

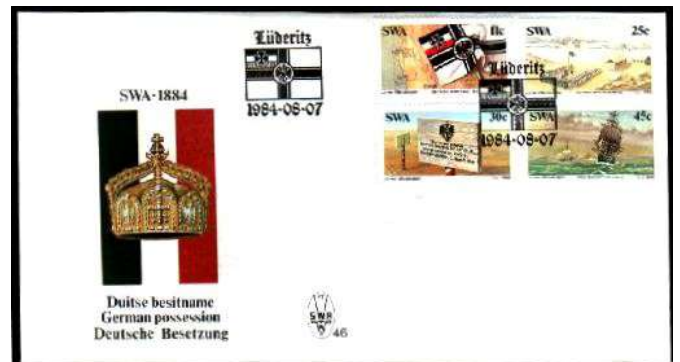
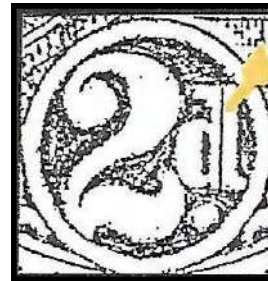
THE SPRINGBOK



**SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS'
SOCIETY QUARTERLY**

www.southafricacollector.com

Volume 66 No. 3



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Editorial

The Springbok is published quarterly for the benefit of Members of the South African Collectors, Society.

It is not available to non-members.

Contributions in the form of letters, notes, reports of SA related activities, articles, etc., are always welcome and should be sent to the Hon. Editor.

All correspondence including a SAE will be acknowledged.

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,
2018**

**Vol. 66 Iss. 3 Whole No. 343
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Our Distributor Max Whitlock is in hospital so it has fallen on me to post out this issue of the Springbok. We wish Max a speedy recovery.

The production and postage costs of this issue along with the auction list are very high compared to past issues. Would all members please support the Auction as this will make the costs worthwhile. Looking at the Auction list there should be something for everyone.

Our Webmaster, Otto Peetoom, has been delving into past Springboks and found that the Society was in fact formed in 1948. I will publish his article in the next issue.

A number of members have published articles over the past few years asking for information. I receive very few replies, which is disappointing. If you do reply to some and don't tell me I can't pass on that information to others. Email or handwritten replies are always welcome.

On The front cover of the last issue the Volume should read 66 No.2, it was a typing error

The next Issue is due to be published at the end of November, deadline for receipt of articles is the second week in November. I do have a couple of articles already but every Editor is always looking for more so please keep them coming.

I sincerely thank all contributors to this Issue which is another 40 page one.

Annual Conference

This year the conference is 2nd to 4th November at The Strawberry Bank Hotel, Meriden. I invite you to attend and hope to see you in November. The hotel costs will be similar to last year, £60 for bed & breakfast, plus approx. £21 for three course dinner. You can stay for both Friday & Saturday nights, or just the Saturday. If you wish to attend for the daytime only, please let me know. *Simon Peetoom - Events Organiser*

Change of Treasurer

The President, Chairman and Committee would like to thank David Osborn for his very long, dedicated and accurate service as Treasurer to the Society. He has recently stood down and is replaced by Simon Peetoom. David is still a keen collector of South Africa, remains a member the Society and we hope to see him at some of the meetings soon. Thank you David

Packet Secretary's plea!

As I write this I am desperately in need of more books for the circulating packet. Only 1 packet is currently circulating but I do have a number of books that I could circulate further if I had more books to make a complete packet. So if you have any material you could put into packets please do. I know they can be time consuming to make up but it could relieve you of some unwanted material and make a bit of money at the same time.

Without a good supply of new books we will probably have to suspend the packet at the end of the year.

Tony Johnson "Packet Secretary"

Awards

Congratulations to Mike Tonking on being awarded the Abell Trophy for 2018 and to Hugh Amoore who was awarded the Wick's medal for his article on the RSA 2nd definitives.

A important message received from South Africa - Online Bargains

Please send a caution note to all VP's for distribution to the different Clubs.

At the top just mentioned "Online Bargains"

This is to notify you that large numbers of forgeries of the Southern African region has appeared on the internet recently. Especially overprinted stamps where the overprint is usually constant and easily recognized.

The price is however not that of a forgery or a reprint but the original stamp. Please be careful

Auctioneer's Report - Auction No. 47

By Nick Arrow

The Auction in June was reasonably successful, but only reasonably. The total sale amounted to only £2,771.50, and a lot of work was generated in the organisation of the Auction, although, unlike last November, the distribution of the lots to the Postal Purchasers went as smoothly as one ever dares to hope. But a commission of only £277.15 for the Society was a little disappointing, all things considered.

The November Auction promises to be a rather more substantial auction, with quite a lot of new material plus some older material which has been adjusted after consultation with the Vendors. The Pre-Union material is quite substantial, as is only fitting as there will be more of the Study Groups in attendance than is usually the case for the early summer meeting. I can only hope that this time they will find something to buy - heaven only knows there is enough in the Auction!

For the post 1910 material, there are some superb Postage Dues, as well as a very nice lot of Officials, all of which are priced quite aggressively. There is the usual run of Union material, and I have received a large consignment of Booyesen Essays, which is certainly fair and away better than anything I have previously had to offer. Quite fairly priced, too, I think. There are quite a lot of new lots in the RSA period as well, as well as some more of the marvellous RSA period airmails, all very reasonably priced so I think that there should be something for everyone.

That's the good news.

The Bad News is that I am now almost completely out of material and unless I get some more goodies to sell, the May Auction 2019 will be something of a non-event, so PLEASE will you all look out your material and send it on to me so that I have at least another 250 lots or so to auction on your behalf.

Lot	Price		Lot	Price		Lot	Price		Lot	Price
1	£11.00		88	£60.00		137	£12.00		189	£10.00
22	£12.00		89	£100.00		138	£110.00		192	£15.00
25	£30.00		92	£60.00		143	£45.00		193	£6.00
33	£25.00		103	£10.00		145	£2.00		194	£6.00
34	£25.00		104	£25.00		148	£8.00		195	£3.00
38	£12.00		105	£5.00		162	£4.00		197	£3.00
41	£70.00		109	£20.00		164	£8.00		198	£10.00
42	£8.00		113	£3.50		165	£5.00		199	£70.00
49	£6.00		114	£10.00		168	£6.00		200	£14.00
50	£4.00		117	£85.00		169	£4.00		201	£5.00
54	£3.00		119	£30.00		170	£4.00		203	£36.00
58	£3.00		120	£32.00		171	£14.00		204	£80.00
59	£65.00		121	£40.00		173	£8.00		206	£12.00
60	£120.00		122	£50.00		175	£3.00		207	£5.00
63	£30.00		123	£60.00		176	£5.00		208	£30.00
64	£70.00		124	£12.00		177	£3.00		209	£20.00
68	£230.00		131	£25.00		178	£5.00		214	£18.00
70	£240.00		132	£56.00		179	£5.00			
72	£230.00		133	£32.00		181	£12.00			
76	£70.00		134	£50.00		182	£10.00			
77	£40.00		135	£6.00		185	£4.00			
78	£60.00		136	£10.00		186	£6.00			

Record of the A.G.M. of the South African Collectors' Society held at Strawberry Bank, Meriden CV7 7NF at 17.00hrs on Saturday, 9th June 2018.

By Chris Oliver

- 1. Apologies.** These were received from Bob Allison; Roy Ross; Bob Hill; David Page; Max Whitlock; Adam Cooke; John Archer; Bas Payne; Steve Hannath; Paul van Zeyl and Eddie Bridges.
- 2. Record of previous A.G.M.** These were proposed for adoption by Nick Arrow, seconded by Simon Peetoom, agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.
- 3. Matters arising if not included elsewhere in the agenda.** None.

4. The Hon. Chairman's written report.

This year's report is going to be very similar to last year's. The Society is still in good shape and new members are almost keeping pace with the departing which is a considerably better position than that enjoyed by many similar societies.

My thanks, again, are due to those that put in the hours to keep the Society functioning and appealing. Particularly here to Roy Ross who is taking The Springbok from strength to strength and to Otto Peetoom who works tirelessly on the website. Thanks also to Chris Oliver who continues to be a most efficient Hon Secretary, to Nick Arrow for the many hours putting the auctions together and to Simon Peetoom for arranging our two successful weekend meetings.

Further thanks to all the other Society officials who contribute in their own way and to the active membership which is what the Society is all about. May your enthusiasm long continue and may the Society remain a friendly, relaxed and welcoming forum where ideas and knowledge can be discussed and disseminated.

5. The Hon. Secretary's written report.

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

Although a record number of members was enrolled at the beginning of the year we have lost eight, two have died, one resigned and five have not renewed. Two of the latter are Brooke Bussell from Canada, who joined in 1977 and Dr. Peter Pannall of Australia who joined in 2010. Both have contributed to the Springbok and we shall be sorry to miss them. E-mails and letters to them both have received no response.

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

6. The Hon. Treasurer's report & statement on proposed subscriptions for 2018.

The Society accounts for 2017 were inspected and were included in the Springbok Volume 66, No. 2 issued in April 2018 (page 70)

The accounts are still very healthy and well done to Lyn & Rob for the booklets there is excess income plus the contribution to developing peoples interest in South African stamps. Also the library cost are very high but there has been the investment in the booklets plus the John Ahmad collection of reference books costing £450.00.

The Springbok production costs for this, 2018: Printing costs to remain the same as for 2017. However there will be a small increase in postal costs beginning with the April issue as the cost of postage went up in March 2018.

It is not intended that the subscriptions will change in 2018 & 2019.

The accounts were proposed for adoption by Nick Arrow and seconded by Tony Johnson. There was, however, much discussion on the large amount of the funds held by the Society and the, inferred, need that some of this should be used for the benefit of members. Several ideas were mooted and it was agreed that the committee should discuss this further and take any action considered.

There was, again, the observation that the Hon Treasurer was not present at the A.G.M. to provide his view and answer any questions.

Cont'

7. Reports from other officers of the Society.

Tony Johnson required, urgently, books of material for the exchange packet, to prevent it from closing. Nick Arrow also required philatelic items for the auctions to ensure continuation at the present standard. Otto Peetoom said the Website went from strength to strength but that he was disappointed at the lack of take-up for debate on the Forum page. Malcolm Ridsdale advised the Library was active, with a large number of purchases in the last year in excess of the £200 per annum anticipated but readily agreed to by the committee. There were also a number of donations of books. Enquiries and lending had increased, particularly from overseas members.

8. Election of Officers and committee.

Otto Peetoom proposed a change of Chairman but with no firm proposals to the contrary Tony Howgrave-Graham was re-elected to the post.

It was suggested that the Hon Treasurer should attend the A.G.M. and Simon Peetoom offered himself for the role. He was proposed by Otto Peetoom and seconded by Malcolm Ridsdale. A vote was cast amongst those present which resulted in two votes for David Osborn and seven for Simon Peetoom with four abstentions. Simon Peetoom is, therefore, confirmed as the Hon. Treasurer of the Society and the bank mandates will need to be revised to suit this change.

Other than these offices, the officers & committee was proposed en bloc by Rob Lester, seconded by Mike Tonking and carried with the proviso that only two general committee members would be appointed (Nick & Roy Ross) as Simon now had an official role.

9. Ratification of Library Fund.

At present we allocate £200 per annum to enable the Hon. Librarian to purchase new books for the Library. It was agreed that this would continue.

10. Society meetings and events :

A brief report on those held. [if not already recorded in The Springbok.] None
S.A.C.S. meetings in Carlisle and London proposed for 2019.

Other meetings for S.A.C.S. in 2019. Letchworth. Dates for b) and c) will appear in the Springbok

11. S.A.C.S. support for Youth Philately.

In previous years we have made a donation of £50 to support this. Do we wish to continue so to do? Proposed by Nick Arrow and agreed.

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

A) Data Protection information is compliant.

B) Otto Peetoom has discovered that the Society was founded in May 1948 not in 1947

C) Chris Oliver advised of his intention to retire from the post of Secretary/ Membership Secretary (in 2019) at the next A.G.M. of the Society.

The meeting was closed at 18.12hrs.



AfricaStamps.co.uk

New website offering fine Southern Africa stamps and specialised items.



Email: info@AfricaStamps.co.uk

A Report of the Meeting of the Society held on 9th and 10th June 2018 at Strawberry Vale Hotel, Meriden, Warwickshire.

By Chris Oliver

A friendly welcome at the Strawberry Vale Hotel with coffee and tea available for most of the time during displays set the right tone for the S.A.C.S. annual weekend.

We were greeted by the Convener, Simon Peetoom, and our Chairman thanked all for attending, before introducing the first display.



Otto Peetoom Display

The first display, with an informative PowerPoint description, on Birds of Southern Africa was given by Otto Peetoom. He included anecdotes about the species if endangered, locations of birds shown or intended to be shown on stamps together with the artists that drew them. The standing display comprised artists proofs, essays, air letter birds, booklet birds, F.D.C.'s, Maxicards showing birds and Collectors' sheetlets. We were treated to views of the best bird stamp designs.

A long-time member and supporter of the Society, Mike Tonking, was visiting from South Africa. His display was of the King's Head Roll stamps which he had been assembling for over thirty years. The ½d; 1d; 1½d and 2d values were produced, by Waterlow, in Rolls by removing the perforating pins vertically, with the exception of locating pins. Plates 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 were used for the ½d value. A rotary cutter divided a sheet pane into 12 rolls. Mike showed various methods of joining rolls. When De la Rue took over the printing of the London Pictorials there were less joins as the sheets had no centre gutters. From 1930 the sheets were rotogravure printed which reduced the problem still further for the Government Printer in Pretoria.

Chris Oliver displayed mobile post-offices of South Africa. Following the rapid expansion of the larger towns in the country, the postal authorities found it difficult to provide adequate services to outlying districts and sprawling suburbs. Motor vans containing a post office were able to visit a large area on a fixed daily schedule. The first mobile post-office was introduced in Johannesburg on 25th January 1937. This had its own designated postmark and registration mark. Initially there were two cancellers, one Afrikaans and one English but this was superseded in late 1958 by a bilingual canceller. A further twenty four of these mobile post-offices were established with the last, No. 25, in Durban in October 1971. These specially designated post-offices had all closed by the mid-1980's but continued as remote counters to the main post-office in the town. Chris had acquired some of the philatelic material used by Alec Page in compiling his booklet on the subject in 1989 and showed an augmented version of this in his display.

After lunch the next display was to be given by Bob Hill but, as he was indisposed, we saw a display by Rob Lester, without KitKats, on the Christmas labels issued annually by South Africa from 1929, in aid of tuberculosis relief with their symbol the cross of Lorraine included. During some years the labels were printed with a bilingual inscription and in other years by labels printed se-tenant in English & Afrikaans. Mary Aycliffe designed the 1929 label and a different designer has been used on subsequent years.



Richard Weaver with his RSA 3rd Definitive display

Rob Lester then gave a presentation of another collecting interest of Lyn and himself. Street flags, another Cinderella display, covered collection badges given in return for modest donations to help and support the armed forces and their dependents, particularly but not exclusively, during the two World Wars. The earliest, noted by the writer, were for the Cape Corps. and India & Malay Corps. in 1806.; Salvation Army 1883; New Bright Food Kitchen for 1902 & Lord Robert's Memorial Fund in 1908. The Memorable Order of Tin Hats issued a street flag in 1927 and others were produced for Belgians; Chinese; Finns and Polish support. Many variants for a list of organisations too long to record were presented by Rob.

After viewing, the stage was set for six entries for the Abell Trophy competition and after much deliberation Mike Tonking was judged the winner. This was announced at the dinner that evening and the trophy was presented to Mike by our President, John Shaw. John also took the opportunity to announce the winner of the Wick's Literary medal which, this year, also went to a South African member, Hugh Amooore for his article on the 2nd definitives of the republic. This opportunity was also taken to thank Simon Peetoom for his efforts in convening another successful weekend. When the competition entries had been taken down the Society held it's A.G.M. which is recorded elsewhere.

Following a good breakfast, we assembled once more to see our convener, Simon, displayed some modern Namibian covers (1980 – 2000) and some excellent examples of registered S.A. envelopes with, quite noticeable, shades.

Rob Lester had a Transvaal receipt for some S.W.A. land, written in German. Any information on this item would be welcome.

Tony Johnson displayed the Voortrekker issues, part plated, and some reconstructed sheets of the war effort stamps of South Africa.

The display by Richard Weaver started with a 2/6 pictorial changeling for which he asked advice. His main display was of the 3rd definitive issue of the Republic – the Proteas – with varieties due to printing alterations. Plate numbers were in coloured blocks on the lithographic printing. A different perforating machine had caused perforations to change from 14 to 12½ and back again which was disconcerting.

We then had Tony Howgrave-Graham's take on bantam stamps with varieties, including dry printing of the slogans on the selvedge on the 1d War Effort stamp; Blurred slogans on the 2d value and a 2d albino printing. The bantam postage due stamps and revenue stamps were also displayed together with the large and small double 3d imprinted onto a War Effort Airletter.

John Shaw displayed his hyphenated 5/- ox-wagon, for which he gained a gold medal at Spring Stampex 2018. Rotogravure roll stamps; a Waterlow die proof and an S.A. page from the Waterlow day book.

With some time & frame space to fill John then showed his recent acquisition of 28 pages of almost unique Chilean Telegraph stamps. These looked spectacular but not as interesting as a South African collection.

Otto Peetoom top-and-tailed the displays by giving a PowerPoint presentation on the Victoria Falls and their influence on philately. This augmented a display of the philatelic material at a previous meeting.

An early lunch enabled the auction to be completed by 15.30hrs. and after thanks to Nick Arrow and his team of helpers we were able to depart.



Mike Tonking being presented with the Abell trophy by John Shaw



Simon Peetoom and his Namibia display



Otto Peetoom and his Victoria Falls Power Point display

Some aspects on World War 2 foreign covers from South Africa

By Wilbert Davids FRPSL

To students of South Africa wartime postal history it is probably well known that during World War 2, airmail wasn't continuous available to all destinations for mail users in South Africa. Much has been published on transatlantic airmail services to New York and Miami. However, most of these studies extensively discuss the flight connections only, but in much lesser extend how the South Africa Post could (or couldn't) made use of them. The aim of this article is to show some more light on the WW2 transatlantic airmail service in relation to South Africa.

The problem for the postal historian is, that some of the studies tend to be very technical with much focus on (first) flights, flight plans, routes and airplanes which is of course very useful, but when looking at covers from South Africa, one can hardly notice anything special on them. In other words, the challenge here is to treat the subject as postal history, not as Aerophilately. Most airmail covers appear very 'normal'. This is especially important when explaining South African covers to the USA, because a time 'gap' of seven years separates the two regular airmail stages needed for it. The first stage was between South Africa and London (from 1932) and the second between London and the USA (from 1939). Both airmail stages have been interrupted during WW2, but differently in duration.

The good news is that from the perspective of the mail user in South Africa, things were not that complicated: either mail connections were available, or they were not. The bad news is: covers don't tell the story when things changed didn't go as intended.

Let's see what the fuzz is all about, illustrated with some wartime Union covers from my collection.

Transatlantic airmail connections in philatelic literature

As mentioned, many (aerophilatelic) studies are very technical and the problem is that there are also many inconsistencies between them as well. Philatelists tend to accept most that has been written, but it proved that one has to be careful when using such information. When it comes to airmail, many students of South African airmail might want to use one of the following handbooks: 'Airmail Operations during WW2' (Boyle, 1998), 'Bridging the continents in wartime' (Aitink, 2005), 'Intercontinental Airmails vol. 1; Transatlantic' (Proud, 2008), 'Intercontinental Airmails vol. 3; Africa' (Proud, 2010).

These handbooks might appear to be authoritative, however recent study of the Panam archives (the so called 'Richter archives'), showed that wartime transatlantic airmail is more complicated than just assuming flight schedules should have been in place at the time. The big influencer in (transatlantic) airmail history here is entry of the USA into WW2 after Pearl Harbor, in December 1941. Since then, everything about air transport went silent until spring/summer 1944. As a result, study of airmail connections may difficult, or even impossible, leaving room for assumptions that may be wrong.

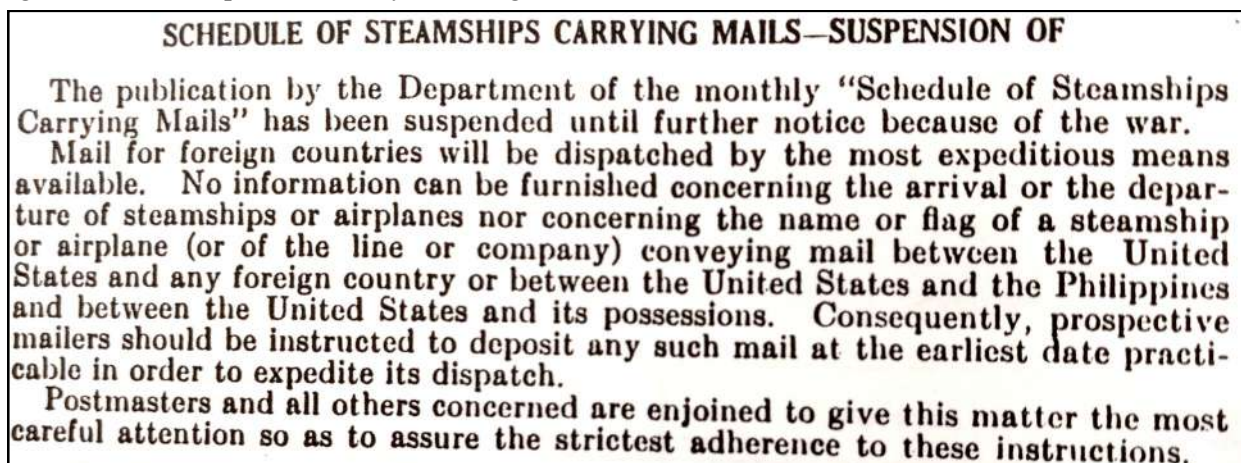


Figure 1: US Postal Notice of December 1941, explaining the 'silence' of information on airplane locations.

Recently, there has been much attention to the Transatlantic airmail connections, both the London – New York route (either north or southern) and the West Africa – Miami route (ref 1-4). It was possible describe when and how these flight were conducted, making many publications largely invalid. These Transatlantic connections in fact *ARE* complex, but tying covers to specific flights is in most cases impossible, since no proof can be found on

covers. The next best thing is making it plausible. When explaining wartime airmail covers, one needs to pay attention to this subtle difference. .

The pre-war North Atlantic connection to New York

The story begins on September 3rd, 1939⁽¹⁾. Finally, seven years after the first regular airmail to London, airmail could also be accepted from South Africa to the USA, using the north Atlantic airmail connection between London and New York. The postage rate was 2/0 for covers up to ½ oz. Mail to be sent by air, would fly in two main stages from South Africa via London to New York. The first stage was the existing Empire service from South Africa to London. The second stage was the new transatlantic airmail service from London to New York, jointly operated by Imperial Airways and Panam. In the USA, this transatlantic connection is sometimes referred to as the ‘FAM-18’, the Foreign Air Mail contract #18, held by Panam. Imperial (on April 1st, 1940 to become BOAC) soon stepped out because of the war and Panam continued this service during most of the war. The Empire airmail service to London was discontinued on June 11th, 1940 and all mail from South Africa to the UK (and USA) was the sent by sea mail.



Figure 2:
Commercial airmail cover from Johannesburg (November 11th 1939) to New York sent at the correct rate of 2/0/ South African censor, no further back stamps.

The effect for South African mail users was that the new born through airmail service to the USA was available for only just under year, from June 1939 until June 1940.

Although not very rare, covers with the 2/0 rate for this 1939/1940 connection are not too common either. This could be the result of the fact that airmail via London wasn't fast enough for mail users compared to (direct) surface mail, which would cost (only) 3d. Very often, this transatlantic mail is endorsed with markings reading 'by Transatlantic' or 'by North Atlantic' mail. Typically, no transit or arrival postmarks are found on unregistered covers. It appears also, that it might not be clear to all mail users that when the 1st stage was not available anymore, 2/0 would then have been overpaid by with 1/9. Covers paid with 2/0 after June 11th 1940 can be found, although uncommon.



Figure 3:
Intended airmail cover from Coalbrook (April 18th 1941) to New York, with h/s 'AIRMAIL SUSPENDED'.

Not clear to me however – but I do believe it was the case – is whether the 2/0 rate was also valid for destinations *beyond* New York. Earlier, from Sept 1935 until June 1937, the airmail rate to the USA was differentiated between destinations: 1/0 for New York only, and 1/3 beyond New York. In my collection, I have a 2/0 cover sent on Feb 12th 1940 from Johannesburg to Los Angeles, with postage due. This might have been incorrect.



Figure 4:
Airmail cover from Pietermaritzburg (February 13th 1949) to El Monte, California, USA at the correct rate of 2/0. South African censor and postage due indicated, but likely, not collected.

A new feeder service: Leopoldville 1942

At the end of January 1942, SAA/Sabena started an airmail service to Leopoldville in Belgian Congo. Especially in Aerophilatelic en Belgian philatelic literature, much has been written about this. But when one tries to find early 1942 airmail covers from South Africa to Belgian Congo, it shows this a challenge on itself.

One of the reasons for having this airmail connection in the first place, that it would connect South African mail to the (proposed) Panam airmail route from Leopoldville to Miami. Airplanes couldn't fly large distances, so airmail stages were designed to create a complete network of airmail connections. Belgian Congo is located perfectly for having a 'jump' across the Pacific and this would be in any case be faster than via London. One must not forget, most of the wartime hostilities were far away from South Africa, so trans-African connections could be developed comparatively safe.

As mentioned, airmail covers to Leopoldville are not easy to find and also, the postage rate isn't 100% clear to me as well. Shown here is a cover from Johannesburg via to Leopoldville at the rate of 4d for airmail.



Figure 5:
Airmail cover from Johannesburg (August 14th 1942) to via Elisabethville (back stamp August 20th 1942) to Leopoldville (back stamp September 1st 1942). Postage: 4d, Belgian Congo & South African censor.

The wartime airmail connection to Miami

The wartime connection from South Africa to Miami (and beyond) wouldn't have been a problem for postal historians if it weren't for the fact that the USA entered the war after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Extensively studied, the Leopoldville to Miami airmail connection became a myth on itself, as many philatelists refer to it as the 'FAM-22'. This airmail connection was proposed by Panam and apart from the 'other' transatlantic flights under contract FAM-18, only 11 flights took place from December 20th 1941 and October 17th 1942, including the first one, which carried philatelic mail.

The facts for the South African postal historian might appear to be very boring, but they are also unexplored. Looking at the postage rates to the USA during WW2, most collectors know the 4/0 airmail covers with 4 brown tank stamps on them, either large or bantam size. And they all look the same: always 4 stamps and a censor slip, perhaps even two. Not too interesting. The question is however: when was this rate actually introduced? And why?

According to some students, this was the case at the moment the SAA/Sabena airmail connection to Leopoldville started at the end of January 1942. According to others, this was March 1942. In either case, there are some observations which might be relevant. Covers with the 4/0 rate are not common until October 1942. And also during most of 1942, no Miami postmarks were placed, except for registered mail.

The earliest cover fitting the Leopoldville-Miami connection with the 4/0 rate in my collection, was sent on March 26th 1942 to Cleveland, USA. Also, I have a registered cover with 4/0 (bad condition, not shown here) sent from Durban on June 26th 1942, via Miami (July 15th 1942) to New York, where it arrived on July 16th 1942. Then I have a couple of covers, from October and December 1942. From 1943 onwards, 4/0-covers are easier to find. The 4/0 postage rate ends on August 28th, 1944, when it was replaced with the 3/6 'via West Africa' rate.



Figure 6:

Airmail cover from Johannesburg (March 26th 1942) to Cleveland, Ohio, USA at the correct 4/0 rate. South African censor, no back stamps.

My suggestion is that the 4/0 rate to the USA rate was introduced on the assumption that South African mail would connect to the proposed connection from Leopoldville to Miami vice versa. In fact, mail was still accepted when this airmail connection went 'silent', but study also shows that during 1942 – at least until October – very small amounts of mail were carried via Miami. Also, as we know from the US Postal Notices, no information was given of any aircraft operation after Pearl Harbor and this was especially the case for the Miami connection 1942, which was operated under military command (ref 4). Mail users simply couldn't be sure of their expensive airmail, which was 16 times as expensive compared to slightly slower surface (sea) mail.

It appears there is 'split' in number of existing airmail covers, travelled on the Miami connection. Up to October 1942, the numbers are low. After this, there probably was a change in routing the mail from South Africa to West Africa and mail volumes increased. From this moment on, mail might have been carried further westwards in West Africa in order to connect to the (regular) south Atlantic crossings and subsequent connections to Miami. In philatelic literature, it is not clear (yet) how this was done. One clue might be the start of Panam Route 9, which provided both the FAM-18 and LATI-substitute service (ref 4).

An unusual example of a later 4/0 cover from January 1944 is shown below. It is a very heavy registered airmail cover via Miami to New York, bearing a massive 20 shillings postage (5th weight) + 4d registration.



Figure 7: A very heavy commercial registered airmail cover from Capetown (January 21st 1944) via Miami (February 23rd 1944) to New York (February 24th 1944). Postage rate is £1 + 4d registration. The envelope would have weighed up to 5 ounces, the 5th weight step.

Via West Coast

The airmail connection to Miami might have been somewhat of a mystery in the early months of 1942, but in 1944 it became the starting point for larger volumes of South African airmail via Miami that continued to be in service well after WW2. Even when the Empire service to London was restarted during May 1944, the Panam service via Miami (later New York) already proved to be heavily used, as no sensible airmail service to the USA via London was feasible yet, let alone faster.

Very different to Western Europe, in South Africa the war was already far away from mid 1943 onwards. Axis powers were losing grounds in northern Africa, and one may conclude the problems for getting airmail to the USA were only the distance or Atlantic weather conditions, not the war. Also, the route via London being blocked from 1940 until mid 1944, the shorter route from South Africa *via* West Africa & South America was a logical development which would have taken place anyway, WW2 or not.

So, at the end of August 1944, the airmail rate to the USA was lowered to 3/6 and this rate must have been advertised widely, because only on 3/6-covers, one may often find markings (manuscript or hand stamps) endorsing 'via West Coast' or similar. These covers are not rare, but hand stamps 'via West Africa' are difficult to find. It is assumed; some dispatchers had these specially prepared for their mail.



Figure 8: Airmail cover from Johannesburg (June 21st 1944) to Detroit, USA with the uncommon h/s 'AIRMAIL LUGPOS – VIA WEST COAST'. New York censor #30608, no back stamps.

Horseshoe

Most probably, I don't need to explain the 'horseshoe' airmail route during WW2. The name is derived from the new shape of the airmail route on the map, from South Africa to Australia. The Empire airmail route from South Africa to London was blocked on June 11th 1940 and the airmail stage from South Africa to Cairo was then 'connected' to the airmail stage from Cairo via India to Australia.

The strange thing is however, that any 'proving' covers from South Africa that have travelled on the horseshoe route are practically unknown. That is to say: on covers *from* South Africa to any destination on the horseshoe route, usually no special markings are placed. One could also say that for the mail user in South Africa, nothing had changed really when sending a letter to India or Australia.

The other way round is more interesting however. Mail users in India or Iraq had a choice for sending letters to the USA: either sending letters eastwards at a higher airmail rate, or sending them via South Africa at a lower combined air/surface mail rate (ref 5 & 6). For these specific postage rates, endorsements exist on (primarily) Iraqi and Indian covers, proving the existence and practical use of the Horseshoe route. Covers would fly to South Africa and onward by surface mail transmission to the USA. These postage rates are known from (primary) sources and are complex and changed regularly. As a result, explaining the postage rate proves to be difficult sometimes.



Figure 9: Proper Horseshoe cover sent from Baghdad (November 13th 1943) via Cairo (November 14th 1943 on back) and via South Africa by airmail and onward surface mail to New York (USA). Iraqi and US censor (#6620, New York). Purple endorsement h/s 'BY AIRMAIL UP TO SOUTH AFRICA'. Postage is the correct 63fils being: 8fils for a postcard in envelope + 55fils combined air/surface mail rate (see Iraqi postal notice #32, August 1940).

Rarity of destinations & the postage rates for them

When I started collecting South Africa covers more seriously, there was – and still is – one thing I found very strange: the lack of good sources for postage rates during and after WW2. Because I also collect covers to unusual foreign destinations during 1932-1954, I'm also interested in the postage rates for them. There are a couple of online sources (one by Denise Collie, the other one by Neil Donen) and several 'hardcopy' sources available. These include the 1935 Post Office Guide (a copy held in the Collectors Club Library in New York), the Proud & Boyle handbooks mentioned earlier and a brief listing of airmail rates 1925-1939 by Brian Stokoe from 2005.

It showed eventually, that the postage rates to the USA, Europe and UK from 1932-1939 are well known, although not consistently described in all sources. The post-war rates to the USA may be a bit complicated, which is mostly due because of the two possibilities of sending mail between 1947 and 1950: either via Panam (faster, but more expensive) or via London (slower, but cheaper). By July 1953, there was a unified international airmail rate to all countries, including Europe and the UK.

What

What remains are the postage rates to the 'other' countries from 1939 – 1953, of which I only have snippets of information. With exception perhaps, the (airmail) letter rates to Canada. Another unexplained aspect is the African Postal Union, formed on January 1st 1936 and extended in 1942 and 1953. The list of countries within it is known to me; however most of the postage rates are not.

When looking at destinations, one conclusion is evident: more than 90% of all foreign (airmail) covers & postcards sent from South Africa during 1932-1954, went either the USA, to Europe or to the UK. No surprise here. Destinations in Europe are mainly Germany, Sweden, Netherlands, Switzerland, and Austria. Less common, but still not rare, are covers & postcards sent to Canada, India and to major destinations in Africa (like Egypt, Mozambique, K.U.T. and Belgian Congo). Other destinations may fall within the '1% category' and are more difficult to find. These may include covers & postcards sent to the Dutch East Indies, Madagascar, Morocco, Jamaica, Trinidad, Australia, Soviet Union, Argentina, Japan, China, Aden, Iraq, Chile or Brazil.



Figure 10:
Airmail cover sent from Durban (November 28th 1939) to the RAF Base at Khormakshar, Aden. Postage rate 1/3 (correct), back stamp Khormakshar December 26th 1939 and Crown Chief Field Censor h/s on front.

For some of these destinations, different postage rates (may have) applied and covers & postcards to some of these destinations are not easy, or even very difficult to find. As I plan to investigate this further, I'm seeking for fellow postal historians who would like to help. For many of the snippets of information that I have now, I do not know their (primary) source. In philatelic literature, here also, many authors tend copy and copy any information published before, some of them proving to be confusing or even completely wrong.

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About me

My name is Wilbert Davids; I'm 49 years old and live in the north of the Netherlands in the village of Echtenerbrug together with my wife Jenny and with our cat Jackie. I've been collecting South Africa for practically all my life with focus on postal history and postmarks. My main subject is the Union between 1932 and 1954, but I've been collecting pre-Union & Union postmarks heavily as well. For the Republic, I've got a weak spot for the definitive stamps.

Apart from South Africa, I also collect Pakistan (postal history, official mail) and Japan (postmarks). I'm a member of the Dutch expertising committee Bondskeuringsdienst (AIEP). Also, I'm a member of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, the Collectors Club New York and of the Amsterdamsche Postzegelsociëteit. For Philately, I'm in London 2 to 3 times a year. In 2017, I've exhibited myself for the first time, but as a visitor I've been at many major events, the last one being New York 2016.

Revisiting the 2d. London Printing “SPLIT d” Flaw

By Mike Tonking RDPSA

One of the best known of the few flaws which occurred on the recess printing 2d. London Printings is known as the ‘Split d’ of 2d. Which is found on row 8/8 of the left pane and row 8/2 of the right pane. It only occurred on the two printings.

It is an acquired flaw which made its first appearance on the September 1939 printing of Issue 4 perforation Group 1 in the form of a vertical line through the ‘d’ of 2d.

The second ‘Split d’ flaw occurred in February 1930 on the second two pane printing which was now perforated Group 111. At the same time an additional acquired flaw in the form of a ‘Split A’ on rows 10/1 and 10/7 made its first appearance. The vertical line through the right leg of the last ‘A’ in AFRICA is similar to the ‘Split d’ flaw. Fig. 1.

The third and final ‘Split d’ as well as the ‘Split A’ occurred on the third Issue 4 printing in September 1930. In this case the perforation was now Group 11. Fig.2

This was the last time these flaws were seen as they do not occur on the final Issue 4 cleaned plate printing as they had, in some way, been corrected.

The ‘Split d’ of 2d.



The ‘Split A’ of AFRICA.

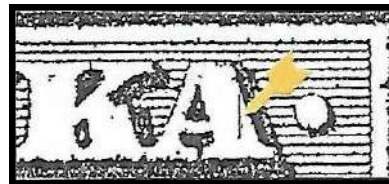


Fig. 1
Issue 4 Perforation Group 111
The second ‘Split d’ flaw with the ‘Split A’ of
AFRICA



Fig. 2
Issue 4 Perforation Group 11
The third ‘Split d’ flaw with the ‘Split A’ of
Africa.



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Margins and Gutter Pairs

By Ian Matheson

I recall advice given to me as a young stamp collector over 50 years ago - “never remove the selvedge from a stamp; it may have a story to tell”. I have heeded this advice ever since. In fact, when writing up my collection and finding that one or two stamps still had selvedge attached, thus disturbing the symmetry of the page, I would fold the margin underneath so that we pleased the eye without losing whatever tale the selvedge would tell to a future owner. I remember the table in our post office was littered with pieces of selvedge removed by customers, who were not “in the know”. Ignorance is bliss, they say.

Now I am a little wiser and recognize the importance of traffic lights and control numbers, of cyclometer numbers and marginal arrows. The importance of marginal copies when trying to position a stamp on a sheet cannot be over-stated, and even the width of the margin has proved critical in determining many printings of the stamps of Union of South Africa, as described in the recent publication on the Official overprints.

The stamp trade cashed in on this factor in the 1970s. Post offices in UK had stocks of full sheets of the commemorative stamps (unlike South Africa in 2018!!), but they had usually been folded through the central gutter. However the Philatelic Bureau could supply **unfolded** gutter pairs, and the dealers created a lucrative market offering these at a significant premium. They edged the prices up on a regular basis and also quoted buying prices, which increased accordingly. Who in their right mind would sell when the “value” was climbing so fast? Surely unfolded gutter pairs were the ultimate in collectible marginal copies! Suddenly, it was announced that they had sufficient stocks and were no longer buying. Collectors realized they had been paying major premiums, and possession of an unfolded interpanneau block was maybe not so special after all! In South Africa a similar bubble hit the gold coin market when the value of the 1968 frosted bust Krugerrand went through the roof. Nobody sold as they were following the buying prices. When the bubble burst, they realized that they were just owners of one ounce of gold, nothing more. The minting was small and the newly created market was large – for a while.

All of this must have had an impact on me, as I have always had a soft spot for marginal copies, and if I ever managed to get my hands on an interpanneau pair or block, especially of early stamps, I had to include it in my collection. As a collector of South African Officials there was limited scope to find such items. I was prompted to write this short piece as a result of finding a pair of the set 1 two pence recently. I have collected Officials for about thirty years and, amazingly, had never seen one before. I have been lucky enough to find two pence gutters from sets 4 and 5 and one shilling stamps from set 6. I have illustrated each here. I have also secured full sheets of the two pence sets 4 and 5. Do they tell that story my early mentor promised? I guess not. They simply tell that the postal officials did not split these sheets, whereas separating the sheets into two panes was normal practice for most. They do not even tell us that printing was done in a single operation, but simply that the sheets were not separated prior to printing. Otherwise I would get the same information from marginal copies from either side of the gutter.

..... but if the selvedge had been removed, even that information would be lost!



Gutter Set 1



Gutter Set4



Gutter Set 4



Gutter Set 5



Gutter Set 6

0

"NGR" PERFORATING of OFFICIAL STAMPS

By Tony Howgrave-Graham

Some may think the NGR perfins fit more comfortably in the Cape & Natal Journal than *The Springbok* but they do form some of the scarcest interprovincial items. The NGR used official stamps until they were abandoned in 1907 and they then perforated stamps "NGR" to replace the officials.

I seen a few mint official stamps perforated "NGR" but have always been very uncertain as to their status. However, eBay produced the illustrated official 2d which is also perfined and dated 3 June 1907. I managed to acquire it (at a price!) as it's the only used example I've seen. It would thus appear that the Company may have perforated their residual stock of officials before moving on to unoverprinted stamps. Mint or used they are extremely scarce and I'd be interested to hear from other collectors what values they have and whether they're mint or used and, if readable, their date of use.



Editors desk

An Email received from Wilbert Davids:

I was reading the POOC article, Springbok 342 - page 52, with much interest. The author described a 1978 POOC Express cover which is the only one known to him. However, I have a second one, a 1973 POOC Express cover from JHB to The Hague Netherlands. Please find enclosed scans of the front & back.

Note that, despite the Express cancellation, it actually was delivered by express. The dates are:

Johannesburg – 3-VII-1973 17:30

Amsterdam XXIX – 6 Jul 1973 8:20

's Gravenhage AP – 6 Jul 1973 12:49



The Editor forwarded Wilbert's email to The Author, Malcolm Judd, below is his comment:

POOC Johannesburg to 'Nederland'.

Many thanks indeed to Wilbert for a fascinating 'Express POOC' cover. As always with such covers it is necessary to put oneself in the shoes of the sender and/or the various 'courses' personnel dealing with the post. The Barclays manager told the office junior to hurry round to the post office at the end of the day and get the letter sent as fast as possible. Telling the post office clerk that the letter should be delivered as soon as possible the clerk suggested 'Express' and the office junior handed over the letter to the busy clerk who was used to seeing Airmail Envelopes because they are commonly used within South Africa (unlike in the UK). The envelope weighed between 40 and 60 grams and at 5c per 20 grams internal airmail that came to 15c. In 1973 'Express' was 10c, hence the total of 25c in stamps on the cover. Either the post office clerk did not notice that the address was overseas or had previously seen letters addressed to Nederland Airport near the Kruger Park and thus treated the envelope as South African internal mail.


The sorting office supervisor no doubt stared hard at the envelope when received in the 'Express' packet of envelopes. 'It's our mistake', he thought, 'there is no 'International Express'' (it was not introduced until 1983 and then at a rate of 100c per item plus postage). So he used the very rare handstamp 'Insufficiently Prepaid for Express Service', but expedited the envelope by putting it in the airmail package being flown to The Netherlands. Hence, no T(axe) and postage due on the cover as it was the mistake of the post office, but the intentions of the Barclays Manager were nevertheless fulfilled. *Malcolm Judd*

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Editors Desk - Replies from members

Split 'd' variety From Mike Tonking The Springbok 342 Page 40

With reference to John Shaw's London Pictorial presentation I can assure him that the inclusion of the 2d. perforated Group 1 with the split 'd' does exist.

Although I do not, unfortunately possess an example, I attach a copy from the late Jack Hagger collection in which he notes it is an acquired flaw.

The flaw first appeared on the Issue 4 perforation Group 1 in September 1929 which was followed by the Issue 4 perforation Group 3 in February 1930 and finally the Issue 4 perforation Group 2 in September 1930.

Extra perforation holes From Mike Tonking

The Springbok 342 Page 66

I think your extra marginal perforations are probably due to perforator trial strikes as so often seen on the Pretoria Typographs where they were very common.

Since Publishing the article I have seen other values of the RSA 1st Definitives with these additional perforations. Ed.



John Shaw's Exhibit From Mike Tonking The Springbok 342

With reference to John Shaw's exhibit at the London Meeting 24th February 2018 I would confirm that his fig.4 showing the 1924 second design competition was indeed sold at the 1976 Robson Lowe Basle auction lot 872 which made 700 Swiss francs.

Wrong Colours from Tony Howgrave-Graham

The published colours for the 1/- colour trials perf specimen (The Springbok 342) were in fact wrong - they were in fact in the colours listed in SAHB and as shown in the illustrations

Comments from Eddie Bridges John Shaw's Exhibit

It is such a pity I am not close to London to have been able to show my pictorials as well. It would have covered the whole spectrum. I have some overlap with John on the competition essays, he has the proofs and archival material and I have samples of all the printings on bottom panes with inscriptions and the gutter blocks with printing order numbers and dates.

Now to some comments:

1. The sheet positions for the splayed M on the Harrison Essays is known. I have positional pieces showing this. I vaguely recall doing an article in the Springbok or possibly I sent the info to John with scans.

2. The split D variety which Tony asks if it exists on Perf 14 as it is listed in HB.

I have never seen a copy that is not perfed 14 x 13 1/2 up. This is on Issue 4 of the 2d.

I do not see Mike Tonking make reference to it on any other perf issues.

I think the HB entry was just theoretical.

I am so sorry I could not be there as it looked like a great showing.

A Query From The Editor

When I first saw the stamp advertised on the far right I thought that it may have been tampered with. So it was definitely worth buying just to satisfy my curiosity. On close examination I can see that it has not been tampered with. The light blue colour is constant throughout.

It was not until checking the SACC that something did not add up. They actually state that 316a is light blue and yellow. All the other 2c stamps mentioned in the definitive series say ultramarine and yellow.

I have always assumed that my dark example was the correct one and also have never seen the light one before.

Has anyone come across this light blue 447 448B cylinder block?

Does anyone have an example of the A cylinder?

No Handbook or catalogue that I have lists two colours for this cylinder.



Editors Desk - A Reply from John Philpott in answer to Tony Howgrave-Graham's question in the Springbok 342 Page 40

Has anyone seen the Split 'd' variety

South Africa

Varieties

29th Aug. 1929. Durban - Port Elizabeth, Flown Cover.

2d Split "d" **d** Row 8. No 2.
Right Pane

OF THE FOURTH AND LAST FRAME PLATE.
IT WAS FIRSTLY PERF 14 AS ABOVE (AUG. 1929).

THEN, BY USING A COMB 14 x 13½ PERFORATOR:

UPWARDLY MOBILE FROM FEB. 1930 (STILL QUITE RARE)	DOWNWARDLY MOBILE FROM SEPT. 1930. (THE MOST COMMON)
---	--

BEFORE THE FINAL PRINTING IN JAN. 1931,
THE PLATE WAS "CLEANED" ELIMINATING THE FLAW.

PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

John can't remember any details of obtaining the cover. The profuse use of acute accents in the writing of the compiler of the page may give somebody an idea who he was. Does anyone know? Ed.

DESIGN OF THE 1949 CENTENARY OF THE BRITISH SETTLERS

By Tony Howgrave-Graham

The well known *Wanderer* entering Point Natal with British Settlers (*Fig.1*) was designed by J.Prentice. Shortly after its issue he came in for a lot of flack for including the "radio mast" on the Bluff. There was, of course, no radio mast in 1849. Word had it that there had been a small "lighthouse" in a similar position but it was still widely perceived as a design error.

My interest was rekindled by my other current interest which is the early shipping between the UK & South Africa. The General Screw Co's *Sir John Peel* was the smallest of its fleet and its only paddle steamer and it was soon transferred from the Dartmouth-Cape run to the Cape-Port Natal coastal service and on 15 Aug 1852 (after waiting 3 days at sea for favourable weather conditions) she became the first steamer to cross the bar at Port Natal. This was a major local event and a half day's holiday was proclaimed so that people could witness it. The event was captured by a local artist (*Fig.2*). On the Bluff is what appears to be an elaborate flag pole. Not a lighthouse or radio mast! I have a late C19 photograph of the Bluff (*Fig.3*) and that does seem to have a small lighthouse in the same position. If one looks closely at the design on the stamp it is exactly the same as the 1852 drawing other than being smaller which is almost certainly more realistic. Well done Mr. Prentice!



Fig. 1

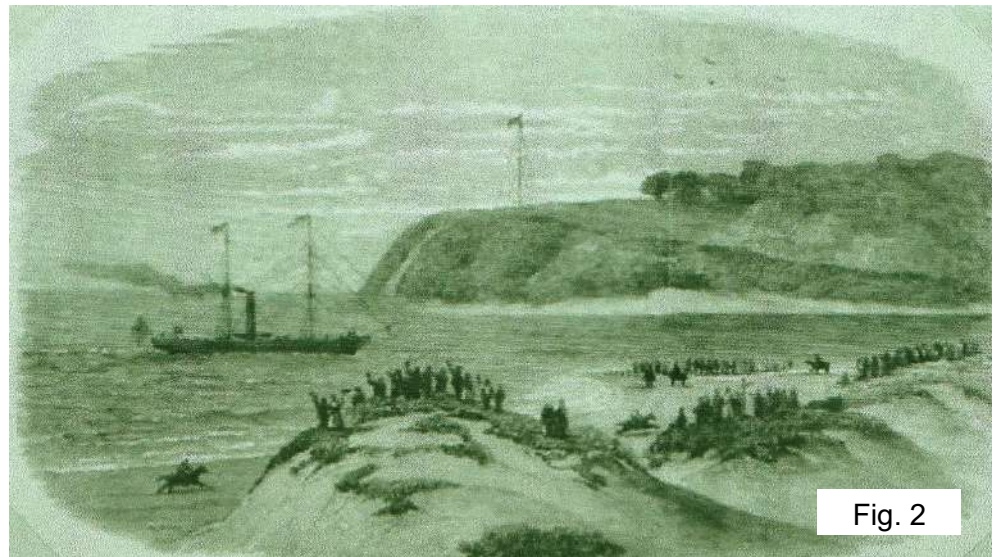


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

The Herero War

By David Haig

This is an introduction to events in South West Africa now Namibia in the years prior to the start of the Great War in 1914. This is still an almost unknown topic and deeply controversial as people who are aware of the war debate the events, racism, links to Nazism and the horrific death toll.

It started out as a short display for my local society. Since then I've read more about it and found more philatelic items in Germany. It is effectively impossible to find anything for this period in Britain. As stated above most people have never heard of the Herero War.

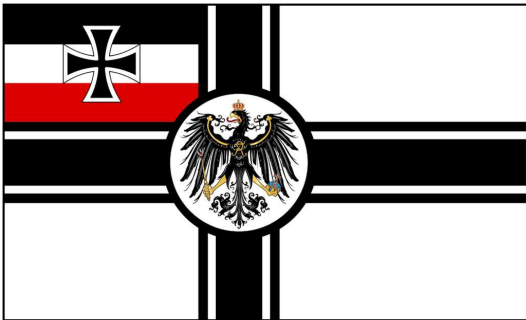


Fig. 1 German Flag



1909 German South West Africa
From "The Map of Africa by Treaty" by Sir E. Hertslet, 3rd ed., London: by Harrison and sons, 1909.
Source: Library of Congress Maps
DIGITAL ID g5200m.got0004.Hb./hdh.loc.gov/loc.gndig8200m.got0004

Fig. 2 German South West Africa - 1909



1984 Centenary of German occupation

In 1882 Bremen merchant Adolf Luderitz decided to establish a station on the coast of South West Africa. An employee purchased land from the local native chief & in April 1884 Luderitz placed the land under the protection of Imperial Germany. The German flag was raised at Luderitz on the 7th of August 1884. **(Fig 1)**

1885 the German Colonial Society for South West Africa was established with support from German banks to exploit the new territory. The society purchased all Luderitz's assets after his death & established the South West Africa Company. By 1890 it was nearly bankrupt & appealed. In 1890 the territory was declared a crown colony. **(Fig 2 Map)**

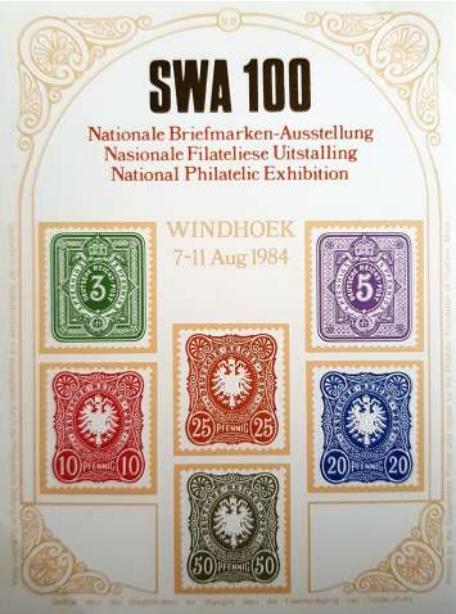


Fig. 3 SWA 100

In 1892 the new South West Africa Co. Ltd, was established by the British German & Cape Governments to increase mineral exploration particularly in the Damaraland copper district. South West Africa was the only German colony to attract large numbers of settlers, by 1914, there were 9000 German residents

(Fig 3 SWA 100 Block)

The first German Commissioner for South West Africa was Heinrich Ernst Göring father of Luftwaffe chief Herman Göring. On 17 April 1886 he established the legal code with one set of laws for Europeans & another for the Native population. In 1888 the first Schutztruppen (Imperial Protection Troops) were established. **(Fig 4 Postcards)**



Fig. 4 Postcards



Fig. 5A Herero War & Nama Herders

From the very start relations with the local population deteriorated due to harsh treatment by the Germans & the completely unfair laws. At the end of 1888, Göring was forced to flee for safety to the British enclave at Walvis Bay after negotiations with the tribes broke down. In 1893 and 1894 there were major uprisings against German rule with continued local rebellions in the years up to 1904 when the Herero War started.

The Nama and Herero people were predominantly cattle herders, living beyond the Namib Desert on communal grasslands in central SWA. Over the years the Germans repeatedly violated treaties, misappropriated tribal lands & cattle and raped thousands of girls. (Fig 5A)



Fig. 5B German Settlers

Complaints to the colonial authorities were continually ignored & in fact aided German settlers in seizing even more land & cattle as well as enslaving thousands of natives as forced labourers. By 1904 the Nama had had enough & rose up in general rebellion to drive the Germans out of South West Africa. (Fig 5B Settlers).

The Herero initially aided the Germans working as trackers & scouts but seeing the brutal treatment of the Nama by the Germans, switched sides & joined the Nama in common cause against the Germans. (Fig 6 Schutztruppen)

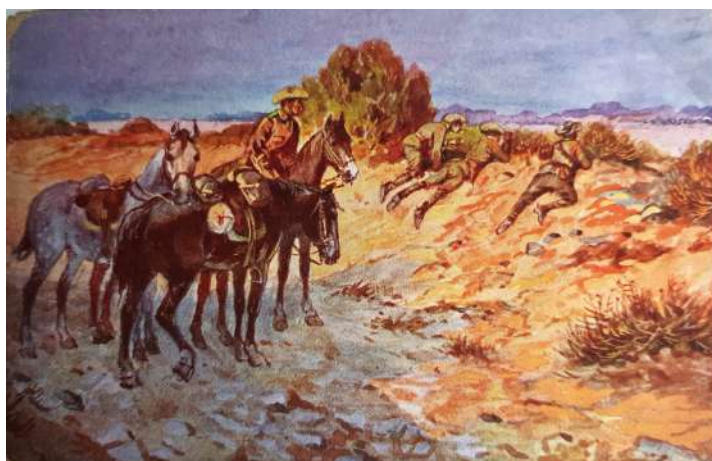


Fig. 6 Schutztruppen

Schutztruppe (English: Protection force) was the African colonial armed force of Imperial Germany from the late 19th century to 1918, when Germany lost its colonies. Similar to other colonial forces, the Schutztruppe consisted of volunteer European commissioned and non-commissioned officers, medical and veterinary officers. Most enlisted ranks were generally recruited locally. The colonial forces for German West Africa and German South-west Africa on 9 June 1895. Schutztruppe formations were organizationally never a part of the army or navy. In 1896 Schutztruppe headquarters was established and located at Berlin's Mauerstrasse, in proximity to the German Colonial Office. German military law and discipline applied to the Schutztruppe.

The Herero War consisted of skirmishing & ambushes by both sides, water holes were often destroyed or poisoned to prevent its use by the other side. The German troops generally had better weapons especially machine guns & light artillery. At Waterberg on 11 August 1904, the Germans defeated and scattered a numerically superior force under command of Chief Maharero. **(Fig 7A Skirmish & 7B mountain guns).**

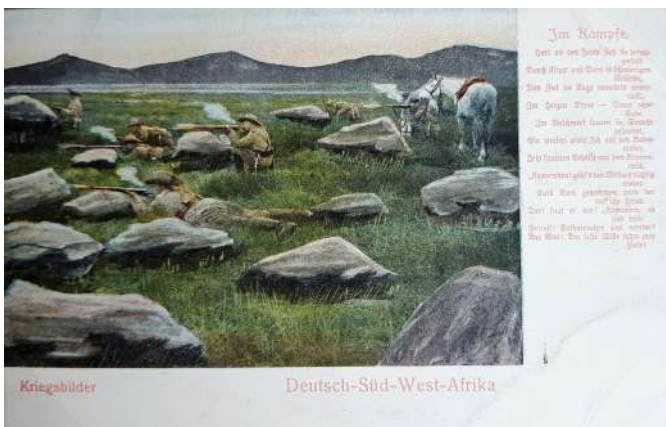


Fig. 7A Skirmish



Fig. 7B Mountain Guns

The Herero & Nama for their part had an intimate knowledge of the countryside allowing them to successfully ambush or evade German columns on many occasions. Chief Maharero led a fairly successful guerrilla campaign to strike German forces & then escape before they could bring their superior firepower to bear. The Germans killed most of their prisoners while civilians were routinely massacred and their settlements destroyed. **(Fig 8 Patrol)**

Many thousands of Herero and Nama were driven into the deep desert to die, it's a complete guess to how many thousand died there. The German forces pursuing them destroyed or poisoned the few wells & springs they came across. **(Fig 9 Camel Corps)**



Fig. 8 Patrol



Fig. 9 Camel Corps

Hendrik Witbooi was born near Pella in the South Africa in about 1830 where his father was chief of the Nama tribe. Educated in Lutheran & Wesleyan schools, Witbooi himself became a teacher. Breaking with his father he took part of the tribe north of the Orange River into South West Africa. **(Fig 10 Hendrik Witbooi)**

By 1884 he was paramount chief of the Nama Tribe. He was involved in several conflicts with the arriving Germans until a truce in 1894. Thereafter the Nama aided the German army until 1904 when the Nama switched sides & rose in rebellion against the Germans.

Witbooi was known for his skills as a guerrilla leader until killed in action near Vaalgras on 29th October 1905. The war continued until 1908 when the last of the Nama & Herero surrendered.

The Germans imprisoned hundreds of thousands of Nama & Herero in camps near Swakopmund, Luderitz and Windhoek. Most of the prisoners died of neglect, starvation, disease or were murdered by their German guards. Fig 11 below shows the Schutztruppen Rider Monument in Windhoek, built on the site of Windhoek Concentration Camp **(Fig 11 Windhoek)**



Fig. 10 Hendrik Witbooi



Fig. 11 Windhoek



Fig. 12 Swakopmund

The graveyard near Swakopmund contains the remains of thousands of prisoners, their bleached bones reappearing from under the desert sand and visible on satellite photos of the area. Estimates of total death are estimate at about 100,000 for the Nama & Herero (Fig 12 Swakopmund)

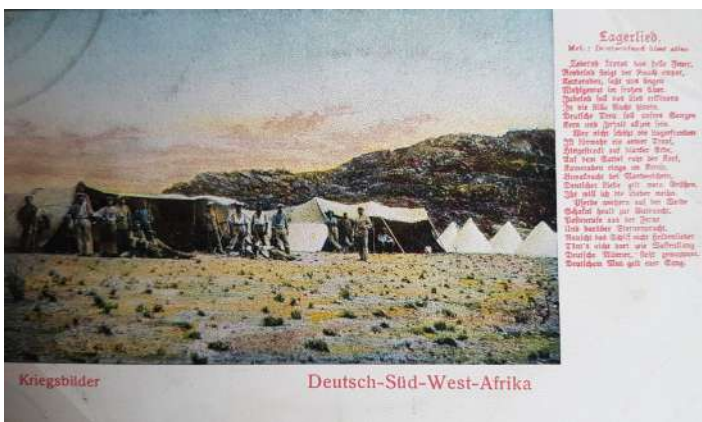


Fig. 13 Camp

German doctors studying Eugenics took thousands of samples of anatomy from dead prisoners & shipped them back to Germany as biological proof of biological inferiority of the black people. These items are still turning up in university collections all over Germany today. The people responsible for this genocide went on to guide the Nazi programme of extermination and ruthless exploitation during the Second World War. The policy documents for colonial South West Africa were reused in Poland, Russia and the Baltic States during WW2.

The late Victorian & Edwardian eras were the age of the postcard, the original message. In the absence of WhatsApp and Twitter you reached for a postcard. German printers produced a variety of postcards for the Herero war, depicting German troops on parade, in camp as well as very posed combat pictures. There are also a range of political and racist items of which depict lynching or anatomical specimens being collected.

Fig. 13 Camp.

Fig. 14 On Parade

Fig. 15 Song Card "The Enemy is Hunted"

Fig. 16 In the Field



Fig. 14 On Parade

Letters do exist, but unfortunately, I don't own any and postcards are far more common. Many of mine are postally used in South West Africa during the war. These are the flip side of the cards I've been presenting and describing previously. As in other armies, soldiers received free mail, no stamps used, the items having been cancelled at the civilian post office for forwarding or delivery.



Fig 27. Card from Unteroffizier Muller in Swakopmund to Unteroffizier Auders Windhoek



Fig 28) Card from Luderitz to Volkach Germany with Purple Soldiers Letter Cancel. The cancel says Imperial German Protection Troops South West Afrika, HQ, Southern District



Fig 29. Card from Warmbad to Metz in German occupied Lorraine, taken from France in Franco-Prussian War of 1871.



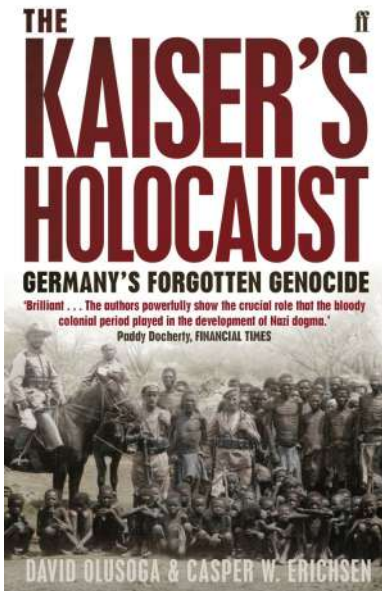
Fig 30. Card from Gefreiter (lance-corporal) Wirth (infantry corps) in Luderitz to Elise Wirth in Neweid in the Rhineland.



Fig 31. Card from Ober-Gefreiter (Corp) Begzniski in Karibib to Berlin



Fig 32) Card from Okahandja 70km north of Windhoek to a Mr Scholz in Berlin.



As this is a very short synopsis of the period, events and its philately, feel free to send comments and questions to the editor. I know that there are a lot more philatelic items out there, that have not yet seen the light of day, so if you have something different do share.

Sources:

South West Africa Postal Administration (now Namibia Post)

The Kaiser's Holocaust – David Olusoga & Casper W. Erichsen. (Fig 33)

0

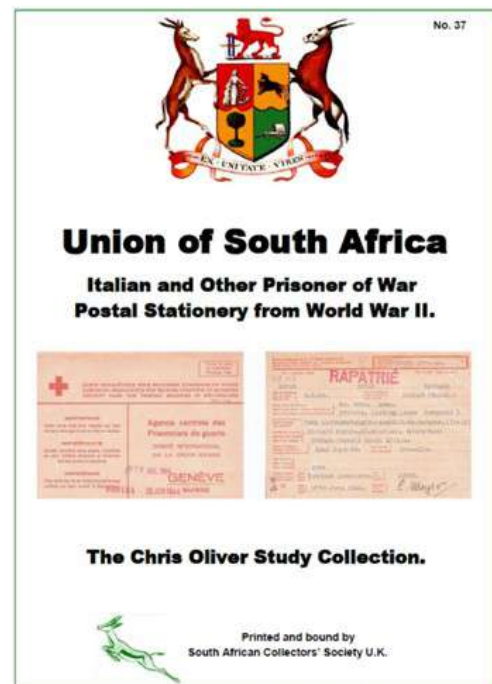
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Sheet serial numbers on one shilling stamps overprinted OFFICIAL.

By John Dickson

Drawn from *The Springbok* of August 2014.

"Union Official sheet numbers" by Mike Tonking and Jan van Beukering.

Updated from *The Springbok* of November 2014 and from the Hisey & Matheson publication. (In brackets)

Numbers sorted sequentially.

My own unreported items added in red.

Basic	Set	SAHC	Colour	Sheet serial numbers
29 London	6 O24			No sheet serial numbers
42 Unhyphen Iss. 1	7 O 30	Black		8773, 8783 , 8784, 9021, 9035, 9041 , 9043, (9111), 9162 , (9166)
42 Unhyphen Iss. 1	8 O 36			
42 Unhyphen Iss. 1	9 O 41			(5879???)
42 Unhyphen Iss. 1	11 O 50			
42 Unhyphen Iss. 1	12 O 55			(X265)
42 Unhyphen Iss. 1	13 O 61			73XX
42 Unhyphen Iss. 1	14 O 66			
42A Unhyphen Iss. 2	15 O 74	(Bluish)		7500 range
42A Unhyphen Iss. 2	16 O 79			
50 Hyphen Iss. 3	17 O 82	Blue		3369
50 Hyphen Iss. 3	18 O 82A	Black		(012X), 7907, 7910, 7917, 7956, (7961), 873X, 975X, (9751), (9776)
50 Hyphen Iss. 3	18?	?		Black 9448 serial slanted, margin clean
50 Hyphen Iss. 3	19 O 95			3929 (See Set 20A for H&M)
50 Hyphen Iss. 3	20A O 95			H&M
50 Hyphen Iss. 3	20 O102	Red		78XX, (7849), 7969, 7970, 7973, 7975
50 Hyphen Iss. 3	21 O107	Black		1646, (1648), 9965? EE / AA
50 Hyphen Iss. 3	22 O114	(Red)		(2742)(O112A in H&M)
50A Hyphen Iss. 4	23 O123	Red		7200, 7203, 7227, 722X, 8020, 802X, 803X, 8070 [8060 PO Archive]
50B Screened Iss. 5	23 O124	Red		8178, 8465, 9376, 9467 , X468, 9938
50B Screened Iss. 5	24 O130	Red		1971, 2065, 2954, 2957, 3168, 3312, (6032)
50B Screened Iss. 5	25 O137	Red		3212, XX68, 3392
50B Screened Iss. 5	26 O143	Red		9620
50B Screened Iss. 5	28 O150	Red		1796, 1797 , 1916, 1962, 1998 , 2983, 3507, 3210, 3510, 6027
50B Screened Iss. 5	28 O150A	Red		2983, 3507, 3210, 3510, Per H&M
50B Screened Iss. 5	29 O155	Red		50197, 50347, 50351, 50360, 50362, 50371, 50380, 50190 , 50199 , 50395, 50398
50B Screened Iss. 6	30 O162	Red		183X, 1884, 2005, XX26, (2065), XXX8 against row 2

Colours omitted where not reported

Given the quite few sheets sent to be overprinted the spread of numbers in a set is alarming...

- It is possible that serial numbers have been misread.
- It is possible that stocks taken for overprinting were not sequentially numbered within a print run.



Right Margin with black serial number 9448
Serial sloping
Spacing 20mm Margin 16mm
Possibly Set 18

UNDELIVERABLE MAIL – A Burning Issue

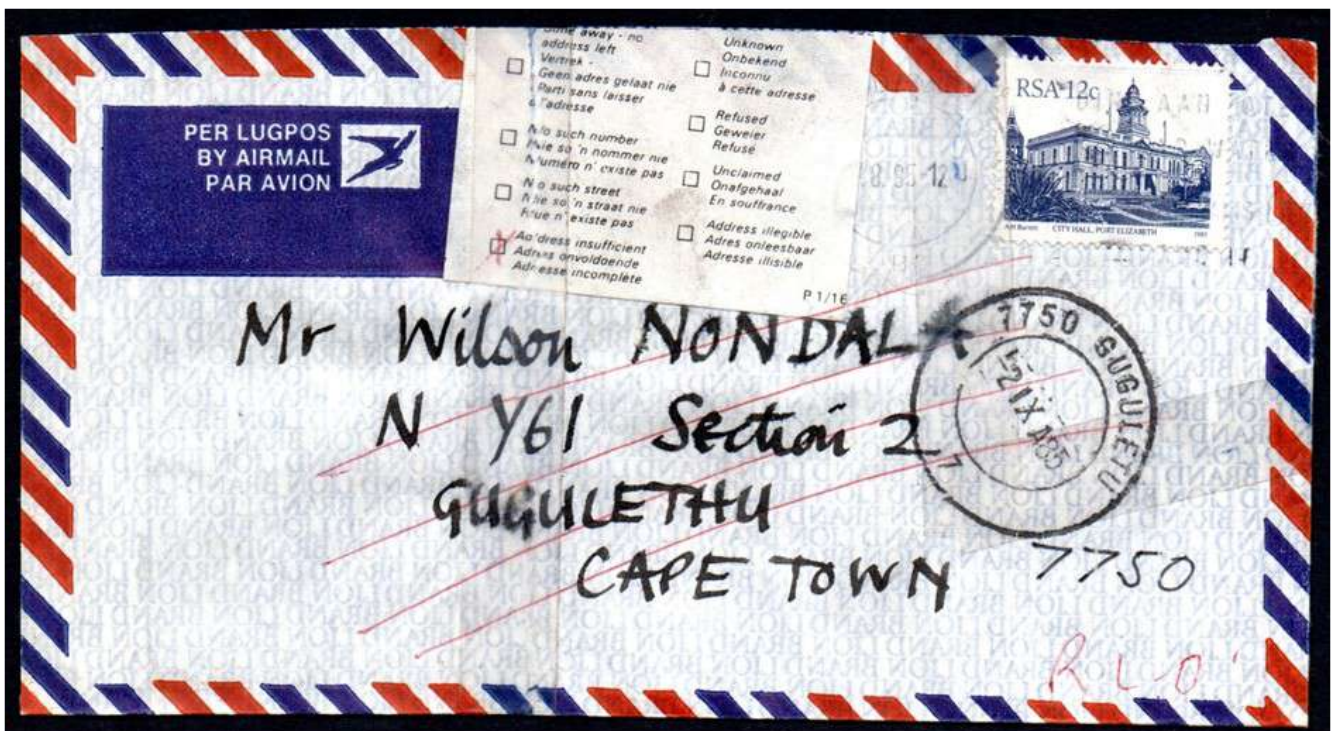
By David Macdonald

Gugulatu is a township on the Cape Flats the municipal area of Cape Town, South Africa, built especially for the native African peoples who were squatting in various other areas of Cape Town. The township is 15km from the centre of Cape Town and the main road running through the centre was named Steve Biko Drive in 2012 (formerly the NY1). When built the township was laid out on modern lines with churches and schools and the terms of the Urban Areas Act stipulated that all trading was to be in the hands of the Africans.

The first residents moved in during 1958 and by 1970 the population was approaching in the region of 50,000 people comprising 95% Nguni (Xhosa-Zulu) and 5% Sotho, Tswana. Periods of civil unrest occurred in the area and during some periods of unrest the Post Office has had to be closed temporarily. Murders are not uncommon, the most notable in modern times was perhaps the murder of Anni Dewani in Gugulatu (2010) while on her honeymoon ⁽¹⁾.

Illustrated below is a cover sent to an address in Guguletu with a Cape Town machine cancellation dated 27.8.85-12.00. An air mail envelope was used, probably out of convenience as, there was no air mail transmission intended, being an item for local deliver at the rate of 12c.

The cover arrived during a period of unrest and received a handstamp 7750 GUGULETU -2 IX A85 together with a form P1/16 attached and marked to indicate “ Address incomplete” in English, Afrikaans and Dutch; it was however probably not the case but that was probably thought to be the only suitable reason available on the label. The address was deleted and the envelope endorse R L O (Return Letter Office) in red ink.



The reverse of the cover is endorsed:-

“One of the last letters stamped at Guguletu P.O. before it was burnt down. It was returned to sender as it was impossible to deliver letters owing to unrest”.

The envelope has been slit open and the contents removed. There is no return address on the envelope and one can only speculate that the envelope was returned to the sender after the contents were examined. It is not known who wrote the endorsement on the reverse.

(1) Source Wikipedia

Posted out-of-course, Premier Mine, Transvaal

By Malcolm Judd

In 1932 Premier Mine, Cullinan closed for the second time and, according to the South African History Society, Cullinan Village became a virtual ghost town until 1939. However, on the 19 January 1933 Premier Mine Post Office was still operational and a Registered envelope was sent from there to Swaziland. The Registration cachet 'Premier Mine' was used on this envelope and the cds is quite clear as to its origin. It is therefore very puzzling as to why only a ½d South African stamp was affixed instead of being franked with the Commonwealth rate of 2d plus 6d registration fee for foreign mail. If the underpaid amount is therefore 2d and 5½d that would make sense of the Postage Due amount paid of 15d (or 1/3d).



The hand-written 'POOC T11d + 4d (T1/3d)' must have been applied at Premier Mine and on arrival in Swaziland the post office official applied a number of Postage Due stamps totalling 1/3d. From the time that Swaziland became a British Protectorate in March 1902 until the appearance of the country-specific Swaziland stamps of 2nd January 1933 the stamps of Transvaal and subsequently South Africa were used. Late use of Transvaal Postage Due stamps is well known in South Africa and in Swaziland; the cover showing the 5d Transvaal (SG D5). More remarkable is the use of both 1d and 2d Swaziland Postage Due stamps (SG D1 and D2) because the receiving stamp in Mbabane is 23 January 1933, making this a proving cover for the date given in SG catalogues.

My ageing copy of the SACC shows the postage due stamps of Swaziland having an issue date of 2nd January 1933 and it would seem prudent for the Swaziland Post Office to have ordered from De La Rue for delivery together both postage and postage due stamps; indeed they share the same watermark and perforation. However, as there is no official 'first day' for postage due stamps and their appearance depends upon an item of post being incorrectly franked, my own view, for what it is worth, is that it requires a proving cover to generate the correct date; apparently 23 January 1933.

The careful cancellation of all stamps and the very strange POOC give rise to a small concern that the cover was a very carefully engineered philatelic item? Comments invited and welcome.



The South West Africa 2d. Pictorial Double Overprint Revisited

By Mike Tonking

In 1930 the 2d. London Pictorial Issue 4 perforation Group 111 (14x13,5 up) was overprinted with the letters S.W.A. for use in South West Africa. This was the second use of this overprint on the 2d. Issue. The right pane of the two pane Issue may be identified by a number of discrete flaws. Firstly there is a very tiny black dot 3mm above the perforation guide line in the bottom of the central gutter Fig. 1. Secondly the row 10/7 'split A' makes its first appearance. Fig. 2. Thirdly row 8/8 shows the 'split d' which makes its second appearance. Fig. 3. In addition the 5th perforation hole below row 10/9 is raised which is almost always found on this Issue.

During the overprinting a major flaw occurred in that a single sheet was placed the wrong way round in the pile of sheets being overprinted. This was spotted and the sheet turned the right way round and again overprinted which resulted in the double overprint with one being inverted. In this case the overprint was spaced 6mm apart. Fig. 4.

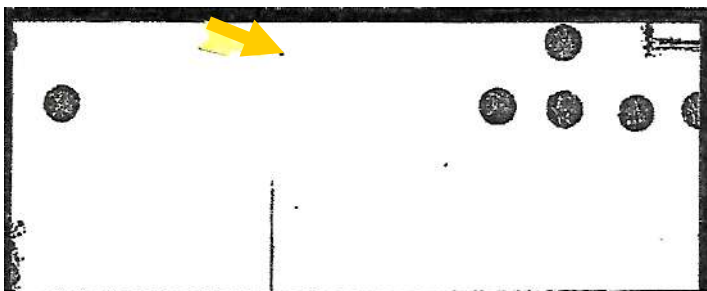


Fig 1.
Tiny black dot 3mm above perforation guide line



Fig 2.
Row 10/7 - 'Split A'



Fig 3.
Row 8/8 - 'Split d'



Fig 4.
Perforation Group 111 - Overprint double and inverted 6mm spacing.
Row 8/8 - 'Split d' Row 10/7 - 'Split A' and stop almost missing.
Row 10/9 - 5th bottom perforation raised.
Tiny black dot 3mm above perforation guide line.

It is of interest that row 10/7 shows almost missing stop after the 'A' whilst the overprint on row 9/4 has no missing stop the reason for which is unknown.

Late in 1930 the 2d. London Pictorial Issue 4 perforation Group 11 (14x13,5 down) was again overprinted S.W.A which was now used for the third time being the last overprint of any type to be applied to the 2d. London Pictorials. A single sheet was again discovered to be the wrong way round and was, as in the previous case, turned the correct way round and again overprinted. The resulting double overprinted was now 14mm apart compared to 6mm in the previous Issue. Fig. 5. The example shows the 'horned A' with the right leg joined to the stop. Fig 6.

It is quite coincidental that the double overprint flaw occurs on both Issues as the odds against making the same mistake twice are high.



Fig 5.
Perforation Group 11 - Overprint double and inverted 14mm apart



Fig 6.
'Horned A' - Protrusion at left of A.
Bottom right leg of 'A' joined to full stop.

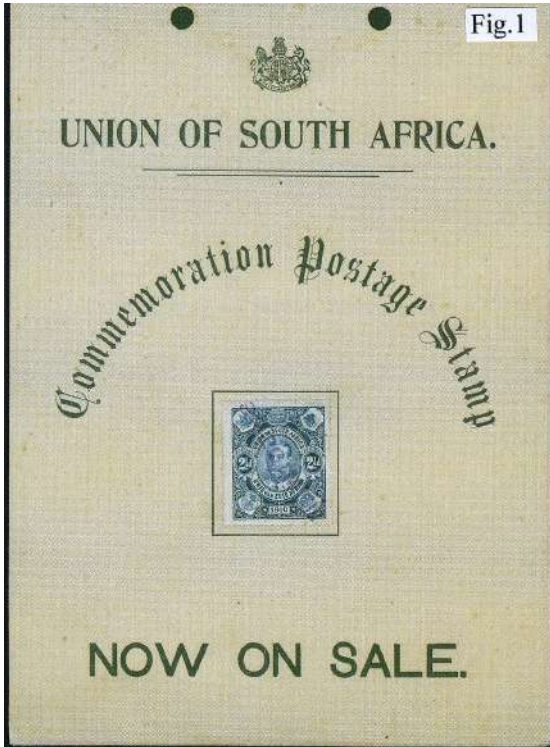
References:

The Overprinted Stamps of South West Africa to 1930 - N. Becker RDPSA 1990
The Union 2d. London Printing "The final Chapter" - S.J. Hagger RDPSA & M.J.H. Tonking 1989
The 2d. London Pictorials Issues 1927 - 1931 - M.J.H. Tonking 2007

AUCTION REPORT - JULY 2018

By Tony Howgrave-Graham

It's 18 months since the last auction report and as Spink have just (12 July) offered some old, if rather pricey, friends I thought I'd put fingers to keyboard again. The collection originated from South Africa where, I gather, it had been sitting around gathering dust for 5 years. It was highly estimated and lots also attracted an extra 5% VAT making a 29% addition to the hammer price for UK buyers. I'll quote realisations as inclusive of this, as usual.



The first item was the nice 1910 publicity card with 2½d specimen (block letters, diagonally, in violet) (*Fig.1*). It made £1160, just shy of the £1250 a very similar, or the same, one made at the Murray Payne sale in June 1913.

The King's head die proof cards were estimated £1500-1800 for the head only proofs and £1000-1200 for the complete value cards and all opened at the lower estimate figure. None sold live but all appear to have been picked up after the sale appearing in the sold list. The "heads only" for £1,300 (£1677 with extras) and the "whole values" for £850 (just under £1100). The imperforate colour trials, which appeared to be cut from an appendix sheet, were also estimated £1500-1800 and met the same fate as the "heads only" proofs above. Interestingly it was Spink again who sold one only in March this year for £992 (2½d blue & red) so it's difficult to understand how the marked difference in estimated value was justified. A similar one at Grosvenor in March 2012 made £662.



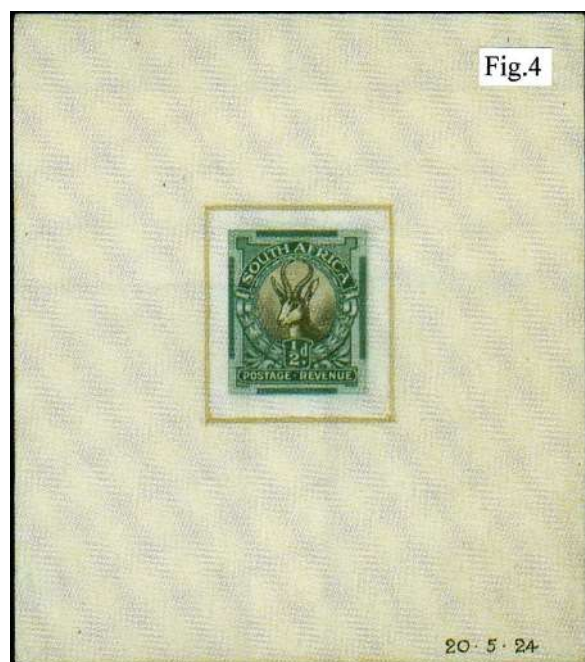
The issued stamps mostly all sold at the opening price of the lower estimated value. This included a nice control block of 4 of the 5/- with co-extensive jubilee lines (*Fig.2*) which made £992. A control pair of the 5/- with broken jubilee lines bucked the trend and attracted competitive bidding making £620. The hand-book catalogues the co-extensive lines at "4500" for a pair and the broken lines at "600" so whereas the first looks rather a good buy the latter looks distinctly poor.

So, on to the nice Harrison essay sheetlets (*Fig.3*). The 1d, 3d & 4d were on offer each in dull violet & yellow brown and in blue & sage green and estimated £800-1000 each. The 1d's sold for £1419 (violet & brown) and £2580 (blue & green), the 3d's were unsold and the 4d's made £1935 (violet & brown) and £1100 (blue & green). All are theoretically of equal scarcity and value so it just shows how much money is involved when two people want the same thing! The dreadful desire most of us have to complete a collection can be a very expensive one! The 4d sheetlet in violet & brown made £798 at Harmers in 2005.



Next to the 1926 pictorials where a lovely ½d De La Rue essay (*Fig.4*) made £4900. A similar undated 1d made the same. The Waterlow die proofs, which look similar, £3100 and £3870. Perhaps more surprising were the realisations for the 1927 imperforate 1d's. A block of 4 with two stamps imperf on 4 sides made £387 and the same, but marginal, with two stamps imperf on 3 sides, £490. A set of 9 (2x 4d and 5/-) of the nice pictorial colour trials perforated "SPECIMEN" made £14,200 (i.e. over £1500 each).

In my last report (Feb.'17) the same 2/6 made £1000 and a different 10/- £750. A set of 6 at the Alec Page sale in April 1998 made £2530 (about £420 each). So, the price keeps going up! It makes the £11,000 paid for the unique archival set of 14 without the "SPECIMEN" perforations at Murray Payne in June 2013 look an absolute snip!



The unhyphenated roto were broken down by value into specialised collections including controls, arrow blocks and varieties. Most sold and each was probably excellent value. Take, for example, the 3d blue which had 129 stamps including arrow blocks, "shuttered window" varieties etc. It also included a corner block of 10 with joined paper. Rare on this issue and probably worth about £750. The realisation for the whole lot was £645! One item sold separately from the 3d blue collection was a nice serial number block of 6 with the vignettes largely missing in the bottom pair (*Fig.5*). This made £2709. It is very similar to the block sold by Spink in Jan.'17 for £1300 and which featured in my last auction report except that the latter didn't have the margin and serial numbers.

Two rare items that failed to sell in the live auction but again appeared in the "sold" list were the 1932 booklet 2d tête-bêche pair in a marginal strip of 3 and the 1938 1/- issue 4 with totally missing frames. Both were markedly weak through the key perforation join. They were estimated at £1-1200 and £10-12,000 and reported sold for £1290 and £10,320 respectively. Should they actually separate at least the 2 single 1/-'s would be quite valuable but sadly for the 2d it would become virtually worthless!

A nice block of 4 of the same 1/- (*Fig.6*) with the top half of the frames missing made £6,192. A block of 4 with considerably more of the frames missing (*Fig.7*) had made £5,250 at the Murray Payne sale in June 2013.



There was an excellent range of booklet material on offer. Blocks of 4 of the 1927 ½d and 1d each comprising two tête-bêche pairs with the lower pair unmounted made £3612. The 1931 "Firestone" booklet with "panes trimmed in places" and gum disturbance on one ½d pane made £1290 and the green "Drifoot" made £2193 in a post-auction sale. Seemingly good value.

Finally

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA. H.N./C.L.
 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, ASSIZE DIVISION. UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA
 DEPARTMENT VAN HANDELS EN NYWERHEID, YK-afdeling.

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@ 2s.	@ 1s.	@ 9d.	@ 6d.	@ 2d.	@ 4d.	@ 4d.	@ 1s.	Over 10 Ft. 10 en oer.	10 Ft. and under, 10 en onder.

WEIGHTS ASSIZED.—GEWIGTE GEYK.		WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ADJUSTED.—MATE EN GEWIGTE REGGEMAAK.							
50 lb. and over. 50 lb. en daarbo.	Over 5 lb. and under 50 lb. Oer 5 lb. en onder 50 lb.	5 lb. and under. 5 lb. en onder.	Apothecaries and Grain Weights. Aptekers en Graaneweg.	Over 20 lb. Oer 20 lb.	20 lb. and under. 20 lb. en onder.	8 Gallons and over. 8 Gellings en daarbo.	Under 8 and over 2 Gallons. Onder 8 en oer 2 gelling.	2 Gallons to 1 Gallon inclusive. 2 Gellings tot en met 1 gelling.	Under 1 Gallon. Onder 1 gelling.
@ 9d.	@ 6d.	@ 3d.	@ 3d.	@ 1s.	@ 6d.	@ 1s. 6d.	@ 1s.	@ 9d.	@ 6d.

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G.P.-53739-1951-2-1,500-150. S. District Assizer.—Distriksyker.

Finally I'll mention a recent item on eBay I particularly liked which was offered by i.b.redguy. It was a 1953 "assize" document (Fig.8) franked right halves of 5/-, 2/-(pair), 3d and 1d (2). The lot also included the commissioning letter from Brown & Butler who wanted their 1000lb platform at the SA Wool Disposal Store checked for accuracy. The form is great giving the costs of checking various weights plus a 25% attendance charge. It was reserved at about £80 but made nearly double what I'd been thinking of bidding at £410. It showed the nature of the assize stamps so nicely. "Assize" being the Government Weights & Measures Department and nothing to do with courts. The left half of the stamps was retained on the Assize Department's copy of the document. These were mostly destroyed after a period of time which is why they are so scarce. But what a nice lot. I still hanker after it and think I would love it just as much if it had cost me £500, so congratulations to whoever bought it and ignore anyone who says you paid too much!

FRG/EV

25th March, 1953.

The District Assizer,
 The Department of Commerce & Ind.,
 Assize Division,
 Revenue Buildings,
 Corporation Street,
 CAPE TOWN.

Dear Sir,

We shall be pleased if you will arrange for the checking of our Platform Scale (1,000 lb.) which is at present used by us at the South African Wool Disposal Store, Verbena Street Paarden Eiland.

Yours faithfully,
 BROWN & BUTLER (PTY.) LTD.

for DIRECTOR.



The 1995 R2.00 MITB (Maritime Industry Training Board) Stamp

Collated by Simon Peetoom, with thanks to John Hawes and Andrew McClellan



I was recently shown one of these stamps and asked, did I know anything about it. However, before I had made any enquiries, the same collector emailed me a copy of letter which explained their genesis and use. The stamp exists with either a yellow or red-brown background of wavy lines, though I don't know which was issued first.

A World Bank book, "Financing Vocational Training in Sub-Saharan Africa" (by Adrian Ziderman, 2003) explains about Training Levies, "A minority of boards levied training taxes on some other basis... the Maritime Industry Training Board was about to introduce a levy linked to turnover in the form of a 'training levy stamp' for each bill of entry submitted to customs (Republic of South Africa 1995)."

Edward D. Little, the Executive Director of the South African Freight Forwarders wrote this reply in 2003 to a query - "The R2.00 MITB (Maritime Industry Training Board) stamp was a device used by the Clearing & Forwarding Industry to fund education and training. With the assistance of the Department of Customs & Excise it became compulsory to place the R2.00 MITB stamp on every Bill of Entry.

The stamp was sold by, or on behalf of the MITB and the money collected went into a fund which was used to refund, in whole or in part, the cost of particular courses that were of benefit to employees in the industry – upon successful completion of such course.

It was a good scheme as it was relatively simple and easy to run. Many companies made use of it as a means of upgrading the skills of their staff. With the introduction of the Skills Development Act and the Skills Development Levies Act, the use of this device came to an end.

Although a new funding system has been introduced which is even simpler than heretofore, the bureaucratic process put in place in order to encourage education and training has not secured the enthusiastic participation that Government had envisaged.

As the only documents bearing the R2.00 stamp are original Bills of Entry which are retained by Customs, I am unable to assist in this regard." (Presumably a request for further labels!)

The Skills Development Act of 1999 introduced a 0.5% training levy on employers from 1st April 2000 and this increased the following year. Therefore, according to Mr. Little's statement, the use of these revenue stamps possibly ended in April 2000.

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