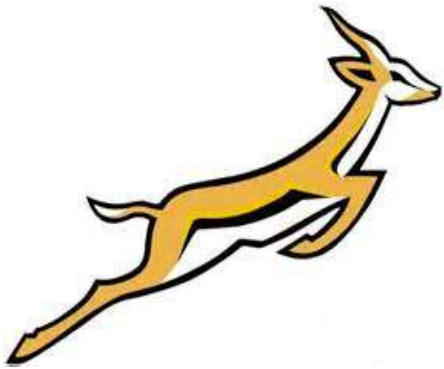


# THE



# SPRINGBOK

SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY QUARTERLY

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Volume 66 No. 1



## Society Annual Meeting Sat/Sun 9/10th June 2018

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*The Springbok* is published quarterly for the benefit of Members of the South African Collectors, Society. It is not available to non-members. Contributions in the form of letters, notes, reports of SA related activities, articles, etc., are always welcome and should be sent to the Hon. Editor. All correspondence including a SAE will be acknowledged.

*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,  
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## Editorial

Unfortunately this issue, which should have gone to the printers at the end of January, is late as I have had some health problems. Only time will tell if these problems will allow me to continue as Editor.

We are still looking for the 10 cent emerald green with cylinder numbers between 26900 and 29640 so that it can be determined what the actual start number is for these emerald green cylinder numbers. Refer "The Springbok" 340 page 124.

The deadline for receiving articles for the next issue is the end of April. At present I am very short of material and would welcome any articles for inclusion.

I have heard that Cape Town is very short of water as the area has received little rain fall over the past few years. They are welcome to have some of our UK Lake district water. I have lived in the area for a number of years and have never seen such a wet winter, we have had months of constant rain.

A reminder that our **Annual Society Meeting** will take place **On Sat/Sun 9/10th June 2018 at The Strawberry Bank Hotel in Meriden, Coventry.** Details of activities will be published in the next issue.

## Membership

**Welcome to new members:** 1210 Wilbert Davids FRPSL, from The Netherlands. His interests are SA Postal history 1932-54, Postmarks and Union / pre- Union forgeries.

Also 1211 Gerald Gettal from USA

Ian Jamieson 897 has resigned as his interests have changed from collecting SA

## Obituary MAURICE FLACK 1950-2017

By John Shaw

After service in the Army, Maurice worked for the Ministry of Defence, as a dog handler until moved to administrative duties for his last two years. After his father died Maurice lived alone in their house at Wainscott but he did have two "families"(who adopted him)?

Maurice was prominent in the Kent Federation for many years and in 1997 took over as competitions and events secretary from Dr Richard Saundry, an office he held with distinction for 20 years until his death. In this he organised Federation fairs and seminars and arranged for judges and their hospitality; this involved much behind-the-scenes (and largely unrecognised) work and much hard labour in transporting, erecting and dismantling the display frames, tasks without which would have seen to death of Kent rallies. Maurice was, himself a county level judge and was also federation President from 2011-13. Maurice had an eclectic range of collections, Hong Kong and Treaty ports being the most traditional but with commercially used South African homelands, QE II commonwealth and post office printed labels in addition. Maurice also eagerly promoted inter federation competitions (The Dawes Cup) which Kent won twice and national inter federation competitions, Kent winning the first two events under his stewardship .

In 2002 Maurice joined the Royal and was awarded fellowship of the society in 2007, much faster than the average, and in recognition of his contribution in the administrative field. Maurice was virtually the permanent "Welcome Host" not just for formal meetings but for every other day he was there. He always put on a welcome smile and was avid in his efforts to get visitors to join the society and, indeed, he recruited more new members to the society than any two others put together. For these efforts Maurice was awarded the prestigious London Medal in 2012 and award which gave him considerable and justifiable pride. Maurice was ever helpful, managing the name badges and the attendance books and, overall, taking much off the shoulders of the society staff. Whilst these tasks may appear low key, without them and his work the society would be much poorer in its perception from members and visitors. He was loved by most he came into contact with, the staff at the Royal, the staff at Eltham train station with whom he always passed time of day, and by those he met at stamp fairs. He was a genuine and generous person.

His demise is a great loss to both the Kent Federation and to the Royal Philatelic Society.

## The 16th Southern Africa Philatelic Conference (3 - 5 November 2017)

The conference was held at the Strawberry Bank Meridien Hotel. A successful and enjoyable weekend with over forty people attending. Overseas enthusiasts included Peter Thy (Denmark/USA) Lars Jørgensen from Belgium entertained us with Transvaal, Alan MacGregor from Simon's Town in South Africa participated in a joint display of Bechuanaland on the Saturday afternoon. Eddie Bridges & Carol Bomarito came over from New York and hope to make it for the June 2018 Philatelic weekend.

Unfortunately Paul van Zeyl from South Africa couldn't make it on this occasion, we all missed his 'alternative English' ...Wat sê jy Boetie?

Chris Rainey and David Morrison brought a good selection of Postal History and Mike Deverell is once more back in the UK and came along.

Many of our regulars attended and we were delighted to see Robert Johnson in good form. Bob Hill entertained the audience on Sunday by carefully demonstrating that Kit-Kat and Southern Africa Philately have much in common. Lars Jørgensen won the cup (again) for the best Saturday display.

**Peter Thy** told the story of the South African pioneers in World war Two and notably the part played by the so called 'volunteers' from Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland, with the volunteers actually being chosen by the tribal chiefs. There were 35,000 soldiers, sappers engaged mainly in road construction in Italy and heavy artillery gunners. 700 Basuto and Bechuana soldiers died when the SS *Erinpura* sank in 1943 in the English Channel and, in all, 1425 of these soldiers died in WWII. Very few covers have survived from this group and Peter showed some really rare and exotic items including the rare EAPO 81 postmark and a registered cover from Francistown franked, quite legally, with New Zealand stamps.

In 1946-47 repatriation of the soldiers started but many of the 'volunteers' did not want to return so repatriation was stopped and 3,700 soldiers transferred to Palestine after the British Mandate ended there. The Basutos also contributed towards purchase of Spitfire fighters for No 72 RAF Squadron so this relatively small contingent played a significant part in the war effort. Peter graced his display with some wonderful items such as airgraphs and MAL airletters FROM the protectorates, all very difficult to obtain.

**Lars Jørgensen** covered the Transvaal 2<sup>nd</sup> re-issue, just four stamps, so a good platform to start a study and nominally catalogued perforation 12, but where more precise measurement, to perforation 11.9 or 12.2 enables one to separate the printings. Lars described the various shades and, for the 1d stamp, these were either folded before perforating, or perforated through the gutter separating the panes. Almost every stamp is plate-able, subject to the difficult task of obtaining large pieces and there are distinctive flaws, such as the 'dropped screwdriver' on the 1d and damage to the right frame on the 3d Black on Rose. The 1/- value is scarce postally used, with no gutter pairs known and, although there was only one printing of this value, it is known in both perforations Lars having established that 94% are perforation 11.9 and only 6% perforation 12.2. Lars concluded with some fiscal usages and a short treatise on the forgeries. This was an excellent academic study.

After lunch the members of the *Bechuanalands and Botswana* society laid on a joint display and **Richard Stroud** showed the only known examples of the Vryburg News sheets (costing 3d) during the Boer War on 26 October and 1 November 1899.

**Brian Hurst** displayed a sheet of the 1961 QEII 3½c/4d overprint and explaining how all the printings of this surcharge were from the same forme. This was followed by the 1888 GB ½d overprints plus those additionally surcharged 'Fourpence'.

**Don Jeffreys** showed specimens, including archival material, Great Britain specimen types and included the rare 2/- value, some UPU complete strips, some with additional 'Ultramar' overprints (from Portuguese archives), some scarce ex-National Postal Museum archive material - the sales were stopped short due to the arrest of the NPM curator - and the 1935 Silver Jubilees with specimen perfins plus a set with the BEC2 type overprints.

**Brian Trotter** explained the difference between Bechuanaland Protectorate and British Bechuanaland and postal history relating to Cecil Rhodes dream of a Cape to Cairo transport service, detailing the trek through Stellaland, the Warren and Methuen expeditions, graced with some lovely markings such as '*cannot be forwarded*' and a *Mafeking besieged* 1/- on British Bechuanaland cover, explaining these were carried by native runners who risked their lives to deliver mail during this part of the Anglo Boer War.

**Alan MacGregor** showed Bechuanaland postal history with overprinted stamps, postmarks and a wonderful GB/British Bechuanaland combination cover. This material is ex the Vic Visser collection.

**Otto Peetoom** concluded this section, starting with Stellaland (stamps and revenues) a good selection of early Bechuanaland postmarks (ex Joe Taylor). Also a KGV 1/- block of four with inverted watermark, which John Shaw had not seen before, there were die proofs for Postal Stationery and Postage dues. Postal history included the KEVII 6d postal fiscal on cover and exotic postmarks such as *Crocodile Pools*. Otto concluded this section with 'Fifty years of Botswana stamp issues' that appeared in four articles in GSM and reprinted in *The Runner Post*. He pointed out the modern exploitation of collectors by issuing miniature sheets in the shapes of a rhino, a leopard, a butterfly and a diamond.



Simon Peetoom presenting the cup to Lars Jørgensen

# The 16th Southern Africa Philatelic Conference (3 - 5 November 2017)

**Tony Howgrave-Graham** rounded off the Saturday session by displaying railway post office material noting that many stations changed their names and stating that some stations actually had no platforms. The Orange Free State had its own railway, with three stations and the style of the postmarks, one including the word 'siding' was interesting. Natal had its own railway stamps, normal postage stamps overprinted or perfined NGR. He also showed the CSAR overprints on Transvaal stamps and a selection of letters, labels and other ephemera. Often railway mail was combined with airmail and Putzel rates as RRR the South West Africa *Aus un Kubub* postmark, used at the end of a route, whose name was changed to *Kubbeil* and where horses were bred for the German Army. The early Cape Town to de Aar item is an exotic cover and the session ended with the 1925 Royal tour through Bechuanaland and a WWII train cover. Tony also provided a suitable handout.

**Friday and Saturday dinner** was served in our Conference room and John Shaw delivered his traditional 'After Dinner Joke'. As always there is never enough time to do all the things one planned beforehand.

**On Sunday**, first was **Bas Payne** who gave the story of Wolmaranstad and its founder, Thomas Leask; apart from founder, he was also Justice of the Peace, Postal Agent and doctor! He lived from 1853 - 1946. In 1888 the town was known as Makwassie Spruit and inhabited by 3100 whites and 3200 blacks; there were 9 different stamps issued and these are well documented by Harry Birkhead and Joh Groenwald in their booklet *'The Wherewithall of Wolmaranstad'*. Bas explained the four state of the town postmark, notably the break in the outer ring and stated there were, in all, only 20 covers known, many fabricated by Leask.



**Bas Payne in 'full flow'**

**Dave Morrison** showed a wonderful collection of cigarette tax which is said to be the best ever formed.

**Chris Rainey** showed what he described as 'proper censorship' in Tristan da Cunha during WWII stating that for a while the weather station was called HMS Atlantic Island and the name Tristan da Cunha temporarily disappeared. Chris showed examples of the covers from the Tristan Events Force and mentioned that one Tristan resident, the Roman Catholic priest, had been awarded a medal during the South African war.

**Bob Hill**, in his inimitable fashion, gave a 'Kit Kat' parody on SG1 of South Africa and included the 'KK bantams', 'KK dark', 'KK orange', 'KK chunky' and a bisect on cover.

**Tony Stanford** explained the Netleg Hospital situation during WWI, when the railway was diverted in order for the ambulance trains to access the hospital direct.

**Chris Board** displayed Boer War period newspapers, the **Pretoria Friend**, this was an important means of communicating which included news on progress of the war, local polo and British cricket results; the items included a newspaper sent unpaid to New Zealand and taxed postage due.

**Otto Peetoom** showed a private airmail label used by a Johannesburg stamp dealer, John Robertson. It turns out that he in fact copied the image from an American private label.



A copy of a USA private Air Mail label inscribed under 'A' in 'AIR'

**DENNISON USA**  
**DENNISON USA**



Otto's other focus is on the shade of the rare 2d official SG 035 and the differential in shade of 035 compared to stereo type 045. Both were overprinted on cylinders 6927/50, yet their frames are very different in colour (shade).

**Alan Harley** explained the differences in money orders from Transvaal and the Orange Free State also showing a cover from Derby (Transvaal) to UK and some very scarce pre-Boer War postcards printed in Germany.

**Richard Stroud's** 'lost in Africa' is a moving story told of a Canadian soldier whose mother tried to trace him from 1902-13 and illustrated by letters from the mother.

**Richard Barnett** showed examples of the rare Birchenough Bridge postmark, the bridge having a post office which was eventually closed due to minimal use.

**Steve Hannath** debated whether the VOC mark had been used as a Cape postmark. The answer to that is in the January 1932 SAP. In 1792 the postal arrangements in Holland and the Cape were reorganised.

Pre-paid letters (six stuivers per letter sheet) arriving at Cape Town were franked with the VOC handstamp.



**Robert Johnson** displayed rare Rhodesian postal history items followed by a discourse on the reason for the Cape cork cancels (used on soft parcels) and different usages of the KEVII 2½d including covers to Sweden, Panama, New Zealand and Mauritius. All in all, these quite short displays were most enjoyable.

Report by John Shaw. Additions/corrections and images by Otto Peetoom.

# Transkei - Numbered Cylinders used by the Government Printer

By Otto Peetoom

## Introduction

Collectors' of RSA, SWA and TBVC are inclined to collect cylinder blocks or strips, but does anyone ever attempt to make sense of them. A brief study might prove interesting and thereafter said information may be assigned to a file marked 'Department of Useless Information'.

## Observations on TBVC Cylinders

In a few instances certain numbers were not employed and in the case of Bophuthatswana a few cylinder numbers, probably by mistake, were used more than once. Some issues employed a 'common' cylinder, either in the same or in different, colours for the likes of inscriptions, borders or a surround. In order to avoid 'overkill' the cylinders of the TBVC will be reviewed in a series of articles starting with the Transkei. **Continue in next column.**

## Number of Cylinders per Stamp

The stamps are multicoloured and each denomination on average has at least four cylinder numbers. Transkei stamps range from two to seven cylinders per stamp. See next page for more detail.

The Transkei issued stamps for a mere 17+ years starting with cylinder No 1 on the 1976 4c Independence stamp and ending in 1994 with cylinder No 1519 on the R1.05 value of the Ship Wrecks issue. Published in the April 1994 edition of *The South African Philatelist* are three commemorative issues that were planned for 1994 being sets of four stamps e.g. Coastal birds, Bats plus the 9<sup>th</sup> issue of 'Heroes of Medicine'. Given that on average there are four cylinders per stamp, it intimates that at least 48 more cylinders had been allocated to Transkei, but they never made their debut.

Transkei Stamp Issues 1976 to 1984	Cylinder No's	Stamps
1976 Independence/Definitives	1 to 120	21
1977 Airs & Plants - 2 sets	121 to 144	6
Reprints P12 x 12½ - 1c, 2c, 3c, 5c, 4c	145 to 172	5
1977 Radio & Blind - 2 sets	173 to 187	5
Reprint P12 x 12½ definitive 4c	188 to 193	1
1978 Pipes to 1979 Waterfalls - 8 sets	194 to 307	29
Not used	308	
1979 Health - 1 set	309 to 323	3
Reprint 4c definitive Perforation 14	324 to 329	1
1980 Fishing flies to Cycads - 3 sets	330 to 352	10
Reprint 5c definitive	353 to 357	1
1980 Birds - 1 set	358 to 373	4
Reprint 10c & 30c definitives P14	374 to 384	2
1980 Tourism - 1 set	385 to 400	4
Reprint 5c & 20c definitives P14	401 to 411	2
1981 F. Flies to 5 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary 4 sets	412 to 461	15
Reprints 5c, 15c, 25c, 50c P14	462 to 483	4
Not used	484	
1982 Fishing Flies 1 set	485 to 488	5
Not used	489	
Reprint 8c definitive P14	490 to 495	1
1982 Scouts to Umtata 3 sets	496 to 543	12
Reprints 2c, 3c, 4c, 6c P14	544 to 567	4
Not used	568 to 573	
Reprints 8c, 9c, 10c, 15c, 20c, 25c, 30c	574 to 612	7
1983 Fishing Flies, Tourism 2 sets	613 to 632	9
Reprints 1c, 9c, 10c, 30c P14	633 to 653	4
1983 Medicine to 1984 F. Flies 3 sets	654 to 689	13
Last Reprints - First defs 2c, 5c, 50c P14	690 to 707	3
1984 Post Offices 2 <sup>nd</sup> series 1 set	708 to 723	4
1984 2 <sup>nd</sup> Definitives 1c to R2	724 to 791	17

Transkei Stamp Issues 1984 to 1994	Cylinder No's	Stamps
1984 11c New value	792 to 795	1
1984 Medicine, 1985 Soil 2 sets	796 to 827	8
1985 12c New value	828 to 831	1
1985 Bridges to 1986 Aloes 5 sets	832 to 915	20
1986 14c New value	916 to 919	1
1986 Hydro 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2 sets	920 to 951	8
Reprint 14c	952 to 955	1
1987 Bop Air, Beadwork 2 sets	956 to 995	8
1987 16c New value	996 to 999	1
1987 Spider, Domestic Animals 2 sets	1000 to 1035	8
Reprint 2c	1036 to 1039	1
1988 Seaweed to Shipwreck 3 sets	1040 to 1089	12
Reprint 16c	1090 to 1093	1
1988 Animals, 1989 Trains 2 sets	1094 to 1125	8
Reprints 2c, 16c	1126 to 1133	2
1989 Basketry to Trees 3 sets	1134 to 1233	12
1990 21c New value	1234 to 1238	1
1990 Flowers to 1991 Dolphins 3 sets	1239 to 1290	12
Reprint 1c	1291 to 1294	1
1991 Birds to 1992 Orchids 3 sets	1295 to 1342	12
Reprint 7c	1343 to 1346	1
1992 Medicine 1 set	1347 to 1362	4
Reprints 1c, 2c, 5c	1363 to 1374	3
1992 Waterfowl 1 set	1375 to 1394	8
Reprints 7c, 25c	1395 to 1402	2
1992/3 Fossils x 2, Dogs 3 sets	1403 to 1451	12
Reprint 5c	1452 to 1455	1
1993 Medicine, Doves 2 sets	1456 to 1487	8
Last Reprints 15c, 20c, 25c, 10c	1488 to 1503	4
1994 Shipwrecks	1504 to 1519	4

1994 3 sets planned (3 x 4) Not issued, required at least 48 cylinders



30 November 1983 50c Cylinders 701 - 707 The last first definitive reprint

At right 21c - The only value in the 2<sup>nd</sup> definitive series using five cylinders



# Transkei - Numbered Cylinders used by the Government Printer

## Number of Cylinders per Stamp

The 1976 Independence and first definitives are a mixed bag, ranging from five to seven cylinders per stamp.

**1976 Independence** 4c & 15c (5) 10c (6) and 20c (7)

**1976 Definitives** 5 cylinders (6 values) 6 cylinders (10 values) and seven cylinders 50c only.

## Cylinder Numbers out of Sequence

Only present on the 1976 Independence issue and on eight out of 17 values of the first definitives.



10c Independence Cylinders 5 - 10 plus 119 - (6 cylinders)



20c Independence Cylinders 16 - 21 plus 120 - (7 cylinders)

## 1976 Definitives with odd cylinder numbers

2c (115) - 4c (113, 114) - 8c (47) - 15c (117) - 25c (81) - 30c (116) - 50c (88) and R1 (118).



4c Definitive Cylinders 38 - 41 plus 113 & 114

## South African Colour Catalogue (SACC)

Their listing of the cylinder numbers for the 1976 definitives includes several 'historical errors' that have remained in place for decades. (See further comment at the end of the article) The 4c illustrated above includes No 113 and this is noted as being present on the R1 value which is not so.



4c Definitive Reprint 15-11-1979 Cylinders 324 to 329

The original printing of the 4c includes six cylinders, a reprint on 15 November 1979 (also with 6 cylinders) 324 to 329 are listed in the SACC with only five, omitting cylinder 324.

Odd cylinder numbers do not feature on any of the reprints. The 7c, R1 and R2 values were not reprinted.

## Dated Cylinder Strips

The original printings of the first definitive and the first reprints of the 2c, 3c and 4c (SAP December 1977) followed by a 1c do not have a date printed in the margin (selvedge).

The same applies to the first five commemorative issues 1976 Independence, 1977 Air, Plants, Radio and Help the Blind.

### 1 March 1978

(1978-03-01)

A 4c reprint, cylinders 188 - 193 plus the 'Carved Pipes' set, issued on the same date, using cylinders 194 - 213 all show the foregoing date, formatted yyyy-mm-dd for the first time.



1978-03-01

A further modification followed in respect of definitive reprints by also printing the original date of issue above or below the date of the reprint.

The first on a 4c with new perforation 14 from cylinders 324 - 329 reflecting 1976-10-26 and 1979-11-15 (Also see last illustration in first column)



1976-10-26  
1979-11-15

## 1984 Second Definitives

All values, including the original and reprints, have four cylinders each. The exception being the 1990 21c new value which has five cylinders (1234 - 1238) - Illustrated on the previous page.

## Commemorative Issues - 71 sets making 279 designs in total

2 cylinders	3 cylinders	4 cylinders	5 cylinders	6 cylinders
1 set <sup>1</sup>	3 sets <sup>2</sup>	54 sets <sup>3</sup>	11 sets <sup>4</sup>	1 set <sup>5</sup>

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> 1979 Second State President (2 values)

<sup>2</sup> 1977 Blind (3v) uses cylinder 183 on all three designs printing the words 'HELP TO THE BLIND' in gold.

1980 Rotary (1v) and 1981 Independence Anniversary (2v)

<sup>3</sup> 1978 Cripples, cylinder 255 in gold is common to all three values using the inscription 'CARE FOR CRIPPLES'.

The 1977 Help the Blind and 1978 Care for Cripples are the only two Transkei issues which employ a 'common' cylinder on the respective designs.

4 Five Cylinders per stamp		1987	Spiders (4v)
1978	Carved Pipes (4v)	1988	Grosvenor wreck (4v)
1979	Health (3v)	1989	Basketry (4v)
1985	Bridges (4v)	1991	Parasitic Plants (4v)
1987	Bop Airways (4v)	1992	Waterfowl (8v)
1987	Bead work (4v)	1992	Marine Fossils (4v)

<sup>5</sup> 1981 Xhosa Head Dresses (4 values + a MS)

# Transkei - Numbered Cylinders used by the Government Printer

## Common Cylinder Numbers

Used on different values replicating a caption on each stamp.



Common Cylinder 183 (Gold) - HELP TO THE BLIND

## 1978 Care for Cripples with a Common Cylinder



Common Cylinder Number 255 (Gold) CARE FOR CRIPPLES

**Bophuthatswana** - Also used Common Cylinders to print the same design but in different colours.



## Missing Cylinder Numbers

There are odd cylinders that do not feature and such numbers might have been overlooked by the Printer e.g. No's 308, 484 and 489.

Then there is a sequence of six 'missing' numbers being 568 to 573. The foregoing indicates there is a total of  $1519 - 9 = 1510$  Transkei cylinders which saw use.

## Missing Cylinder 308

Between 1979 20c Waterfall (307) and 5c Health (309)

Illustrated at left

**20c Waterfall  
Cylinders 304 - 307**



5c Health 309 - 313

## Missing Cylinders 568 - 573

Between 1982 Definitive reprints 6c (567) and 8c (574).

This series of six numbers suggest that the group was reserved for a reprint of a value of the first definitives that was not done.



6c Cylinders 562 - 567



8c Cylinders 574 - 579

# Transkei - Numbered Cylinders used by the Government Printer

**Missing Cylinder 484** - Between 1981 50c reprint (483) and 1982 Fishing Flies (485 - 488).



50c Cylinders 477 - 483

8c Cylinders 490 - 495

**Missing Cylinder 489** - Between 1982 Fishing Flies (485 - 488) and 1982 8c reprint (490)



1982 Fishing Flies Cylinders 485 - 488

The 1982 Fishing Flies from cylinders 485 - 488 fall between the missing cylinder No's 484 and 489.

## Observations on the Cylinder Numbers

Initially I expected that the sequence of cylinder numbers ought to reflect the dates of issue/printing. The foregoing proved not to be so and is more complex than I anticipated.

I therefore assume that the allocation of cylinder numbers by the Printer is a matter of routine, whereas a philatelist might assume that everything ought to be arranged in chronological order. The table that follows lists the 'out of sequence' cylinder numbers (in brown) and is self explanatory.

Date	Cylinders	Issue
20.02.1979	288 - 291	Second State President
13.03.1979	272 - 287	Water Resources
15.11.1979	324 - 329	4c Definitive Reprint P14
03.12.1979	309 - 323	Health Education
08.04.1980	353 - 357	5c Definitive Reprint P14
30.04.1980	337 - 352	Cycades
13.10.1980	401 - 405	5c Definitive Reprint P14
15.10.1980	406 - 411	20c Definitive Reprint P14
29.10.1980	385 - 400	Tourism
30.09.1981	462 - 466	5c Definitive Reprint P14
16.10.1981	467 - 471	15c Definitive Reprint P14

Date	Cylinders	Issue
26.10.1981	472 - 476	25c Definitive Reprint P14
26.10.1981	456 - 461	5 <sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary
05-08.07.1982	544 - 567	Reprints 2c, 3c, 4c, 6c
	568 - 573	Not used
12-20.07.1982	574 - 612	Reprints 8c, 9c, 10c, 15c, 20c, 25c, 30c
05.10.1982	512 - 527	Heroes of Medicine (1 <sup>st</sup> series)
09.11.1982	528 - 543	Umtata Centenary (Strips of 5)
28-31.03.1983	633 - 642	Reprints 1c, 9c (Blocks of 4)
07-11.04.1983	643 - 653	Reprints 10c, 30c (Blocks of 4)
25.05.1983	617 - 632	Tourism (Blocks of 4)
02.04.1984	792 - 795	11c Additional value
06.07.1984	724 - 791	2 <sup>nd</sup> Definitives 1c to R2
01.04.1986	916 - 919	14c Additional value
01.05.1986	900 - 915	Aloes
11.07.1986	952 - 955	Reprint 14c
24.07.1986	920 - 935	Power Stations
27.10.1986	936 - 951	10 <sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary
12.06.1987	1036 - 1039	Reprint 2c
18.08.1987	1000 - 1019	Spiders
22.10.1987	1020 - 1035	Domestic Animals
22.04.1988	1090 - 1093	Reprint 16c
05.05.1988	1056 - 1071	Blanket Factory
04.08.1988	1072 - 1089	Grosvenor Wreck
14.10.1988	1126 - 1133	Reprints 2c, 16c
20.10.1988	1094 - 1109	Endangered Animals
07.01.1991	1291 - 1294	Reprint 1c
10.01.1991	1255 - 1274	Parasitic Plants
04.04.1991	1275 - 1290	Dolphins
15.11.1991	1343 - 1346	Reprint 7c
20.02.1992	1327 - 1342	Orchids
25.02.1992	1363 - 1370	Reprints 1c, 2c
01.04.1992	1347 - 1362	Heroes of Medicine (7 <sup>th</sup> series)
09.12.1992	1452 - 1455	Reprint 5c
12.02.1993	1420 - 1435	Dogs
18.06.1993	1436 - 1451	Prehistoric Animals
20.07.1993	1488 - 1499	Reprints 15c, 20c, 25c
20.08.1993	1456 - 1471	Heroes of Medicine (8 <sup>th</sup> series)
15.10.1993	1472 - 1487	Doves

The above table demonstrates that many of the definitive reprints, with higher cylinder numbers, are dated earlier than numerous commemorative issues with lower numbers.

## 20 February 1979 Second State President

Cylinders 288 - 291 stamps issued before Water Resources with cylinders 272 - 287 on 13 March. This is the only anomaly present on the commemoratives issues.

## Friendly Advice

Anyone wishing to carry out a similar exercise on cylinder numbers is advised to collate the information from the actual cylinder units. I initially used the *South African Colour Catalogue* (SACC) and several listed numbers made no sense. The foregoing proved to be incorrect listings in the SACC that can now be dubbed 'Historical Errors' they are present in a 1999 edition and still in place in the latest 2017 - 18 catalogue!

## 1992 Waterfowl Issue - A Mystery SACC Listing

Four values with eight different designs in se-tenant pairs. **SACC additional Cylinder 1290, 1292, 1294, 1296** Cylinder 1290 (black) used on the 1991 60c Dolphin Cylinders 1292 (yellow) and 1294 (black) used on the 1c Reprint (7.1.1991) and Cylinder 1296 (yellow) used on the 1991 25c Endangered bird. This bogus listing is another SACC historical error that has been in place for around two decades.

## Some idle musings on a rather dull stamp

By Nicholas Arrow

Members will all be familiar with the set of stamps issued on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 1947, in 3 values, 1d, 2d and 3d, to commemorate the Royal Visit made to South Africa by King George VI, Queen Elizabeth and the Royal Princesses. The 1d was printed in sheets of 240 stamps, 20 rows of 12 stamps each, by 2 cylinders, and the higher values were printed by a single cylinder only (although a second printing of the 2d was made using a different cylinder) in sheets of 120 stamps (20 x 6).

The 3d stamp features the Royal Princesses, Margaret (PM) on the left and Elizabeth (PE) on the right. The photographs were apparently supplied by the Postmaster-General and the design was by J Prentice. With all due respect to both the PMG, the designer and the Pretoria Printing Works, the design of the set was poor in general, and that of the 3d stamp in particular, showing rather flat and unlife like portraits of the Royal Princesses, doing nothing to show their real life attractiveness.

The 3d stamp was issued in a shade of deep blue. The margins were left blank save that marginal arrows were placed at the midway point in each of the 4 margins and red 4-figure sheet arrows were printed, twice on each sheet albeit in slightly varying positions, indicating several printings.

The SAHB outlines 6 constant printing varieties –

- V1 Mark on PE's left arm (R5/6)
- V2 Circular mark between the Princesses' arms (R7/4)
- V3 White ring to right of PE's head (R8/5)
- V4 Curled mark on PM's right arm (R9/5)
- V5 "Ornament" in PM's hair (R16/5)
- V6 Smudge across PE's eyes - 'Masked Princess' (R19/2).

These are all illustrated below (illustrations enlarged), because not only is the description in the Handbook somewhat brief, but also there are numerous other spots and dots littering the various stamps, which can lead the less experienced collector into thinking that a particular stamp shows a particular variety, simply because he has found a stamp with (e.g.) a "Mark on PE's left arm", which is not the mark in question. It is worth remembering that the 1<sup>st</sup> stamp in each sheet was English, so every uneven numbered stamp in in an uneven numbered row is English and vice versa.



V1



V2



V3



V4



V 5



V 6

When I first attempted to mount this issue, I was struck by various other oddities, and it seemed obvious even then that there were other printing inaccuracies. Several years later, I was able to buy Graham Chard's collection of the Royal Visit set in the Society Auction, and a study of this additional material has prompted me to write this article, in the hope that perhaps others may consider their stamps, to confirm or repudiate and hopefully add to, as may be appropriate, the comments made here.

I should perhaps mention that Graham's material was clearly the amalgam of at least 2 different collections. From various notes that he made as he looked through his material, it seemed that he had access to other reference books or material as he appeared to refer to at least 2, possibly 3, other lists of some of the 'varieties'.

The first item which is looked at here is the 'white curl' variety which is shown below –



I had noticed this variety when I originally started, but had very little evidence to back it up. The summary of all the notes in Graham's collection is that this variety was quite widespread over the sheets of stamps, and can be found at R5/6, R13/2 and R14-20/1-5 inclusive. I have no idea as to the position of the pair shown immediately



above, but a glance at the illustrations of V5/6 above will also show the 'white curl', as these items both come from the bottom half of the sheet where the 'white curl' is prevalent.

More interesting is a study of the block of 6, R8-10/1-2, illustrated at the head of this article and again here, where it is enlarged –

Four clear faults are present –

- R8/2 A cluster of dots at the side of PM's face ('carbuncle')
- R9/1 Broken outer rim of the 'd' in the left value tablet
- R9/2 A spot on PE's forehead
- R10/2 A white dot at the top of the design, above and to the right of PE's head.

Reference to other examples in Graham's collection showed that these were present and (where there was no marginal border to confirm of the precise place in the sheet) in the same configuration as in this block. Furthermore, I got in touch with Mike Tonking by email, and he advises me that he has a complete sheet of this stamp, and all these variations were present there as well. It seems that the position of these variations can be taken as final and probably consistent throughout.

Next are R19-20/5-6, illustrated below –



In R20/5 there is a mark to the left of PE's head, directly under the Crown at the top, and in R20/6 it is possible to see a 'kiss curl' on PM's forehead.



Proceeding slightly to the left of this block, in R19/4 there is a white mark precisely over PM's head and in R20/3 there is a small dot in her blouse –

I have 2 copies of both blocks, and again it could well be considered that these are regular faults. It is also worth pointing out that the 'white curl' variety is shown in all the stamps in columns 3, 4 and 5 of these blocks.

A further oddity is found at R17/6 and is illustrated right. The position can be guaranteed through comparison with a large block with the 'ornament' variety (V5) as well as this variety, which consists of a dot on PM's sleeve over 'A' of 'Afrika' with some more dots over 'fr' of 'Afrika' on PE's blouse. I have 4 copies of this variety, of which 2 have the same marginal markings, so this again may perhaps be considered as regular.



I referred when considering the varieties as set out in the Handbook that an inexperienced collector could wrongly identify a stamp as having a particular variety when in fact it has a totally different oddity. Such an example is shown here –



This block quite obviously consists of R1-2/3-4, and there are “marks” on PE’s left sleeve in both R2/3-4. It would seem more than possible that when Graham purchased this block as part of a collection he bought it as it was displayed in the album, as he had actually marked the 4<sup>th</sup> stamp as being R2/4, yet with variety 1, despite the stamp being in English rather than Afrikaans! I have other examples of these faults on other stamps which have no means of being accurately positioned in the sheet, but it seems reasonable to suppose that these too are regular faults.

However, it must be admitted that, although there is evidence that these faults affect numerous examples of the same position in the sheet, the number of items seen is not substantial and thus it is not possible to guarantee (a) that all the sheets were printed with these various faults, (b) that similar faults but, in different positions do not exist and (c) that some of the many other dots and spots which can be seen on a close inspection of the stamps are not further examples of other permanent faults.

Mike Tonking advises that there were 44,465 sheets printed for sale in South Africa, of which 22,554 were sold, and 20,500 were printed for use in SWA of which 19,068 were sold (it seems strange that they were more popular in SWA than in the Union). This means that there could be a considerable body of evidence that the faults (other than those mentioned in the Handbook) may not in fact affect all the printed sheets and further that there may be numerous other regular faults out there waiting to be found!

*I would hope that other collectors may be able to check their collections and maybe add to the knowledge of this stamp.*

## From The Editors Desk

### An email from Gary Brown, Australia

I refer to page 138, Springbok 340, the additional information on the article “The Revenue Stamps of South Africa”.

The writer mentions that “Cape Town, at least, appears to have 6ds available” as on his document the 6d Postage/Revenue is dated 30 AU 13.

There were Union Issues issued early to Cape Town as shown on my document dated 25 AU 13.

I attach a jpeg of the document.



### An email from Oscar van der Vliet

I want to reply on the information added by Tony Howgrave Graham regarding his pre-use of Union revenues due to a shortage of values.

Between 1910 and 1913, there occurred a shortage of values from the remaining stock of the former colonies but there were no Union revenues at that time available. First there were some reprints of Transvaal values but in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 1913, stocks were running very low and requests were done to issue some printed values earlier. On July 15<sup>th</sup> 1913, values of 3d ; 6d and 1 pound were issued before the official date of September 1<sup>st</sup> 1913.

So far I have never seen a 3d revenue with an earlier date because postage stamps of Natal and Transvaal were also valid for revenue use.

At the other hand a 3d rate is rarely found at that time.



3d. Proofs 10th February 1913

Pre-Issued 6d

19130830  
PVRYBURG

Only a renewal from a Policy of Insurance with an insurance of 300 pounds was 3d.

The 3d was therefore only “needed” in combination with higher payments.

The R10 example of 1987 was printed at the back and so were all values from R1 to prevent re-use.

I am still working on an revised article about this series but want to sort out the Stamp duty of Act 77 of 1968 first with all it’s changes till 2009.

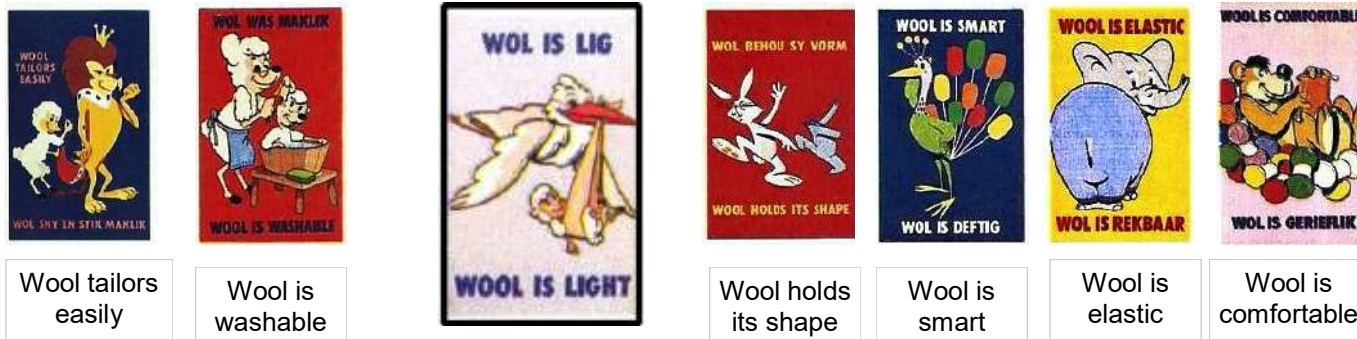
Because the growing deletion of Stamp duties was affecting the use of these stamps especially from the late 1990s.

## Wool Stamp: break in the wool emblem cylinder 465 464, The Springbok 340 Page 128.

Three Members have confirmed that their cylinders have the same print defect: Members Richard Weaver, Ian Bailey and Chris Oliver. This possibly confirms that the break is constant. Ed.

## The Missing Wool emblem: The Springbok 340 Page 128

Whilst looking through back issues of the RSA News Letters I found the missing wool emblem. “Wool Is Light” All seven emblems are shown below. Ed.



## Adverts on Stamps from Chris Oliver

This was the last attempt, at that time, to include advertising on the selvedge as the attached, contemporary, but undated.

Abstract from an SA newspaper states:

### *Advertising on stamps abandoned*

*The Post Office has decided to abandon a mint advertising campaign using the edging on sheets of stamps to publicise products, a spokesman said today.*

*The “Wool” stamp featuring a ram’s head is currently on sale bearing wool slogans and motifs on the edging framing the sheets of stamps.*

*The Post Office spokesman did not say why the campaign had been abandoned and the local spokesman had no knowledge of complaints against the slogans from philatelists.*

*A Cape philatelist said that a similar advertising gimmick was used during the last war and was popular with philatelists.*

## Sunshine homes: The Springbok 340. A reply received from Chris Oliver

Regarding the Sunshine Homes, Maja Christiansen was not just a visitor. She was the wife of Egil Christiansen the Danish Consul to South Africa. See attached.

### SOUTH AFRICAN CHRISTMAS STAMP FUND

**1919:** Egil Christiansen, a newly appointed Consul for Denmark, arrived in Durban with his wife MAJA who was to become the founder of the SOUTH AFRICAN CHRISTMAS STAMP FUND. Shortly after her arrival, Maja discerned the need for raising funds to fight tuberculosis in children of stricken families. At a dinner during a visit to Denmark in 1923 she was placed beside POSTMASTER HOLBOLL who had introduced Christmas Stamps in Denmark in 1903. He expounded the success of the stamps in Denmark and the United States of America and the notion was born of A CHRISTMAS STAMP FOR SOUTH AFRICA by which funds could be raised to combat tuberculosis. Maja returned to Durban and started her campaign by approaching cabinet ministers, city councillors and the Postmaster General. She suffered many disappointments and frustrations, but through her perseverance, courage and ability the first Christmas Stamp was introduced in South Africa in December 1929.

On 24 September 1934, before Mr and Mrs Egil Christiansen departed from South Africa, Maja laid the foundation-stone of the first PREVENTORIUM, which became known as the PIETERMARITZBURG SUNSHINE HOME. The opening ceremony was performed in 1936 by Lady Clarendon who was the wife of the Governor-General of that time. Three further SUNSHINE

HOMES were built (one in QUEENSTOWN and two in BELLVILLE, Cape) where children of all races who had been in contact with sufferers of tuberculosis were admitted and clothed, fed and educated.

By 1974 the Sunshine Homes became redundant as a result of a new approach to treatment that allowed children of tuberculosis sufferers to stay with their parents. The PIETERMARITZBURG SUNSHINE HOME was closed down first, followed by the two BELLVILLE homes and finally the QUEENSTOWN home in early 1978.

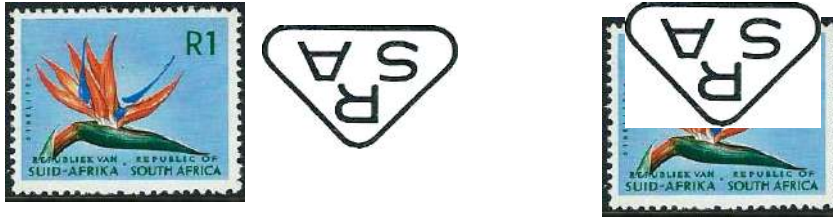
The work of the SOUTH AFRICAN CHRISTMAS STAMP FUND has now diverged. Funds are allocated to the building of creches and clinics, to the purchase of fully equipped mobile clinics, to the support of hospital wards and to health-education schemes throughout the Republic. Most work is done in remote rural areas among Black communities.

**GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE:** On 14 October 1977, a small garden of remembrance in honour of MAJA CHRISTIANSEN was opened in Pietermaritzburg by the mayor. Here a bronze plaque was erected that bears the following inscription:

“In memory of MAJA CHRISTIANSEN, citizen of Denmark, who founded the SOUTH AFRICAN CHRISTMAS STAMP FUND in 1929.”

## From the Editors Desk

A reply, from the Editor, to Otto Peetoom regarding the inverted R1 Watermark stamp. Springbok 340 page 131



This at first glance looks like the inverted watermark that Otto mentioned in the last Springbok.

The watermark shown is from the front of the stamp and the right image is its position on the stamp. I have tried unsuccessfully to take a picture from the watermark machine.

Research confirms that it is not the stamp mentioned.

The supposed cylinders that this stamp is from, G11 4 6 has a matt finish and a white/blue back, Harrison paper, when viewed under an ultraviolet lamp.

This stamp has a semi matt finish and a dark back under the ultraviolet lamp. This confirms that it is Swiss paper and as it the only issue that does not have a fluorescent front and back it must come from cylinders 259 258 257, which has a tête-bêche watermark.

Without the aid of an ultraviolet lamp this could easily be mistaken for an inverted watermark as in all other appearances it does look like it comes from cylinders G11 4 6 with a single RSA watermark but as stated it is in actual fact a tête-bêche watermark. The rest of the watermark is not visible.

O

## South African Post Office Names

By Errol van Greunen

Over the years one thing that has been quite noticeable is that names of post offices have been changed, due to the fact that more attention has been paid to the original roots of the name. For example Mafeking is now Mafikeng and the list is endless.

In the Gatsrand ( literally – “holey ridge”) area of Transvaal two Post Office names (Carletonville and Blyvooruitsig ) have fascinated me, seeing as I grew up in that area. The area was known to be Dolomitic and often sink holes appeared in the countryside causing chaos to roads in

Carletonville developed as the town that serviced the mines of the West Wits Line which saw the development of such mines as Blyvooruitzicht – 1937, West Driefontein – 1945, Doornfontein – 1947 and eventually Western Deep Levels 1957.



A picture of the subsidence of 3 houses in the suburb Westdene of Blyvooruitzicht Gold Mine in 1963

The Gold Mine Blyvooruitzicht had its own post office on the property and it was named Blyvooruitsig. The reason for this naming was that in 1922 in the Schweizer Renecke area, the post office Blyvooruitzicht was opened on 5 June and was closed again on 17 July 1922.

So with the establishment of the gold mine Blyvooruitzicht, a post office was opened on 20 August 1945 and named Blyvooruitsig. A lot of migrant labourers on the mine, whose English/Afrikaans was nearly non existent took to using the address Bly486, in corresponding with their families.



The names on the envelope. CDS Blyvooruitsig and the mine name as part of the franking label.

Carletonville, named after Guy Carleton Jones, a Canadian geologist who founded the West Wits Line, while working for Consolidated Goldfields, often has the hotel name imposed on its spelling. i.e. Carlton

In Putzel's Vol 1 of "The Encyclopaedia of South African Post Offices and Postal Agencies", in the description of Blyvoortuitsig, the controlling post office is noted as Carltonville.

BLYVOORUITSIG	1922-1922	TVL	(H/O SCHWEIZER RENEKE, WELVERDIEND, INDEPEND., CARLTONVILLE)	
BLYVOORUITZICHT	1945-CURR		(Literally translated means "Joyous Prospect", named after the Gold Mining Co. of the same name, exactly halfway between Johannesburg and Potchefstroom.)	
			1st Office: PA opened 5.6.1922; closed 17.7.1922 (i.e. only 6 weeks!) (Blyvooruitzicht).	Extremely RARE
			2nd Office: PO opened 20.8.1945 (Blyvooruitsig); PO continuous since then - CURRENT.	

I have seen a road sign with the incorrect spelling as well! This must have been something that G. Carleton Jones grew accustomed to over the years, when one looks at the two examples below.



G. Carleton Jones



G. Carlton Jones



The CDS of Carletonville

# The 'Vintage' Springbok

By Otto Pectoom

## Preamble

One of the valuable assets of the *South African Collectors' Society* is an Index to its journal 'The Springbok'. Collated by J.B. (Brian) Carter who was the Society's Librarian and this document includes *Springbok* contents up to 2001 Volume 49 No 1 and is dated 2.7.2006. I searched thru 2006 journals and there is no mention of Carter's master piece which has around 32,000 words spread over 105 pages.

Carter's Index was brought to my attention by Eddie Bridges and I added 2001 - 3, reformatted it to 71 pages and posted it on the website. The link is at the bottom of the 'Springbok' page. The downside in the society is that no one has produced a cumulative index for *The Springbok*.

## SACS 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

During the second half of 2017 I collated information for a write up on a new webpage celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Society. The foregoing also cumulated into a Special Edition of *The Springbok*.

In the introduction I wrote...*Collating a history of any Society is a daunting task, earlier this year I took on a similar challenge for 'The Bechuanalands and Botswana Society'. In this instance I documented 33 years 'through the eyes' of its journal 'The Runner Post'. It took me the best part of six weeks and there is still more to be done!*

*No one in this society has ever done something similar using The Springbok as their source of information. In the first instance the author requires access to all its journals and the job itself would probably require several months of patience...then there is a question...Is it worth the effort?...*

## Back to 1953 The Springbok No 1

Despite my comments I decided 'with time and patience' to systematically work my way through all the journals. From experience it taught me that major articles in any journal are usually remembered. Often useful snippets of information disappear, unless someone takes the time and effort, to bring them back to life...thus my review of the 'Vintage' Springboks' will include 'Blasts from the Past'.

## A Philatelic Forum on the Website

The foregoing started end November 2017 and I posted a snippet from *The Springbok* No 1 re its fledgling library. In due course other items from the 'Vintage Bok' will be revived.

Eric Sherwood was the inspiration and co-founder of the society in 1947 and once the membership had reached 100, the need for a regular journal became a must. In 1953 Eric took on the task as editor and held that position for almost twenty years.

## Interesting and/or Useful Information

Important items often do not feature in the 'Contents' of the journals as they may be included under general headings such as an Editorial, Auction Report, Correspondence, Society Meetings or any other 'Non-specific' title. The foregoing is effectively a very good reason to 'search' old journals.

## From 'I' to 'We' - Eric's 'Twin'?

At first Eric's editorials were in the singular, but he grew in stature and he became 'We'...thus it was what 'we' said or what 'we' heard...it is a trait I do not favour and I usually enquire who exactly is 'We'?

## The 1953 'New Members Boom'

The introduction of a regular journal may well have been a reason why an unprecedented number of collectors joined the society during 1953. Eric Sherwood commented on the steady increase of members in every editorial. In issue No 2 the total was 131 and his aim was 250 by the end of the year. Issue No 3 up to 166. Issue No 4 - Over 200 with 39 in South Africa plus 17 USA. Issue No 5 - Well over 200 and in Issue No 6 - Eric commented...*A pleasing feature of the membership is the number of overseas collectors who have joined and particularly so in South Africa...*

## 1953 Membership Summary

114 joined members 115 to 258 - UK & Ireland (73) Overseas (71), four resigned and three deceased. Those joining from SA (40) USA (20) Canada (4) Australia (2) and one each in India, SWA and New Zealand. I gain the impression that Eric was under an illusion that the stream of Union collectors, who might join the society, was to continue indefinitely.

## 1954/55 Expectations and Disappointment

Although the 1953 target of 250 had not been realized, Eric suggested in his first 1954 editorial that the number of members might reach 350 by year end. He did not take into account an age old problem of people not paying their subscription when it falls due...thus during 1954, a high fall-out rate, linked to a marked decrease in new members brought a different result. At the end of 1953 the numbers were 232, end 1954 229 and by end 1955, out of 308 who joined, only 204 remained.

## September 1953 1d Centenary of First Cape Triangle Limited Revenue Use

*The Springbok* Volume 1 No 6 (1953) page 120 Hilton Sydow pointed out that the 1d Centenary stamp is only inscribed POSSEËL/POSTAGE whereas the previous



1d Van Riebeeck commemorative includes the words REVENUE/INKOMSTE.



Sydow notes that two official notices appeared in the 'Cape Times' on 22 September and 23 October stating...*The 1d stamp now being issued to commemorate the centenary of postage stamps in South Africa may be used to denote payment of stamp duty on documents liable to a duty of 1d...*

Government Notice 18 September 1953.

Post Office Bulletin... *Pretoria The 1d Centenary postage stamp may only be used for revenue purposes in cases where the duty is one penny, as on receipts, proxies and security documents up to £10. Where higher duties are payable, the centenary stamp is not valid. It may not be used, for example, in connection with a revenue stamp to meet a total duty of 7d...*

Sydow remarked that he had seen the 1d centenary used on receipts, but not on any other documents of security.

# The 'Vintage' Springbok

*The Springbok* Volume 1 No 4 (July/August 1953) page 76  
Hilton Sydow submitted the following item of interest

## How the 'Springboks' got their name

When the 1906 South African Rugby team were practising on the Richmond ground, a reporter approached Paul Roos their Captain and asked what the team was called. He mentioned that the 1905 New Zealand Rugby Team had been called the 'All Blacks' and that it was only fitting that the South Africans should have a distinctive name.

The team discussed the matter with their Captain until Mr Roos suggested 'Springbok'. It was enthusiastically taken by the reporter who used it in his articles and ever since then all South African International Rugby and soccer players, cricketers and athletes have been known as 'Springboks'.

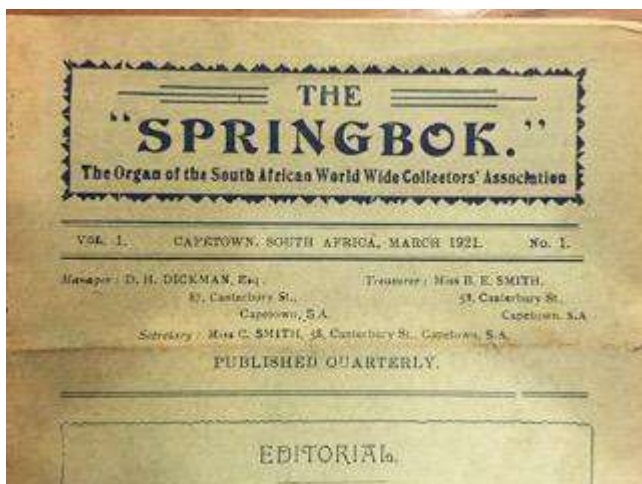
The 1906 Rugby Team returned to South Africa in February 1907. At a reception given to the team on the famous Newlands Ground, a live Springbok was presented to Mr Paul Roos by my late father, C.G. Sydow, founder of the Maitland Rugby Club, now known as the Northern Rugby Football Club. For about two hours before the presentation, I and the Springbok was cooped in a small kraal on the famous old ground. As the buck was a young one, I had to feed it by means, of a baby's feeding bottle until Paul Roos took possession.

Is it a wonder that I am still interested in Springboks found on stamps and as watermarks?

**P.S.** I knew Paul Roos personally. He told me years after that the said Springbok lived for about five years on his estate in Stellenbosch...**Editor** - This letter does explain a lot of things!

## Early use of 'The Springbok' as a Title

March 1921 Cape Town, *The Organ of the South African World Wide Collectors' Association* (S.A.W.W.C.A.) Issue No 1. This publication boosted...*The only Club of its kind in Cape Colony. For all Collectors wishing to augment their collections of Stamps, Postcards, Coins, Curios, etc. - Annual Subscription 4s. Our Quarterly Journal The Springbok - Issued free to all Members...*



On another page there is an announcement...*The Closing date for No 2 of The Springbok will be 31st May 1921...*

In keeping with many of the fledgling journals published in South Africa during the early decades of the Twentieth Century, they often started with great gusto, faltered and became defunct...thus it would be no surprise if the 1921 publication succumbed to a similar fate.

## ½d King's head - Double Print

*The Springbok* Volume 1 No 2 (March/April 1953) page 33  
Starting in the first issue *Auction Realisations* were published on occasion in the journal by 'Voortrekker' Harmers 27.1.1953 Lot 260...*the 'bargain of the sale'...the Halfpenny King's Head doubly printed and in used condition but discoloured and creased at top. Even allowing for its imperfections, it was surely a bargain at £11. The mystery is where this came from as only five copies have been previously recorded and these are all in mint condition...*

**Comment on the above** - I am rather surprised that no follow up on the foregoing was forthcoming for the following reason.

## ½d King's head - Fakes<sup>1</sup>

**April 1942** - *The South African Philatelist* under 'Union Fakes' L. Simenhoff wrote...*I shall be glad if you would issue a warning in the 'SAP' re faked ½d King's Head Union 'double impression' stamps that are being hawked about in Cape Town.*

*I have been shown 'mint' and a 'used' copy, the latter a very good bit of work. Mr A.H. Sydow and I have come to the conclusion that these fakes are made by pressure being exerted, i.e., a thin layer of paper to which impressions of the design have been transferred is pressed on to an ordinary stamp. The 'double impression' effect is certainly very good, but the stamps are bent or curved, and traces of gum can be seen. I am given to understand that at least four 'used' copies have been seen in Cape Town recently. I am making enquiries re the source of these. Meanwhile, please warn philatelists to be on their guard...*

Sydow was a member of the Society and must have seen the report, Simenhoff joined later in 1953 (No 225) and may have missed issue No 2. A question remains...does Harmers lot 260 fit in with the reported Cape Town forgeries of the double print.

## Note

<sup>1</sup> An article on the ½d King's head - Double Print appeared in *Southern Africa Philately* No 5 (February 2017) which includes the April 1942 SAP report. I believe it is the first 'in depth' article on the subject, as always other snippets of information tend to pop up and the Harmers report adds to the foregoing.

## Historical Statements, Errors and Myths

The ½d double print has been described as originating from a strip of five or six (lower stamp normal)

Reports either state 5 or 6 known.

'*Photographed before being split up*'...but that is only in a strip of four...where is the bottom pair?



## Further Information

Another item that adds to the ½d Double Print story came to my attention recently, published in 1926 by J. Ritchie in the second edition of '*The Adhesive Postage Stamps of the Union of South Africa*' (First Handbook by C.W. Reynolds in 1921) Discovered Johannesburg August 1919...*originally the top five in the first vertical row of the top left hand pane of a sheet...*

An office boy bought stamps for his firm...noticed the smudging and tore off the first four stamps...later noticed the 5<sup>th</sup> stamp had a slight double impression and then detached a further pair...this at last indicates the sequence of events. The top pair went to Ritchie and the 2<sup>nd</sup> pair was sold by auction in London by A.H. Thompson on 16 November 1920.

# The 'Vintage' Springbok and SG 035 (UHB 096a)

By Otto Peetoom

## Introduction

I have written about the 2d small format Union Building definitive overprinted OFFICIAL on several occasions.<sup>1</sup> In the case of SG 035 my contemporary information was gleaned from *The South African Philatelist*, yet it stands to reason that comment on this 'mystery' overprint ought to feature in the early editions of *The Springbok*...and it does!

## The 1952 Union Handbook

Listed it as 096a 2d Small size Cylinder 6927/50 - Overprint Type II 16½mm reading up. With a note...*This stamp exists in used condition, but not sufficient of its origin is known...* Priced at 5/- for a used pair.

In the **1955 UHB** on page 167 a tentative note reads...*Item '096a' has been left undisturbed as no information has been made available, as yet, concerning its identity...*

**The Springbok** Volume 1 No 5 (September/October 1953) Under 'Correspondence' (page 97) from Andrew Grantzow in Irvington, USA...*May I offer the following comments concerning that mysterious Union of South Africa 'Official' 096a (1952 UHB) SG 035...*

...*Around this same time the Government printing Office in Pretoria was preparing an entirely new type of plate to apply the 'Official' overprint to stamps in place of the old type set formes which had been in use since 1 December 1926, and which due to the breaking or misplacing of type did not always produce a uniform overprint.*

*This new type plate which applied a larger sized overprint to the stamps from stereotype process blocks was introduced in July 1950 to eliminate the numerous faults of the former type set formes. Here is where I stick my neck out. After having contacted several hundred dealers and collectors in the past two years in search of the elusive 096a - 035 I have come to the following conclusion. Since this small 2d stamp was first produced in April 1950 and the new stereotype overprint was introduced in July 1950 I contend that the old type set forme was not used to apply the 'Official' overprint to this stamp for there probably was sufficient large size (27 x 21½ mm) 2d 'Officials' on hand at the time to last during the period between April and July 1950 after which the 1 stereotype overprint came into being. Any comments from readers of 'The Springbok' will be appreciated...*

**The Springbok** Volume 2 No 3 (May/June 1954) page 57 Eric Sherwood wrote...*Can any or will any member assist with information about this rather mysterious stamp which came to light by the chance of a used copy?...It is known in used condition as follows: One vertical pair, two horizontal pairs, two singles and all but one single are in the hands of members of the Society...*

Eric continued...It is known that a few sheets were printed and distributed to Government departments for normal use and in fact one horizontal pair was on mail from the Commissioner for Inland Revenue at Pretoria but alas the stamps were taken off the cover. Another pair has the slogan 'Do your Duty, save petrol'<sup>2</sup> on them but again the item was taken from cover without a record of date.

A single is postmarked Johannesburg 51...This is the sum total of our information. Can you add to it? ...

**The Springbok** Volume 2 No 4 (July/August 1954) page 65 UHB 096a 2d Official overprint up...*Following the Editor's note in the last issue, Mr D. Milledge<sup>3</sup> writes to say that he recently found two single copies in a dealer's stock, mixed with a selection of 0101 (SG 045) and priced accordingly. One stamp is English and the other Afrikaans, but the postmarks do not match. They are average used condition though one has damaged perforations at the corners...*



Used Pair on piece with 'Save Petrol' slogan (Dunlop collection)

**The Springbok** Volume 3 No 1 (January/February 1955) **Editorial** - Eric noted the use of Officials was to be abandoned ...*Collectors of these issues will now be able to strive for completion - if they can find Union Cat. 096a! ...*

**Same Issue** - Under 'Correspondence' (page 15) in a letter from A. Lichtenstein in Bloemfontein. He requests the Editor to publish his source of the available information and quote the PO Bulletin announcing this printing, quantity printed and to which departments these stamps were issued.

The writer concluded... *Once this information is made available, we may be able to get down to 'brass tacks' and dispose of such unreliable features as rumours, surmise and pure guess-work. Once you have published the requested information, maybe I can add some more light to it...*

There is an Editor's note to the above which reads...*In 1952 we made enquiries of the Publicity Section of the SA GPO, Pretoria and were advised this stamp was never stocked by them. They stated it was known a few sheets of such stamps were printed and distributed to Government Department but the actual number of sheets could not be stated with accuracy...*

**1955 - 1960** Nothing further in *The Springbok* re SG 035.

## November 1956 - The South African Philatelist

Includes a report that a mint pair of SG 035 is on offer overseas for £22. The question that arose is why none are known in SA.

**The Springbok** Volume 8 No 4 (July/August 1960) page 63 'Editorial' Comment on LONDON 1960 (Held in July) ...*Also during our visit we were envious to meet the dealer who brought with him from South Africa a complete sheet of the small 2d building stamp overprinted upwards and listed 096a... or 035 by Gibbons. This was found tucked away amongst some old stock and in London it was on view at the stand of Messrs Harmer Rooke & Co., for sale by Private Treaty at £7000, but a buyer was not forthcoming. Instead it is to be broken up and offered in pairs and blocks by the trade...*

**Note** - The above sheet was jointly purchased by Stanley Gibbons and Bridger & Kay.

## The 'Vintage' Springbok and SG 035 (UHB 096a)

### Who was the Dealer from South Africa?

Without doubt it was Hinko Suklje<sup>4</sup> from Benoni. Eric Sherwood mentioned him in *The Springbok* Volume 35 No 1 (January/February 1987) on page 14. Under a title '*Memories are made of This...*' Eric wrote...*Suklje who once offered me a sheet of the old 2d Official SG 035 for £7500 which of course I did not buy and from which his widow offered me the final pair for just £40 which again I did not buy...*

The above is more than likely from recall and its accuracy is not a foregone conclusion...however Suklje is not only linked to the miraculous appearance of mint examples of SG 035. His name is also associated with the medium format 1½d Gold Mine issue overprinted horizontally OFFICIAL/OFFISIEEL. This bogus (clandestine) overprint is footnoted in the SG catalogue after 035 with a note *...their status is unclear...*<sup>4</sup>

### Catalogue Prices for SG 035

**Stanley Gibbons Part I** - Listed as a used single, unpriced, from 1952 to 1958 and in 1959 it was priced used at £100. In 1962 priced £100 in a pair mint for the first time, but there was no longer a used price.

In 1966 a pair used was relegated to a mere £25 and mint remained at £100. In 1969 there was another change and the used £25 price was now for a single instead of a pair.

**1971 Part I** - Used singles were no longer priced, thus 035 mint pair at £100 and in 1976 the price was reduced to £80. In 1980 it shot up to £110, by 1983 £160 and in 1984 up to £400. In 1987 £700 and used pair (for the first time) £800.

**The £1000 Barrier** - Used reached £1100 in 1991 and mint £1000 in 1992. By 1995 a used single was priced again.

SG - Year	Pair mint	Pair used	Single used
1995	£1100	£1400	£150
2000	£1500	£1800	£170
2005	£2000	£2500	£170
2010	£3250	£4000	£275
2015	£4000	£4500	£275
2018	£4250	£4750	£275

**Comment on the above** - The reason for the higher than necessary price for a mint pair is because there is a space for it in the Commonwealth KGVI album and much of its demand comes from those Collectors rather than the Union enthusiast.

The difference between the mint and used prices does not reflect the rarity of a used pair. Should one trim a £1000 off the mint and add it to the used price it would be nearer the mark.

### Used Vertical Pairs and Singles

The criteria for a bilingual Union pair is horizontal, but the same should not be applied to a used vertical 035 pair. Any collector who rejects a used vertical pair and wishes to hold out for a horizontal unit is likely to wait in vain.



035 Single PRETORIA 16 X 50 on OHMS piece

Used single price has not moved for 8 years which is unrealistic (mint pair up 30% and used 19%). Used singles are thin on the ground and considered rarities in their own right.

### The Commonwealth Catalogue of KGVI

Published by the *Commonwealth Stamp Company* (Liverpool) and taken over by *Bridger & Kay*, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition 1966 - 67.

Murray Payne published the 2000 (18<sup>th</sup>) Edition.

This catalogue lists the 2d Official SG 035 as 019a.

CW - Year	Pair mint	Pair used	Single used
1960 - 61 (8 <sup>th</sup> )	£70	-	-
1962 - 63 (9 <sup>th</sup> )	£70	-	-
1964 - 65 (10 <sup>th</sup> )	£70	-	-
1966 - 67 (11 <sup>th</sup> )	£60	£45	-
1967 - 68 (12 <sup>th</sup> )	£60	£45	-
1980 (14 <sup>th</sup> )	£120	-	£50
2000 (18 <sup>th</sup> )	£1100	-	-
2015 (20 <sup>th</sup> )	£2750	-	-

**Notes**<sup>1</sup> Article in the December 2012 SAP, *The Springbok* No 326 May 2014 and article on the SACS website

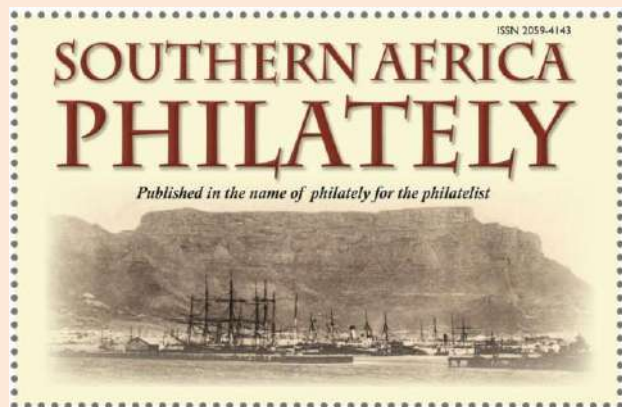
<sup>2</sup> A horizontal pair on piece of an OHMS envelope reflects this slogan. Brandon certificate 12701...late Dr Dunlop collection.

I bought this pair in a Stephan Welz sale and sold it to Dunlop.

<sup>3</sup> D. Milledge lived in Harrow Weald, Middlesex (Member 163)

<sup>4</sup> Hinko Suklje and the 1½d horizontal overprint will feature in an article in *Southern Africa Philately* No 8 (February 2018).

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# Great Britain Post Office Wrapper to Swakopmouth, German South West Africa

By Dr John K. Courtis FRPSL [acapjajc@friends.cityu.edu.hk](mailto:acapjajc@friends.cityu.edu.hk)

An analysis of more than 10,000 images of post office postal stationery wrappers of Great Britain has revealed only one case of a destination to Swakopmouth, West Africa. The indicium is the blue-green King Edward VII issued in January 1902, printed by De la Rue, London. The wrapper was posted at LIVERPOOL AU 17 04. There are no transit or arrival marks or sender details.



## Swakopmouth

Swakopmouth (British) or Swakopmund (German) is a coastal city on the Skeleton Coast founded in 1892 by Germany as the main harbour for the Imperial German colony, German South West Africa (now known as Namibia). Sweet water was found upstream of the Swakop River where there was a break in the sand dunes. The finding of fresh water was a necessary condition in establishing a settlement. Seven volunteers settled where the Mole (breakwater) is today and this settlement became known as Swakopmund. The city is nestled on the north side of the mouth of the Swakop River between the desert and sea.

Construction of the Swakopmund jetty (mole) started in 1904 because of the need for ships to unload their cargo more easily. Trading and shipping companies founded branches in Swakopmund. After German South West Africa was taken over by the Union of South Africa in 1915, all harbour activities were transferred from Swakopmund to the British-established deep harbour of Walvis Bay, 30 km to the south. As a result, Swakopmund declined as many central government services ceased, businesses closed and the number of inhabitants diminished.

In 1895 a postal agency was opened and a scheduled postal cart connection to Windhoek was established. By 1897 the settlement had 113 registered residents. Construction work started on the rail line to Windhoek and railway traffic from Windhoek to Swakopmund commenced 19 June 1902. Construction of a harbour mole breakwater started on 2 September 1899. In February 1903, the small harbour was ready. It was intended for smaller vessels which would ferry goods and passengers to and from the big steamers anchored offshore. The pier was completed opening in February 1903 allowing steamers to moor in the harbour. However, after just one year the breakwater basin had silted up to such an extent that even light boats could make it to the pier only at high tide. A newly built wooden jetty was used from 1905 but it soon became clear that this structure would also silt up and in 1912 construction work started on an iron jetty right next to the wooden one. The new jetty was to have a total length of 640 m, but when it was less than halfway completed, the outbreak of WWI ended construction.





Swakopmund harbour circa 1900

In 1899, Swakopmund was connected to an overseas cable running between Cape Town and England and shortly thereafter, telephone and radio services were installed—rather technologically advanced achievements for such a small town. When Germany declared protection rights over South West Africa, there were approximately 200 white missionaries and traders in the territory, and by 1896 the German population of Swakopmund totalled 106. In 1901 the railway station was completed. The first train from Swakopmund arrived in Windhoek in 1902.

After the turn of the century, colonial-style houses were built of stone whereas previously the street scene had been characterised by prefabricated wooden structures brought in from Germany. The first brick buildings erected in 1902 were the barracks (Die Kaserne) for the troops protecting the territory. As the number of residents increased, improvised trading establishments gave way to grand, striking structures, such as the Ludwig Schroder House, build for the Woermann Shipping Line in 1903, and Woermann House with its striking tower and two gables. Wooden pavements were erected to ease passage through the sand. The Damara and Namaqua Trading Company completed its headquarters in 1905; this building was originally known as Damara House.

By 1905, 1,200 of the 1,455 inhabitants of Swakopmund were employed in running the port with incoming cargo and passengers, and outgoing cargo from Windhoek which arrived by rail.

The First World War meant that Imperial Germany lost its colony in south-western Africa. The subsequent South African administration used the deep-sea port of Walvis Bay and Swakopmund lost its importance as a harbour town. Walvis Bay was historically a colonial British possession. Britain, via its Cape Colony, annexed the Walvis Bay enclave in 1878 in order to prevent Afrikaner settlers from Transvaal founding yet another republic. The harbour of Walvis Bay was inaccessible for the German colonialists.

### **Tippelskirch & Co**

The wrapper is addressed to von Tippelskirch & Co. This Berlin firm opened a branch in Swakopmund in 1896. It was the sole supplier of equipment needed for life in the tropics and uniforms for Germany's colonial troops. Merchandise was gradually extended into the supply of civilian clothing and shoes, as well as furniture and fabrics. The panoramic photo of Swakopmund in 1905 shows the premises of the firm with arched windows, located in the centre of the photo. The firm is still in existence but now located in different premises in Swakopmund.



Swakopmund in 1905

In 1904 the S.S. Professor Woermann arrived with 400 troops to fight in the Herero War which had started in January of that year. In November 1904, the S.S. Gertrud Woermann was shipwrecked in fog 16 kilometres north of Swakopmund, but all 400 soldiers, 375 horses, war material, mail and general cargo was saved.

Cont'

The company provided essential clothing and equipment for German troops fighting in this war and continued to do so through to the First World War, when it was reported to have made a profit of 2 million marks in 1914.

Arnold Schad, from Berlin, had moved to South West Africa and worked in Otjimbingwe, Lüderitz. He moved to Swakopmund and from 1908 he was a shareholder of von Tippelskirch & Co. and manager of the firm between 1901 and 1931.

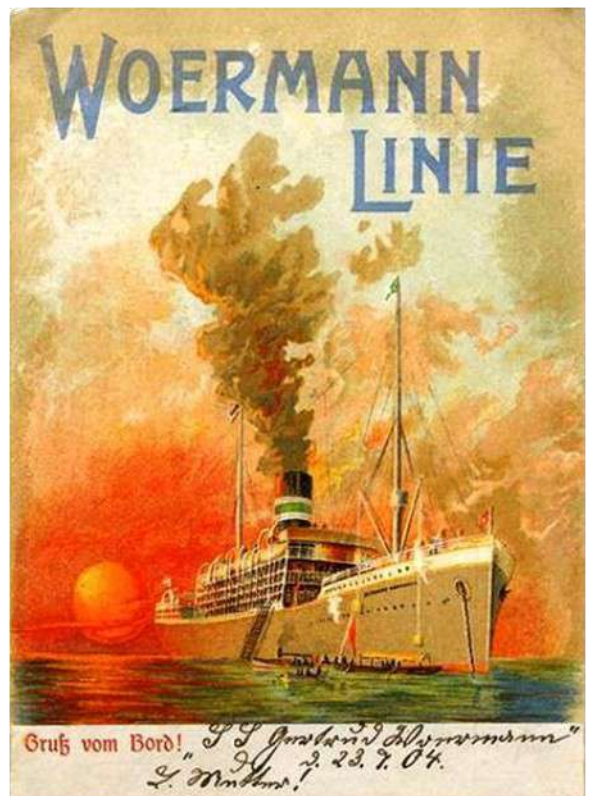
### Woermann Shipping Line

The journey across 5,000 sea miles from Hamburg to Swakopmund was a significant route to the German colonies which had been secured for ships of the Woermann Linie. This firm had been granted a monopoly of landing sites in South West Africa by the German government partly because the firm had guaranteed to provide fortnightly journeys between Hamburg and Swakopmund in a maximum of thirty days as well as establish a mail service.

The company had established an agency in Swakopmund in 1900 after its regular services had been extended to that region in 1898. It was the only shipping line with regular service to South West Africa. A flag was flown from its flagpole to signal an incoming Woermann ship. Unfortunately, Woermann shipping records have not been found. However, the writing on a postcard is dated 23 September 04 of the S.S. Gertrud Woermann II which sailed in 1904 on the Hamburg-West Africa route is a good fit.

The approximate arrival or departure date to/from Swakopmund suggests that may have been the ship that delivered the wrapper circa mid-September 1904. On 20 November 1904, likely on the next trip from Hamburg, this ship was wrecked in fog 6 kilometres north of Swakopmund.

Because of silting problems from the tides, the steamships had to moor some distance from the pier. Passengers who arrived in Swakopmund were first lowered by basket into tenders off the Woermann Linie steamships (van Zyl 2016, p. 48). Inspection of the postcard above reveals the basket hanging a little further back from the anchor chain. Mail would have been off-loaded in similar fashion. Passengers were met at the tenders by Kroomen, who carried the new arrivals on their backs from the tenders through the shallow waters to dry land.



### The Route

The wrapper is postmarked 5.15PM 17 August 1904, which was a Wednesday. It would have been placed on board in a closed bag to meet the Thursday sailing of the Royal Mail Steamer to Madeira. At that port, mails for German South West Africa were transferred to a German steamer of the Woermann Linie. There are no in-transit or arrival marks so the route cannot be corroborated but the normal route to Swakopmund would have sailed from Madeira to Togo (Lomé), Liberia (Cape Palmas), Lagos, and Kamerun (Victoria), arriving on or about 16 September 1904.

### Summary

The wrapper to Swakopmund is the only known recorded example of a GB post office postal stationery wrapper to this destination, identified from an analysis of more than 10,000 copies of GB wrapper images. The harbour port of Swakopmund was founded in 1892 because Imperial Germany needed its own port on the Skeleton Coast, the nearby Walvis Bay being a British possession. Had it not been for the discovery of fresh water upstream in the Swakop River, a settlement would not have occurred. As it was, the proximity of the desert together with shallow ocean water made it less than ideal, but persistence created a settlement with railhead to Windhoek, the building of a mole (pier-like breakwater), a lighthouse and port facilities, and the development of a German architect town.

The wrapper was postmarked Liverpool 17 AU 04, travelling to Madeira by Royal Mail Service where it was transferred to the S.S. Gertrud Woermann II and arriving in Swakopmund circa mid-September 1904. Being a German line with a monopoly of landing rights in South West Africa, the ship put in at Togo (Lomé), Liberia (Cape Palmas), Lagos, and Kamerun (Victoria) en route. The addressee was a German-based firm that held contracts with the German South West African army to supply troops with clothing and equipment; patronage boosted quickly due to the outbreak of war against the Herero in January 1904.

The contents of the wrapper from Liverpool was likely a catalogue or wholesale price list of made-to-order troop clothing. However, neither the exact route, nor the contents can be proven without further evidence. That this wrapper has survived 114 years, through the inhospitable climate of Swakopmund, and a local and world war is remarkable.

### References

Cockrill Philip (1980), *The History, Ships and Postal Cancellations of the Woermann Line 1890-1965*, Cockrill Series Booklet No. 11, England, pp. 33.

Tabcart Colin (2015), *British West African Mail Packets to 1900: Rates, Routes and Ships Out and Home*, Fareham, pp. 550.

Van Zyl Deborah Lynn (2016), *Reflections on Music and Deuschtum in Namibia*, Chapter on history of South West Africa, MA thesis Stellenbosch University.

O

## News from the USA for the year 2017 By Eddie Bridges

Happy new year to all. The year did not start off too well as I had some health issues.

However philately kept me going and I had fun putting exhibits together and challenging the US judges! The local judges have had little exposure to South African philately. In May the US society for Southern Africa PSGSA held its bi-annual gathering at Boxboro in Massachusetts. All were encouraged to enter a Southern Africa exhibit. I entered a 10 Frame exhibit on my 1d Ships of the Union and to my surprise I won the best in Show as well as the best Southern African exhibit. It was rather unfortunate that I just had come out of hospital after major surgery and in no condition to travel, so missed the Palmars and personally receiving my trophies!

This qualified me to enter the Champion of Champions competition at the main Exhibition in August. More on this later.

I also entered a 10 frame exhibit on the Postal Cards of the Union of South Africa at another regional show where it did well.

One of the leading Postal Stationery collectors in the US, Wayne Menz immediately pointed out that I was missing a key item!

This was the 1917 reply paid post card. This is mentioned in the UHB, 1979 edition as the 1986 Hagger HB left out the stationery. The b/w photo in the HB is a little vague as to what it should look like. In Quik the dates are a little confusing and unclear. I believe it was 1917 1/2d +1/2d reply paid card with dividing line on the front. The first reply paid card had no dividing line. I had not seen one for sale in 20+ years and the only examples seen was in Brian Trotter's exhibit some years ago. Wayne sent me scan of one he had but was unwilling to part with it.

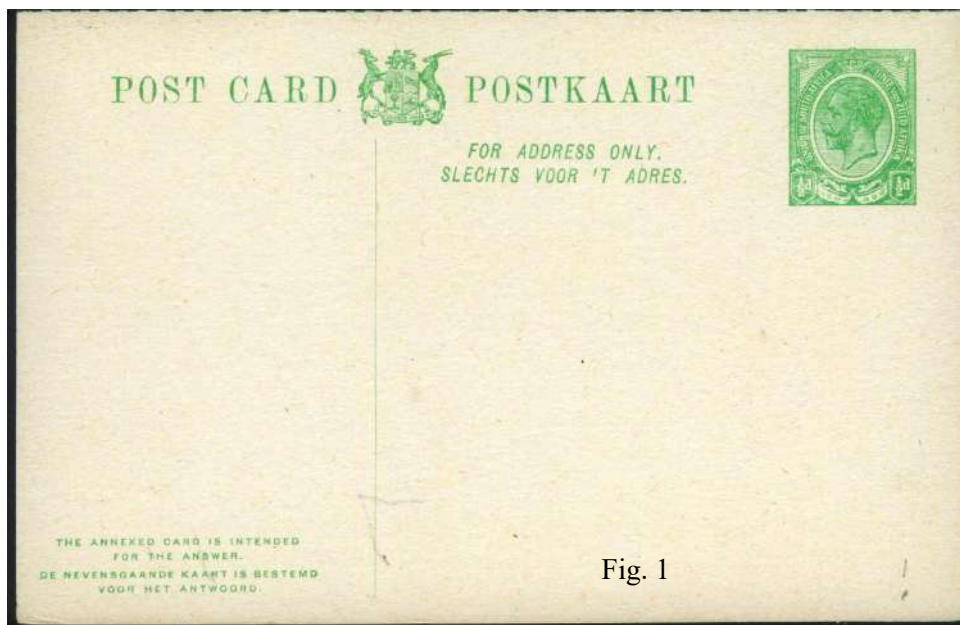


Fig. 1

out the stationery. The b/w photo in the HB is a little vague as to what it should look like. In Quik the dates are a little confusing and unclear. I believe it was 1917 1/2d +1/2d reply paid card with dividing line on the front. The first reply paid card had no dividing line. I had not seen one for sale in 20+ years and the only examples seen was in Brian Trotter's exhibit some years ago. Wayne sent me scan of one he had but was unwilling to part with it.

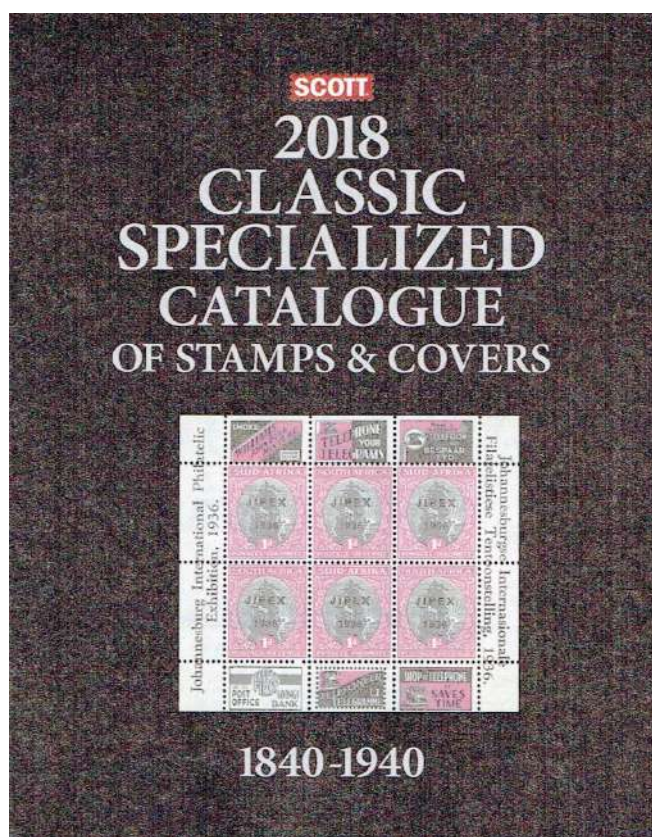
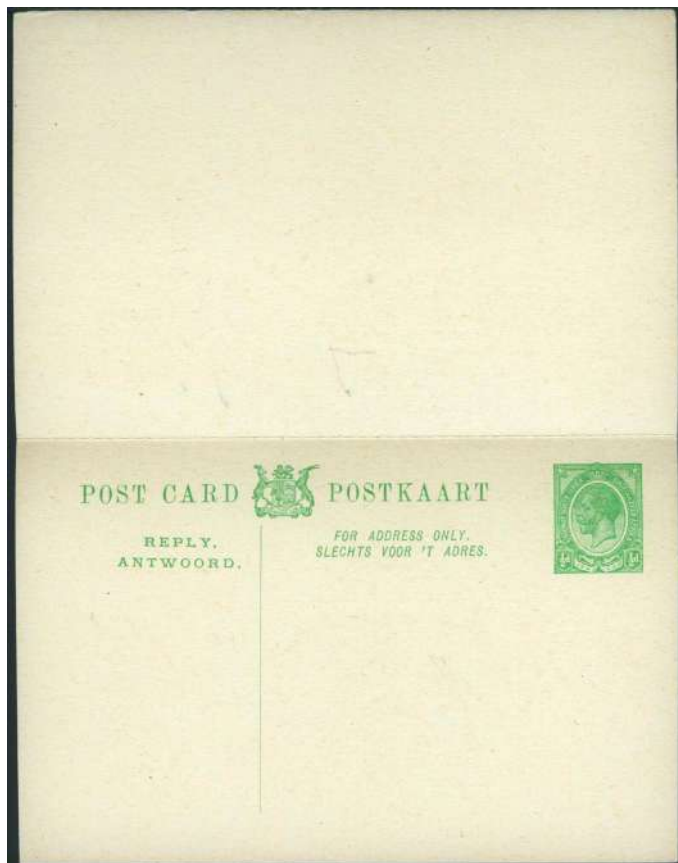
Cont'

As luck would have it, later in the year I was browsing through a dealers meagre offerings on the Union of South Africa where lo and behold he had a mint copy for sale at a very reasonable price! Needless to say I snapped it up keeping a poker face. I was delighted to find this post card and in the USA of all places. Fig.1

I have been busy writing up some of my collections and have just finished my Christmas Seals of the Union of South Africa. A fun sideline collection. I have set myself a target (health permitting) to write up two collections a year. Next will be a WWII postal history exhibit.

Back to the exhibitions here in the USA. There are approx. 30 national shows a year and the winner of the Grand award (best in show) at each show, then qualifies to participate in the Champion of Champions competition at the main show each year organized by the APS (American Philatelic Society, membership approx.. 30000!). This is equivalent to the ABPS in the UK. It was quite an honour to participate, despite not being in the running for the top award.

The philatelic scene in the US is very dynamic but unfortunately very little South Africa! There have been some fabulous exhibits at the various shows.



In conclusion, I was very surprised to see that Scott, the catalogue publisher, used a JIPEX sheet on the front cover of their Classic Specialized Catalogue 1840-1940. (fig.2) So all is not lost for South African philately in the USA!

O

**Society Annual Meeting Sat/Sun 9/10th June 2018**

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*Details to follow in the next Springbok*

# Reviewing Early South African Stamp Exhibitions

By Otto Pectoom

## Preamble

This article is a 'follow-on' to the one published in the previous edition of *The Springbok* No 340 on pages 130/131.

After gaining sight of Errol van Greunen's manuscript it came home to me that previous attempts to collate these events often lack detail. An age old problem is that the habit of copying each other repeats the same mistakes or introduces others.

Errol van Greunen's approach consists of a basic 'template' which provides brief data on each event and is similar to a 'catalogue listing'. He copied Reisener and/or Pauw Steyl without checking each reference.

My approach is to return to contemporary reports and to glean first hand information, that ought to be 'as accurate as it gets'! The aim is to provide 'something to read' and to entertain.

## 1920 An Alleged Exhibition (Pretoria Philatelic Society)

This is included in Pauw Steyl's listing in the December 1991 SAP supplement and does not quote a source.<sup>1</sup>

I am sceptical of the foregoing as *The Union Philatelist* published by J. Robertson from February to December 1920 does not mention any exhibition in these journals.

Obermeyer in the February 1942 SAP in a *History of the Pretoria Philatelic Society* does not mention an exhibition in 1920! Could this be another instance when an unsubstantiated rumour is presented as fact?

## 1923 Johannesburg (Easter Weekend)

According to Pauw Steyl, an exhibition that had been organised for the Easter weekend in 1927 was cancelled due to lack of interest. Steyl mentions the general strike in 1922 plus the state of depression and the lack of surplus money was more than likely a reason for this non-event.

## 1923 Durban (3 to 6 July)

### Agricultural Show Philatelic Exhibition

Van Greunen (page 181) states held 3 June, his source is Pauw Steyl who in turn incorrectly notes it as 3 - 6 June...another error brought forward and almost set in stone!

The SAP includes snippets published in July (pages 74 & 86) plus in August 1923 (pages 89 & 90).

Mr C.F. Skinner, the Secretary of the Philatelic Society, was reported at an 18 June meeting as...*making final arrangement for the Society's exhibit at the forthcoming Agricultural Show...* (August SAP) Skinner wrote...*The show is over...I am delighted with the result... Skinner expected that the Home dealers would come to light with frames of stamps, placards, etc., but at the last moment these did not come to materialise, but he managed to get up some twenty or so frames of his own...*

Skinner ran the Durban based *Southern Stamp Company* and indicated that...*the main object of the display is to interest the younger generation in philately and for this reason it is not proposed to lay out pages from a highly specialised collection, but rather to show what can be done in philatelic 'Zoos'...*

He also said...*there is no doubt that a number of collectors of mature years who may perhaps have dropped the hobby of late, will start again seriously...*

The above event was certainly not a stamp exhibition and the only person promoting philately was Skinner.

Incidentally the van Greunen 'template' indicates 'Organised by Natal Philatelic Society' - An Agricultural show?

## 1923 Johannesburg YMCA - Trades and Industries Fair Also a Philatelic Exhibition staged by JUPS

Van Greunen (page 181) quotes an incorrect source as SAP August 1923. Correct references may be found in SAP December 1923 on pages 137, 138, 139 and 140.

### The SAP Editor takes the JUPS to Task

In the December 1923 SAP G.W. Reynolds rapped the *Johannesburg United Philatelic Society* (JUPS) over the knuckles under a title '*A Grumble*'...Reynolds laments that the Society is...*more than lax in sending reports of meetings for publication...* Reynolds wrote...*As far as the YMCA Stamp Exhibition is concerned, the first we heard of this was from news items in the local daily papers, too late to prepare an exhibit of our own. The least the JUPS could have done...was to have advised us that this important function was taking place...*

### Exhibition at YMCA (SAP Dec 1923 page 138)

*The Johannesburg YMCA in its fine effort to encourage and develop South African Industries, worthy of the support of all sections of the community, is to be highly commended for its enterprise and enthusiasm in organising and conducting the South African Trades and Industries Fair. The Fair was held from Monday 29 October to Saturday 3 November and apart from being very well patronised and supported by the various South African Industries, an exhibition of stamps, arranged by local enthusiasts, was well to the fore...*

### Stamp Exhibition Johannesburg YMCA Fair

Under the above heading there is a 1½ page write up in the Dec 1923 SAP, the venue being the YMCA building in Bree Street. The report notes...*Among the various exhibits philately was well to the fore. A splendid show case with the various exhibits neatly housed in frames under glass was to be seen in a most prominent position, close to the main entrance where everyone entering could not fail to see it...* The foregoing is followed by a list of the exhibits a by a dozen individuals.

**J.E.M. Coch** - A superb collection of Rhodesia including a host of rarities. Based on his collection Coch wrote a series of articles for the SAP.

**W. Vogts** - Showed...*fine and rare high priced Africans...*

**S.L. Waring**...*took as his subject 'Comparative Values'...*

**Chas Hand**...*Early Stamps of the Transvaal...*

**A.F. Johnstone**...*various printings of Postage Dues since the commencement of the Union...*

**C.W. Reid**...*demonstrated how stamps appreciate in value...*

**M. Wertheim**...*Rarities of the OFS...*

**E.C. Spreighton**...*early entireties of Great Britain...*

'**Dector**' who wrote stamp articles for the Johannesburg 'Star' newspaper...*various foreign stamps and Jamaica war stamps...*

**Exhibits by Dealers - Bijou Stamp Company**...*rare errors of East Africa and Uganda...*

**E. Beuthin**...*magnificent specimens of Cape Triangles...*

**M.P. Valentine**...*stamps used during the siege of Mafeking...*

In summing up...*Exhibitions of this nature do a tremendous amount of good towards adding recruits to our ranks...*

## 1923 Philatelic activity

The Durban and Johannesburg events were effectively the first 'post-WWI efforts'

# Reviewing Early South African Stamp Exhibitions

## 1927 East London (5 - 6 January)

I find it surprising that East London staged the first 'proper' post-war Stamp Exhibition in South Africa. In terms of cities EL has never been regarded as 'the main centre' however they had a Philatelic Society that was founded on 30 April 1909.

An announcement appeared in the November 1926 SAP...will be held in the City Hall...there will be no competitions or prizes. Only members of the East London Philatelic Society will display stamps...non-members who would like to exhibit may join for a 5/- subscription...all collections must be with the secretary by 21 December...a nominal admission charge of 1/- for adults and 6d for children...ELPS is organising the affair with the object of bringing philately more before the public eye...return railway tickets may be purchased at single fare...

The actual report of the exhibition appeared in the January 1927 SAP. Reiserer states December 1927 & June 1928 SAP both are incorrect and fictitious references.



**Special postmark** - Post Authorities opened a special post office and gave the organisers permission to use a triangular rubber date stamp for the two days of the exhibition.

Approximately 700 covers were sold. They were issued on each day, with date stamp bearing the actual date.

### The East London Exhibition - A Successful Show

The above headline appeared on the front page of the January 1927 SAP...The pages of stamps were laid out under glass on long tables...exhibition opened by Deputy Mayor...Rhodesian display was remarkably strong and required a long table to itself...(More than likely the Thornton collection)

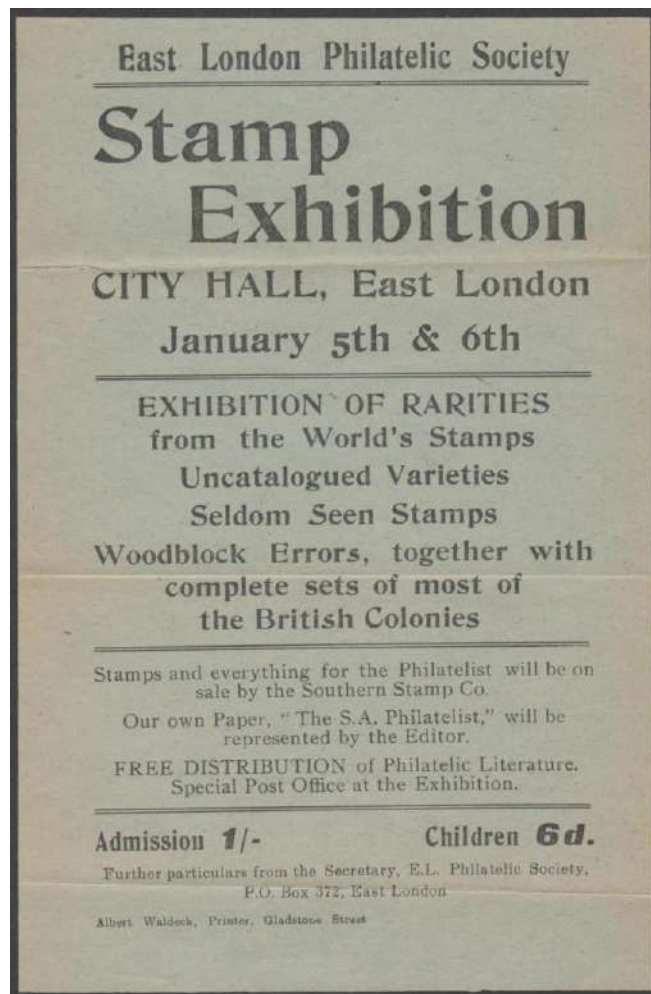
Cape Triangulars made a fine show...about 100 album pages...OFS exhibit also required a considerable amount of space...Bechuanaland...large number of rare errors noted...Transvaal exhibit not very strong... Union of South Africa...a revelation... SWA almost complete...plenty major varieties... Other Countries strongly represented...

Other Attractions...special post office...literature stall...piles of British journals...SAP Christmas number...free of charge...

Southern Stamp Company did brisk business...Exhibition closed with an Auction...Large number of up-country people attended...all credit to ELPS especially to Messrs. Shingler, Thornton (Senior and junior), Levy and Courlander...

## January 1927 East London concluded

The 'out of town' visitors included Messrs. Robertson, Skinner, Springton and Yule from Johannesburg. Newcombe-Bond from Bloemfontein, Dr Gutsche (Kingwilliamstown), Lichtenstein (Rouxville), a Minister of Religion from Kimberley plus visitors from the Midlands and Eastern Province.



East London Exhibition flier

The above 'fliers were inserted into the souvenir envelopes.



Illustrated Souvenir Envelope Cancelled on the second day of the Exhibition (6 - 1 - 27)

## 1928 Durban International Stamp Exhibition (2 - 12 July)

A considerable amount of publicity for this event appeared in the SAP starting in the June 1927 issue, on page 59 it states... With this issue we circulate copies of the advance prospectus of this forthcoming event...comprehensive classes arranged...

# Reviewing Early South African Stamp Exhibitions

**July 1928 Durban Stamp Exhibition** continued  
SAP June 27...*There will also be special competitions for junior collectors, the main point about them being that collections entered are to depict flora and/or fauna. Attractive prizes are being offered...* Also announced...the *South African Philatelic Congress* would be held during the exhibition.

**SAP November 1927** Under a banner 'Next Year's Exhibition' There is an illustration of the triangular logo (label) used for the exhibition. Union Government to display...*a fine series of plates...* Rhodesian Postal Authorities hope to send a comprehensive exhibit...US Government to send an interesting display... Other Governments have notified their interest... Overseas Representatives have been appointed...Robson Lowe (UK) Leon de Raay (Holland) J. Godinho (India) Luderman & Co (Switzerland)...There is an appeal for funds, donations etc. Tickets available at 2/6 for 'private view day' and a chance of valuable prizes, one of them Cape Triangles worth £100...

**SAP January 1928** - Headed 'International Exhibition' Entry forms are available from the Society Secretary ... The Government of Northern Rhodesia intends sending an exhibit... There is a list of 'donations received' and a variety of medals have also been donated... To stage the exhibition will cost about £750... Publicity being given to the exhibition by the philatelic press worldwide...

A Report by the *Philatelic Society of Natal* includes...*It is very gratifying to be able to report that the Exhibition has met with the whole-hearted co-operation and support of every philatelic society in South Africa...*

**SAP May 1928** Headed 'The Exhibition' the hype and anticipation continues... Exhibits must be delivered by 30 June Arrangements for awards are set in place... Twenty judges appointed and noted which includes names such as Melville, Skinner, Tamsen, Simenhoff, Thornton, Beuthin, Blockley, Coch and Kaplan... Government exhibits by the Union, USA and Northern & Southern Rhodesia... Excursion SAR rail-fares to Durban... Dealers and the SAP have stalls...

**SAP June 1928** - Front cover, a map, place and dates of opening on the front page...

**SAP July 1928** - Last minute notes on the front page and further on a photograph of the Exhibition Committee.



**A portion of the Durban Exhibition (SAP September 1928)**  
The area was described as having 'miles of frames'

**July 1928 Durban Stamp Exhibition** continued  
**SAP August 1928** - Front cover...*The Exhibition has come and gone...* A lengthy five page report reveals all...and more... Arrangement of exhibits could have been improved on...

A claim that upwards of 7000 people visited...Most of them from Durban and district...Show opened by the Minister of Posts, Hon. W.B. Madeley at 3.30pm on Monday 2 July and closed at 10pm on 12 July...

Exhibition Post Office did brisk business... Mr Draper, the post master, being a good-humoured man received all forms of requests for philatelic novelties.

One of the favourites was to have their covers 'underpaid' and taxed with a postage due label.



**Objects of the Exhibition...***to bring recruits to the great hobby... must have succeeded in a great measure, for a fair percentage... who knew little or nothing of philately when they entered the hall, but who went away determined to become active followers of our splendid pastime...*



**A Typical 'Surcharged' Exhibition cover (5 JUL 28)**

## Awards

*The Exhibition Championship Cup* went to Mr E.J. Lee from Manchester for his fifty volume specialised collection of Uruguay. Gold plaques awarded number 24, Silver (26) and Oxydised Plaques (22). Another awards for literature, albums and Government sections included Silver (15) Oxydised Silver (37) and Bronze (3) Plaques. J. Robertson, the Editor and publisher of *The South African Philatelist* received Silver.



**One of many versions of the Exhibition Label**  
See *The Springbok* No 335 for more illustrations of labels

## First S.A. Philatelic Congress

An Important milestone, meeting held on 4 July 1928...*The rules and regulations governing Congress were read out...* Next Congress planned to take place in 1930.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup>*The Development of Stamp Exhibitions in South Africa'* by Pauw Steyl, a supplement to the December 1991 SAP (written in Afrikaans)

## New Study Collections



No. 34

### Cecil John Rhodes



The Richard Barnett Study Collection



Printed and bound by  
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### **SACS Study Collection No. 34**

A comprehensive study collection of postcards, ephemera and stamps depicting the life and times of Cecil John Rhodes  
Colour copy of 60 double sided A4 pages.

Author: Richard Barnett.

**Price £18.00**



No. 35

### Victoria Falls



The Richard Barnett Study Collection



Printed and bound by  
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Colour copy of 81 double sided A4 pages.

Author: Richard Barnett.

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Any member wishing to buy a copy or any of the other Study Collections on the Website should

Email [Lyn28lester@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Lyn28lester@hotmail.co.uk) to register their interest.

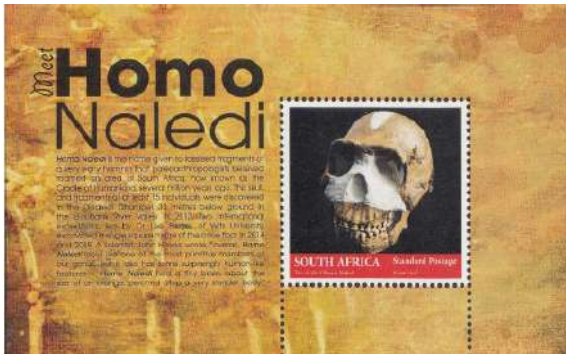
# AfricaStamps.co.uk

New website offering fine  
Southern Africa stamps and  
specialised items.



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

**New Issues August - November 2017**



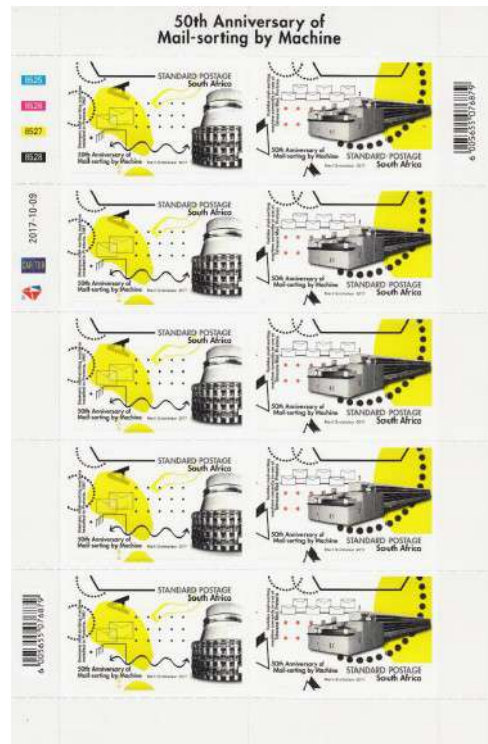
**Homo Naledi**  
 8th September 2017  
 Miniature sheet with one Standard Postage Rate Stamp  
 Quantity Printed: 15,000 miniature sheets



**National Parks of South Africa** (3rd issue of this series)  
 10th August 2017  
 Self Adhesive Sheetlet with 5 Registered Small Letter rate stamps 5 x R27.30  
 Quantity Printed: 100,00 Sheetlets



**Winnie Madikizela-Mandela**  
 26th September 2017  
 Miniature Sheet with one Standard Postage Rate Stamp (R3.90)  
 Quantity Printed: 30,000 Miniature sheets



**50th Anniversary of Automated Mail Sorting in South Africa.**  
 9th October 2017  
 2 designs of 5 each vertical in a Sheetlet of 10 stamps @ Standard Postage rate R3.90  
 Stamp on left shows a Siemens Mail Sorting Machine (1967) and the one on the right a Toshiba Sorting Machine in use today.  
 Quantity Printed: 250,000 Sheetlets



**Wine Making in South Africa.**  
 6th October 2017  
 Sheetlet with 5 x International small letter rate stamps (R.15)  
 Quantity printed: 100,00 miniature sheets

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