



THE SPRINGBOK

SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY
QUARTERLY

www.southafricacollectors.com

Volume 64 No. 2



Auction and Packet material urgently required.
Auction No. 43 can be viewed on our website.



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Editorial

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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This Springbok is again a very large computer file and I continue to encounter problems sending files of this size to our members who receive the Springbok via email. In order to get the size of file down to a size that can be sent by email I have to compress it considerably, which as can be seen from the last issue reduces the colour in some images. I have two options to reduce the size of future issues. One is to reduce the size of the images and print size from 11 to 10 font, which I am reluctant to do. The other is rather than trying to email the Springbok to everyone I could send a link and let members download it themselves from my files or our website. The file size then would not matter as they would not be governed by the 10mb limit for email file sizes. I will discuss the matter at our annual meeting in June with the editorial panel, but personally, would prefer to go down the road of the second option of sending everyone a link.

Auction 43 is now available to view on our website and the Auction list will not in future be sent to members who receive the Springbok via email. Read our Auctioneers comments on page 46 of this issue.

The next Issue of the Springbok will be published at the end of August. Deadline for submissions is the 14th August.

Membership News

A warm welcome to two members

Rejoined:- Ken Ducker 906 from Gloucester

Ray Rabbetts 1141 from Sawbridgeworth

There are a number of members who have not renewed their membership

SACS Annual General Meeting and AGM 2016

I would like to confirm the dates for the two day SACS meeting in Leamington Spa as 4th & 5th June. We are at our usual venue at The Falstaff Hotel. If you have never attended, why not come along this year? You are welcome to come along just for the day if you prefer. We start on the Saturday at 11.00am and will have several displays, plus the Abell Trophy One Frame Competition (for 9 sheets) and the Annual General Meeting.

On Sunday we usually have displays of whatever members bring along followed by the auction after lunch. If you have any material for the auction, please contact Nick Arrow – HE NEEDS NEW LOTS!

If you have any questions or would like to come along, don't hesitate to contact me via email simon@africastamps.co.uk or call me on 07951 571962.

Simon Peetoom: Event Organiser

A plea for help at the New York World Stamp Show

Eddie Bridges has organised a frame, posters and promotional material for SACS but no one has come forward to offer to help him man the stand.

If you intend visiting the show and can spare an hour of your time to help please contact Eddie at e.bridges@krohne.com

Change of Venue

The Annual Southern African Conference will be held on 11th to 13th November
Honiley Court Hotel, Meer End Road, Kenilworth CV8 1NP

Carlisle Meeting Report by Malcolm Ridsdale

Held at the County Hotel, Carlisle on Saturday 19th March 2016

Attendees – David Haig, Roy Ross, Colin Moore, Eric Hammond, Peter Dix, Derek Pollard and Malcolm Ridsdale with apologies from Max Whitlock.

David Haig welcomed everybody to the 48th meeting and especially Derek Pollard who was attending his first meeting. The meeting acknowledged the recent passing of John Ahmad whose contribution to the Carlisle meetings would be sadly missed.

Items through the Chair

The next meeting will be held on the 17th September 2016 and the following one will be held on the 18th March 2017 both at the County Hotel, Carlisle. The topic of the next meeting would be “open house”

Around the Table

Before the displays were set up the meeting spent time discussing a range of SA philatelic topics including latest news from Eric’s visit to South Africa, Roy leading a discussion on the merits or otherwise of changing the font size of the Springbok to reduce printing costs and Malcolm sharing that the Library has seen a reasonable amount of activity in the last few months.

Displays

Roy Ross

RR showed FDC’s from the 1970’s with / without airmail tags and with double stamps to cover overseas postage as well as the inland rate e.g. the 1072 SPCA cat issue. These double stamp FDC’s enjoy a significant increase in value over the single stamp envelopes.

David Haig

DH displayed Boer War postcards, cards showing diamond and gold mines and early SA postcards that he had recently acquired.

His second display was centred around cards and covers from the SWA Herero War.

Derek Pollard

DP showed WW2 covers from different theatres of the war including East and North Africa and Italy detailing the journey that SA forces mail took. It was noted that SA forces all became volunteers once the operational theatre was outside of Africa. He also displayed a few military WW1 covers.

Peter Dix

PD showed paquebot marks on cards and letters across a variety of Union Castle liners. He also showed a number of menus from Union Castle liners including a menu signed by the 1956 MCC cricket team including many famous names from that era.

Colin Moore

CM displayed postcards and booklets of biblical stamps and First Day cards of RSA stamps in 1998/9.

Eric Hammond

EH showed postcards of Cape Town docks and shipping that called at SA on their voyages. Although most of the images were black and white they showed lots of images that are now long gone with the advent of the new “dock” area that has replaced these old vistas.

The meeting closed at approximately 2.45pm.

South African Collector's Society

Income and Expenditure to 31 December 2015

Income		Expenditure	
Subscriptions collected	1,981.04	Purchase SA Mag	299.00
Subscriptions S A Mag	299.00	Springbok 4 magazines	1,705.63
Auction Income NA	1,182.70	Rent London	40.50
Photocopy sales	413.13	Rent Carlisle	50.00
Package Circuit Surplus	46.30	Books Library	88.44
Donation	60.00	Stamp Insurance	8.80
Advertising Magazine	90.00	Abps and handbook	95.70
		Website	265.12
		Trophies	57.55
		sundry	1.22
Interest	24.50	Rent Letchworth	10.00
		Leamington June	62.40
	<u>4,096.67</u>		<u>2,684.36</u>
Surplus for year	<u>1,412.31</u>		

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2015

Bank Current	8,932.61	Subs 2016	1,138.30
Cash	81.73		
S.A. Rands 2684 @18	149.11		
Deposit Account	3,087.14		
Packet Fund Account	<u>0.92</u>		
	12,251.51		
Copier	1.00		
Trophies	893.80		
		Brought Forward	10,595.70
		Surplus for year	<u>1,412.31</u>
Totals	<u>13,146.31</u>		<u>13,146.31</u>

Notes

The accounts show a healthy position from a financial point of view.

The auction money has been very good this year and thanks to Nick for his hard work.

The packet income has almost disappeared which Tony reports on separately.

Stamp Exchange Packets for the Society

As those of you will know who subscribe to the Exchange Packet system there has been a dearth of packets recently. This has been due to a lack of material to circulate. I was expecting to have to suspend the packets at the end of 2015 as the insurance is currently costing more than we can hope to charge vendors for and this led to a financial loss last year. However, I received a few books recently, and have been promised more, that enabled me to get 1 packet out recently. If the promised books turn up as well I will be able to send out another. As the packet account had enough money, just, to pay this year's insurance I have renewed it and am keeping my fingers crossed more books will turn up. However, if we don't receive about 30 new books a year it cannot pay and at the end of this year it will have to close with little or no money to pass on to the Society. We lost two of our most prolific vendors 2 years ago and that is why we have suddenly come to this position as their material has not been replaced by new vendors.

So, if you have any material you want to sell to make room for more, please use it to supply me with a few books as soon as you can. I will need make a decision in the Autumn so that I can close it sensibly. So, if you plan to send me books late in the year please email before you do so I can tell you whether we can continue.

Tony Johnson

Packets Exchange Manager

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Society Auction Manager's Report

With this issue of the Springbok comes the Auction for the meeting in June - nearly 340 lots of varied material. Please note that no photographs are included with the Auction sheet, a decision which I have taken in the interests of economy. It is of course expensive to print sheets of illustrations, which are sent out to all the members. Of the 145 or so members of the Society, experience has shown that there will be about 25+ members who will vote by post, and perhaps about 25 or so who attend the Auction venue in order to vote - an excellent percentage showing an interest in the Auction, but of course it leaves about 100 or so members who do not, but who receive the Auction and its photographs.

The cost of preparing the sheets of photograph and the extra postal costs to send them to the 100 or so members who do not participate will thus be saved and the profitability of the Auction generally will be increased!

However, the photos of the various lots marked "P" in the Auction list will be included on the Society's webpage, www.southafricacollectors.com, which is so expertly managed by Otto, enabling those who wish to bid by post electronically to inspect any of the illustrated lots by following the links on the webpage. Members not on the internet can of course get in touch with me, and I will send out photos of any lots in which they are interested, and this will include lots which are NOT marked "P" in the list - all I ask for is a stamped and addressed envelope. I hope you will agree that this is a "win/win" situation!

My plea, which was sent out by Chris Oliver in February, has resulted in some nice material which will be offered in November, BUT (and I am sorry to sound like an old record playing the same groove over and over again) I still need a LOT MORE MATERIAL.

The January auction was not well supported and did not justify the effort. Consequently, I have taken the decision that, UNLESS, the quantity of material which I have to sell increases exponentially in the future, the January postal auction will not take place, enabling me to concentrate my efforts on the two live Auctions in June and November.

I will be taking a lot of the old material under my control (most of which was not sold in the January Auction!) to the June meeting, held at The Falstaff Hotel Leamington Spa, and this will be available at reserve on a first come first served basis. A list will be available at the meeting, and if anyone who is not attending the June meeting can ask for the list and I will send it out - you can even buy it in advance of the meeting! The list will be somewhat erratic in its layout, but will hopefully marry up some of the material to a good home!

Nick Arrow

Auction Manager

The SACS Library Report: by Malcolm Ridsdale SACS Hon Librarian

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

Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue – Southern and Central Africa 2nd Edition 2014. The latest SG edition of this catalogue covering an area from Malawi to South Africa and Mozambique to Namibia plus pre independence states etc.

The South African Stamp Colour Catalogue 34th Edition 2015. The latest SASCC with greater detail of south African stamps than SG but prices in SA Rands.

South Africa in the Sixties by a variety of editors. A 1960's socio – economic survey reviewing the progress of South Africa as a developing nation.

The Heart of the Hunter by Laurens Van Der Post. A book printed in 1961 relating tales of the Bushmen in the Kalahari.

Young Traveller in South Africa by Anthony Delius. A 1959 reprint of a book originally published in 1947 relating to a trip through SA by father and son.

South African Journey by Bernard Newman. The author's visit to SA in 1964 and the faithful recording of his impressions.

The Discarded People by Father Cosmos Desmond. A 1971 account of African resettlement in Natal at a difficult time in SA history.

They Come to South Africa by Fay Jaff. A 1963 book containing biographies of people who have played their part in the development of SA including Emily Hobhouse and Lord Baden Powell.

The Golden Land by Julian Mockford. A reprint of a 1949 book relating to background to SA's development in the mid twentieth century.

Somewhere South of Suez by Douglas Reed. A 1950 book relating to the world drama of the time seen through SA eyes.

They Were South Africans by John Bond. A 1950's publication charting the rise of English speaking South Africans.

Chaka The Terrible by Geoffrey Bond. A 1961 publication charting Shaka's rise to eventual head of the Zulu tribe.

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

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

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Association of British Philatelic Societies Exhibition update

Forthcoming National Exhibitions

These exhibitions are open to all-comers, whether resident in the United Kingdom or not.

ABPS York Fair 2016, National Exhibition will include all classes including Open Philately and Picture Postcards.

15th - 16th July 2016 York Racecourse, York YO23 1EX Closing date: 16th May 2016.

ABPS Autumn Stampex 2016, National Exhibition will include all classes including Open Philately and Picture Postcards.

Specialist displays by GVI Society and a celebration of Cinderella Philately with the International Cinderella Congress. Volker Köppel will show his invited display of the German Philatelist Days - 1889-2013.

14th - 17th September 2016 Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 0QH

Closing date: 7th July 2016.

We are pleased to announce that all British exhibitions are now open to non-competitive entries. These may be wholly philatelic or made up of non-traditional material. If any collector would like to display material out of competition, just complete the entry form, tick the non-competitive box, and we will be pleased to see your display.

For further information visit the website at <http://www.abps.org.uk/Exhibiting/Exhibitions/index.xalter> or contact exhibiting@abps.org.uk

International

Forthcoming International Exhibitions

Taipei 2016 21st to 26th October 2016 FIP Patronage FIAP Auspices

Closing date 31st March 2016

PHILATAIPEI 2016 WSC Exhibition, Taipei World Trade Centre, Exhibition Hall 1.

Commissioner Chris King Chris.King@postalhistory.net

Finlandia 2017 24th to 28th May 2017 Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Finland (1917-2017).

All Classes

This will be the largest Stamp Exhibition in Europe in 2017 with around 2200 exhibition frames.

To be held at Tampere-Hall, Tampere, Finland. May 24th – 28th, 2017 under FEPA Patronage and FIP Recognition.

Open to exhibitors from all FEPA countries, the United States of America and Australia.

Competitive Exhibition classes include:

1. FEPA Grand Prix Class
2. Traditional Philately
3. Postal History
4. Aerophilately
5. Revenue Philately
6. Postal Stationery
7. Thematic Philately
8. Open Philately
9. Picture Postcards
10. Youth Philately
11. Philatelic Literature

UK Commissioner Bill Hedley ewlhedley@yahoo.co.uk

Closing date 31st May 2016: Website <https://finlandia2017.fi>

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From the Editors Desk

Shortage of Stamps: An article from the Cape Times January 2106 sent to me by member **Eric Hammond**

Pretoria: Post offices around Pretoria are experiencing a shortage of stamps in the wake of last year's strikes which brought postal services to a halt nationwide.

Counter staff at the Pretoria post office estimated that it had been four months since they last had any stamps in stock.

Reporters of the Cape Times sister paper Pretoria News attempted to purchase traditional mail stamps at post offices in Pretoria, but were told there were no stamps available and instead it would be necessary to present the envelope to be directly stamped in ink.

While less artistic than conventional stamps, this is still a valid marking for postage.

Professor Alex Visser, past president of the Philatelic Federation of SA, said he had been reassured by the SA Post Office (SAPO) that they were committed to ensuring that the supply of stamps would be restored as soon as possible. "It was indicated that getting the stamp distribution system going again was one of their top priorities" said Visser.

Anyone who wishes to send mail should ensure they have addressed their envelopes before taking them to their nearest post office, where they will be able to pay the postage and have the ink stamp applied to their envelope.

Khulani Qoma, of SAPO, said the issue was a result of "unresolved payment matters" with suppliers and declared that the supply issue had already been resolved, meaning post offices would see stock levels back to normal soon.

Qoma said supermarkets were likely to still have a supply of stamps.

"Customers can still buy stamps at Pick n Pay, Shoprite and some CNAs and Spars" the spokesperson said.

Had anyone had any experience of this, if so, send me a copy and I will publish a picture of the ink stamp. Ed.

MIDGET TOWN

A Reply from David Macdonald

Re the article on the subject of MIDGET TOWN cachet, The Springbok Vol. 64/1, I would advise that I have an almost identical card to the one illustrated. Same handwriting and address, all that is missing are the words "Last Day". The cachet is in blue dated 16 Jan 1937.

The Special & Commemorative Postmarks, Cachets and Covers of South Africa" by H O Reisener page 36 refers to "MIDGET TOWN - EMPIRE EXHIBITION JOHANNESBURG" and illustrates a cancel with the date 11 Jan 1937, however, there is no specific start and end date of use; only September 1936 to January 1937.

The text is as follows:-

This "postmark" is strictly unofficial. A group of midgets erected a midget town in the Amusement Park of the Empire Exhibition. They sold souvenirs and other items in their little shops and gave performances for the amusement of the spectator. They also put up a small "Post Office" where they sold postcards. If franked, these were postmarked with their own "special date-stamp" and handed back. Some were sent through the post. The midgets made capital out of purchasing JIPEX sheets by standing repeatedly in the queue on the opening day. Only one pair was supplied to a ticket holder at the temporary post office at the philatelic exhibition. The midgets went around and around the queue and so obtained many sheets which they sold at a premium.

Clearly the midgets were an enterprising group. Hope this info helps.

A Reply from Nick Arrow

Concerning the note in the January Springbok about the date of the Midget Town SPM. I have 3 examples of this mark and they are indeed ALL dated the 16th January 1937 - I had not realised the significance of this.

Intriguingly, one of my three items is NOT addressed to Fred Roper!
If it is of any interest to you, I have a card of the Midgets and Fred Roper, which was posted early on in the exhibition (and does not have the Midget Town mark), standing outside their "Midget Town".

A Reply from Chris Oliver

Springbok Volume 64 / 1 page 8 - MIDGET TOWN postmark.

In Reisener, mention is made of the Midget Town cancellation, as follows:- *Text as in David Macdonald reply.*

The date stamp always appears to have the "7" inverted on the year 1937 and is in a pale blue double ring cancellation, 31.5 / 22 mm. in diameter. I have only seen it on the overseas postal card with the 16. JAN. 1937 date, as that illustrated in the Springbok, but, from Reisener's description and illustration, it would seem that Midget Town and its postmark were in existence from 15th September 1936 until 1st February 1937.

Until we find other dates apart from the last day then Reisener could be wrong with his dates of usage - Ed.

Show Grounds or Show Gardens The Springbok Vol. 64/1 Page 9

A Reply from Nick Arrow:

Dear Bob

Apropos your note in the last Springbok, I have not seen this mark before.

However, I have a cover with a SPM of "Rosebank Showground".

I would therefore suspect that "grds" in your item refers to "Grounds" rather than Gardens.

Yours

Nick

Swap & Wants Corner

Dear Editor,

What a great idea to have a wants list column in the journal. I am all for it. Don't have much in the way of trades but would happily buy. Two items which I have been looking for ages are the following;

SACC NUMBERS 1 and 1a Union 2 1/2 d both UM.

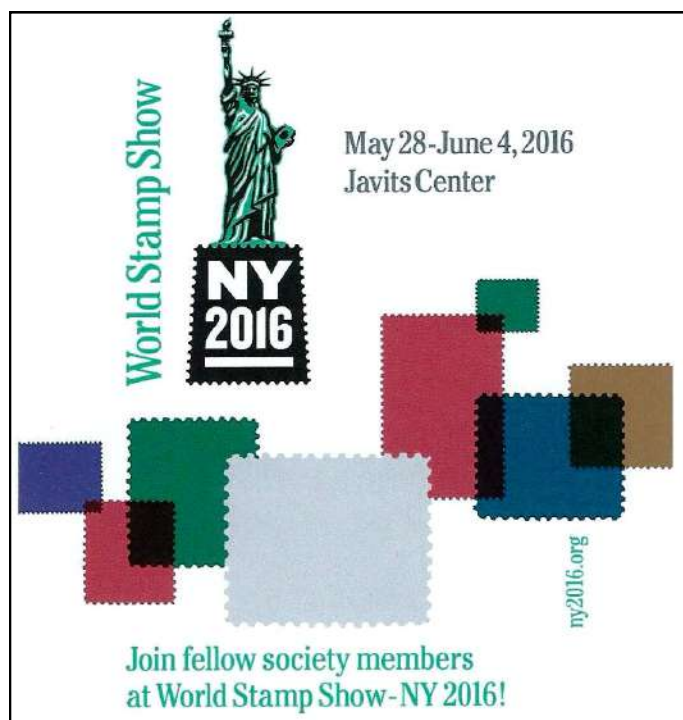
Tom can be contacted via the Editor

Tom Casey [884]

The Editor has a large number of The Buildings, Fourth Definitive, control blocks for sale or swap for First definitive items.

Agenda of the A.G.M. of the South African Collectors' Society to be held at The Falstaff Hotel, Leamington Spa at 17.00hrs on Saturday, 4th June 2016.

1. Apologies.
2. Record of previous A.G.M. [see Springbok 63/3 80]
3. Matters arising if not included elsewhere in the agenda.
4. The Hon. Chairman's written report.
5. The Hon. Secretary's written report.
6. The Hon. Treasurer's report & statement on subscriptions for 2016.
7. Reports from other officers of the Society, if any.
8. Election of Officers and committee.
9. Ratification of Library Fund.
At present we allocate £200 per annum to enable the Hon. Librarian to purchase new books for the Library.
10. Society meetings and events :
 - a) A brief report on those held. [if not already recorded in The Springbok.]
 - b) S.A.C.S. meetings in Carlisle and London proposed for 2017.
 - c) Other meetings for S.A.C.S. in 2017.
 - d) British Philatelic Congress at Camborne.
 - e) Any others: Swinpex
11. S.A.C.S. support for Youth Philately.
In previous years we have made a donation to support this. Do we wish to continue so to do?
12. S.A.C.S. occasional monographs & their printing.
13. A.O.B. – if notified to the Hon. Secretary prior to the meeting.



**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

Gems Abound in WSS-NY 2016

World Stamp Show-NY 2016 is pleased to announce that it has finalized arrangements to display an unprecedented array of priceless philatelic material in the exhibition's Court of Honour and Invited Exhibits.

The world's most valuable stamp will be there, the unique British Guiana one cent magenta, which was sold at auction June 17, 2014 for \$9.48 million dollars to fashion shoe designer Stuart Weitzman. Its celebrated story of being found in 1873 by a 12 year old schoolboy is legendary. The stamp is on a three-year loan to the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum and will be in a special display case at their booth through Friday of the show.

The world's first two postage stamps will be represented by truly remarkable items courtesy of The Postal Museum of Great Britain and their National Archives. Two specially designed frames will feature two sheets: the very first printed registration sheet of the Penny Black, plate 1 before hardening, dated April 15, 1840; and the earliest known example of the two penny blue, a sheet from plate 3 from January 1841. Both sheets, originally of 240 examples, are nearly intact with just a couple dozen of each removed. The 1d sheet has never been shown outside of the United Kingdom, while the 2d sheet has never been on public display anywhere. A presentation about them, "Postal Reform & the Penny Black," will be given at 10:30 AM on Tuesday, May 31 by Douglas N. Muir, Senior Curator, Philately, The Postal Museum.

The earliest known example of the Penny Black postage stamp from the collection of Alan Holyoake will also be on display. It was recently discovered in the personal archive of Robert Wallace, the leading postal reformer of the time, who created an archive of items dealing with Great Britain's penny postage program of 1840. The stamp, lettered A I, comes from the first row of the sheet printed from the first printing plate 1a completed on April 8, 1840. The stamp is attached on a sheet of stout paper together with a proof of a Mulready, as presented by Rowland Hill to the Council of Academicians on April 10 for approval of the proposed design, which was enthusiastically given. At the top of this sheet Wallace inscribed in his own hand, "1st Proof of Penny Postage Stamp Cover, presented to Mr. Wallace by the Right Honable. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Francis Thornhill Baring, April 10th, 1840." and endorsed beneath the stamp, "Universal Penny Postage Fly or Loose Stamp, presented to me Mr Wallace as above" and noted "These come into public use on the 6th of May 1840".

The postal history of the small Indian Ocean island of Mauritius is forever entwined with the story behind its first issue of 1847. Lady Gomm, wife of the governor, was planning a lavish ball and decorated the invitation envelopes with new-fangled postage stamps hastily produced by a local watch maker. Each was to have been inscribed "Post Paid," but shortly after being released were found to bear "Post Office" instead. It is believed fourteen 1d orange red and twelve 2d deep blue stamps have survived, along with only three Ball covers. The only such cover in public hands will be on display, from the collection of Vikram Chand.

All of these rarities and many more await visitors to World Stamp Show-NY 2016. The 8 day exhibition takes place May 28 through June 4 at the Javits Center in New York City.

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Interesting Card Update

By Roy Ross

I have found the following information about the origins of this card published in The Springbok Vol 63 No.4 It shows troops on manoeuvres between 7 - 27th April 1967 with a Field Post Office datestamp (FPO. 1)

The SAP May 1967 states: The specially designed datestamp that was first used during the Republic Festival in May last year was brought into use again in April 1967. Troops were engaged on manoeuvres during the period 7 to 27 April and a Post Office military unit provided postal facilities for them when the datestamp was used.

The Code letters "A" and "B" in the datestamp indicate whether postal articles were posted during the morning or afternoon respectively. The Office was closed on Saturday afternoons and Sundays. The Philatelic Bureau, Pretoria, undertook to service envelopes with this datestamp as well.

So the only difference between the two series will be in the dates; the first was between the 18th May and the 4th June, 1966 and the second between the 7th and 27th April 1967. It is interesting to notice that no mention is made of where the manoeuvres were held in either case.



April 2016



Page 51

Datestamp showing 'A' in date therefore this card was posted in the morning or was it just serviced at the Philatelic Bureau ?

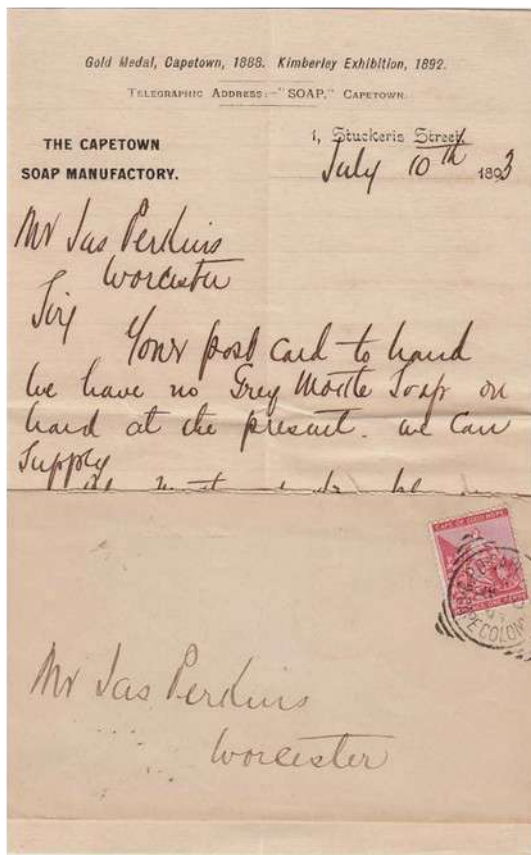
The Springbok Vol. 64/2

PRE UNION EXHIBITIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

by Lyn & Rob Lester

It would appear that little is recorded in books or philatelic literature in respect of the earlier Exhibitions in South Africa before the Union of 1910, especially those Exhibitions where philatelic material exists.

Most philatelists have probably heard of the 1892 Kimberley Exhibition or, to give it the correct name *'The South African & International Exhibition.'* It was opened on 8th September 1892 in Kimberley and lasted for a period of three months. How many, however, have heard of the Cape Town Exhibition of 1877 and 1888, or indeed *The Grahamstown Industrial & Arts Exhibition* of 1898 - 1899, or *The Port Elizabeth Trades & Industrial Exhibition 1905?*



'CAPE TOWN SOAP MANUFACTORY' letter dated 10th July 1893 including reference in its heading to 'CAPE TOWN 1888' and 'KIMBERLEY EXHIBITION 1892'

We thought it appropriate therefore to record what we have found out about these Exhibitions and to illustrate the philatelic material and medals relating to them. We assume there is other material, unknown to us, which relates to these Exhibitions.

The first major Exhibition which started the ball rolling was held in London in 1851 and is affectionately known as 'The Great Exhibition' of Crystal Palace. This was a *'Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations'* with its huge elegant glass and steel structure designed by Joseph Paxton to house thousands of exhibits from around the world. It set the standard for the displaying of Victorian achievements. This was later followed by International Exhibitions across the world in places such as New York, London, Paris, Chicago, Melbourne, Dunedin, Philadelphia and in 1877 the first International Exhibition in Cape Town.

From a philatelic view point we are not aware that any recognition was given by the Cape Colony Postal Authorities to the 1877 Cape Town Exhibition, and we do not have any material that references it. Medals were, however, issued to winning exhibitors. A second International Exhibition was also held in Cape Town in 1888. Exhibits here were also awarded medals and our first philatelic reference is a letter from 'The Cape Town Soap Manufactory' shown on the left. On its heading it proudly states, *'Gold Medal, Cape Town, 1888'*. We have seen no other philatelic reference to the

Exhibition and again it appears the Cape Colony Postal Authorities did not deem the event worthy of philatelic facilities.



Specially printed 'KIMBERLEY' exhibition cover, date stamped 9th May 1892, four months before the Exhibition opening date.

This letter also leads us into the 'South African & International Exhibition' held in Kimberley in 1892, and again the Cape Town, Soap Manufactory won a gold medal at the Kimberley Exhibition. This was the first Exhibition to be recognised by the Cape Colony Postal Authorities. Although it was not a philatelic Exhibition in its own right, the organising committee were able to advertise the event by using specially printed Exhibition covers in pre Exhibition correspondence.

Whilst the committee used these covers for their correspondence they also used specially printed post cards based on those produced by the Postal Authorities in 1889 comprising a ½d red brown image of Queen Victoria on card with a 'KIMBERLEY EXHIBITION, 1892' pre-printed message on the reverse. The message gives notice of a meeting of the general committee on the evening of Monday 27th July 1891 at 8.00pm. It contains a standard Kimberley C.G.H. date stamp of 25 July 1891.

KIMBERLEY EXHIBITION, 1892.

Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of the General Committee will be held in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, on MONDAY Evening, 27th inst., at 8 o'clock, for General business.

By order of the
Provisional Executive Committee,

LITCHFIELD GREEN,
SECRETARY.

*Ebden-street,
Kimberley, 24th July, 1891.*

Post card dated 24th July 1891 entitled 'KIMBERLEY EXHIBITION, 1892' giving notice of a general committee meeting in the Town Hall on Monday 27th July 1891 at 8.00pm.

The Postal Authorities provided the Exhibition organisers with the first individual special date stamp in recognition of the Exhibition. This is a simple single circle date stamp 22mm in diameter and contains the word 'EXHIBITION' in the upper aspect with 'KIMBERLEY' at the bottom, separated by two stops. The date 'OC 31 92', 31st October 1892 occurs in two lines in the centre of the post mark. Fig. 4

There appears to be no record that the special date stamp was used on mail posted at the Exhibition and indeed there is no reference in the plan of the Exhibition to a location of a temporary post office. The main Exhibition buildings, designed by local Kimberley Architect D. W. Greatbatch, contained courts

in which companies displayed their products. There were 10 different sized courts each with themed exhibits, joined into one main building reported to be 50,000 square feet in area and 290 feet long. The construction, started in 1892, was still being extended to accommodate more exhibitors as the Exhibition opening date approached, which was one of the reasons Greatbatch's design won the completion, as it allowed for these late construction additions.

From a philatelic point of view there are few examples of the special Exhibition date stamp known. Robert Goldblatt suggests in his book, 'Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope' on page 187 that "The Exhibition brochure mentions that postal facilities would be available to visitors and exhibitors." We believe the card illustrated



Fig. 4



below, is evidence that a temporary post office existed at the Exhibition, as it contains two of the special Exhibition date stamps tying the one penny Victoria's head and the 1/2d Hope seated stamp. The card also contains a standard Kimberley post mark of the same date suggesting it was date stamped initially at the Exhibition and then taken to the normal Kimberley Post Office to receive a standard Kimberley post mark before its onward journey to Germany. For interest the card is date stamped on arrival in London (DE 12 92) before arriving in Germany where it received the final arrival date stamp.



Post card with two special Exhibition date stamps of 21st November 1892.

The message on the reverse of the card is of interest and is written in Sütterlin German. It is from Isidor Hanau, who was a 'Representative of European Manufacturers' and reads;

Dear Ernst, Today I received the list of event medals. No time to write to each company. Would therefore ask you to let the respective companies know as follows; Frankenburger Ottenstein; Gold medal for tricycles, Bronze medal for bicycles, M Offenbacher; Bronze medal for looking glasses. Veremi Pinsel Jahr; Bronze medal for brushware; Probst & Co; Bronze medal for combs. In a hurry, your brother-in-law Isidor. See you here on 20th Dec.

Clearly this card was written and posted at the Exhibition and although the message is related to the exhibition awards, it is genuinely commercially used.

In Cape Post Office Circular 117 of 1st September 1891 it advises the Cape Government would allow correspondence to be sent from the secretary of the Exhibition organising committee, free of charge, providing the letters were taken to the Office of the Civil Commissioner, where they would receive a special cachet and signature before being passed to the Post Office. For some reason there are three differing cachets recorded, which are illustrated from our collection below in date use order.



Special Kimberley Exhibition cover with 53mm diameter cachet in blue ink dated 30th January 1892



Fig. 7

Special 40mm Kimberley Exhibition cachet on Cover addressed to Dr Te Water dated 27th June 1892

Cover addressed to the 'Secy - Afrikander Bonds, Graaf Reinet' with the largest of the three cachets, dated '30 JAN. 92'. It has the signature of 'A Ramsey' lying diagonally across the special Exhibition cachet. He must have been an authorised signatory from the Civil Commissioners Office and able to endorse the free post facility. The name 'Dr Te Water', a prominent Cape Medical practitioner and politician appears next to 'Secy', and may well have been added later to the cover as Te Water was chairman of the Afrikander Bonds at the time. The cover is back stamped 'Graaff Reinet' 2nd February 1892 on arrival. The cachet, in blue ink, comprises a double outer ring with the words 'South African & International Exhibition, Kimberley, 1892' starting at the base and running clockwise, separated by a small star.

The second cachet is also circular but smaller in diameter at only 40mm and in purple ink. Again it comprises a double outer ring with the words 'South African & International Exhibition'

in the upper aspect with 'Kimberley 1892' at the base. In the centre of this cachet, however, there is no date, but it is endorsed by a signature diagonally across the cachet, with the name 'J Robinson'. The cover is addressed to 'Dr Te Water, Graaff Reinet'. It is a pre-printed cover from the 'Griqualand West Branch. Brit. Medical Assoc'. It also contains a standard Kimberley post mark of 27th June 1892 with control letter P. The cover is back stamped Graaf Reinet 29 June 1892 on arrival and is illustrated Fig. 7.



Special Exhibition Cover with oval cachet surmounted with Coat of Arms, dated 5th July 1892

The third cachet is oval shaped measuring 43mm x 30mm and surmounted by the Coat of Arms of the Cape of Good Hope. The oval comprises a double outer ring with the words 'South African & International Exhibition' in the upper aspect with 'Kimberley 1892' at the base separated by two stars. The cachet contains no date but is endorsed by 'J Alf Ellis,' the secretary of the Cape Town Committee, and contains a hand scripted date of 5th July 1892. The cover, addressed locally in Cape Town initially, is a Special Kimberley Exhibition cover, with 'South African and International Exhibition, Kimberley, 1892.' printed in capital letters across the top of the cover with a line under. The cover is readdressed to 'Simons Town', and whilst it is endorsed for free postage initially it also contains a 1d rose-red and pair of 1/2 d black Cape of Good Hope first definitive issues with 'Hope' seated. These stamps are tied with an 1891 Compass Wheel date stamp, used only in the Post Offices of Cape Town and Oudtshoorn. The post mark is dated 5 July 1892, the same date as the hand scripted endorsement. The cover is also back stamped, 'Simons Town Cape Colony' on 5th July 1892 on arrival. The stamps were probably added as a redirection charge, despite the initial free post.

There appears to be no explanation as to why there were 3 different cachets used. These cachets are very scarce as their purpose was for free post, which meant that no stamps were required to the covers. In 1892, whilst stamps may have been a collectable item, covers without stamps would no doubt have been discarded.

The Exhibition was opened by Sir Henry Brougham Loch, Governor of The Cape Colony at noon on 8th September 1892. He was also President of the Exhibition Executive Committee. The opening ceremony included a guard of Honour, with guns firing a Royal salute and the playing of the National Anthem, followed by a procession of dignitaries assembled in front of 2,500 people. Sir Henry Loch was presented with a diamond-studded golden key and after speeches a 200 person choir, specially assembled for the occasion sang the Hallelujah Chorus. Throughout the day there were special events celebrating the opening, culminating with a spectacular public firework display that night in the Public Gardens in Kimberley.

From a visitor point of view the Exhibition was a huge success with records showing 399,950 people attended over the three month period. It was certainly the largest Exhibition at the time to be staged in Southern Africa. From a financial viewpoint however it lost over £40,000, which was eventually paid by Cecil Rhodes. From a business point of view many of the exhibitors did not consider it successful which is evidenced by a series of pre-printed post cards produced by 'Butler Brothers', Midland News Office in Craddock.

Cont'

Post Cards appear to have been sent to many of the overseas exhibitors on 11th November 1892 stating 'The International Exhibition Kimberley, 1892, has been a comparative failure from the Exhibitor's point of view. The Colonists have not gone to see it. The Exhibitors must now go to the Colonists through the Papers that are read. Per same post we send a copy of "The Midland News and "Karoo Farmer" which contains some notes of the Exhibition.' Clearly Butler Brothers were using the comparative failure of the Exhibition to sell advertising space in their newspapers.

FROM BUTLER BROTHERS. Cradock, *11th November, 1892.*
 "MIDLAND NEWS" Office,

The International Exhibition, Kimberley, 1892,

HAS been a comparative failure from the Exhibitor's point of view. The Colonists have not gone to see it. **The Exhibitors must now go to the Colonists through the Papers that are read.** Per same post we send a copy of

"The MIDLAND NEWS and KARROO FARMER,"

which contains some notes on the Exhibition. Look through the paper and you will see how it is patronised by Colonial advertisers. The rates for

Standing Advertisements are

40/-	per inch per annum	double column
20/-	"	" single "
Two issues per week		

BUTLER BROTHERS, CRADOCK, CAPE COLONY. Proprietors and Publishers.

London Agent: Mr. T. Hall, 9, Queen-st Place, London, E.C.

Pre-printed Exhibition Card from Butler Brothers selling advertising space in their newspapers based on the comparative failure of the Exhibition from the Exhibitors viewpoint.

We have two of these cards, one addressed to 'Messrs E. Remy & Co, Louvain. 8 Lower Thames Street, London, EC.' and the other to, 'Dr Roubaix Oedenkoven & Co, Antwerp'. Both were dated 11th November 1892 and both have receiving stamps in London and Anvers on 3rd December 1892.

The organising committee of the South African & International Exhibition also awarded medals to exhibitors. These comprised three types, Gilded Bronze (Gold), Silver and Bronze.

All medals have the same image on the obverse face that being a diamond miner in shirt sleeves and hat, standing facing the front with his right foot resting on a shovel, held upright in his right hand. Next to him on his right is a wheelbarrow, and a sieve and pick. Behind him is an image of a pulley head-works on the rim of Kimberley hole. At the bottom of the design is engraved 'Mint Bham Ltd', confirming that the medals were manufactured by the Birmingham Mint in England. On a raised border edged with an alternating pattern of dots and diamonds is engraved 'South African & International Exhibition' in the upper aspect, with 'Kimberley 1892' at the base. They are all 44 mm in diameter. The gilded bronze medal weighs 40 grams, silver 46 grams and bronze 39.5 grams.



Obverse face of Bronze Medal

Fig. 10



Reverse face of Silver Medal

The Silver medal illustrated Fig. 10 was awarded to 'Messrs Rouyer Guillet & Co / Cognac / For French Brandy.'

Similarly three types of medallions were manufactured in Gilded Bronze, Nickel and Bronze, by Harns & Co, of Du Toitspan Road, Kimberley. They held the selling rights for the souvenir medallions for the Exhibition and had a stand in Court H, the Selling Court. There is no manufacturers mark on the medallion. It is smaller than the Exhibition medal measuring 28.5mm in diameter and weighing only 8.4 grams, without loop or 8.7 grams with loop. The medallions were manufactured with and without a loop at the top. They are commonly known as 'Spes Bona' (Good Hope) medallions and we assume they were handed out at the Exhibition to visitors. Fig. 10



Obverse face of Bronze Exhibition Medallion

Fig. 11



Reverse face of Bronze Exhibition Medallion

The obverse, Fig.11, contains an image of Sir Henry Broughton Loch, the Governor of Cape Colony and President of the Exhibition Executive Committee. On a raised border is engraved 'South African & International Exhibition Kimberley 1892.' On the reverse face of the medallion is a birds eye view of the Exhibition Hall with 'Spes Bona' within a ribbon located in the exergue.

One further medallion was produced for the Exhibition which was made from Bronze and inscribed on the reverse 'Westfalia Lünen'. It is distinctive by incorporating a loop at the top of the medallion. On the obverse is a copy of the Kimberley Exhibition medal, but it is a crude representation of the image. There is no manufacturers mark at the base of the image suggesting these medals were not minted at the Birmingham Mint. It is assumed that the manufacturer was Westfalia Lünen, a company in the Ruhr area of Germany, and a world leader at the time in the manufacture of mining equipment, particularly for coal mining. The medallions are 45 mm in diameter and weigh 32.5 grams. It is assumed they were manufactured for promotional reasons and may have been sold at the Exhibition or even given away free to visitors. Fig. 12



Obverse face of Westfalia Lünen Medallion

Fig. 12



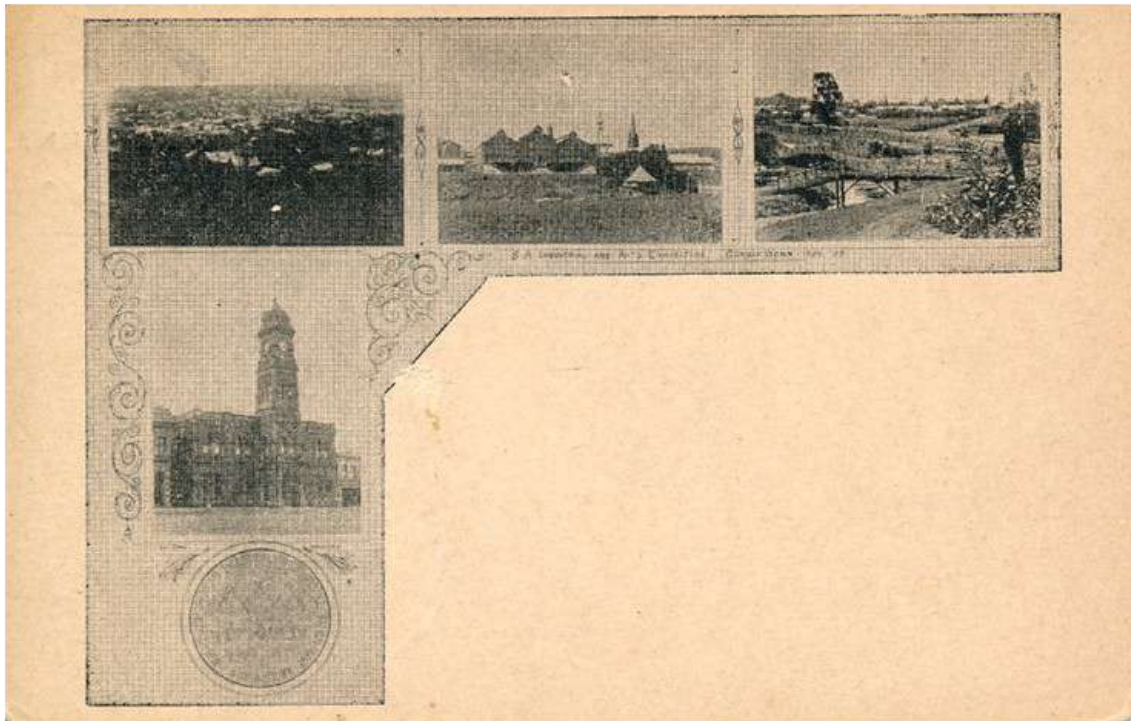
Reverse face of Westfalia Lünen Medallion

Following the Kimberley Exhibition of 1892 Grahamstown staged their second industrial Exhibition on 15th December 1898 through to 21st January 1899. The first Exhibition held in Grahamstown, ten years earlier, was in 1887- 1888 and had no philatelic material that is known of to recognise the event. The second Exhibition, however, was more ambitious. It is known as the 'South African Industrial & Arts Exhibition'. Grahamstown had a population of 12,000 people of which 7,000 were white, at the turn of the Century.

Cont'

It had, however, only 200 businesses with a much reduced commercial community from that of the mid 1800's when, as a garrison town, it was vibrant. With the troops being withdrawn in the 1870's the town became commercially impoverished. The purpose of the Exhibitions was to reinvigorate the local economy in an attempt to bring back the commerce that had deserted Grahamstown in favour of other towns. According to Grocott's Mail, the local newspaper at the time, 171,433 tickets were sold for the Exhibition and, on one day alone, over 6,000 visitors attended arriving by ox-wagon, coaches and train. The President of the Exhibition was John Syms Willcox, who was also Mayor of Grahamstown seven times and worked for H. C. Galpin, a local firm of Watchmakers and Silversmiths. They exhibited diamond rings, diamond pendants, gold rings, brooches and bangles at the Exhibition and won a prize medal.

In recognition of this the Cape Colony Postal Authorities issued a special postal stationery card. They organised for a standard 1888, De La Rue 1½ d Post Card with the image of Queen Victoria's head in grey, to receive four images of Grahamstown to the back of the Post Card. The image of Queen Victoria's head was also overprinted '*One Halfpenny*'. The four images are arranged with three along the top and one towards the base to the left hand side leaving a clear area for messages to be written on the card to the right hand side. Under the three images in line at the top are the almost indistinct words, '*S. A. Industrial and Arts Exhibition Grahamstown 1888 – 89*'. To the left at the base of the card is an image of the medal prepared for the Exhibition. The card is crudely printed in grey.



Unused Postal Stationery Post Card with four images of Grahamstown

Two of the images show general views of Grahamstown with the other two images showing the Exhibition buildings themselves and Grahamstown Town Hall. The Exhibition buildings were erected out of wood and iron and were positioned adjacent to the City Hall being linked to Fiddlers Green in the foreground by a series of planted terraces. Behind the Exhibition buildings, can be seen the spire of Grahamstown cathedral.

We believe that there was only one Postal Stationery Card issued in recognition of the Exhibition and that no special date stamps or cachets were provided by the Postal Authorities. The number of these Postal Stationery cards printed is not known.

Medals were awarded to exhibitors at the Exhibition, and the one illustrated, Fig.13, is a gold medal (gilded bronze) awarded to E.W. Hawksworth for White Crystal Sugar. The obverse shows an image of the Exhibition Buildings and on a raised border is engraved "*South African Industrial and Arts Exhibition •1898 •Grahamstown• 1899•*". The reverse shows Grahamstown Coat of Arms with "Awarded To" engraved under the Coat of Arms. The name of the Exhibitor who won the medal was then engraved in the space below.



Fig. 13



Obverse and Reverse of a Grahamstown Gold Exhibition Medal.

Following the Grahamstown Exhibition came the second Boer War along with the turn of the Century. The next Exhibition where Philatelic material was prepared in recognition of the event was in 1904 – 1905 for the Cape Town Exhibition which took place at Green Point Common from 20th November 1904 to 28th February 1905. The Exhibition was officially opened on 26th November 1904 by the Administrator Major-General F.S. Brook, C.



B. This was an International and National event and at the time was the greatest Exhibition ever held in Southern Africa.

Post Office Circular number 277 of 1st December 1904 refers to a temporary post office (M.O.O.) being opened at the Exhibition Grounds and was known as “Exhibition”. Circular number 279 of 1st February 1905 gives the hours of attendance. The Exhibition was open from 10.00am until 10.30pm daily. Circular number 281 of 1st April 1905 confirms the closure of the Money Order Office “Exhibition”, but it was not until 1906 that all financial matters were finalised.

Post Card showing the entrance to the Cape Town Exhibition. (courtesy Bob Hill)

The Cape Colony Postal Authorities organised for a special double circle date stamp with ‘Exhibition-Cape Town’ in the upper aspect and a Maltese cross flanked by two semi-circular bars at the base. Fig.14. The time and date are shown on 3 separate lines in the centre. The date stamp was movable to cover all the days of the Exhibition.

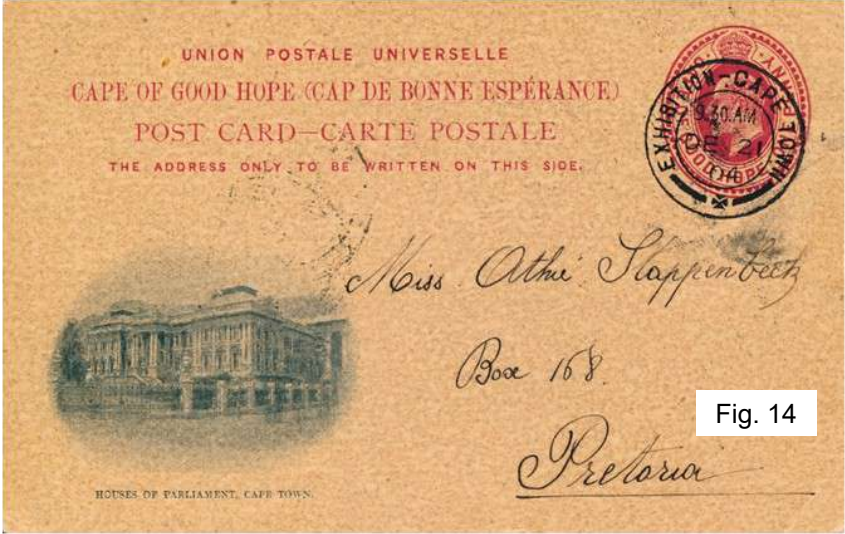


Fig. 14

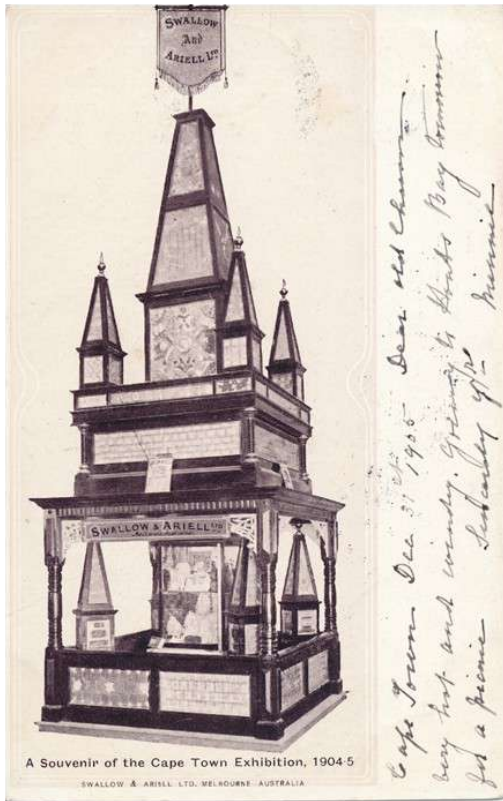
Post Stationery Card with Edward VII head in carmine tied with special “Exhibition” date stamp, “9.30. AM DE 21 04”

The card illustrated contains a Christmas message on the reverse and is from someone staying in ‘The Private Exhibition Hotel, Green Point, Main Road, Cape Town’.

Over 500 exhibits were displayed at the Exhibition many of them from companies in Southern Africa, but many also from Colonial and foreign countries.

Cont’

Post Cards were printed by a number of companies recording their exhibits at the Exhibition and illustrated below is an exhibit from Melbourne, Australia by Swallow & Ariell Ltd, as well as a more local company, The Cape Times Stationery Stall. It is interesting that the Australian post card is entitled “A Souvenir of the Cape Town Exhibition 1904-5.” whereas the Cape Times Post Card is entitled “Souvenir, Cape Town Industrial Exhibition 1904-5.”



According to Robert Goldblatt in his “Postmarks of the Cape Of Good Hope” published in 1984, and Hasso Riesner in his second edition of “The Special and Commemorative Postmarks of South Africa, 1892 – 1975” published in 1978, both advise this date stamp is relatively scarce. A few from our collection are illustrated below.



Exhibition Date Stamp “2.30PM JA 12 05” from reverse of Cape Times Souvenir Post



Fig. 15

2.30PM DE 6 04



Fig. 16

1. PM FE 1 05



Fig. 17

11.00. AM JA 4 05

The Image Fig.15 is of a newspaper wrapper, printed by the Government printers in Pretoria, on yellowish smooth paper and is a Cape Of Good Hope ½d King Edward VII head in light green, tied with a special Exhibition date stamp of 2.30pm, 6th December 1904. The centre image, Fig. 16, is from a Post Card which shows Zulu boys at Mid-Day Meal 'Mealie Pap' and is a Cape of Good Hope 1d King Edward VII red, tied with a special Exhibition date stamp of 1 pm, 1st February 1905. The right image, Fig.17, is of a Cape of Good Hope 1897 post card printed by De La Rue on a 1d overprint on a 1½d Queen Victoria head in grey, on creamy card, tied with a special Exhibition date stamp of 11.00 am. 4th January 1905.

In the same year as the Cape Town Exhibition, Port Elizabeth held an event, from 31st August 1905 until 6th September 1905. This was known as "*The Port Elizabeth Trades & Industrial Exhibition 1905.*" No temporary post office was permitted by the Cape Postal Authorities for this Exhibition and no special date stamp was employed, but souvenir Post Cards were produced to advertise the Exhibition.



Souvenir Post Card from Port Elizabeth Trades & Industrial Exhibition 1905.

The Post Card above includes the words "*Under the Auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association*" and illustrates the "*Room in which the Y.M.C.A. was started in 1844*". As we only have one of these post cards we do not know whether there is a series of images of the souvenir cards or whether only one was produced as shown above. What significance the phrase 'under the auspices of the YMCA' has in relation to the Exhibition, if any, is unknown. Whether the souvenir cards were for sale at the Exhibition, again is unknown. What is interesting is that the card illustrated above includes a personal message and Christmas greeting and is date stamped 8.00PM on 17th December 1906, some three months after the Exhibition.

There exists a 95 page souvenir handbook printed by the Port Elizabeth Printing Company in 1905 which describes the Exhibition. As this publication is out of print we have not been able to find a copy to browse to see if its content includes any mention of philatelic items or the souvenir post cards.

With the South Africa Act being passed in 1909, and the Union formed on 31st May 1910, we are not aware of any further Exhibitions that took place in Southern Africa where philatelic material or postal stationery was made available to the public. The first, following Union in 1910 was the 1913 Durban Philatelic Exhibition. Clearly there may well be other Postal History material relating to the Exhibitions described above which readers may have in their collections. We would be pleased to share any information that may provide more and greater detail on philatelic material relating to these Exhibitions. Please send any scans or information via the editor.

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Society Annual Meeting and AGM
4-5th June 2016
Falstaff Hotel
Leamington Spa

Interrupted Vignette Printing 1½d. Hyphenated Group 2 Issue 6

By Mike Tonking RDPSA

Issue 6 of the 1½d. medium format hyphenated rotogravure stamp issued in September 1941 was notable for an example of an interrupted printing of the yellow-buff vignette. This flaw can be explained as follows: In rotary printing a very quick drying ink is required which when applied to the printing cylinder starts to dry almost immediately. Stopping or starting the printing press results in no printing or partial printing for the space of 8mm or so to the point where the cylinder is inked by the doctor blade which retains some of the ink in the angle between the blade and the cylinder. This ink is enough to complete the revolution and the cylinder is then inked in the normal manner. Since the stamps are printed from left to right, the left stamp in the example shows where the cylinder came to rest. Printing then restarted on the fourth stamp which shows the division line slightly inclined to the right reflecting the angle of the doctor blade to the cylinder.

Considered to be fairly rare there are at least three examples known of strips showing partial and full interruption of the vignette printing. There are probably more since the complete sheet would have had 12 rows which would all have been affected. Additionally several examples of a partial interruption have been recorded.

Although it is reported to occur in both issues 6 and 6a, to date, no examples of the latter have been recorded. It is unlikely that it ever will be as, apart from the large gold blob on row 3/4, now on an Afrikaans stamp, there are no other identifying flaws.



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

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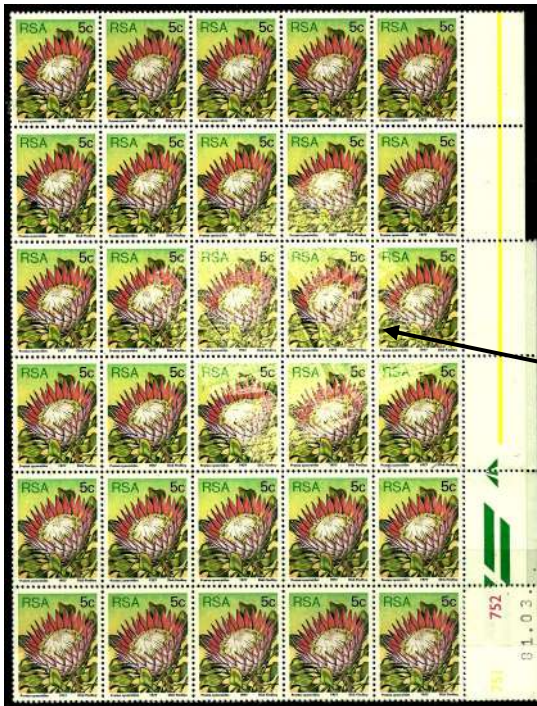
South African Postal Rate Increase on 1st April 2016

Category	2014	2015	2016
Standard Postage	R3,00	R3,30	R3,60
Airmail Postcard Rate (APC)	R6,05	R6,65	R7,25
International Small Letter (ILR)	R7,00	R7,70	R8,40
B5 Rate - Medium	R5,95	R6,55	R7,15
B4 Rate - Large	R7,30	R8,00	R8,75
Aerogram	R4,45	R4,90	R5,35
Registered Letter DL - Small	R20,80	R22,90	R25,00
Registered Letter B5 - Medium	R23,75	R26,15	R28,55

RSA Stamp Study News Letter April 2016

Protea 5c Issue 2 Paper Intrusion?

A Query from Mike Tonking



The attached example is a full sheet of the Protea 5c issue 2 second printing pane A, printing date 4.3.81, cylinders 722-754 suffix 2 .

The flaw affects nine stamps on rows 3, 4 and 5. This is possibly due to a paper intrusion which increased the paper thickness in that area.

I would be pleased to have member's comments on the reason for the flaw which is the first I have ever come across in the Protea series.

Part of sheet affected



Editor's comment:

I have enhanced the image, showing here on the right and drawn a frame around it, you will notice that it forms a perfect square. The fault is not forming a uniform picture: some of the streaks in the centre of the image are normal print. This would suggest that if there was another piece of paper or foreign object under the paper during the printing process then there would not be streaks in it. My theory is that it is something on top of the paper possibly the remains of glue. Print

would not adhere to the paper properly and the presence of glue would make the print drying time longer or cause a fault in the doctor blade process. Another possible explanation could be that the paper was splashed with Xylol, the thinners used in the ink, but doubt that this could be the case as the square is too perfect for this to have happened. I have also ruled out a flaw in the paper coating for the same reason that the square is too perfect. Mike's theory is supported in the blown-up image that it maybe a square piece of paper or material under the paper but what could it be that is so square? A fault in the actual paper?

Society Website News

RSA Commemoratives

Our Web Master, Otto Peetoom has undertaken a major task to, not only review all RSA Commemoratives, but to post them on the *Collect South Africa website*.

Scanning and cropping almost 400 sets of stamps has been a major undertaking and is currently complete from 1961 to 2002. Also included are all the Pictorial Booklets.

A range of RSA articles will appear in the two journals *Southern African Philately* and *The Springbok*

Log on to www.southafricacollectors.com to see the latest updates

1943 - 1953 ½d Springbok Roll (Coil) Stamps - A Review

By Otto Pectoom

Introduction - The Union Roll or Coil Stamps is a subject that is probably under-developed and I am not about to pretend that I am an expert on the matter. This review is not intended to reinvent the wheel and is essentially a brief insight that accompanies my article on the last issues of the ½d Springbok. For the sake of continuity it starts with the first issue of the 1943 ½d Green coil stamp.

Dr Gordon Ward included the coil stamps in his series of articles in *The Springbok Half-Penny* from June to October 1955 in *The Strand Stamp Journal* published by H.E. Wingfield & Co. in the Strand, London¹ Ward listed the coils as his Group F and only included Issues 44 (18.2.1943), Issue 45 (May 1948) and Issue 46 (October 1948). It becomes clear that, at the time, his knowledge of the Union Roll Stamps was limited and rather sketchy.

R.D. Allen collated an extensive amount of material into a booklet entitled *South Africa Union & Republic Coil or Roll Stamps (1910 to 1984)* - Published in 1985 and reviewed by S.J. Hagger in *The Springbok* in September 1985.

Allen gathered information from *The Springbok*, *The South African Philatelist* and *The South African Stamp Study Circle's Newsletter*. Actual comment by the Author on the issues is somewhat limited. However overall his publication is a mine of information.

½d Coil Stamps Discontinued - According to the information published in the S.A.P., as supplied by the Publicity Officer of the G.P.O., the mid 1950 final order for ½d Roll stamps was not completed. There are no reports why or when the sale of ½d Roll stamps was discontinued. None of the Union Philatelists raised the question in the S.A.P. and we draw the same blank in the 1952 to 1986 Union Handbooks. It appears that at some point in time the use of ½d Roll stamp simply discontinued.

In my opinion the reason for this might be because the inland postage rate was increased to 2d on 15 May 1950.

After hours, the vending machines were useful to the public because they could obtain ½d and 1d coil stamps to make up a 1½d inland rate.

Mike Tonking sent me an illustration of a Roll stamp wrapper hand stamped with a 29 JUN 1953 date which suggests stocks lasted at least until then. (See next page).



R18

Ex Cylinders 39/54 in a strip of 22 Courtesy Mike Tonking

Whether or not said stamps were still available from vending machines or sold over the counter I cannot say.

Contemporary reports in *The South African Philatelist* from May 1943 to November 1950. The ongoing *Recent Union Printings* are also subject to careful interpretation as the manner in which they appear has, on occasion, led to a certain amount of head scratching and at times it raises questions that do not necessarily have an answer.

1943 ½d Green coil stamps - April 1943 S.A.P. announced as *...having appeared about 25th March*. The May S.A.P. indicated 4064 x 500 rolls, using cylinder 6911, delivered between 18.2.43 and 30.3.43 and the 1952 UHB took that as its date of issue (18 February) - No **R19**.

Screening - In the 1952 UHB described as *Fine mesh screen*, modified to *Irregular-grain screen* (1955), then **R21**...*fine and regular screen, but as mosaic* (1960) and in the 1986 UHB *...fine and regular, this only shows on some parts of very lightly inked copies. In most cases it appears as mosaic, and is easily recognised.*

Delivery date	Cylinder	No of Rolls	
Job 4058		x 500	-
Btw 18.2.43 - 30.3.43	6911	4064 ²	-
Job 3034		Order for 1000	
		x 500	x 1000
On 14.9.43	6911	-	540 ³
Up to 18.1.44	6911	1077	1559 ⁴
Job 16		Order for 1000 x 1012	
		x 506	x 1012
On 16.11.44	6911	100	120 ⁵
Final on 13.2.45		1153	1495 ⁶
Job 791		2½ Year Gap between Printings	
Btw 24.7.47- 26.8.47	6911	2000	1620 ⁷

Cylinder 6911 Total = 9,589,338 stamps being the equivalent of about 39,956 sheets x 240

Bi-coloured Coil Stamps

Listed as **R18** and incorrectly dated 1943 (1952 UHB) and amended to 1947 (1955 UHB) with a *Note: The cross-hatching in the Roll stamp is not always as clear as it is in the sheet form*

The 1979 UHB intimates...*available towards the end of 1947...* and the 1986 UHB states...*were made between 24 July and 5 November 1947 and are fairly scarce.*

Delivery date	Cylinders	No of Rolls	
Job 791	New	x 506	x 1012
After 26.8.47	39/54	1300 ⁷	-
Up to 5.11.47		2675	1044 ⁸
	Totals	3975	1044

Cylinders 39/54 Total = 3,067,878 stamps equal to 12,783 sheets x 240

May 1948 S.A.P. page 70 under *New ½d Roll Stamps* Dr Harris *...reports ½d bicoloured stamps...on sale in the slot machines in P.E...*

1943 - 1953 ½d Springbok Roll (Coil) Stamps - A Review



1948 New Job No 792 - Return to Green mono-colour coils

Cylinder 39 - In the 1952 UHB No **R21** Issue date June 1948, comment *Coarse mesh screen - Lines wider spaced.* Foregoing amended in 1955 to...*fine cross-lined screen.*

The 1960 UHB - Now **R22** - commented...*had a very short life...were used up almost before the change was noticed and are therefore scarce...can only be distinguished by the slightly coarser screening...clearly visible...particularly in the corners.*

The 1986 UHB Implies...*was quite the worst from a production point of view of all those used to print...by rotogravure.*

Cylinder 39 Total 2,039,180 stamps (About 8497 x 240 sheets)

Delivery date	Cylinders	No of Rolls	
		x 506	x 1012
Job 792			
After 25.5.48	39	1784	1123 ⁹
	New		
On 26.10.48	6045	300	540 ⁹
12.5.49	6045	3800	3240 ¹⁰
8.8.49	6045	900	60 ¹¹
21.11.49	6045	2500	1320 ¹²
Up to 1.3.50	6045	500	540 ¹³

Job 792 Complete 9784 x 506 and 6823 x 1012

The above is equal 11,855,580 stamps or 49,398 sheets x 240

August 1949 S.A.P. comment - *New ½d Roll Stamp on Sale "Recent Printings" information mentions a new issue of ½d roll stamps from Cylinder 6045. The stamps which have been on sale in Johannesburg machines during the last few months appear to be from this new cylinder for they exhibit fewer flaws and have a much cleaner and sharper definition than those vended in 1948.*

1950 The Final Order for ½d Springbok Roll stamps

Job No 10070 - An order for 5000 x 506 and 6000 rolls x 1012

Reported as...*from one colour cylinder 6054 as before* I believe this must be a typing error that ought to read **Cylinder 6045!**

Delivery date	Cylinders	No of Rolls	
		x 506	x 1012
Job 10070			
On 23.5.50	6045	800	1560 ¹⁴
After 14.6.50	6045	3100	2220 ¹⁵
	Totals	3900	3780

Job 10070 Not completed - Totals 3900 x 506 and 3780 x 1012

None of the subsequent *Recent Union Printings* offered any explanation as to why Order No 10070 was not fulfilled. As previously stated I suspect it was because the inland postage rate was increased to 2d on 15 May 1950.

1948 - 50 Cylinder 6045 - Total delivery 8000 x 506 plus 9700 x 1012 Rolls = 9,816,400 stamps (About 40,902 x 240 sheets)

The 1952 UHB listed it as **R22** dated 1949 with a comment: *Screen much sharper. Well defined.* In 1955 it added *Fine cross lined screen* and a *Note - The coil formed from Vertical row No 7 was not issued due to a printing flaw on this strip.*

1960 UHB amended date to October 1948 and the size from 18½ x 22½ to 19 x 22½ mm and noted...*In addition to the difference in size, these stamps show fine, regular screening.*

A new feature introduced...the pencilling of a number from 1 to 12 on the wrapper of a completed roll to indicate which of the twelve columnist had occupied...these numbers have to be reversed for the purpose of reconstructing the sheet.

1986 UHB renumbers as **R23** and again modifies the size of the roll stamp from 19 x 22½ to 18½ x 22¼ mm which is close to the original size stated during 1952 - 55.

Notes

The South African Philatelist

¹Articles by Ward - Reported in S.A.P. November 1955 page 191

Union Notes - Recent Printings

²May 1943, ³December 1943, ⁴June 1944, ⁵January 1945, ⁶April 1945,

⁷November 1947 page 161, ⁸March 1948 page 33,

⁹January 1949 page 1, ¹⁰July 1949 page 105, ¹¹October 1949 page 153

¹²February 1950 page 24, ¹³April 1950 page 49,

¹⁴August 1950 page 118, ¹⁵November 1950 page 169

Acknowledgements

Eddie Bridges, Morgan Farrell, Mike Tonking, Jan van Beukering

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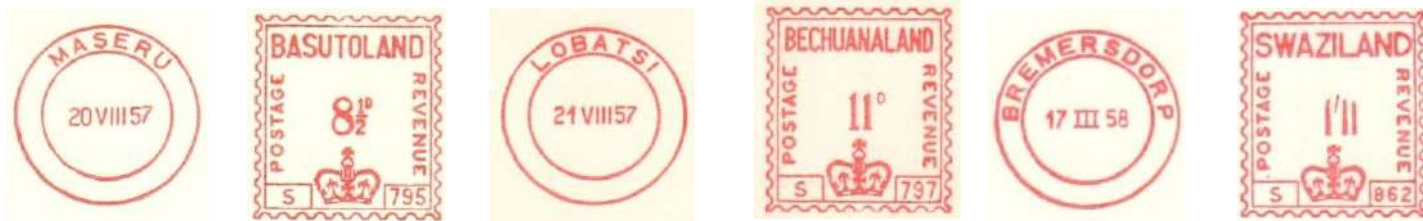
Southern Africa www.southafricanstamps.net

GSWA - South West Africa www.swa-stamps.com

East Africa, KUT www.kut-stamps.com

Meter Franks for Basutoland, Swaziland, Bechuanaland and beyond

By Otto Peetoom



Introduction - Meter mail is a subject that tends to fringe on the edge of postal history and for many the general appearance of a display of meter mail is essentially boring and mundane. Given that meter franks are not that popular, the result is that information on early use is often patchy or difficult to obtain.

History of Meter Franking - Invented by Carle Busch in Paris and obtained a British patent in August 1884. Trials conducted from 1900 - 1912 in Norway, Great Britain and USA. New Zealand started in March 1904 and, prior to UPU approval at the 1920 Madrid Congress, became the first country to use franking machines on a large scale.

Distribution of Franking Machines - Between 1923 and 1929 most European countries adopted the idea and from 1923 to 1931 six countries in South America followed suit. By 1930 only fifteen Commonwealth countries used meter franks and that number rose to 34 after Barbados joined the trend in 1952.

Southern African Meter Franks

South Africa was the first Country to introduce Meter Franks in the mid 1920's. SWA and Southern Rhodesia were next circa 1931. Northern Rhodesia plus Nyasaland followed in the early 1950's and Basutoland and Swaziland taking the plunge during the late 1950's. Bechuanaland appears to have considered the idea in 1957, but it was only after it became Botswana that the first machine was licensed in late 1970.

Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland

From the available information it appears that circa 1956/7 the agents for Universal Simplex were marketing their machines in the above three territories. They succeeded in two of them, but not in Bechuanaland.

Publications that include Southern Africa Meter Franks

An early British enthusiast was A.H. Harris who by 1935 had produced a *Meter Postage Catalogue*, a second edition in 1937 and his third appeared in 1940. In 1953 Barfoot and Simon (B&S) published an updated version with a similar title *The Meter Postage Catalogue*. The authors continued to build on the work started by Harris and commented that since 1940 the increase in the use of meter franks...*has been phenomenal*.

Gordon Smith is keen on Botswana meter franks and has a website www.postalhistory.ca

Meter Essays, Proofs or Samples

Essays are submitted by the manufacturer for approval or rejection by a relevant postal authority.

Proofs are taken when a machine is ready for dispatch and are usually retained by the manufacturer for reference. Multi-value proofs are often set with its maximum value suggesting an absurd postage rate. Dates are set when a proof is struck and are earlier, perhaps by years, before its first day of use. Confusion may arise from a proof illustrated in a catalogue which creates an illusion that it is an early commercial use.

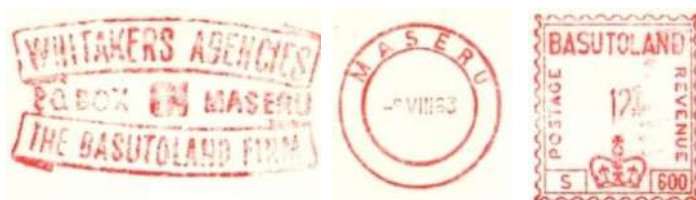
Basutoland Meters

Introduced by 1956 and in the September 1956 edition of *The South African Philatelist* a note appeared that *Whitaker's Agencies* in Maseru had started using a Simplex **S600** and an accompanying illustration is dated 20 VII 56.

Proof strikes on cards - I have two pre-decimal Universal Simplex items each with MASERU date stamps, **S795** 8½^D 20 VII 57 (see above) and **S859** 1½ - 21 III 58.

Whitaker's Agencies

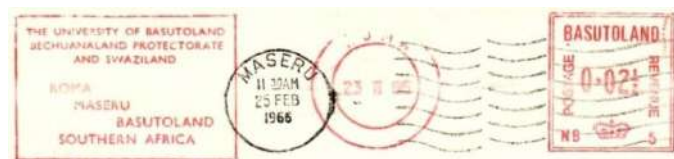
Continued to use S600 into the decimal period and I have an airmail envelope with a 12½c **S600** meter frank dated 9 VIII 63 that was posted with sample strikes of two values with the same date being 2½c and 10c.



The Standard Bank in Maseru used a Pitney Bowes machine **UA 160** and I have a commercial cover '.05=' dated 26 VII 63 that contained an envelope with a 0.0½ sample strike.

Before Independence on 4 October 1966 the only other device recorded is a multi-value Neopost Frankmaster 355 used at Roma, numbered **NB5**, by *The University of Basutoland, Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland*.

I have a commercial envelope to Johannesburg with 0.02½ dated 23 II 66 plus a Maseru 25 FEB transit.



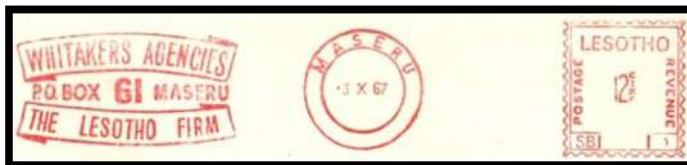
Lesotho - *The Standard Bank* continued with **UA160**, but with the crown removed at the base. I have a note stating that their die, with the new country name, was changed to **LESOTHO** on 6 October 1966.



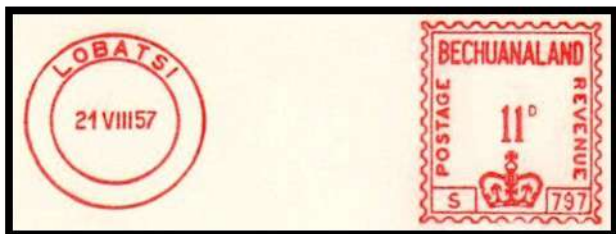
The University at Roma continued using **NB5**, also with the crown removed and in a letter from them it states...*Our franking die was changed from 'Basutoland' to 'Lesotho' in February 24th (1967)*. I have a 0.02½ - 24 XI 67 sample strike.



Whitaker's Agencies acquired a new, limited value Pitney Bowes-GB Simplex numbered **SB1** (without a crown at its base) and a Maseru 3 X 67 is illustrated below. I have sample strikes on the same date of a 4½¢ and 5¢.



Bechuanaland Meters Franks In the Springbok 1991 journal *The Runner Post* No 24 an article appeared that illustrated a drawing of a Simplex die and is dated 17.7.57. This is probably in keeping with an era when agents were attempting to sell the idea of meter franks to the postal authorities in Basutoland, Swaziland and Bechuanaland. They succeeded in the first two countries, but not in Bechuanaland.



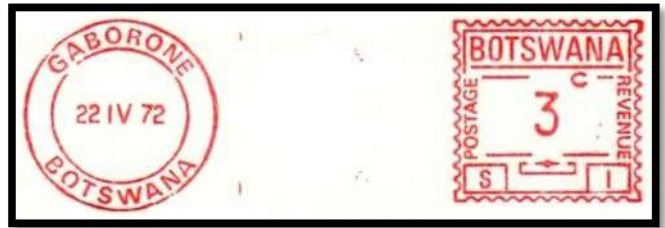
What appears to be relatively unknown is that an actual die was prepared, as illustrated above, a **S797** dated LOBATSI 21 VIII 57. The country attained Independence in 1966 and introduced its first device at the Standard Bank in late 1970.

Botswana - The Standard Bank used a multi-value Universal / Pitney Bowes *Automax* machine numbered **UA1** and I have an envelope dated 7 XI 70 that might be a proof .



UA1 Standard Bank, Gordon Smith lists his earliest known date as 13 XI 70 and the illustrated example predates that by six days. Gordon notes that their license expired and his last date seen as 16 XI 71.

Another early user of meter franks was the *Botswana Book Centre*, PO Box 91; Gaborone who used a limited value Universal/Pitney Bowes *Simplex* numbered **S1**.



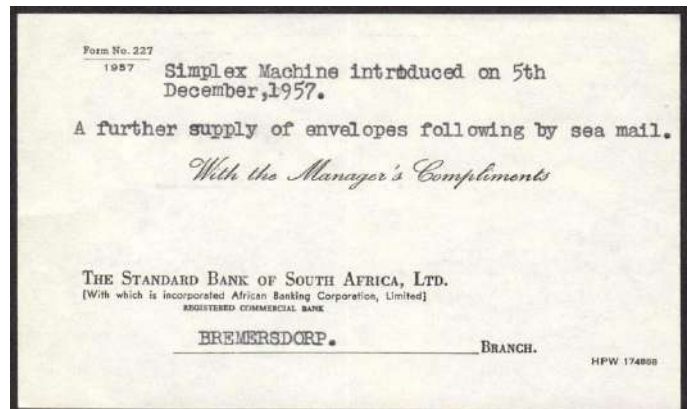
Gordon notes its use from 14 X 71 to 14 X 73 and illustrated above from a commercial cover to Cape Town is an example dated 22 IV 72.

Swaziland Meter Franks

Peter van der Molen's 2013 book *Swaziland to 1968* that is regarded as the definitive work on the philately of that country surprisingly does not include meter franks.

The American online meter catalogue states...*The first meter appeared in the early 1960's...* yet they illustrate a **S796** proof dated 20 VIII 57.

The first limited value Universal Simplex machine **S792** was introduced at the *Standard Bank* on 5 December 1957 in Bremersdorp. The foregoing is confirmed by a note from the bank that accompanied sample strikes of ½d, 1½d, 2d, 5d & 6d all dated 9 VI 58.



I have a commercial cover with **S792** dated 21 I 58

The Standard Bank at Mbabane used **S796**, and the online catalogue illustrates a proof strike dated 20 VIII 57. Examples in my possession are after Swaziland went decimal on 14 February 1961. I have an envelope dated 13 VIII 63 that contained samples of a ½c, 1c, 2c, 2½c, 3c, 4c, 5c and 7c. I have also seen a 3½c and 6c value.

Meter Franks for Basutoland, Swaziland, Bechuanaland and beyond

Universal Simplex **S862** - illustrated at the top of the previous page dated 17 II 58 is a proof strike and I do not know whether or not this number was licensed in Swaziland.

Swaziland became a Protected State on 25 April 1967 and attained Independence on 6 September 1968. In keeping with the policy adapted in Lesotho, the Universal Simplex machines that continued in use had their crown at the base removed.

1968 Post Independence - I have several examples of **S863**, without a crown, dated from 1972 to 1980. This machine was allocated to *Robertson, Bertram & Currie* - Solicitors at Mbabane.

Different Inscriptions - There are two styles of machines worthy of note. The first is inscribed SWAZILAND only followed by KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND

Swaziland only - LV = Limited value and MV = multi-value

Pitney Bowes-GB *Simplex* (LV-21) - Prefixed S...



Simplex S863 - Crown removed

Universal *Automax* (MV) - Prefixed UA...

Universal *Automax* (MV) - Prefixed UA... (different die)



Universal Automax - UA1 Different die



Pitney Bowes *5000* (MV) - Prefixed **PBH...** (**PBH48** above)

Neopost *Frankmaster 305* (MV) - Prefixed **R...**



Neopost *205* (MV) - Prefixed **J...** (**J279** above)

Hasler *Mailmaster* (MV) - Prefixed **HAS...**

Kingdom of Swaziland



Pitney Bowes 6300 - P.B.1393

Pitney Bowes-GB *Simplex* (LV) - Prefixed **P.B./S/3-75**

Pitney Bowes *6300* (MV) - Prefixed **PBL, P.B., SG** or **P.B./S/1-**



Pitney Bowes 6300 - SG022

Neopost *105* (LV) - Prefixed **NB OF ...** or **J OF ...**



Neopost 205 - J OF 92

Neopost *205* (MV) - Prefixed **J OF ...**, **H...** or **RS...**

Neopost *2205* (MV) - Prefixed **2 X ...W**

Neopost *2205* - Prefixed **RS** (Different die)

Neopost *Electronic* (MV) - without prefix

Neopost *Electronic* (MV) - Prefixed **G...** or **GN...N**

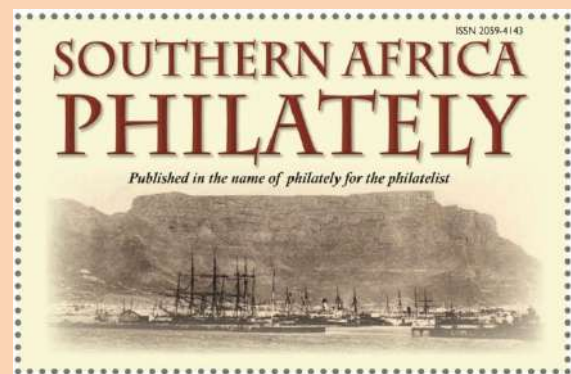
Neopost *Electronic* (MV) - Prefixed **ET**

Neopost *Electronic* (MV) - Prefixed **ET** (Different die)

Francotyp-Postalia *EFS3000* (MV) - Two different dies

Examples of all the above different dies may be viewed on the online catalogue. Just Google *meter frank catalogue*

Subscribe to



http://www.southernstamps.net/Southern_Africa_Philately.htm

Three Issues - Inland £10 - Overseas £15

1960 Fifty Years of Union, UNIPEX Memories, Stamps and Varieties

By Otto Peetoom

1960 Six Commemorative Stamps in One Month

To celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Union of South Africa a set of four stamps was issued on 2 May 1960 plus a 1/3 single value that celebrated the Centenary of the South African Railways.



They were followed at the end of the month by a single 3d value issued on 31 May 1960 depicting six of the Union's Prime Ministers. In my opinion it is a rather dull stamp that is listed as SG 184 or UHB 144.

Its issue coincided with the 1960 International Stamp Exhibition 'UNIPEX' held in the city centre in Johannesburg from 30 May until 4 June. I bought numerous first day covers of the 3d Union with singles, pairs and blocks of four.

UNIPEX - These dates were during school holidays and I recall that as a fourteen year old boy, I travelled on the bus into Johannesburg and visited the exhibition every single day of opening. I viewed the frames of stamps in wonderment and awe and I remember that part of H.R.H. the Queen's display included colour trials of the 1954 Australian 3½d Red Cross (SG 276).



It was the first major exhibition I had visited and looked on with envy as a young man bought a first day cover for the Rhodesia & Nyasaland 17 May 1960 Kariba Dam issue from Alan Leverton on the Bridger And Kay stand. With a face value of 10/6 the cost of such a precious item was completely beyond my means.

Watermarks - The Springbok head watermark appeared on stamps of the Union for almost fifty years (1913 - 1959) In late 1959 a Union Coat of Arms watermark was introduced and first used on eight reprinted values of the Animal definitives SG 170 to 177.

The immediate downside of this particular watermark is that it is not only difficult to see, but in some cases almost impossible.

August 1960 S.A.P. - **Details of the May 1960 Printings**
Described as *The Festival Series Postage Stamps*, all with a Union Coat of Arms watermark - All stamps in sheets of 120

50th Anniversary of Union of South Africa

Job No 71571 - 4d order for 118,000 Sheets

Job No 71572 - 6d order for 82,000 Sheets

Job No 71573 - 1/- order for 71,000 Sheets

Job No 71579 - 1/6 order for 15,000 Sheets

Value	Delivered	Cylinders	No Sheets	Total
4d	22.3.1960	16/95	17,855	
	3.5.1960		106,900	124,755
6d	25.2.1960	88/52/24	12,000	
	15.3.1960		69,300	81,300
1/-	25.2.1960	100/29	35,000	
			36,880	71,880
1/6	3.3.1960	34/44	17,500	17,500

Railway Centenary

Job No 71574 - 1/3 order for 26,000 Sheets

Cylinders 9/29 - Initial and total delivery on 1 March 1960 of 26,000 Sheets



31 May - Union Day

Job No 71570 - 3d order for 1,200,000 Sheets

Cylinders 11/94 - Initial delivery 41,000 on 5 May 1960

Total delivery of 1,270,855 sheets reported in May 1961 S.A.P.

Union Coat of Arms watermark - Because of the size of the order, different rolls of paper were employed. This may be detected when viewing the watermark on these stamps. Some are fairly clear, whilst others are very faint and are hard to distinguish. I inspected several copies in my possession and



realized that ,unless the stamps are Marginal, the watermark on some individual stamps is extremely difficult to detect. Even when I resorted to using a device called a **Signoscope**, I had minor success in actually seeing a watermark.

Varieties on the 3d Union

Discounting the minor varieties listed in the UHB (1986) as V1 to V5, SG includes SG 184a Pale brown omitted with a footnote: *This is due to a rectangular piece of paper adhering to the background cylinder, resulting in R2/1 missing the colour completely and six adjoining stamps having it partially omitted. The item in block of eight is probably unique.*

I have never seen this piece, do not recall it in any auction catalogue or have any idea who the present owner may be and it is the final major variety of the Union of South African.

Postal Stationery for W.W.II Prisoners of War in South Africa.

By Chris Oliver

In 2004, as an aid to learning more about cachets used in POW and Internment Camps, I purchased an information book published by the Philatelic Federation of South Africa. The authors of this book were J.B.R. Findlay and Rory Ryan [ISBN-0-620-31162-2]

In it they have a section on pre-printed POW postal stationery, of which I have a fair amount of that produced for use by the Italian prisoners. There were many Italian POW's in South Africa and during 1942-43 some 200 German POW's were housed at Pietermaritzburg Camp. Until November 2015 I had not seen a letter sheet produced for use by the German POW's but, at Leamington Spa, I was able to purchase proofs of both a German and an Italian POW letter-sheet. The "German" proof is that illustrated in the Finlay/Ryan book which was, at that time, in the archive of the South African Defence Force Documentation Centre. (Fig. 1) Fig. 2 shows the proof of the third letter-sheet produced for Italian POW use in 1941-42, designated POW 9.

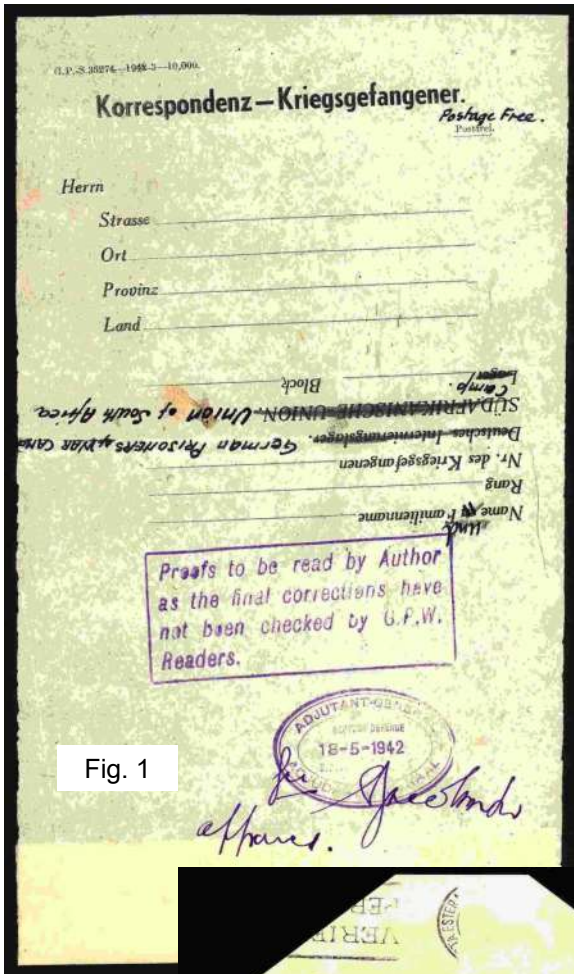


Fig. 1

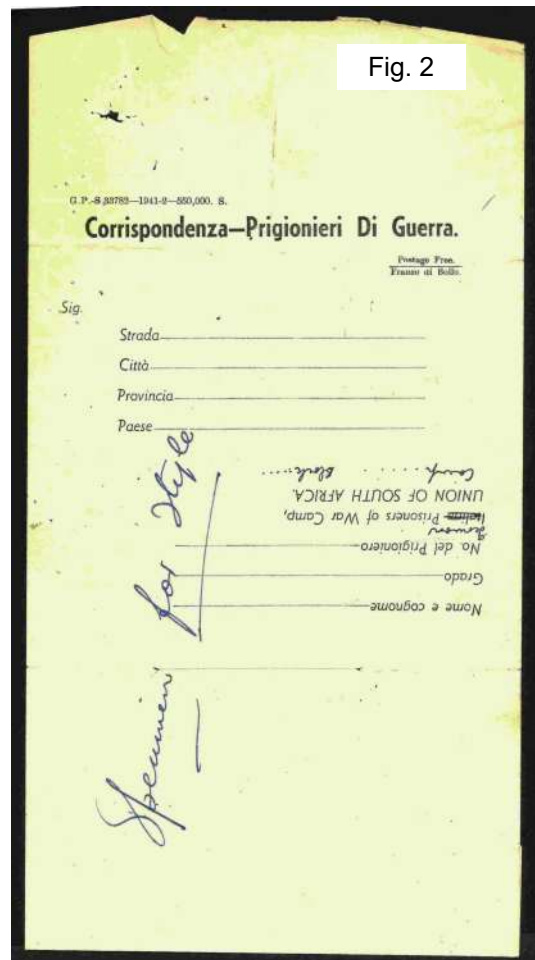


Fig. 2

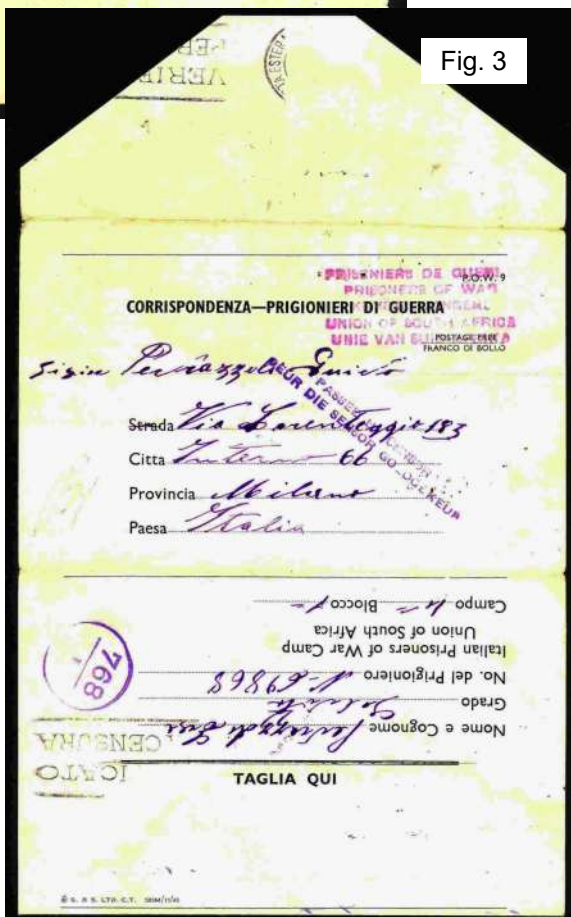


Fig. 3

There were, at least, ten types of letter-sheet produced for use by Italian POW's in South Africa. In addition to those seven listed on page 28 of the Findlay / Ryan book there is a) type no. 7 with the correct spelling. I have not yet seen a copy of type no. 7, as listed, with the word "PRIGONIERE". b) A black sheet inscribed G. & S. LTD. C.T. 500M / 11 / 42 with the words "Taglia Qui" on the flap. (Fig. 3)

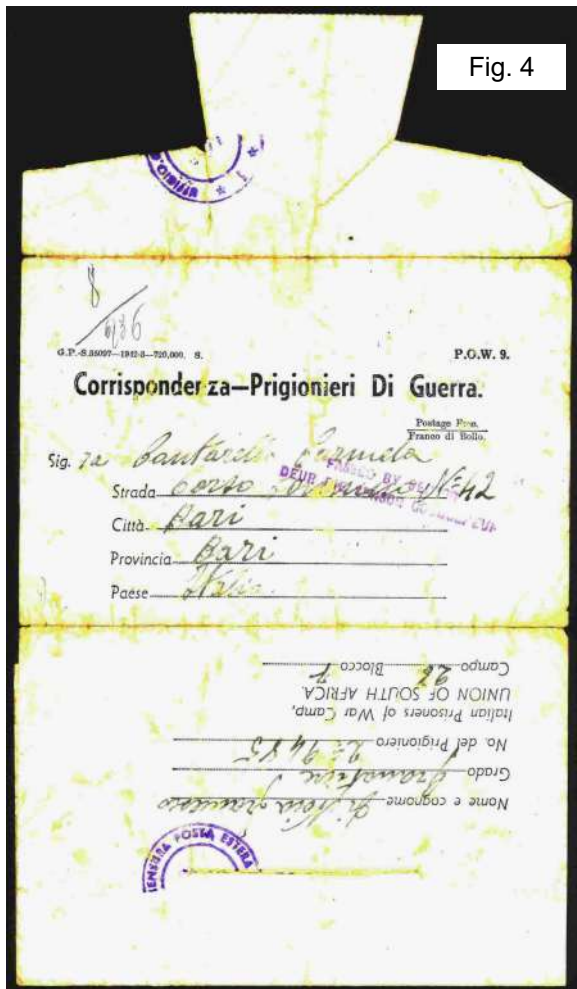


Fig. 4

I have not yet found out the name of this printer and wonder whether any of our South African members may have an idea. c) A black letter-sheet inscribed G.P. – S.35097 – 1942-3 – 720,000. S., without further inscription on the flap. (Fig. 4)

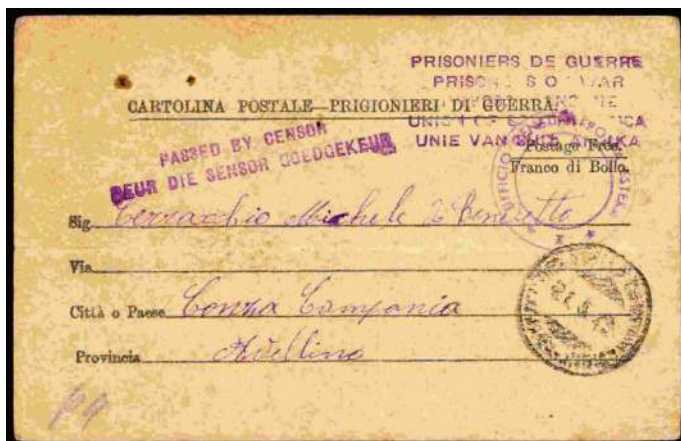


Fig. 5



Postal Cards P.O.W. 10 are also listed in the Findlay / Ryan book on page 31 and here, again, at least three additions should be made, as below, with wording following the listing context in the book:-

- a) G.P. (- S.35272 -) 1941 - 2 / 500,000 S / 140 x 90mm / Italian (Fig. 5)
- b) G.P. (- S.36250 -) 1942 - 3 / 750,000 S / 132 x 85mm / Italian (Fig. 6)
- c) G.P. (-S.35096-) 1942 - 3 / 500,000 S / 132 x 83mm / Italian (Fig. 7)



Fig. 6



Cont'

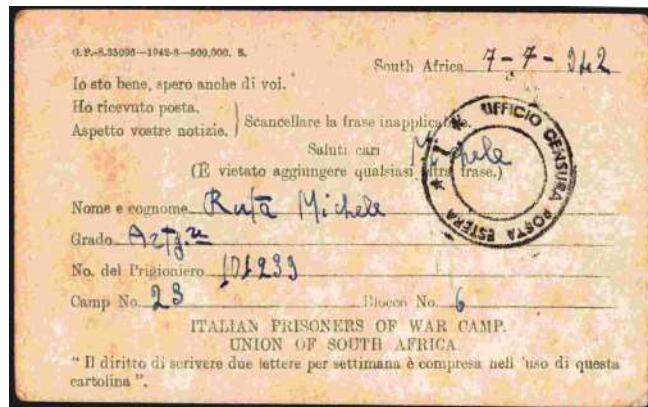
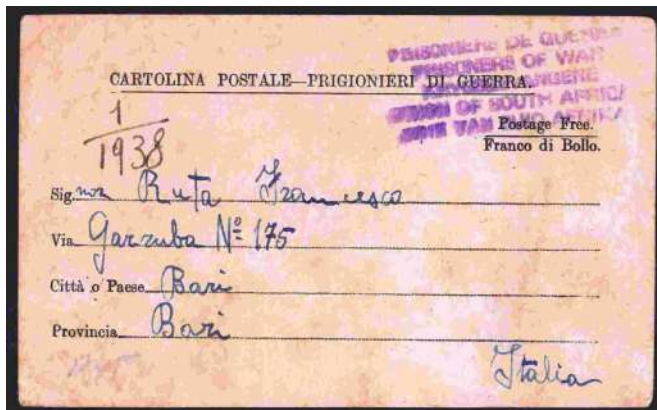


Fig. 7

The final piece of postal stationery is a bilingual cover produced by the Red Cross for South Africans wishing to write to S.A. prisoners of war in Germany. (Fig. 8)

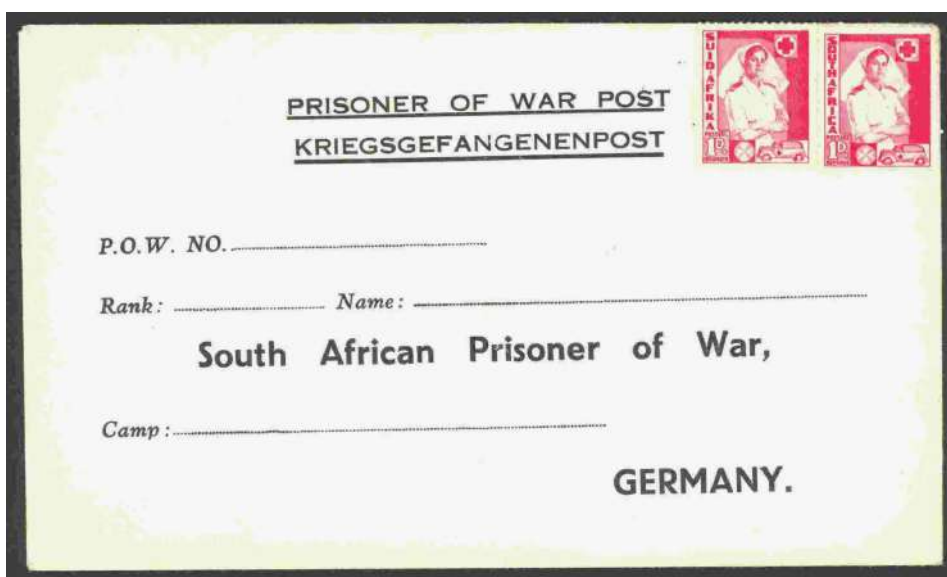


Fig. 8

0



AfricaStamps.co.uk

New website offering fine Southern Africa stamps and specialised items.



Email: info@AfricaStamps.co.uk

Revisiting the Unhyphenated Rotogravure Booklet B9 - 1931

By Mike Tonking RDPSA

The unhyphenated rotogravure B9 booklet is of particular interest as for the first time the Government Printer managed to design a method of production utilising the complete sheet with no wastage when separating into booklet panes. This was the second rotogravure booklet issued late in 1931 and was the first to include 2d. Stamps and the first to include a large format stamp in a booklet. In 1931 the inland letter rate was increased from 1d. To 2d. per once which was the reason for the inclusion of three panes of 2d. stamps in the B9 booklet.

The stamps were printed from cylinders prepared from the same multipositives used for the rotogravure sheet issues 1 - 3 and had the same colour, watermark and perforation. A most economical printing method ensured that all 120 stamps in the sheet were used. This was achieved by blocking out vertical rows 5 and 6 of the sheet multipositive and replacing them with vertical rows 1 and 2 now in an inverted position which resulted in these rows having an inverted watermark. Fig.1. The two centre columns of the sheet were removed and sold as 'Economy Strips' with the top and bottom margins removed. The long strip of twenty stamps was cut in half and sold in two strips each having twenty stamps in ten rows of two. Fig. 2. This economical method of printing large format booklet stamps may be compared with the only other large format stamp which was the 1½d value of booklet B19. In this case the printing format used resulted in only 80 stamps being printed which left over 30% of the paper being wasted. Many printing flaws were recorded most of which were minor however at least three uncut sheets escaped which showed tête-bêche pairs as seen in the booklet ½d. and 1d values.

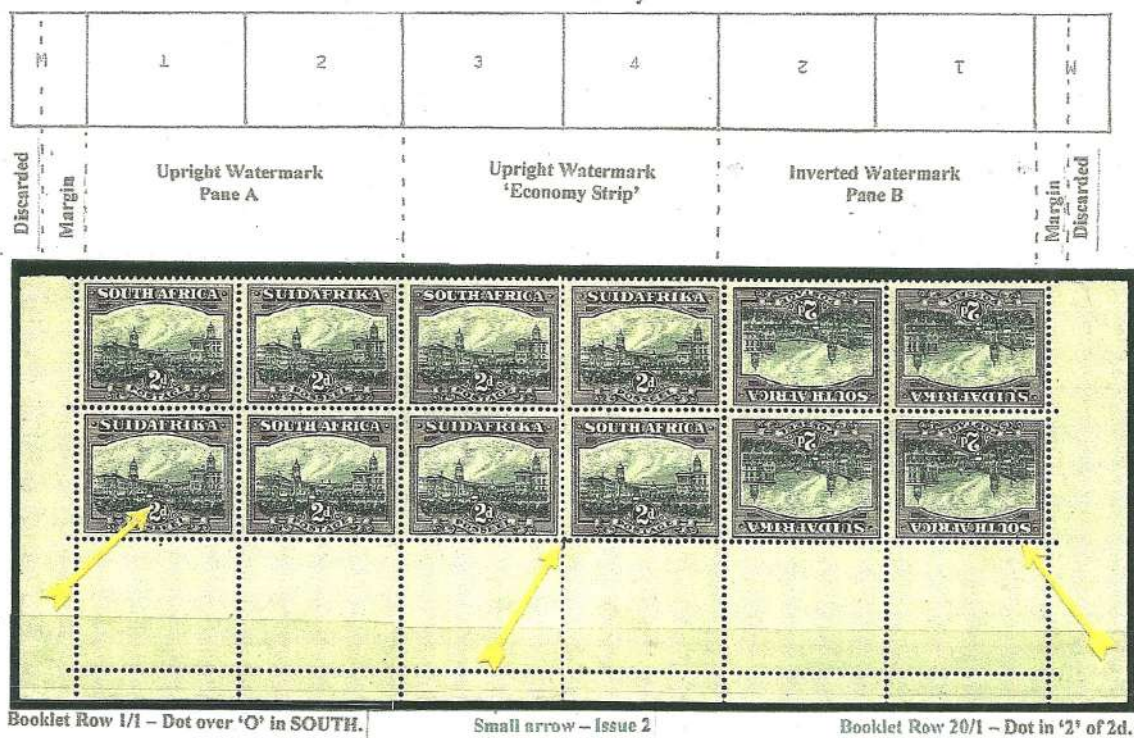
There are two particular flaws of note found on these stamps which were known as the 'aeroplane' flaws on account of their appearance. They occur on English stamp row 5/3 of the 'economy strip' and on the Afrikaans stamp row 16/1 which is one of the booklet panes Fig.3

References:

- The Stamps of the Union of South Africa - S.J. Hagger RDPSA - 1986
- The Springbok - South African Collectors' Society Quarterly - Various.

Fig. 1




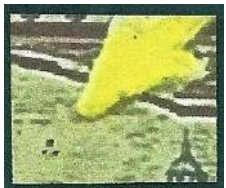


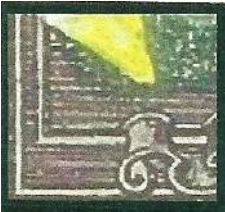
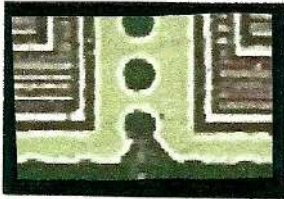
2d. Booklet Pane Layout



Economy Strip Rows 16 - 20

The stamps making up the 'Economy Strips' may be identified by the many discrete and constant flaws. The strips were separated by guillotine which is evident by examination of the perforations.

Fig. 2

	3 4	
<p>Row 18/3 - Line from top of roof next to right colonnade.</p> 		<p>Row 16/4 - Dot above 'E' in POSTAGE</p>  <p>16</p> <p>Row 17/4 - Dots 4.5mm to left of right tower.</p>  <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>Row 19/3 - Line in top loop of left scroll.</p>  <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>Row 20/4 - Full stop after 'E' in POSTAGE.</p> 
<p>Row 18/3 - Scratch in right scroll</p> 		
	<p>Part small arrow in guillotined bottom margin.</p>	

Wicks Medal

For the best published article in the Springbok in 2015

The Wicks medal will be presented at the Annual meeting in June at Leamington Spa
 A Voting Form will be sent to every member either by email if you receive the Springbok via email
 or by post with this issue of the Springbok.

Fig. 3 The 'Aeroplane' Flaw

'Economy Strip'

Booklet Pane

Row 5/3 - 'Aeroplane' Flaw
on English stamp

Row 16/1 - 'Aeroplane' Flaw
on Afrikaans stamp



It is of interest that the 'aeroplane' flaw developed further during the printing run as can be seen from the examples below.

Early and late stages of row 5/3 flaw.

'Small aeroplane' - early stage.

'Large aeroplane' - late stage.



Editors comment: there are a number of these stamps for sale in our latest Auction No. 43 which will be held at the June meeting at Leamington Spa. Full details of the auction lots can be viewed on our website

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