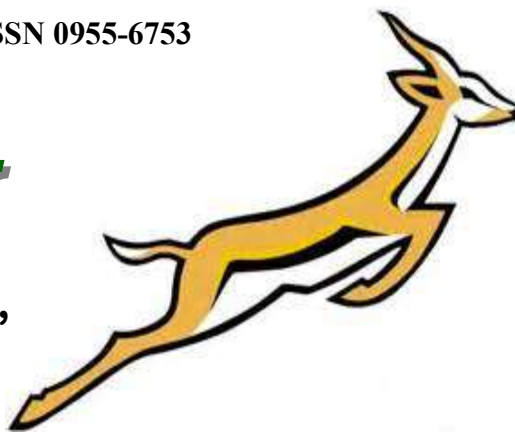


THE SPRINGBOK

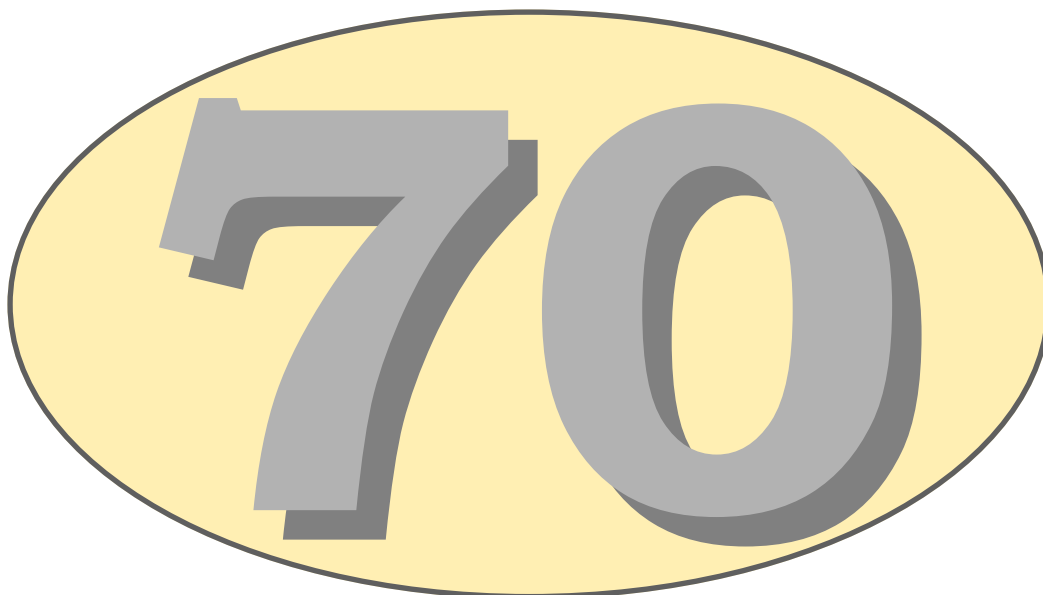
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SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS'
SOCIETY QUARTERLY

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Volume 65 No. 3



THIS ISSUE CELEBRATES 70 YEARS SINCE
THE FORMATION OF THE SOCIETY IN 1947

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August 2017

Whole Number 339

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.

The Springbok was awarded a large vermeil medal at Stampex 2017

Editor

R W Ross

Editorial Panel

T. Howgrave-Graham

C. Oliver

J.L. Shaw

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Collectors' Society,
2017

Vol. 65 Iss. 3 Whole No. 339
Founded 1947

Editorial

Front Cover: This issue celebrates 70 years since the Society was formed. 1947 - 2017. The first Springbok was not published until January 1953. To celebrate the forming of the society a Special 'Souvenir' Edition has been produced by Otto Peetoom and will be distributed later in the year.

For those of us that collect RSA, the new SACC 2017-18, 35th Edition, has now delisted various imperforate varieties as it has been established that they were the subject of unauthorised leakage from the printers. This applies in particular to the stamps of the 4th definitive series. It will be interesting to see if this effects the prices for them at auction. If anyone comes across these in any auction and has a realisation price would they please let me know so that we can compare prices.

Deadline for receipt of articles for the next Springbok will be the third week of November. Articles of any description and in any format are welcomed. Next issue will be distributed at the end of November.

Membership

Jean Turner from Salisbury has rejoined the Society . Member No. 1020
Keith Klugman from Seattle USA No. 1205, he is well known for his NATAL collection

AWARDS

Nick Arrow was awarded a Gold medal at the Federation meeting in York for his exhibit "South African Airmails - the Imperial Airways Story"

Mike Tonking RDPSA - Special Wicks medal for contributions to the Springbok

Tony Howgrave-Graham - 2016 Wicks medal for the Revenue stamps of the Union 1910-1946

Change of Telephone Number

New Telephone number for Max Whitlock: 0162 488220

From the Editors Desk

From Mike Tonking:

I would answer the query raised by Brian Fountain regarding the 1938 2d. Official SAHB 072 in the latest Springbok Vol. 65 No. 2 page 42 as follows :

The 'airship' or 'balloon' flaw is found on row 9/4 .

Ian Matheson notes " A south African Government Printer's report of 7 July 1938 announces that 250 sheets of 120 two penny stamps had been overprinted (SAP August 1938 P' 114). This is probably the Issue referred to" Thus I would think that there must have been 250 examples of the flaw which gives it a certain rarity.

From Moody Tidwell

2 covers coming back together again after 84 years.

I recently bought a large blue registered cover with the "aeroplane flaw" on a pair of 2d economy strip stamps.

I picked it up today to put it in my album only to discover that I have an identical cover I bought about 3 years ago (as I remember). It's from the same dude in Pretoria, dated the same day. The new one is addressed to Ruth Armstrong - the old cover is addressed to Stanley Armstrong, both of 350 South Street. Ruth's is registration #8839 and Stanley's is #8837. There must be at least one more out there, #8838. I wish they had a return address on them.

How's that for coincidence?

A New Book

The Officials of South Africa

Editors: Ian Matheson and Bob Hissey

Copies are available from Bob Hissey

**A record of the A.G.M. of the South African Collectors' Society held at
Strawberry Bank, Meriden CV7 7NF at 16.45hrs on Saturday, 27th May 2016.
By Chris Oliver**

Apologies were received from David Osborn, David Macdonald, Peter Grimley, John Richardson, Brian Trotter, Mike Tonking, Tim Harrison, Max Whitlock, David Haig, Bas Payne, Mike Berry, Otto Peetoom and Steve Hannath.

Record of previous A.G.M. were agreed as being correct. Proposed by Roy Ross, seconded by Rob Lester and agreed by those present.

3. Matters arising - None.

4. The Hon. Chairman's written report.

It's been a good year for The Society. The finances appear sound, we have attracted several new members and *The Springbok* has won a prestigious award. Congratulations again, Roy.

On top of that Rob & Lyn Lester are to be congratulated for regenerating the "display collection" booklets which provide a very useful reference source for members – so many thanks to them and their team for that. Thanks also to Otto whose continued work on the website keeps our profile high and is the source of most of our new membership.

Further thanks to Nick Arrow. I don't think many realise just how much work goes into the preparation of an auction when one is presented with a large, poorly organised collection. I hope members will support him by providing some active bidding!

The Hon. Secretary has listed some of the prestigious awards gained by members in his report so I won't repeat them all here but will repeat the congratulations. All were thoroughly deserved and add to The Society's standing.

My thanks, too, to all the other Society officials who help keep the show on the road. The future is looking quite rosy so I'll end with my usual plea to silent members to join in some of the events and meetings. They're generally very friendly and informal affairs from which you'd learn a large amount and would certainly add interest to your collections.

Best wishes to you all - Tony Howgrave-Graham

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

Our meetings in London and at Carlisle continue but with reduced attendance. The Letchworth meeting was resurrected by Bob Hill at a new venue with a good attendance. It is hoped that the attendance will grow and it is our intention to continue with an annual meeting here. This weekend meeting, which is at a new location this year, goes from strength to strength, mainly due to Simon's excellent organization. Our Auctions, Circulating Packet and Magazine continue to flourish but all are in need of suitable material to enable them to thrive.

One of our older members, Albert Moffat, passed away soon after our last A.G.M. and we have also lost active members in Graham Chard and John Ahmad. We have enrolled seven new members since the last A.G.M. and six have failed to renew so with five deaths we are down on numbers again.

At the Southern Africa Societies Convention in November 2016 we were pleased to learn that Mike Tonking and Paul van Zeyl had signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa and that Dr Uli Bantz has been awarded the W E Lea Cup. In addition, Otto Peetoom was invested with the Manfred Weinstein Medal at that weekend meeting.

My thanks to our Officers and Committee who have continued their help over the last year.

The Hon. Treasurer's report to December 2016 & statement on proposed subscriptions for 2018.

As *Springbok* page 45 of Vol. 65 No.2. It is suggested that Subscriptions remain at their current situation for 2018.

Reports from other officers of the Society, if any.

The Library continues to flourish.

The Exchange Packet is not generating enough funds to pay for the insurance etc. and will require a subsidy from the Society. Simon Peetoom proposed and Nick Arrow seconded that a subsidy of up-to £100 be allowed to support the Packet which is a service to the membership.

Otto's devotion to the website was appreciated and thanked.

Nick will be reviving the January auction and was in receipt of the remainder of the John Ahmad books for auction at some future occasion.

Election of Officers and committee.

All existing officers & committee, being willing, are to remain in office. Proposed en bloc by Rob Lester and agreed by all present.

Conferment of Hon. Membership. None.

Ratification of Library Fund.

This had been an exceptional year due to the acquisition of some of John Ahmad's books, it was, therefore, agreed that an additional £300 be expended on the Library and that the allocation of £200 per annum be continued.

Society meetings and events :

A brief report on those held. None additional.

S.A.C.S. meetings in Carlisle and London proposed for 2018 are yet to be arranged.

Other meetings for S.A.C.S. in 2018. Letchworth meeting will be arranged.

British Philatelic Congress at Cardiff.

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? Agreed that a sum of £50 should be donated. Proposed by Nick Arrow and seconded by Roy Ross.

S.A.C.S. occasional monographs & their printing.

Lyn and Rob Lester were commended for their work and requested more material of 60 to 120 pages to enable further monographs to be produced. Material can be sent to them already scanned or for scanning by them. Please discuss.

A.O.B. – if notified to the Hon. Secretary prior to the meeting.

Seventieth birthday of the Society. Chris Oliver has discussed with Otto Peetoom the placing some of the history of the Society on the website and this will be progressed.

Roy Ross considered that asking new member applicants for character referees was old fashioned. This only applied to U.K. membership where access to the Library; the Auction and the Exchange Packets could be involved. The meeting deemed that we could afford to risk any theft and that the request for references would be deleted from the application form, forthwith.

The meeting closed at 17.20hrs. with thanks to those who had attended.

— O —



Members seated for the displays at the SACS Annual Meeting

Auction No. 46 will be held on the 3rd - 5th November 2017 at the Southern Africa Conference

The Auction list is included with this issue of the Springbok

A REPORT OF THE WEEKEND MEETING OF THE SOCIETY 27 /28TH MAY 2017

By Chris Oliver

The meeting, this year, was held, partly, at Strawberry Bank Hotel, Meriden, Warwickshire.



Displays commenced with that of the 1910 Cape Town Pageant by *Otto Peetoom* and consisted of philately and ephemera relating to the celebration of the advent of the Union of South Africa. A rare four guinea ticket for a box was shown. Programmes for the event were printed in English for overseas visitors and in Dutch and English for visitors from Southern Africa. Post cards showing the Transvaal Arch, the Cape Colony Arch and the O.R.C. Arch. These are often seen but not that of the Natal Arch. Otto had copied a picture from the web, however.

The well-known triangular labels are not often encountered used in pairs and in blocks even less often. Sets of 24 post cards depicting the various activities at the pageant were produced and Mazawattee Tea produce 6 cards to help advertise their product.

Chris Oliver displayed some of the cachets and censor marks of the Angola Border War 1975-1989. He explained that South West Africa was a mandated territory to South Africa administered on behalf of the United Nations. South Africa had helped the Portuguese in Angola to finance engineering projects in the Okavango Delta. In 1975, Angola was given its independence which resulted in a mass exodus of Portuguese nationals and a commencement of civil war in that country before the year end. Communist bloc countries supported the warring factions in Angola. S.W.A.P.O. [South West African Peoples Organisation] was becoming more militant by 1978. The South African Armed Services were faced with protecting their country's interest in Okavango and stopping Angolan forces from joining up with SWAPO whilst keeping that organisation in check by severing contact with their training bases in Zambia. Every battalion or field force had their own rectangular, bilingual cachets and most covers were subject to censorship. A number of these were displayed. First from Rundu field post office, then from Grootefontein and Oashakati and lastly from Katima Mulilo, at the eastern end of the Caprivi Strip. The display finished with some items from the South African Police Force in 1980 and post cards of SWATF Operation Protea showing military arms captured from the enemy.



Our last display of the morning was presented by *Mike Berry* on the Postal Stationery of Natal dating from 1885. It included Specimen items of the small sized postal card and the larger cards produced by De La Rue; Reply cards; Embossed Q.V. cards, letter cards & covers and registered envelopes and newspaper wrappers of Q.V. and K.E.VII period. Some of the covers were to exotic destinations such as Mexico, Cyprus and Germany.

After lunch the hotel manager advised us of a quandary which had been forced upon him by builders who had failed to keep to their contract and had left him without a dining room on Sunday, 28th. He offered us alternate accommodation, in Hockley Heath, to vacate our room and after heated discussion amongst ourselves it was decided to accept the offer. This turned out to be an advantage.

The next display was an A to Z of South African philately presented by, with usual aplomb, by *Bob Hill*. Most of the display featured items not often seen, including Apartheid; book card post; A Danger Point card [where the Birkenhead was sunk]; cork cancels; East Walmer P.O. mark [opened May – October 1907]; Eureka City mark; Frama labels; Income Protection Scheme; Jubilex; Mobile P.O.'s; Namaqualand Sea post; Shipping Postmaster cachets; Verneuk Pan cancellation; War Train cancels; Table Mountain P.O. [1893-97] and the Union's first stamp.





John Shaw had recently purchased Dr. John Ahmad's W.W.II. Army Post Office Collection and displayed it at this meeting. He explained that although A.P.O. numbers ran from 1 to 60, 14 were never used and 5 others were only used within the Union. 41 were used overseas and John circulated some notes relating to his display which showed to where some of the more interesting Field P.O.'s had travelled. There were also a good array of military censor marks on the covers.

There were four entries for the Abell Trophy Competition and after the usual scrutiny the votes were cast. On this occasion for our Chairman, *Tony H-G.*, who displayed 1925 Airmail covers, both publicity cards & usages with imperforate one side examples of 1d & 9d on cover, finally a strip of 4x 9d on agricultural label with B4 2d for 6lb of fruit out of the last flight from Port Elizabeth. He was presented with the trophy after dinner that evening. Tony was also awarded the Wicks Medal for his article on the Revenue Stamps of the Union 1910-1946 in the 2016 Springbok.



At the A.G.M., it had been agreed that a further Wicks Medal should be presented to *Mike Tonking, RDPSA* for his contribution of many short articles to the Springbok over a number of years. These medals will be engraved. Simon Peetoom was thanked by the President for organising yet another successful weekend meeting and for showing that his negotiating skills are not limited to his stamp dealing. This was endorsed by all present.

On Sunday morning, after a good breakfast, an exodus to the Oak Hotel at Hockley Heath took place where we found a very good meeting room and a congenial atmosphere.

Tony Howgrave-Graham started the displays with some of his excellent Maritime Mail. From 1840, ships from India stopped at Cape Town on their way back to U.K. In 1864 the Suez Canal opened but despite earlier fears this made little difference to trade via the Cape. We saw an item from St. Helena which travelled on the "Celt" and the advent of the Devonport Packet which developed to become the Union Line. Donald Currie's Castle Line eventually joining with Lindsey's Union Line to form the Union Castle Line. A "Kenilworth Castle" postcard had a Plymouth Ship Letter mark and a "Balmoral Castle" card had German, Dutch and Italian marks. Tony also displayed a cover of a Japanese Line travelling between the Netherlands and Cape Town. W.W.I. ended the use of Ocean Post on board ship after almost twenty years of use.

Chris Oliver showed examples of the six types of Italian P.O.W. cards used in South Africa during W.W.II. to complement the nine types of P.O.W. air letters used by Italian P.O.W.'s which he had displayed as one of the Abell competition entries.

Simon Peetoom had borrowed an Egyptian Field Post Office canceller to show us. He also displayed some large blocks of Republican Postage Due stamps used on the back of accounting documents of the A.B.C., Shoe Company.



Mike Berry displayed the use of P.O.A.21 cancellation in Natal and explained the results of running out of 1/2d stamps in Pietermaritzburg.

Ian Smart had brought his fine collection of Christmas Booklets to display, including a 1946 ten shilling booklet.

Tony Johnson displayed a very interesting thematic display which contained not only South African stamps but those of New Zealand and Canada as well. The main purpose was to describe printing in simple terms with particular reference to stamps. We hope that he can expand this to form an article in the Springbok.

Following a convivial lunch break, Nick Arrow and his team took the floor with yet another enjoyable and successful Auction, before departure at 15.30 hrs.

Packet Secretary's report.

By Tony Johnson

Good News. At the recent AGM of SACS it was agreed that the society would support the circulating packet by making good any cash shortfall that may arise if the fixed cost of the insurance cannot be fully recovered by the sales made. So, the packet will continue for another year, until at least the end of 2018, and possibly beyond depending on the outcome at the next AGM when we will review it again. However, although the amount of material coming in for the packets has increased recently I still need more material to keep the system going. So, please send me any books you can make up and thereby get rid of some unwanted material and recover some cash! However, please remember when making up books that the weight and thickness of books affects the cost of postage so please avoid inclusion of thick card stamp mounts, and mount stamps in such a way that the thickness of the book is minimised."

— O —

Auction Report No. 45

By Nick Arrow

The Graham Chard collection posed a considerable challenge. It is no exaggeration that the boot of my car was stuffed full of albums when I collected it from his widow, and indeed the car was so full with the Auction lots on travelling to the Midlands in May that there was precious little space for Richard and me to sit in on the way up!

However, the response from the members was truly fantastic - there were 26 bidders in total and of those only 3 failed to achieve at least one lot. The bidding was extremely lively at times which was a huge relief to me - it is a little soul destroying to have lot after lot fail to sell, and the prospect of driving home with most of the auction intact was alarming. In the end there were only 4 boxes to take home, of which 2 were filled with lots for the postal purchasers, whom I would like to commend in particular, bearing in mind that they were bidding for material which could only be described in general. It takes courage to bid £100 (occasionally substantially more!) on the strength of a catalogue description. Or maybe it's the way I tell 'em!

There were 139 lots and of these only 41 failed to sell, a clearance rate of 71% - I do not think I have ever achieved such a high percentage of sold lots before. The total amount raised for Graham's widow was £7940 which is well up to what I had hopefully estimated would be the overall outcome (and at the time of writing I am still receiving enquiries as to unsold lots).

So the Society can be well pleased with itself for such a superb response in May. BUT that is not the end as I want you all to continue to save your pennies for the November Auction. I have received a huge consignment of stamps from the estate of another member (Jim Dixon), and I am working as hard as I can to get a fair representative quantity of his material before us. It is probable that the material will be part collections and part more specialist items (more of the latter than was the case with Graham Chard's collection) and it will again challenge the Society members to consider the best ways of extending their collections. Which is really what stamp collecting is all about, at least in my opinion. Which of us can truly say that there is nothing left for him to collect!

I hope that the list for the November Auction will be sent off to you not later than about the end of September. But despite this welcome influx of material, remember that if there is anything you cannot fit into your albums, there may well be a home for it in someone else's albums, so please send it to me for sale. At least it will get it out of your collection space, which in my case is beginning to overflow, particularly after Graham's collection came under the hammer. Memo to self - get on with it!!

For those who are interested, the list of prices realised for the Chard collection is set on the next page.

**The Next Auction No. 46 will be held on the 3rd - 5th November 2017
at the Southern Africa Conference**

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
1	£40.00	36	£12.00	64	£35.00	91	£50.00	122	£30.00
2	£50.00	37	£40.00	65	£50.00	92	£44.00	123	£50.00
4	£30.00	38	£20.00	66	£50.00	93	£25.00	124	£58.00
6	£10.00	39	£11.00	67	£20.00	94	£70.00	125	£54.00
9	£50.00	40	£30.00	71	£230.00	96	£20.00	126	£25.00
16	£280.00	41	£250.00	73	£50.00	98	£30.00	127	£7.00
17	£650.00	43	£100.00	76	£340.00	103	£15.00	128	£5.00
19	£80.00	44	£80.00	77	£160.00	104	£85.00	129	£5.00
20	£100.00	45	£150.00	78	£52.00	105	£19.00	130	£5.00
21	£70.00	49	£10.00	79	£40.00	106	£90.00	131	£250.00
22	£65.00	50	£52.00	80	£420.00	107	£180.00	132	£230.00
23	£120.00	51	£60.00	81	£70.00	108	£60.00	133	£250.00
25	£30.00	52	£140.00	82	£120.00	109	£90.00	134	£20.00
26	£25.00	53	£60.00	83	£80.00	113	£110.00	135	£10.00
28	£36.00	55	£32.00	84	£50.00	114	£40.00	136	£5.00
29	£70.00	58	£30.00	85	£60.00	116	£16.00	137	£10.00
32	£120.00	59	£30.00	86	£80.00	117	£22.00	138	£21.00
33	£75.00	60	£90.00	87	£120.00	118	£60.00	139	£25.00
34	£50.00	61	£200.00	89	£70.00	119	£60.00		
35	£120.00	63	£50.00	90	£46.00	121	£40.00		

FOR SALE

The Auctioneer has for sale, on behalf of the estate of the late Jim Dixon, his collections of the Homelands. These are housed in special, boxed, 24-ring, beautiful, printed albums and are as complete as it is possible to consider a collection ever to be. I suspect that the albums were specially printed by the Philatelic Office of the SAPO, and the collections consist of the stamps and CB's in ** condition. There are also the First Day covers, where applicable, as well as the First Day Sheets, which were popular during the short period of issue of these stamps, and some Maximum Cards. And finally there are Date Stamp Cards where the various Post Offices took an Exhibition stand at an international Philatelic Exhibition (eg Belgica and PhilexFrance), cancelled with the appropriate Exhibition postmark. Overall the condition is pristine, although there was one album where the binding mechanism seems to be broken.

These will not be offered in the Auction for the very simple reason that each collection of the individual Homelands weighs the proverbial ton! There are 7 albums of Transkei and 5 albums of each of the other Homelands, and I seriously feel that to take such weighty boxes to an Auction, lifting them in and out of the car etc, would present a serious risk of back injury.

However, they are for sale by Private Treaty. The prices for Transkei (7 albums) is £100, and for each of the other 3 Homelands, £70. If anyone wants to buy all 4 albums, the total price will be £300. No haggling, I am afraid - take it or leave it, and it will be first come first served. So far as transporting these boxes is concerned (and with complete disregard for personal safety!) I am prepared to take them to any of our Conventions for collection by the purchaser, but otherwise the purchaser must arrange collection from my home (which frankly I would prefer).

Although the subject of the Homelands philately is one which many collectors treat with a little suspicion, the stamps are extremely attractive and would grace any club display or exhibition, even if their status in National Exhibitions and higher has yet to be achieved.

This is an opportunity, unique so far as I am aware in the history of SACS, to acquire a complete collection of 4 different Postal Authorities, and I commend it to you.

Please contact me - the details are in the front of The Springbok.

Working Notes on the 2nd RSA “De Jong” Definitive Series

By Hugh Amooore hugh.amooore@uct.ac.za

These notes were originally written to accompany a display to the RPSCT on 23 January 2017. they have since been revised and corrected June 26, 2017. I hope to update them as I find out more about this issue as I receive comment and corrections from students of the issue.

The 1974 De Jong definitives interest me because of (a) their excellent designs (b) the De la Rue-Giori printing press used for the sheet issues: a double-sized intaglio cylinder in series with four gravure cylinders and an internal rotary perforator, which gives rise to the possibility of transpositions and (c) the five (or more) distinct Harrison papers used for the sheet and coil issues.

The coils, printed by the Goebels 840 Press, perf 12.5 and later 14; two values, the 1c and 2c were the subjects of experiments with numbering the rolls from 500, every fifth stamp, for stock taking purposes.

Most values went through numerous printings and in some values new cylinders had to be used for later printings.

The 2nd RSA definitives were issued on 20 November 1974, and were replaced by the 3rd series, the *proteaceae*, on 27 May 1977. The series had the shortest duration (2 ½ years) of any, may be the least studied¹ and may be the least collected. Yet the designs are attractive, the production processes are of considerable interest, the stamps were reasonably well produced, and the series offers some philatelic challenges.



1. The technical stuff

The sheet format stamps were printed on the De La Rue-Giori 841 press that had been acquired by the Government Printer in 1971 to replace the old 830 and 840 presses. The De La Rue Giori 841 press consisted of five gravure printing units and one three-colour intaglio unit, linked in series. It had a built-in rotary perforator which was used for most *but not all* the sheet issues². The roll stamps were printed on the old 840 press and the perforation was done by the 840's built in perforator and by the Grover two-row comb perforator. The Grover perforator was used for some of the sheets issues.

¹ I owe much to the early studies of Dr Raubenheimer, Mr GH (Hugh) Legge, and Mr AT De Villiers, augmented by those of the two study circles, the **SA Stamp Study Circle** & the **RSA Stamp Study Circle**. These studies were published as follows:

Raubenheimer, Dr H “The second definitive series of the republic: *Advance Notes*” SA Stamp Study Circle Newsletter NL156 pp. 6-7; “Further notes on the second definitive Republican Series” SA Stamp Study Circle NL 158 pp 3;

Legge, GH, “The second definitives Roll Stamps” SA Stamp Study Circle NL 171, pp. 5-6 and NL 172, p.4.

Legge, GH, “Those extra perforation holes” SA Stamp Study Circle NL 170, pp. 6-7 and two appendices

De Villiers, AT, “Papers of the definitives: an empirical study” The S A Philatelist, Vol 55, No. 4, April 1976 pp 117.118

The RSA Study Circle has a significant number of entries on the series. Noteworthy are

Liebenberg, Connie & Theo Swart, (2007) “The Second Definitive series” in the **RSA Study Circle's** 25th anniversary issue;

Tonking, Mike and Tony Hitchcock, (2007) “The Second Definitive Coil Stamps” in the same issue.

and the following **RSA Stamp Study Circle** Newsletters: NL2/4, NL6/2, NL11/2-10, NL22/2, NL31/6, NL55/2, NL 62/2, NL63/2, NL88/5, NL91/1, NL93/3 & NL104/4. In addition, there is a useful note on gums in NL59/3-8.

² **RSA Stamp Study NL104/4** reproduces an article from The Philatelist of March 1972 describing the Government printer's acquisition of the De la Rue Giori machine. It was ordered in 1969. It was manufactured in Italy and Germany. In 1970 GPW technical staff visited Europe to study the intaglio process and a trial was run in June 1971 in Würzburg.

2. The issue date and the short period of issue.

The 2nd series was launched on 20 November 1974. Originally intended for issue before the end of 1971 the designs of the new series were announced in late 1971, and the SA Philatelist of January 1972³ gave details of the new series that would

“be printed on the new postage stamp press in up to six colours by the gravure and intaglio processes. All sixteen postage stamps will be issued simultaneously towards the end of 1972”.

The SA Philatelist reproduced the intended designs: these are close to the issued stamps but several designs were used for different values and some design changes made. These designs are shown in the following 1971 photograph. (The photograph of the 5c is the same as the only remaining finished artwork held by Philatelic Services⁴ in Pretoria. Some design changes were made; in particular, the value which in De Jong’s artwork, was coloured is white in the finished stamps and the imprint – with the name of the fish/bird/flower, the artist’s name and the [intended] year of issue - was added and dropped to the margin.



Photograph (1971) of the intended stamp designs, ex De Jong’s personal archive

Two pairs were subsequently swapped: the 3c design⁵ became the design for the 20c stamp and the 20c became 3c; the 4c and 15c were similarly swapped. Not illustrated in the 1971 press release were the coil stamps, and it is probable that the bi-coloured solution to these came later. In October 1973 the SA Philatelist⁶ noted: “South Africa’s new definitive set of fishes, flowers and birds will not be issued on 1 November 1973, the last date promised. ... [The Postmaster General stated that the date would] ... be 15 May 1974 ... due to circumstances beyond the control” of the Post Office.

While I have not found an account as to why the launch was delayed for so long, nor why the series was cut short after less than three years, the evidence suggests that significant teething troubles with the new postage stamp printing press were the cause of the delays. Under a heading “*The new set in sight*” the SA Philatelist announced in October 1974⁷ that the new stamps would be issued at the end of November 1974 and that “[the printed sheets have been slowly arriving at Philatelic Services Pretoria]” but that “[only thirteen of the sixteen] values have been delivered so far (6 September 1974)”. The printing dates of some of the stamps emphasise this: though some issued stamps were printed in June 1973, the first *released* printings of the 9c and 10c values were printed as late as 12 and 16 September 1974⁸ (i.e., after Dr Raubenheimer visited Philatelic services on 6 September 1974 to view the then recently-delivered sheets).

³ SA Philatelist Vol 48, No. 1, January 1972, pp. 2-3

⁴ Seen, 26 January 2017. The Post Office Archivist indicated that the finished artwork for all other values is believed to be in private hands.

⁵ De Jong regarded the design for what became the 20c value as his favourite and this may be why he chose it for the 3c value, one of the more used values in 1971. (Personal communication from his daughter Tamara de Jong)

⁶ SA Philatelist, Vol 49 No 10, October 1973, p. 271

⁷ Raubenheimer, Dr H J “The new set in sight” SA Philatelist, Vol 50 No 10, October 1975, p.259

⁸ These are the printing dates on the first issues of these stamps.

3. The sheet issue stamps were printed by a combination of intaglio (or recess) and gravure (or photogravure) printing processes

The production of the sheet issue stamps of the second series introduced new techniques: key was the use of an intaglio cylinder in series with a number (four) of gravure cylinders and a perforator. The intaglio cylinder printed the outline and the hatching of the design, the imprint (i.e. the scientific name of the bird, flower or fish, the artist's name and the [intended] year of issue) and *the lattice colour control* in the selvedge. It did not print its own reference number; this number (S followed by an integer, where it is indicated, and it was always printed) was printed by one of the gravure cylinders. It is thus not possible to deduce from the printed sheets that the same (standing) intaglio cylinder was used for all the printings.

The S or intaglio cylinder

The four gravure cylinders, each half the size of the S cylinder

The order of printing has not been established, but there is some authority for the idea that the intaglio came after the gravure cylinders, and an examination of the stamps would suggest that this was the case. The function of the intaglio cylinder is understood by reference to proof printings of the intaglio images.

Proofs/trials of the 5c stamp

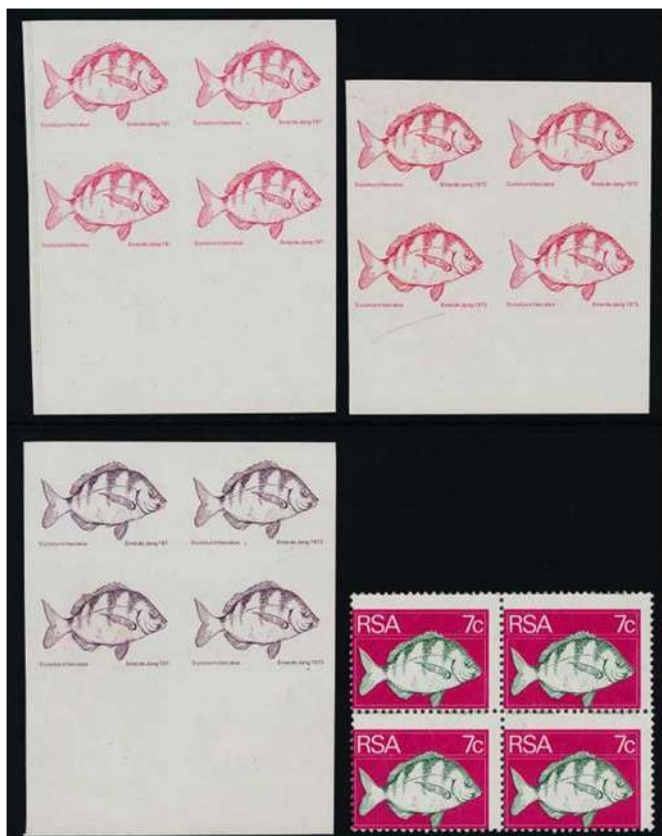
The proof or trial on the left is of the intaglio cylinder only, showing how this was used to print the design outline and the text below the image. The proof/trial on the right is of the stamp to-be-issued, prior to perforating.



Proofs or trials of the 7c stamp

7c definitive, printers colour trial proofs in *un-issued* colours comprising the fish and wording only in deep purple, carmine and red (i.e. the intaglio-printed part of the stamp only) plus the complete design in deep green and magenta, each in a block of four, imperforate on gummed paper

Next page: Proofs or trials of the 20c stamps



Images: by kind permission of Michael Deverell & Alan McGregor



A similar item offered on eBay (25 11 2016) as a “missing colour”, which it is not. This is a trail or proof without the intaglio print and with only some of the gravure cylinders.

4. The intaglio cylinder

The intaglio cylinder had a diameter equal to twice the diameter of each of the gravure cylinders. As a result, the intaglio cylinder had

- Four panes of 10 x 10 images, in series, for the small format stamps; and
- Two panes of 5 x 20 images, also in series, for the larger format stamps.

The width of the paper roll was 340 mm, and this accommodated a row of ten small format stamps (measured along the 30.25mm edge of the stamps) and the left and right side margins; or a row of five larger-format stamps and the left and right side margins. In the case of the larger format stamps the side margins were trimmed.

The intaglio cylinder was made of steel. The *cylinder number* for each intaglio cylinder is not always evident on the printed sheets. It is an S (for steel) followed by a numeral (1, 2, 3 but not in sequence). The intaglio cylinder produced a web control mark in the form of a thick straight line on the margin of the sheet in lattice form. The purpose of this control was for the electronic “eye” of the machine to control registration of the colours. The intaglio web control mark usually appears on alternate B panes of the small format stamps and on alternate panes of the large format stamps. Where it appears on the B panes of the small format stamps it does not appear on the A panes and vice versa. I have labeled the four panes of the small format intaglio stamps *a*, *b*, *c* and *d*; and the two intaglio panes of the large format stamps as *a* and *b*⁹. I have called the un-labeled single gravure pane of the large format stamps X.

5. The gravure cylinders

The gravure cylinders, being half the diameter of the intaglio cylinder, had

- Two panes, an A and a B pane, each of 10 x 10 images, for the small format stamps; and
- One pane only, pane X, of 5 x 20 images, for the larger format stamps.

6. The consequence of the combination of different size cylinders for the sheet issues

The consequence of the use of the double-sized-diameter intaglio cylinder in series with the gravure cylinders was that

- For the small format stamps, the stamps were in fact printed in a four pane format (and not as might appear from the fact that sheets are shown as A or B, in a two pane format);
- For the larger format stamps, the stamps were in fact printed in a two pane format.

For the small format stamps the intaglio cylinder had four panes of the images it had to print, in four quadrants. The gravure cylinders had two. As a result, (unless a transposition occurs) the intaglio

- first image (*a*) would be aligned with the gravure A pane, which I label A_a;
- second image (*b*) would be aligned with the gravure B pane (B_b);
- third image (*c*) would be aligned with the gravure A pane (A_c); and
- fourth image (*d*) would be aligned with the gravure B pane (B_d).

As a result, for the small format stamps, a flaw peculiar to one pane of the intaglio cylinder will appear on one in four printed panes (i.e., an alternate A or B pane).

⁹ I record my thanks to Theo Swart and Heinz Wirz for clarifying my thinking on this nomenclature.

Cyclometer (or sheet) numbering of the small format sheets allows us to allocate a control block to its position. De Villiers suggested that this numbering was done by two machines¹⁰ where one wound downwards in odd numbers and the other downwards in even numbers. De Villiers established that in the majority of printings the intaglio control and the B pane coincided with cyclometer numbers that when divided by 4 leaves a remainder of 2 or 0, and those on the A pane with cyclometer numbers divided by 4 with a remainder of 3 or 1, thus permitting a simple coding of the printed panes:

- A_a where the numerical remainder = 3
- B_b where the numerical remainder = 2
- A_c where the numerical remainder = 1
- B_d where the numerical remainder = 0

De Villiers appears to have believed that the intaglio cylinder had four panes arranged 2 x 2, whereas the measurements of the paper and the cylinder suggest that the four panes were arranged 1x 4 (i.e., in series). And that the same applied to the gravure cylinders. The numbering by cyclometer was thus in sequence by the two machines, one printing odd numbers and the other even numbers. This point needs to be researched. However, the fact that in two instances at least, where sheets have been found without sheet numbers or dates (the 4c and 9c values) only A sheets have been found without date of or sheet number; this gives credence to the idea that there were two numbering machines.

In the early printings there was no consistency as to whether the even or odd sheet numbers were to be found on the A panes or the B panes, so that where the even numbers were on the A panes the remainder when the sheet number was divided by 4 gave rise to the following pattern.

- A_a where the numerical remainder = 2
- B_b where the numerical remainder = 3
- A_c where the numerical remainder = 0
- B_d where the numerical remainder = 1

The following table gives this detail for the first printings¹¹

Sheet numbers	1c	2c	3c	4c	5c	6c	7c	9c	10c	14c	15c	20c	25c
Even on A panes		Y	Y	Y		Y			Y				
Even on B panes	Y				Y		Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y

7. The printing dates

The “printing date” was added to each sheet in dd.mm.yy format. At first the Government Printer seems to have changed the date every day during a print run¹². This at least gives some idea of the fact that the De la Rue Giori, when used with its internal perforator, was slow. Subsequently, the Government Printer appears to have assigned a date to a job, and did not change the date from one day to the next while the job was being run. There is also evidence that the date was not necessarily changed for a subsequent *job requisition*.¹³

8. Errors in the numbering process

In several cases sheets (panes) were issued without sheet numbers or dates. Whether this was a failure of the Giori which we believe printed this data, or whether batches of sheets (panes) were not put through the press for this data to be printed is not clear. I have the following examples:

- 2c A & B panes (presumably the “0” printing)
- 4c A panes only
- 9c A panes only

In such cases it is usually possible to assign a control block to the relevant pane by a variety unique to that pane; for example, for the small format stamps the intaglio lattice web colour control is only found on intaglio pane *d*, and usually (perhaps always) on pane *Bd*, while the gravure colour controls are found on both B panes (i.e., panes *Bc* and *Bd*).

10. The research by Sorour, Wirz and Laubscher on the cyclometer numbering of the Protea series is conclusive in showing that there were two numbering machines; they assumed in reaching this conclusion, as do I, that the cyclometer numbering and the date printing were done in the same process by the same device. This assumption remains to be proven.

11. Raubenheimer, Dr HJ, “New Set” SA Philatelist November 1974, Vol 50, no 11 pp. 284 – 290

12. For example, (a) the 6c value can be found on nine days, public holidays, Sundays and the Christmas/Boxing day/New Years Day excepted, between 14 December 1973 and 4 January 1974; (b) the first printing of the 2c took place over eight days between 18 October and 30 October 1973; and the first printing of the 3c took place between 7 August and 1 October 1973. In each of these cases the sheet numbers follow sequentially on each successive day, evidence that the Government Printer considered each of these jobs as a single printing job.

13. See note on the “06.01.75” printings of the 4c in appendix A.

9. For small format stamps

Images produced by the two pane gravure cylinders

A	B
---	---

Images produced by the four pane intaglio cylinder

A	B	C	D
---	---	---	---

Images when the paper had been through both the intaglio cylinder and the four gravure cylinders, being the gravure images superimposed on the intaglio images.

A _a	B _b	A _c	B _d
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Width 340 mm

Of course, if the synchronisation changes, a transposition will take place, leading to the sequence: A_b B_c A_d B_a rather than: A_a B_b A_c B_d

Using the first sequence, and the sheet numbering, the following are possible patterns of numbered combinations (where the integer shown below is the remainder when the sheet number is divided by four), which apply where transposed as well.

A _a 1	B _b 2	A _c 3	B _d 0
A _a 1	B _b 2	A _c 3	B _d 0
A _a 1	B _b 2	A _c 3	B _d 0
A _a 1	B _b 2	A _c 3	B _d 0

10. For the large format stamps

X	X
a	b
X _a	X _b

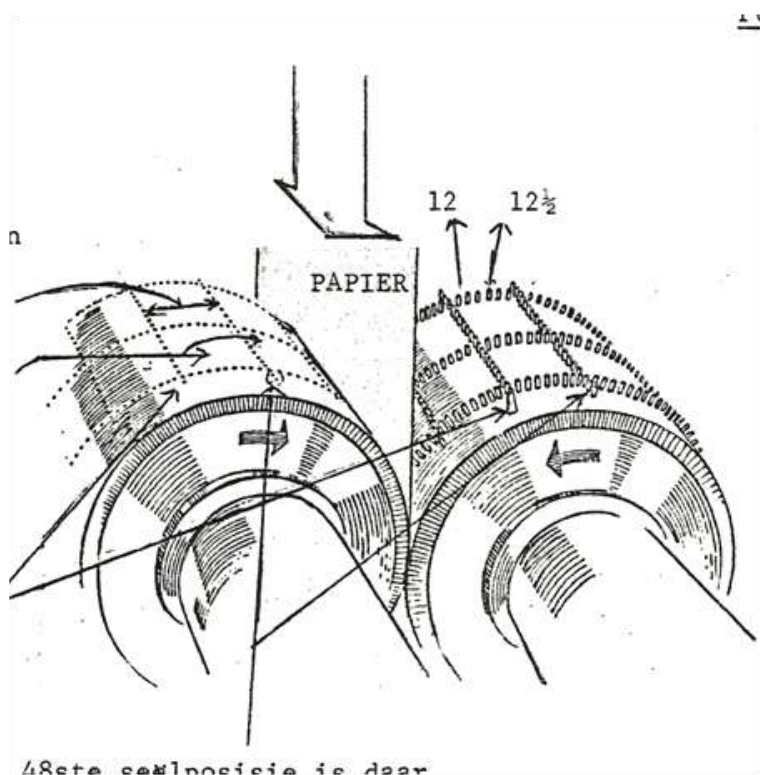
For the large format stamps the intaglio cylinder had two panes of 5 x 20 images it had to print. The gravure cylinders had one pane of 5 x 20 images. As a result, the stamps were printed in two panes, although the details on the cylinder control blocks do not reflect this. The intaglio cylinder's two panes mean that any flaw on an intaglio pane will appear on every other printed pane of the large format stamps.

One/

One of the intaglio panes was printed with a lattice colour control; the gravure cylinders for the large format stamps printed the [gravure] cylinder colour controls on both intaglio panes (i.e., on every pane). The cyclometer was set to print even numbers only (or if as is supposed there were two machines, the machine printing the odd numbers was turned off), and the two intaglio panes can be distinguished by the presence of the lattice control or by using the same method as for the small format stamps: a sheet number divisible by 4 marks the pane as from the 1st intaglio image set, and a sheet number that leaves a remainder of 2 when divided by 4 marks the 2nd intaglio image set.

11. Sheet issue perforations for the small format stamps

The De la Rue-Giori printing press had a built-in rotary perforator. The circumference of this built-in perforator was the same as the intaglio cylinders. The whole roll was perforated through longitudinally (in other words perforated through at the “top”¹⁴ and “bottom” of the sheet). The circumference of the perforator allowed it to perforate 48 rows of stamps with each revolution. A pane of [the small format] stamps consisted of 10 rows and one blank row (at “top” and “bottom” and four panes (the A_a, B_b, A_c and B_d panes) were perforated with each revolution. Each transverse row of perforating pins had one extra pin at each end, resulting in one extra perforation in the side margin of each row.



The Giori rotary perforator which was part of the De la Rue Giori 841 press (Image from RSA Stamp Study Circle NL 5/3)

The circumference of the perforator cylinders was 1147,5984 mm, which gave 48 rows of small format stamps with each revolution, i.e., four panes (A_a, B_c, A_c and B_d). This perforator was not used for the large format stamps. For the De Jong stamps the gauge was set at 12.5.

One row of the 48, however, had a second pin *at each end of the row*, resulting in two extra holes in the left and right margins. This occurred once per revolution of the perforator. These extra holes are found in the margin of every 4th pane, most often but not always in the B_d pane, in row 11 (the intermediate row - the selvedge row, where it is not always visible because the guillotining of the sheets can result in it not appearing) In some printings the extra perf hole is above stamp row 1, and in other printings¹⁵ at a random position on the 4th pane. This hole has been given the name the “beacon hole”¹⁶. This appears on the left *and* right margins, in other words there were “beacon pins” in both left and right margins of the perforator. A listing of observed positions is given at appendix C, together with an example showing beacon holes in both left and right margins.

14. Where the stamp was “Upright” the “Top” and “Bottom” of the sheet would appear as the left and right hand sides of the sheet.
 15. It is possible that the position of the beacon hole will differ during a printing if the print run is interrupted for any reason, as the perforator will not necessarily remain synchronized with the printing cylinders when the machines resume.
 16. RSA Stamp Study Circle (1983) NL 5/3 gives a detailed account of the beacon hole. The article explains that this extra perf pin served a particular purpose: if a fault develops during perforating (e.g., a pin is dislodged resulting in a blind or bad perf hole) it is extremely difficult to locate the faulty pin. The beacon pins make it possible to determine the position of the error in relation to the beacon pins.



“Beacon” holes in left and right margins.

In this 9c block the extra perf hole is between rows 2&3 on the left margin and in this 10c block it is between rows 4 & 5 on the right margin.



The two row Grover perforator was used for the first printings of the 3c value and for the 6c and 7c stamps (and for the later coil issues).

- On the first printings of the 3c the top (left¹⁷) and bottom (right side) margins were imperf except for the single extra hole at each end of the transverse rows. The gauge was 11.75 x 12.5. On the original printing the A pane’s “top” and “bottom” margins are perforated though; on the B pane the bottom margin is usually imperforate and the right is perforated through. However, on some A panes the “top” margin is imperforated, while on some B panes both the “top” and “bottom” margins are perforated through. These perforation differences were almost certainly caused by inconsistent feeding of the sheets into the Grover perforator. On the 6c and 7c the perforation was 12½ by the two-row Grover. On the 6c A pane the top margin is imperforate and the bottom margin perforated through; on the 7c the B pane top margin is imperforate.

The occasional missing perf hole is found on stamps perforated by the Grover, where a pin was “dropped”.

One sheet each of the 1c and 3c and two sheets of the 4c were found imperf or partly imperf. Copies of the 2c and 5c imperf have been offered for sale but these may have been proofs¹⁸. Other imperf copies may exist, and may have entered the philatelic market via a “back door”.

12. Sheet issue perforations for the small format stamps

The large format stamps were perforated by the two-row Grover comb perforator. Why, has not been established.

13. Summary of perforators used for the sheet issues

As we have seen most of the sheet-issue stamps were perforated internally by the Giori built-in perforator while others, including all the large format stamps, were perforated on the Grover two-row comb machine. Some values were perforated by both. The following table gives details of the perforator used for each sheet issue value¹⁹. Grover perforations may be identified by irregular perforations seen on every two consecutive rows, and where the “top” and/or “bottom” of the sheet were not perforated through.

The gauge was 12½ for the small format stamps perforated by the in-built Giori machine. The first printings of the 3c were reported²⁰ as perf 11¾x 12½ by the Grover two-row comb perforator, as were the large format stamps (30c, 50c and R1). I have not yet found a 3c perf 11¾x 12½; in fact, the early dated control blocks I have inspected are all 12½. The 6c and 7c small format stamps perforated by the Grover all have gauge 12½.

In addition to the 4c stamps reported as perforated by the Grover (see footnote below²¹) I also have a block of the 3c from the last issue with an imperf bottom margin suggesting that it was perforated by the Grover. There may be other sheet issue stamps similarly perforated.

Value	Giori Built-in	Grover	Value	Giori Built-in	Grover
1c	*		10c	*	
2c	*		14c	*	
3c	Last 9 printings	First 20 printing dates	15c	*	
4c	*		20c	*	
5c	*		25c	*	
6c		*	30c		*
7c		*	50c		*
9c	*		R1		*

17. For these purposes the sheet is viewed as fed into the perforator, the “Top” being the 30.2mm edge with the stamp from left to right.

18. A marginal pair of the 5c imperf was offered by Cape Philatelics in July 2011, and the 2c imperf has been listed in the SA Colour Catalogue.

19. This table is courtesy of MJH Tonking RDPSA.

20. Raubenheimer, Dr H “The second definitive series of the Republic : Advance Notes” SA Stamp Study Circle Newsletter NL156

21. SACC newsletter NL 182/5&6 carries a report on the use of the Grover to perforate at least some of the sheets of the 4th printing of the 4c value gravure cylinders 660,661,662 & 663 after the inbuilt Giori broke down.

14. *The papers for the sheet and coil issues*

De Villiers identified five papers were used for this series²². Each was manufactured by Harrisons, had no watermark, was fluorescent²³ front and back, and phosphorescent.

De Villiers in his 1976 SA Philatelist article, reports that: “The ... values of the second RSA definitive series were printed from the middle of 1973 onwards, more that one printing having been made [of some values] before the first day of issue The papers used were those in current stock and no special paper was reserved for the new definitive. Thus four papers were common to both the second and the first RSA series.” He goes on to report that a fifth paper was introduced in January 1975.

De Villiers identifies these five papers as papers A, B, C, D, and E, as follows.

Paper A (sheet issues and some 2c coil stamps)

“Glossy, opaque, true white in tone or even creamy white but without any tinge of blue, having no discernable internal pattern or, in some specimens a very feint “herring bone” pattern. This paper was used with a creamy PVA [*Polyvinyl alcohol: PVA has excellent film-forming emulsifying and adhesive properties*] gum which tended to blotches indicating shallow unevenness in the paper or differential contraction on drying. It was highly calendared²⁴ and gives little or no reaction to the silver stylus test²⁵.”

De Villiers records that the values printed in 1973 and the early part of 1974 were printed on papers A and B, and that all such values have been found on both papers except the 30c, which has only been found on Paper B.

Paper B (sheet issues only)

“A similar but less highly calendared paper giving a moderate reaction to the silver stylus test. The same gum lies smoothly and evenly upon it. The characteristic difference is that, viewed in front of a strong light (good sunlight is sufficient) it discloses a regular pattern of narrow lines parallel to the 27 ½ mm sides of the stamp giving the “laid” appearance described in Stanley Gibbons²⁶. These lines do not show up in benzene or water.”

Paper C (sheet issues only)

“This paper appears to have been introduced in April 1974 and is generally designated “Harrison matt”. It is a thin, almost transparent, intensely blue white paper that gives a very strong reaction to the silver stylus test. Well cleaned used specimens disclose a regular pattern of faint arrow lines parallel to the 19 ½ mm sides of the stamp, i.e. at right angles to those in paper B. These are not visible in mint specimens because it was used with a greenish-blue PVA²⁷ gum which dried in broad irregular striations in the same plane (parallel to the 19 ½ mm sides). This paper was generally discontinued in January 1975.”

Paper D (sheet issues and some 2c coil stamps)

“This paper was introduced during runs of the 2c and 4c in January 1975. It is a thickish, bluish-white paper, not highly calendared and reacting strongly to the silver stylus test. In front of a very strong artificial light the lines of the pulp screen can sometimes be discerned parallel to the 19 ½ mm sides but narrower and closer set than in paper C. Usually (and in all mint specimens) they are not visible. This paper was used with the greenish blue PVA²⁸ gum but the gum lies smoothly and evenly. The paper is thin enough to permit the design of darker stamps to be seen from the reverse.”

22. There may have been a sixth; I have a block of the 6c which appears to be on a very different paper.

23. Fluorescent paper emits a distinct colour that can only be seen when exposed to ultra violet light.

24. *Calendering* is the process in paper manufacture used to form or smooth the sheet in order to make the paper smooth and glossy for printing as well as ensure consistent thickness. The paper is passed through a *calender* (a system of hard pressure cylindrical rollers used to glaze or smooth it); the word *calender* is derived from the Greek *kulindros*, the same word that gives English *cylinder*.

25. “Chalk-surfaced paper is paper coated with a suspension of what was thought to be chalk. The *silver stylus test* is the test whereby if rubbed with silver (a silver stylus or a coin with a high content of silver) the rubbing will leave a black mark on “chalk-surfaced” paper.

26. ??? there is no reference to “laid” paper in the 2002 Part 1 Gibbons or the 2005 SG Southern Africa

27. I think this is actually a PVAD gum

28. As above, this is I think a PVAD gum

Paper E (coil stamps only)

“This is a thickish, opaque, slightly glossy paper (reacts to the silver stylus test) very heavily ridged on reverse, the ridges running parallel to the 27 ½ mm sides. These are definite ridges not merely lines in the paper. It was used with the creamy PVA gum evenly applied. In the current series [*i.e. the 2nd definitives*] this paper is specific to the coil stamps (all values)”

De Villiers adds a note: “It is worth remarking that the only [*printings of*] two ... coil stamps [*in this series*] not on paper E (2c on Paper A and 2c on Paper D) show very slight differences in the design and may turn out to be from different cylinders to the original issue but the evidence is meagre.”

In fact, the 1c coil, perf 14, is on Paper D as is the second printing, perf 14, of the 10c coil stamp. I have not found the 2c on paper D (Paper D has bluish-green PVAD gum) but I have found it perf 12,5 on wove paper (that is not paper E) and with a creamy gum. The 5c coil occurs on papers A and B.

Raubenheimer gives a different view of the papers. In a note in the SA Philatelist he wrote:

“Much has been reported on the paper and the gum of our stamps recently. The paper is Unwatermarked and the gum PVA from Harrison in England. There have been varying thicknesses of the paper and different surfaces: different colours and textures of the gum. A recent visit to the factory where the paper is prepared produced the following report. The raw paper is received from Scandinavia and surfaced and treated for the final product. ... There is a tolerance permitted of 10% above and below the tender specifications. This 20% difference between paper thickness and gum colours etc., will explain the different types of paper so often seen. All the surfaced paper has the PVA-gum applied in the same way. The gum is in a tank and when the tank is full and the gum new, then the gum is nearly colourless, it is off-white. ... As the level of the gum in the tank drops the viscosity can alter considerably within the 20% tolerance ... The colour can range from a cream to literally a greenish of buff sheen. ... No record is kept of the colour or texture within allowable limits and all the paper goes into the reels ... so the same reel may have several “types” of paper and they all go into the printing presses later. ... A particular type or colour of paper or gum may, therefore not be a characteristic of any particular printing; although it is interesting to know that the varieties do exist.”²⁹

Dr Raubenheimer’s note does not, however, explain why some paper is glossy and some is matt! Nor does it distinguish between PVA and PVAD gums.

15. Reference stamps for the paper types.

De Villiers provides checklists of values found on each paper. In addition, he notes that the following issues are only on one of these papers:

Paper B: Sugar congress (SG 344); 50th anniversary of broadcasting (SG 345); 1820 Settlers’ monument (SG 346); and Dr Diederichs 15c (SG 3770)

Paper C: Voortrekker monument (SG 374); Baines miniature sheet (SG MS383)

Paper D: Diederichs 4c (SG 376); Baines stamps (SG 379/382); GPO mechanization (SG 385).

Paper E: Dr Malan (SG 343) (De Villiers also lists several printings of the 1st RSA definitives as having been printed on Paper E).

16. The Sheet issues

There were sixteen values in the set, and no additional values were needed or issued. Postage rates during the set’s currency were stable (as shown in the table below) with only two changes in these rates in this period (namely the cheap (printed matter) rate which increased from 2c to 3c and the registration fee which increased from 10c to 15c.

²⁹ Raubenheimer, Dr HJ, “Those gum colours”, *SA Philatelist*, Vol52. No 2 p.115

Class	Period	Rate
Inland letters	1.4.71 - 31.1.80	4c
Inland airmail letters	1.4.71 - 31.1.80	5c
Inland printed matter rate	1.4.71 - 31.3.75	2c
	1.4.75 – 31.1.80	3c
Inland postcard rate	1.4.71 – 31/1/80	3c
Foreign letter rate	1.4.71 – 31.1.80	9c
UK airmail letter rate	1.7.71 – 31.12.80	15c per 10g
USA airmail letter rate	1.7.71 – 31.1.80	20c per 10g
Registration fee	1.4.71 - 31.3.75	10c
	1.4.75 – 31.1.80	15c
Express letter fee	1.11.72 – 31.1.80	20c

Apart from the three top values (30c, 50c and R1) the stamps were issued in sheets of 10 x 10, printed as we have seen in four panes and perforated 12.5. The method of printing, using the intaglio cylinder in series with four gravure cylinders had the potential to give rise to transpositions: I have found evidence for transpositions in the 5c and the 15c issues, and it is likely that transpositions took place in other values: to show this one must show a constant intaglio variety that is usually in position N appearing in position (N + 2).

Details of the “printings” of the sheet issues are set out in table form in the appendix

The Coil issues

17. The four values of Coil issues

There were four values: 1c, 2c, 5c, and 10c. The designs were as for the sheet issues of these values, but they were printed in photogravure on the Goebels 840 gravure printing press, in two rather than four colours. Comparison with the sheet issues highlights the sharp outline to the designs provided by the intaglio cylinder, absent on the coil stamps. The roll stamps were then distributed in rolls of 500 stamps.

18. Coil issues: Printing by gravure, by the 840 machine and perforations

All the roll stamps were printed in photogravure only, and in two colours, on the 840 printing machine. The designs were as for the sheet issues.

The first issues were printed on 240 mm wide rolls of Harrison phosphorescent paper, without watermark, and internally perforated by the 840 machine’s internal single row perforator to a gauge of 12.5.

The image on the cylinder contained 5 rows of 22.

The process of cylinder manufacture made it possible to identify the 1st and the 22nd stamp on the cylinder.

The carbon tissue is transferred to the copper cylinder, after which the cylinder is etched and chromed for durability. The carbon tissue join can then be detected; this join is the middle of stamp M22 and stamp M1. On the De Jong coils the gutter between stamps M22 and M1 was 3mm, while all gutters other than this were 3.2mm.

The 840 machine would ordinarily have printed two rows of 10 with margins of half a stamp width at top and bottom of each pane. For the coils the layout of on the cylinder (where M is a stamp image where the cylinder would have had top and bottom margin blanks) was as set out below, and the gutter between stamps M22 and M1 was 3mm, while all gutters other than this were 3.2mm.

Row																									
1	M 22	M 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1 0	1 1	1 2	1 3	1 4	1 5	1 6	1 7	1 8	1 9	2 0	M 22	M 1	1
2	M 22	M 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1 0	1 1	1 2	1 3	1 4	1 5	1 6	1 7	1 8	1 9	2 0	M 22	M 1	1
3	M 22	M 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1 0	1 1	1 2	1 3	1 4	1 5	1 6	1 7	1 8	1 9	2 0	M 22	M 1	1
4	M 22	M 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1 0	1 1	1 2	1 3	1 4	1 5	1 6	1 7	1 8	1 9	2 0	M 22	M 1	1
5	M 22	M 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1 0	1 1	1 2	1 3	1 4	1 5	1 6	1 7	1 8	1 9	2 0	M 22	M 1	1
				X Y	X										X	X									

X X indicates the position of the five figure “sheet” number. This number was repeated for each revolution of the cylinder.
Y indicates the position (under stamp 3) of the colour control, printed once for each revolution of the cylinder.

The roll produced by the top row of images was labeled row 1, and the others rows 2,3,4 and 5. Philatelic Services had/has panes of 5 x 24 (before being split into rolls), and where a variety on a positioned stamp (e.g., Row 3 stamp 16) is identified, a strip (or single stamp) containing this variety may be plated. Flaws identified by members of the RSA study circle who inspected the proof sheets made it possible to plate the five strips of 22 of these coil stamps as roll 1, 2, 3,4 or 5.³⁰ De Villiers thought that it was probable that a second pair of cylinders had been used to produce the final perf 14 printings of the 2c coil.

The continuous web had side margins; for the perf 12.5 stamps³¹ there were two additional perf holes in the margin on each end of the transverse perforation rows. The left side margin (top in the above diagram) was blank, and the right side margin (bottom on the above diagram) contained the colour control and the “pane or sheet” number, printed twice, below stamps 2 & 3 and again below stamps 13 & 14. The continuous web was then placed in a Sperma machine which slit apart the 5 rolls and took off the margins which were then discarded. Reels of 500 were then produced for the 1c, 2c, and 5c duties and of 200 for the 10c. The stamps appear in sequences of 22 stamps (there were 22 stamps in each revolution of the cylinders.)³²

The 1975 printings of the coils saw a change to a perforation gauge of 14, the gauge 14 perforation being done by the Grover two-row comb perforator and not the 840 press’ internal perforator.

At the same time the paper used was changed to a thinner paper with a PVAD gum.

The changes were made necessary because of two faults in the dispensing process. First, the feeder claws tended to pierce the stamp. Secondly the grab was not always correctly phased and as a result the stamp was “perforated” mid-stamp by the grab and separated at the grab divide and not at its own perforation.

The 1c coil value

Printed by two cylinders: G16 printed the purple parts of the design and G87 the dull pink. There were several distributions of the 1c as follows:

- (a) On laid paper (Paper A) , creamy PVA gum perf 12 ½;
- (b) On thinner wove paper (paper D) , greenish-tinged, mottled PVAD gum perf 14, not numbered;
- (c) As for (b) but with albino numbers on the reverse on every 5th stamps; and
- (d) As for (b) but with printed (black) numbers on the reverse on every 5th stamp.

30. The plating guide to first 5 rolls of the 1c coil are set out in a note by Nick Dorn in RSA Stamp Study Circle NL 88/5.

31. The same may apply to the perf 14 issues; I have not been able to establish this.

32. Raubenheimer, Dr HJ “Roll Stamps” SA Philatelist January 1975; Vol 55, No. 1 pp. 3-4

The 2c Coil stamps

The 2c coils were printed on four papers:

- (a) The 1st printings were on a laid and ridged paper (Paper E) that had been used for 1st definitive series. (per 12½)
- (b) By April 1975 2c coil stamps were available printed on the standard wove paper with cream mottled gum and a glossy surface, as used for the 1st printings of the sheet issues. (per 12½) (Paper A)
- (c) Later in 1975 the 2c coils stamps appeared on a wove paper (D) with a smoother greenish gum; These appeared at first with no numbers on the reverse and later with albino numbers on the reverse, on every 5th stamp. (Perf 12½) The perf 14 stamps are also found on this paper.
- (d) In January 1976 there was a new, thin, chalky matt paper with smooth toned greenish gum, perf 14, with albino numbers.

The 5c coil stamps

There were two distributions of the 5c coil issue, on wove and on laid paper (Papers E and B), both perf 12.5

The 10c coil stamps

- (a) Paper A with perf 12.5.
- (b) Paper E with perf 12.5.
- (c) Paper D perf 14.

19. The numbering of the coil stamps for accounting purposes

For accounting and stock-taking purposes, for rolls of 500 stamps, the Post Office decided to number each stamp in the roll starting with the first which was numbered 500 and each fifth stamp thereafter was marked with the balance remaining, e.g., 495, 490, 485, ... 010, and 005.

The first experiments at numbering involved albino (un-inked) numbers being impressed on the gummed back of the printed stamps. This was reportedly done by the De la Rue-Giori machine which was equipped with a numbering device. The impressed numbers are found on the 1c, the 2c perf 12½ (laid paper) and the 2c perf 14.

In early numbering the albino numbers were too close to the margin; as a result, the first digit was not always on the stamp and numbers 045, 050, 055 etc., show as 45, 50, 55.

In addition, in some early attempts the spacing between numbers was 3mm longer than it should have been per five stamps so that after a time the number appears on the 6th, and not the 5th stamp. In other cases the spacing was 3mm shorter than it should have been and the number appears at intervals of 5 stamps and then 4 stamps.



In the above strip (image courtesy of Deverell & McGregor) albino number 390 is in the right gutter margin between stamps 1 and 2, but albino number 395 is in the centre right of stamp 7.

When printing with ink began, and as the ink was on top of the gum and did not penetrate the paper, part offsets of the black numbers appear on the face of the stamps and a shadow print of a rounded V-shaped black flaw appears at intervals. The next step was to print the numbers in gray scale; this eliminated the offsets, but the numbers were barely legible. Eventually the GPW got this right, and the basis was set for the numbering of coil stamps in subsequent definitives issues.

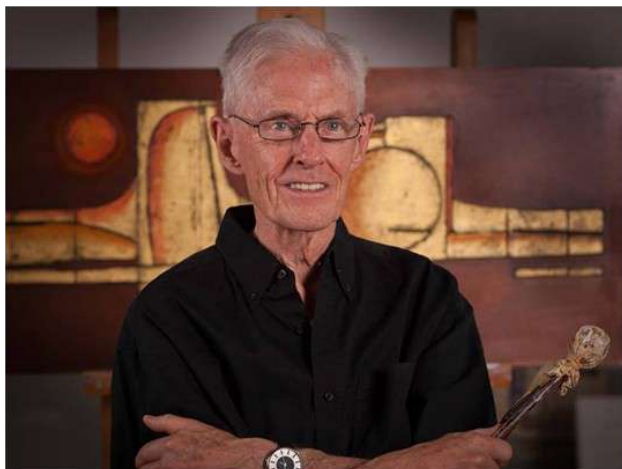
No numbered 5c or 10c coil stamps of this series have been reported.

20. *Plating the coil strips*

See appendix 2.

21. *The designer*

The stamps were designed by Ernst de Jong. He had earlier designed the three Hertzog commemoratives and the two heart transplant stamps (in consultation with the surgeon Irmin Henkel)³³



Ernst de Jong (artist and designer)
(1934-2016)

Ernst de Jong was born in Pretoria and after art studies in the USA settled in Pretoria where he made his mark in setting up a graphic design centre and a swimming and diving centre. Beside the 1974 definitives he designed the South African bank notes released in 1992.

His designs for the 1974 definitives are regarded in art circles as an important step in the movement towards modernism and graphic design in SA postage stamp production.

22. *The Designs*

The set may be seen as setting a new standard in design for RSA stamps issues. The artist had a clear idea of what the design would mean in the miniature form to which it would reduce in the printed stamp.

The SA Philatelist³⁴ published comments on the designs by an ornithologist, and ichthyologist and a botanist. The ornithologist (MK Rowan from UCT's Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of Africa Ornithology) while appreciative of some choices (e.g., the Bateleur (R1) and the Blue Crane, South Africa's national bird (50c)) commented that the designer had "fallen into the common error and depicted the bird with spread wings as having a long tail and normal (short) flight feathers" which she described as a "lamentable mistake". She observed that the gannet (5c) was the weakest choice of bird for the issue and criticized the attitude in which the bird was depicted. The ichthyologist (Margaret M Smith, no less, from the JLB Smith Institute at Rhodes), delighted that South Africa was to depict five fish on its stamps, observed that the Galjoen was the national fish, and that the choice of five fishes was excellent. The botanist (Dr LE Codd of the Botanical Research Institute) limited himself to descriptions of the chosen flowers/plants.

23. *The name errors*

The series has five (or perhaps six) duties for those who collect errors on stamps. The following errors in the Latin names were noticed too late, and the Post Office announced that these "errors will be rectified in future issues when the cylinders need replacing"; that never happened³⁵.

Value	Latin (scientific) name on stamp	Correct scientific name	Common name
4c	Zantedechia ethiopica	Zantedechia aethiopica	Arum lily
5c	Morus capensis	Sula bassana	Gannet bird
15c	Nectarinia afer	Nectarinia afra	Sunbird
50c	Tetrapterys paradise	Anthropoides paradisea	Blue crane
R1	Terthopis ecaudatus	Terathopius ecaudatus	Bataleur eagle

33. per Marlize Groenewald

34. SA Philatelist, January 1977, Vol 53 No 1, pp. 8-9

35. It is not clear whether new intaglio cylinders were made to replace the standing intaglio cylinders for the later printings of the 4c and 5c sheet issue, or the gravure cylinder used for the second printing of the 5c coil stamps, but if so no attempt was made to correct these errors.

There was in fact a sixth, as pointed out by Margaret Smith in her SA Philatelist note on the designs of the fish; the scientific community had replaced the name of the zebra fish *Diplodus trifasciatus* by *Diplodus cervinus*.

24. Government printer's data

The Government Printer printed all stamps in the series. The GPW issued information on all printings. This typically gave the following information: this is the data for the 3c "0" printing on 3 November 1975

Denomination: 3c	
Job No.	: 3510861
Quantity	: 1 000 000 sheets
Film material: Master negative – standing; Multi positive – standing	
Printing process: Photogravure and intaglio	
Cylinder numbers (standing)	
688 – three-colour yellow	691- Dark red
689 – three-colour red	S16 - Dark Red (steel)
690 – three-colour blue	
Paper:	
Contractor – Harrison	Watermark - none
Width - 240 mm	Gum - PVA
Surface - matt	Phosphorescent coated – yes
Printing machine – 841	Perforator - 841

And the following data set is for the 3rd printing of the 15c duty, printing date 05.05.1976

Denomination: 15c	
Job No.	: 934250
Quantity	: 150 000 sheets
Film material: Master negative – standing; Multi positive – standing	
Printing process: Photogravure and intaglio	
Cylinder numbers (standing)	
625 – three-colour yellow	628- grey
626 – three-colour red	S7 - Black (steel)
627 – three-colour blue	
Paper:	
Contractor – Harrison	Watermark - none
Width - 340 mm	Gum - PVA
Surface - matt	Phosphorescent coated – yes
Printing machine – 841	Perforator - 841

Appendix A: details of the sheet issues

Detailed listings of the first printings of the sheet issues were published in the SA Philatelist of November 1974. In these detailed listings Dr Raubenheimer lists all the then observed varieties. His notes and observations of [constant] varieties are however based on then then current assumption that there were two panes of the small format stamps whereas it is now known that there were four.

The following tables borrow, but differ, from the RSA Stamp Study Group 1989, published in NL 59 (gum) 62 and NL 63. PVA is polyvinyl alcohol, and PVAD is polyvinyl alcohol-dextrin. The types of gum used by Harrisons are classified as follows – See NL59

Type	Surface appearance	Colour	Characteristics
PVA-1	Semi matt/glossy	Cream to brownish yellow	Spotted
PVA-2	Semi matt/glossy	White to slightly cream tinted	Spotted
PVA-3	Semi matt/glossy	White	Plain
PVA-4	Semi matt	Cream	Plain
PVAD-1	Semi matt/glossy	Bluish-green	Spotted
PVAD-1a	Semi matt/glossy	Bluish-green	Marbled
PVAD-2	Semi matt/glossy	Bluish-green	Streaked vertically on the paper+
PVAD-2a	Semi matt/glossy	Bluish-green	Streaked horizontally on the paper+
PVAD-3	Semi matt/glossy	Bluish-green	Plain
PVAD-4	Semi matt/glossy	Cream	Plain

+ For the small format stamps the "top" is the 30.25mm edge, i.e., the "upright" stamp will be on its side

1c, four panes A_a, B_b, A_c, B_d

Intaglio cylinder (Panes a, b, c, & d)	Gravure cylinders (Panes A & B)	"Printing"	Date of "printing"	Seen (S)/ Reported (R)	Paper & gum	Perforator & perf gauge
S10	648,649,650,651	0	03.09.74	S	Chalky Paper C PVAD2a	Giori 12 ½
"	"	0	03.09.74	S	Paper PVAD3	"
"	"	1	12.12.74	S	Paper C	"
"	"	2	26.05.75	S	Paper D PVAD	"
"	"	3	12.09.75	S	Paper D PVAD1a	"
"	717,649,650,651	0	13.05.76	S	Paper D PVAD	"

2c, four panes A_a, B_b, A_c, B_d, Two Groups

Intaglio cylinder (Panes a, b, c, & d)	Gravure cylinders (Panes A & B)	"Printing"	Date of "printing"	Seen (S)/ Reported (R)	Paper & gum	Perforator & perf gauge
S11	556,557,558,559	0	[some sheets no date]	S	Paper A	Giori 12 ½
			18.10.73	S	Paper A	
"	"	0	19.10.73	S	Paper?	"
"	"	0	20.10.73	S	Paper A	"
"	"	0	22.10.73	S	Paper A	"
"	"	0	23.10.73	S	Paper?	"
"	"	0	24.10.73	S	Paper?	"
"	"	0	29.10.73*	R	Paper?	"
"	"	0	30.10.73*	R	Paper?	"
Group 2 S11	656,657,658,659	1	30.10.74	S	Paper C PVAD2a	"
"	"	2	21.11.74	S	Paper C PVAD2a	"
"	"	2	31.01.75	S	Paper D PVAD3	"
"	"	3	27.02.75 [Some sheets no date]	S	Paper D PVAD3	"

* Listed in SA Colour catalogue, 2000 & 2015; Also Robbie Schmidt's Concise Catalogue, 2012

3c, four panes A_a, B_b, A_c, B_d, Group 1

Intaglio cylinder Panec a, b, c,& d	Gravure Cylinders Panec A & B	"Printing"	Date of "printing"	Seen (S)/ Reported (R)	Paper & gum	Perforator & perf gauge
S16	539,540,541,542 539,540,541,542	-	07.08.73#	S	Paper A PVA	Grover Comb Perf 11¼ x 12½
"	"	-	08.08.73	S	"	"
"	"	-	09.08.73	S	Glossy Paper **	"
"	"	-	11.08.73	S	Paper A	"
"	"	-	13.08.73	S	"	"
"	"	-	14.08.73	S	"	"
"	"	-	01.09.73	R*	Glossy Paper**	"
"	"	-	05.09.73	S	Paper A	Grover Comb Perf 11¼ x 12½
"	"	-	06.09.73	S	"	"
"	"	-	07.09.73	S	"	"
"	"	-	09.09.73 \$	S	"	"
"	"	-	10.09.73	S	"	"
"	"	-	11.09.73	S	"	"
"	"	-	12.09.73	S	"	"
"	"	-	19.09.73	S	"	"
"	"	-	27.09.73	S	"	"
"	"	-	01.10.73	S	"	"
"	"	-	02.10.73	S	"	"
"	"	-	03.10.73	S	"	"
"	"	-	04.10.73	S	"	"
"	"	-	05.10.73	S	"	"
"	"	-	10.10.73 \$\$	S	"	"
"	"	-	11.10.73	S	"	"

In this case (and in several other early printings) the printer appears to have changed the date for each of the twenty days where in other cases the date given for a "printing" was often the first day of the run.

A block has been reported with the date as: "0.08.73" in error. It is not known which of the August 1973 printings gave rise to this error.

\$ This was a Sunday; did the Government Printer work on this day or was this an error in date setting?

\$\$ 10 October was a public holiday (Kruger Day) in 1973: did the Government Printer work on 10 October or was this an error in date setting?

* Listed in SA Colour Catalogue, 1992 to 2015, and Robbie Schmidt's Concise Catalogue 2012

** Paper described in Schmidt's Concise Catalogue 2012

3c, four panes A_a, B_b, A_c, B_d, Groups 2, 3 & 4

Intaglio cylinder (Panec a, b, c, & d)	Gravure cylinders (Panec A & B)	"Printing"	Date of "printing"	Seen (S)/ Reported (R)	Paper & gum	Perforator & perf gauge
Group 2 S16	688,689.690.691	0	28.05.75	S	Paper D PVA1a	Giori 12 ½
"	"	1	05.06.75	S	Paper D	"
"	"	2	02.07.75	S	Paper D PVAD3	"
"	"	3	23.09.75	S	Paper D PVAD1a	"
"	"	4	03.11.75	S	Paper D PVAD3	"
Group 3, S16	688,689,690,715	0	18.03.76	S	Paper D	"
"	"	0	18.03.76	S	Paper C	"
Group 4, S16	688, 689A/ B,690,715	0	17.06.76	S	Paper D	"
"	"	1	17.06.76 (error)	S	Paper D	"
"	"	1	02.02.77	S	Paper D	"

4c, four panes A_a, B_b, A_c, B_d , Groups 1 & 2

Intaglio cylinder (Panes a, b ,c,& d)	Gravure cylinders (Panes A & B)	"Printing"	Date of "printing"	Seen (S)/ Reported (R)	Paper & gum	Perforator & perf gauge
Group 1 S12	560,561,562,563	0	29.10.73#	S	Paper A PVA4	Giori 12 ½
"	"	0	"	s	Paper B	"
"	"	0	30.10.73	S	Paper B	"
"	"	0	31.10.73	S	Paper B	"
"	"	0	01.11.73	S	Paper A	"
"	"	0	"	S	Paper B	"
"	"	0	02.11.73	S	"	"
"	"	0	03.11.73	S	"	"
"	"	0	05.11.73	S	Paper A	"
"	"	0	06.11.73	S	Paper A	"
"	"	0	07.11.73	S	Paper A	"
"	"	0	"	S	Paper X	"
"	"	0	08.11.73	S	Paper C	"
"	"	1	02.04.74	S	Paper C	"
Group 2 S12	660,661662,663	2	06.01.75##	S	Paper C PVA2a/3	"
"	"	"	"	S	Paper D	"
"	"	3	18.02.75	S	Paper D PVAD	"
"	[Only A pane recorded]	(4) but 2, in error	02.12.75	S	Paper D PVAD	"
"	"	4	02.12.75	S	Paper D PVAD	"

In this case, as in several other early "printings", the printer appears to have changed the date for each of the ten days (ignoring the Sunday) where in other cases the date given for a "printing" was often the first day of the run.

The Post Office reference collection (PO Museum Volume 7 pages 49/51) has two panes (A sheet no 128859-2, Bd sheet no 129998-2) dated 06.01.75 with a works number (undated) and another two panes (A sheet number 768399-2, Bd sheet no 889554-2) from a different works number, showing that two printings, *on different dates*, were given the same printing date. Two papers were used: it is possible that a different paper was used for the second job, that the second job was in fact later and that the Government Printer omitted to reset the date.

5c, four panes A_a, B_b, A_c, B_d,

Intaglio cylinder (Panes a, b ,c.& d)	Gravure cylinders (Panes A & B)	"Printing"	Date of "printing"	Seen (S)/ Reported (R)	Paper & gum	Perforator & perf gauge
S6#	568,569570,571	0	12.12.73	S	Paper	Giori 12 ½
"	"	0	24.12.73	R*	Paper?	Perf ?
"	"	0	04.02.74	R*	Paper?	"
"	"	0	24.04.74	S	Paper C PVA2a	Giori 12 ½
S6	"	1	06.05.74	S	Paper C	"
S6	"	2	12.08.75	S	Paper D PVA3	"
S6	"	3	23.12.75	S	Paper D	"

* SA Colour Catalogue 1992 to 2015 and Schmidt Concise Catalogue 2013

The number 6 was given to this cylinder and to the intaglio cylinder used for the 25c stamp

6c, four panes A_a, B_b, A_c, B_d

Intaglio cylinder (Panes a, b ,c,& d)	Gravure cylinders (Panes A & B)	"Printing"	Date of "printing"	Seen (S) Reported (R)	Paper & gum	Perforator & perf gauge
S13	564,565,566,567	0	14.12.73#	S	Paper B PVA4	Grover Comb 12 ½
"	"	0	17.12.73	S	Paper B	"
"	"	0	17.12.73	S	Paper A PVA4	"
"	"	0	18.12.73	S	Paper A PVA4	"
"	"	0	20.12.73	S	Paper A PVA4	"
"	"	0	21.12.73	S	Paper A PVA4	"
"	"	0	27.12.73	S	Paper B PVA4	"
"	"	0	02.01.74	S	Paper A PVA4	"
"	"	0	03.01.74	S	Paper B PVA4	"
"	"	0	04.01.74	S	Paper B PVA4	"

In the case of this printing, as with several other of the early printings, the printer appears to have changed the date for each of the nine days of the print job (ignoring the Christmas and New Year breaks) where in other cases the date given for a "printing" was often the first day of the run of the print job. The sheet number sequence was maintained throughout the period.

7c, four panes A_a, B_b, A_c, B_d

Intaglio cylinder Panes (a, b, c, & d)	Gravure cylinders (Panes A & B)	"Printing"	Date of "printing" Opposite rows 1 & 2	Seen (S) Reported (R)	Paper & gum	Perforator & perf gauge
S10	507,508,509,510	0	No date#		Glossy Pa- per	Grover Comb 12 ½
S10	507,508,509,510	0	05.06.73##	S	Glossy Pa- per PVA4	"
S10	507,508,509,510	0	06.06.73	S	Paper PVA4	"
S10	507,508,509,510	0	07.06.73	S	Paper PVA4	"
S10	507,508,509,510	0	08.06.73	S	Paper B PVA4	"
S10	507,508,509,510	0	11.06.73	S	Paper B PVA4	"
S10	507,508,509,510	0	12.06.73	S	Paper PVA4	"

It is unlikely that this was before 05.06.73

In this case the printer appears to have changed the date for each of the six days (ignoring the Saturday & Sunday 9 & 10 June) where in other cases the date given for a "printing" was often the first day of the run. The Post Office Museum reference book Volume 7 has *two imperf panes* with this date (A pane sheet no 983647-0; B pane sheet no 983646-0)

9c, four panes A_a, B_b, A_c, B_d,

Intaglio cylinder (Pan a, b, c, & d)	Gravure cylinders (Pan A & B)	"Printing"	Date of "printing"	Seen (S) Reported (R)	Paper & gum	Perforator & perf gauge
S9	637,638,639,640	0	12.09.74	S	Chalky Pa- per C PVD2a	Giori 12 ½
S9	637,638,639,640	1	04.08.75	S	Paper D PVAD3	"
S9	637,638,639,640 Pan Aa & Ac only*	[1]	[04.08.75]	S	Paper D PVAD3	"

* Schmidt's 2012 Concise Catalogue indicates that B panes exist without the date; no other report has been made of this.

10c, four panes A_a, B_b, A_c, B_d,

Intaglio cylinder (Pan a, b, c, & d)	Gravure cylinders (Pan A & B)	"Printing"	Date of "printing"	Seen (S) Reported (R)	Paper & gum	Perforator & perf gauge
S8	632,633,634,635	0	16.09.74	S	Chalky Paper C PVA2a	Giori 12 ½
S8	632,633,634,635	1	21.10.75	S	Paper C	"
S8	632,633,634,635	1	21.10.75	S	Paper D PVAD3	"
S8	632,633,634,635	2	15.10.76	S	Paper D PVA3d	"

14c, four panes A_a, B_b, A_c, B_d

Intaglio cylinder Pan a, b, c, & d	Gravure cylinders (Pan A & B)	"Printing"	Date of "printing"	Seen (S) Reported (R)	Paper & gum	Perforator & perf gauge
S5	602,603,604,605	0	01.07.74	S	Chalky Paper C PVAD2a	Giori 12 ½
S5	602,603,604,605	1	29.01.76	S	Paper D PVAD3	"
"	"	1	29.01.76	S	PVAD-2	"

15c, four panes A_a, B_b, A_c, B_d

Intaglio cylinder Pan a, b, c, & d	Gravure cylinders (Pan A & B)	"Printing"	Date of "printing"	Seen (S) Reported (R)	Paper & gum	Perforator & perf gauge
S7	625,626,627,628	0	11.07.74	S	Chalky Pa- per C PVA2a	Giori 12 ½
S7	625,626,627,628	1	30.09.74	S	Paper C PVA2a	"
S7	625,626,627,628	2	05.05.76	S	Paper D PVA2a	"

20c, four panes A_a, B_b, A_c, B_d

Intaglio cylinder Panes a ,b ,c,& d	Gravure cylinders (Panes A & B)	"Printing"	Date of "printing"	Seen (S) Reported (R)	Paper & gum	Perforator & perf gauge
S3	598,599,600,601	0	12.06.74	S	Chalky Paper C PVAD2a	Giori 12 ½
S3	598,599,600,601	1	07.10.74	S	Paper C PVAD2a	"
S3	598,599,600,601	0?	15.01.76 ³⁶	R	?	?
S3	598,599,600,601	2	26.01.76	S	Paper D PVAD3	"
S3	"	2	26.01.76	S	PVAD 2a	

25c, four panes A_a, B_b, A_c, B_d

Intaglio cylinder Panes a, b, c & d	Gravure cylinders (Panes A & B)	"Printing"	Date of "printing"	Seen (S) Reported (R)	Paper & gum	Perforator & perf gauge
S6#	615,616,617 & 618	1	08.07.74	S	Chalky Paper C PVAD2a	Giori 12 ½
S6#	615,616,617 & 618	2	12.02.75	S	Paper D PWAD3	Giori 12 ½

Number 6 was also given to the intaglio cylinder used for the 5c issue

30c, two panes A_a and A_b

Intaglio cylinder (panes a & b)	Gravure cylinders (pane A)	"Printing"	Date of "printing"	Seen (S) Reported (R)	Paper & gum	Perforator & perf gauge
S1	584,585,586 & 587	0	14.02.74	S	Glossy Paper B PVA4	Grover, 11¾x 12½

50c, two panes A_a and A_b

Intaglio cylinder (panes a & b)	Gravure cylinders (pane A)	"Printing"	Date of "printing"	Seen (S) Reported (R)	Paper & gum	Perforator & perf gauge
S4	606,607, & 608	0	22.08.74	S	Chalky Paper C PVAD 2a	Grover, 11¾x 12½
S4	606,607 & 608	1	21.08.75	S	Paper ?	Grover, 11¾x 12½
S4	606.607, & 608	1	22.08.75	S	Chalky Paper D PVA4	Grover, 11¾x 12½

The **R1** stamp, two panes A_a and A_b

Intaglio cylinder (panes a & b)	Gravure cylinders (pane A)	"Printing"	Date of "printing"	Seen (S) Reported (R)	Paper & gum	Perforator & perf gauge
S2	591,592,593 & 594	0	08.02.74	S	Glossy Paper A PVA 4	Grover, 11¾x 12½
S2	591,592,593 & 594	0	08.02.74	S	Paper B PVA 4	Grover, 11¾x 12½

³⁶. Recorded in SA Colour catalogues at least since 1992 and by Schmidt in his Concise Catalogue, but not seen by me.

Appendix B: The Plating of the coil stamps.

The stamps were printed in a continuous web of 240mm wide paper. The cylinder had five rows of 22 images on its circumference. The carbon tissue join is between stamp M22 and stamp M1. The gutter between stamps M22 and M1 was 3mm, while all gutters other than this were 3.2 mm. This difference enables one to find M22 and M1 on any roll of 22 or more.

(Plating drawn from: notes by Nic Dorn, RSA Stamp Study Circle NL 88/5-6, January 1992; by G H Legge in the SASSC Newsletter NL171/6; and by Mike Tonking, RSA Roll Stamps published by the South African Collectors' Society UK

20	M	M	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	M	M	1
	22	1																					22	1	

The 1c "wild iris" coil stamps

Issue Distribution	Cylinders	Perf	Paper	Notes
1	16 & 87	12 ½	E	Without numbers on reverse
2	16 & 87	14	D	Without numbers on reverse
3	16 & 87	14	D	With albino numbers on every 5th stamp
4	16 & 87	14	D	With printed numbers on every 5th stamp

Plating of the 1c coil

Coil row	Position	Discrete constant flaw identifying the coil row
1	14	Purple marks on bottom of left petal
	M22	Dented right frame below right leaf
2	3	White dot to right of lower left leaf/petal
3	M22	White dot above "o" of De Jong
4	M22	Dented top left frame line opposite "RSA"
5	20	White dot below top upper right petal

I have a strip of 22 (paper D, gum PVAD) where the stamps are distinctly different from all the 1c coils, where none of the discrete varieties used to plate the strips is present and where a new variety (broken outer frame of the stamp opposite and below "RSA") occurs on stamp 18. Is this evidence of a new cylinder or a new pair of cylinders?

The 2c "Erica" coil stamps

Issues of the 2c coil

Issue Distribution	Cylinders	Perf	Paper	Notes
1	74 & 19	12 ½	E	Without numbers on reverse
2	74 & 19	12 ½	E	With albino numbers on reverse on every 5th stamp
3	74 & 19	12 ½	D	With albino numbers on reverse on every 5th stamp
4	74 & 19	12 ½	D	Without numbers, in a new deep rich shade
4	74 & 19	14	Thin matt	Without numbers

Plating of the 2c coil

Coil row	Position	Discrete constant flaw identifying the coil row
1	1	Faint vertical green line above "J" of "de Jong"
2	5	White dot in "c" of "2c"
3	13	Cloud over "c" in "2c"
4	M22	Large white flaw on left bottom corner frame line
5	M22	White dot in top of "R" in RSA

The 5c "Cape Gannet" coil stamps

Issues of the 5c coil

Issue Distribution	Cylinders	Perf	Paper	Notes
1	1 & 14	12 ½	E (wove)	Without numbers on reverse
2	1 & 14	12 ½	B (laid)	Without numbers on reverse

Plating of the 5c coil

Coil row	Position	Discrete constant flaw identifying the coil row
1	15	White dot in front of left leg
2	8	White dot on neck below "A" of "RSA"
3	15	White dot under "5" in "5c"
4	14	White scratch on top right side of "a" in "RSA"
5	2	White dot in bottom right corner

The 10c "Moorish Idol" coil stamps

Issues of the 10c coil

Issue Distribution	Cylinders	Perf	Paper	Notes
1	31 & 41	12 ½	E	Without numbers on reverse
2	31 & 41	12 ½	A	Without numbers on reverse
3	31 & 41	14	D	Without numbers on reverse

Plating of the 10c coil

Coil row	Position	Discrete constant flaw identifying the coil row
1	5	White streak behind fish's tail
2	11	Nick in left frame
3	1	White dot in front of fish's nose
4	6	White dot in "0" of "10c"
5	1	Club foot to "R" in "RSA"

Appendix C

Observed positions of the "beacon perf hole" on small format stamps perforated by the Giori in-built perforator



2c from the “0” printing showing the “beacon: hole in Row 9 in both left and right side margins of a B pane
(Image courtesy of McGregor & Deverell)

The following table records observed “beacon” holes. The majority of observed “beacon” holes are in Row 11 on Pane Bd. However, the evidence (see above and all observed sheets) indicates that each “beacon” hole in one margin was matched by another, similarly placed, in the other margin.

<i>Value</i>	<i>Printing & Date</i>	<i>Pane</i>	<i>Position</i>
1c	“0” 03.09.74	Bd	Row 11 (intermediate) RH margin
	“1” 12.12.74	Bd	Row 11 (intermediate) RH margin
	“3” 12.09.75	Aa	Row 9, RH margin
	“0” 13.05.76	Bb	Row 8, LH & RH margins
2c	“0”	A	Row 0 (i.e., above stamps in Row 1) LH margin
	“0”	B	Row 9, LH & RH margins
	“1” 30.10.74	Bd	Row 11 (intermediate) RH margin
	“2” 21.11.74	Bd	Row 11 (intermediate) RH margin
	“2” 31.01.75	Bb	Row11 (intermediate) RH & LH margins
	“3” 27.02.75	Bd	Row 11 (intermediate) RH margin
	“3”	Ac	Row 9, RH margin
3c	“3” 23.09.75	Bc	Row 9, RH margin
	“0” 28.05.75	Aa	Row 7, LH & RH margins sheet no 870501-0
	“0” & “1” 17.06.76	Bb	Row 8, RH margin
4c	“0”	?	Row 0 (i.e., above stamps in Row 1) RH margin
	“2”	?	Row 11 (intermediate) RH margin
	“3”	Bd	Row 11 (intermediate) RH margin
5c	“0”	?	Row 0 (i.e., above stamps in Row 1) RH margin
9c	“0” 12.09.74	Bd	Row 11 (intermediate) RH & LH margins
	“1”	?	Row 2, LH margin
	“1”	?	Row 2 RH margin
10c	“0”16.09.74	Bd	Row 11 (intermediate) RH margin
	“1”	?	Row 4, RH margin
14c	“0” 01.07.74	Bb	Row 11 (intermediate) RH & LH margins
15c	“0”	Bb	Row 11 (intermediate) RH & LH margins
	“1”	Bd	Row 11 (intermediate) RH margin
20c	“0”	Bb	Row 11 (intermediate) RH margin
	“1”	Bd	Row 11 (intermediate) RH margin
25c	“1”	Bb	Row 11 (intermediate) RH & LH margins
	“2” 12.02.75	Bd	Row 11 (intermediate) RH margin

This concludes the article

Hugh would welcome comments. hugh.amoore@uct.ac.za

Revisiting the 2d. Rotogravure Stamps Issue 1 - 3

By Mike Tonking

The rotogravure 2d. Stamps are of interest as many questions remain unanswered. This includes the dates of issue as it would appear that those quoted in the Stamps of South Africa 1910 - 1961 (SAHB) may well be incorrect. A comparison is shown of the issue dates as published compared with those quoted in various editions of the Springbok which were based on the examination of postmarked stamps.

SAHB					
No.	Issue.	Cylinders.	Arrows.	Issue Date.	Revised Issue Date
38	1	(1) & (1x)	Small	April 1931	April 1931
	1a	(1) & (1ax)	Large	March 1932	Late 1931
	2	(2) & (2x)	Small	February 1932	September 1931
	2a	(2) & (2ax)	Large	October 1933	Circa December 1931
	3	Int.34 & Ext. 42	Large	1934	September 1933
38A	3	Int.34 & Ext. 42	Large	March 1938	January 1938

Issue 1a is of particular interest as the small marginal arrows of Issue 1 had larger arrows etched over the small arrows. This may have been due to the poor visibility of the small arrows which were used by Postal Officials as a guide to split the sheets into quarters. This must have occurred towards the end of the Issue 1 printing as Issue 1a was a small printing evidenced by the scarcity of arrow blocks. It is reported that only eleven arrow blocks are known. Printed by the same cylinders as used for Issue 1 identification of Issue 1a can only be made with reference to the arrow blocks. Figs. 1 and 2.

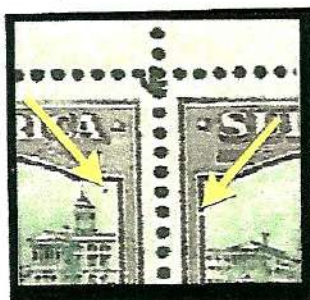
Fig. 1 and 2
Issues 1 and 1a

Row 1/3 - Dot to right of right tower. Row 1/4 - Break in left inner

Issue 1 - Small arrows.



Issue 1a - Large arrows

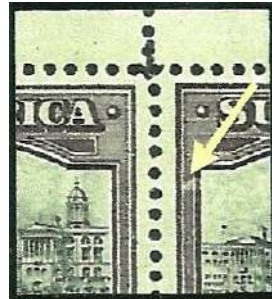


It is apparent that Issue 1a was in use late in 1931 prior to Issue 2 which appeared in September 1931. The SAHB date of issue for 1a in March 1932 is unlikely as Issue 2 is recorded as being in February 1932. Surely Issue 2 would not have been issued prior to the issue of 1a.

The Government Printer having reverted to large arrows for Issue 1a for some reason decided to make the first printing of Issue 2 with small arrows. This was a small printing as the arrow blocks are not plentiful. It did not take long to realise the mistake and Issue 2 appeared circa December 1931 with large arrows again etched over the small ones. It is a mystery as to why the Government Printer commenced Issue 2 with small arrows after the experience with Issue 1. Figs 3 and 4.

Fig. 3 and 4
 Issues 2 and 2a
 Row 1/4 - Retouched left inner frame.

Issue 2 - Small arrows.



Issue 2a - Large arrows.



Issue 3 was issued in September 1933 by which time the Government Printer made no mistakes with the marginal arrows which were large. In January 1938 there was a dramatic change from grey and purple to blue and violet. The reason for this change is not known. Having a short life of about eight months these stamps are quite scarce. Figs 5 and 6.

Fig. 5 and 6
 Issue 3 - Large arrows.

Grey and purple.



Blue and violet.



It is unlikely that the outstanding questions on these interesting stamps will ever be answered.

References:
The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910-61 - S.J. Hagger 1986
The Springbok - South African Collectors' Society Quarterly - various.

A Question for the more knowledgeable of our members.

From **Nicholas Arrow**

I visited Somerset Stamp Auctions on a matter completely unconnected with anything to do with the Society. When the Auctioneer became aware that I collected South Africa, he called my attention to an item in their Auction catalogue for a date in February.

The Auction description read -

“1070 1912 Minerva Head De La Rue essays x 4 in different colours. Mint £200 corner marginal copies on watermarked paper (see photo)

Apparently the description of the lot was taken from a Spink Auction catalogue.

The photo in question is shown - see right. The physical description of the lot was totally accurate and there were indeed 4 similar items in similar colours, all of which seemed to be rather faded, printed on paper which was very thin and transparent with a watermark similar to, but not the same as, that which I am sure was used for German stamps of the early 20th Century period - the photo shows the watermark quite convincingly. The design is of Minerva's head, facing left, in a decorative frame, inscribed at the bottom "Thos De La Rue & Co Ltd / London".



A similar item was in a Grosvenor Auction, and a copy of the entry for this lot is shown below -

Colonial Proofs and Essays, 1919 De La Rue imperforate plate proofs of a £20 "OVERSEAS DOMINIONS" two in red and two in green, also perforated example (poor) and a similar essay without any value and larger head in green and red. Photo.

Estimate: £100 - £120



I gather that various essays were made for definitive issues to be used in various Colonies of the Empire in the late Victorian period - see example left - although I am ignorant as to whether any such item was ever issued, and the face of Minerva is totally obvious.



There is also at the date of preparing this article, on sale on the internet, various blocks similar to that shown to the left, in various combinations and quantities. These are described as "Colour Trials for Promotional Sample Stamps".

A later perusal of the internet shows that the same design was used during trial made for booklets, to be used by the British Post Office, in the early 20th century - see example below.



My initial reaction to the suggestion that this item had any relevance to South Africa philately was one of considerable doubt. I did not have any reference book with me during my visit but I was pretty sure that no such item is referred to in the Handbook, and a later check when I returned home confirms this to be true.¹

Has anyone seen similar items? And, more to the point, does anyone have any information at all as to whether these items were prepared for anything to do with South African stamps? If so, I am sure that the membership would appreciate as much information as possible.

I might add that, as I am hoping to bid for some lots in the Society's forthcoming Auction in June, and need to build a war chest against the chance that I might actually buy some lots, I did not bid for the item!

¹ De La Rue were given the contract for the production of the King's Head definitive issue - see Handbook page 7 - but there is no suggestion that the stamp design was the subject of many and various proofs prepared by the Company. Furthermore, on page 22, there is reference to essays submitted by De La Rue, but it is clear from the text that the designs produced were accepted and therefore have no relevance to the items here discussed.

O

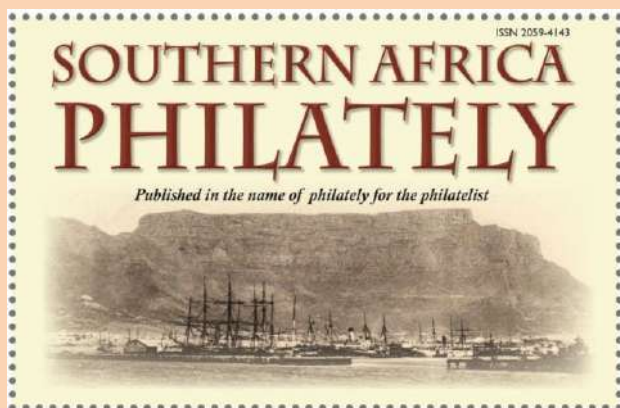
RSA Ram Stamp An Interesting Item By Roy Ross

RSA First definitive 4c Ram stamp. Cylinder 543-544 -545 -546 Issue One first Distribution Oct 1973

Variety V7. partially printed "Kobus Esterhuysen" in margin above perforations. Pane B. Row 1/5



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RSA First Definitive 10cent Emerald Green

By Roy Ross

Recently I received an email from fellow member Andrew Alison asking if I had any information about the 10cent emerald green stamp, cylinder numbers 101/114, SACC 216a, as a friend of his has what he thinks is a full sheet. Images below. *(If he had then it would be worth a considerable amount of money).*

This issue was the fifth printed on February 1972, has no watermark and has 5 black sheet numbers twice on the bottom margin. They appeared with three distinct shades of green, light, dark and emerald. Even with a colour chart it is difficult to determine which one is emerald without looking at all three printing together. The only way of telling the emerald from the other two is by the sheet numbers.

The South African Study Newsletter 32/2 states that from the 42,260 sheets of the Feb 1972 printing only approximately 2060 sheets had the emerald colour. The sheet serial numbers with this colour are between 26900 to 31700.

Are the stamps below Emerald? unfortunately for Andrew's friend they are not, as the sheet number is 20507. In the SAS Newsletter 31/2 it was reported that the Expert committee had issued a certificate, serial No. 966 , for this stamp which had a cyclometer number 29656.

My advice would be to get a certificate if you ever have the good fortune to find a sheet, or a block, of these stamps.

The SACC 2017-18 Edition lists 216a, control block of four, as R3500,00 which is £175. So what is a full sheet worth? Probably what anyone is willing to pay. £1000?

If anyone has a sheet or block of these stamps, 216a, I would be pleased to hear from them.



Part of the above image clearly showing the sheet number 20507
Cylinders 101 114

Onthou! Kersfeef Is 'N Christusfees" or "Put Christ Back Into Christmas"

By Simon Peetoom



On the front cover of The Springbok Vol.60, no.1, Eddie Bridges illustrated two Christmas booklets, with scans of the panes of six inside. These showed they were of the same design, but with the slogans either in English or in Afrikaans. Recently I have found another booklet, missing its cover, but with a similar grey-green (blank) back cover. It contains two panes with the same slogan in Afrikaans. The panes Eddie illustrated were rouletted, the panes from this booklet are perf.10 both horizontally & vertically.

In the following Springbok (Vol.60, no.2) on page 44, you will see a scan of part of a cover I own which shows the label from the lower right corner, but inscribed in English. There is another, regular issue Anti-TB Christmas label alongside which is tied by a 1967 East London c.d.s. part of a machine cancel. There is no way of exactly dating these labels, unless someone has them tied to a cover. Does anyone else have these?



In addition to this, I have also recently found this curio, presumably from 1966. The cover has the slogan "Support Sunshine Homes / Buy Christmas Stamps" expressed in English and Afrikaans. Inside, there is a vertical strip taken from the 1966 pane of 25 labels.



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