service to South Africa during the period leading up to its inauguration in somewhat glowing terms -

“The problems confronting this project were enormous .. the physical features of the African Continent provided almost every conceivable type of obstacle to the operation of aircraft .. Twenty seven aerodromes and approximately thirty intermediate emergency landing grounds had to be provided ...”

Four of these emergency landing grounds were actually between Johannesburg and Cape Town, being Hoopstad, Touws River, Worcester and Mulders Vlei. A fifth was created and commissioned shortly after the service had been inaugurated, namely De Aar - the status of this emergency landing strip hardly justifies all the fuss that was made when it was opened in May 1932 and visited by the northbound service on the 18th May!

The fact that 3 of these emergency landing strips are within about 70 miles of Cape Town speaks volumes for the extreme weather conditions which can affect the area - the “Cape of Storms” was not so called for no reason at all - to ensure maximum opportunity to avoid disaster should a storm blow up at the very last stage of the journey South. [Or of course the very first stage of the journey North, although the likelihood is that, if the weather was looking very dodgy when the plane was due to take off, the departure would be postponed.]

So there you have it - 5 emergency landing strips in South Africa, 3 within 70 miles of Cape Town. As has been said before, “Not a lot of people know that”!

ⁱ Inspired by an email from Peter Wingent,

ⁱⁱ Wingent - an absolutely essential document for students of pre-war South African Airmail

ⁱⁱⁱ The Airposts of South Africa

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A New Boer War - Book Review by David Haig

I purchased this book recently on Amazon. It's one of series issued by publisher Frazbecker in Hildesheim. The books cover German propaganda and caricature cards during the Wilhelmina Era (Kaiser Wilhelm 11) from 1880's to 1918.



The cover shown opposite is of book 6 in the series “Europe and the Boer War” by Otto May. The book has only just been published and has 261 pages depicting some Boer War cards, concentrating on the Anti British, pro Boer cards issued by publishers in Europe, especially France and Germany.

I have several hundred Boer War propaganda cards and recognise some of the cards depicted but there are just as many which I have never seen before. The final few pages of the book deal with the reuse of Boer War designs by France and Germany for The Great War cards. Several are depicted along with the picture reference to see the equivalent Boer War card earlier in the book.

The only downside with the book for most British readers is that it published in German.

1933 Voortrekker Memorial Fund stamps
and some matters aerophilatic!

By Nick Arrow

The first set issued to raise funds for the Voortrekker Memorial (SACC 51/4) consists of 4 stamps and was issued in two parts. The lowest value, ½d, was issued in January 1936, but the other three values were issued in (apparently) May 1933. Both the SG Catalogue and SACC give the 3rd May 1933 as the date of issue. Haggerⁱ states quite emphatically that the top 3 values were “issued on 3 May 1933 ...” SACC puts this date (3rd May) in brackets as does SG. In the case of SG, this is standard practice and the brackets apparently denote nothing in particular, but the use of brackets in SACC seems to indicate a degree of uncertainty, that the editors are not entirely convinced about this date.

The Imperial Airways scheduled service to England had up to the end of April 1933 taken 11 days to fly from Cape Town to London, but this time was reduced to 10 days in the services which left London on the 26th April (AS 113) and Cape Town on the 3rd May (AN 113)ⁱⁱ 1933. As the service left Cape Town at 5.30am on the 3rd May, it would have been nigh on impossible for a cover or card to be franked with stamps issued on the 3rd May and processed ready for carriage on the flight North leaving at 5.30am that very day.

I have two items carried on AN 113, the flight North. The first I acquired some little time ago, and this is illustrated (Fig 1 below). It is obvious that the cover was postmarked on the **2nd May 1933**, which clearly challenges the accuracy of both Hagger and SG in claiming the 3rd May as the date of issue.



Fig. 1

The second cover (below - Fig 2) was posted on the **1st May** in Port Elizabeth. It was then taken from PE to Cape Town and put on board the flight to London, and carried to Athens where, on the 11th May, it was taken off and flown on the Lufthansa service to Berlin, where it arrived on the 12th May, and then flown, by Deruluft, on to Moscow, Russia, where it arrived on the 14th May - there is a very faint arrival mark to the bottom left of the front of the cover. Clearly a philatelic cover, it was then sent back to the sender, arriving in Cape Town on the 3rd October.

Fig. 2
Ex collection
Barry Smith



What is even more interesting is that there is a manuscript note on the reverse of the card, (Fig 3) dated the 6th May, that it had been “flown per Imperial Airways new rapid service from South Africa 1st Despatch, the stamps on face are the new Voortrekker Monument issue first issued [sic] today 6th [deleted] 1st May 1933”.

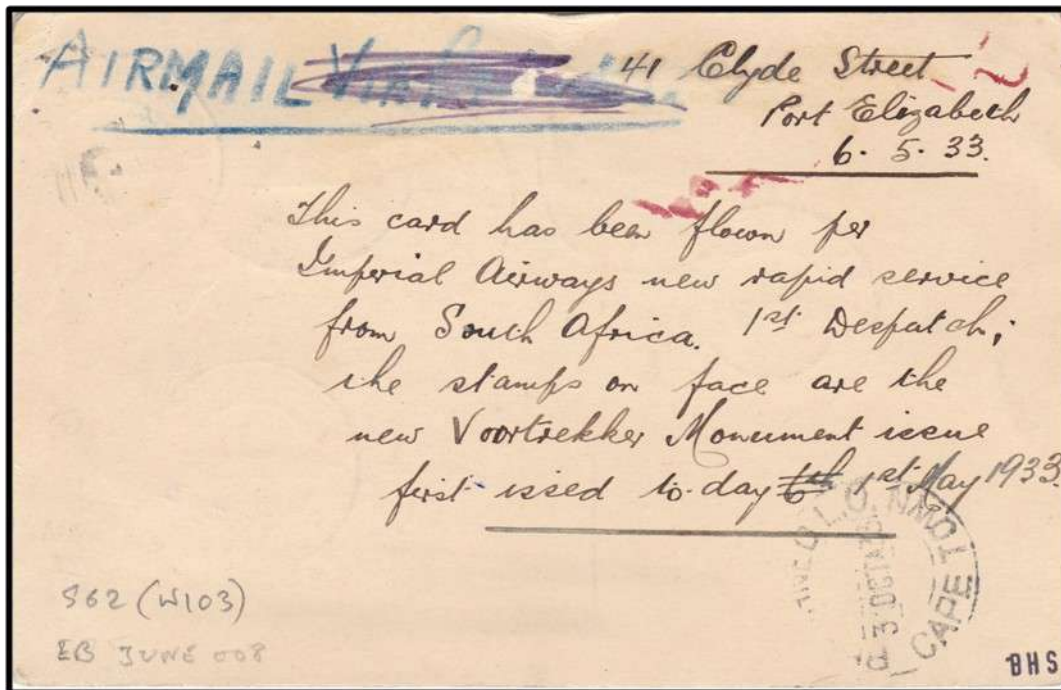


Fig. 3

All of which actually is a hopeless contradiction in terms! If the sender believed that the new set was to be issued on the 6th May, the card could not possibly have been flown on the service which had left 3 days earlier, whatever stamps might have been used!

What however is clear beyond a peradventure is that the stamps were available well before the 3rd May 1933. By way of a single note, the writer recalls seeing somewhere a reference that an “early edition of the South African Handbook gave the date of issue as the 1st May 1933” a claim which was apparently been abandoned in later issues.

Has anyone got any earlier dates, perhaps going into the last days of April?

An interesting aerophilatelic matter concerns the rate used to pay for the Airmail service. The standard rate between England and South Africa was 1/- per ½oz. The stamps on both items amount to 1/1. The cover (fig 1) may possibly not be philatelic, but the proximity of the date of departure of the flight to the likely date of issue of this new set of stamps makes it more probable than not that this item is philatelic. Why the sender decorated the cover with an old Transvaal stamp (SACC 222) is anybody's guess, but it is clear that the stamp was quite superfluous towards payment of the airmail postage.

The same value (1/1) was used to pay for the airmail rate for the card to Moscow (although in this case the 1d imprinted stamp may be just coincidental, the sender not having another convenient postcard ready to hand). Amooresⁱⁱⁱ says that the International Airmail Letter rate to "Europe (*incl.* Russia)" was 1/3 but then confuses matters by saying that the rate to "Russia (Asia)" was 2/-. For Airmail Postcard rates, he says that there was no rate until 1st November 1933 (the rate then being 6d, i.e. half the letter rate). Wyndham^{iv} says that the rate to Russia per ½ oz was 1/3 (agreeing with Amoores) but from August 1932 postcards could in effect be sent at half the minimum letter rate, i.e. a postcard to Moscow would cost 7½d to send.

However, I have some correspondence^v in my possession, from March 1933, about a letter to Shanghai sent in November 1932 stating that this letter (to Shanghai) should have been prefranked at 2/6, and that the actual franking of "1/6 . . . was only sufficient to cover air conveyance as far as Moscow"^{vi}.

Whichever way you look at it, this obviously totally philatelic card to Moscow was mainly designed to be a vehicle for the new issue of stamps, and that consequently the use of stamps totalling 1/- (or 1/1 if the imprinted stamp is taken into account) on this card should not be considered as any indication as to correct postal rates. That the card just happens to be postmarked on a date earlier than that perceived some 80+ years later to be the date of issue is an added bonus!

Moscow, incidentally, is a very rare destination for airmail of this period.

I wish to acknowledge the help of Peter Wingent in the compilation of this article.

ⁱ The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910 - 1961 (1986).

ⁱⁱ The reduction in time was as a result of the stage between Cairo and Alexandria being flown - previously this part of the route had been by rail.

ⁱⁱⁱ Covers illustrating some South African Airmail Rates 1911 to 2011

^{iv} The Airposts of South Africa

^v From the Post Office, Pretoria

^{vi} Because the rate was 1/3, with the next rate being 2/- (Russia (Asia) per Amoores) and the rate to Shanghai being 2/6 - the extra 3d did not buy any extra "air miles"!

O



New website offering fine Southern Africa stamps and specialised items.



Email: info@AfricaStamps.co.uk

**Revisiting the 1½d Medium format ‘Gold Mine’
pictorial definitives stamps of the SAHB Group II -Issues 4, 5 and 6.**

By Jan Van Beukering

Some collectors who do not have copies of the SAHB seem to find it difficult to identify the so-called ‘waffle plate’ printing of 1½d medium format Gold Mine stamps from Issue 5 and to distinguish these from those from issue 6. However, an additional printing was discovered and numbered issue 4. I have added detailed coloured illustrations from scans of actual material to highlight Handbook information and further show possible colour variants within printing ranges. I am indebted to Mike Tonking (MT) and Eddie Bridges (EB) for supportive material scans and information.

To summarize the following information on these three issues :

1. Printed in sheets of 240 stamps (12 rows of 20)
2. Watermarked paper with multiple Springbok Head facing left
3. The first stamp of the sheet was inscribed in English
4. Screened cylinders were used throughout
5. Arrows on all four margins. (Only one copy of an Issue 4 left arrow has come to light)
6. Stamps can be identified by a pattern of tiny dots (rivets) in the gusset plates of the headgear, more apparent in the upper gusset plate and on Afrikaans stamps. In lightly inked areas these may appear blank
7. Issues 5 and 6 were both printed on the Goebels 830 press with black sheet numbers
8. Later issues of Issue 6 were also printed on the Goebels 830 press with red sheet numbers

To better illustrate the stamps from each other one needs to revert to notes on these printings and refer to the 1986 Union of South Africa Handbook by J Hagger. Jack Hagger described these issues in concise detail and this appears hereunder with his handbook numbers.

Handbook No.	Issue	Screened cylinders		Issue dates
		Interior	Exterior	
48B	4	(1)	(1x)	?
48C	5	(2)	(2x)	August 1941
48D	6	31	6924	September 1941

Table 1

ISSUE 4

Issue 4 appears to have been a very small one and cylinder numbers are unknown. Only one arrow has been reported which was of a type which was outdated. The printing was stopped, the cylinder scrapped and the stamp sheets destroyed. A few sheets may have found their way into those of the Issue 5 printing. (It is not known what screen was used for this printing and I have not been able to trace the reported arrow for a detailed scan – JvB)

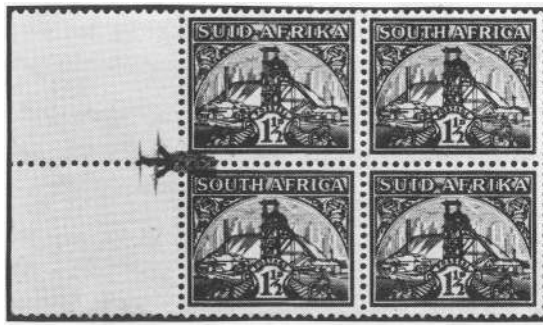


Fig. 1 Illustration of Issue 4 arrow from SAHB



enlarged arrow

ISSUE 5

For Issue 5 the cylinder numbers are also not known. Sheet numbers were not reported by Hagger but illustration Fig. 7 proves 4-digit black numbers do exist. The screen chosen for the exterior cylinder was much coarser than that used for other medium format Gold Mine stamps which are easily recognized under magnification. Many parts of the exterior design show up as a series of 'pearl-shaped' beads, which gave rise to the term 'waffle plate'. As the issue dates indicate this printing was soon stopped and within one month followed on with the Issue 6 printing.



KINROSS 12 SEP 41

CEDARVILLE 19 XII 41

Fig. 2 Early usage of Issue 5 waffle plate

Issue 5 arrows :



Fig. 3 Issue 5 Top arrow 10mm margin (MT)

Note stepped perfs above R 1 / 5 & 6 sometimes giving rise to narrow stamps caused by the maladjustment of the perforator on the second beat which needs adjusting



Fig. 4 Issue 5 Left arrow 27mm margin
Green vertical line in margin R10/1 & fine hor. line below R11

Issue 5 Right arrow 19mm margin
Green dot in horizontal gutter. Stepped perfs in arrow



Fig. 5 Issue 5 Bottom arrow 9mm margin (EB)
Variety vertical row 10 narrow stamps

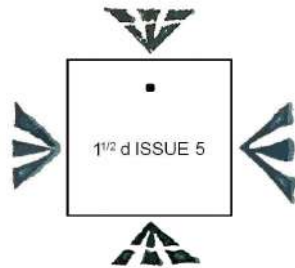


Fig. 6 Issue 5 arrows have slightly smudged edges
Interestingly the arrows do not show the waffle effect



Fig. 7 Waffle effect

Gussets

Issue 5 black sht no. R17 & 18

Waffle frames



Some colour samples extracted from Issue 5 Waffle Plate illustrations

Some varieties on Issue 5 stamps :



Fig. 8

Narrow stamp

Doubled frame and misplaced perfs

ISSUE 6

A finer screen was used for the exterior than that for Issue 5 and thus the 'waffle Plate' effect is not visible here. This issue had a long run from September 1941 to 1947 and several reprints were done from the same cylinders. At first the centres were quite dull until in 1947 the introduction of bronze lining to the ink created the 'gold' effect. The Handbook describes the colours as Yellow-buff and Greenish-slate to shades of Orange-buff to Metallic-gold.



Fig. 9 Issue 6 Black sht no. R15 & 16 (EB)

Fig. 10



Fine Screen

Gussets

Issue 6 Red Sheet No. R6 & 7

Issue 6 Red Sheet No. R15 & 16

Frame doubled

Issue 6 arrows :

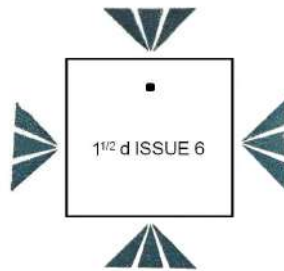
As there were several printings from the Issue 6 cylinders over almost six years of this issue, the margin widths could vary quite dramatically as shown. The arrows are generally more solid with sharper outline than those of Issue 5. There may even be some paper differences but these are not reported.



Fig. 11 Issue 6 Top arrow 13 mm margin
Misplaced perfs and narrow stamps right – beveled top left corner V3 R1/11



Fig. 12 Issue 6 Left arrow 16mm margin



Scanned arrows



Issue 6 Right arrow 18mm margin



Fig. 13 Issue 6 Left arrow 26 mm margin



Issue 6 Right arrow 24mm margin



Fig. 14 Issue 6 Bottom arrow 10mm margin



Iss 6 1948 Iss 6 1946 Iss 6 Lt arr. (WM) Iss 6 Lt arr. (NM) Iss 6 Rt arr. (WM) Iss 6 Rt arr. (NM)



Some colour samples extracted from Issue 6 illustrations

Some varieties on Issue 6 stamps :



Fig. 15

Green line above frame V4 R1/14 (MT)



Gold blob on headgear V5 R3/4 (Afr. Stamp)



Green dot under 1 V6 R10/9 (MT)



Fig. 16

Green dot between 1 & 2 of 1½ value V7 R19/9



Green dot on left end of oval V8 R20/7 (MT)

NON-CONSTANT VARIETIES :



Fig. 17

Shifted vignette



Green dot over F of AFRIKA (MT)



Green dot between 1 and ½ of value (MT)



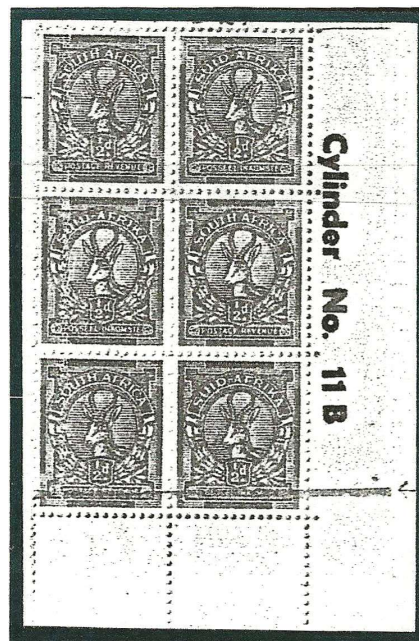
Fig. 18

Interrupted printing of vignette (MT)

From the Editors Desk

¹/₂d Issue 21– Joined Paper

A Query from Mike Tonking



Ex Jack Hagger collection.
Note horizontal brown line
marking join

Shown is an example of the ¹/₂d. Issue 21 (SAHB 44E) bottom sheet arrow showing a paper join. For some reason it is not listed in the 1986 SAHB. I find this strange as the late Jack Hagger had an example in his collection. It would appear that a single sheet with this join was found and it would be interesting to know if any members are aware of it. It was probably missed when the sheets were checked as it is almost in line with the bottom perforations.

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A Curio From Simon Peetoom



The illustrated stamp has been used, there is a part of an ink-jet cancel and it has no gum. The top line appears die-cut, it is uniform and would not appear to be cut by hand. My initial thoughts are it may be an imperforate from an uncut sheet that was die-cut privately. Has anyone else seen anything similar and have an example in their collection? A number of issues from the late 1990s were issued in uncut sheets and would allow for this sort of die-cutting operation to be carried out.

From the Editors Desk

A Comment from Mike Tonking

Regarding Tony Howgrave-Graham's comment that he strongly suspects that the first issue of the 2d. Bantam had BLACK sheet numbers he is correct since it was printed on the Goebels 830 press whilst the issues that followed were all printed on the Goebels 840 press and all had RED sheet numbers.

— O —

A Comment from John Philpott

Re Nick Arrow's triple CDS cover Springbok 63/2 p58

This is obviously a contrived missive.

I surmise that a postal clerk in Jo'burg PO 117 manufactured it and almost certainly applied the current CDS with the other marking etc. He then spent his early 'lunch hour' going to see a mate in Jo'burg PO 33 who applied his current CDS. Then he proceeded to Jo'burg PO 30 where another mate received his letter for posting applying his current CDS.

The joker may even have travelled in the mail van, although a 2¹/₂hr range in scheduled CDS times makes this doubtful (or possibly includes a lunch hour).

— O —

A Query from Jan van Beukering

I forwarded my scan below of a B4 with very light centres and another used pair with very faint centres attached to Mike Tonking and he replied as hereunder. I agree with his opinion for the B4. The used pair was probably just also of a similar nature with the printed vignette not showing the entire design.

You sometimes see the light shade as per your B4 on issue 1 on the sheets which had the missing shading on the mine dump. I do not believe it is a true dry printing. MT

Something struck me yesterday as I was hand painting my lawn bowls with 'gold' lines using oil based enamel paint. I was not getting good coverage until I had mixed the paint thoroughly. Where metallic 'gold' glitter is added to paints using bronze additive the solvent tend to separate from the colour base with metallic tinting during storage. I assume the same applies for metallic inks when prepared for printing.

In the scan of the B4 one can detect the design of the vignette only faintly with no bronze tinting or base colour, which indicates that the ink was probably not stirred sufficiently prior to printing. When so printed the solvent, which had only some of the stain in its mix, was probably what showed up the design on the paper slightly. If the solvent was completely clear, the 'printed' vignettes may not have been visible at all after printing.

If this theory is valid, one can perhaps explain faint or even 'missing' centres for this issue. It may further explain later experiments to obtain more stable ink mixtures of the 'gold glitter', which provided 'less metallic



shine' in issue 2 and 'non metallic ink' for issue 3 as stated by the SAHB.

In the later issues of the medium format stamps the 'glitter' was only faintly evident in later issues, but largely not detectable at all.

I would welcome reader's opinions.



Revisiting the Typographed Roll Stamp Cylinder Transpositions

By Mike Tonking

In the printing of the typographed roll stamps two printings cylinders were used. One, the interior cylinder for the vignettes and the other, the exterior cylinder, for the frames. The cylinders used for the roll stamp printings, unlike those used for the sheet stamps, had no blank rows at the top and bottom of the sheet. This created a problem for the Government Printer as to ensure that any particular row of vignettes was always correctly mated with the same row of frames both cylinders needed to have marginal reference marks which the printer had to ensure coincided prior to printing.

Unfortunately the printer did not always make these marks with the result that, when printing, cylinder transpositions occurred in which the vignettes and frames were not in the correct relative positions. Under these circumstances it was pure chance that the printing cylinders were correctly aligned.

This was of little consequence to the Government Printer as they were only interested in printing stamps and since this did not affect the finished product it was left to the philatelist to worry about the various cylinder transpositions.

In 1934 the roll stamps of R12 were issued in sheet form, this being the first time that roll stamps surplus to requirements were sold in sheet form. Each sheet contained 240 stamps in 20 rows of 12. It was then realised that cylinder transpositions had occurred.

Examination of the typographed rolls stamp issues revealed that many such transpositions had occurred some of which are very rare.

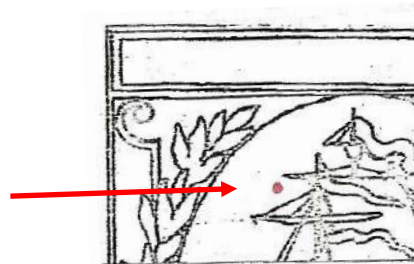
Recorded Cylinder Transpositions

- 1d. R12 1934 1 row, 5 rows, 6 rows, 10 rows.
- 1d. R12S (sheet issue) 1934 5 rows, 10 rows.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ d. R14S (sheet issue) 1935 1st printing 1 row, 2nd printing 5 row, 3rd printing 1 row.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ d. R17 1940 1 row.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ d. R17S (sheet issue) 1940 many different transpositions.
- 1d. R20 1940 1 row, 3 rows.
- 1d. R20S (sheet issue) 1940 3 rows

Roll R12. Examples of Cylinder Transpositions

Row 9
Interior and Exterior cylinders
In correct relative positions

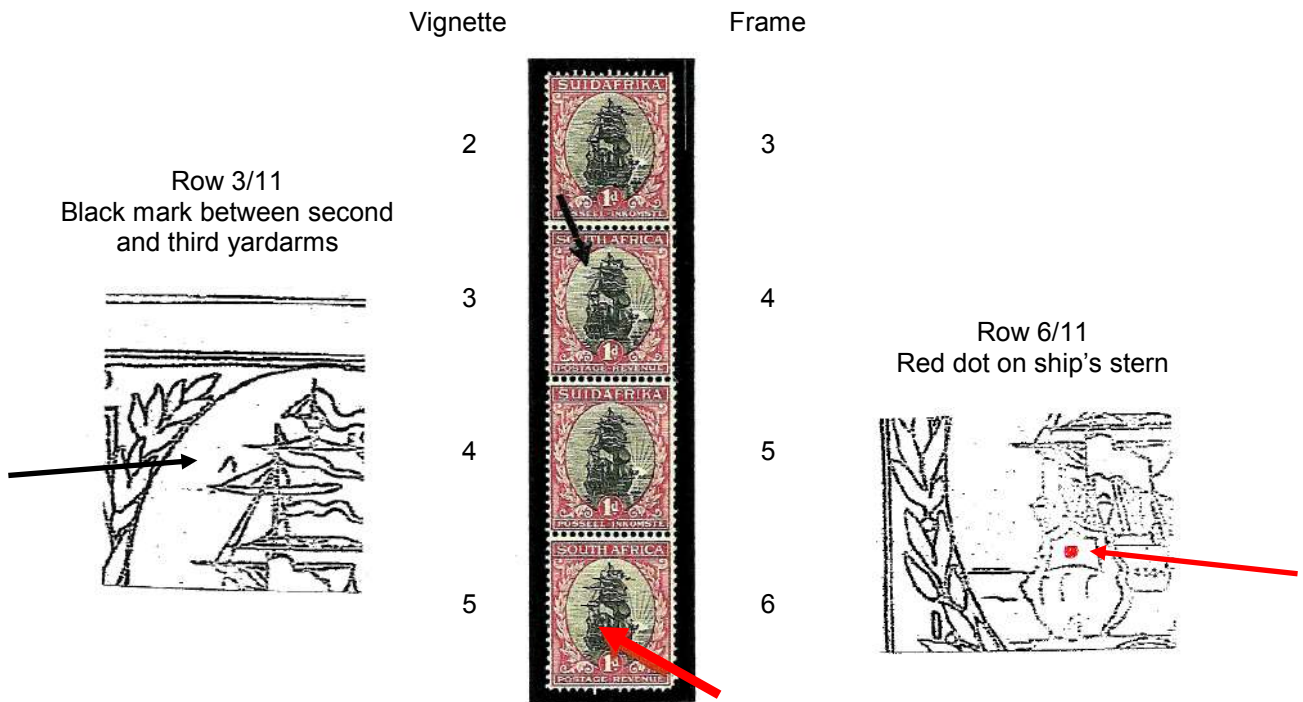
Row 18/9 - Red dot below yardarm.



Narrow gutter between rows 20 and 21 with row 21 frame offset to left and darker in colour.

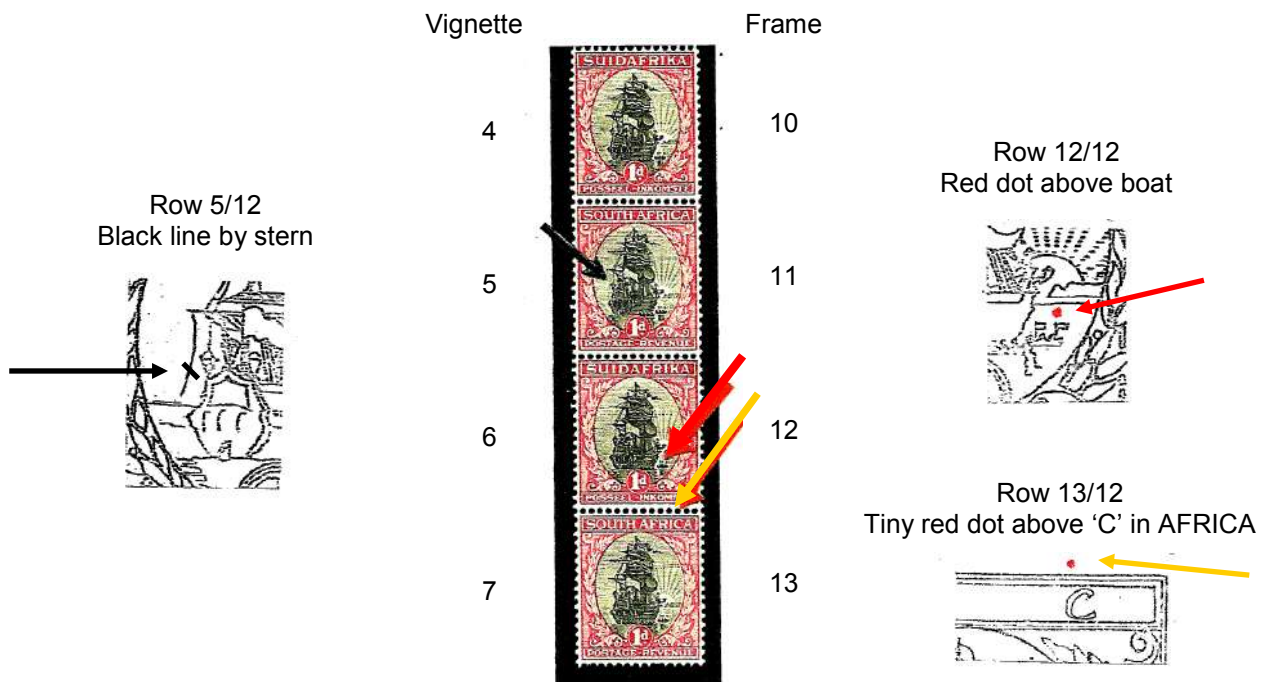


Row 11
Interior and exterior cylinders
one row out of step



Roll R12
Example of Cylinder Transposition

Row 12
Interior and exterior cylinders
six rows out of step

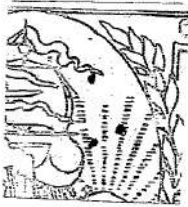


R12S (Sheet Issue) Example of Cylinder Transposition

Row 1 and 2
Interior and exterior cylinders 5 rows out of step

Row 18/1
Two black dots in sun

Row 2/1
Black dot under pennant

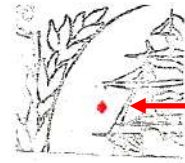


Vignette

Frame



Row 18/1
Red dot above lower yardarm

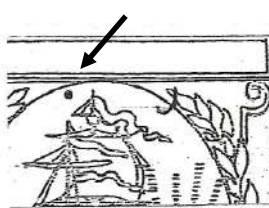


Red cross between rows 18 and 19

R20 Example of Cylinder Transposition



R20S (Sheet Issue) Row 12 Correctly aligned cylinders



Row 14/12
Vignette flaw 'hooked line' and black dot on Afrikaans stamp

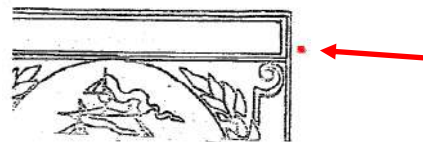
Frame flaw
tiny red dot in right gutter

Roll Issue row 12

Cylinders transposed by one row

Vignette

Frame



Row 15/12
Vignette flaw 'hooked line' and black dot now on English stamp

Row 14/12
Frame flaw tiny red dot in right gutter

References:
Stamps of the Union of South Africa - S.J. Hagger RDPSA 1986
The South African Stamp Study Circle newsletters - various

Revisiting the R.J. Lawrence Discoveries

By Mike Tonking

The Student of Union philately owes a great deal to the likes of Sydow, Gilbert, Hagger and a number of others who solved many Union philatelic puzzles. Amongst them is a name few of today maybe aware. This is certain of R.J. Lawrence of the UK who died in 1975. He was a fine philatelist who was responsible for two major discoveries. He made the first in 1961 which was the only known three row transposition found in the sheet issue of the 1d. Roll stamp issued in sheet form R20S. The second made in 1963 was the discovery of the 1/2d. Roll stamp issue R16A some 24 years after its issue in 1939. Had he not been so observant we may never have been aware of both these issues.

R.J. Lawrence's First Discovery

The three row transposition of Roll R13S

In the sheet issue with the correctly aligned printing cylinders the interior cylinder flaw, thickened black line of shading and tiny dot is on row 22/4, whereas in the block of six stamps it is on row 3/4. This three row transposition changed the language of the stamp from Afrikaans to English.

The exterior cylinder flaw, a tiny red dot in the 'E' of REVENUE is on row 3/4.

To date this is the only example of the three row transposition that has come to light. It was originally in a block of ten stamps which was divided into a block of six and a block of four.



Cylinder Correctly Aligned

Interior Cylinder Row 22/4
Thickened line of shading and tiny black dot

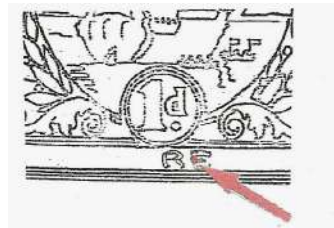


Three Row Cylinder Transposition



Interior row 22
Exterior row 3

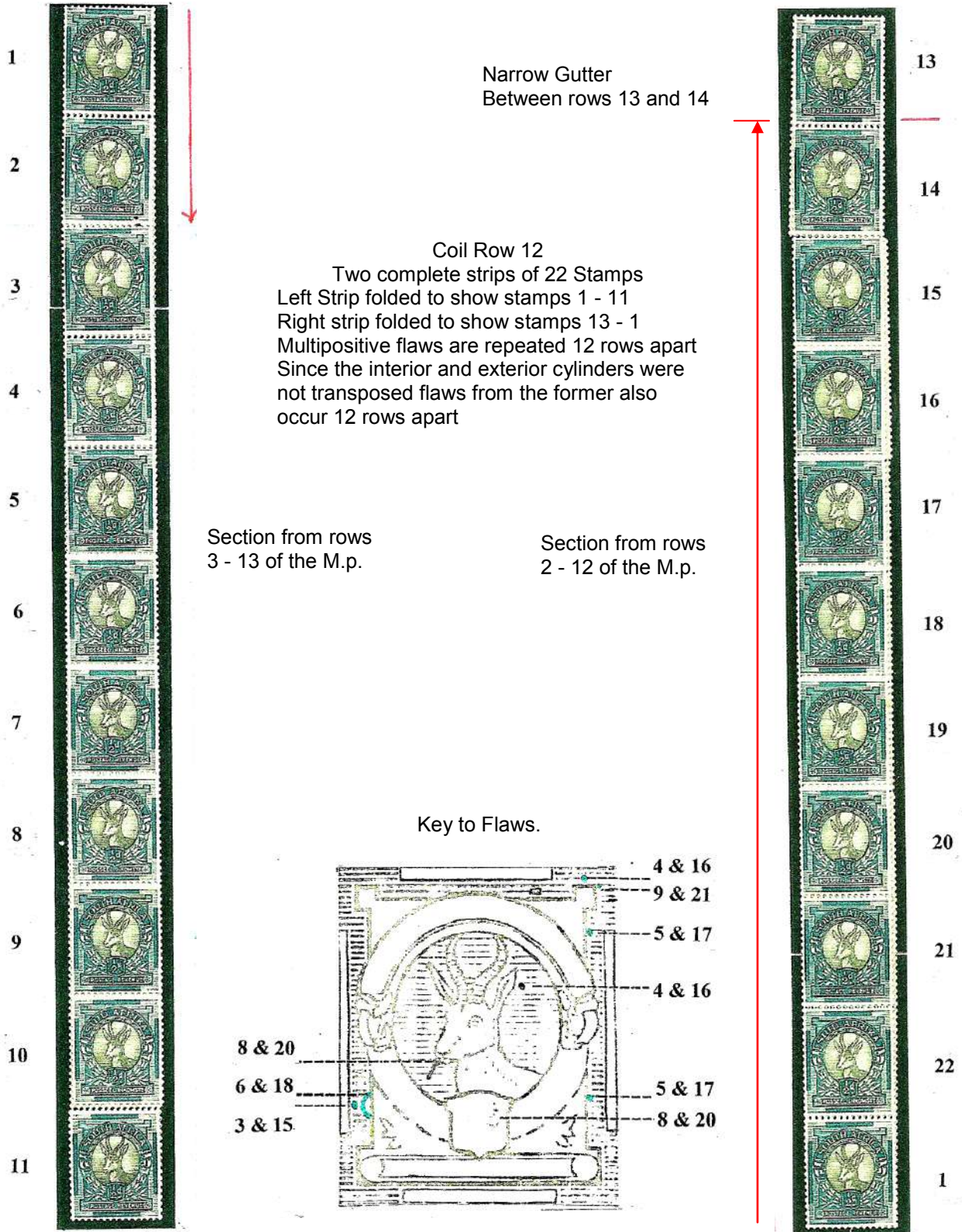
Exterior Cylinder Row 3/4
Tiny red dot in 'E' of Revenue



R.J. Lawrence's Second Discovery

1/2d. Roll Stamp Issue R16A

Without this fine example of philatelic detective work we may never have known that there was a roll stamp issue number R16A. The stamps were originally thought to be an early shade of the previous 1937 issue R16 until he discovered that the exterior frame cylinder was made up of two 11 row blocks from the same multipositive namely rows 13-3 and 2-12 inclusive to make 22 rows. The interior cylinder was 7020 which was again used for the next issue 17. No cylinder transpositions are known. This was the only instance when the printing cylinders were prepared in this way, the reason for which is unknown.



New Find of Harrison Essays

Tony Howgrave-Graham was sent a copy of these essays from David Prior, who has them in his collection. Neither Tony or John Shaw have seen these before and Tony suggests that they come from a later Harrison sample book, but not one he knows about. Tony and John asked for them to be published in the Springbok in the hope that someone knows something about them or seen them before.

I apologize for the quality of the images, but they were sent to me in an email and locked in, making it impossible to copy them directly. What I have done is take a photo image of my computer screen and reproduced them with some degree of success but not up to the standard I would have liked. Please ignore the fact that they all look the same size, they may not have been. Ed



Comments received from John Shaw

1. Further to my last email, I have to say I started a major article on these some 40 years ago in collaboration with Dr JN "Pat" Pattinson, and he must have died 30 years ago.

New information and new material keeps popping up and, thus, it has been on the back burner for some time, but I feel now is about the time to publish, probably as a supplement to the Springbok. I have tried converting the old WordPerfect file into Word, but with only limited success but I would like as much information on these specimens as possible.

- a. How long has he had them?
- b. From whom did he get them?
- c. Were there any others, either that he bought, or he saw?

I do not think these are Freshwater confections, although he did a few others such as the 5m Egypt first Fuad definitive imperf between, all made with his wonderful high spec perforator made for him by his engineer cousin, and from the large number of imperf sheets he possessed. Nor do I believe he ever had these since he bought the Dr Davie collection (he died on a lecture tour of UK) and kept Pat Pattinson supplied with proofs and essays from this collection for about 20 years – and Pat certainly did not have them. They might have come from the sale of the Harrison archives some 25-30 years ago, I think sold by Sotheby's, and in which there were many previously unrecorded items, such as the French colonial airmail unissued Martinique two values and the Cameroun's 50 fr without value; the French colonial lot was offered for £150 and made £10K and was bought by a dealer, but this sale totally passed me by and I do not know if there were any South Africa.

2. I shall try to contact David Prior and establish where they came from; they appear quite genuine cut-down copies of the Harrison miniature sheet essays, and I do not think they came from a sample book, but more likely from a record ledger. We may never know the answer but I now consider they are unlikely to have come from the de la Rue archives (although DLR produced essays in these designs) and today at the Royal I shall check Frank Walton's massive DLR tome to see if they are included.

3. This is just to let you know that today I checked the De la Rue publication and none of the essays shown are recorded there; so I am sure these are Harrison essays, probably cut down from the little miniature sheet essays and possibly from the Harrison archives.

I have two or three of these cut down essays, and a set of the three types line Perf 11¼, this being done I think, in Leiden. I also have a block of four of the Booyesen essays in Black similarly perforated (these are normally imperf and I have never seen another perforated Booyesen essay) and finally, three blocks of four of the water-marked bi-coloured essays in this Perf. The latter were sold by Gibbons in the Ted Lauder sale in 1973 and bought by Dr Pattinson; I unsuccessfully bid for them when his collection was sold, the found them in a Fred Clark lot sold by Harmers, totally unrecognised for what they are. To my knowledge these are the only such items in existence; where Fred got them I do not know but it certainly was not from the Pattinson sale.

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