



*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

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J.L. Shaw

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## Editorial

I have been told that some members misplace the indexes to the Springbok because they are on a single sheet of paper. In this issue I have put the index for 2018 onto the inside rear cover.

The indexes of all the issues that I have published since becoming editor, 6 years ago, are on our website. If any member does not have access to the internet then they can contact me via snail mail and I can send them back copies of the indexes if required.

Our Webmaster has been busy and has added a new webpage - The Springbok Archive. It is hoped that this will eventually include all issues older than 5 years. A sample copy of the Springbok, Number 340, is also included on the website for all those individuals who are considering joining our Society.

The next Springbok issue, April, will include an auction catalogue.

The deadline for submitting articles for inclusion into the April issue is the 1st week of April. At the moment my inbox is almost empty and I am looking for articles for this issue.

We are still looking for an example of a full sheet, or right sheet margin, of the Malan stamp that was published in the last Springbok. If you have a copy please forward an image to the editor.

## Membership

Welcome to new member Peter Eales from Twyford Hampshire

Welcome back to Collin Touzell from Southampton

Ian Wheale 875 has resigned due to failing health. He has been a member for 43 years.

**A reminder that Subscriptions are due, if you have not already paid please do so as soon as possible**

## Unhyphenated 2d Rotogravure Colour Trial 1931

An image of a 2d stamp from Tony Howgrave-Graham  
Read Mike Tonking's article on page 13 of this issue.

ex rows 12 & 13 / 5&6



## Society Annual Meeting

Sat-Sun 18/19th May 2019 The Strawberry Bank Hotel, Meriden, Coventry

To book your accommodation contact Simon Peetoom: Tel: 0795 157 1962 [simon@africastamps.co.uk](mailto:simon@africastamps.co.uk)

## SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETIES CONFERENCE 2-4 NOVEMBER 2018

### A Report by John Shaw FRPSL

This is the third occasion the Southern African societies conference has been held at the Strawberry Bank Meriden Hotel. Numbers attending were down but only slightly and, again, there was a steady stream of other drifters, who came mainly for the auction. As usual the displays started on the Saturday morning and continued until lunchtime on Sunday prior to the auction. The main topic during this conference was Cape and Natal, and what a wonderful showing we were treated to. The main contributors are shown below.

First on Saturday was **Brian Trotter** who gave a PowerPoint presentation on “Tales of the Mails”, based on his recent book on the postage rates and systems from 1800-1916. Like his previous major work, on the De la Rue Edwardians, the book is divided into sections relating to the individual territories; each section is self contained which means there is some duplication of information, but it does give the user everything in one section/chapter, rather than having to make multiple cross references, and I like this system. The book is most comprehensive and illustrated in colour by some real treasures, much from Brian’s own collection, then the PowerPoint talk was backed up by actual material in the frames, with Brian’s most treasured item being a cover more than 100 years old from Brian’s uncle. The book is available from the Royal.

**Ian Shapiro** followed with a wonderful showing of Houses of Parliament material; he related how, at school, he had been encouraged by Dr Tom Berry and, later, by Thyss Rall (MP for Mossel Bay and who sent him a “free” letter from Parliament), Len van der Kar and his own father.



Ian with President Vorster



The rare 576 BONC with proving cds

Ian described from 1854 the MPs free postage system (free to constituents but not from them), how parliament initially had no proper home, often meeting in a banqueting hall, and his “Eureka” moment on finding a 1865 Cape legislature free item signed by Curry. In 1885 Parliament got its own post office and Ian showed early postmarks, official envelopes and stationery and a lovely set of 10 coloured postcards depicting prominent early MPs. 1910 saw the founding of the Union with ceremonies attended by the Duke & Duchess of Connaught and, in 1918, the Union adopted a dual language policy. Most post offices had separate “Whites” and “Coloured” counters, but not so the PO in Parliament which had just one. Ian frequently went in to the parliament building and was so well recognised he did not need a pass! A treasure in his collection is a photograph of himself, as a teenage schoolboy, next to President Vorster who had asked to see Ian’s collection. In 1953 the crown was removed from the Post Office cachet and in 1961, when South Africa became a republic, all royal portraits were removed from the corridors and taken to the Post Office Museum. Overall this was a truly remarkable display with lots of personal touches.

Next followed a series of mini displays from members of the **Cape & Natal Society**. Firstly, **Bob Hill**, in his inimitable style, showed STOs (the small triangular obliterations) of the Cape with its three types, followed by **Robert Johnson** who reflected on day-to-day activities of the book post, where most contents were not books but photographs; some exotic items in this display were registered book post Cape to Argentina and registered Kimberley to UK with special regulations for gold and diamond shipments, concluding with fine unpaid, underpaid, acknowledgement of receipt items, often to small places and to the high standard we have come to know from Robert.

**Steve Hannath** then gave a most interesting talk on the forged and faked stamps and postmarks, mainly from the Cape and identified by the postmarks rather than the stamps. There are several stamp forgers, Oneglia and Panelli being the best, Fournier, Spiro and Samuel Allan Taylor the least competent, the latter two classified as “Orrible”. The forged postmarks included the BONC (a new term to me meaning Barred Oval Numeral Cancellor) and the HRC (Hand Roller Cancellor) and Steve explained how to recognise most of these also mentioning that the dotted star obliteration is a complete fantasy. Also, for the cape triangular forgeries, Steve helpfully suggested one should look at Hope’s face since most genuine articles show a beautiful woman and most forgeries depict her with a scowl.



Steve continued with cancellations on Griqualand West stamps, with 1886 squared cancels on revenue stamps and TDCs (another new term – Truncated Double Circle) and CWD (Compass wheel datestamp) and finally the VOC cancels on Cape stamps; Steve chronicled the progress of the cancellers, from arrival at the colony in 1788 to 1800 until the company’s assets were transferred to the Batavian republic.

**Mike Berry** showed an interesting selection of Natal POAs (Post Office Agencies), often small agencies being part of, say, a grocer’s shop; they were documented in 1891 but also known used in 1889 and 1890. Identification of locations is difficult since some – notably POA 3 had different locations for the same handstamp.. Mike showed examples from POAs 1 (Algeria), 4 (Salem) , then 9,10, 11, 14, 19, 26, 29 32, 33-36, 43, 51, 64, 73, 90, 93, 109, showing the locations of some, then some “oddballs” - a truly remarkable assembly.

**Rob Lester** concluded the Saturday displays with items from the 1892 International Exhibition at Kimberley which was opened by Sir Henry Lock



Bob Hill showing his Cape Cork cancellations with an attentive audience

On **Sunday**, first was **Bob Hill** who showed Cape cork cancellations with 13 identifiable types including two very rare (RR) items on cover, plus a new millennium 31-12-1899 item also franked with “not on board”. Especially interesting was a 1902 bubonic plague disinfected item, from Argentina and a 29 February strike, used only once every four years. One of Bob’s “Eureka moments” came with the irregular use of the Rondesbosch Telegraph Office and he concluded with his usual humour and banter, showing a Boer War Mafeking times newspaper “issued daily (shells permitting) and finally a 1948 Apartheid item with his inimitable “White Kit-Kat”

**Steve Hannath** and **Mike Berry** again trod the boards, Steve showing Simonstown postmarks from pre-stamp to WWII, with a lovely hooded typical pre-stamp strike to a very rare Elands post item. Mike showed Zululand with stamps, mint and used including a £5 key type value.

**Alan Harley** gave a second angle on Boer War material explaining the Johannesburg Post Office burned down, and which was right next to the armoury and supplemented this with some lovely early coloured postcards.

**Tony Howgrave-Graham** showed 1800-1914 Cape to London maritime marks explaining that by the 1850s the first general steamship contracts were being awarded and involved a 35 day passage with the General Screw Company, extending the service to Calcutta and back. The Lindsey Line was represented by a first sailing cover from Capetown to Australia, the last stage being sail not steam since the vessel ran out of coal. The 1857 6d packet rate resulted in liquidation of the Lindsey Line and the 1857-58 discovery of gold and of diamonds resulted in the Castle Line and Union Line competing for business. These two lines merged in 1900 but there were disasters including the notorious wreck of the “Mexican”. Lovely ships postmarks were shown including the large numbered variety, with Tony concluding with a rare postage due marking.

**Rob Lester** again entered the fray, this time the theme being the “V” sign which resulted in much publicity material and local fundraising; the publicity labels should have been affixed to the reverse of the envelopes but more often than not were put on the front, making for much nicer covers! Lord Beaverbrook was much involved in the publicity through the SA Gifts and Comforts Fund and the fundraising detailed the costs of items required for the war, including 6d for a rivet, 8/- for a sparking plug and £5,000 for a spitfire. Rob also showed a lovely “V” collage hand-made from the bantam war effort stamps..

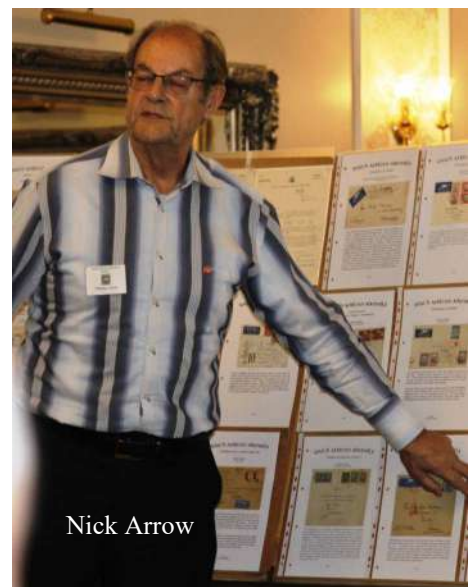
**Bob Hill** continues to be a glutton for punishment and displayed material relating to Sir Malcolm (brother of Donald) Campbell’s 1924 Bluebird aeroplane speed record attempt. The philatelic material records three date stamps, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> February, Bob showing one of the only two known for 9<sup>th</sup>. The 13<sup>th</sup> also being a bilingual stamp. Campbell broke the 5 miles and 5 kilometres records but these could not be ratified due to the specifications. On his return to the UK the plane crashed and Campbell was picked up by Major Alistair Miller, but a heavy gust of wind damaged his aircraft.

**John Shaw** showed the 1923 Springbok essays and stated the 1973 Lauder sale contained three blocks of the bi-coloured essays line perf 11¼ instead of the normal 13½ comb, and which were bought by the late Dr “Pat” Pattinson; when Pat ‘s collection was sold by Harmers, John bid for them, unsuccessfully and could not know the whereabouts until they appeared, unrecognised in the Harmers “Fred Clark” auction. These were the only recorded examples which John now owns, until two more blocks, but in different colours, appeared in 2018 in a Spink sale and which are also now in John’s collection and were shown with all other known varieties and three Netherlands essays of the same period also line perf 11¼. The Springbok essays were produced by Nederlandsch Rotogravure in Leiden, under contract to Harrisons and some of the Booyesen essays are also known with this perforation. Ian Shapiro helpfully pointed out that we should take care to annotate those items in our collection as being unique, “one of three recorded” etc.

**Richard Stroud** showed Rhodesia Federation postmarks highlighting name changes such as Mkushi to Nyasaland and followed this with booklets and the 1963 Nyasaland revenue stamps overprinted for postage. In 1964 Nyasaland had its own definitives and two interesting items shown were a cover from the “Peace Corps” and a beautiful block of the 9d definitives used the day before official issue.

**Nick Arrow** deviated from his normal special airmail flight covers by showing commercial airmails with unusual destination including Germany to South west Africa, but too late to catch the feeder service, underpaid airmail to China, Johannesburg to Shanghai via Moscow and then a “mother knows best” discourse that sometimes train is quicker than airmail, citing a “non crash” flight where all the mail was lost, but no – it had been taken off at Accra. Nick concluded with some Robertson covers to exotic destinations including Yokohama and a Challenger flying boat crash cover.

**Derek Lambert** showed just one item, a wonderful notarial marriage intention document, such things being the spice to our collections.



Nick Arrow

**Chris Board**, as part of his ongoing research, gave a PowerPoint display on the first Union 2½d commemorative, quoting the design competitions and the conflict between the judges and the postmaster general ;he also quoted the competition rules. The judges were quite draconian in rejecting the Mackay essays, which were awarded three prizes but did not proceed to the next stage since they did not quiet meet the criteria, six designs proceeding to the next stage. An Edith Cox design was also rejected. The judges were Messrs Cowper and Sturman (later to become PMG) and all entries were given a Blue number, which is helpful to know since many, including the Immelman essays can be identified from the colour illustrations in the Peter Vogenbeck auction catalogues.

**Bas Payne** showed November 1913-14 items all perforated with a large “CANCELLED” device; it is believed this was done not to prevent fraud but, maybe, for some record purpose, possibly the stamps having been used on telegraph forms. It appears the same perforator was used at different offices and Bas is keen that anyone else with examples should make contact. This is another worthwhile research project, backed up by a nice handout, so please keep going Bas!

This was an excellent display meeting which was followed on the Sunday afternoon with the auction.

Simon Peetoom deserves our support for organising the event and Nick Arrow and his team for arranging and conducting the auction.



Saturday evening Dinner



Ian Shapiro receiving the Tony Chiltern Memorial Trophy for best display from Simon Peetoom



Robert Johnson with his 'Book Post' Power Point display

# 1952 International Tercentenary Exhibition - Cape Town

Collated by Otto Peetoom

## Preamble

Circa 1950 the Cape Town Philatelic Society decided to stage an international exhibition that celebrates the Tercentenary of the landing of Jan van Riebeeck and also commemorates the decision to issue Cape Triangle stamps. It is the Union's third International after Durban 1928 and JIPEX in 1936.

News of this important International Exhibition appeared in *The South African Philatelist* (SAP) starting in May 1951. ...*The Exhibition will be held in the Old Drill Hall and open daily from 26 March to 5 April...*

## Cape Town International - 1952 (SAP June 1952)

The first number of 'Philately in South Africa' appeared just too late for us to make notice of it last month. There will be at least a couple more issues dealing with the exhibition before that actually takes place on 26 March - April, 1952.

This number gives the Classification of Entries which may be sent in and provisional Entry Forms. We have heard a good deal of criticism about the classification; such things, of course, never please everybody but we are informed by the Hon. Organiser that it may be modified or added to depending on the entries which are received.

The brochure includes several articles: Early S.A. Posts and Stamps, by A. A. Jurgens (to be continued); A Report from S. Rhodesia, by R. Coleman; Union Stamps in 1950, by R. Axer and The Stamp Market in S. Africa, by E. Blum.

It is a good job's worth; every copy sold helps the exhibition funds and lots of these are needed for an International cannot be run on nothing.

Make your entries soon and book your accommodation early in Cape Town for the crowd there for the Van Riebeeck celebrations will be enormous. The Hon. Organiser, P.O. Box 558, will help you, if need be, in securing accommodation.

## Stop Press Cape Town International (SAP September 1951)

Arthur V. Jacob has been putting in some fine work for the Exhibition while overseas. A note received from him on the point of sailing (he is due back in Capetown on 12th September) re-ports:-

1) H.M. The King will show some parts of his collection. These will be brought by Sir John Wilson. Keeper of the King's stamps, who will be Chairman of the Jury. Another member of the Jury will be Mr. H.R. Holmes, Curator of the Tapling collection and well known as an expert on many African countries.

2) Mr Frank Godden, Mr Andre Coch and Mr J.L. van Dielen have agreed to act as Commissioners for the Exhibition in Britain, Belgium and the Netherlands respectively.

3) Mr H.R. Harmer and Mr Guthrie are expected to come out, also quite probably a number of other exhibitors and dealers.

## 1952 Exhibition and Congress

(SAP October 1951) ...As most of our readers are probably aware by this time, but memories need jogging sometimes. The Cape Town International Exhibition opens on Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 1952 and remains open till Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Philatelic Congress of Southern Africa will be held on 27-28 March, continuing if necessary, on Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup>, but it is hoped and expected, that this will not be necessary.

In addition to the Commissioners mentioned in our last issue, we are now informed that Messrs Giulio Bolaffi of Turin and Edgar Morhmann of Hamburg are acting respectively for Italy and Germany.

The Netherlands, French and Belgian Governments have signified their intention of sending out official exhibits.

There will probably also be one from the British postal authorities, additional of course to the selection from the Royal Collection being brought by Sir John Wilson.

The Exhibition Committee has been appointed sole concessionaire for the issue of the Official Tercentenary Cover, which will bear the official emblem, etc. Quite possibly there will be two different covers, which will be on sale at the Foreshore (where the general exhibition is to be) as well as at the Philatelic Exhibition itself.

Entries of proposed exhibits up-to-date are very satisfactory, including quite a number of overseas, but the Committee are most anxious that anyone proposing to exhibit should send in their Provisional Entry Forms very soon now. They must know at an early date how to apportion their frames.

Accommodation in Cape Town during the period of the celebrations and the Exhibition is going to be a difficult problem. If intending visitors have not already fixed up and if they wish assistance in the matter they should write at once to the Hon. Organiser...

## International Stamp Exhibition

(SAP November 1951) The Royal Philatelic Society has donated a specimen of their special Gold Medal given to International Exhibitions.

It is being left to the jury to decide to whom and for what particular reason or reasons it shall be awarded.

## International Stamp Exhibition continued

The Exhibition Committee has been granted by the van Riebeeck Festival Executive the sole rights of publication and distribution of the Special Commemorative Covers for the Festival; there will be two of these, one in English and one in Afrikaans. They will also have sole rights for the special Stamp Exhibition cover.

Following is a list, dated 8th October, 1951, of donations so far received towards the cost of the Exhibition. It takes a lot of money to run an international exhibition and the Committee is anxious to receive further donations, awards or guarantees.

All contributors' names will be published in the Bulletins and in the Exhibition Catalogue. A list of 24 individuals and/or companies is noted totalling a promised total of £1683.

## SA International Stamp Exhibition (SAP February 1952)

**The Royal Exhibit** - As is now well known one of the major attractions at the International Stamp Exhibition at Capetown (26 March to 5 April 1952) will be a display of portions of the collection of His Majesty, the King.

It is now possible to give some indication of the nature and extent of the exhibit which will be brought to South Africa by Sir John Wilson.

Capes will probably consist of 18 sheets of Perkins Bacon triangulars, 7 pages of 'wood blocks' and 10 pages of De La Rue prints plus 5 sheets of rare items of the surface printed stamps.

Natal will be represented by no less than fourteen pages of the rare embossed stamps including the reprints, and 26 sheets of other scarce and interesting items.

**Note** - There were no competitive Natal exhibits.

Sir John will also bring with him some material of the Union of South Africa including die and plate proofs. This exhibit will include essays, and nine sheets of colour trials of the 1913 permanent issue, and also some most interesting historical covers. This exhibit is certain to be the centre of attraction of all visitors to the exhibition.

## Capetown Exhibition Awards

The premier award at the Capetown Stamp Exhibition is the Championship for 'Capes' and this will consist of a magnificent oil painting from the brush of Gabriel de Jongh valued at over one hundred guineas and presented by Mrs Ernest Hunt.

The award for Unions will in all probability be a book case in stinkwood specially designed to hold stamp albums.

# 1952 International Tercentenary Exhibition - Cape Town

## Capetown Exhibition Awards continued -

In considering the form which the awards should take in other classes the Exhibition Com-mitte have been influenced by a desire to break away from the traditional plaque or medal. The 'gold' award will however consist of a set of Jan van Riebeeck Tercentenary Medal sets in a specially inscribed leatherette case. The lesser awards will consist of stink-wood articles of suitable design find appropriately inscribed silver plates.

## SATISE and SADIPU Overprints

Special arrangements are being made to cope with the large number of collectors who will wish to acquire 1d and 2d Van Riebeeck stamps overprinted SATISE and SADIPU. The Post Office have announced that these stamps will be on sale at the Exhibition only and that any remainders after the close of the Exhibition will be available from the Philatelic Section of the Post Office, Pretoria, but as the quantity to be overprinted is limited it is not thought that many will remain unsold from the Exhibition.

A line to the Cover Committee, Box 558, Cape-town will bring a circular giving full details of the arrangements for the sale of stamps and covers. A stamped addressed envelope should accompany all inquiries.

## Special Stamps and Envelopes

Official Festival Envelopes and Stamps - As already announced the Exhibition authorities are the agents for these. They are sold at 2/6 each complete with the full set of 5 commemorative stamps and the 'Cover Committee' is pre-pared to do full servicing for you, They state...*By courtesy of the Postal Authorities we will commence stamping envelopes well in advance of issue date to ensure prompt delivery of 'OFFICIAL' Covers which are ensured of careful servicing, light postmarking and timeous registered despatch - provided your order is received EARLY!*

(Note the GPO Bulletin says in respect of 'Unofficial' Covers 'delay in treatment will be unavoidable. The Public is requested to delay enquiries relating to their orders until June 1952'!)

'Take advantage of our service - enclosures may be sent for inclusion in Covers and in addition to addressing envelopes we are prepared to put your name on the back of Covers addressed to friends.'

Write legibly on your Order Form. You must also state with regard to each cover ordered whether it falls into category A, B, C or D

'A' English cover to be posted First Day, 14-3-52

'B' English cover to receive special commemorative postmark 6-4-52

'C' Afrikaans cover to be posted on First Day, 14-3-52

'D' Afrikaans cover to receive special commemorative postmark 6-4-52



Afrikaans version of the Commemorative cover with an Imperforate pair of bilingual labels

## Special Stamps and Envelopes continued

### International Exhibition Special Stamps and Covers

Here is the Cover Committee's announcement about these: - *Owing to the quantity of 1d and 2d Van Riebeeck Stamps overprinted respectively SATISE and SADIPU being limited, and as these will only be obtainable at the Satise Post Office in the International Exhibition Hall, it becomes necessary for us to adopt a definite procedure in dealing with orders for these Covers and Stamps.*

It has been decided that requisitions will be executed in the following order of precedence and receipt:-

1) 'E' Special Pictorial Exhibition Covers stamped with both overprinted Stamps and postmarked First Day 26.3.52 of Exhibition Postmark, 9d each

'F' Special Pictorial Exhibition Covers stamped with both overprinted Stamps and postmarked with Pictorial Tercentenary Postmark of 6<sup>th</sup> April, 1952, 9d each

2) 'G' Collectors Units, 8 Covers (specify 'E' and/or 'F') 6/- Blocks of 24 sets of overprinted Stamps, 6/-, Postage (overprinted Stamps) and packing 6d (Registration 4d extra)

3) Orders for Stamps only. These will only be executed at the close of the Exhibition from any stocks remaining.

No charge will be made for placing Stamps on 'Exhibition Covers' but a charge of 2d per Cover will be made for placing Stamps on and servicing and posting Non-Official Covers sent in by the Public.

### Van Riebeeck Celebration Cancellers

...A special Post Office, to be known as 'VAN RIEBEECK' and situated in the Exhibition Hall of the Van Riebeeck Festival Fair, Cape Town, will be open to the public on weekdays ...Friday 14 March to Saturday 5 April 1952... (SAP February 1952)

## Datestamp and Pictorial cancel



## Numbers Overprinted SATISE - SADIPU (SAP June 1952)

1d  
13,500 sheets  
x 120 stamps

2d  
13,657 sheets  
x 120 stamps



## The International (SAP March 1952)

The hype and anticipation is reflected in this report... *Arrangements for the above are well in hand and indications are that there will be a most successful function in Cape Town March/April. The Exhibition will be opened at 10.30 a.m. on the 26th by His Excellency the Governor General, who will also unveil the exhibit from the collection of His late Majesty King George VI.*

# 1952 International Tercentenary Exhibition - Cape Town

## The International continued

The entries which have been received from overseas include some world famous collections, and visitors to the Exhibition will have an opportunity to viewing stamps which have never before been seen in South Africa...

...The Exhibition Committee has been disappointed as regards overseas philatelists to serve on the Jury, but a large number of prominent South African philatelists have been enrolled and under the direction of Sir John Wilson, who is Chairman of the Jury, it is felt that this aspect of the work of the Exhibition is in very good hands...

A Post Office Bulletin confirms that the overprinted stamps will only be for sale at the Exhibition; however collectors and dealers unable to attend may forward orders to GPO Pretoria. Dealers may only purchase mint stamps in full sheets.

## SA Tercentenary Exhibition Awards

The above is noted in the April 1952 SAP and a more elaborate write-up followed in the May issue.

(SAP April)...The Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, Mr J.F.T. Naude, was guest of honour at a banquet in Muizenberg on Saturday, 29th March, at which the awards in the South African Tercentenary International Stamp Exhibition were announced. The judging was on each exhibitor's entire collection, and not on the small number on show.

**The Grand Trophy** and Championship for the triangular issues of the Cape of Good Hope (1853-63) was awarded to Capt. C. Emerson Huston of the United Kingdom.

**Other awards included:** Championship for the Union of South Africa (specialized) S. Legator, Royal Philatelic Society's medal (for first issue of Holland), D. J. Klink. Special prize for the world collection is E. Hunt.

**Gold awards of honour were:** T.E. Hall (Capes), A.V. Jacobs (Rhodesia); H. V. Farmer (Seychelles); D. J. Klink (first issue of Holland); H.C. Baldus (Prussia); L.E. Dawson (India); Col. A.E. Stewart (India); H. W. Hurlock (Barbados and Trinidad); J.H. Sinton (St. Vincent).

**Gold medals** were awarded to: E. Hunt (Transvaal); J.H. Sinton (Rhodesia); W. Newlands (Free State); R. Leslie (Sierra Leone); G.L. Pilkington (Niger Coast) C.G. Mummery (Falkland Islands and dependencies); C. Hornal (Aden); P.A. Wilde (Hong Kong); J. Shepherd (Capes).

In the junior section a special silver award was made to Miss Delphine Newlands (Holland and Belgium).

In addition, 18 silver gilt awards, 25 silver awards and 25 bronze awards were made.

## SAP May 1952 - Capetown International

Comments made...An overseas visitor said he had never seen any International Exhibition of comparable size at which so many high awards had been given...

...Sir John Wilson was unable to make the trip and was replaced by Frank Godden who brought part of the Royal collection to the Exhibition...

There is a photograph of Mrs Hunt presenting the 'Grand Prix' prize to Capt Huston, with Arthur Jacobs looking on, being a large painting by Gabriel de Jongh. There were five entries in the 'Cape class' and it was the first time Huston had exhibited.

The Union Government, amongst other things, displayed the colour trials for the Van Riebeeck issue.

...Competitive exhibits numbered about 130 and of these about one-quarter came from outside the Union...

**Thematics** - Some ten awards were given to Thematics and it ought to be appreciated that in the early 1950's this type of pursuit was still in its infancy.

In his Banquet Speech, the Chairman of the Jury, Mr W. Irving commended Thematics and said...*This is another branch of philately which is making great strides. It opens a wide field to the imagination and should be encouraged...this type of collecting has great educative value and there is no limit to its possibilities...*

## 'SATISE' in Retrospect (SAP July 1952)

An overall review of the Exhibition submitted by the Postmaster-General's Department in Australia, dated 16 June 1952 - This is a glowing report of the Exhibition.

When the doors were closed on Cape Town's International Stamp Exhibition on the 5<sup>th</sup> April, a chapter in the history of philately of South Africa was started for without a doubt, more people saw more good collections in the ten days of the exhibition than most had seen in their collecting days.

The visitor was greeted at the outset - even before paying his fee by an array of pre-stamp covers and letters that must surely have been unique, to his left while on the right there met his eye a wonderful collection of covers bearing three-cornered Capes in singles, in pairs, in combinations of values, in combination with halved and quartered stamps and in combination with stamps other than those of the Cape.

Passing on to the main hall an aisle led to the dais on which the Royal Collection was displayed; at most hours of the day too congested for proper inspection. But by biding his time, the stamp collector could eventually enjoy and appreciate the pages of Capes, Natal embossed and Union items presented in the left and centre frames while in the right-hand frames the artists' drawings, proofs and essays of modern Colonial issues drove dull care away.



Silver Exhibition Medal

Gold Medal (15 Carat)

Bronze Medal (All with same inscription on reverse)

The above set of Exhibition medals, housed in a leatherette case, is a gold award for J.H. Sinton's Rhodesia

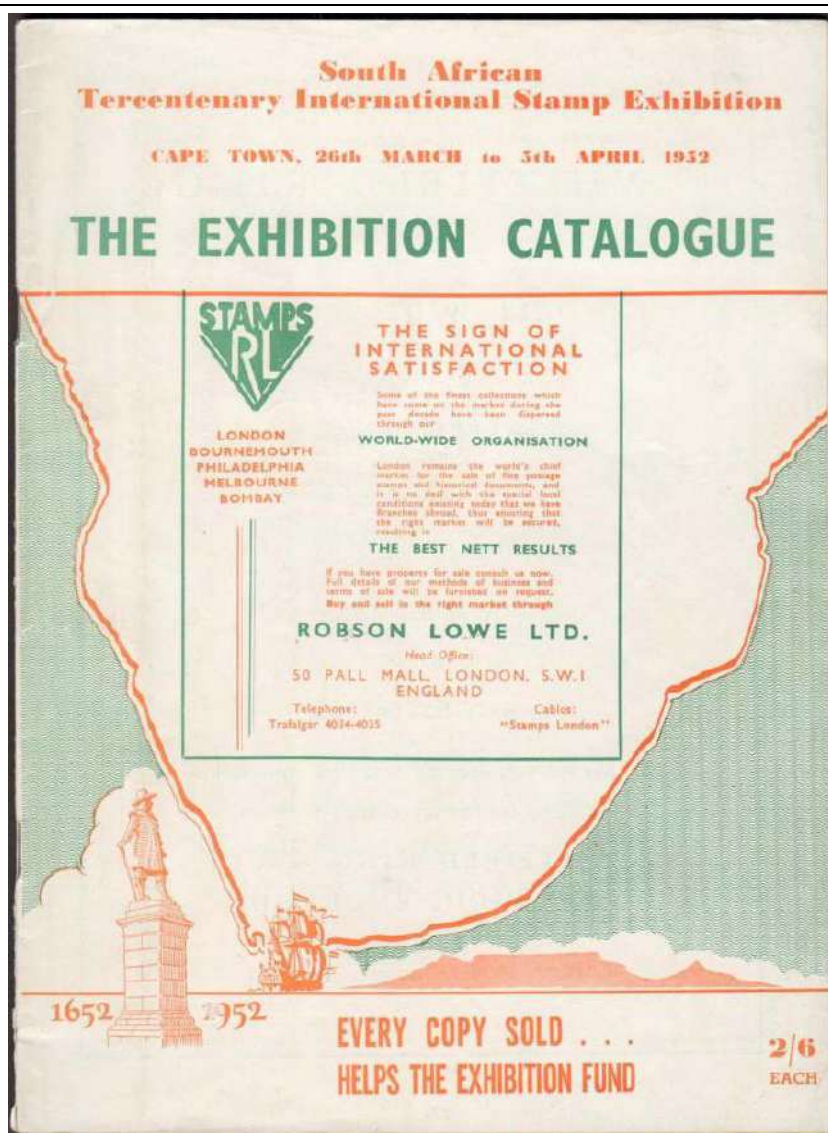
## 1952 International Tercentenary Exhibition - Cape Town

### 'SATISE' in Retrospect continued

The Cape Championship exhibits nearby attracted great attention so that to avoid the sense of urgency which a crowd inspires...one had once more to await an opportunity to near one's goal. Once this was achieved, patience was rewarded... It is one thing to know of the existence of rarities but it is a vastly different thing to have seen them...a storehouse of good things presented in a manner that brought out the importance of every item shown...

To vary the fare, the exhibit of the Union Postal Department was visible. This had evident popular appeal, especially those sections in which the colour trials, in complete sheets, of the Van Riebeeck stamps were housed. Many remarked that they preferred some of the unissued colours to those that were finally selected: no doubt technical reasons of which the man in the street is unaware were the cause of rejection and it would therefore have been kind of the Postal Authorities to include an explanation. Perhaps on another occasion and if such a hint were thrown out, the information could be provided.

The competitive exhibits of Rhodesian stamps provided another focal point for all collectors. The artists' drawings, proofs, essays, and 'Specimens' to say nothing of the issued stamps were items to impart knowledge to the knowing and an education for the tyro. The Orange Free State frames with their contents of countless overprinted stamps attracted more than passing interest while the Transvaal sheets, surely a source of great pride to their owner, were revelations to the beholder...



National and International stamp exhibitions are the colleges and universities of the philatelic world and it is the feeling of disappointment or the sense of gain with which the visiting collectors depart that really determines the failure or success of an exhibition. Capetown, it is felt, can justly be proud of the South African Tercentenary International Exhibition it has offered philatelists.

### The Exhibition Catalogue

Forty pages with a loose leaf flyer listing those who donated funds to the Exhibition with a total of £1667.

It includes the names of 10 Philatelic societies, 13 dealers and 58 individuals. There were also many donations of stamps which had as yet not been sold.

### Non-competitive Exhibits

The Royal Exhibit, Union Postal Department, Government exhibits by Great Britain, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, West Germany and Argentina.

### Court of Honour

Alec Kaplan's Southern Rhodesia with a comment...*Up to the present state of knowledge this collection is absolutely complete...* Greece (RPSL) Forgeries - H.R. Harmer. Other 'not for competition' by Barclays Bank, Australian Specialist Society of GB and Antarctic Posts by Harvey Pirie.

### Competitive Exhibits

Cape (5); OFS (3) and Transvaal (1).

One each for Mafeking, New Republic, Zululand, Basutoland and Swaziland.

Union of South Africa (12) includes Airmails (3), Postal Stationery, TPO and Maritime postmarks.

German SW Africa (1) and SWA (2)

A strong representation for Rhodesia by Jacob, Sinton and Strutt. Airmails by Godfrey and Southern Rhodesia by Fox and Jacob.

**Rhodesia** - J.H. Sinton, a Newcastle upon Tyne solicitor...includes 'Company omitted' (SG 62a) and the £1 Double head 'error of colour' with 'gash in ear'.

**Rhodesia** - Arthur Jacob, SATISE Chairman. Includes Essays, Proofs and Colour Trials plus a host of major varieties. Also some inverted letters on the 1896 Matabele Provisionals SG 51a and 53a.

**Southern Rhodesia** - Arthur Jacob, his collection eclipsed the others Admiral 6d imperf between (SG 7a) also a block of it which is in fact a fake. Block of SG 30b, illustrated in the catalogue with a claim that it is the only one (not true). Jacob also had the largest block of six of SG 30a, plus a pair on cover (pair illustrated in the catalogue)

# 1952 International Tercentenary Exhibition - Cape Town

## Competitive Exhibits continued

**Southern Rhodesia** - B.L.R. Fox, includes a pair of the 3d Large Falls Imperforate between (SG 30b) One of six possible.



SG 30b one of two known blocks

**BCA Postal History** by W.G. Nodder (UK) plus Nyasaland (1) British Africa (8) and 'other Africa' (3). GB (3), Channel Islands (3) and Europe (15).

Other British Commonwealth (22) including a Large Gold for St Vincent by J.H. Sinton plus six KGVI collections and Foreign countries (21).

E. Hunt entered his well known 'World' collection and six exhibits fall under 'Postal History'. Finally there were 19 Thematic exhibits plus six in the 'Junior section' entered by ages between 9 and 17.

## The Exhibition Labels

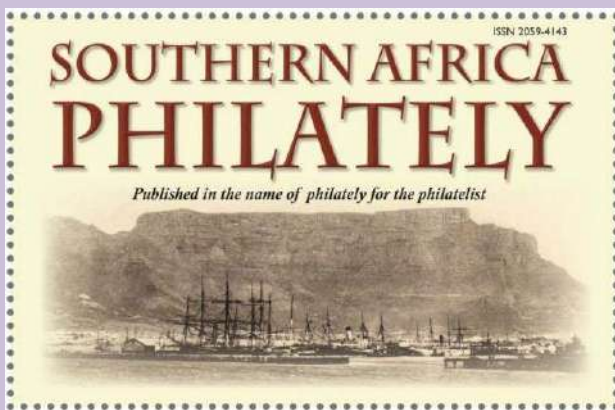
Bilingual pairs in blue, orange and black. Printed in sheetlets of 12 and the inscription 'Prepare for Cape Town 1952' intimates they were prepared to help promote the Exhibition.

They are known Imperforate and perforated. There is no mention of these

labels in issues of the SAP and to date no one knows who was responsible for their production and distribution. In my experience these labels are not often encountered on or off cover.



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East Africa, KUT [www.kut-stamps.com](http://www.kut-stamps.com)

## Website News (January 2019) - Five Years 'Online'

### Looking Back

It may surprise members to appreciate that the Society Website has been 'going' for five years.

The site went 'live' on 2 January 2014 and has enjoyed some 25,000 'hits' to date. Since its inception many changes have been made to the pages. My web-design skills, with experience, have improved and on several occasions I have revamped the pages and layout. It is more than just a South Africa site as it includes countries which are outside the 'Union' borders.

### The Content

Sadly the site enjoys very little 'member' participation and virtually everything is by way of my own initiative. Having said that I do enjoy the results of my efforts. Several projects took weeks of time and patience to complete.

The RSA Commemoratives and Homelands images took hundreds of hours to scan, crop and resize. Today the site has over 170 Folders containing over 7000 Files.

### The Springbok Archive

This page has been added to our site with the aim to revitalise older editions of the Society journal. Currently Issues No's 285 to 324 are available. Another step in the right direction starts with Issue No 1 (January 1953) onwards.

The foregoing has been made possible with the full co-operation of our editor Roy Ross and a considerable amount of input from Eddie Bridges who was the Editor from issue No 285. Hopefully our members will find this new facility useful and the concept will be expanded as time goes by.

# Revisiting the 2d. Unhyphenated Rotogravure Colour Trial 1931

By Mike Tonking RDPSA

Prior to the issue of the first printing of the 2d. Unhyphenated rotogravure postage stamps a colour trial had been printed. A number of examples of which are known. The colour of the vignettes was a shade of sepia rather than the greenish grey and the frames were dull mauve. It was immediately evident that the design showed the vignettes to be slightly too small for the frames leaving a gap of approximately 0.5mm between the vignettes and frames on either side. When this gap in the horizontal plane was noted it must be assumed that the printing run was stopped. Apart from the measurement problem the colour of the vignette did not match the colour of the recess issues it was to replace.

It did not take long before it was realised that the frame had been printed from the same exterior cylinder and in the same colour as that for Issue 1 of the 2d. Unhyphenated rotogravure stamps. The discrete frame flaws serve to identify that the same exterior cylinder was used for the colour trial. The vignette cylinder is unknown and was of course discarded.

The number of stamps of this colour trial or unissued production is not known. If a complete run was made it must have been several thousand. Since this was the first large format rotogravure stamp to be printed it is not surprising that the Government Printer had problems.

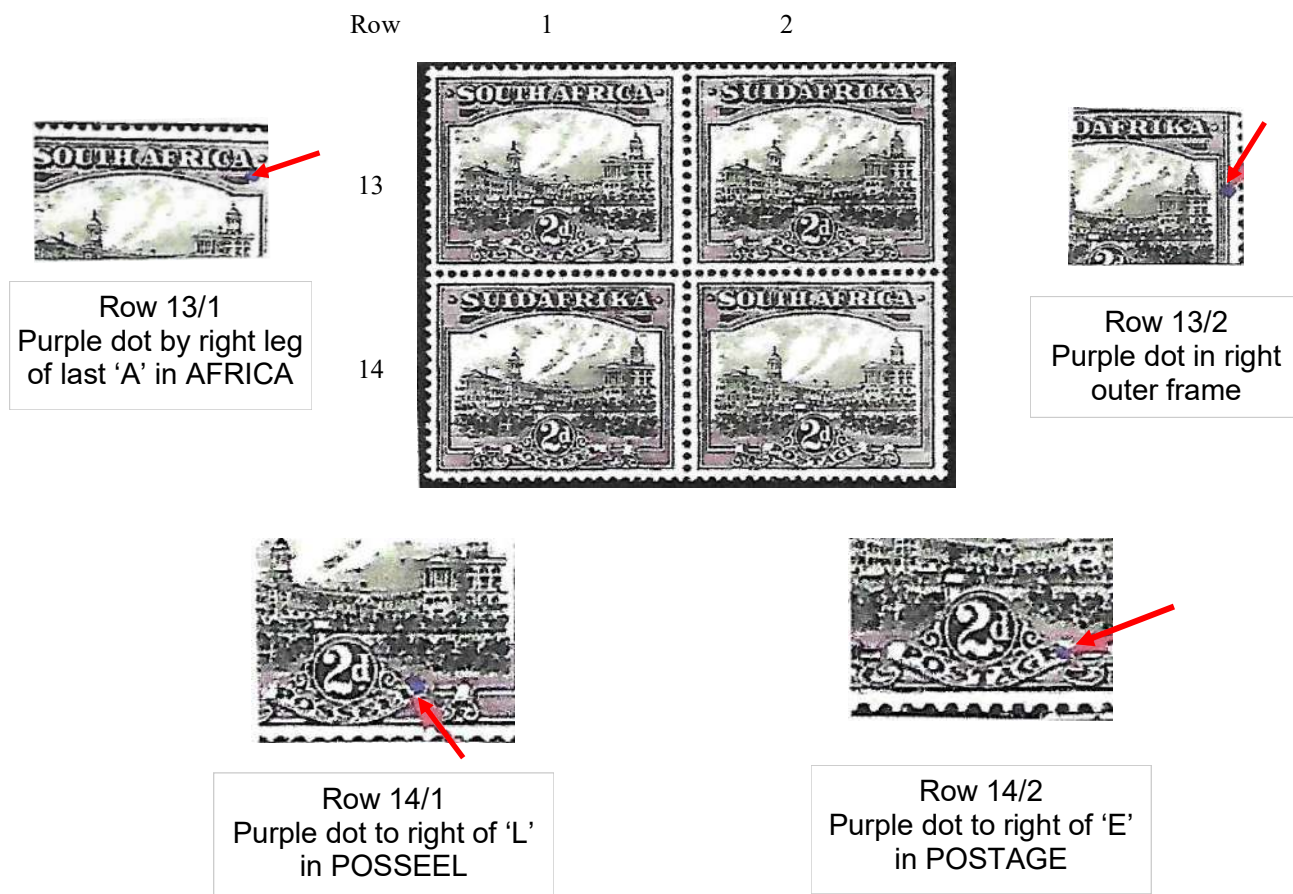
Some of the colour trial stamps were illegally smuggled out of the Printing works and are considered to be scarce.

## References:

*The Various Printings of the 2d. Union Building Stamps. R.D. Allen - 1987*

*The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910 1961. S.J. Hagger RDPSA - 1986*

Colour Trial 1931 - Frame flaws  
Proof of exterior cylinder (1x)



# Onward Air Transmission (OAT) markings on South African mail

By Wilbert Davids FRPSL, the Netherlands

## 1 - Introduction

Very typical for post-WW2 airmail, are the very characteristic 'OAT' markings, usually a (large) oval or box hand stamp in red with the letters 'O.A.T.' in it. These markings in general, have been described extensively by Murray Heifetz in 2004 (ref 1), covering all known types and usages worldwide.

The goal of this this article is to describe what OAT-markings actually tell us when placed on airmail covers originating from South Africa & SWA. Different than Heifetz, my approach is to put the OAT-markings in a postal historical context and relate them to postage rates & routes.

In order to do this, I have been collecting (online) data and images of South African covers with OAT-markings. I did this over a period of 13 years, from 2005 until current, resulting in an accurate database with information on 171 South African covers with OAT markings. Some of these covers – of course – I bought, but others proved only to be suitable as a source of information, lacking any quality to exhibit or even collect.

A nice side effect of this study, that it also revealed some new (and never published) post war postage rates & updates to both Europe & USA. This improves understanding post-war South African airmail.

## 2 - General information on OAT markings

OAT-markings were placed on covers in order to indicate that it should be forwarded by airmail. They were used from the early 1940'ties well into the 1960'ties, however, their predominant use was from approximately from 1944 to 1946.

Heifetz did a very good job on OAT (& AV2) markings, since it was - and still is - the only dedicated study on the subject and therefore the first source for information on this subject to go to. Heifetz classified OAT-markings by type rather than their use and therefore there are some aspects which need some more study, some of them dealt with in this article.

### 2.1 Classification

As mentioned, Heifetz choose to classify all known OAT markings primarily by size. For South African mail, 13 types are relevant, all having either an oval, large-box or small-box shape. If one would look at OAT-markings closely – especially the ovals – it can easily be seen that there is a large variance in size and appearance (quality of strikes) on covers. Using the differences in size of OAT-markings however, proved not to be very useful in understanding the postal history of them. Other students also have struggled with this fact (ref 2, 3). Initially, I tried to reclassify them, but this also was not very useful.

For postal historical reasons, I currently only differentiate between the main three types: the oval, large box & small box markings, since the understanding of OAT-markings is *not* dependent on their classification.

Below, the dimensions of the OAT-markings relevant to South African mail are repeated from Heifetz:

Heifetz (sub)	Main type	Outer dimensions of oval/box (Heifetz)		Dimensions of 'O.A.T.' letters	
		Width (mm)	Height (mm)	Width (mm)	Height (mm)
i	Oval	50	32	41,5	11
ii	Oval	53,5	34,5	42	11,5
iii	Oval	55	35	42,5	12
iiia	Oval	62	38,5	46,5	13
iv	Oval	62,5	41	49	13,5
v	Oval	68	44	53,5	15
vi	Box (large)	56	37	49	15
vii	Box (small)	32	17	27	7
viii	Box (small)	33	18	28	9
ix	Box (small)	37	20	31	8
x	Box (small)	36	21	31	9
xi	Box (small)	21	17	26	10
xii	Box (small)	38	22	31	12

## 2.2 Relation with the horseshoe route.

Heifetz mentions a relation between OAT-markings and the Horseshoe route. In my opinion however: there is none. OAT-markings have in common that they all flew via London. The Horseshoe route was formed during WW2 out of two airmail stages: from South Africa to Cairo and from Cairo to Australasia. After WW2, many airmail connections were restarted, and as a result, the Horseshoe route eventually disappeared again.

The introduction of OAT-markings had much to do with the restart of many airmail connections as early as spring 1944. One may regard OAT-markings as the ‘opposite’ of the so called ‘jusqu’à’ markings (ref 4). Also keep in mind that both the jusqu’à and OAT-markings were used in a period that mail users had more than one option for sending airmail. This changed and eventually disappeared rapidly after WW2, when direct airmail became more and more available.

## 2.3 OAT markings only placed on the upper envelope of a bundle?

In many sources, including in Heifetz’ book, it is suggested that only the upper envelope in a bundle received the OAT-marking. I do understand the plausibility of this idea. It is easier to handle a bundle of 50 letters & cards to the same destination, than to do it one by one. So, if it would be true, there would be *significantly* more covers left today *without* OAT-markings, rather than *with* them. Maybe not 49 to 1, but still a lot. But when browsing through any collection of covers, they are simply not there. Perhaps a few, but certainly not significant more. A similar problem arises with the jusqu’à markings on covers (ref 3).

For South Africa, covers *without* OAT-markings, in same period they were used as covers *with* OAT-markings, are **ONLY** seen either on covers that flew to the USA *bypassing* London (via West Africa), or flew by airmail to European destinations *all the way*, instead up to London only. This indicates that the theory of ‘upper envelope in an bundle’ may **not** be correct as a general rule.

Support for this can be found in different postal rates which, to both the USA (2/6 versus 3/6) and to Europe (1/3 versus 1/6). I’ll discuss these situations below and propose to fill a gap in post-war South African postage rates.

## 3 - General notes South African OAT - covers

Certainly, the postal historical context for OAT differs both per country of origin **and** destination. For South Africa, the leading factor is London as the ‘central hub’ for a (large part of) airmail to either the USA (more accurate: New York or beyond) or to Europe, predominantly Sweden and Switzerland.

In the paragraphs below, some general notes & findings can be found in relation to the 171 covers I studied.

### 3.1 Numbers of OAT-covers existing.

Heifetz did a great job analysing OAT-covers. He proposed rarity categories which are very useful and he gives totals of covers seen per type. Unfortunately, no numbers are given for covers originating from South Africa.

In general, OAT-covers are not rare. In my opinion, many jusqu’à markings on SA-covers are more difficult to find than many OAT-markings. I think that a multiple hundreds OAT-covers originating from South Africa still should exist. I counted a **171** from 2005 up to September 2018.

### 3.2 Destinations seen

When discussing South Africa OAT-covers, both the Union of SA and South West Africa is meant. However, only **one** OAT-cover from SWA (to Sweden) is known to me (and in my collection). All the other 170 originate from the Union.

The destinations seen by me are:

USA: 87 covers	France: 2 covers
Sweden: 42 covers	Denmark: 1 cover
Switzerland: 19 covers	Trinidad: 1 cover
Canada: 10 covers	Chile: 1 cover
Netherlands: 3 covers	Argentina: 1 cover
Czechoslovakia: 3 covers	

One can easily see: four countries are dominant destinations: USA (51%), Sweden (25%), Switzerland (11 %) and Canada (6 %). All the rest (app. 7 %) is more difficult to find, of which Trinidad (in my collection, good condition) and Chile & Argentina (both seen in below-average to poor condition) may be regarded as 'rare'. Covers to other destinations may also exist.

Rarity is defined by the combination of destination and date of usage, not by type as might be concluded from Heifetz. See the notes per destination below for more details.



Figure 1: Cover from Stellenbosch (17-10-1945) to Haarlem, Netherlands with a rose-red small-box OAT-marking. No markings on reverse. (collection of the author)

### 3.3 Period of usage

The start of use of OAT-markings for certain destinations is both dependent on the type and historical events. Heifetz does list this per type and this is not repeated here. But, in general, OAT-markings are used between 1940 and 1980, and the majority is known between 1940 and 1956. Looking at South Africa covers with OAT-markings; those are known to me between 1942 and 1946 of which the majority are from 1944-1945. As mentioned earlier, it is useful only to differentiate between the three major types. The periods of use on South African covers are very sharp, there is only overlap between the two box-types (note that the large box was used for just two months):

Type	Earliest	Latest
Oval	26-10-1942	15-5-1945
Box (large)	20-6-1945	10-10-1945
Box (small)	29-8-1945	2-1-1946

### 4 General distribution of types, colours, cover/cards, postage due, senders etc.

On the 171 South African covers seen, only three major types are seen: oval (56%), large box (20%) and small box (24%) hand stamps. The distribution of these types over destinations is mainly dependent on the date of usage. On covers to Switzerland for example; practically all are markings are box-markings. The reason for this is that use of OAT-markings on covers to this country started at the time that oval markings were being replaced.

Most markings found on South African covers are in the distinctive red-rose colour. Only two are in black (both ovals) and 25 are in purple (all ovals).

Postage due can be found on OAT-covers, but are not common: only 4 out of 171. Also, most items are covers/envelopes: 166 out of 171. OAT-markings on other objects are: Aerogrammes (4/171), picture postcard (1/171), one cover with official stamps (a cover to Canada), two meter frankings (both covers to the same addressee in Sweden).

Interesting perhaps, is that among the 171 covers, there is also a pattern in senders. Of the 78 senders known, the top four is:

H.L. Hompes Co: 7  
Progress Sales Co: 3  
Union Swiss Distributors: 4  
Youldon & Glencorse: 3

As is the case with other (especially) 1944/1945 covers, some dates are not legible in postmarks on South African covers with OAT-markings. This is the case for 23 out of 171 covers of which 12 are from Johannesburg and 3 from Capetown.

### 3.5 SAL usage

At least one OAT-cover known, is a so-called SAL-cover (Surface mail Air Lifted). This is surface mail franked (3d) cover from South West Africa (Luderitz) to Sweden from 25<sup>th</sup> July 1944 with both a SA and UK censor. It's possible to find others, but as rule, SAL-covers with OAT-markings are very rare. The reason for this cover is that despite the fact surface mail would have possible in theory, it was not feasible in practice, and so it was sent by air.

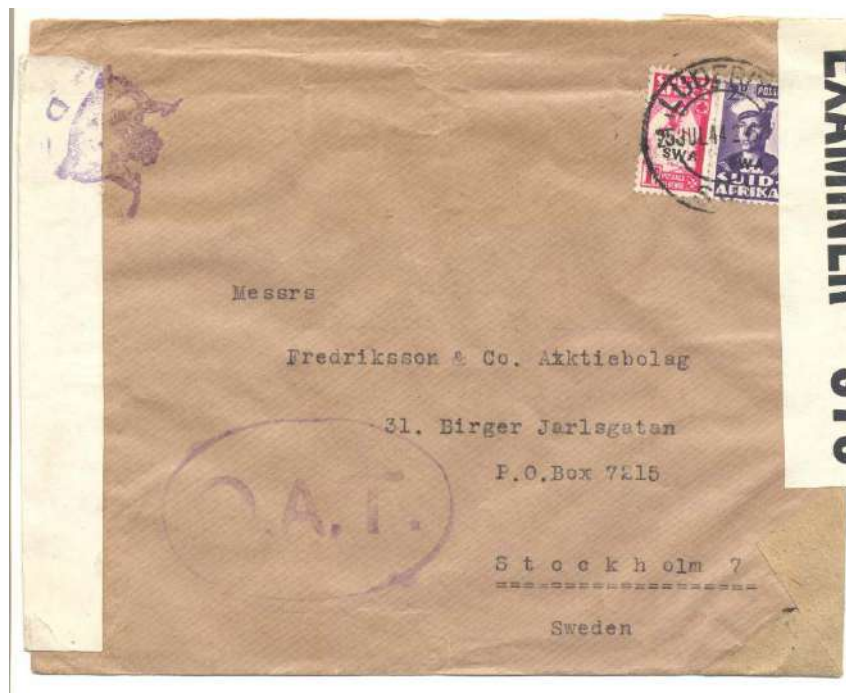


Figure 2: SAL-cover from Luderitz, SWA (25-7-1944) to Stockholm, Sweden with a rose-red oval OAT-marking. Postage affixed is 3d (surface mail), but was carried by air from London to Stockholm. No markings on reverse. Only SAL and OAT-cover from SWA known. (collection of the author).

### 3.6 Relation to jusqa'à markings

Often, OAT-covers are offered at considerable higher prices than covers with jusqa'à markings. If one would compare rarity of both, there is no reason for this. In fact, some jusqa'à markings (or certain usage of them) are considerable more difficult to find. Perhaps the reason for this is that the understanding of OAT-covers (in general) is easier. The book by Heifetz may also have contributed to this fact.

The postal historical relation between both, is that jusqa'à markings (meaning 'up to'), were mainly used in the 1930'ties in order to indicate an airmail stage had ended or was not possible at all. As airmail was (technically) more and more possible from the 1940'ties onwards, also more mail connections could be made up with airmail stages.

Thus, the exception became the common practice. The use of jusqu'à-markings was abandoned quickly and OAT-markings were then used only in some cases. From the 1950'ties onwards, their use also was gradually left.



Figure 3: Cover from Johannesburg (30-7-1945) to Brugg, Switzerland with a rose red jusqu'à marking from London. Postage paid is 1/6, markings on reverse. The use of this jusqu'à marking is within period of usage of OAT-markings on mail to Switzerland. (collection of the author)

#### 4 – Notes on destinations of South African OAT covers

##### 4.1 General notes on OAT-covers to Europe

Civil airmail from South Africa to Europe after WW2 was resumed during 1944. According to Stern (ref 5), this was *possible* during May 1944 again, but not *guaranteed*. Later in 1944, on October 1<sup>st</sup>, airmail was again guaranteed just as it was before the war. Airmail to foreign countries is known from 1943, but is not known to me as civil mail, in contrary to some students (ref 6).

The first airmail cover to Europe in 1944 in my collection, is a cover from Umbogintwini (Natal) which was dispatched on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1944 to Reading UK.

But when looking at the postage rates that are known to me during 1944, it was not clear to me which (and how) postage rates applied to Europe during that period. The OAT-covers I've studied may help filling the gap.

According to some (anonymous) sources known to me, the airmail rate to the UK during 1944 was 1/3 and to (continental) Europe it was 1/6. Then, much later on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1947 the rates were 9d and 1/0 respectively. For the period of 3 years in between, South African OAT-covers discussed in this article, revealed this interesting fact:

OAT-covers from South Africa to continental Europe show a both a complex and parallel pattern of usage of the 1/3 and 1/6 rates, suggesting that *both* 1/3 and 1/6 rate applied to European destinations, and already seen from February 1944. So, the 1/3 rate did not apply for the UK exclusively.

The 1/3 airmail rate was the 'original' pre-war Airmail rate to Europe which may have been suspended, but was not abolished. What might be the case here, is that the 1/6 airmail rate was introduced as early as (October?) 1942, in order to facilitate the *onward* airmail from London, which was then only possible for Sweden. Later, it also paid for direct airmail connections to European countries.

Less clear however, is how the 1/3 and 1/6 rates were applied and related to each other, since both rates can be found on (OAT) covers to Europe until November 1945. It might have been not clear to both mail users and postal clerks, that an extra 3d applied for onward air transit. There is one indication that this was indeed the case: the four OAT-covers known that bear postage due markings are all covers to Europe affixed with (only) 1/3, instead of 1/6.

This leads us to three suggestions:

1. The 1/6 airmail rate to Europe was introduced during (October) 1942 and ended in March 1947.
2. It seems, the 1/3 airmail rate ended during November 1945. After this date, 1/3-covers do exist, but appear not to be 'regular' airmail. The few 1/3 airmail covers after November 1945 to Europe, show an airmail cancellation from London. This needs to be investigated further, but is out of scope of this article.
3. The 1/3 airmail rate was intended (from 1942 onwards) for airmail **up to** London, whereas the 1/6 airmail rates also paid for **onward** airmail from London, and later, also direct airmail.

One practical reason for the confusing parallel use of the 1/3 and 1/6 airmail rate, might have been the fact that onward *surface* transmission was not available soon enough when a letter arrived in London, so it was transmitted by *air* instead.

#### 4.2 Notes on OAT-covers to Sweden

Airmail to Sweden during WW2 was possible, although very troublesome at times. Being a neutral country, foreign mail was possible and airmail was carried via the north of Britain for a period of time. This is the first reason that Sweden is a very common destination for OAT-covers over a large period of time: October 26<sup>th</sup> 1942 until November 2<sup>nd</sup> 1945. The second reason was to ensure that onward airmail transmission would take place, in cases where surface mail was also possible instead.

Airmail to Sweden from South Africa was not possible *all the way* until May 1944, when airmail to London was resumed, but not always guaranteed. Previous that date all mail was carried by surface to London. From October 1944 onwards airmail to Sweden *all the way*, was (again) possible.

#### 4.4 Notes on OAT-covers to the USA

The vast majority of OAT-covers originating from South Africa were sent to the USA. The period of use is August 21<sup>st</sup> 1944 until October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1945. Both ovals & boxes are seen.



Figure 4: Cover from Johannesburg (23-11-1944) to Chicago, USA with a purple oval OAT-marking. No markings on reverse. (collection of the author)

All covers to the USA are affixed with 2/6, which may seem unimportant. However, one must keep in mind that these covers were sent via London. At the time, mail users in South Africa could also send their mail via Panam (Miami) at a higher rate of 3/6, which was slightly faster.

The reason for applying OAT-markings on mail to the USA was (again) to ensure onward air transmission from London, but in the case of USA, it also sets it apart Philatelically from mail via Panam (Miami), which consisted out of 'blank' covers, except perhaps for Panam or West Africa endorsements placed on them.

The interesting fact is, that OAT-covers to the USA now prove earlier date and as a result, a larger period of use of the 2/6 airmail rate to the USA via London. This is a new finding.

Date	Airmail rate to USA via London
21-8-1944 (earliest known)	2/6
10-3-1947 (known from literature)	1/3

#### 4.5 Notes on OAT-covers to Canada

OAT-covers to Canada follow the pattern of covers to the USA. They are known from December 6<sup>th</sup> 1944 until September 25<sup>th</sup> 1945 and are all affixed with 2/6 (or a multiple of this), being the airmail rate via London.



Figure 5: Cover from Port Elizabeth to Sherbrook (Quebec), Canada with a rose-red large box OAT-marking. Please note the very characteristic distortion of this short-lived type. No markings on reverse.

#### 4.6 Notes on OAT covers to other destinations

The destinations in the table below are uncommon. Also, their number is low in order to analyse properly. The four European countries however, do follow the pattern of covers to Sweden & Switzerland. All are resumed airmail after following WW2.

Destination	No's seen	Earliest	Latest	Remarks
Netherlands	4	June 26 <sup>th</sup> 1945	October 17 <sup>th</sup> 1945	Use of OAT-covers follows the restart of airmail after WW2. Apart from Sweden & Switzerland, other European destinations are uncommon
Czechoslovakia	3	October 30 <sup>th</sup> 1945	December 6 <sup>th</sup> 1945	
France	3	May 17 <sup>th</sup> 1945	October 31 <sup>st</sup> 1945	
Denmark	1	September 24 <sup>th</sup> 1945	-	
Chile	1	December 29 <sup>th</sup> 1945	-	Sent via London & New York? Also the latest OAT cover known from SA
Argentina	1	November 2 <sup>nd</sup> 1945	-	
Trinidad	1	January 2 <sup>nd</sup> 1946	-	



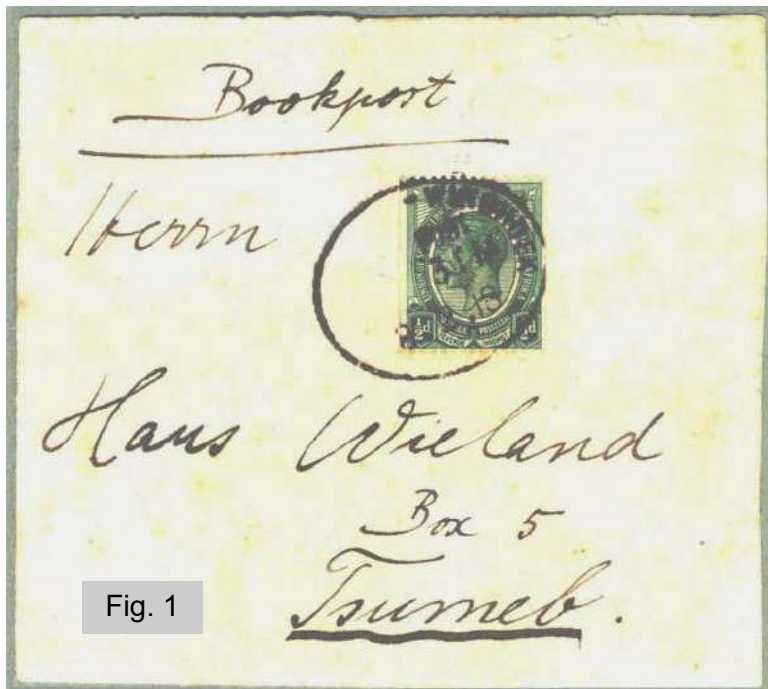
Figure 6: Cover from Port Elizabeth (11-1-1946) to Port of Spain, Trinidad with a rose-red small box OAT-marking. Arrival mark on reverse dated 29-1-1946. Last OAT-cover from South Africa known. (collection of the author)

## 5 – References

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2. Barden, Michael - *Cachet swell and distortion in Heifetz types I-XII*, *American Philatelist*, October 2014, p930-3
3. Barden, Michael – *Onward Air Transmission*, the *Philatelic database*, 29 November 2010 (online at <http://www.philatelicdatabase.com/great-britain/onward-air-transmission/>, retrieved on 2-11-2018)
4. Davids, Wilbert - *Ugly & red: jusqu'à markings on South Africa mail 1932-1939*, *The Springbok* #344
5. Stern, Capt. M.F. - *South African Airmails*, 1970
6. Hisey, Bob – *Airmail rates and routes between South Africa and US during World War II*, *Forerunners* #53, 2005

# KGV ROLL STAMPS – MORE ELUSIVE USAGE – PHILATELIC OR NOT?

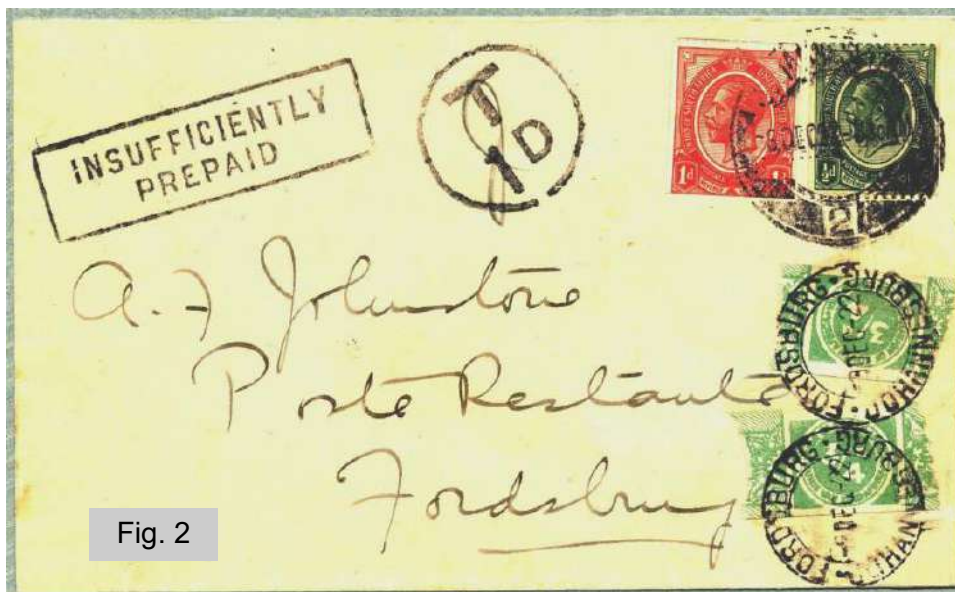
By **Jan van Beukering** OFS PS



Having collected the King George V roll stamps extensively I have come across some less common postally used items which are illustrated here. The roll stamps became available during 1913 (the ½d, 1d and 2d values) and the 1½d only in 1920. Vending machines were installed in the major centres from 1911 and colonial stamps were made up into rolls by the printers and distributed for sale. Postally used items of the 'interprovincial' period however are rare and barely few survived. One of these was reported in an article by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA and the late Prof Okkie de Jager. This was a postcard posted from Durban with an additional 1d roll stamp to pay for posting as Sunday Fee. This is currently owned by Brian Trotter FRPSL.

During the South African mandate period in South West Africa Union postage stamps were used – sometimes not overprinted for the region. It is not known whether a vending machine was installed at the Windhoek Post Office, thus the sender of the item below most probably bought rolls of ½d and 1d stamps either at the Windhoek Post Office or in South Africa. Those used from Windhoek I have seen have not been dispensed from a vending machine.

Illustrated a folded newspaper wrapper sent from Windhoek to Tsumeb ( Fig.1) and notated "Bookpost" franked with a ½d roll stamp cancelled WINDHOEK dated 8.2.1918 oval type W13. My cover and wrapper were sent by a Prof. Fries but there may have been more users. These are dated 1918 and 1919.



During June 1920 a 1½d postage rate came into use and – pending the issue of 1½d roll stamps – applicable postage was normally made up by franking with lower values, sometimes roll stamps.

The cover shown in Fig. 1 (reduced size) was possibly Philatelically produced but there seemingly was a shortage of postage due stamps at the FORDSBURG Post Office at the time. This cover sent from Johannesburg on 8 December 1922 was stamped

INSUFFICIENTLY PREPAID and a T/1d cachet applied. It was received the same day at Fordsburg where the receiver made up the due value with two CIGARETTE TAX labels, both ¾d (not recorded in Barefoot 2002) and duly cancelled Fordsburg.



Fig. 3

A first air mail postcard sent by the first Government EXPERIMENTAL AIRMAIL service first flight from SOMERSET WEST dated 28 Feb 25, 'BY AIRMAIL' label applied and franked with two KGV ½d roll stamps and a 1d first Air Mail stamp, on the day of issue, cancelled SOMERSET WEST. Forwarded to The Air Mail post office where the 'S A AIR MAIL' circular cachet was applied on the same day. Onward to East London, where the same S A AIR MAIL cachet and East London arrival canceller were applied 5 days later. There readdressed back to Somerset West the same day and another 1d Air Mail stamp attached for re-addressing fee cancelled EAST LONDON.



Fig. 4

Last a 1929 commemorative first flight Air Mail cover from Cape Town to Johannesburg, with mixed franking, making up the postage and air mail fee. By AIR MAIL label applied together with a pair of Pretoria printing ½d stamps and two pairs of KGV ½d roll stamps, one with a 'jubilee line' join and the other miscut in the vending machine, from column 7, showing part 'isolated' perforations, together with a normal KGV 2d stamp. A pre-addressed "Per South African (1929) AIR MAIL" and sender address applied.

## From the Editors Desk

### An email from Hugh Amooore:

#### First Day Covers of the London Pictorial Issues

I can add a footnote to Keith Klugman's note on FDCs (as augmented by Rob & Lyn Lester) in the Springbok Volume 66 No. 4.

1. I have a FDC (see attached scan) of the ½ d, 1d and 4d with the same 1 Jan 1925 8.30am error.
2. By 1.30, the same canceller (no 20) was still/again in use but with 1925 corrected to 1926 (see attached scan of two blocks of eight of the ½ d and the 1d values)
3. I have a FDC from Muizenberg of the ½ d 1d and 4d (see scan)
4. I have a pair of the ½ d on piece with the 1 Jan 1926 date stamp of Sea Point (see scan)
5. I have a single of the ½ d with the 1 Jan 1926 date stamp of Durban (See scan)
6. I have a block of four of the ½ d value, overprinted for use in SWA, with a USAKOS cancellation of 1 Jan 1926 (see scan) suggesting that offices in SWA were also [generally?] open on 1 January 1926.

Keith shows persuasive evidence for dates for the London pictorials. Is there evidence of first day usage for the Officials (December 1926?)?



Fig. 1  
1 Jan 25



Fig. 3  
1 Jan 26



Fig. 2  
1 Jan 26



Fig. 4  
1 Jan 26



Fig. 6  
1 Jan 26

Fig. 5  
1 Jan 26



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## From the Editors Desk

### An Email from Hugh Amoores: 1974-77 Definitive Sheet Numbering

Answer to a question raised by John Archer, The Springbok Issue 344 page 116

*John Archer raised a query regarding the sheet numbering on the 1974 – 77 definitive issue, with particular reference to 3c. value. On the first four printings the sheet numbers are odd on the A panes & even on the B panes. This reverses on the fifth printing. Are the sheet numbers, in fact, pane numbers?*

The short answer is yes.

The long answer is given in my draft article on this 1974 issue which you kindly published in the Springbok in August 2017 and for which your committee generously awarded me the Wicks medal. The key part for the purpose of John Archer's question is the following:

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

- For the small format stamps, the stamps were in fact printed in a four pane format (and not as might appear from the fact that sheets are shown as A or B, in a two pane format);
- For the larger format stamps, the stamps were in fact printed in a two pane format.
- For the small format stamps the intaglio cylinder had four panes of the images it had to print, in four quadrants. The gravure cylinders had two. As a result, (unless a transposition occurs) the intaglio
- first image (a) would be aligned with the gravure A pane, which I label Aa;
- second image (b) would be aligned with the gravure B pane (Bb);
- third image (c) would be aligned with the gravure A pane (Ac); and
- fourth image (d) would be aligned with the gravure B pane (Bd).
- As a result, for the small format stamps, a flaw peculiar to one pane of the intaglio cylinder will appear on one in four printed panes (i.e., an alternate A or B pane).

Cyclometer (or sheet) numbering of the small format sheets allows us to allocate a control block to its position. De Villiers suggested that this numbering was done by two machines<sup>10</sup> where one wound downwards in odd numbers and the other downwards in even numbers.

De Villiers established that in the majority of printings the intaglio control and the B pane coincided with cyclometer numbers that when divided by 4 leaves a remainder of 2 or 0, and those on the A pane with cyclometer numbers divided by 4 with a remainder of 3 or 1, thus permitting a simple coding of the printed panes:

- Aa where the numerical remainder = 3
- Bb where the numerical remainder = 2
- Ac where the numerical remainder = 1
- Bd where the numerical remainder = 0

De Villiers appears to have believed that the intaglio cylinder had four panes arranged 2 x 2, whereas the measurements of the paper and the cylinder suggest that the four panes were arranged 1x 4 (i.e., in series). And that the same applied to the gravure cylinders. The numbering by cyclometer was thus in sequence by the two machines, one printing odd numbers and the other even numbers. This point needs to be researched. However, the fact that in two instances at least, where sheets have been found without sheet numbers or dates (the 4c and 9c values) only A sheets have been found without date of or sheet number; this gives credence to the idea that there were two numbering machines. In the early printings there was no consistency as to whether the even or odd sheet numbers were to be found on the A panes or the B panes, so that where the even numbers were on the A panes the remainder when the sheet number was divided by 4 gave rise to the following pattern.

- Aa where the numerical remainder = 2
- Bb where the numerical remainder = 3
- Ac where the numerical remainder = 0
- Bd where the numerical remainder = 1

### Letchworth Meeting

*Mrs Howard Memorial Hall Letchworth Garden City 2 - 5 pm.*

Sat. 23rd March 2019

## 4th Definitive Buildings Series

By Roy Ross

Whilst sorting some building series cylinder blocks for a fellow member I can across the following interesting stamps.

Broken horseman stamp 1/1 Cylinder S36 Pane D.

Mike Tonking recorded a very similar flaw in his Study Collection book No. 22 on Panes A and B. It looks like this piece of dirt, or whatever it was, migrated around the cylinder, resulting in the ink not printing and appeared on the top row of each cylinder Pane.



D Pane Flaw stamp row 1/1

Also to note is the missing 15 of date from the right hand margin. It could have been caused by incorrect sheet guillotining or someone has personally cut the sheet to make it look like the date is partially missing.

'A' Pane: wandering flaw in top of tree



'B' Pane: Wandering flaw in tower



The later two images are from The Society Study Collections No. 22  
The High Values of the 4th Definitive Building Series By Mike Tonking.

Any member wishing to buy these or any other of the Study Collections, all of which are displayed and described on the website should e mail [Lyn28lester@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Lyn28lester@hotmail.co.uk) to register their interest.

## Buildings Perforation problems



Misaligned Perfs also note the partially missing '40' in 5,40



20c Cylinder 1436 Pane A  
Extra perfs on top row which would suggest that the sheet was incorrectly fed into the perforator

## South African Stamp Colour Catalogue Prices

By Roy Ross

Two years ago I bought a new Colour Catalogue 35th Edition 2017/18, not cheap, but my old one 2010/11 was in need of updating.

Comparing the two editions I was somewhat surprised to see a significant increase in values of particular stamps. As my interest lies in RSA, it was only these stamp prices that I compared.

RSA 1st definitive high values: Mint prices have increased by 50% or more

E.g. SACC 208 50cent Capetown Harbour first issue: R200 to R300 for a single stamp and a cylinder block from R950 - R1300

SACC 321 20c Secretary Bird Cylinder block R110 - R160

The varieties have in some cases enjoyed a huge increase.

SACC 206 12½ c Protea - missing red. R30,000 - R90,000

SACC 255a 12½ c Red Cross omitted R30,000 - R250,000

SACC 244a 2½ c Transkei Legislative Assembly, green omitted . R30,000 - R220,000

SACC 400c 15c Bowl winners, gold omitted. R7,000 - R17,000

SACC 415a 15c Wine Symposium "Die " omitted R130 - R230

SACC 628 40c "The Word of God" Bible stamp. R5,000 - R14,000

SACC 822 Aviation Sheetlet R50 - R100

SACC 722a - 726a National Stamp Day, Silver omitted. Was valued at R4,500 now has no value against it.

ITU Cards 2 Diamonds R650 - R1100 3 Diamonds R750 - R1200

It is interesting to note that the 1979 Christmas fund with missing gold still has no price against it, but we know that it does exist as it has been covered in the Springbok and on our Website.

### 4th definitive Buildings Series

Various imperforate varieties previously listed have been delisted as it has been established that they were the subject of unauthorised leakage from the printers. Confirmed by Mike Tonking in a previous Springbok issue.

This also applies to later imperforate items that have not been listed.

The Buildings cylinder varieties have not increased in value but many control blocks have: SACC 517a 3c Rechromed R10 - R100. This now reflects the rarity as I know personally that it is a difficult stamp to obtain as it is rarely seen.

The Biggest rise is SACC 432b 50c Protea. Imperforate pair R6,000 - R80,000, and SACC 433b R1 Protea RSA omitted mint R10,000 - R30,000 but the used stamp remains at the previous price of R8,000.

This all bodes well for the RSA collectors amongst us, but most of us probably don't collect to make huge profits from our stamps.

The Rand = £ exchange rate has remained nearly the same for the past 10 years at 18 to one.



SACC 628

## Revisiting the Unhyphenated ROTO 2d. Roll Stamp

By Mike Tonking RDPSA

The South African Philatelist of April 1932 recorded that "Rolls containing 500 stamps are now on sale". Both the Standard Catalogue of 1946 and the Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1986 record the issue date as being November 1931. Since there is no slot machines available for the purchase of the 2d. Roll Stamps it was said that these rolls were printed for the use of businesses which found them easier to use rather than tearing from sheets. In any event they had a short life as meter machines were introduced in the thirties.

These were the only 2d. Stamps of the rotogravure pictorial series to be made into rolls. They were prepared from the same multipositives as used for the sheet stamp Issue 1 - 3 with the added two rows utilising rows 2 and 3 of the interior and 3 and 4 of the exterior multipositives. The two inserted rows can be recognised by the paler vignettes and frames. The colour and format was similar to the sheet issues. Perforated 14 the watermark was either up right or inverted. The order of printing of the unhyphenated 2d. Rotogravure stamps was as follows: starting with issue 1 followed by the booklets, then issue 2, the rolls and finally Issue 3.

It is quite extraordinary that the Government Printer would go to all the trouble and expense of printing roll stamps which would never be used in vending machines and would have such a short life. It is not known how many of the 2d. Roll stamps were printed.



Fig. 1  
Coil Row 4.  
Stamp 5 shows the only major  
flaw recorded which is a line  
through the 'd' of 2d. To the  
second 'E' in POSSEEL

### References:

*South African Philatelist April 1932*  
*Standard Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1946*  
*The Stamps of the Union of South Africa - S.J. Hagger RDPSA 1986*

*Cont' page 30*

## ABPS Exhibition News Letter January 2019

We are delighted to inform you that the first Newsletter of 2019 has been posted on the ABPS website. It is brimming with up to date news and information about forthcoming national and international exhibitions and can be viewed by clicking the link below and selecting the Exhibitions Newsletter for January 2019 (in pdf format):

<http://www.abps.org.uk/Exhibiting/index.xalter/>

*Bill Hedley*

Chairman, ABPS Exhibitions and International Committee

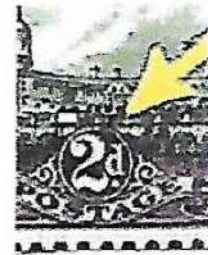
Fig. 2  
Coil Row 6  
This row is of particular interest as it shows a remainder of the right side arrow between rows 10 and 11

Dot in left scroll.  
Multi. Flaw.

Dot Beside full stop of 2d.  
Multi Flaw.

Rows 3 and 4 showing repeated Multi flaws

Purple horn on value circle which is also noted on Issue 3



Inserted rows 21 and 22 have paler vignettes and frames



- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 10
- 11

## The Rarest Union Roll Stamp

By Mike Tonking RDPSA

A total of 27 different Union of South Africa roll stamps were issued during the period 1913 - 1960. Of these the rarest must be the 1d. third unhyphenated roll stamp issue of 1934 (R12).

Although on sale for around a year, for some reason, very few have survived which has resulted in its rarity. This is a mystery as it can be shown there were a number of different print runs. The late S.J. Hagger RDPSA reported that he knew of only two strips of more than 20 stamps.

This was the last of the 1d. unhyphenated rotogravure roll stamps and had the printing cylinders prepared from the same multipositives as used for sheet issues 8 and 9. For the first time the interior multipositive has 22 rows whereas the interior had only 20 rows which then had rows 3 and 4 repeated for rows 21 and 22. The reason why the interior had only 20 rows is not known. For the first time surplus roll stamps were sold in sheet form, consisting of 240 stamps in 20 rows of 12, which when examined revealed which additional rows had been repeated. It also showed that there was an exterior cylinder guide mark in the left sheet margin. However there was no interior guide mark to allow the printer to correctly align the printing cylinders. This resulted in a number of cylinder transpositions which are also found on the roll stamps.

The watermark was either upright or inverted although the latter are rarely found. The pale grey vignettes are characteristic of this roll stamp.

### References:

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

Cont' page 32



### Two catalogues to fall in love with!

In just a few weeks, on 28 May 2019, the International Stamp Exhibition STOCKHOLMIA 2019 in Sweden's capital Stockholm will open its doors to visitors from all over the world. Everything is perfectly prepared, everything – as they say – is nicely ‘cut and dried’. Anyone interested can find the essential information on the exhibition at [www.stockholmia2019.se](http://www.stockholmia2019.se).

Shipping begins on 11 April 2019; orders may be placed on the website [www.stockholmia2019catalogues.com](http://www.stockholmia2019catalogues.com) from February.

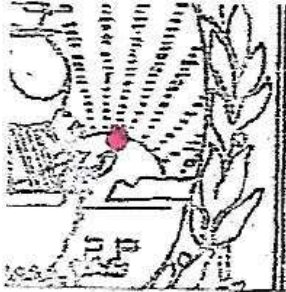
Shipping costs per catalogue/package within Germany - 6 euros, EU: 11 euros, NON-EU and rest of the world: 18 euros. If you wish to have tracking / insurance, add 2.50 euros (Europe)

Fig. 1

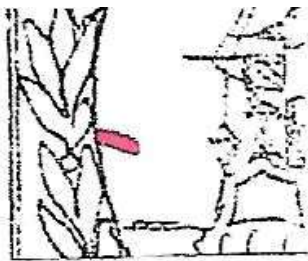
R12 Coil Row 1 - Strip of 21 stamps with inverted watermark and showing 12 row transposition between vignette and frame.

Frame Flaws

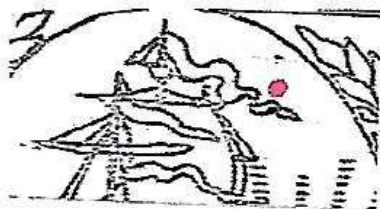
Row 3/1 - Red dot in sun rays



Row 8/1 - Red line on right edge of oval

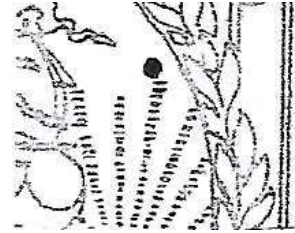


Row 9/1 - Tiny red dot above pennant

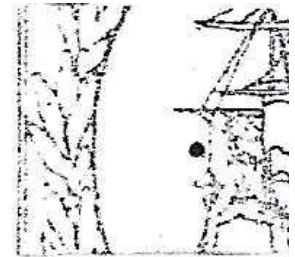


Vignette Flaws

Row 17/1 - Black dot in top of sun rays



Row 18/1 - Tiny black dot above stern light



Row 21/1 - Black dot above pennant



Row 2/1 - Black dot under pennant



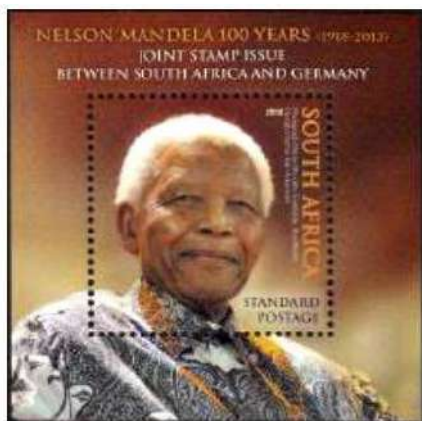
## 2018 New Issues



**50th Anniversary First Heart Transplant**  
 The stamps were due to be released on 1st December 2017, but finally went on sale on 21st May 2018  
 Sheetlet with 10 stamps, five rows of two stamps each



**SA National Parks (4th Issue) 31st May 2018**  
 The stamps were due to be released on 31st May but only went on sale 13th August 2018.  
 This is the last issue of the National Parks.  
 Sheetlet of 10 Stamps showing 5 National Parks  
 Standard postage rate R4-20.



**Mandela 100 18th July 2018**  
 Joint Issue with Germany  
 Miniature sheet with one standard postal stamp Rate R4.20.  
 Issued to celebrate what would have been Mandela's centenary birthday.



**President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa**  
**9th October 2018**  
 Miniature sheet. Standard postage R4.20



**Mandela 100**

**12th October 2018**

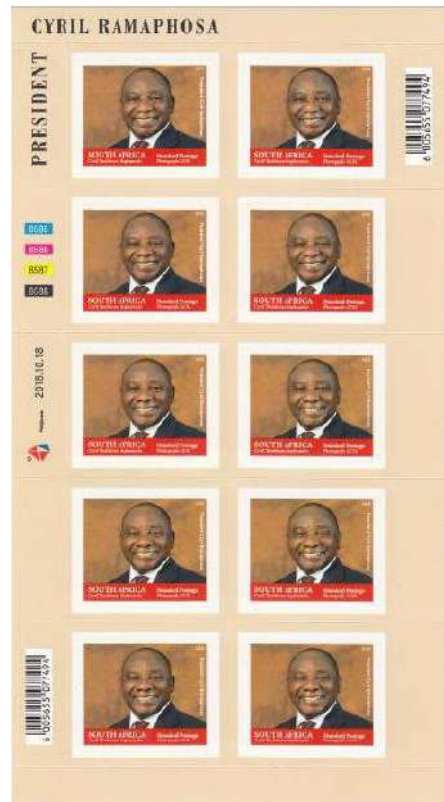
Joint issue with PAPU (Pan African Postal Union)  
Miniature Sheet Standard Postage rate R4.20



**Joint Issue with India 13th August 2018**

Celebrating Mandela centenary and the 125th Anniversary of the Mahatma Gandhi incident at the Pietermaritzburg Station, when he was removed from a 1st Class train carriage reserved for white people.

Miniature sheet with two stamps, one showing Nelson Mandela and the other Mahatma Gandhi against the Pietermaritzburg station buildings.  
Standard Postage Rate R4.20



**World Post Day 18th October 2018**

A single stamp design in a self-adhesive sheetlet of 10 stamps.  
Standard Postage R4.20

The same stamp design was used as in the President Cyril Ramaphosa Inauguration miniature sheet



**26th November 2018 Big 5 Booklet.**

2 x 5 Self Adhesive stamps at Airmail Postcard Rate. R8,50

**The Springbok Index 2018 Volume 66/1 - 66/4 Whole Numbers 341 - 344**

<b>Society News</b>	<b>Volume</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Articles</b>	<b>Volume</b>	<b>Page</b>
Maurice Flack Obituary	66/1	3	Transkei Numbered cylinders      Otto Peetoom	66/1	6 - 9
November 2017 Conference Report	66/1	4 - 5	Royal Visit      Nick Arrow	66/1	10 - 13
New Study Collections	66/1	30	SA Post Office Names      Errol van Greunen	66/1	16 - 17
Membership	66/2	35	Vintage Springbok      Otto Peetoom	66/1	18 - 21
Auction Report	66/2	36	SWA Wrappers      Dr John Courtis	66/1	22 - 25
London Meeting Report	66/2	37- 40	Early Stamp Exhibitions      Otto Peetoom	66/1	26 - 29
Carlisle Meeting Report	66/2	42	The Political Flights of SAA      Nick Arrow	66/2	46 -51
Letchworth Meeting Report	66/2	43	Posted out of course Covers      Malcolm Judd	66/2	52 - 56
AGM Notification	66/2	44	A Query Solved      Nick Arrow	66/2	56 - 57
Summer Meeting Report	66/2	45	RSA Revenues 1968 -1978      Oscar van de Vliet	66/2	58 - 63
Society Accounts	66/2	70	Halfpenny First Definitive perfs      Roy Ross	66/2	66 - 67
Awards	66/3	75	The Vintage Springbok 1959      Otto Peetoom	66/2	68 - 69
Packet Secretary Plea	66/3	75	WW2 Foreign SA Covers      Wilbert Davis	66/3	81-87
Auction Report No. 47	66/3	76	2d Split 'd' Flaw      Mike Tonking	66/3	88
SACS AGM Report	66/3	77-78	Margins & Gutter Pairs      Ian Matheson	66/3	89-90
SACS Summer Meeting Report	66/3	79-80	NGR Official Stamps      Tony Howgrave-Graham	66/3	90
New Study Collection Books	66/3	102	2d Split 'd' Flaw      John Philpott	66/3	93
Max Whitlock Obituary	66/4	115	1949 British Settlers      Tony Howgrave-Graham	66/3	94
Pretoria Stamp Show Awards	66/4	115	The Herero War      David Haig	66/3	95-102
London Meeting Report Sept	66/4	116	Serial Numbers Official Stamps      John Dickson	66/3	103
Carlisle Meeting Report Sept	66/4	117	Undeliverable Mail      David Macdonald	66/3	104
Auction No. 48 Report	66/4	118	POOC Premiere Mine Mail      Malcolm Judd	66/3	105
			SWA 2d Double Overprint      Mike Tonking	66/3	106-107
			MITB Stamp      Simon Peetoom	66/3	111
<b>Editor's Desk</b>			The Vintage Springbok      Otto Peetoom	66/4	120-121
Various	66/1	14 -16	Jusqu'à Markings      Wilbert Davis	66/4	124-128
Missing Stamps	66/2	43	Soccer Africa Cup Missing Dot      Roy Ross	66/4	128
Various	66/3	91-93	FDC London Pictorials      Keith Klugman	66/4	129-134
Various	66/4	122	Boeing 747 First Flight      Nick Arrow	66/4	135
Malan Stamp	66/4	123	Rotogravure Sheet Numbers      Mike Tonking	66/4	136-138
<b>General</b>			1849 Natal Settlers      Errol van Greunen	66/4	139-142
New Stamp Issues 2017	66/1	31	In Lighter 'Vein'      Norman Prince	66/4	142
News from USA 2017	66/1	25 - 26	South Africa at ABBA Museum      David Osborn	66/4	143
SAVPEX 2018	66/2	35			
The Royal Philatelic Society	66/2	41			
Supplement the Study Collection 32	66/2	64- 65			
ABPS News	66/2	71			
The Stuart Rossiter Trust	66/2	71			
Auction Report 2018      Tony H-G	66/3	108			
Product Review - Glue Pen	66/4	119			
The Royal Philatelic Press Release	66/4	143			

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