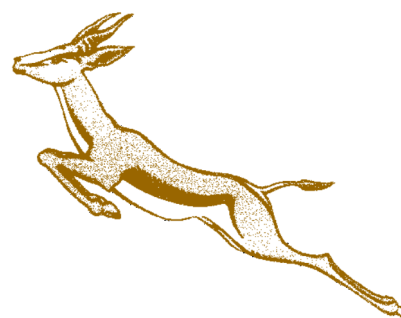


# THE SPRINGBOK



**SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY  
QUARTERLY**

[www.southafricacollectors.com](http://www.southafricacollectors.com)



**Volume 63 No. 4**



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**The Springbok** is published

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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

This issue of the Springbok has reached a mile stone this year. The total number of pages published over the four issues is 140 in total. I would like to thank all the contributors for their support and hope that we will have a successful year again next year. Perhaps we could reach 150 pages. Please keep the articles coming in whether large or small.

In my quest to find the most expensive RSA stamp over the past couple of years, I note that a certain auction house has for sale the 1963 Red Cross Centenary stamp 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>c with red cross omitted for a staggering estimate of £6,000 - £7000. The sale has not taken place at the time of printing the Springbok but I will be very interested to see how much the stamp actually sells for. I know in the past that the opinion is that RSA stamps are not worth very much, is this about to change or just a one of.

The next Issue will be ready for the printers at the end of January 2016. Deadline for inclusion of articles is the third week of January.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Xmas and prosperous New Year. *Ed.*

### Membership Subscriptions for 2016

Subscriptions are now due and remain the same as for 2015

If you receive a hard copy of the Springbok the form is included in the envelope if you receive an Email Springbok a copy of the renewal form will be Emailed to you.

## Awards

At the recent South African Congress the following awards were presented to SACS members.

**Roll of Honour:** *Mr Michael Tonking* was elected to sign the Roll of Honour. RDPSA

**Manfred Weinstein Memorial Medallion:** Awarded to *Dr Chris Board OBE, FRPSL* for his outstanding research which included the Interprovincial period of the Union of SA, numeral in triangular date stamps of the ZAR, official postcards of the Cape of Good Hope and the SG.1 stamps of the Union of SA

**Congress Certificates:** October 2014 - August 2015

*Otto Peetoom:* Bechuanaland and Botswana Commemorative Stamps *SAP Apr 2015*

The Half-Penny Springbok : Review of the Final Printings 1947 - 1954 *SAP Jun 2015*

*Jan van Beukering:* Union KGV Roll Stamps: A Study to indicate the Rarity of some Positional Items *SAP Aug 2015*

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**Fellowship of the Royal Society:** October 2015

*Tony Howgrave-Graham*

*Eddie Bridges*

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### CAPEX 14-17th Oct 2015

**Gold Medal** awarded to *Paul van Zeyl* for his Exhibit The "Bittereinder" Rebellion and Union's entry into WW1 in German SWA

## Presidents Corner

By John Shaw MBE FRPSL

### Francis Kiddle, RDP Hon FRPSL

Most of those who attended Leamington will remember Francis, who died on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015.

I met Francis in 1973 on my first visit to the Royal Philatelic Society when, as a guest, I attended the late Len Van der Kar's display of South African airmails; I became friends there and then with both Len and with Francis.

As philatelists, Francis and I were both relatively young at that time and I well remember the society secretary asking us "two strapping young lads", to help move the chairs and tables in preparation for the day's display; in those days the great and the good, such as Sir John Marriot, John Levett and Ron Butler were in abundance at the Royal and Francis was one of Ron Butler's protégés giving him encouragement especially in the direction of his own beloved Australian States. Although by then very ill, for the Revenue Society display to the Royal in October 2015, Francis sent along wonderful displays of the Tasmanian duck-billed platypus and South West Africa revenue stamps; not surprisingly, both were international class and a joy to behold.

Francis had many philatelic interests including overprints on the stamps of GB and India (including fine Kuwait and Morocco Agencies) and Cinderella material especially; he pursued all these interests with vigour and many of us will remember his excellent displays of South West Africa revenues and his delight at the discovery of previously unrecorded items; he was a very fine researcher and a most respected consultant to the Expert Committee of the Royal.

Developing from a young collector, Francis ticked all the boxes one can possibly tick on the path to becoming a great philatelist, which he certainly was; he progressed from librarian, 1979-94, and council member of the Royal, to become president from 1994-96. In 1995 he signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and was elected an honorary Fellow in 2009, an honour so far conferred upon only ten people. In 2006 he was given the USA Smithsonian Lifetime Achievement Award and in 2012 the prestigious Alfred Lichtenstein Award.

Yet Francis never flaunted these achievements and was just as much at ease with ordinary society members as with the international "Great and good" especially if they shared one of his interests. He was an international judge and chairman of the 2015 Europhilex Jury, a task which I know took a lot out of him physically. He was generous in sharing his considerable philatelic knowledge and I well remember mentioning, with something of a question in my voice, Imperial Airways flights to South Africa out of Greece; before I could finish he interrupted saying he knew exactly what I wanted, a translation of the Greek sticker put on this mail – and the following week he was back with a photocopy (from his Kuwait collection) and the translation.

Francis, who was 73, belonged to the "Great and the Good" brigade and he will be sorely missed both as a philatelist and as a friend.

### About People – The Roll of Distinguished Philatelist of South Africa

**Mike Tonking.** Two years ago we had the pleasure and privilege at our dinner at Leamington of seeing Bob Alison sign the South African Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and the Roll was brought from South Africa by the custodian our own Richard Johnson. Now I can report two more of our number has been invited to sign the Roll. The first is Mike Tonking who has contributed much to the research of both Union and Republican material not least on the Bradbury Wilkinson 2d, and who has contributed many learned articles in the Springbok and the South African Philatelist. Mike was proposed for this honour by our society and this is a well-deserved pinnacle achievement for which Mike can be justly proud.

**Richard Stroud.** Richard has entertained us at Leamington with his pre-Union material and I have certainly been impressed by the quality and depth of his research and by his excellent presentations. So it is such a pleasure that the two invitees are in regular contact with our Leamington conferences and I feel this shows the real strength of work being undertaken by the Southern African group. Well done and congratulations to you both.

### About People – Fellowships of the Royal Philatelic Society

Two SACS members were awarded Fellowships of the Royal this month (October 2015) and they were **Tony Howgrave-Graham** and **Eddie Bridges**. Now, about 30 Fellowships are awarded each year to members of the Royal for services to philately, especially to the society itself and I understand that each year some 160-200 nominations are considered, so this is a far cry from the old days when the award was almost automatic after 10 years membership.


*Cont'*

Tony was our Leamington auctioneer until recently and has contributed much both to the organisation and displays at Leamington and to articles in the Springbok; in addition, he is a valued consultant to the Expert Committee of the Royal and also provided Stanley Gibbons with the definitive listings for the interprovincials.

Eddie Bridges has served the society well, not only as a Leamington organiser and major displayer, but also having served several years as editor of the Springbok and as a serious researcher. Now living in the USA, Eddie is helping and representing the Royal at major events in the USA. Most of us also know of and value his many booklets based on major Leamington displays and which provide a valuable record. Eddie was deservedly made a life member of SACS a few years ago.

Both of these fellowships are well deserved; congratulations to you both.

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	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>New York World Stamp Show</b>  <b>May 28 - June 4 2016</b>  <b>Javits Center New York</b></p> <p>SACS is sharing a stand at this event with the Philatelic Society for the Greater Southern Africa and will be in a row of stands with other Southern Africa related Societies, who will share the manning duties.</p> <p>Eddie Bridges has organised a frame, posters and promotional material for SACS but would like to hear from anyone who intends visiting the show and would like to donate an hour of their time to man the stand.</p> <p>During the event meetings will be held for all Southern African Societies.</p> <p>May 30th 1-2pm <i>Past, Present and Future</i>. Room 1E09  May 31st 1-2pm <i>Postal history SA WW2</i>. Room 1E09</p> <p>Eddie can be contacted at <a href="mailto:e.bridges@krohne.com">e.bridges@krohne.com</a></p>
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<p>Basutoland, Bechuanaland,  Pre-Union, South Africa,  South West Africa,  Namibia, Swaziland,  The Rhodesias</p>		<p>Our Price Lists include Stamps,  Single items, Sets, Varieties,  Postal History  The Unusual</p>
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## Report on London Meeting 19th Sept 2015

By Chris Oliver

Unfortunately the venue for this meetings was double booked. However this did not stop eight stalwart collectors from passing pages around a bar room table to discuss “Varieties which can be seen without the aid of a glass”, after making sure the beer glasses were removed first. An enjoyable meeting!

Dates for future meetings will be confirmed when known.

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## Carlisle Meeting Report

By Malcolm Ridsdale

Meeting held at the County Hotel, Carlisle on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Attendees – David Haig, Roy Ross, Colin Moore, Max Whitlock and Malcolm Ridsdale with apologies from Eric Hammond, John Wright and John Ahmad.

David Haig welcomed everybody to the 47th meeting.

### Items through the Chair

The next meeting will be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016 and the following one will be held on the 17th September 2016 both at the County Hotel, Carlisle. The topic of the next meeting would be “open house”

### Around the Table

David Haig advised that he is giving a Boer War display to the Caledonian Philatelic Society on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

DH lead a discussion on the availability and purchase of the latest SACC and advised that a copy of the 2015 Catalogue could be obtained on Amazon for around £36 which looked a good price.

Roy Ross advised that he was seriously short of material for Springbok.

Time was spent at the meeting using various pieces of equipment to differentiate phosphor variations and watermarks.

The use of an ultra violet lamp showed up a number of the phosphor variations that occur on all the printings of the RSA first definitive issue. It clearly showed the different band positions, the all over phosphor usage and the colour differences between the Swiss and Harrison paper printings of the stamps. There were some striking colour variations to be seen on what to the naked eye looked to be the same stamp.

An unscientific comparison was made between the SAFE T2 Signoscope (uses an electric lamp to shine through the stamp) and the Morley Bright watermark detector (relies on pressure on to a pad with ink in the sachet) to determine watermarks. The Signoscope produced patchy results of success in determining watermarks, particularly the coat of arms, whilst the Morley Bright detector was more effective. Unfortunately the Morley Bright detector is now out of production although there was some discussion as to how new ink sachets could be created although the consensus was that it could be a messy.

### Displays

David Haig

DH displayed a wide range of stamp booklets from the early mid 1990's to the early 2000's.

*The meeting closed at approximately 2.45pm.*

**The Leamington Spa Annual Southern Africa Conference Report**  
**6 to 8 November 2015**  
**from our website by Otto Peetoom**

**Friday afternoon** marks the arrival of an expectant group of keen Philatelists, Alan MacGregor from Simonstown had already arrived the previous day, Otto Peetoom parked at the hotel at 2.30pm and shortly afterwards Gary Brown and his wife (from Australia) checked in. The flood of arriving enthusiasts soon grew, Brian Trotter brought along Lars Jorgensen (Travelling from Belgium). The familiar face of Paul van Zeyl from South Africa appeared, then there came Simon Peetoom, the organizer, Mike Berry, Nick Arrow, Richard Stock, Richard Stroud, Chris Rainey attended for the first time and David Morrison followed on his heels.

As the bar filled during the afternoon, more smiling faces made their presence felt Lyn and Rob Lester, Bob Hill, Tony Howgrave-Graham, Tony Stanford, Brian Hurst, Tony Johnson, Richard Weaver, Mike Smith, Robert Johnson, Chris Board, Alan Harley, Colin Hoffman and Derek Lambert.

During dinner, the wine flowed and the subject was by and large philately and several individuals went to bed later than planned. Saturday morning brought along others such as Alan Drysdall, Andrew Higson, Richard Barnett and his wife, Pat Flanagan (from South Africa) John Gledhill and Graham Manning. Chris and Susan Oliver had other commitments and didn't make it until Sunday.

### **Saturday morning**

**Brian Trotter** presented an overview of the new journal *Southern Africa Philately*, its aims and its intended presence of promoting the philately of Southern Africa. This was well received and virtually every individual at the conference took a subscription to the journal. I counted around thirty five people present.

The first display by **Derek Lambert** covered Northern Rhodesia, expeditions by Paul Graetz, WWI and action in German East Africa.

Next up we were entertained by **Lars Jorgensen**, who led us through the pitfalls of collecting the *Early issues of Transvaal*, the various printings, different papers, imperforates, roulettes, perforations and varieties. He stated that his display was about the stamps but it, in fact, included some superb postal history as well as some wonderful rare combination covers. After a time, Lars was interrupted whilst contemplating an inverted VR overprint, that coffee and tea had arrived, without batting an eyelid Lars stated, *Surely Transvaal Philately is more important than coffee!*

After the break **Gary Brown** presented *RSA Protea Definitives* with emphasis on their correct commercial use. The display included some scarce imperfs and varieties.

A somewhat belated lunch put the conference back on schedule.

After lunch **Paul van Zeyl** presented an interesting display on *The Rebellion & the Union's entry into WWI in GSWA*, Paul was awarded Gold for this exhibit at the recent Cape Town National

**Richard Stock** was up next, starting with Bechuanaland 1961 decimal overprints before moving onto the *Boer War on the subject of Armoured Trains and looted mail*. On this occasion the coffee break was on schedule.

**Rob and Lynn Lester**, with their usual enthusiasm presented the final Saturday display *Exhibitions in South Africa*. Starting with the 1892 Kimberley exhibition, Rob took us through the decades of a mixture of stamp and other exhibitions and finally ended with the last Union fling at UNIPEX in 1961.



Lars Jorgensen awarded  
the Tony Chilton Memorial Trophy  
for best display

The **Saturday evening** gathering in the bar had an air of expectation for something special, various attendees wearing medals, made me glad that I had washed on the day, sent me back to my room to don a jacket and tie...If only I had brought my medals...O' well you can't win them all. On entering the dining room champagne was being dispensed and those present were far too old for it to be a wedding reception

First **Andrew Higson** read the Nomination as a Signatory to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelist of South Africa for **Richard Stroud** that was met by much cheering and clapping. Next a Citation for the Manfred Weinstein Congress Award presented to **Chris Board**, two important milestones of achievement in the name of Southern Africa Philately. It was a shame that Mike Tonking could not be there to also sign the Roll.



Richard Stroud signing the roll



Chris Board receiving award

### Sunday morning

Breakfast at 8 am and people checking out

Morning displays are to be followed by the auction after lunch.

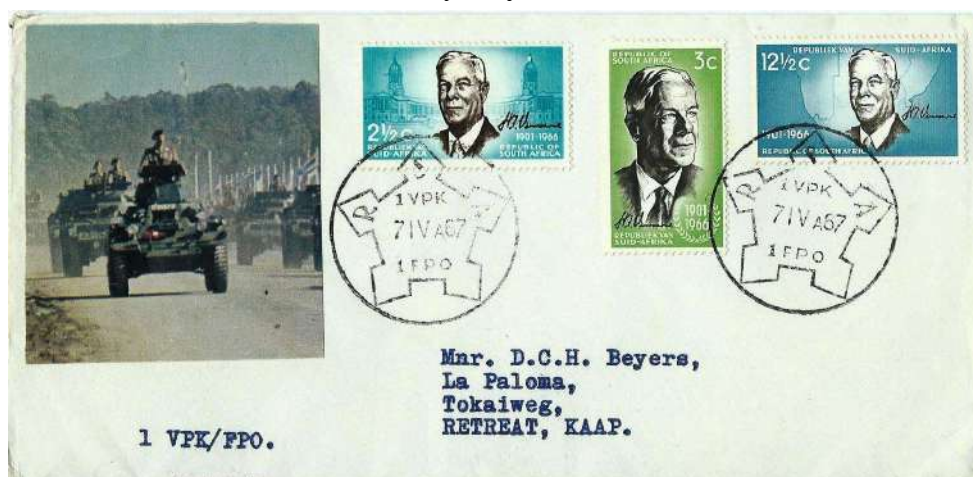
**Nick Arrow** advised that around 55% of the lots sold with realizations around £7000.

**Leamington Spa** is without doubt the highlight of the Southern Africa Philatelic year and next year promises a new, larger venue, with no stairs to negotiate and a lift to the rooms.

Details of the Sunday displays will follow in due course.

*Unfortunately the report on the Sunday displays was not available at the time of the Springbok going to print. Ed*

### An Interesting RSA Cover By Roy Ross



This envelope is showing troops on manoeuvres between 7 - 27th April 1967. A Field Post Office (FP0.1) was set up for postal facilities.

The picture on the envelope is of a British Ferret Scout Car. In my former life I was well versed with these cars as I spent a few years as commander of one. Did the South African troops have these cars or were the manoeuvres in conjunction with the British and South African forces. Who produced the envelope? Where was FPO 1 In 1967? If anyone has any information would they please let me know. *Ed*

# THE SOUTH WEST AFRICA 1931 PICTORIAL DEFINITIVES AND THEIR REPRINTS A COLOUR AND PAPER STUDY

By **Jan van Beukering**

## PART 1 - ½d VALUE

There were 17 printings of this value dating from 1930 to 1953. The first two of 1930 and 1933 were perforated 14 x 13½ DOWN, that of 1935 UP, 1936 again DOWN and the remainder all perforated 14 x 13½ UP. This is contradictory to the SA Colour catalogue which indicates the perf UP as being the initial printing. The illustrations show colour extracts from similar sections of the stamps in relevant colours, as well as indicating the left marginal widths and portions of the reverse to compare paper – all dated as per archival notations on the rear. Scans done in 600 dpi on a CANON scanner 5000F and compiled by 'Paint' and dates inserted by 'Paintnet'. Where a variety has been noted on any of these examples – all from the same marginal positions on the sheets - this is indicated as a small insert. The dates of the printings are 1930, '33, '35, '36, '37, '38, '39 (Jan.), '39 (Aug.), '40, '41, '46, '47, '48, '49, '50, '51 and '53.



½d Cori Bustard – first printing archival block – no gum

Front sections in date sequence used for colour extractions:

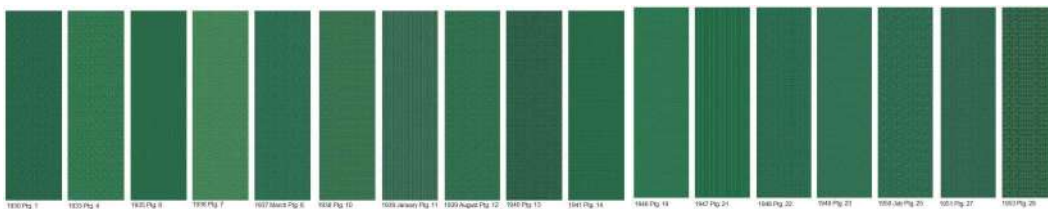


1930 to 1947 printings



1948 to 1953 printings

Green colour extractions:



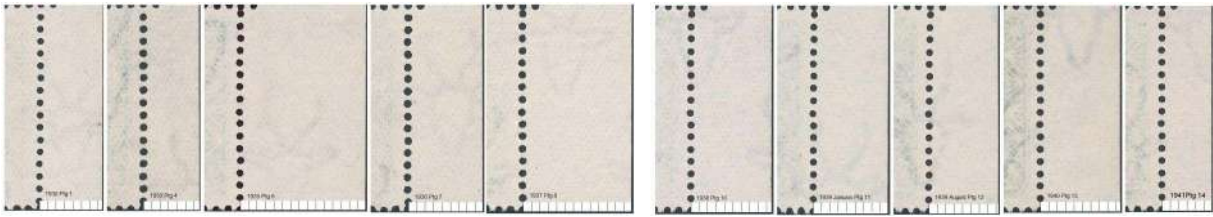
1930 to 1953 printings

Blackish Grey colour extrac-

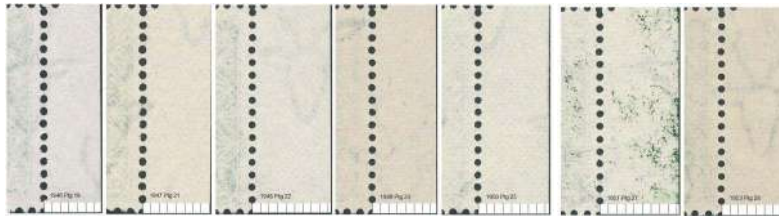


1930 to 1953 printings

Stamp rear paper and margin comparison:



1930 to 1941 printings



1946 to 1953 Printings

## PART 2 – 1d VALUE

There were 17 printings of this value dating from 1930 to 1953. The first four between 1930 to 1933 were perforated 14 x 13½ DOWN, those from 1934 and 1935 UP, the 1936 printing again DOWN and the remainder all perforated 14 x 13½ UP. This is contradictory to the SA Colour catalogue which indicates the perf UP as being the initial printing. The illustrations show colour extracts from similar sections of the stamps in relevant colours, as well as indicating the left marginal widths and portions of the reverse to compare paper – all dated as per archival notations on the rear. Scans done in 600 dpi on a CANON scanner 5000F and compiled by 'Paint' and dates inserted by 'Paintnet'. Where a variety has been noted on any of these examples – all from the same marginal positions on the sheets - this is indicated as a small insert. The dates of the printings are 1930, '31, '32, '33, '34, '35, '36, '37 (Mar.), '37 (Aug.), '38, '39 (Jan), '39 (Aug), '47, '50, '51 (July), '51 (Dec) and '53.

1d Cape Cross – first printing archival block – no gum



Front sections in date sequence used for colour extractions:

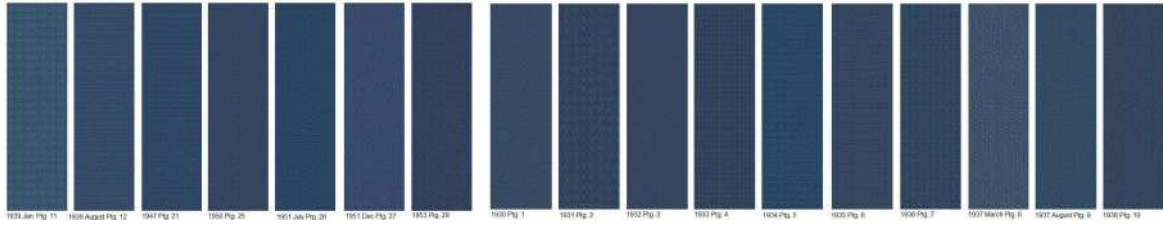


1930 to 1947 printings



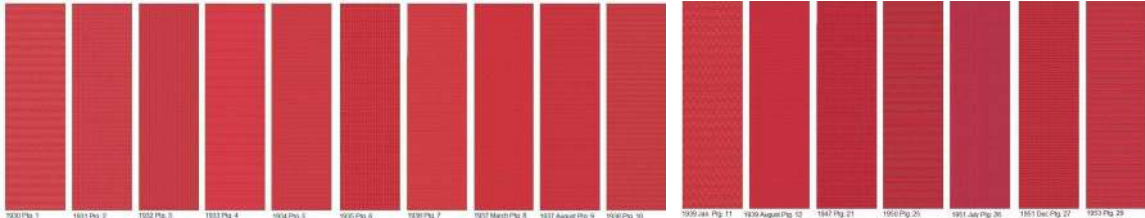
1948 to 1953 printings

Blue colour extractions:



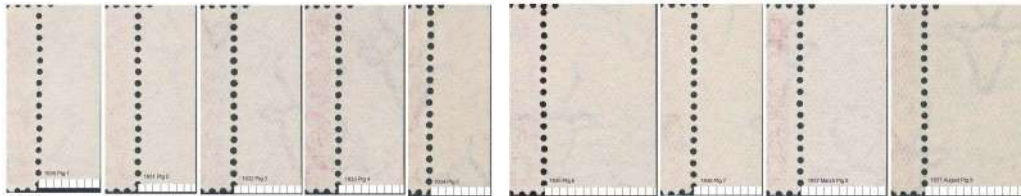
1930 to 1953 printings

Red colour extractions:

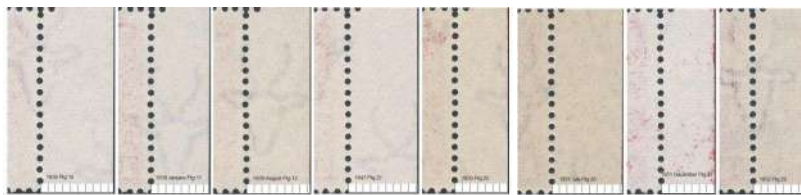


1930 to 1953 Printings

Stamp rear paper and margin comparison:



1930 to August 1937 Printings



1938 to 1952 Printings

### PART 3 – 2d VALUE

There were 17 printings of this value dating from 1930 to 1953. The first four between 1930 to 1933 were perforated 14 x 13½ DOWN, those from 1937 to 1953 all perforated 14 x 13½ UP. This is contradictory to the SA Colour catalogue which indicates the perf UP as being the initial printing. The illustrations show colour extracts from similar sections of the stamps in relevant colours, as well as indicating the left marginal widths and portions of the reverse to compare paper – all dated as per archival notations on the rear. Scans done in 600 dpi on a CANON scanner 5000F and compiled by ‘Paint’ and dates inserted by ‘Paintnet’. Where a variety has been noted on any of these examples – all from the same marginal positions on the sheets - this is indicated as a small insert. The dates of the printings are 1930, '31, '33, '37, '38, '39 (Jan.), '39 (Aug.), '40, '41, '45, '46, '49, '50 (Mar.), '50 (July), '51 (July), '51 (Dec.) and '53.



2d Bogenfels – first printing archival block – no gum

Front sections in date sequence used for colour extractions:

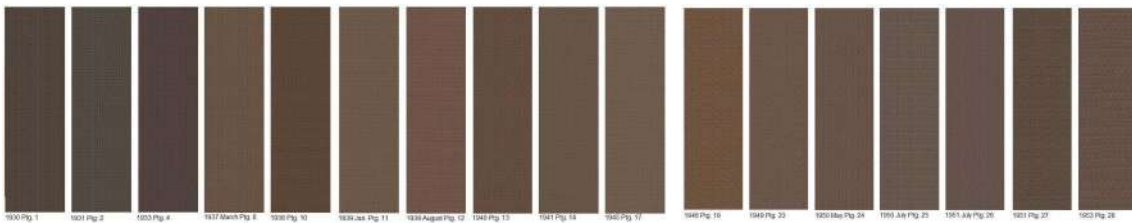


1930 to 1949 printings

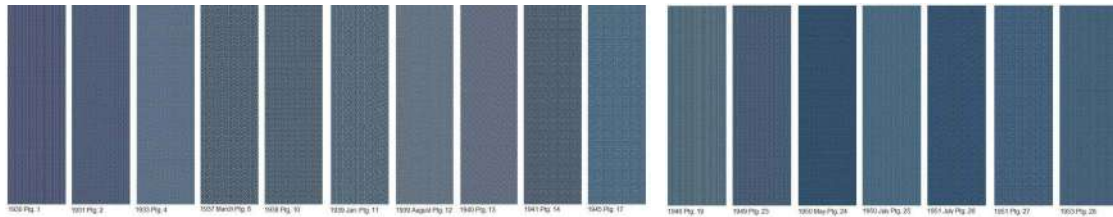


1950 to 1953 printings

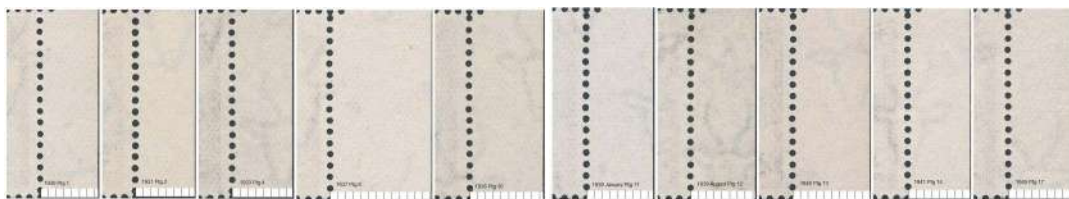
Brown colour extractions:



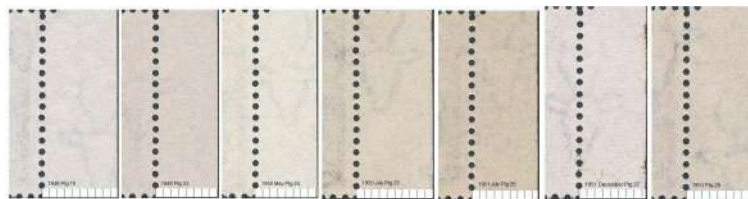
Blue colour extractions:



Stamp rear paper and margin comparison:



1930 to 1945 Printings



1946 to 1953 Printings

*These articles written by Jan van Beukering on the SWA 1931 Pictorials are part of a series of twelve. The remainder will be published in future Springbok issues. Ed*

# THE SOUTH WEST AFRICA 1931 PICTORIAL DEFINITIVES AND THEIR REPRINTS A COLOUR AND PAPER STUDY

By **Jan van Beukering**

## PART 4 – 3d VALUE

There were 14 printings of this value dating from 1930 to 1953. The first two 1930 and 1931 were perforated 14 x 13½ DOWN, that from 1935 perforated 14 x 13½ UP, the 1936 printing again DOWN and the remainder from 1937 to 1953 again UP. This is contradictory to the SA Colour catalogue which indicates the perf UP as being the initial printing. The illustrations show colour extracts from similar sections of the stamps in relevant colours, as well as indicating the left marginal widths and portions of the reverse to compare paper – all dated as per archival notations on the rear. Scans done in 600 dpi on a CANON scanner 5000F and compiled by ‘Paint’ and dates inserted by ‘Paintnet’. Where a variety has been noted on any these examples – all from the same marginal positions on the sheets - this is indicated as a small insert. The dates of the printings are 1930, ’31, ’35’, ’36, ’37 (Mar), ’37 (Aug.), ’38, ’39 (Jan), ’39 (Aug), 40, ’46, ’48, ’50 and ’53.



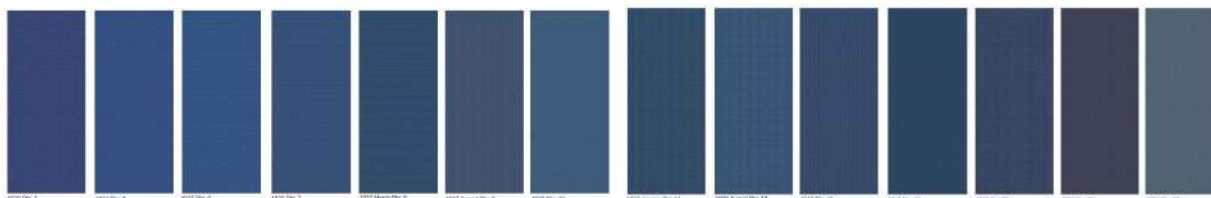
2d Government Buildings Windhoek – first printing archival block – no gum

Front sections in date sequence used for colour extractions:



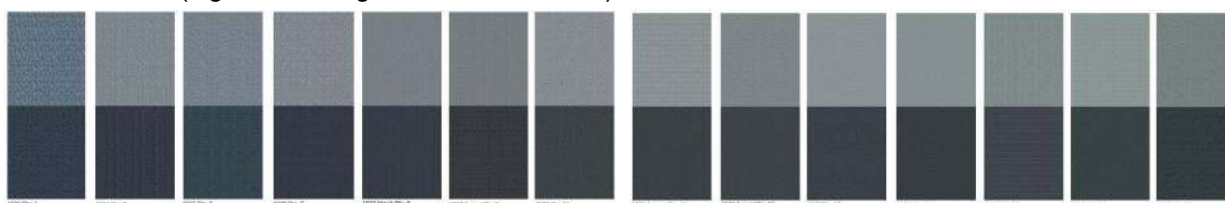
1930 to 1953

Blue colour extractions:

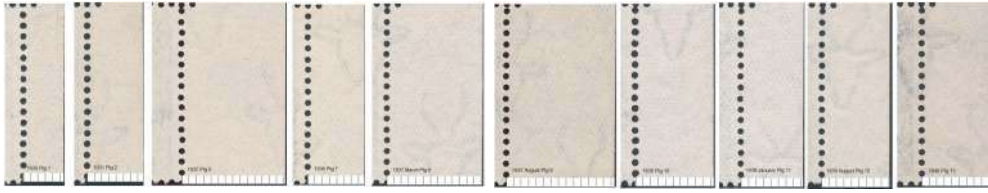


1930 to 1953 printings

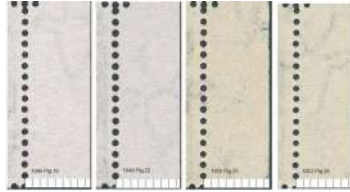
Grey-Black shades (Lighter shading and darker outlines) :



Stamp rear paper and margin comparison:



1930 to 1940 Printings



Aug. 1946 to 1953 Printings

## PART 5 – 4d VALUE

There were 13 printings of this value dating from 1930 to 1953. The first, that of 1930 was perforated 14 x 13½ DOWN and the remainder from 1935 to 1953 all perforated 14 x 13½ UP. This is contradictory to the SA Colour catalogue which indicates the perf UP as being the initial printing. The illustrations show colour extracts from similar sections of the stamps in relevant colours, as well as indicating the left marginal widths and portions of the reverse to compare paper – all dated as per archival notations on the rear. Scans done in 600 dpi on a CANON scanner 5000F and compiled by 'Paint' and dates inserted by 'Paintnet'. Where a variety has been noted on any these examples – all from the same marginal positions on the sheets - this is indicated as a small insert. The dates of the printings are 1930, '35, '37, '38, '39, '40, '41, '45, '46, '47, '49, '50 and '53.



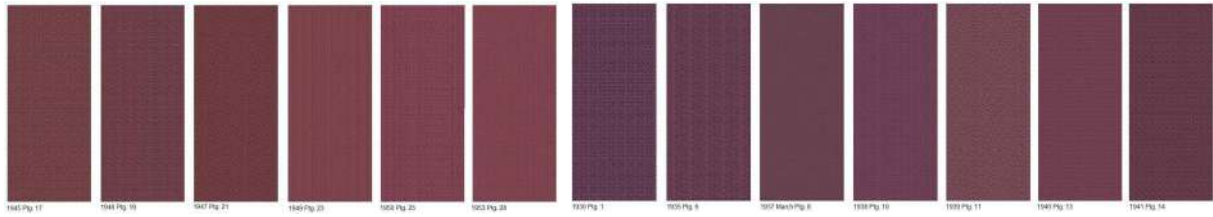
2d Waterberg – first printing archival block – no gum

Front sections in date sequence used for colour extractions:



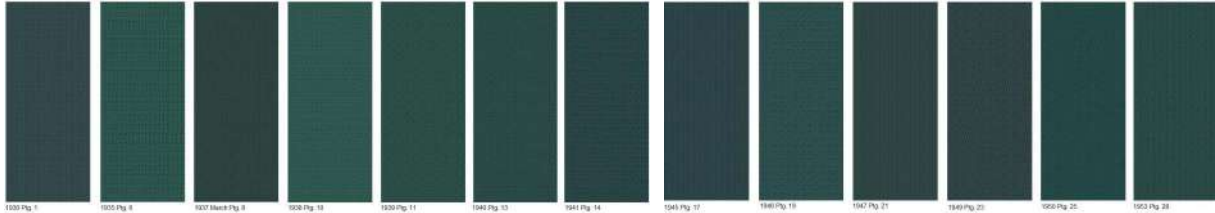
1930 to 1953 Printings

Violet colour extractions



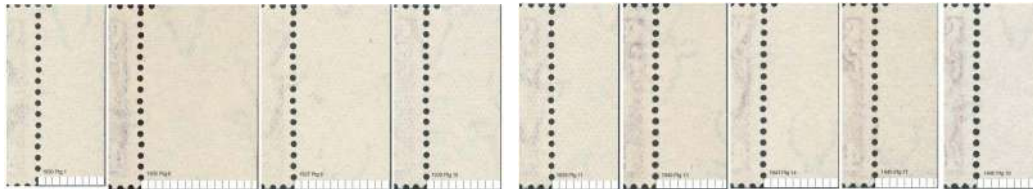
1930 to 1953 printings

Green colour extractions:

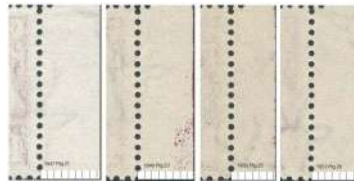


1930 to 1953 printings

Stamp rear paper and margin comparison:



1930 to 1946 Printings



1947 to 1953 Printings

**PART 6 – 6d VALUE**

There were 17 printings of this value dating from 1930 to 1953. The first two of 1930 and 1931 were perforated 14 x 13½ DOWN, those from 1934 and 1935 UP, the 1936 printing again DOWN and the remainder all perforated 14 x 13½ UP. This is contradictory to the SA Colour catalogue which indicates the perf UP as being the initial printing. The illustrations show colour extracts from similar sections of the stamps in relevant colours, as well as indicating the left marginal widths and portions of the reverse to compare paper – all dated as per archival notations on the rear. Scans done in 600 dpi on a CANON scanner 5000F and compiled by 'Paint' and dates inserted by 'Paintnet'. Where a variety has been noted on any these examples – all from the same marginal positions on the sheets - this is indicated as a small insert. The dates of the printings are 1930, '31, '34, '35, '36, '37 (Mar.), '37 (Aug.), '38, '39, '40, '41, '44, '45, '47, '48, '50 and '53.



1d Luderitz Bay – first printing archival block – no gum

Front sections in date sequence used for colour extractions:

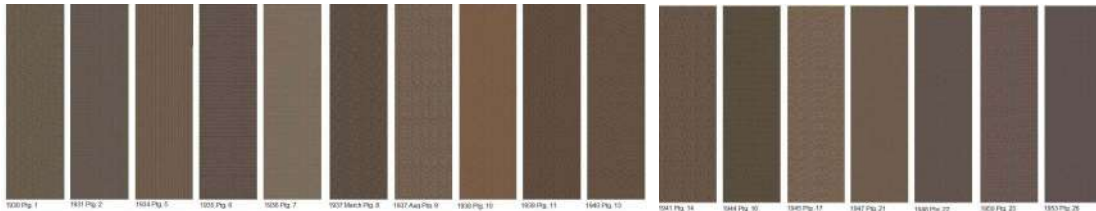


1930 to 1940 Printings



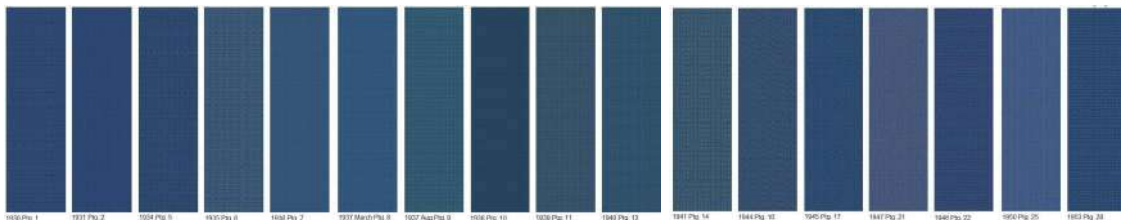
1941 to 1953 Printings

Brown colour extractions:



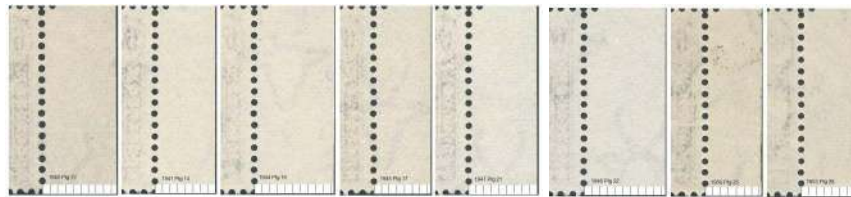
1930 to 1953 Printings

Blue colour extractions:

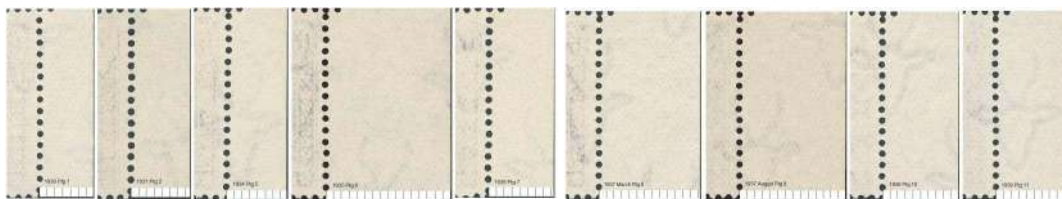


1930 to 1953 Printings

Stamp rear paper and margin comparison



1930 to August 1939 Printings



1940 to 1953 Printings

*Editors Note: In the images of the 1/2d 1930-1947 printings, page 113, there are small inserts of varieties. The Author would like to hear from anyone who has seen these varieties. Larger images are available from me on request. Ed.*

## From the Editor's Desk

In an article written by Nick Arrow: 1933 Voortrekker Memorial Fund Stamp, page 87 Vol. 63/3. Nick challenges the first date of issue as being recorded as the 3rd May 1933.

Nick received an email from Kalman Illyefalvi and he states that the date recorded in the 1946 Standard Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of the Union of South Africa - Basden & Simenoff Editors - Published by the Federation, First day of issue is the 1st May 1933.

Tony Howgrave-Graham emailed to say that Gibbons had it recorded as 1st May

This led me to check the books I have in my Library and found some interesting notes:

The 1952 Handbook Union of South Africa Stamps: states that the date is the 1st May 1933

The Golden Jubilee Edition: states 3rd May 1933

My SACC 2010/11 says 3rd May

Stamps of the Union Handbook 1910 - 1961 it says 3rd May, but this has been crossed out and 1st inserted in pen. There are notes on the page written in pencil : FDC to Scotland with single of 1d, 2d and 3d postmarked Mooiriver 1 May 1933. See note in old cat page 299. To what catalogue this refers too I do not know. The book is full of pencil alterations and I can't remember when or where I purchased the book but it was obviously owned previously by a member who had a vast amount of knowledge. There is another note again in pencil on top of the page - J Hager Springbok Vol 36 No.6 Supplement P5. I do not have a copy of this so can't check what it refers too.

If any member has a copy would they please check and let me know what it refers too, it could be the answer Nick is looking for.

It would appear that the first date of issue is the 1st May 1933 and was incorrectly recorded as the 3rd May in some handbooks. *Ed.*

## ILLUSTRATED PRINTING PROCESSES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA 1929 CIGARETTE TAX STAMPS

By Jan van Beukering

1927 Union 2d Postage Due stamp stocks, (CC 19), and the 6d definitive postage stamp (CC 31P) both typograph printed in Pretoria, were overprinted during 1928 for postage due use in South West Africa with the **S.W.A.** overprint. These in turn were further overprinted for use as 1½d Cigarette and Tobacco Tax labels in South West Africa. To create these labels six steps were required, which in turn required careful alignment when setting up the panes. What we illustrate here are the steps in the printing processes necessary to produce the Cigarette Tax labels using the 2d postage due and 6d Pretoria definitive.

### THE 1½ CIGARETTE TAX OVERPRINT ON THE UNION 2d POSTAGE DUE STAMP :

Unwatermarked paper was used for this stamp issue, guillotined to the correct size and loaded into the printing machine tray. Then the base colour – mauve for the 2d value - using frame plate 1 was applied in two panes of 60 (10 rows of 6 each) separated by a narrow vertical gutter. The panes were surrounded by jubilee lines, but these were absent in the vertical gutter.



Ill. 1 R1/7 right of vertical gutter no jubilee line  
Top margin perforated base stamp

*Cont'*

Cont'

- Step 1 : Guillotining of the unperforated unwatermarked paper
- Step 2 : Typograph printed mauve frame in two panes of 60 with jubilee lines all around (not in vertical gutter)
- Step 3: Black '2d' value tabs – printed from stereos in rows of 6 only
- Step 4: Perforating the sheets by single comb perforator fed in from the top edge leaving perforated top margins
- Step 5: *S.W.A.* overprint by the Government Printers at Pretoria for postal use in South West Africa
- Step 6: Supplies of the above postage due stamps (SWA CC 7) overprinted in Red with *CIGARETTE TOBACCO TAX 1½d* / *SIGARETTE TABAK BELASTING 1½d* Afrikaans and English. Quantity unknown. Barefoot cat. No. '2'

III.2



**THE 1½ CIGARETTE TAX OVERPRINT ON THE 1927 UNION 6d PRETORIA DEFINITIVE :**

Multiple Springbok head watermarked paper was used for the 6d Pretoria Typograph printed stamp, guillotined to the correct size and loaded into the printing machine tray.

- Step 1 : Guillotining of the imperforated watermarked paper
- Step 2 : Orange frame printed using Plate '2x' in single panes of 240 stamps (20 rows of 12) with orange jubilee lines all around with 3mm gaps at top and bottom
- Step 3: Green centre printed from interior Plate 2
- Step 4: Perforating the sheets by single comb perforator fed in from the right side margin
- Step 5: *OFFICIAL S.W.A.* overprint by the Government Printers at Pretoria for 'official' postage postal use in South West Africa
- Step 6: Supplies of the above official stamps (SWA CC 12) overprinted in Red with *CIGARETTE TOBACCO TAX 1½d* / *SIGARETTE TABAK BELASTING 1½d* Afrikaans and English. Quantity unknown. Not listed in Barefoot



**SECOND DEFINITIVE SERIES 1973**  
**RSA Stamp Study Group NL 351**

A newspaper clipping, unfortunately not identified, states that the Post Office made mistakes with the Latin terminology on three of the 16 stamps in the series.

“As these mistakes were only discovered after the stamps had been printed, and in very large quantities, it would have been too costly to withdraw them” said Mr Louis Rive.

The ‘wrong’ stamps will be put into circulation with the “correct” stamps until a new printing is required.”

The mistakes appear on the 15c; 50c and and R1 stamps.

At reprinting the Latin terminology on two more stamps will be changed – the 5c and 4c.”

**15c**

*Nectarinia afer*

Should be *Nectarinia afra*



**50c**

*Tetrapterys paradisea*

Should be *Tetraterys*

*paradisea*



**R1**

*Terathopis ecaudatus*

Should be *Terathopius*

*ecaudatus*



**5c**

*Morus capensis*

Should be *sula bassana* as the

listing changed from *Morus capensis*



**4c**

*Zantedeschia ethiopica*

Should be *Zantedeschia aethiopica*,

which is the spelling preferred by some scholars.



Does anyone have these stamps with the corrected names?

Our information is that the names were never corrected. We would like to hear from you.

*If anyone has seen any of these then please let me know and I will pass on the information to the RSA Stamp Study Group. Ed*

## An Unusual Perforation

By Mike Tonking

An unusual and interesting perforation occurs on the 1d. Group 111 postage due value.

This Group was normally perforated by a single comb 13 1/2 x 14 gauge perforator however in the case of the 1d. Value examples are known where the perforation was applied by a single line perforator to about gauge 12. The late Jack Hagger RDPSA suggested that after completing the normal perforating process a single sheet was found to be imperforated. The machine operator, rather than restart the comp perforating machine for a single sheet, then applied the perforations by means of a single line perforator. To date no better explanation has been suggested for this anomaly.



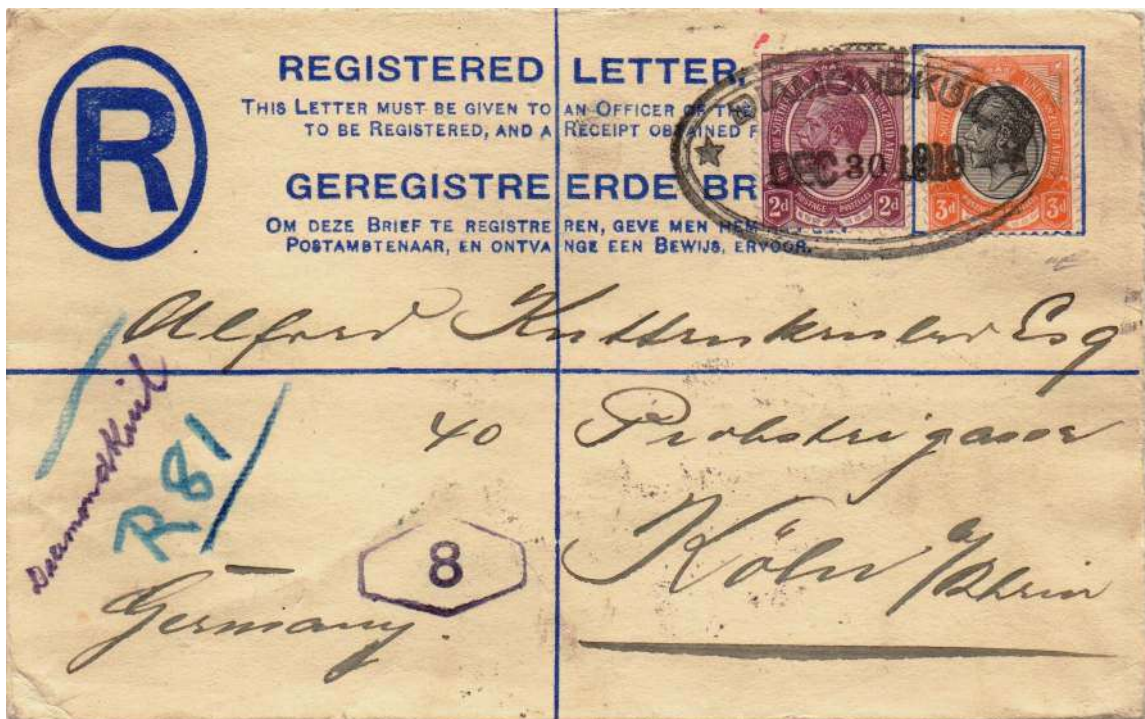
References: *The South African Study Circle Newsletter August*

0

## An Unusual Cover

By Tony Howgrave-Graham

I attach a scan of the unique Diamondkuil cover - it's in Putzel as the only copy known - the office is reported to have opened on 1 November 1919 - it would be interesting to know if any members have a copy and if it's on a registered cover - equally interesting would be any cover from Diamondkuil in 1919 with a different cancel - can anyone help?



**Limited Opening Hours; The Myth Dispelled.**  
**First Union Stamp**  
 By Lyn and Rob Lester.

Whilst enquiring at Stampex this year as to whether a dealer had any South African S G 1. Union stamps with first day cancellations of 4 November 1910, yet again we were told that none were in the dealers stock as the first day cancellation is extremely rare due to the Post Offices only being open for a couple of hours that day. This comment, told to us on many occasions over the last decade or so, has prompted us to put pen to paper and try to put the record straight, based on our collection of first day cancellations from 4 November 1910.

For many years we have been attracted by the outstanding design and classic proportions of the first Union stamp of South Africa and are indebted to H. S. Wilkinson and De La Rue for their respective parts in producing the design and printing which has clearly stood the test of time and is much admired by many collectors. More recently our interest has moved from the stamp itself to focus on a side line of collecting the stamp with a first day cancellation of 4 November 1910, and what a challenge this has been.

Much is written by others about the delay from Tuesday 31st May 1910, when the Union of South Africa occurred, to Friday 4 November 1910 when the first Union stamp was made available to members of the public at Post Offices. Incidentally it was also made available to collectors on the same day in the UK, from the South African High Commissioner in London. It appears the stamp was issued with no special covers celebrating the first day of the Union stamp and that members of the public and philatelic collectors resorted to making their own first day covers with hand written inscriptions on ordinary envelopes. An opportunity was clearly missed by those who organised its issue.



*Three examples of differing hand designed first day covers from Worcester in Cape Province, Umzinto in Natal and Alfred Docks Cape Town, on a special hand drawn cover from Cooks Coal, in Cape Town.*

So why do a number of philatelists consider that the Post Offices were only open for a couple of hours on that Friday and where does this comment come from? Reference to "The De La Rue Georgians of South Africa" by H. E. Lobdell published in 1944 quotes "Mr Simenhoff advises me that Union post offices were open a half hour on that November 4th from 9 to 9.30 a. m. which accounts for the comparative scarcity of 'first day' cancellations." He goes on "Those of Natal offices are especially rare the only one reported cover being that of Mr Rich postmarked Malvern". Yet reference to an earlier publication "The Adhesive Postage Stamps of the Union of South Africa" by J Ritchie, published in 1926, which incorporates G.W. Reynolds Handbook of 1921, is quiet on the matter.

*Cont'*

Cont'

Reference to the early Union handbooks shed no light as to how long the Post Offices remained open, until the Definitive Edition published in 1986 of "The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910 – 1961" edited by S. J. Hagger. On page 1 at the end of the description of the Union's First Stamp, the final paragraph states "Although it was a public holiday, post offices opened for a couple of hours to sell stamps"

So in 1944 post offices apparently opened for half an hour and in 1986 a couple of hours. At least we can now see where dealers and collectors who use the latest Union Handbook, which has not gone through that massive exercise to be updated since 1986, obtain the notion that the post offices were only open for a couple of hours. There is also reference to 4 November 1910 being a holiday.

Based on the collection we have assembled over the past thirty years and on research undertaken, we would wish to challenge these comments and hopefully put the record straight. The first matter of a public holiday is easy to resolve. With internet access so readily available today it is simple to establish that Friday 4th November 1910 was not a public holiday in South Africa. Of course Hagger did not have the internet to check this information, but reference to newspaper articles clearly demonstrate that Friday 4th November 1910 was a normal working day throughout South Africa, despite the Opening of the Union Parliament.

We believe confusion has occurred in writing about when the stamp was originally planned to be issued which was Union Day, Tuesday 31 May 1910. This was and still is a public holiday in South Africa. As the design could not be agreed in time the stamp was not ready for issue to celebrate Union Day. The delay meant the stamp being issued on 4 November 1910 to coincide with the Opening of the New Union Parliament, some six months later than planned and also missing the national holiday.

Once the design of the stamp was agreed De La Rue were instructed to proceed with printing. According to Ritchie, "Supplies were despatched from London (De La Rue) to Pretoria on 3rd September 1910, and were distributed to Postmasters in the Union during October 1910 with instructions they were not to be placed on sale before 4 November 1910"

Many of the stamps which are cancelled 4 November 1910, are 'stamped to order', in that they have not been used in the post and still have full gum to the rear, but contain a clean and well centred strike of the post office in question. In our opinion, these cancels were clearly undertaken by Postmasters for collectors. In fact we know of a full sheet of 120 stamps that is fully gummed but has half of the stamps, (60 stamps to the right hand side) date stamped 4 November 1910, proving that stamps were cancelled to order. Multiples are also common with equally fine date stamps, and the gum intact to the rear. Examples of such 'cancelled to order' multiples are shown below.

Lobdell in the paragraph quoted above suggests that first day cancels from Natal are the most difficult to find. From the number of cancellations we have collected this is not the case. Those post offices in the Orange Free State would appear to us to be harder to find and fewer in number.



MIDDELBURG T 4- NOV. 10



DORDRECHT NO 4 10



KIMBERLEY 10. AM NO 4 10



POST OFFICE JAGERSFONTEIN  
4 – NOV. - 10



VILLIERIA 4 – NOV. 10



NEW BETHESDA NO 4 10

*Examples of “Cancelled to Order” on the first day of issue, with all blocks having full gum to rear and clearly not postally used. It is interesting to note that the postal clerk at Villieria cancelled four stamps with one date stamp rather than obliterating each stamp as for the other examples.*

Natal as a province, has the advantage of a coast line and accessibility from the sea and in 1910 included relatively large areas of population such as Durban, and Pietermaritzburg. The Orange Free State being a land locked province was reliant on horse drawn access or railways with some large centres such as Bloemfontein but generally a smaller population. Maybe this is part of the reason we have less first day cancellations from the Orange Free State post offices or perhaps there was less support for the Union in the Orange Free State.

If the population of the provinces is examined this too may shed light on why the Orange Free State date stamps are the scarcest. From various internet based websites we have established that the approximate population of South Africa in 1910 was 5,899,000. Of this total most lived in the Cape Province approximately 2,564,965 (48.5%), followed by Transvaal with an approximate population of 1,605, 861 (27.2%), then Natal with an approximate population of 1,200,000 (20.3%) and finally the Orange Free State with an approximate population of only 528,174 (9.0%). It goes without saying that a smaller population is likely to produce fewer 4 November 1910 date stamps.

Putzel in his, “The Encyclopaedia of South African Post Offices and Postal Agencies” Volume 1 (A – E) quotes from the Union PMG and P.O. Circular from 1910; “States at Union there are the following: - 1086 Post Offices and Agencies; 22 Travelling Post Offices; 9 Ocean Mail Offices; 540 Field Cornet Mails” totalling 1657 postal facilities. This number rapidly grew during the early Union period and when Dr T.P. Berry published “Union of South Africa List of Post & Telegraph Offices contained in the Post & Telegraph Guide July 1912” the number had risen to 2713 postal facilities.

Reference to early Springbok articles from March/April 1954 records a first day cancellation from ‘Nottingham Road, Natal’ on cover in addition to the one cover recorded by Lobdell in 1944, at Malvern, Natal. Later in March/April 1962 the Springbok records four first day covers and in addition twelve first day cancellations. Hasso Reisener in his book “The Special and Commemorative Postmarks Cachets and Covers of South Africa 1892 – 1975, published in 1978, records a total of 80 place names where first day cancels had been recorded, with 28 in Cape Province, 11 in Natal, 17 in Orange Free State and 24 in Transvaal. Reisener also records that about 50 first day covers have been recorded. Thus the conclusion to be drawn from the above is that the number of first day cancellations in relation to the number of Post Offices open for business on the 4 November 1910 is small, and in fact the number of first day cancellations actually recorded 68 years after the issue of the stamp, is very limited. Hence our interest in collecting the Union stamp with a first day cancel of 4 November 1910.

*Cont’*

Cont'

To date, one hundred and five years after the stamp was first issued we have collected over 250 differing first day cancellations and just under 100 first day covers and cards all with 4 November 1910 cancellation in various formats, but that is not to say these are all from different Post Offices. A simple example of this is to look at the Johannesburg cancels in our possession. We have 7 different "Johannesburg" counter "2" cancels which are all different times, ranging from 8.30am, 11.30am, 1.45pm, 3.00pm, 3.15pm, 5.30pm, 6.45pm, and 8.00pm. We have "Johannesburg" counter "11", "12" "14" and "18" along with "Registered Johannesburg" with times of 11.30am and 5.30pm, and "Johannesburg 2 Parcel Office" not to mention the machine cancel of "Johannesburg Transvaal" at 11.00am on 4 November 1910.



8 – 30 AM



11 – 30 AM



3- -- PM



6 – 45 PM



8 -- PM

*Johannesburg counter '2' date stamps of 4 November 1910 showing different times.*

Of the 250 cancellations we have 98 from Cape Province post offices (39.2%), 70 from the Transvaal (28.0%), 50 from Natal (20%) and 32 from the Orange Free State (12.8%), suggesting that Natal date stamps are not the rarest of the four provinces. It is also interesting to compare the percentages above against the population percentages in 1910, and to note a very similar proportion.

It is not just in Johannesburg that we can illustrate differing times of the first day cancels. In Cape Town, we have counter "2" cancels from 9.30am, 12.00pm, and 3.30pm. In Dundee, Natal we have cancels from 9.15am and 3.00pm. In Durban, Natal we have cancels from 10.00am, 12.00pm, 1.00pm, 1.45pm, 2.00pm, 2.15pm, and 5.00pm. In Kimberley, Cape Province we have cancels from 10.00am, 11.30am, 2.30pm, and 6.30pm. In Pietermaritzburg, Natal we have cancels from 9.15am, 11.30am, 4.15pm, and 8.00pm. In Worcester Cape Province, we have cancels from 7.10am, 2.00pm, and 3.00pm.

From all of these examples it can be clearly concluded that the Post Offices were open all day across South Africa with a 7.10am transaction in Worcester, Cape Province, as the earliest recorded in our collection and an 8.00pm transaction at Johannesburg, Transvaal and Pietermaritzburg, Natal as the latest recorded transaction.

Of course some of the cancellations do not have a time as part of the date stamp, but instead contain a time code letter, normally 'A' 'B' 'C' or 'D'. With these cancellations it is difficult to confirm opening times of Post Offices, and in fact about 25% of the cancellations we have, incorporate no time or time code merely the date. These are not restricted to any one Province but are equally spread across all four Provinces. Interestingly there is also a variety of cancellations across all four Provinces with a mixture of times, time codes and just plain dates. For example illustrated below are some of the many varieties; 4- NOV. 10; 4- NOV. 1910; 4- NO 10: 4- NOV. (time code A/B/C/D) 10; 4- NOV. 10 (time in full) It is noticeable however, that all of the Natal first day cancellations contain the word 'Natal' as part of the date stamp being located at the base.



**MALONGENI NATAL**  
A NO 4 10

**THABA 'NCHU'**  
4 - NOV. B 10

**BETHULIE**  
4 - NOV. C 10

**HEILBRON**  
4 - NOV D 10

**FRANKFORT**  
4 - NOV. H 10

*Examples of various time code letters used in 4 November 1910 cancellations.*

Reisener illustrates a block of four Union stamps with the date stamp 'Houses of Parliament B NO 4 10' which was part of the L. van de Kar collection. As there is only a time code 'B' within the date stamp, it is not certain exactly when during the day this cancel was transacted and we have never seen any other stamps bearing a cancellation from the Houses of Parliament on 4 November 1910. Clearly a post office was located at the Houses of Parliament, and Putzel describes when the Post office started in 1885 and its life span. It existed, and was clearly open on 4 November 1910, and although no specific times are given for its opening and the date stamp for the Houses of Parliament only incorporates a time code letter we believe it is reasonable to assume that this Post Office alone was only open for half an hour or maybe as long as a couple of hours based on the scarcity of this specific date stamp. Perhaps this is where the confusion has occurred about the opening times of Post Offices on 4 November 1910.

In conclusion we hope from the evidence presented above, and based on our collection from the past thirty years, we can reasonably demonstrate that Post Offices were open and in use all day on Friday 4 November 1910, except for the one in the Houses of Parliament in Cape Town which may only have been open for a limited time.

We are always willing to receive electronic scans of 4 November 1910 cancellations on Union Stamps to help us further with our research and collection. Anyone having such an item, or a first day cover in their collection, then please send details to the editor. Your assistance may produce that one cancellation we have not yet recorded, or it may provide a copy of a time or time code we have not seen.

## UNION KGV ROLL STAMPS A STUDY TO INDICATE THE RARITY OF SOME POSITIONAL ITEMS.

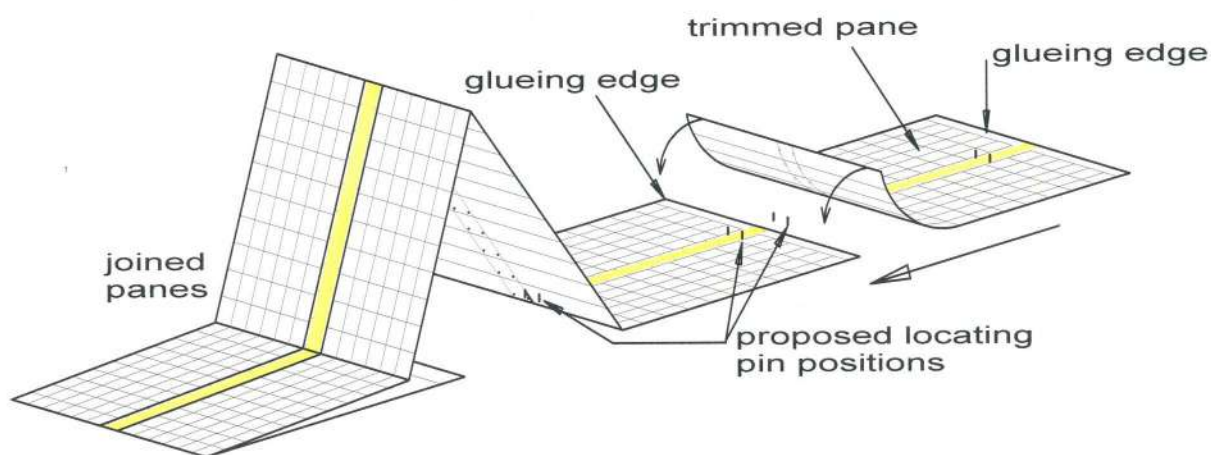
By Jan van Beukering

One of my favourite collecting fields is the early Union of South Africa roll stamps and production methods for these as experienced by the printers at the time. Over the years much has been said and reflected on this, but that is another story, to be told in an extensive paper at a later stage!

The SACC lists the KGV roll stamps in such a way that the base stamp catalogue values and those for the few so-called variants mentioned there, whether constant or occasional, can obviously not be based on the actual rarity of the material as the comparison will show. Although print numbers are not known at this stage many millions of roll stamps were issued and catalogue prices are overrated and not in line with normal stamp valuations.

Similarly even the Union Handbook attaches valuations to the stamps which cannot possibly relate to the actual rarity of the material, whereas Gibbons just list the basic stamps and inverted watermarks.

To compare one must illustrate how the rolls were made up for the KGV definitives. The stamps used were from the same plates as for the normally issued sheets for the ½d, 1d, 1½d and 2d stamps, except that most pins for the vertical comb perforations were omitted, barring one, about ¾ way down, either side of the central vertical gutter. These isolated perforations were used to align the sheets of 240 stamps on pins on the rotating guillotining table prior to trimming them to separate panes, “A” and “B” and afterwards to line up panes ready for pasting together.

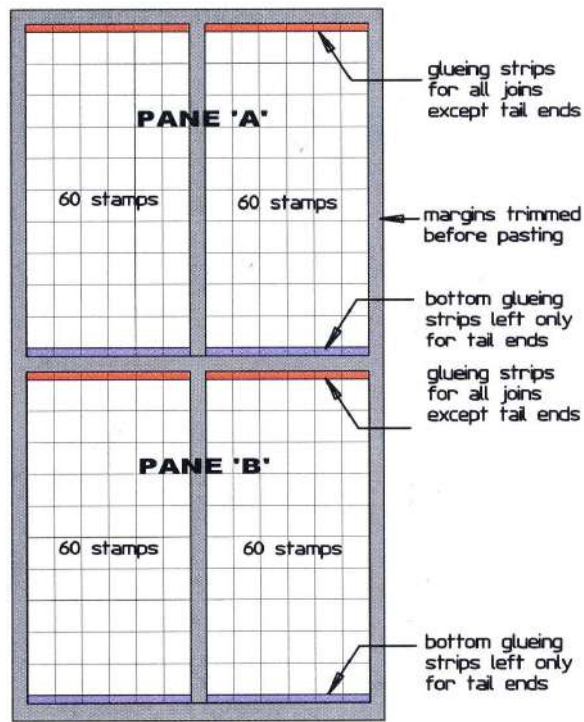


### TRIMMED PANES PASTED ONTO PANE BELOW WITH GLUING STRIP

#### III. 1 Indicating the probable process used to line up and join panes

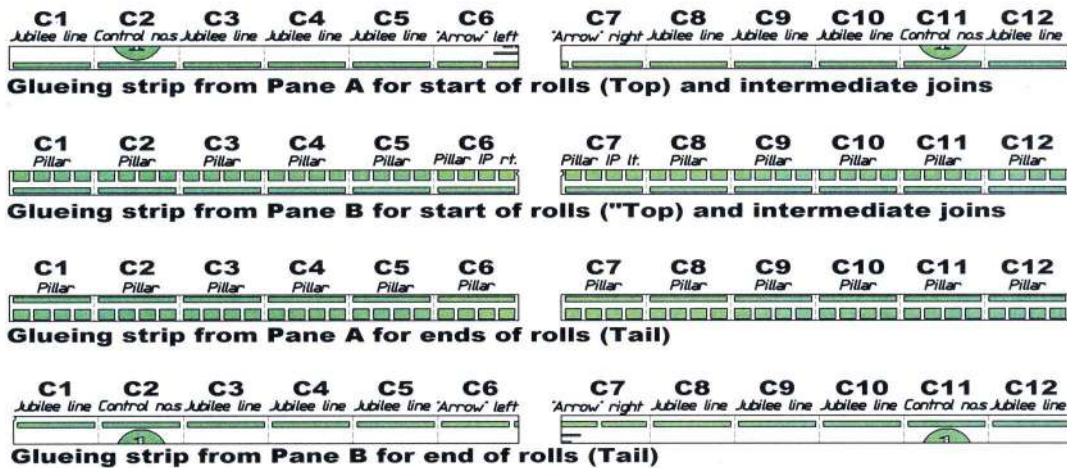
The guillotined panes of 2 x 60 stamps each allowed for a small gluing strips at the top of the panes, onto which subsequent panes were pasted until the required roll lengths were achieved, at first with 120 panes to obtain 1200 stamps per coil for use in vending machines, later also issued in 500 stamp coils using 50 panes, presumably for sale over the Post Office counter or also to be dispensed by vending machines.

At the top and bottom ends blank paper strips were attached, called ‘Tops’ and ‘Tails’. Those used for the top end, and generally for all pane pasting, is indicated in red. Those to be used for the tail ends were specially trimmed such as to leave a gluing strip at the bottom of the panes (blue)



III. 2 Pane pasting make up

One needs to illustrate the detail of glueing strips both at the tops and bottoms of panes, as used for pasting up. The 'C' numbers indicate the vertical column positions.



III. 3

Contrary to belief by the novice collector, and probably also by some authors of the catalogues in question, the isolated perforations were present on the whole sheets including the horizontal gutter strip, either side of the vertical gutter in columns 6 and 7, and thus there were many more 'isolated' perforations, left or right, than previously thought, in fact 1 out of every six roll stamps had these either left or right.



III. 4 Top of roll with control no.

Top of roll with C6 arrow

Tail of roll with gutter



III.5 Top of row C6 strip of 10 with arrow joint to top as well as on stamp no. 10. Note all stamps with IP's. The top margin does not show isolated perfs as the stamp sheets were fed bottom margin first under the perforation comb.

After pasting up the panes into rolls, they were cut into stamp widths by rotary cutter, which, if exactly positioned, should halve the perforation holes either side of the vertical gutter, which was discarded. If out of register the "complete isolated perforation holes" could show – or not depending which sides they were 'miscut'! This latter is not to be considered a constant 'variety'.

**POSITIONAL REFERENCE CODES  
PANE "A" MARGIN AT TOP AND TAIL**

A	top marginal jubilee join	C1, C3-5, C8-10 & C12
B	top marginal control join	C2, C11
C	top marginal arrow join	C6
D	top marginal arrow join	C7
E	bottom marg. jubilee join	C1, C3-5, C8-10 & C12
F	bottom marg. control join	C2, C11
G	bottom marg. Arrow join	C6
H	bottom marg. Arrow join	C7
I	intermediate jubilee join	C1, C3-5, C8-10 & C12
J	intermediate control join	C2, C11

**INTERMEDIATE PANES**

K	intermediate arrow join	C6
L	intermediate arrow join	C7
M	intermediate gutter join	C1-C5, C8-12
N	intermediate gutter join	C6 IP right side
O	intermediate gutter join	C7 IP left side
P	general stamps	
Q	Isolated perf. stamps	C6 IP right side
R	Isolated perf. stamps	C7 IP left side

**PANE "B" GUTTER AT TOP AND TAIL**

S	top gutter join	C1-C5, C7-C12
T	top gutter join with IP right	C6
U	top gutter join with IP left	C7
V	bottom gutter join (no IP)	C1-C12

III. 6 Table indicating position codes and distribution of various stamps in the roll make-up



# Revisiting the Economy Strips

By Mike Tonking RDPSA

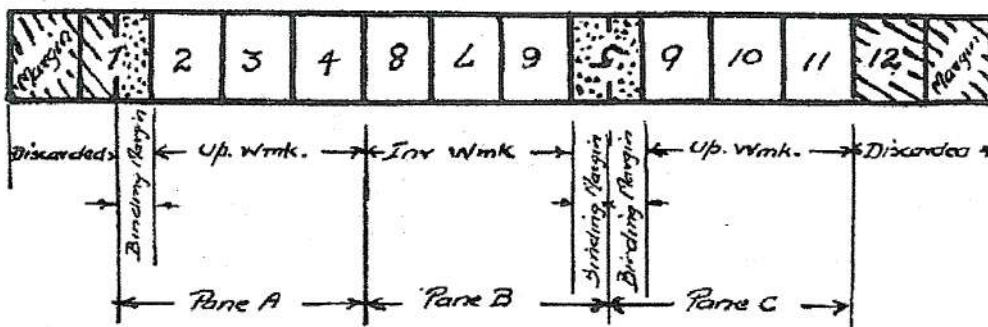
The so called Economy Strips, as named by collectors at the time, consisted of surplus rotogravure 1/2d, 1d, and 2d postage stamps which had been prepared for booklet issues B8 and B9. The 1/2d and 1d Economy Strips were sold in strips of 60 stamps, 20 rows x 3, with a narrow margin on either the left or right side.

The top blank margins of the 1/2d and 1d stamps were present as was the bottom margin of the latter, however it is reported that the former were issued with bottom margins trimmed off.

In the case of the 2d value which replaced the 1/2d value in the 1931 B9 booklet the Economy Strips were sold in blocks of 20 stamps, 10 rows x 2, with the top and bottom margins trimmed off.

Instead of making up new multipositives the Government Printer decided to use those previously used for 1/2d Issues 1 - 3 and for the 1d Issues 1 - 6 for the booklets with the layout as illustrated below. This was probably a mistake when one considers the numerous problems experienced with the etching of the printing cylinders of both values.

Multipositive layout for etching the B8 and B9 1/2d and 1d booklet stamp cylinders



Row 8/8—Tiny green dot to right of bottom bar.

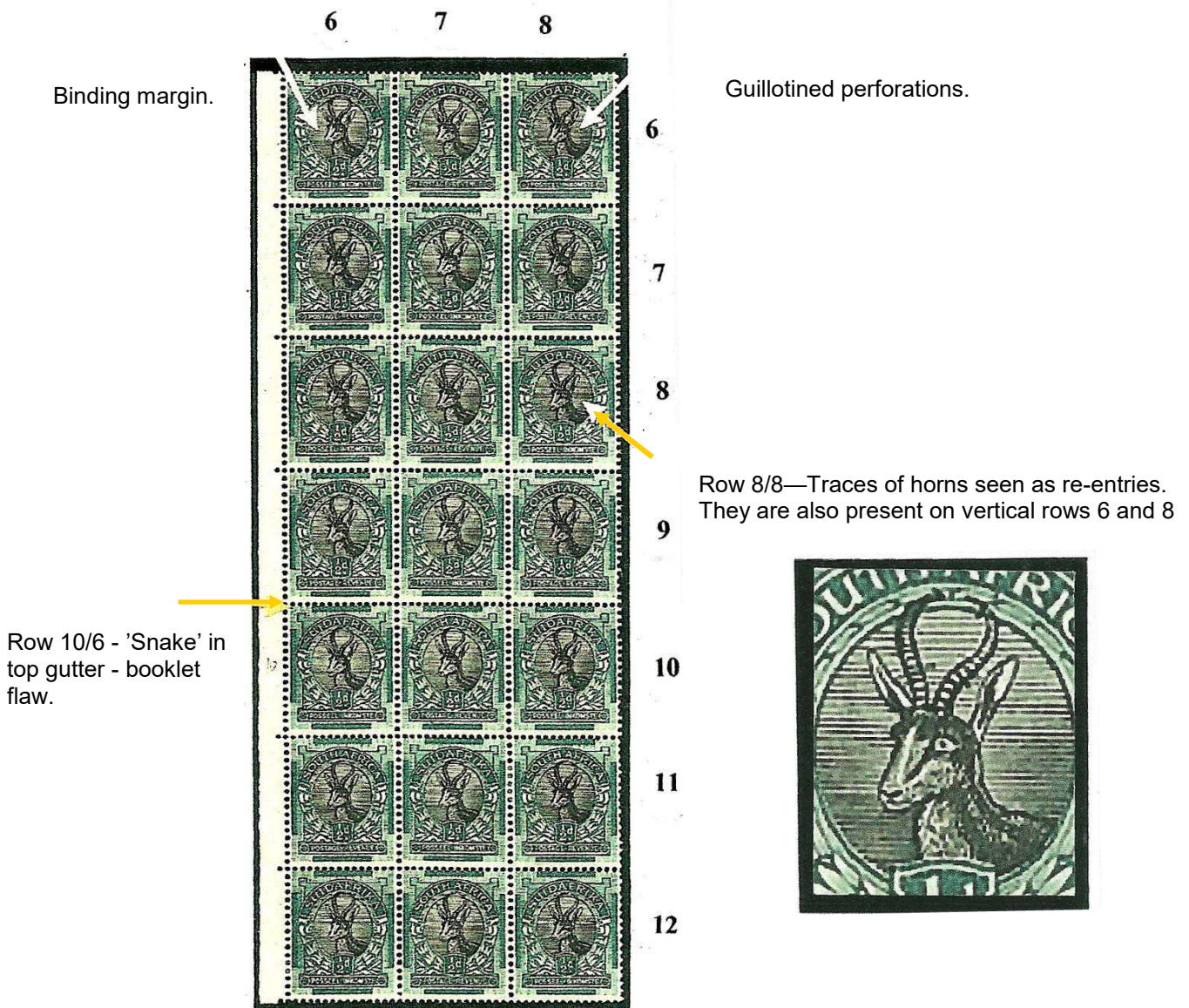


Row 4/7 - Dot by mainmast. Row 4/10 - 'R' joined to frame.



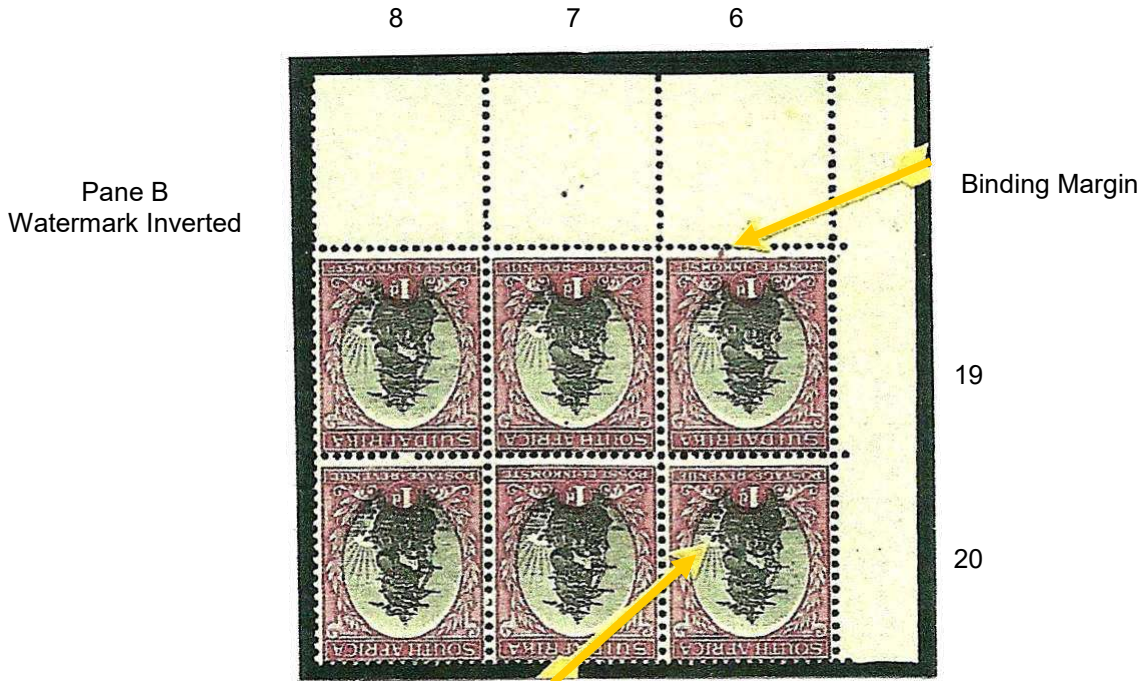
The Post Office requirement that the booklets should all be bound on the left side meant that the images on stamp 6, 7 and 8 had to be inverted for both values. In the case of the 1/2d value the difficulty of correctly aligning that part of the multipositive in the inverted position was apparent when in the first instance the Springbok heads were about 3 mm too high in relation to the stamp frames. This meant that they had to be removed and re-etched in the correct positions however this was not well done and traces of the original horns, ears and shoulders can be seen on stamps 6 and 8.

Economy strip with inverted watermark.  
 This strip is shown in the upright position although it is inverted in the sheet.



The Government Printer continued with the etching of the 1d booklet stamps which in the case of pane B with the inverted watermark had the vignettes set about 1mm too low in relation to the frames. After all the difficulties with re-etching the 1/2d stamps it must have been decided not to try to correct the flaw. This left all the stamps with 'new moons' above the ship's topmast in the inverted stamps.

Economy strip with watermark inverted.



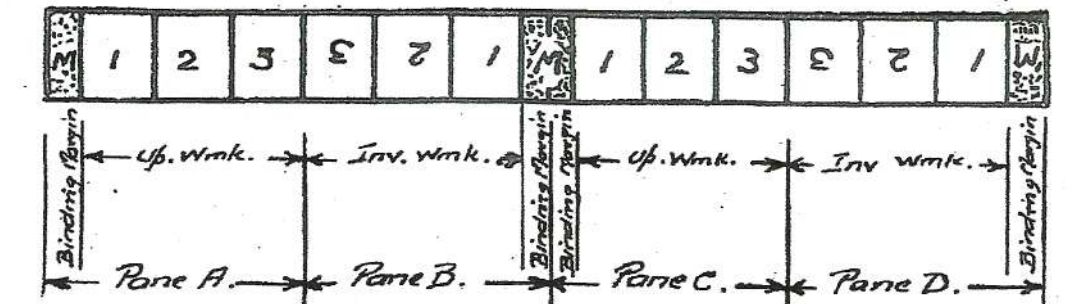
Row 19/6 - 'Ark' resting on mountain.  
Multipositive flaw.



Row 20/6 - Red mark in bottom gutter - booklet flaw



Plate layout for printing B4 - B7 booklets.



The plate layout for the B4 - B7 booklets allowed for four booklet panes to be printed rather than the three for the 1/2d and 1d values of booklets B8 and B9. This layout was by far the most cost efficient in the use of paper and one wonders why the Government Printing did not make a new multipositive layout for four panes rather than struggle with those previously used for the first rotogravure postage stamps. Possibly this could have been due to lack of experience with the new rotogravure process first introduced in 1930.

## Revisiting the 'DRAGON' FLAW

By Mike Tonking RDPSA

The introduction of the rotogravure printing process for the production of Union postage stamps in 1930 caused the Government Printer a number of problems which were largely due to lack of experience with the process. These problems were well illustrated in the case of the B8 and B9 booklet issues.

The well known interior cylinder multipositive 'dragon' flaw found on row 17/9 of the 1d. Stamps was first noted on the 1930 B8 and B9 booklet issues and in various other forms ending with the 1932 sheet issue 7a. During the two year period the Government Printer attempted a number of retouches in a vain attempt to eliminate the flaw. The original cause of the flaw was due to damage to the multipositive at that position.

During the two year period the row 17/9 flaw developed as shown below.

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Flaw Description</u>
1	Booklets B8/9	'Dragon'
2	4	'Buckle or Imp'
3	4 and Roll 11	Blob retouched.
4	5	White spot in retouch.
5	6	Black blob.
6	7/7a	'Rigging on fire'

It Should be noted that the row 17/9 flaw was not present on Issue 2 and only first appeared on the booklet B8/9 Issues

Issue 2 with no flaw present on row 17/9



**Stage 1 - B8/9 Booklets - 'Dragon Flaw'**

This was the first appearance of the damaged multipositive.

Booklet B8/B9



16

17

B9 Economy strip

9

10



**Stage 2 - Issue 4 - 'Buckle or Imp Flaw'**



**Stage 3 - Issue 4 and Roll R11 - Blob Retouched**

The Flaw has now been retouched

Coil Row 9

Sheet Issue 4

16

17

18



**Stage 4 - Issue 5 - White Spot in Retouch**



**Stage 5 - Issue 6 - Black Blob**

The Blob has now been eliminated



**Stage 6 - Issues 7/7a - 'Rigging on Fire'**

Although previously eliminated the flaw returns in a new format

Issue 7

Issue 7a - Deep carmine shade

9 10

17

18



By the time the Government Printer had managed to eliminate the row 17/9 flaw in stage 6 it must have been frustrating to see it return in a new form on Issues 7/7a. The problem was finally resolved when Issue 8 was printed from a new set of cylinders.

References:

The Stamps of the Union of South Africa - S.J. Hagger RDPSA 1986.

The South African Philatelist August 1958.

The Springbok Nov/Dec. 1970

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