



# THE SPRINGBOK

SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY  
QUARTERLY

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

Volume 64 No. 1



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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**

This issue is 40 pages and I would like to thank all the contributors for making it such a bumper issue.

We have a few regular contributors to the magazine and I would like to get other members involved. As can be seen on page 7 there was a blank space at the bottom of the page. I did not have an article small enough to fill it. From an editorial point I like to keep the major articles on full pages and not start them in the middle of a page unless I have no other solution. Small articles or queries help me to fill the gaps. This does not lessen the importance of the small articles, but greatly assists my role as editor. I am therefore willing to give anything a try to fill those sometimes awkward spaces. Many of us have questions that we do not know the answer to but we do have members who are very knowledgeable and could maybe help if these queries were published. It may also help the rest of us to understand some collecting fields and make for some interesting reading. Many of us also have gaps in our collection and have items that could be swapped or exchanged. I would like to start a page in the magazine called 'Wants list'. If you have a list, no more than three items, send it to me and we will monitor the response.

Deadline for next issue: 10th April 2016. Publication date end of April.

### **Membership News**

A warm welcome to two new members:

1194 Errol van Gruenen - Crawley, West Sussex  
1195 Brian Fountain - Brighton, East Sussex

### **Membership renewals are now overdue.**

If you have not paid your subscription please do so as this will be the last Springbok you will receive.

### **Obituary John Ahmad**

We are sad to learn of the death of one of our longstanding members 619 John Ahmad of Sunderland. John died just before Xmas. He had been a member, with a short break, since 1973, and was a regular attendee at the Carlisle meetings. He was a very knowledgeable person in his collecting field, which was South African postal history including the wars. John was a frequent visitor to South Africa spending many hours researching in libraries and museums. For one of his articles, POW's WW2, which was published in the Springbok 2013, he was awarded the Wick's medal.

RIP John Ed

### **Important announcement regarding the SACC's Annual Meeting 4th-5th June 2016**

On Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> we have our two day meeting at The Falstaff Hotel in Leamington Spa. It has come to my attention that there is a clash with the International Stamp Show in New York which finishes on the 4<sup>th</sup>. If a number of regular attendees are planning on being at the US show then please let me know as I can look into shifting our meeting to a slightly later date, otherwise we will leave things as they are.

Please let me know if you intend to come. Of course I won't hold you to it at this stage, but an idea of numbers and whether you plan to be at the New York show will be a great help to me.

Simon Peetoom [simon@africastamps.co.uk](mailto:simon@africastamps.co.uk)



### **Awards**

**Mike Tonking RDPSA** signing the South African Roll of Distinguished Philatelists at a function held by the Philatelic Federation of South Africa held in Johannesburg 26th November 2015

## From the Editors Desk

In an article written by Nick Arrow: 1933 Voortrekker Memorial Fund Stamp, page 87 Vol. 63/3. Nick challenges the date of issue as being recorded as the 3rd May 1933. Under my editorial comments in the next issue 63/4 I asked if anyone had a copy of a supplement that I referred to. Mike Tonking has kindly supplied a copy.

THE SPRINGBOK

Supplement p.5

NOV/DEC 1988

**Comment 2.** Yes, the issue date of the Voortrekker stamps was 1 May and not 3 May 1933. At the August 1988 meeting of the Study Circle two of the members announced that they had picked this up in the Post Office Archives.

*This is therefore conclusive evidence that the date is 1st May and not 3rd May as listed in quite a few handbooks. Ed.*

### An email from Roger Smith

I wonder if you could answer a query that I have – or refer it to someone who can.

From what I understand, South African postage rates ceased to include any odd half cents from the 1st April 1971 revision (when, for example, the basic domestic rate rose from 2½ c to 4c). I have no doubt that there was an initial demand for ½c stamps to make up the new rates and I note there was a new printing of the ½c stamp (3mm phosphor frame) in June 1971, presumably to meet this demand. I also note that the ½c stamp was withdrawn and all existing stocks were recalled from post offices on 3rd September 1971. Yet it seems that a ½c coil issue on phosphor paper was issued in July 1973, about two years later. The stamp exists – I have a strip – but does anyone know the reason for this issue?

*Mike Tonking says that there were 8508 rolls of 500 stamps issued which made it one of the largest of the RSA ½c issues but does not know the answer to this query. Does anyone else. Ed.*

## SECOND DEFINITIVE SERIES 1973

The Springbok Vol. 63/4 page 123

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.

The mistakes appear on the 15c, 50c and R1 stamps

At reprinting the Latin terminology on two more stamps will be changed.

The question was asked : were these reprints ever printed?

**Alan Ginsberg** writes:

Your article on the Second Definitive Series of South Africa of 1973 interested me.

I have a complete sheet of the R1 value MINT that I bought years ago, minus the cylinder block, and showed the UNCORRECTED words Terathopis Ecaudatis. I also have two half sheets of the 50c value and there too the wording is the original Tetrapterys Paradisea and that has the cylinder block intact with the date 22.08.75 (two years after the original issue)

**Roger Smith** writes:

I was surprised to read the article about the Latin inscriptions on the 2nd definitive series. Any revision to an inscription would surely warrant a new printing, yet I have blocks of the last printing of all of the values in question (though there was only one printing of the R1 value) and all of the stamps have the same inscription as the original printings. So I don't think any revision took place. Of course the issue was only current for about 30 months and I imagine any desire to correct the errors got overtaken by events.

**Mike Tonking** has stated that he also thinks that they were never reprinted.

**Editor:** I have checked all my stamps and can also confirm that there are no reprints amongst them and agree that any alterations would warrant a reprint. As there was only one print of the R1 that would suggest that the reprints never happened.



## A letter from Greg Todd - Harrison 'Specimen' Essays



Regarding the article in the 'Springbok' (Vol 63/3 page 103) on the Harrison 'Specimen' Essays. I have always believed these to have been printed as Salesman's samples which has rather peremptorily been ruled out by the specialist John Shaw.

However, I sold them to David Prior (and, as a professional philatelist would not be daft enough to sell dubious items to my Accountant!) and so I should write a few words of explanation as well as a few thoughts on the subject.



I was employed by Stanley Gibbons when the 'Leiden' printing lot was purchased by myself and Colin Harding (now of Scotia Philately) over the counter, whilst we were employed in the SG Foreign Department, circa 1979/80 at a guess.

The other significant items in this purchase besides the South Africa 'Harrison' printings were imperforate examples on thick white paper of the Switzerland Pro Juventute 1928 'Red Cross / Henri Dunant' 30c. red & blue (SG J47) which has been established as being printed at Leiden. The major portion of the value was the 'Dunant' lot which were unknown imperforate prior to this purchase. Secondly the Egypt issue of 1923-24 of King Fuad I was found in imperforate card paper sheets, which I remember cutting up to avoid heavily creased examples. Everything purchased in the Leiden lot was 'stamp size' as issued. The Egypt contained some values in un-issued colours from the lowest 1m. value to the 200m. but not including the £1 high value (SG 111/122). Most featured the 5m. or the large format 20m.200m. values. None of the above were overprinted 'Specimen'.

The other importance of the above is the dates of issue. If these are Leiden printings made on behalf of Harrisons they are unlikely to have been done after 1929, as there was nothing in the purchased archive dated later than 1929.

The David Prior 'Specimens' were not from the Leiden archive as I remember it (but I was not in the British Commonwealth Dept. at SG) and I do rather believe these to be from a Harrisons Sample Book.

All best wishes,

Greg Todd A.I.E.P.r Carmichael & Todd Philatelists.

## A reply from our President John Shaw regarding the Harrison 'Specimen' Essays published in the Springbok Vol. 63/3 page 103

### Harrison & Sons – The Leiden Finds

I am replying to Otto's communication from Greg Todd regarding the David Prior Harrison essays. Greg is an accomplished philatelist and acknowledged specialist in Middle East material, especially Egypt. Scotia Philately, of which my friend Colin Harding is a partner in a dealership of the highest reputation, was very helpful to me a few years ago when I enquired about some unissued Harrison French Colonial stamps. So we must not take Greg's comments lightly. In fact they do add a couple of important pieces to the unfinished jigsaw of the Harrison story.

Now as a boy, during the mid to late 1940s, I spent many happy hours in the shop of a dealer, AG Gottier of St Martin's Lane, near Trafalgar Square. "Gee" Gottier was an expatriate Austrian who had come to England before the war. Also, on a wall in St Martin's Lane was a showcase bearing examples of recently printed Harrisons postage stamps, notably I recall, the Edmund Dulac designs for the French colonies, but which changed periodically; Harrisons also had an office nearby, in one of the small lanes off St Martin's Lane.

Visitors to Gottier's shop included many uniformed service personnel, mainly British or American, often coming with suitcases full of complete sheets of stamps principally of Germany and Czechoslovakia and which they appeared to have looted from post offices; deals were made and I usually sat quietly talking to an old man known as "Kaiser" and occasionally bought things from him; Kaiser appeared to be part of the furniture. Other frequent visitors were Gottier's son, usually in army uniform, and a tall gentleman "Bill" always wearing a heavy tweed coat and who smoked foul black cheroots. On one occasion a city gent appeared with a suitcase and I was given a shilling to go out and buy two packets of five Wills Woodbines for Bill and Gee, a bottle of lemonade for myself, and not to come back for half an hour. When I returned it was all smiles in the shop. "Bill" was in fact the late WL Freshwater, a dealer who lived in Newbury, who once was proprietor of the Harrow Stamp Shop and with whom I many, many, years later I became great friends. Bill then related to me that the suitcase had been brought in by, purportedly, a member of the Harrison staff and which contained ma-

material produced for them on contract by Nederlandsche Rotogravure in Leiden and which had been returned to the London office.

Bill stated the suitcase was full to the brim with proof/essay material, mainly the first King Fuad issue of Egypt and including a complete imperforate sheet of the £1 value and at least 50 complete imperforate sheets of the 5m brown as well as much other proof essay material; also included were many examples of the small Peru definitive stamps of the 1920s, mainly in unissued colours or sizes and, importantly, several sample books containing blocks of sample stamps inscribed "Specimen" a banknote depicting Robespierre, a block of Great Britain George V red stamps and three different blocks of ten of the South Africa Springbok essays. In addition to these, there were a small number of proofs of these sample stamps and Springbok essays imperforate and in different colours.

When purchased, the main focus of this wonderful purchase was the Egypt and so the dealers contacted a well known Egypt specialist, a wartime army colonel and then a solicitor, in the Liverpool area, who asked them to bring him the biggest Egypt piece of everything different. They sorted this out, hired a car and travelled to Merseyside where they collected £1,500 in cash and two post-dated cheques each for the same amount. The whole suitcase had cost them £5,000, which they financed with a bank loan at 2½%, so within three months they had a return of £4,500 and had taken but a small amount of the whole. They sold some of the Springbok essays and specimen samples at half a crown each, the Peruvian stamps at much less and very soon had their money back, so everything else was a profit. Some 40 years after that purchase, by which time Gee Gottier had died and I was good friends with Bill Freshwater, I purchased the residue of the specimen samples and Springbok essays from Bill.

The sample booklet in this Leiden purchase is very well produced and was likely intended, and maybe used as a Harrison salesman item. I believe at least one complete booklet survives and this was offered for sale by auction by Harmers, maybe ten years ago. Most of the others had the King George V stamps roughly torn out, presumably since there was a ready market for such GB items, but there were none in my purchase. Indeed, it appears most of the booklets were completely broken up in order to remove the Springbok essays and sell the specimen samples separately. Now none of the material in this purchase relates to anything issued after 1929, which is in line with Greg Todd's 1979-80 purchase.

So, with this Leiden purchase made in the 1940s and Greg Todd relating another purchase in 1979 or 1980, there must have been at least two such "caches" of Leiden material found, and then disposed of, so was one such cache material returned after the war and the other material which had been sent from Leiden in the 1920s and not noticed until much later; it is also significant that about 1979 a vast amount of London printed Harrison material was sold by auction, at Sotheby's I think, and some was bought by Scotia Philately and which included several unrecorded French Colonial items including two unissued Martinique airmail stamps. At the time Scotia wrote a nice article about these in the now defunct Stamp Collecting magazine. Thus it appears that the 1940s purchase was a one-off sale and around about 1979 Harrisons had a big clear out.

Now this brings us to the David Prior stamps. There is no question these are essays for the South African 1924-25 second design competition since we know they were produced in Leiden and they are well-known in the three different designs, each one in four different colour combinations and which match the colours of David's examples, so there is no reason they should not have come from a Leiden cache, although Greg Todd says they were not part of that purchase. At the time Greg sold these to David, they were also well-known as small miniature sheets of one stamp, listed in the South African Handbook/Catalogue; but why were some overprinted "specimen"? Equally puzzling is why some of the small format monocoloured Springbok essays were overprinted with the word "Muster" the German/Dutch word for specimen; the grey-black essay is also sometimes cancelled with a red vertical line, for no apparent reason. Also worthy of note is the fact that essays in these very same designs were submitted by other printers for the second design competition, the thinking being that the South African Government, at that stage, wished to compare the quality of production of the various printers.

So where does this leave us? It was reasonable for Greg to assume the David Prior stamps came from a sample book but why so when they already had a well produced and excellent book containing the specimen sample stamps et al, and no other sample books have been found? My view is that David's stamps came from a Harrison record book, which in no way degrades their provenance, in just the same way that the Waterlow proofs/essays from JAC Harrison's record book are so highly valued. JAC Harrison was Waterlow's master engraver.

I am grateful to Greg for supplying one more piece to the Harrison jigsaw but I doubt we shall ever know the full story.

**In my Editorial, last Springbok Vol. 63 No. 4 I wrote:**

*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 12½c 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 off.*

I have received an email from Mike Tonking with a copy of a letter he sent to The South African Philatelist:

*J.B. Bloom Auction*

*Dear Sir,*

*I feel that I should correct a misleading statement made by Dr J.R. Frank's 'Letter from London' in the December issue of The SA Philatelist, where he comments on the J.B. Bloom auction.*

*This concerns the 1963 12½c Red Cross stamp with the missing red cross. Here Dr Frank repeats the incorrect statement made in the J.B. Bloom auction catalogue which reads, "This error appeared on a few rows from two sheets. It is thought that there were two unused and two used examples known" This information is incorrect and would give the impression that this is an extremely rare flaw, which it is not. Reference to the SA Philatelist of August 1965 and the SA Stamp Study Circle Newsletter of April 1965, indicates that there could be as many as 40 completely missing and 20 half missing crosses, although it is probable that the true number may never be known.*

*In the same auction, as a matter of interest, the 1959 Academy of Science 3d. With missing deep blue printing, of which only six examples are known, is considerably rarer than the 12½c missing red cross, although this was not reflected in the price realised for the latter. Someone has purchased a bargain!*

*Sincerely M.J.H. Tonking*



**Tony Howgrave-Graham** has sent in the following auction report:

The £6k missing cross failed to attract a bid at the reserve of (I think) £4,800 which with the added 24% would have nearly got it back up to £6k! Gibbons sold one 2 days ago for £1200 + c24% but that was mounted and, alluring as it is, that would make the c£3k it should make um if one assumes 100% more for um. It made £1475 in 2009 and £2596 in 2012.

### Vacant Space

There were no other small articles available in my inbox to fill this space so I thought that I would make it into an advert for small articles.

**Do you have a query or question that other members may be able to help with, if so this space could have had your name on it.**

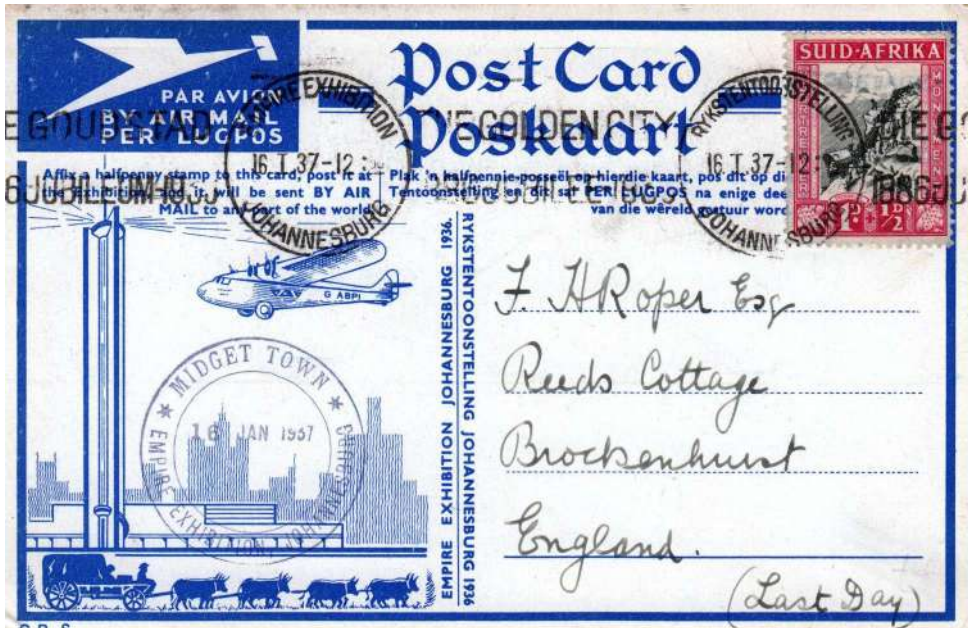
Everything considered. *Ed.*

## MIDGET TOWN

I recently received an email from Hagen Hahn asking me if I knew the meaning of Midget Town, the blue cachet on this card.

I replied:

*The Midget Town Cachet on your card was the word given to the exhibition show grounds, which were the size of a small town. 100 acres in total. There was a counter in the main hall where you could get the stamp put on whatever you wanted. I have only ever seen this cachet in blue. The other significant thing about the wording is that at the entrance to the Exhibition many midget people were employed to hand out the packs of cards and other literature. I have often wondered if this was the reason for the Midget town stamp but have come to the conclusion that it was probably not. I do not know the dates of usage of this cachet and may ask others members through our magazine to give me their feedback on their cards and try and find the start date. We know that the end date is the last day of the Exhibition. Ed.*



I have a number of these cards all with the Midget Town last day cancels in blue and all have the same size cachet.

I ask members to please check their cards and let me know if the Midget Town cachet was used on other days or was this only used on the last day. Has anyone seen this cachet in a different colour?

Ed.

O

## Partial missing '0' 10c Buildings definitive By Roy Ross

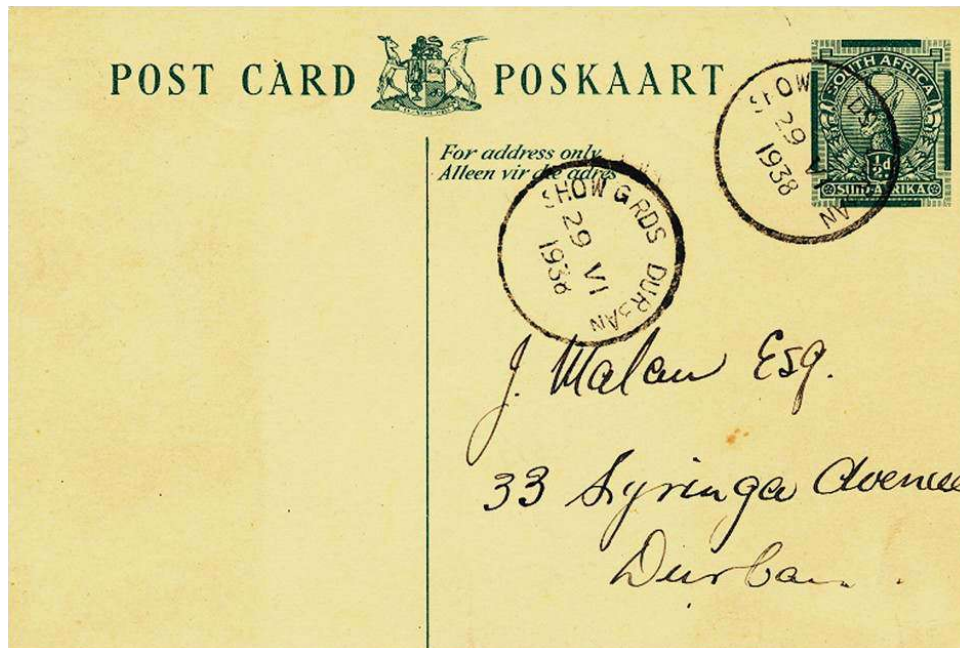
Recently I acquired this cylinder block in a job lot. 10c cylinder 1540 - third print - 2 May 1983 - Pane 'A' The 0 on the second stamp row 1 is almost completely missing. This is not a listed variety and I have not seen it before. A closer look under the magnifier suggests no logical explanation for the missing print. It does not appear to have been tampered with. As far as I am aware it is not a progressive flaw as no other sheets have been reported with partial missing ink in that position. Has anyone else seen this variety before?



## Show Grounds or Show Gardens - who can help?

By Bob Hill.

The postal stationery card below shows a date stamp 'SHOW GRDS DURBAN 29 VI 1938' and is locally addressed, but has no message on the reverse of the Post Card. At the present time I do not have any information to hand to determine what event was being held and why a special date stamp was used. In asking around fellow philatelists no one else I have spoken to has ever seen this date stamp or indeed has one. The date stamp is also not listed in either Reisener's "The Special and Commemorative Postmarks Cachets and Covers of South Africa, 1892 – 1975", or indeed in Putzel's series of "Postmarks of South Africa". Does 'GRDS' stand for 'Grounds' or 'Gardens'?



The post mark is a 25mm diameter, single circle date stamp with 'SHOW GRDS DURBAN' in the upper aspect, with the bottom blank. The date is before the month on one line, with the year shown in full below. There is no time or time code letter.

Is this date stamp above unique? Surely someone must know something about it.

*If anyone can help Bob would they please let me know. Ed.*

O

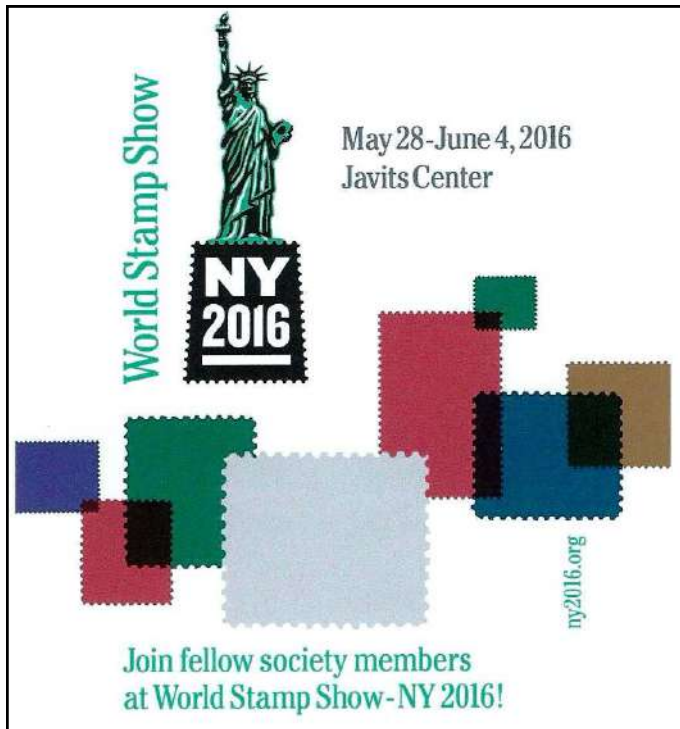


**AfricaStamps.co.uk**

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



**Email: [info@AfricaStamps.co.uk](mailto:info@AfricaStamps.co.uk)**



## New York World Stamp Show

May 28 - June 4 2016

Javits Center New York

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.

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.

During the event meetings will be held for all Southern African Societies.

May 30th 1-2pm *Past, Present and Future*. Room 1E09

May 31st 1-2pm *Postal history SA WW2*. Room 1E09

Eddie can be contacted at [e.bridges@krohne.com](mailto:e.bridges@krohne.com)

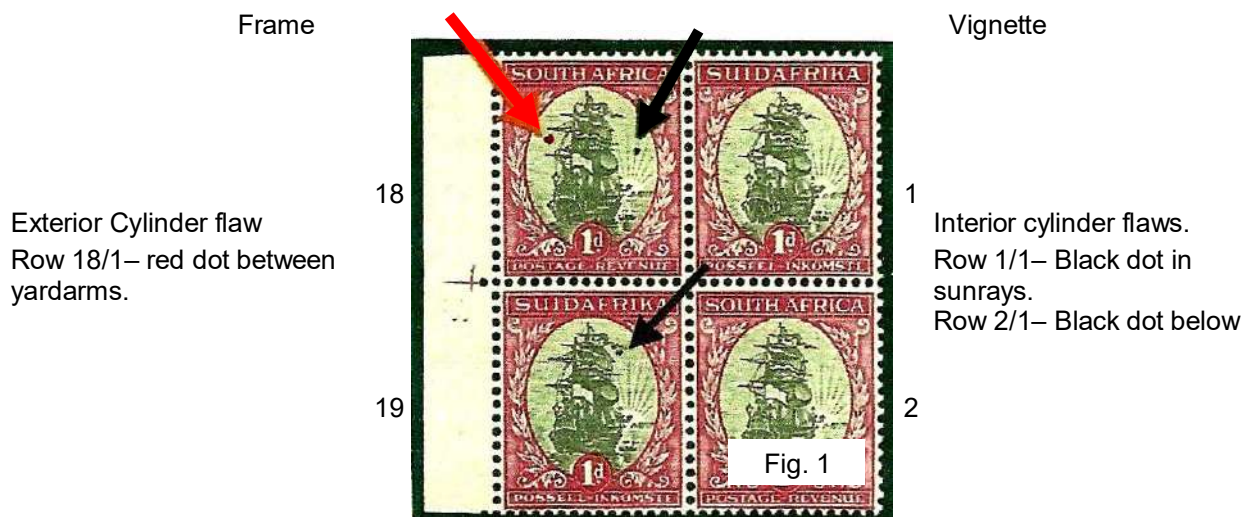
## Revisiting the R12S Printer's Join

By Mike Tonking RDPSA

Between 1934 and 1954 there were, all told, seven roll stamp issues which were issued in sheet form for sale over the counter. These sheets were surplus to the requirements for making roll stamps for sale from vending machines. Many hundreds if not thousands of roll stamp sheets were sold in this way. It is of interest that, to date, only a single such sheet has been recorded with a printer's repair join. This occurred in the roll stamp in sheet form of R12S issued in 1934. Fig. 2 This was the first roll stamp to be issued in sheet form consisting of 240 stamps in 20 rows of 12. In the left margin there was a thin irregular red cross printed between rows 18 and 19 however there was no interior cylinder marginal mark with the result that cylinder transpositions occurred. Fig 1. These can be identified by reference to discrete constant flaws in both the stamp vignettes and frames. The watermark was normally upright and in rare cases inverted.

It will be most interesting to learn if further examples of roll stamp sheet issue printer's joins come to light.

Red Cross in left margin between rows 18 and 19.  
In this example there is a five row transposition of the printing cylinders.

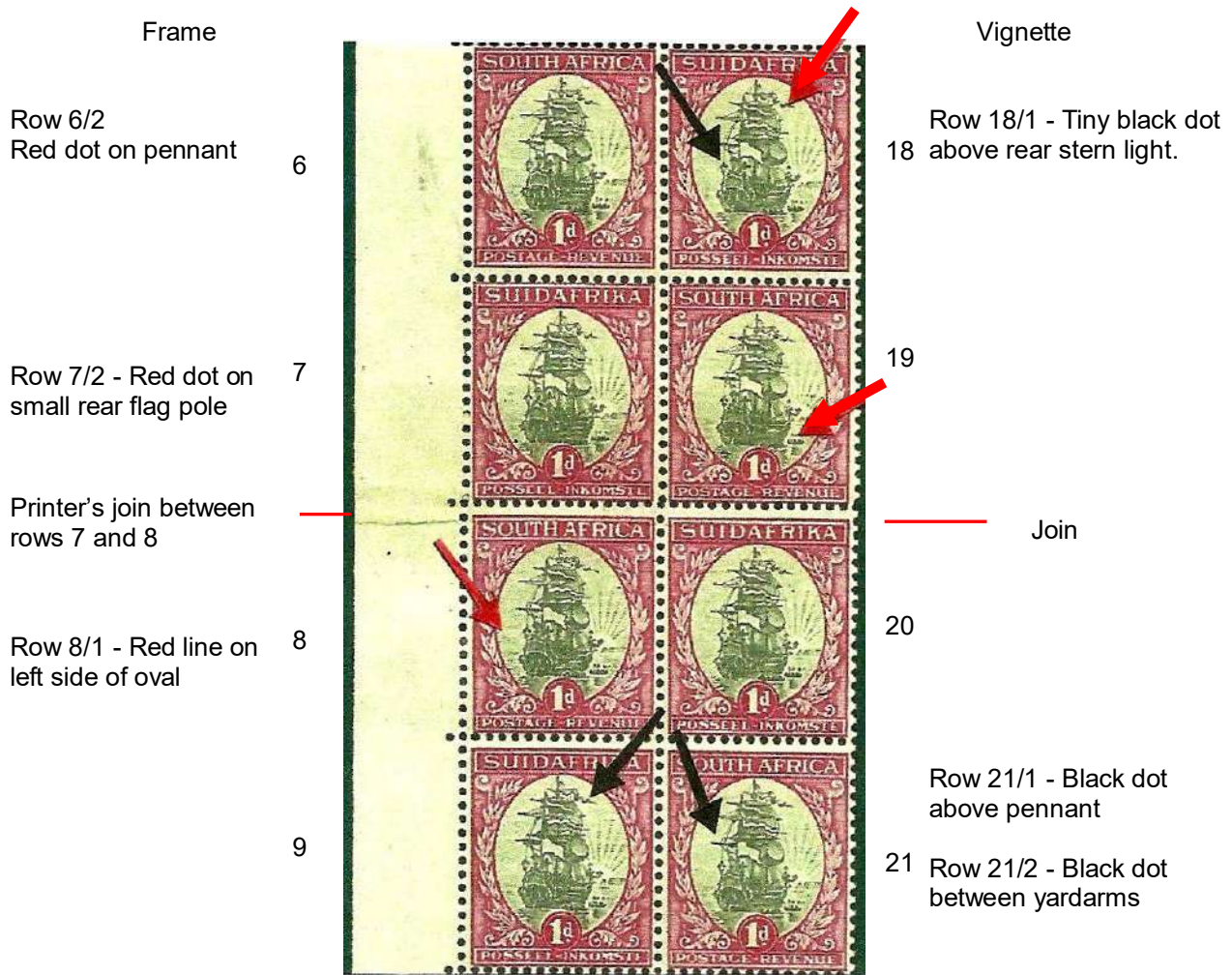


Exterior Cylinder flaw  
Row 18/1- red dot between  
yardarms.

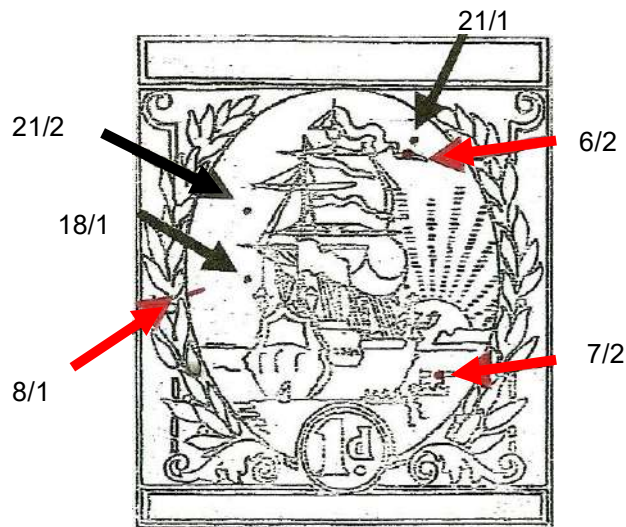
Interior cylinder flaws.  
Row 1/1- Black dot in  
sunrays.  
Row 2/1- Black dot below

**R12S Printer's Join - Watermark Inverted.  
Twelve row printing cylinder transposition.**

**Fig. 2**



**Key to Flaws**



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

# The Brian Coote Collection of South Africa Union and RSA

By Otto Peetoom

Stanley Gibbons Auctions 30 November and 1 December 2015 sale included three collections formed by Brian Coote being Egypt, South Africa and Sudan. The South Africa comprised of 139 lots Union (76), RSA (26), Postage dues (9) and Officials (24) plus the balance of collections being lot 1126 Union and RSA 1910 to 1977 in five volumes, lot 1127 - 1929 Dramstadt (45 items), lot 1137 balance of postage dues plus booklet panes and finally lot 1162 included the balance of the Officials.

## Brian Coote (1929 - 2014)

I first met Brian during the mid 1980's at Stampex and he soon developed into a regular customer for South Africa. A pleasant, quiet spoken man who, as a stamp collector, very much kept himself private and did not indulge in being a member of philatelic societies. To this end many of the collectors of Egypt, South Africa & Sudan had not heard of Brian Coote and it seems that only those who dealt with him were aware of his activities.

## An amazing purchase

In April 1988 I purchased an intact private collection of the Union from Stephen Braham. It had been assembled in the USA and its previous owner had wrapped all his mint blocks of four in cellophane before hinging each unit to a page, thus virtually everything was unmounted mint.

I recall there were five mint £1 King's heads, plate blocks of four (all four corners) of the King's head up to 2/6. London pictorials in unmounted mint imprint blocks of four and an unmounted block of 6d Official SG 04.

Brian Coote collected mint and used plus varieties and he laid claim to many items from my 1988 Union collection. To this day it remains the most impressive intact unit I ever had the pleasure to acquire. One item I recall that Brian took was a King's head used ½d block of the mossy-green.

## 1989 a Shopping list from Brian

In May I flew to South Africa which included the Rosebank annual SAPDA show, plus two weeks travelling around the country to visit as many stamp shops as possible.

Brian gave me an RSA wants list that included many of the varieties listed in the *South African Colour Catalogue*.

It was an extensive 'wish list' and I virtually 'cleaned out' the South African stamp trade of numerous items that had pride of place in their stock.



I recall a 1978 15c Walvis bay imperforate pair, 1981 State Theatre MS imperforate with a missing colour, several of the more difficult 1982 Building definitive imperforates, 1985 50c Parliament, black omitted and the 1986 12c Blood missing colour.

## London 1990 International at Alexander Palace

At the end of 1989 I made a second trip to South Africa and continued searching for the remaining varieties on Brian's list. Being in the right place at the right time secured a chance purchase of commercially used 1987 40c Bible stamps. I had a single and a pair, both on piece. In May 1990 at the exhibition Brian visited the show on its last day - Sunday and bought an unmounted Bible stamp plus a used copy on piece.



40c Bible - Used at HOLDINGS 17 XI 87

Throughout the 1990's and into the 21<sup>st</sup> century Brian often bought items from my pricelist. On several occasions he would seek my opinion on items offered to him by third parties. Thus I knew that he acquired a used copy of the 1963 1/3 Red Cross with colour omitted and from another source came his vertical used pair of a 2d Official SG 035.

## Special items for an advanced collector

In no particular order Brian bought from me a ½d Springbok vertical used pair SG 30f with watermark sideways.



London 4d inverted watermark in a mint block of four SG 35bw, 5/- used pair SG 38a. 1d Ship watermark inverted, vignette omitted SG 43cwa.



SG 30f

1935 ½d and 1d Silver Jubilee, both with paper joins in blocks of twelve. What I would rate the Union's rarest paper join, the 1952 ½d Van Riebeeck in a marginal strip of four, unlisted in the UHB. This strip is ex Stephan Welz sale 28 October 2008 lot 690. None of these paper joins featured as single lots in the Stanley Gibbons 30.11.2015 sale.

# The Brian Coote Collection of South Africa Union and RSA



1/2d Silver Jubilee with horizontal Paper-join



SG 010ba - Lines of overprint 20½ - 21mm apart with Stop after OFFICIAL on Afrikaans stamp



OFFICIAL/OFFICIAL on English stamp

## Stanley Gibbons - Sale of Brian Coote's South Africa

The first item of note was a cut down Die Proof of the 1910 2½d commemorative. In the King's head section there were six die proofs plus an imperforate 2½d colour trial. A 2d with no watermark. 1925 Airs 3d and 9d imperforate to left margin.

1926-27 ½d and 1d a good range of varieties including a missing '1' in ½ fraction SG 30a, imperforate to side margin and partial omissions of the centre. A 1d block of four, SG 31b was mis-described as a variation of SG 43.

Lot 1076 A 3d black & red block of eight with a paper join was grossly under-estimated at £60-70, but sold at a healthy price.

Lot 1092, a 1½d medium 'Gold mine' with colour omitted SG 87a in a vertical pair was the last Union item in that calibre.

The early RSA missing colours were keenly contested, such as the 12½c Protea SG 207a & b, 1963 Red Cross, mint and used. Finally the 1963 2½c Transkei SG 237a.

That was followed by an excellent range of later RSA varieties, many of them ex Brian's '1989 shopping-list'.

Lot 1126, the balance of the collection made good money, as



far too many potential single lots were left behind in it. The buyer got a bargain!

The Postage dues included a Die Proof and colour trial.

The Officials have already been discussed.



1d Overprint double  
SG 013da used  
2d SG 035 used



Officials - 1d pair with double overprint used SG 013da. 1/- pair with OFFICIAL/OFFICIAL on English stamp.

This item was also absent from the SG sale. The last thing I sold Brian was ironically the rarest Union Official which exists, yet neither the auctioneer nor the bidders at the sale appear to have taken note of this rarity.

1931, 1/- Official, lines of overprint 20½ - 21mm apart SG 010b. Only a handful of mint pairs and a few used copies exist. Then there is a variety with Stop after OFFICIAL on the Afrikaans stamp SG 010ba. Unique and the only example known, my son Simon 'found' it in a Sandafayre collection as a 'normal'.

I bought it as an unsold and passed it onto Brian; he requested one of my certificates which it has. I rated this official, along with the used 035 as two of the best items in the collection. In memory and as tribute to Brian Coote I decided to buy these items in the SG sale. Usually, whenever I bid for anything in auction, I invariably seem to end up paying ten times the estimate. For once it was to be my lucky day and bought both items with little opposition from anyone else.

For the record the RSA 1987 commercially used 40c Bible stamps also returned back to its previous home.

## Introduction

Colour is a subject that is never ending and as far as I know, the first colour guide was produced in America. In the January



1883 issue of *The National Philatelist* they wrote...*As long ago as 1878 the National Philatelic Society suggested the idea of compiling a color chart which would represent the various colors used in printing stamps, with sufficient accuracy, to avoid confusion in the minds of Philatelists.*

In 1884 the above cumulated into a thousand copies of *A Color Chart Designed to Illustrate and Identify the Colors of Postage Stamps* being printed by the *American Note Company*. Published by National Philatelic Society, Tribune Building, New York.

## British Colour Guides

I was previously under the impression that Britain's first philatelic colour guide was - **1899 A Colour Dictionary** by B.W. Warhurst...this is not so as a colour guide was on offer in the first edition of the *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* dated 20 July 1890. It was included in a full page advertisement and reads...**A COLOUR CHART** *Designed to Illustrate and Identify the colours of Postage Stamps price 3/- or post-free 3/2.*

What I found strange is that this particular philatelic accessory was only offered in the SGMJ No 1 and did not feature in any other subsequent editions. However I did locate it on offer in an SG publication by Major Edward B. Evans entitled *Stamps and Stamp Collecting: A Glossary of Philatelic Terms and Guide to the Identification of the Postage Stamps of All Nations* (1894).

On the last page there is an advertisement offering *Philatelic Works - Published or for sale by Stanley Gibbons*. 'The Colour Chart' available for 3/3. Although taken as read, an editorial in the September 1894 *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* suggests that SG had little or no faith in this product.

**1894 Editorial** - What Stanley Gibbons thought of their own 'Colour Chart'...*when we have constructed our chart, comes the second difficulty, which, in our opinion, is a far greater one and that is to get it generally adopted and 'used'.*

*We ourselves possess somewhere a copy of the 'Standard Colour Chart', but we are bound to confess that we do not know where it is, that we have not seen it for the last year or two and that we do not recollect having ever succeeded in making any intelligent use of it. The fact is that we 'poor but honest' compilers of catalogues do not, as a rule, possess specimens of every variety included in our lists; and even if we did possess them, or had access to them, it would be practically impossible to compare each one of them with a chart, if we had the most complete one possible...*

## 1893 - 1899 Pioneering Philatelic Colours in SGMJ

Nothing appeared on the question of colour until Volume III No 35 - 31 May 1893 when Gibbons' published a short paper by Gilbert Lockyer 'On Colour'. The author remarked on the 1884 USA chart...*was overloaded by shades...and it did not, as far as I know, make much progress in public favour...*

Lockyer suggested eight basic colours including black and sub divided the others - Red (6), Blue (6), Green (6), Yellow (4), Brown (4), Purple (4) and Grey (4).

**1894** - SGMJ Vol. V No 51 - September - B.W. Warhurst presented an article *Names of Stamp Colours*. Warhurst stated...*The greatest confusion reigns among the violets and purples, lilacs and mauves, the former two being constantly used indiscriminately for each other...*

The author was of an opinion that...*if six to ten...who could readily meet in London and are connected in their profession or business with the use of various colours...can be induced to form a committee and consider the suggestions made by correspondents and then compile a new list of names more suitable than the present ones, it is certain that their decision would almost, if not altogether, universally accepted...*

**October 1894** - The article solicited correspondence and comment from Ben Webster. He thought Warhurst's suggestion was somewhat over ambitious and felt that a committee could resolve the issues raised within two or three days. Webster debated various names of colours and concluded...*Magenta and Solferino as colour names are objectionable, also puce, meaning flea-colour; the former having been given to certain aniline shades, from a fancied resemblance to the blood as seen on the blue uniforms of the soldiers killed or wounded there.*

**November 1894** - In the SGMJ another article entitled *The Relationship of Colours* followed. A Dr Dufton introduced his theories starting with the primary colours of red, yellow and blue, followed by secondary colours produced by equal mixture of the first, producing orange, green and mauve. By mixing all three primaries together it produced brown.

At this stage it became complicated to follow as a triangular diagram is sub-divided and that is purported to help us plot the course to other shades. It seemed that colour was far too complicated for the average stamp collector and nothing else was published for eighteen months.

## 1896 - The Tinto-Meter (A break-through?)

Announced in the April edition (Vol. VI No 70) and in the Editorial it states...*is an appliance by means of which any coloured substance can be examined side by side with slips of coloured glass, which slips can be interchanged and combined until they show the exact tint of the coloured substance with which they are being compared...*

A debate over the pros and cons of the value of a Tinto-meter to stamp collectors follow and once more the subject of colour took a back seat.

## May 1897 - A French Solution to a Colour Chart

Reported in the September SGMJ

...*Mons. Maury published in 'Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste' a scheme for an ingenious but simple colour chart...It consists of a sheet containing spaces for thirty common stamps, the colours of which are fairly constant and above each is given the name Mons. Maury assigns to that particular colour. So simple a table as this can, of course, only be looked upon as*

*an outline of a colour chart, but at the same time it is fairly comprehensive...*



It is worth noting that some 20+ years later Stanley Gibbons copied Maury's innovation by producing a 'Temporary' colour chart.

It remained in use until such time as they were in a position to offer a better version that used 100 perforated labels specially printed for SG by Perkins Bacon.

## Early History of Philatelic Colours

### December 1897 SGMJ - Another American Colour Guide

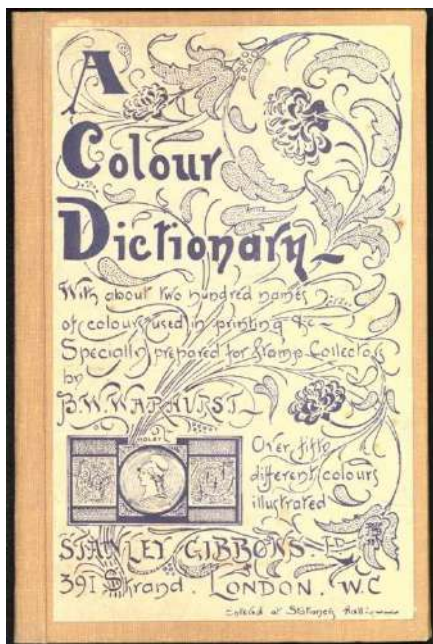
Published in booklet form and the opening remarks read... *having described Mons. Maury's simple colour chart...we received a copy of a much more elaborate one...consists of names of 113 colours.* Entitled 'Guide to the Colours of Postage Stamps' by Charles Stewart published by Mekeel Press.

### 1899 - A Colour Dictionary by B.W. Warhurst

Announced in the June SGMJ in the editorial column...*over two hundred names of colours...printed in ten different coloured inks, on as many different papers...fully illustrated in fifty eight colours...Mr Warhurst is an expert in all matters connected with printing and colours.*

On offer in strong paper cover 2s 6d or well bound in cloth 4s.

Warhurst entered his book at the Manchester Exhibition held from 29 June to 5 July 1899. Details of his award appeared in the July edition of SGMJ under Class XI For Special Arrangements, Curiosities, etc. a *Bronze Medal, given by Messrs Winch Bros for the best colour chart of genuine postage stamps.*



Warhurst's book became the standard colour guide distributed by Stanley Gibbons. It was reprinted twice.

A second edition appeared in January 1908 and a third in 1910.

It appears that the book, for the first two decades of the Twentieth Century, was the bible of Philatelic Colours in Britain.

The shortfall of Warhurst's book is that the majority of his listed colours were not illustrated and it would require an Academic to be able to visualise a colour by means of a description.

During 1900 a paper was read by W.M. Jones before the *Manchester Philatelic Society* entitled *Stamps and their Colours* and it appears that Jones ruffled Warhurst's feathers as several letters appeared in SGMJ. It seems that the society at one point intended producing their own colour chart. In the December 1900 issue it was announced that the Manchester Society had decided not to undertake the formation of compilation of a colour chart.

1911 - Benjamin Webster Warhurst passed away on 10 April 1911; his obituary appeared in the April 1911 SGMJ. Another obituary was posted in the April 1911 edition of *The London Philatelist*. Once his book sold out, Stanley Gibbons were no longer in a position to reprint it and needed to resort to a new colour guide.

### A Post WWI Colour Guide

The First World War 1914 - 18, followed by the 1918 - 1920 Spanish Flu pandemic will have affected philatelic activities considerably. It appears that by early 1920 the stock of books was depleted. Designing and arranging the manufacture of Stanley Gibbons first *modern* colour guide would require time and patience, thus the firm resorted to a temporary measure.

**Stock No 2077** - It appears that Stanley Gibbons took a leaf out of Mons. Maury book and more or less replicated his 1897 colour guide using common stamps.

In the April 1921 *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Circular* a full page advertisement announced the introduction of their new *Folding card on which 45 Stamps of standard shades are stuck, with the correct colour name printed beneath each...* The price was Two Shillings.



Left half of stock No. 2077  
Replaced by the Perkins  
Bacon version in June 1922

### Birds and Stamps - Robert Ridgway (1850 - 1929)

He was an American ornithologist who published an array of books which included two that systematized colour names for describing birds - *A Nomenclature of Colors for Naturalists* (1886) and *Color Standards and Color Nomenclature* (1912). The reliability of Ridgway's colours attracted philatelists and as he was interested in stamps, he corresponded with serious collectors who used Ridgway's book. One particular individual was Stanley Bryan Ashbrook (1882 - 1958) a collector of classic USA, after his death, his collection was sold by H.R. Harmer. Ashbrook sent in a batch of 31 copies of an 1851 stamp to have them named according to Ridgway's colour guide.

# THE "SKELETON" TEMPORARY RELIEF CANCELLERS

By **Tony Howgrave-Graham**

My thanks to Simon Peetoom for getting me started on these interesting cancels by selling me the 300 odd covers he'd extracted from the Burmeister correspondence. One usually only finds them in ones or twos so getting a decent number was a bonus.

Information on them is difficult to come by, too. Putzel has a paragraph on page 47 of volume 1 of his 10 volume *Postmarks of South Africa*. Berry has also described them and quoted that "about 180" were required by offices in 1965 alone. Looking at his other assertion that a change in decade caused a surge in demand, I have to say I can't see any evidence for this.

So, what are they? The term "skeleton" is usually reserved for the 24-6mm single rings with small irregular lettering though it is also sometimes used to describe the larger single ring relief types. Relief cancellers existed in pre-Union times such as the Wynberg example (*Fig.1*). Larger single ring types did exist in the Union period as well such as the previously unrecorded Knapdaar of 1911 (*Fig.2*) or Keimouth of 1950 (*Fig.3*). Double ring types also exist from about the mid-50's (Putzel types 2 to 14). These later types are described as "sturdy, solid head" cancellers.

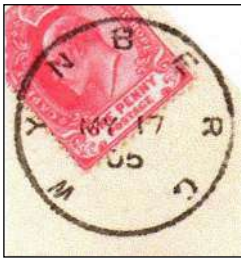


Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

The ones I'm looking at here are certainly not sturdy, nor solid headed! Firstly one needs to differentiate them from some of the Cape single rings which may confuse. I show 4 as examples in *Fig.4*. In the first two, Karrookop (note the two "R"s) and Mistkraal the lettering is large and regular even though in the latter the year figures are in an odd position. The Beaconsfield and Kruisementfontein are more likely to confuse but the lettering is still too regular. With the skeleton cancellers the lettering is very often irregularly spaced.



Fig. 4

John Driver wrote an article in the 1986 Sep-Oct Springbok after he'd been privileged to see one when a Mr Emms (retiring curator of the Postal Museum in Pretoria) brought one along to a study circle meeting. The description is worth repeating. They came in a wooden box 9x5x4 inches which contained the canceller and many tiny slots containing steel letters and numerals for making up whatever was required in the postmark. The datestamp unscrewed from the bottom of the canceller and the letters or numerals were dropped into spaces cut out for them, a shoulder on each stopping them from dropping straight through. The head was then screwed back onto the canceller. The whole setting was very unstable and letters often got displaced or bounced back without printing properly. If the stamp head started to become unscrewed and lose, things became even more unstable. The date needed changing every day, more than once if a time code was included. All in all it is not surprising that some pretty extraordinary examples exist and quite a few which vary from being very difficult to read to quite indecipherable, even on well struck examples. In *Fig.5* I show a couple, the first with a clear "N" & "H" but nothing else and another well struck but still unreadable before ".....SBURG". Extraordinarily with this cancel you also get a choice of dates! 1959 sits above "19.5.8.". I suspect the 1958 (which is in a different font) remained from wherever the canceller had been before. If the canceller was firmly struck at a slight angle the "wooden surround of the printhead" sometimes shows, as with the Group 2 4d block used at Vereeniging (*Fig.6*).



Fig. 5



The angle of striking makes quite a lot of difference to the outcome. Clarkebury used one from August to October 1948 and if struck with pressure on the right the "CLARK" is virtually unreadable, whereas if struck from the left the right side becomes faint and the month disappears. After a post office had finished with a canceller it was meant to pack it back in its box and return it to Pretoria but, as we'll see, I have doubts this always happened.

The principal intended use of these cancellers was as a temporary relief stamp at a smaller office when its permanent canceller was away for repair or replacement. Having looked through hundreds it is certainly true to say that the majority originate from small offices. A large number of these are previously unrecorded but as most offices probably used them, and often on more than one occasion, it is fair to say there must be hundreds more of them out there somewhere still unrecorded.



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

I have to say that if I were a post office clerk having to put one of these together I would try and keep it as simple as possible such as in the Davel (Fig.7), Hartebeestfontein (Fig.8) or Knapdaar again, but this time 1956 (Fig.9). Spare a



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

thought for the clerk at Stofberggedenskskool (a typical German/Afrikaans multiple word meaning Stofberg Memorial School) (Fig.10). He had the unenviable task of trying to fit everything in. There are gaps either side of the "OF" but things then start to get cramped and the name extends down on the right but still doesn't fit so "SKL" is added over the date. (I've traced this cancel out as it doesn't show very clearly on the stamps).



Fig. 11



Fig. 12

the province name and time codes adds to the clerk's problems but some attempted it. I show Seymour of 1947 (Fig.11) which adds CAPE after the name, others reduce this to CPE or CP & KP. Natal did this less but Paulpietersburg in 1948 (Fig.12) shows NATAL at the bottom and



Fig. 13

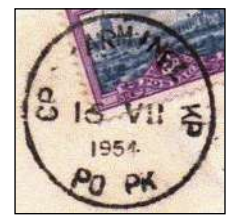


Fig. 14

Waterval Onder in 1944 (Fig.13) shows TVL at the bottom. I've yet to see an example with OFS added. Quite a few fit "PO" &/or "PK" into the postmark as with the 1954 Arminel (Fig.14). Cala Road was renamed Qiba in 1954 and has the PK QIBA PO and PO QIBA PK settings both used in February. Most don't have time codes but quite a few do. Idutywa in 1949 shows a code "A", Lovedale in 1947 shows A,B&C codes. The Paulpietersburg above (Fig.12) shows AM or PM on the left above the date. Others are more elaborate such as Joubertina with "VMAM" in 1949 as did Indwe in 1960, or the reverse "AMVM" at Willowmore in 1947.

Komgha (Ptzl 4x) is very specific showing "9PM" in 1925 and Kloof Street "10 AM" in 1915.

The unstable nature of these cancellers provides much of the fun in studying them. St Marks (Fig.15) wins the prize here by a country mile! Dated 4 Mar 1948 this read "S...TM..AR.KS"! Putzel lists another skeleton used here in 1965. Elliot illustrates well the problem of letters moving around.



Cont'

This canceller (Figs.16-19) also has bars either side of the name (as do several others) which also move around. They're clearly a deliberate part of the cancel but I'm not sure what creates them or if they serve any purpose. The Elliot cancel was in use from at least 2 Dec 1946 to 20 Mar 1947 and on 3 Dec 1946 (Fig.16) all is well spaced. On Fig.17 the month has moved to the right. On 5 Feb 1947 a gap has developed between "ELL" & "IOT" and the lowest bar on the left has dropped (Fig. 18). By 10 Feb the bar is back in place but the name is still split and by 10 March the cancel is all put back together again and looks much as it did 4 months earlier. Another Elliott oddity (Fig.19) is an "ELLIOT RLS" cancel in 1959. It also has a "C" and what looks like a strange "3" in front of the name. I take the "RLS" to be the registered letter section (rather than returned letter) but this is the only cancel I've seen indicating a specific use. Needless to say it's cancelling a 1d on an unregistered envelope! Middleton used a skeleton in Oct/Nov 1948 and shows a large gap developing between "MIDDLE" & "ETON" in November.



Fig. 16



Fig. 17



Fig. 18



Fig. 19

In the spirit of keeping things simple abbreviations are sometimes used. I've shown the Stofberggedenkskool (Fig.10) where "SKL" is squeezed in over the date. One I also like is Dynamite Factory in 1915 (Fig.20) where Factory is shortened to "FACRY". Station is often shortened too, to "STN" at Wellington in 1920 (Fig.21) or "STA" at Johannesburg in 1946 (Fig.22). Whilst on about stations another remarkable one is Kipplaat in 1975 (Fig.23) which is Putzel 7 for 31 July 1975. The shown strike is for the 14th. Kipplaat is a major railway centre and the cancel is set up just as many earlier station cancels were with the name at the bottom followed by the station number, only in this case the post office isn't at the station and the 6255 is the area post code!



Fig. 20



Fig. 21



Fig. 22



Fig. 23

Next we come to spelling mistakes. Berry shows some nice ones with "LAY DSMITH" for Ladysmith in 1918, "DANIENLSKUIL" for Danielskuil in 1951, "BONIEVALE" for Bonnievale in 1954 and "WA TTERFORD" for Waterford in 1961. The only one I can show is Schweizer Reneke on 16 Aug 1958 (Putzel 10 dated 27 October, Fig.24 with a little enhancement) where the "C" has been missed out.



Fig. 24

Postmasburg provides a good example of an office which seemed to need temporary cancellers quite often. Putzel 5 can be found used in Jul-Aug 1943. A very similar cancel but with the name further left was used Aug-Oct 1948. A new skeleton was used Aug-Sep 1960 and Putzel 6 was used in 1964.



Fig. 25

New offices might be provided with a temporary canceller until the permanent one arrived. A good example is Cotsdene which is a residential suburb of Port Elizabeth. It opened 5 Apr.1956. Its opening was reported in the Eastern Province Herald. It was provided with a skeleton canceller (Fig.25) until a permanent one arrived. Comments were made at the time that it had proved very difficult to get the print head steady and it had been packed with paper to try and help.

It has

It has "CAPE" above the date and "KAAP" below. Harmonie, a suburb of Pretoria, was another new office opening on 1 Oct 1945 which started life with a skeleton cancel. It changed its name to Drei Lelies in 1952. Pinetown Depot (Fig.26) opened in 1967 but was still using a relief canceller at the end of May 1968.



Fig. 26

Other offices changed their name and required temporary cancellers whilst the permanent postmark was adjusted. The railway headquarters at Johannesburg had to drop the "C" from CSAR when it became South African Railways with the Union. The permanent canceller was sent off and a skeleton used (Fig.27). This is dated 27 Mar 1911 and the earliest example of

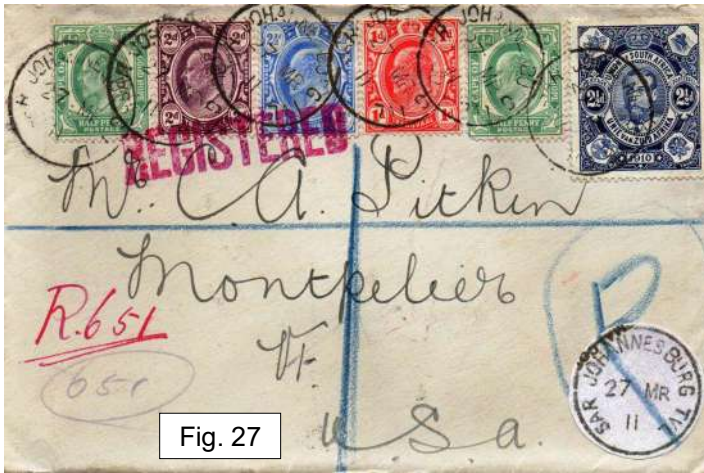


Fig. 27

the SAR Johannesburg permanent canceller I've seen is in October the same year. Gonubie provides another example. Called just that from 1905-17 it then became Gonubie Mouth until reverting back to just Gonubie in 1961/2. In June & July 1961 it used a skeleton cancel presumably as the permanent canceller was being altered. Cala Road becoming Qiba in 1964 is mentioned above. Nuweplaas is another rare and previously unrecorded type. It was renamed from Nieuwe Plaats on 5 May 1947 before reverting to its old name on 6 Mar 1950 after an upgrade and then Nuweplaas again from 6 Nov 1950. The cancel



Fig. 28

shown is for "PO NUWE PLAAS PO" on the day of the first name change (Fig.28).

The next well recorded use of these skeleton postmarks was at events where a temporary post office was deemed required. These are all well described in Reisener's *Special & Commemorative Postmarks and Cachets* so I won't illustrate too many here. The first was at Verneuk Pan during Malcolm Campbell's attempt on the world land speed record. A temporary post office operated at the site from 8 to 26 April 1929. The skeleton postmark appears in three settings, the first two being rare. Bob Hill displayed his superb collection of these at Leamington and I would encourage him to write a short article on them as a follow up to this one as there's a good story involved. Next up was the 27th S.A. Medical Congress at Rondebosch in 1933 where the



Fig. 29

temporary post office was open from 25-30 September. It was reportedly little used. It was obviously considered of some prestige to have a post office at one's event and the medics argued their case again in 1936 at Pietermaritzburg where it was open from 29 June to 3 July. It was again very poorly utilised. Of the 70 letters recorded posted during the five days 43 were Robertson covers posted on 1 July. This meant that of the over 300 delegates plus their wives they only managed to post 26 letters between them! It took them until 1949 to get a post office at their congress again. Compare this to the Scout Jamboree at East London in 1936 which dealt with over 1500 items between January 8-16. A series of skeleton

postmarks were used during world war II, mostly associated with fund raising events. These include Burgerkamp, the War Train (2 cancels in different language settings), Liberty Cavalcade, Cavalcade and Victory Fair. One was also used at Westlake Camp. The only one I'll illustrate is Victory Fair (Fig.29).

Cont'

Cont'

This was held at the Zoo Lake Grounds in Johannesburg from 25 Nov to 2 Dec 1944. Calling it "Victory" was a little presumptive as the war hadn't officially ended but it was intended to raise funds for wounded soldiers. The temporary post office was open throughout the 8 days but for the first 6 it forwarded mail on to the main Johannesburg office for cancelling. On 1st and 2nd December it was provided with a skeleton canceller. The Johannesburg Philatelic Society produced a more accurately inscribed "Speed the Victory" label on sale for 3d. They also produced a miniature sheet of 4 of these. There was also a field post office on display and for those parting with the extra 1/- they got the Victory Fair postmark plus an APO-U-MPK / 50A.

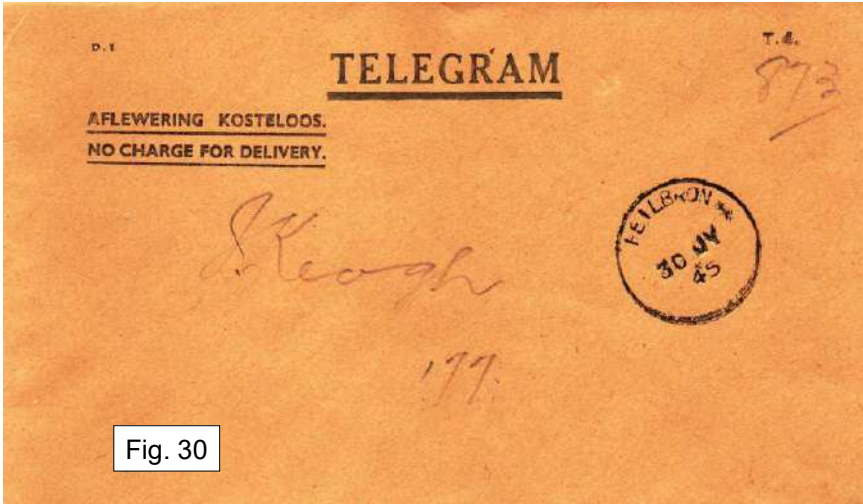


Fig. 30

Other uses of skeleton postmarks exist. Looking overall it's striking that the number of registered items is higher than one would expect, especially from mid-size to larger offices and I'm pretty sure many of these offices held on to their relief cancels for use when they were busy or for odd jobs. Heilbron uses one on a telegram envelope (Fig.30) on 30 Jul 1945 (the first day of use re Kamffer). Another interesting one is an official envelope from Delmas on 12 Oct 1942 (Fig.31) which has the permanent datestamp top right and a skeleton bottom left with censorship mark in blue crayon, presumably checking that it was correct usage of the free official envelope. They were sometimes used for first day cancels on stamps such as Umlaas Road (Fig.32) on 14 Oct 1954 or Viljoenskroon (Fig.33) on 23 Feb 1954 (note the gap between the "V" & "I" as compared to Putzel 2b). Just occasionally one wonders if they were philatelic. Take, for example the two 2/6 blocks of 4. The green & brown block (Fig.34) is cancelled Thabina 19 Mar 1940. Thabina is a nature reserve in NE Transvaal. The blue & brown block (Fig.35) is cancelled Kliptown 21 Sep 1946. Kliptown is a suburb of Soweto and it's difficult to see someone there parting with 10/-!

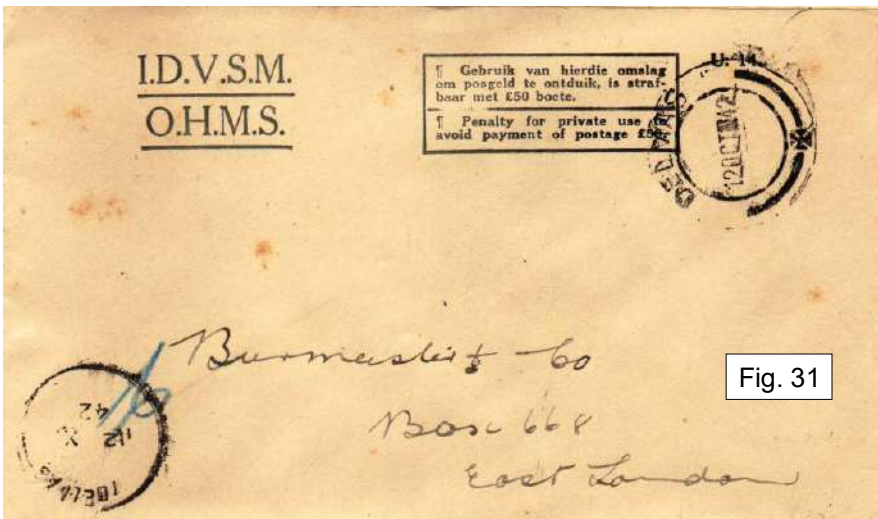


Fig. 31



Fig. 32

Finally, I list the cancels (& dates) of skeletons which aren't yet listed in Putzel. One or two may be in the addendum as I haven't checked them all again this since March. They will all be forwarded to Alex Visser so, hopefully, will appear eventually.



Fig. 33



Fig. 34



Fig. 35

List of previously unrecorded skeleton postmarks. A "?" in front of the name means, although unrecorded, I'm uncertain they're actually relief cancellers rather than single rings.

ADELAIDE 16/2/48  
 -ditto- 24/5/56  
 BELL 30/8/60  
 BERLIN May-Aug '46  
 BOLO RESERVE 6/9/60  
 BORDER 14/1/46  
 BREE RIVER 7/11/46  
 BURNSIDE 25/2/42  
 CATO RIDGE 12/8/47  
 CLARKEBURY AUG- SEP '48  
 COALBROOK 13/3/47  
 DANNHAUSER 1915  
 DELMAS 12/10/42  
 DERBY 23/8/48  
 -ditto- 12/6/54  
 DORORE 18/9/15  
 DYNAMITE FACTORY 5/6/15  
 ELLIOT RLS 19/10/59  
 ENGCOBO Nov-Dec '64 (2-line date)  
 " (24/11/64 3-line date)  
 EVANGELINA 7/3/69  
 GONUBIE MOUTH 16/6-2/7/61  
 HARMOMIE 10/10/45  
 HARTEBEESTFONTEIN 14/10/48  
 HOBHOUSE 16/1/50  
 IDA 29/9/52  
 INDWE 28/8/60  
 -ditto- 6/12/67  
 JACOBS 14/1/26  
 KAMEEL 19/4/47  
 ?KINGWILLIAMSTOWN 17/8/27  
 KIRKWOOD 3/4/54  
 KLEIN RIVER early '30s  
 KLIPLAAT JULY '68  
 KLIPTOWN 21/9/46  
 KNAPDAAR 19/5/56  
 KOEKENAAP 22/11/46  
 KOFFIEFONTEIN 15/5/45  
 KOMGA 2/3/62  
 KOSTER 3/6/53  
 LADISMITH early '30s  
 LANGEBAAM RD WEG 2/11/45  
 LEEUWPOORT 25/8/38

LENNOXTON 25/7/44  
 LESLIE 21/6/65  
 LIBODE 22/10/55  
 LICHTENBURG 24/8/53  
 LOSKOP 19/12/42  
 LOVEDALE (A, B&C) NOV '47  
 MACHADODORP 1944  
 MARCHAND 17/8/48  
 MIDDLETON NOV '48  
 MODDER RIVER LATE 40'S  
 MOUNT FRERE JAN '46  
 NDABAKA 19/11/67  
 NQAMAKWE 11/5/57  
 -ditto- 3/11/12  
 -ditto- Mar-Apr '63  
 -ditto- 14/10/65  
 NUWEPLAAS 5/5/47  
 PAULPIETERSBURG Aug-Sep'48  
 PEDIE 3/12/55 or 6  
 PETRUSBURG 29/6/46  
 PORT ALFRED 23/12/46  
 PORT EDWARD 29/10/52  
 POSTMASBURG Aug-Oct '48  
 -ditto- Aug-Oct '60  
 POTCHEFSTROOM 23/2/27  
 PRIESKA 15/12/55  
 QIBA Feb '60  
 RATOMBO 29/7/59  
 ROUXVILLE 16/3/45  
 -ditto- Aug '60  
 RYNO 29/7/59  
 SEYMOUR 26/11/47  
 SHAGEN 28/1/46  
 SMITHFIELD Mar '47  
 STEYTLERVILLE 7/11/46  
 ST MARKS 4/3/48  
 STOFBERGGEDENSKSKOOL  
 19/5/48  
 SUMMERVILLE 6/5/45  
 THABINA 19/3/40  
 THE HAVEN 17/10/60  
 THEUNISSEN 6/8/46?  
 THRE SISTERS (RAIL) 10/5/47  
 TRICHARD 1/2/46

TROMPSBURG 10/5/59  
 ? TUGELA FERRY 20/3/50  
 TYLDEN 12/7/67  
 TYLDEN 11/9/69  
 UGIE 27/1/60  
 UMTATA 13/12/44  
 VANSTDENSRUST 8/5/47  
 WAAIPUNT 6/7/40  
 WATERVAL ONDER 25/2/44  
 WELLINGTON STATION 7/8/20  
 WETS END DURBAN 15/12/34  
 WESTMINSTER 6/8/48  
 WHITE RIVER Oct-Nov '46  
 WIDERNESS 14/6/46  
 WILLOWVALE ?Feb or Nov '47  
 WITPUT RAIL 1940's  
 ZOEKMEKAAR 27/8/48  
 ZWARTRUGGENS 5/6/46

Larger single ring types

KENTANI 6/1/50  
 KANPDAAR 6/3/11

South West Africa

OTAVI 16/6/27

## Automatic Stamp Vending Machines

by Mike Tonking RDPSA

The first roll stamp automatic vending machines were installed in 1911 at Cape Town, Johannesburg and Pretoria. In 1913 further machines were installed in Durban, Bloemfontein, Port Elizabeth and Woodstock which coincided with the KGV series of definitive postage stamps which included roll stamps. The first roll stamp values were ½d. and 1d. Which were followed by the 1½d. value from 15.11.20 and the 2d. value from 7.10.21. In the first instance only the ½d. and 1d. Values were sold from vending machines. Rolls of stamps contained either 500 or 1200 stamps. According to the Post Office there were two types of vending machine. The first type dispensed one 1d. stamp and the second type dispensed two ½d. stamps for one penny.

Although it is reported that the 1½d. and 2d. rolls were only sold over the counter in complete rolls examples exist of these values which must have been sold via vending machines. These are rare and there could only have been a very few machines equipped to dispense them.

Over the years there were many different miscut roll stamps and to understand the reasons for this it is necessary to examine the vending machine workings. Fortunately, some 50 years ago, the Post Office, in answer to a query, provided a full description of the workings.

Essentially there were two types of vending machines which the writer has designated Type A and Type B. The former was equipped with a knife mechanism which separated the individual roll stamps by cutting in a guillotine action through the horizontal perforations when correctly adjusted.

The action of feeding a coin into a vending machine caused milled wheels to feed the stamp forward into the cutting position and when cut from the roll it could be withdrawn from the machine.

In some cases traces of marks made by the milled wheels can be seen on the rear of stamps from Type A machines. The shape of the cut varied from straight to convex and concave. The reason for the different shapes is unclear. The Type A vending machines were operated by a clock mechanism which was rewound weekly by means of a large crank handle.

The Post Office reported that there were only about 12 Type A vending machines which were all placed at major centres and that they were phased out around 1932. This information would appear to be incorrect as knife cut examples as late as 1953 have been noted.

1927 saw the introduction of the Type B vending machine which was more widely distributed throughout the Union. The main difference between the two machines was the method of roll stamp separation. In this case the feed wheel, which projected the stamp forward, had accurately placed feed pins which were designed to engage with the horizontal roll stamp perforations. There was a feed wheel cover which had a serrated edge to help in separating the stamp when fed through the delivery aperture. When one pulled the stamp out the serrated edge engaged the stamp perforations to facilitate stamp severance.

For correct operation it was essential that the feed wheel pins correctly engaged the roll stamp perforations unfortunately this was not always so with the pins piercing the stamps resulting in mutilated emissions caused by the serrated edge cutting through the stamp.

Both types of vending machine required constant and regular servicing in order to ensure undamaged and correctly sized roll stamps were vended. Apart from machine defects there were slight changes in the vertical size of the stamp due to atmospheric conditions leading to paper creep. However this was a minor factor in machine operation.

From an accounting point of view it was important that the correct sized stamps were vended. Shorter stamps would result in a cash over recovery and conversely longer stamps an under recovery. In some cases the Post Master could have had accounting problems!

Stamp vending machines were also in use after the Union period with the final roll stamp issue being made in 1988. During this twenty year period there were, no doubt, similar problems although little had been recorded.

### *References:*

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

*The rarest stamp 'Issue' of the Union of South Africa - De Jager and Kamffer RDPSA - SAP June 2001.*

*Post Office letter - 23 February 1961*

*Stamp Study News Letters - October 1977, November 1977, January 1988*

Examples of Roll Stamps Dispensed From Vending Machines

Key - R = Roll number as per SAHB  
 TA = Type A vending machine  
 TB = Type B vending machine

R1 - 1913 TA  
 Curved cut at stamp bottom.  
 Slightly longer stamps due to paper creep.



R2 - 1913 TA  
 Straight cut.  
 Short stamp 21,14mm x 24,25mm



R2 - 1913TA  
 Straight cut.  
 Short stamp 21,70mm x 24,25mm

R7 - 1927 TA  
 Straight cut.  
 Long stamp 29,04mm x 24,25mm



R7 - 1927 TA  
 Straight cut.  
 Short stamp 20,35mm x 24,25mm



R7 - 1927 TB  
 Saw tooth cuts.  
 Feed pins incorrectly set 4,91mm  
 above perforations.



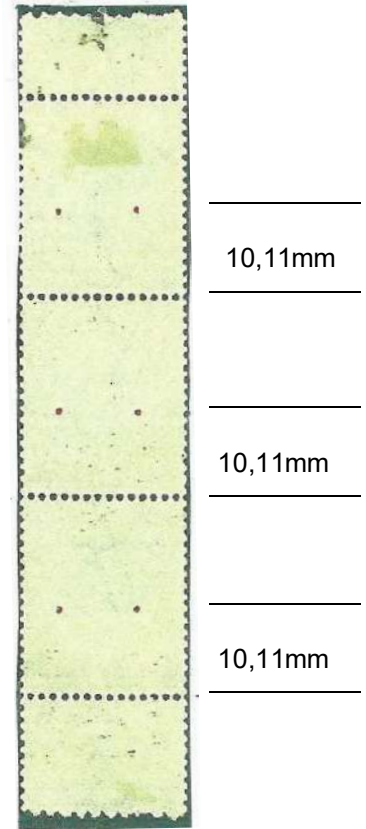
R8 - November 1927 TA  
 Concave curved cut at top and  
 convex cut at stamp bottom.



R8 - November 1927 TB  
 Saw tooth cuts.  
 Feed pins incorrectly set 10,11mm  
 above perforations



R8 - 1927 TB  
 Rear of strip showing feed pins incorrectly  
 placed 10,11mm above perforations



R10 - April 1930 TB  
 Saw tooth cuts.  
 Feed pins incorrectly set  
 9,6mm above perforations.



R10 - April 1930 TA  
 Straight cuts.  
 Milled wheel marks on rear



Row 20 - Black line  
 2mm to left of bottom  
 yardarm.

20

R11 - January 1932 TA Straight cuts.  
 Although miscut stamp length 24,25mm i.e. correct size.  
 Roll 6 stamps 16 and 17. Stamp 16 - black dot to left of middle yardarm



R12 - April 1935 TA Straight cut  
 Extra 1d. For rail fee and the post Office accepted the bisect as one stamp.



R16 - 1937 TA  
 Stamp 18,5mm x 22,5 mm  
 Concave cut at top and  
 convex at bottom.



Pale faced  
 buck.

R16A - 1939 TA  
 Stamp 18,25mm x 22,5mm  
 Concave at top and convex  
 at bottom



R18 - August 1947 TA  
 Stamp 18mm x 22mm  
 Angled cuts top and  
 bottom.

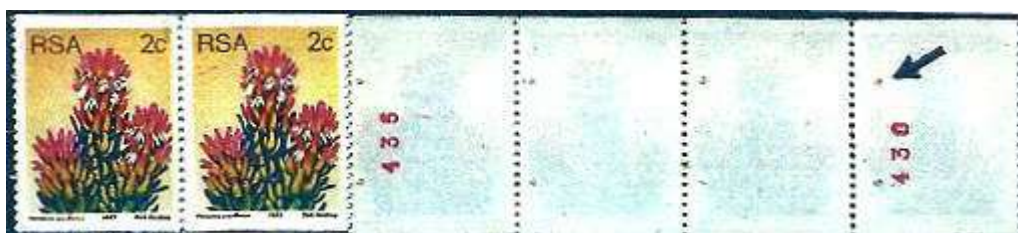


R18 - August 1947 TB  
 Pin holes 1,93mm above  
 perforations.  
 This was near enough to  
 prevent tearing saw  
 tooth cuts.



R25 - June 1953 TA  
 Good example of concave  
 and convex cuts

Proof that vending machine problems existed in 1979.  
 RSA 2c Second reprint November 1979 where feed pin holes 3mm above perforations



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

by Jan van Beukering

## PART 7 – 1/- VALUE

There were 20 printings of this value dating from 1930 to 1951. The first three of 1930 to 1933 were perforated 14 x 13½ DOWN, 1934 and 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 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', '34, '35, '36, '37 (Mar.), '37 (Aug.), '38, '39 (Jan.), '39 (Aug.), '40, '41, '45, '46, '47, '48, '49, '50 and '51.



1/- Bushveld scene – first printing archival block – no gum

Front sections in date sequence used for colour extractions:



1930 to 1940 printings



1941 to 1951 printings

Blue colour extractions:



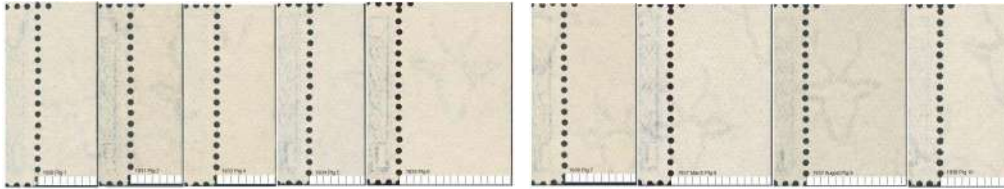
1930 to 1951 printings

Blackish Brown colour extractions:

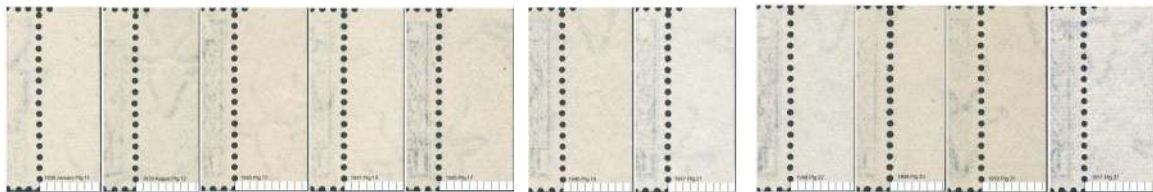


1930 to 1951 printings

Stamp rear paper and margin comparison:



1930 to 1938 printings



1939 to 1951 Printings

**PART 8 – 1/3d VALUE**

There were 14 printings of this value dating from 1930 to 1953. The first two 1930 and 1933 were perforated 14 x 13½ DOWN and the remainder 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. 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, '33, '37, '38, '39, '40, '41, '45, '46, '47, '48, '49, '50 and '53.



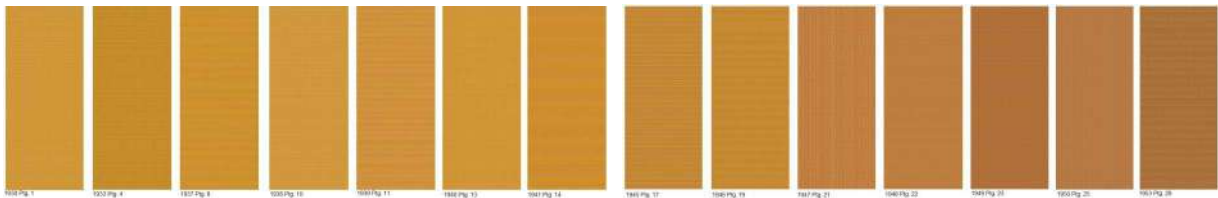
1sh 3d Elands – first printing archival block – no gum

Front sections in date sequence used for colour extractions:



1930 to 1953 Printings

Orange colour extractions:



1930 to 1953 printings

Dark Blue colour extractions:



Stamp rear paper and margin comparison:



1930 to 1953 Printings

**PART 9 – 2/6 VALUE**

There were 13 printings of this value dating from 1930 to 1953. The first two 1930 and 1931 were perforated 14 x 13½ DOWN and the remainder from 1934 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. 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, '37, '39, '42, '44, '45, '47, '49, '50 and '53.



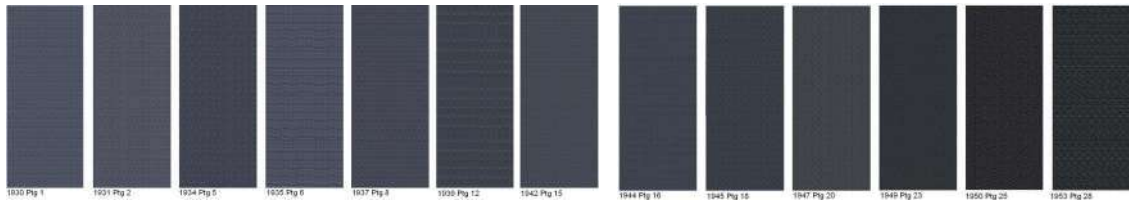
2sh 6d Mountain Zebras & Wildebeests – first printing archival block – no gum

Front sections in date sequence used for colour extractions:



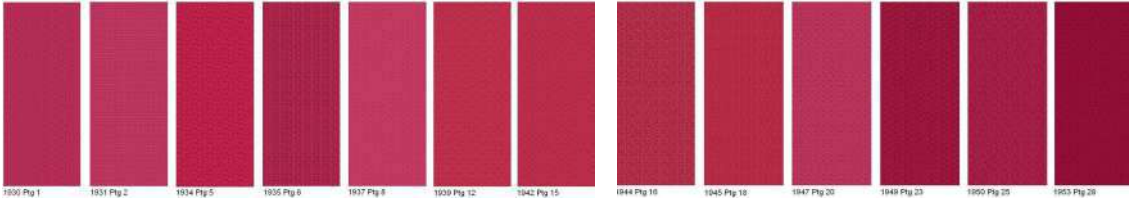
1930 to 1953 Printings

Grey-Black colour extractions:

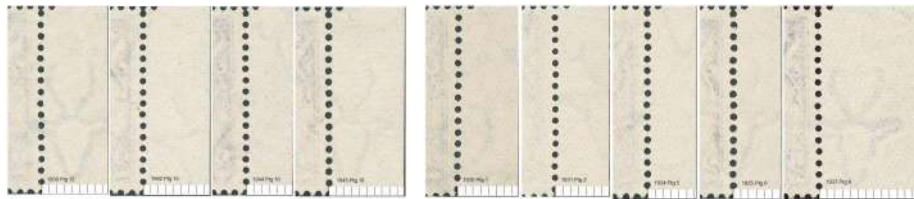


1930 to 1953 printings

Scarlet colour extractions:



Stamp rear paper and margin comparison:



**PART 10 – 5 SHILLING VALUE**

There were 13 printings of this value dating from 1930 to 1953. The first two 1930 and 1931 were perforated 14 x 13½ DOWN and the remainder from 1935 to 1948 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. 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, '37 (Mar.), '37 (Aug.), '38, '39 (Jan.), '39 (Aug.), 42, '44, '46, '47 and '48.



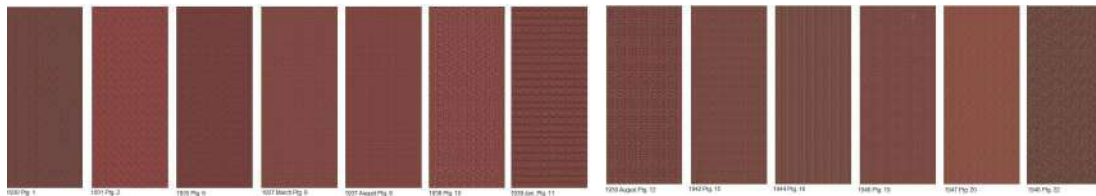
2sh 6d Zebras – first printing archival block – no gum

Front sections in date sequence used for colour extractions:



1930 to 1948 printings

Red-Brown colour extractions:



1930 to 1948 printings

Green colour extractions:



Stamp rear paper and margin comparison:



1930 to 1948 Printings

**PART 11 – 10 SHILLING VALUE**

There were 14 printings of this value dating from 1930 to 1948. The first two 1930 and 1931 were perforated 14 x 13½ DOWN and the remainder from 1935 to 1948 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. 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, '37 (Mar.), '37 (Aug.), '38, '39 (Jan.), '39 (Aug.), 42, '44, '46, '47 and '48.



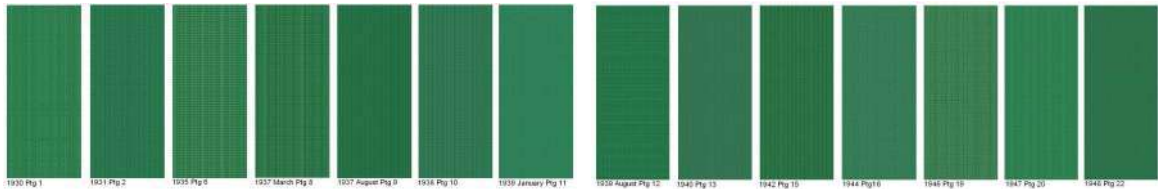
10/- Welwitschia – first printing archival block – no gum

Front sections in date sequence used for colour extractions:



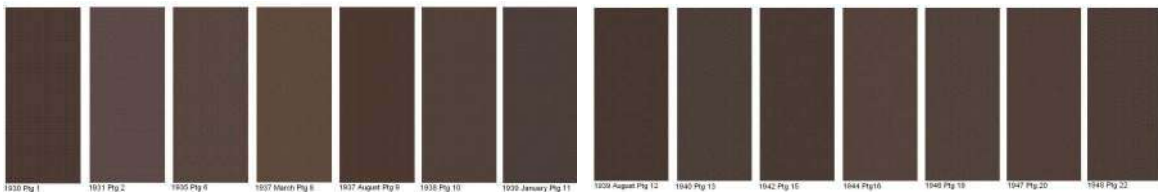
1930 to 1948 printings

Green colour extractions:

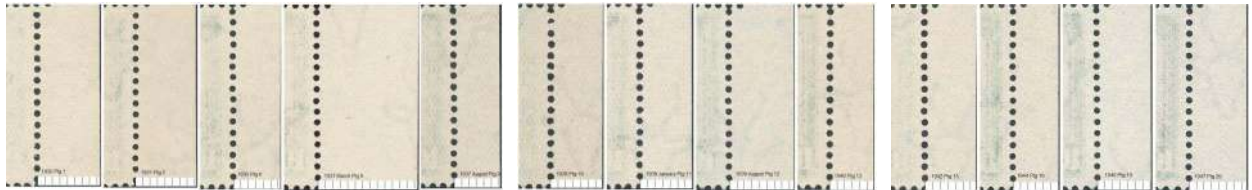


1930 to 1948 printings

Red-Brown colour extractions:



Stamp rear paper and margin comparison:



1930 to 1948 Printings

**PART 12 – 20 SHILLING VALUE**

There were 8 printings of this value dating from 1930 to 1948. The first, that of 1930 was perforated 14 x 13½ DOWN and the remainder from 1937 to 1948 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. 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, '37, '38, '42, '44, '46, '48 and 50.



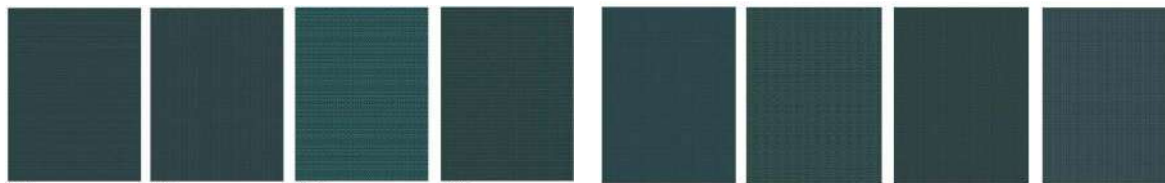
20/- Okuwahaken Falls – first printing archival block – no gum

Front sections in date sequence used for colour extractions:



1930 to 1950 printings

Green colour extractions:



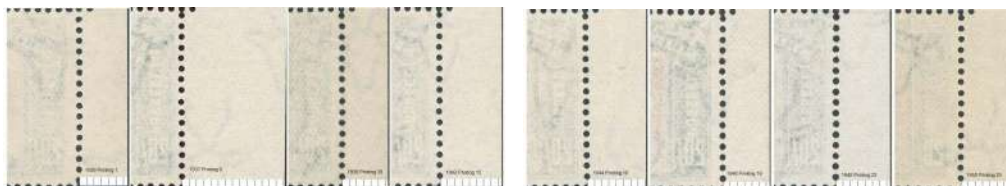
1930 to 1950 printings

Red-Brown colour extractions:



1930 to 1950 printings

Stamp rear paper and margin comparison:



1930 to 1950 Printings

[www.southafricanstamps.net](http://www.southafricanstamps.net)

[www.SWA-Stamps.com](http://www.SWA-Stamps.com)

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# Union of South Africa: Pictorial Postal Cards using Wembley Post Card Scenes on PC 17

By Eddie Bridges

## Introduction

The Union of South Africa issued many Postal Stationery Cards during the period 1913-1961. The slight differences between some sets as well as the many changes in the design and color remain a philatelic challenge.

The terminology used in this article is based on the accepted differentiation between privately published *post cards* with pictures/illustrations and no impressed stamp and Post Office issued *postal cards* with or without pictures with impressed stamp for the postage.

I am referring to the 1979 Union Handbook 2<sup>nd</sup> revised edition which listed Union Stationery as the 1986 edition omitted the Stationery listings. I have also consulted the Postal Stationery of South Africa, Part 2, by W. J. Quik.

The cards with the Wembley scenes, apart from the original Wembley cards with no impressed stamp, PC10 and PC 17, have been the subject of much discussion and debate as to what they are and what the origins of the photos/scenes were.

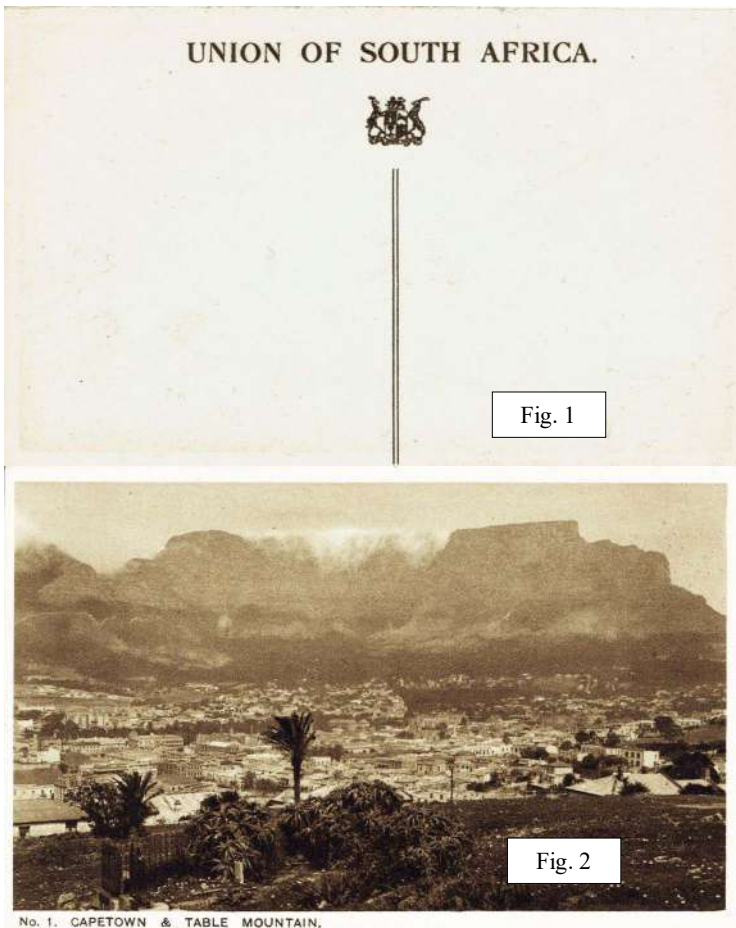
The two sets of cards referred to in this article are PC 10 issued in 1927 and PC 17 issued in 1934, according to the literature, but most likely earlier. Quik numbers P10 and P17.

A recent acquisition of a bulk lot of Union Postal cards at auction which included full sets of PC 17 still in their envelopes, has enabled me to look at these issues in more detail as more material was now available to examine and draw some conclusions. Below is the story as I see it.

## Origins of the photos used for the Wembley Cards, PC 10 and PC 17

The origin of the photos appear on a set of cards produced in 1924 for the British Empire Exhibition, staged at Wembley in London in 1924-25<sup>1</sup>. The printer of these cards is unknown and various suggestions have been made. The most plausible is most likely Valetines in England who produced cards for other countries participating at the Exhibition. Fleetway Press Ltd., may also have been a possible candidate<sup>2</sup>. They were contracted to print the official postcards for the Exhibition. These were issued in various sets.

The 36 photos for the set of Wembley cards, as they have become known to collectors was supplied by the Publicity Department of the South African Railways.

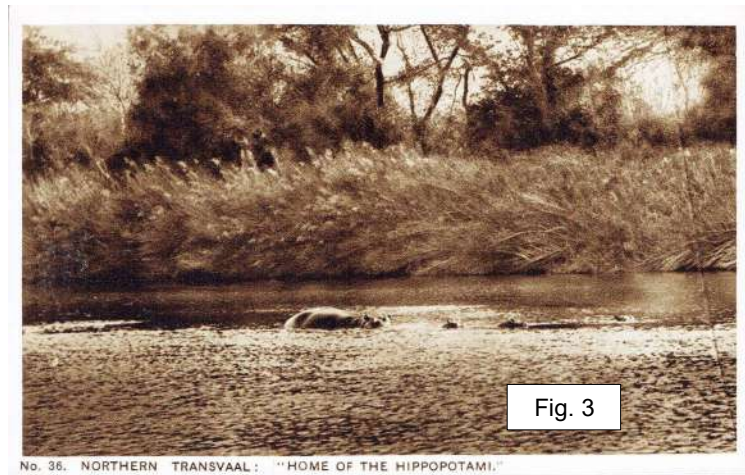


## The Wembley Cards

The front of the Wembley card was printed in dark brown with no impressed stamp. (these cards were sold in London so South African stamps would not have been valid for postage) The card was headed UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA and below it in the centre, the Union Coat of Arms. Below the Coat of Arms is two parallel vertical lines dividing the card in two for the address on the right and message on the left. (Fig.1) The reverse of the card was used for the photos. Illustrated is Card number 1- Capetown & Table Mountain printed below the photo in the same sepia color. (Fig.2) and card number 36- Northern Transvaal: "Home of the Hippopotami." (Fig.3). Note the old spelling of Capetown in one word where the more accepted version is Cape Town in two words.

I have been unable to determine if these cards were sold in sets in envelopes or singly. No envelopes seen by the author to date. These cards in complete mint sets are difficult to find and even more so used.

Cont'



No. 36. NORTHERN TRANSVAAL: "HOME OF THE HIPPOPOTAMI."

The listing of the photos on the Wembley cards as listed below:

- |    |   |    |   |
|----|---|----|---|
| 1  | Capetown & Table Mountain                         | 19 | Natal: Zulu Headman                           |
| 2  | Capetown: Houses of Parliament                    | 20 | Natal: Umzimkulu River                        |
| 3  | Capetown: Adderly Street                          | 21 | Natal: Drakensburg Mountains                  |
| 4  | Capetown: Camps Bay                               | 22 | Natal: Drakensburg Mountains                  |
| 5  | Capetown: Devils Peak                             | 23 | Drakensburg Range: Main Tugela Gorge          |
| 6  | Cape Province: Hex River Valley                   | 24 | Orange Free State: Bloemfontein               |
| 7  | Port Elizabeth: 1820 Settlers' Memorial           | 25 | Orange Free State: Scene at Kroonstad         |
| 8  | Mossel Bay: Sea Bathing                           | 26 | Cape Province: Port St. Johns                 |
| 9  | Cape Province: Montague Pass. Outeniqua Mountains | 27 | Transvaal: Union Buildings, Pretoria          |
| 10 | Cape Province: Cogman's Kloof                     | 28 | Transvaal: Government House, Pretoria         |
| 11 | Cape Province: East London, Oxford Street         | 29 | Transvaal: Church Square, Pretoria            |
| 12 | Cape Province: Kimberley, Town Hall               | 30 | Transvaal: Town Hall, Johannesburg            |
| 13 | Natal: West Street, Durban                        | 31 | Transvaal: A Gold Mine, Johannesburg          |
| 14 | Natal: Bathing Enclosure, Durban                  | 32 | Transvaal: Residential Johannesburg           |
| 15 | Natal: Esplanade, Durban                          | 33 | Transvaal: The Fall, Waterval Boven           |
| 16 | Natal: South Coast                                | 34 | Transvaal: A Mountain Road                    |
| 17 | Natal: Umlaas Falls                               | 35 | Transvaal: A River Scene                      |
| 18 | Natal: Pietermaritzburg                           | 36 | Northern Transvaal: "Home of the Hippopotami" |

### PC 10 (Set of 24 Cards)

These cards are mentioned as similar photographs from the Publicity Department were used as originally appeared on the Wembley cards. These were numbered differently from those of PC 17. PC 10 however has many similarities to PC 17 and are often confused with PC 17 despite clear differences between the two sets.

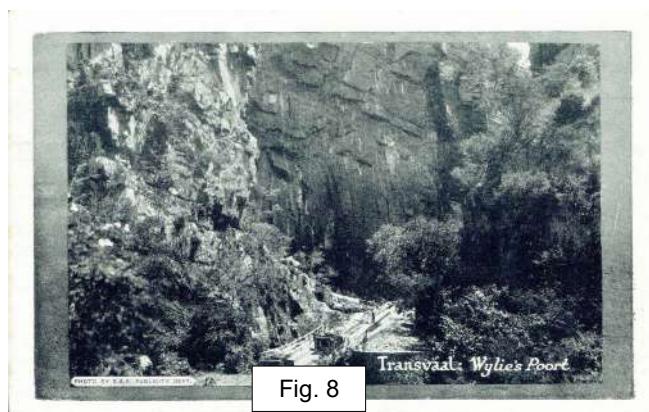
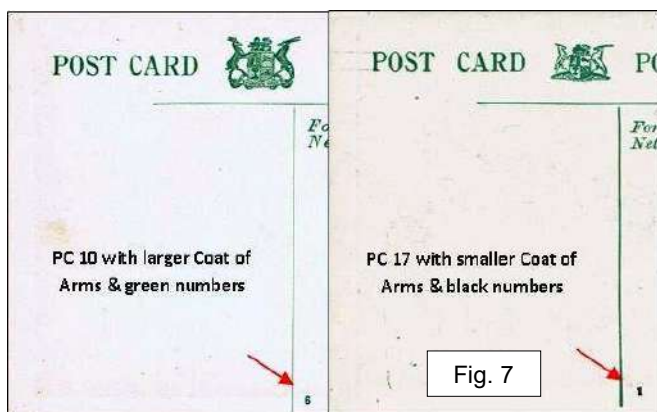


The cards of PC 10 were issued in 1927 and were innovative in that they were dual use cards meant to be used domestically at the ½d postage rate and an extra stamp sized box was printed with a dotted outline with the text in the box *Id. extra for oversea./ Buiteland Id. ekstra.* (Fig.4) The reason for this was most likely that the usage of post cards for overseas mail was a lot less than the domestic usage.

A dual use card would save the cost of printing an extra card for overseas use. Fig. 5 illustrates a domestic use of the card in 1928 and Fig. 6 illustrates a card up rated with the required 1d for overseas use, dated 2 Dec. 1929. Fig. 7 shows the illustration on the reverse of card no. 20.



Many of these cards have been used quite late and there is a potential overlap of dates of usage of these cards and those from PC 17. PC 10 cards can be differentiated from those of PC 17 by the numbers printed on the front. For PC 10 they are green and for PC 17 they are in black. The Coat Of Arms on PC 10 is slightly larger than that of PC 17. (Fig.8)



The illustrations on the back of PC 10 Pictorial Cards are as follows: Listed for information only.

1	Pretoria, Government Buildings	13	Johannesburg, Town Hall
2	Durban, The Esplanade	14	Ceres, Cape, Dwars River
3	Cape, Chapman's Peak, Marine Drive	15	Natal, Karkloof Falls
4	Kroonstad, Valsch River	16	Tulbach, Cape, Michell's Pass
5	Natal, Drakensburg	17	Knysna, Cape, The Heads
6	Cape, Cogman's Kloof	18	Rondebosch, Cape, Groote Schuur
7	Cape, Camp's Bay	19	Pretoria, Union Buildings
8	Durban, Town Hall	20	Transvaal, Wylie's Poort
9	Bloemfontein, Government Buildings	21	Cape, Toverwaterspoort
10	Capetown, from Kloof Nek	22	Port Shepstone, Umzimkulu River
11	Johannesburg, Medical Research	23	Cape, Entrance to Zwartberg Pass
12	Knysna, Groot River Drift	24	Cape, Zwartberg Pass

### PC 17 (Set of 24 cards)

The issue date of these cards need to be treated with caution as the Union Handbook has got it wrong and this has been repeated in Quik. I have seen queries about the issue date only to discover the cards were from PC 10 up rated to 1d for domestic use instead of the 1d for overseas use.

*It appears*



It appears that remaining stocks of these cards were up rated in Post Offices with an additional ½d Springbok Head stamp for the increased domestic postage rate which came into effect on 1 April, 1931. This rate was valid through 1933 when for a short while it was increased to 1½d before being reduced to ½d again on 1 April, 1934. Somewhere in this 1d period, I suspect soon after the rate increase was announced in 1931 the cards from PC 17 were put on sale in Post Offices up rated with a ½d Springbok Head stamp and in packets with the value obliterated and the increased value of 1/-, stamped on with what looks to be a rubber stamp using an office

type ink pad. Fellow collectors I spoke to all are of the opinion that this set of cards was prepared for dual use as per PC 10 but the Postmaster General was surprised when the domestic Post Card rate was increased by the Minister of Posts. To avoid destroying the cards, they were up rated with the said ½d stamp and inserted into the envelopes prepared for their initial release. This must have been very labour intensive. Fig. 9 shows the up rated card for domestic use. Fig. 10 illustrates the series of envelopes used for this issue with the value suitably hand stamped with the new price per set.

The illustrations used on the back were taken from the original illustrations used for the Wembley cards. 24 of the 36 illustrations were selected for this set of 24. This explains the gaps in the numbering of the cards. No logical explanation could be found why the cards were just not renumbered.



Fig. 10

#### The Illustrations on the back of the cards for PC17

1	Capetown, Table Mountain	21	Mont-aux-Sources, Drakensberg, Natal
2	Houses of Parliament, Capetown	22	Drakensberg, Natal
4	Camps Bay, through the trees, Captown	24	General view of Bloemfontein
5	Devil's Peak, thro' the trees, Cape	25	Valsch River and Bridge, Kroonstad, O.F.S.
8	The Poort, Mossel Bay, Cape	26	Port St. Johns
9	Montague Pass, Cape	27	Union Buildings, Pretoria
10	Montague. "The Langeberg." "Solitude," Cape	28	Government House, Pretoria, Transvaal
14	Durban, Natal	29	Railway Line near Victoria Bay
15	The Esplanade, Durban	33	Falls at Waterval Boven
16	Amanzimtoti, Natal	34	Wylies Poort, N. Transvaal
17	Umlaas Falls, Natal	35	River Scene, Tzaneen, N. Transvaal
20	Umzimkulu River, Port Shepstone, Natal	36	Hippos in Komati River, E. Transvaal

Quik in his book on the Postal Stationery of South Africa (first edition), on page 175 notes that for P 17, "Early in 1934 the domestic postal rate was reduced to ½d. As a result new post cards were printed with photographic pictures of ½. (SIC) The address side is similar to the cards of a ½d that was used in 1927. Only the coat of arms is smaller. The serial numbers now are in black. From a numbered series of photos that were used in 1924/25 for the Wembley Exhibition, 24 were selected for the new series of cards."

This is rather confusing, as no mention is made of the extra box for up rating the cards. The dates are also confusing, as the reduced ½d rate change had nothing to do with the cards in question. These cards have been seen used in 1931 and 1932.

I am of the opinion that these statements are wrong and based on the early dates of usage, my conclusions are different.

**Conclusions:**

1. These cards were prepared for dual use as per PC10 but never issued due to the domestic rate changes in 1931.
2. The cards were up rated by the Government Printer with a ½d Springbok Head adhesive to avoid destroying them. The envelopes for the sets of cards were likewise reused with the original value obliterated and a new value added with a handstamp.
3. The issue date of these cards is not known, but the earliest used examples seen, are in December 1931 thus predating the dates given in the current literature. See Fig. 11.
4. The Post Cards have the Afrikaans inscription still unhyphenated while the cards for PC 15 & 16 were hyphenated (1933). It made no sense to print cards at a later date with Suidafrika unhyphenated again.
5. The 1934 issue date quoted in the literature is incorrect as it made no sense to issue cards a few days before the postal rate was reduced to ½d again after these had been up rated to 1d. (1 April, 1934) None has been seen without the ½d stamp added. The cards seen without a stamp added, show clear traces of where the stamp had been removed.
6. The issue date should be recorded as late 1931 and the catalogue listings and numbering should be amended accordingly.



**Domestic Postal Rates at the time of the issue of these cards:**

Prior to April 1931:	½d
1 April, 1931 increased to:	1d
1932	1d
1933 increased to	1½d
1 April, 1934 reduced to:	½d

**References:**

1. The Wembley cards of 1924 and their reissue in 1934. Chris Board and Jean Alexander. S.A. Post Card Research Group Newsletter, June 1991.
2. Ditto page 5

**Acknowledgement:**

*Chris Board for his support and help over the years trying to unravel the issue date of PC 17 and for the illustration in Fig.11.*

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## Roll Stamp Repair Joins

By Mike Tonking

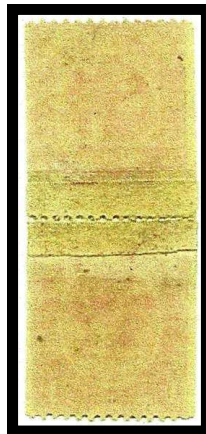
Prior to printing roll stamps in a continuous web the manufacture of the rolls was a most tedious and labour intensive process. The particularly so in the case of the KGV roll stamps (R1,R2,R3,R4) where a join had to be made every ten stamps. Thus in the case of rolls of 500 or 1200 stamps there were either 50 or 120 joins per roll. As can be imagined during the manufacturing process the operator often inadvertently broke the roll which necessitated a repair join. These can be found in all values and were made by applying a short strip of perforated paper to effect the join. This paper strip was perforated 14. On rare occasions the join was made by carefully cutting off part of the bottom stamp and sticking it to the back of the upper stamp making sure the perforations were correctly aligned.

### KGV Roll Repair Joins

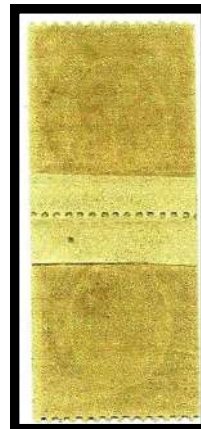
½d. R1



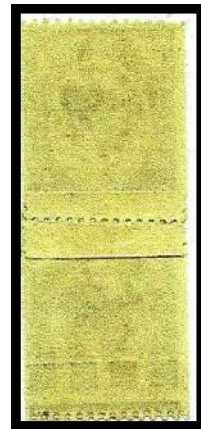
1d. R2



1½d. R3



2d. R4



2d. R4 Repair join made by cutting stamps to effect repair.



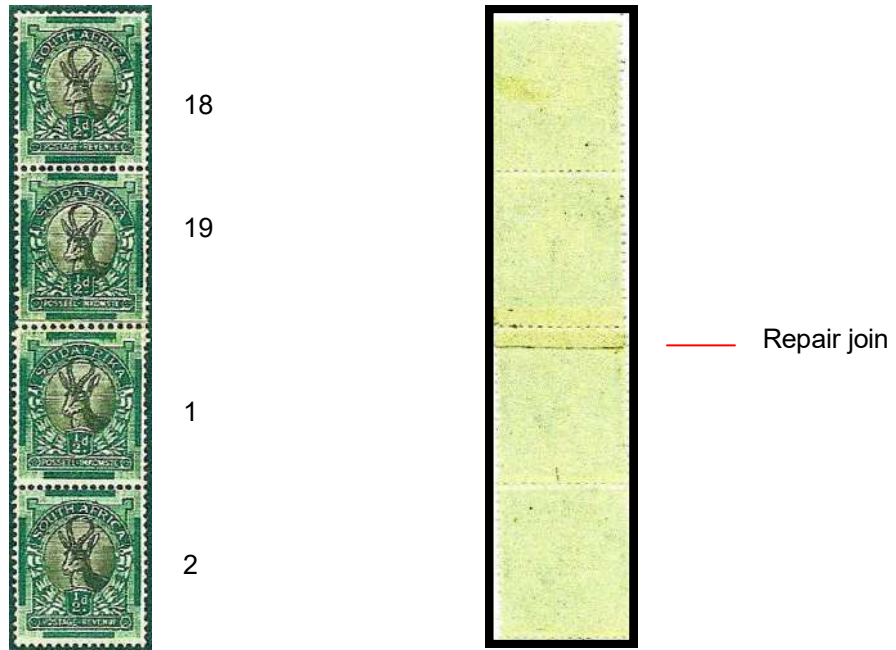
Repair join

By the time the London and Pretoria roll stamps appeared skills in making up the rolls had improved which was helped by the fact that now there were paper joins only every 20 stamps. Repair joins were rare although a single one was recorded on the 1d. R8 roll.

With the introduction of rotogravure printing in 1930 the roll stamps were now printed in a continuous web, thus for the first time, eliminating the need for paper joins and it was now possible to produce rolls of 500 or 1200 stamps without a single join. Unfortunately it was still necessary to separate the strips by hand from the web as no mechanical method of slitting the stamps from the web had been developed. Again breakages of the strips occurred which meant repair joins had to be made. Good examples are found in the ½d R9 roll which was the first of the unhyphenated rotogravure roll stamps to be issued.

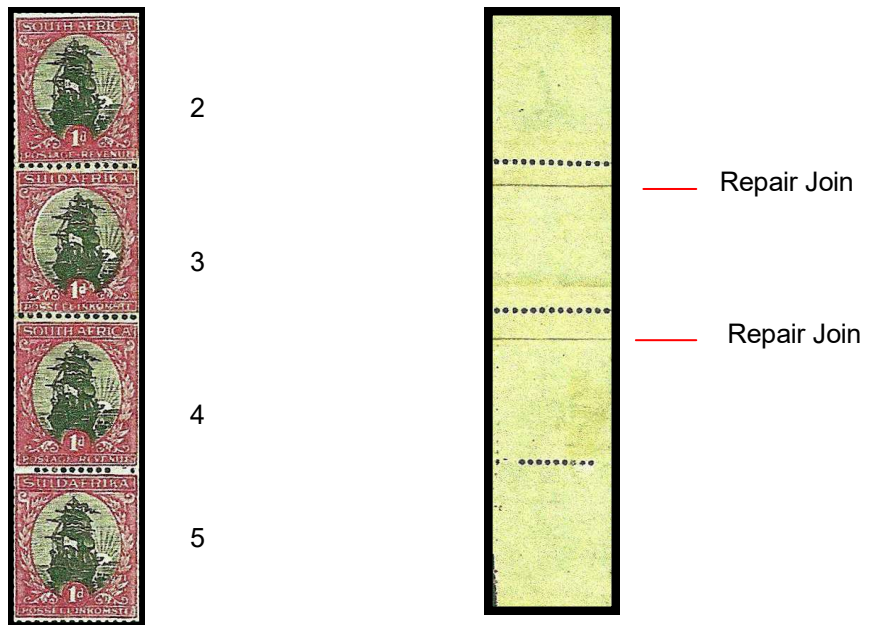
The repaired joins were, for the first time, effected by cutting off the perforations from the bottom of the last stamp and the top of the first stamp which were then fastened to a strip of gummed and perforated paper which was either perforated 13,7 or 15. These joins, at times, brought together two stamps and in rare cases three stamps with the same language setting.

R9 Coil Row 11 - stamps 18, 19, 1 and 2  
 The join required the removal of three stamps - 20, 21, and 22.



Few breakages were recorded in the rotogravure 1d. Roll R10 however the 1d. R11 was a disaster as there were numerous breakages when separating the roll strips from the web resulting in many repair joins. This was due to the very poor perforating which made the separation into roll strips difficult. There were more repair joins in this issue than any other.

Roll R11.  
 Coil row 2 stamps 2,3,4 and 5.  
 Two repair joins - original stamp 3 replaced by one from row 2/20 which can be identified by black dot in 'A' of AFRICA.



It must have been with some relief to the Government Printer that mechanical slitting of the web into rolls was introduced in 1935. Although the first ½d. R14 rolls were separated by hand this was followed by mechanical separation at a later stage.

During the twenty two years 1913 - 1935 the Government Printer was faced with the problem of roll stamp repair joins which was only solved by the introduction of continuous web printing and mechanical slitting. It is hard to imagine the high cost of roll stamp production during these years.

*References: The Stamps of the Union of South Africa - S.J. Hagger RDPSA - 1986  
 SA Stamp Study Circle Newsletters.*

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