

THE SPRINGBOK

SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS'
SOCIETY QUARTERLY

www.southafricacollector.com



July 1944 issue depicting the 'D' Day landings. Again sent to W.L.Jackson in Bromley England.

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The Springbok is published

quarterly for the benefit of Members of the South African Collectors Society.

It is not available to non-members.

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

All correspondence including a SAE will be acknowledged.

The Springbok was awarded a large vermeil medal at Stampex 2017

Editor

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Editorial Panel

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J.L. Shaw

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Collectors' Society,
2019**

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Editorial

I sit here with some trepidation writing this Following in Roy's footsteps will not be an easy job and I keep asking myself all sorts of questions. However, please bear with me as I try to get to grips with it and please, please send me articles and items of interest that I can fill these pages with 4 times a year!

I am sure you will all join me in hearing that Roy's surgery, that forced him to give the job up, went well and that he is recovering. We wish him well in the future, and look forward to seeing his name in these pages in future as a contributor of RSA material.

Roy was trying to encourage more articles on RSA issues in order to meet the collecting interests of all our members, and I would like to continue that push. So, if you have an interest in RSA please consider any suitable articles you could prepare for us.

Membership

Welcome to new email member Ian Paterson from South Africa.

AN APPEAL FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I'd like to thank Tony Johnson for taking over as editor and hope that you will all help to make his life easier by providing articles, comments or items of interest for inclusion in the Springbok.

It's also been noted that the Society has funds! The constitution prohibits disbursement to members but we're appealing for ideas that fit with the ethos of the Society which is to raise the profile of the Society and South African Philately in general. Any ideas? Please get in touch through the Springbok, or direct to me.

Finally we've decided to introduce a "South West Corner" in the Springbok. Please have a look at this and see if you can help.

Best wishes - Tony Howgrave-Graham

Packet Secretary's Report.

I regret to report that it was agreed at the AGM to close the packet in its current form later this year. We have lost most of our vendors over the past few years and, with 1 or 2 valiant exceptions, they have not been replaced. So, I am afraid I now receive too few books to keep the packet going. The last 4 books are now being circulated and after I receive these back from the circuit that will be the end.

This situation has come up on us over the past 3 or 4 years with fewer and fewer members as well as vendors. At the peak in my time we had well over 40 members but this is now down to just over 20. So, I am afraid we are suffering from a vicious circle - too little material and too few members to make it attractive for vendors to submit many more books.

However, it was agreed at the AGM that we should try to develop an email based system in its place. Preparing material for scanning and sale should reduce insurance costs and prove easier for vendors, and avoid postage costs for members, and David Page has agreed to set that up and run it. So, if you have any questions about how vendors should prepare material for scanning please email pageshouse@aol.com. I am sure he will describe how he will run the system in these pages later this year in order to get the system going in 2020.

Tony Johnson, Circulating Packet Secretary

SPRING CONFERENCE - MERIDEN 18&19 May 2019

Chris Oliver & Tony Howgrave-Graham

The event was held, again, at Strawberry Bank and people started arriving from 9 am. Numbers were a little down on last year, partly due to illness. Our webmaster and prolific shower of interesting material was one of these and we wish him a speedy recovery.

The whole weekend was very happy and relaxed and we were delighted to see a long term member, Paul Olver, and his wife appear for the first time on Sunday. It's a common cry amongst societies - "How do we encourage more of the membership to attend these events?" Once attended it's actually unusual for people not to re-attend. As you will see from this account of the weekend the material on view is very diverse in respect of its age, degree of specialisation, subject matter and monetary value. All in all it makes for a very entertaining two days and, more importantly, creates an ideal setting for exchanging information and making friendships.

Saturday consisted of five 40 minute displays on completely different subjects. First up was Rob Lester with a fine display of advertising covers. His and Lynn's criteria for inclusion are attractiveness and a clear postmark (date & place). They were arranged alphabetically but missing "K" & "X"! "K" was partly covered by a Kimberley item but if you find an "X" let Rob & Lynn know. "D" was covered by a fine Dunlop Rubber Co cover franked by a tied company perfin. Also striking was a WW2 Cape Town Municipality newsletter but more on these later.

We then had a more esoteric power point display by Bas Payne who, along with Nick Lindstrom, has been studying serial number positions in respect of different printings. The study is still in its infancy but already showing results. They accurately measure the position of the cyclometer numbers in relation to the neighbouring stamp and compare these to recorded print runs. With orders being for 50-500,000 sheets per printing the actual serial numbers are meaningless as with 4 figure numbers they would repeat themselves every 9,999 sheets. The original Goebbel 830 machine used from 1930 had 4-figure numbers in black, then blue, then red. The later Goebbel 840 machine had 5-figure black numbers. In the past it has been suggested that the position of the numbers can't be used to identify printings because of the "frequent stops and adjustments during printing". The results thus far show that this is not the case and confirm studies of shade which are generally fairly consistent with serial number positions. Bas claimed the number position was more accurate than the shade because the inkwell was relatively small and needed several top ups during a print run. The number of web breaks appears to have been fairly small hence the scarcity of paper joins which become even more scarce after 1935. The Goebbel 830 machine was large (7' high & 18' long) and very slow running by modern standards. All rather academic but interesting stuff and we look forward to the completion of the study.

Next up was our convenor Simon Peetoom. He showed a postcard correspondence from a Sgt Eddie Stuart each bearing a nice signed "CO / Prince Alfred Guard / Port Elizabeth" cachet. (The Port Elizabeth Volunteer Rifles was founded in 1856 and changed name after a royal visit). Anyway they were on Garrison duty at Cape Town Castle at the start of WW1 and the cards displayed the tedium of such duties! He followed this with a display of the better items from a collection formed by former SACS member Edgar Kinsey in the 1950's and '60's. Mr Kinsey also contributed to the *Springbok*. Starting with a range of stamps mainly showing the bigger varieties he went on to some interesting postal history. This included maritime, railway, used in Swaziland and Basutoland and postage due material including a ½d King's head stamp used as a postage due. Unfortunately he had sold the Hospital Ship Ebani card from Cape Town at the beginning of the SWA campaign before I could get hold of it!

After lunch we were greatly entertained by a non-member, Jamie Smith, who took us through transportation of Transvaal gold to the USA via Canada to pay for arms in his display "The South African contribution to WW2". The role of black troops was mainly as pioneers but the case of Job Masego was highlighted. He was taken prisoner in Tobruk and devised an OED which he smuggled onto a cargo ship in harbour and managed to sink it. He was considered for a VC but ended up with only a British Military Medal because (according to the powers that were) "he was only an African"! (a good item for our next display). The display was wide ranging including the S.A. military headquarters at Voortrekkerhoogte (formerly Robert's Heights), the creation of an airport at Leopoldville, the Empire training scheme for air crews, the provision of petrol via Walvis Bay and Beira (then by rail to Salisbury), propaganda material, internment camps, censorship and more.

The last show of the day was Bob Hill's apartheid period "Part 2" delivered with the panache gained from his repeated "Kit Kat" successes! The display showed the changes in attitude that have taken place during the last 100 years or so with postmarks including "N" (native), "N.E." (non-European) or "N.W." (non-white), the "Indo-Native" office of 1918 and the "Durban "Bantu office" of 1937. He showed township cancels on cover with "East London Location", "Germiston Location" (a skeleton), "Ndabeni Location" (which had formerly been a plague quarantine station) and others. He also showed pass books with, or without, photos including one signed by a thumbprint. The one I liked best is illustrated (*see p74 - bottom right*) and for a "native" to enter the whites only beach at Durban so as to provide them with ice creams! The pass includes two local revenue stamps that I haven't seen before.

Bob wasn't yet finished, however, as he was the worthy winner from 6 entries for the Abell Trophy which followed his display. He was presented with the trophy, by our president, at dinner that evening. John also announced the winner of the Wicks Award for best article in the *Springbok* during 2018. This went to Wilbert Davies for "WW2 Foreign S.A. covers". His "Jusqu'a Markings" was also runner up. The award will be engraved and sent to him in the Netherlands.

Sunday morning was spent viewing members bringalongs. Nick Arrow showed four recent acquisitions he was very pleased with, including a 1934 airletter from Siam to Windhoek which had been mis-bagged for Cape Town and took 6 weeks to arrive. Another was a 1935 *Atlanta* cover which had reputedly been "held up" at Athens for two days. It turned out this was due to a crash. His final item was also a crash item salvaged from the midair collision between a Super Constellation and Douglas DC8 in America. It was the only item surviving that was addressed to South Africa.

Bob Hill followed with his superb Verneuk Pan collection added to by another cover plus a great signed photograph of Campbell. Amongst other fine material was a very early (1907) example of the Cape Ship Letter oval. Chris Oliver then showed the first issue of Republican air-letters 1971-6 where the imprinted stamp featured an aircraft over Tafelberg. Proofs, essays, flaws and varieties of all values were included with particular reference to changes in value and of "LUGBRIEF-AIR LETTER" to "AEROGRAM" on the imprinted etiquette six months after they were first issued.

After a coffee break in which Simon seemed to be doing good trade Rob Lester showed an interesting selection of WW2 newsletters produced by the Cape Town Citizens Committee (*see illustration on the front cover*). They could run to 30 pages and were full of information and news about the war. They were produced monthly and sold for 6d each with any profits going to the war fund. Despite their size they were all sent out at the printed matter rate of ½d! Tony Howgrave-Graham rounded off the morning with a look at maritime mail in 1850's, arguably the most interesting decade in maritime history with the first mail contracts, failing shipping lines, the Crimean war, the first postage stamps, the 8th Xhosa (Cape Frontier) war with the concessionary rate, mail sent ex contract as ship letters and finally the Union company taking over the contract. He also showed a 1908 cover from the Cape Station flagship HMS *Hermes* at Walvis Bay. It was converted to carry aircraft in WW1 until sunk by U27 but its name was reused for the two later, purpose built aircraft carriers which are well known. He ended with a selected group of "Shipping Postmaster" covers and finished early enough for Nick Arrow to start the auction at 13.00.



Proof of the entertainment value of the displays!



Simon pointing out the hospital ship Ebani

Images from Meriden



Proclaimed Area of Durban DEPARTMENT OF BANTU ADMINISTRATION BELU/ GROOTMAAT

Geproklameerde Gebied, Durban DEPT. MINISTERIE

10c

EMPLOYED BY IN DIENS VAN: P. B. BANTU ADMINISTRATION

ADDRESS: [Handwritten]

DATE OF ENGAGEMENT DATUM VAN INDIENSPERING: 7.9.68

DATE OF DISCHARGE DATUM VAN ONTSLAG: [Handwritten]

EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURE HANDTEKENING VAN WERKGEWER: [Handwritten]

NOTICE TO EMPLOYERS:

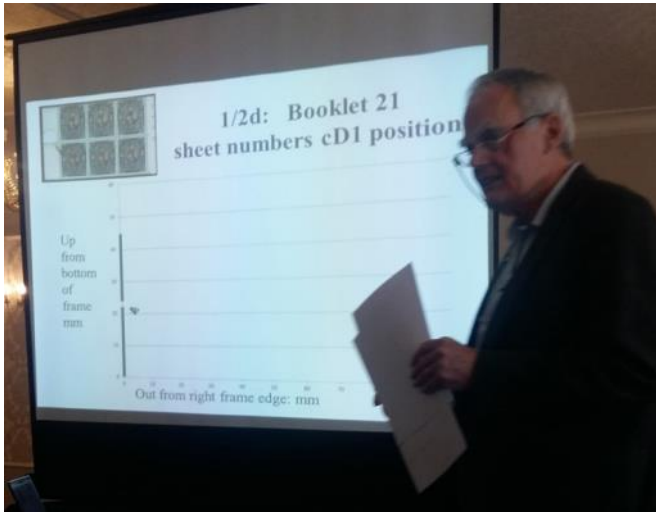
- The Native mentioned herein should be in possession of a Reference Book which now replaces all passes. To complete registration the employer must enter his name and address and the date of engagement thereon in Section "B". Within the first seven days of each month the Reference Book must be signed to indicate continuance of employment.
- A monthly registration fee of 20c is payable in respect of this Native on or before the seventh day of each month he is in your employ.
- Special books of registration vouchers may be purchased in advance from the Bulk Payment Office, 132 Ormonde Road. The vouchers and counterfoils must be sent with the notification of engagement to the Registration Office.
- All cheques to be made payable to "City Treasurer" but forwarded to: The Director, Department of Bantu Administration, P.O. Box 154, Durban.
- When an employee proposes to leave the details should be endorsed hereon and the document delivered or posted to the Registration Office within three days. The Reference Book should be similarly endorsed.

KENNISGEWING AAN WERKGEWERS:

- Die Nêreling hierin vermeld moet in besit wees van 'n Verwysingsboek wat nou alle passe vervang. Om registrasie te voltooi moet die werkgever sy naam en adres en die datum van indienspering in afdeling "B" daarvan aanteken. Die Verwysingsboek moet elke sewe dae van elke maand onderteken word om aan te toon dat die Nêreling nog in die werkgewer se diens is.
- 'n Maandelikse registrasiegeld van 20c is betaalbaar van aanvang van die eerste dag van elke sewende dag van elke maand wat by in 'n diens is.
- Spesiale boeke van registrasievouchers kan vooraf van die Kantoor vir Groot-aanbetaling, Ormonderoeg 132, gekoop word. Die vouchers en teenoerkantels moet saam met die kennisgewing van indienspering aan die Registrasiekantoor gestuur word.
- Alle tjekke moet betaalbaar gestuur word aan 'Die Stads-treasurer' maar moet gestuur word aan: Die Direkteur, Departement van Bantubesoer, Postbus 154, Durban.
- Wanneer 'n werkgewer met verlof gaan, moet die besonderhede hierop geteken word en hierdie dokument moet binne drie dae aan die Registrasiekantoor gestuur of gegee word. Die Verwysingsboek moet op soortgelyke wyse geteken word.



More images from Meriden



BACK TO BASICS

Tony Howgrave-Graham

It's been noticeable over the last decade that interest in the basic definitives has waned. I think this has largely been due to people feeling that they've now been fully studied. As a result we've seen a lot of "back of the album" material studied in some depth along with aspects of postal and social history. These have proved surprisingly interesting having been previously neglected but they're not really philately. As the SACS we are a "collectors" society but a lot of "philatelic" societies are finding the same.

Prices for all Commonwealth definitives has slumped over this time because of the reduction in the number of collectors. Only top end material is showing investment value. South African material has further been hit by problems with the rand. However, I think I detect a bottoming out, or even slight resurgence, lately.

The 1926-54 definitives are the backbone of "Union" philately. It's a false argument to suggest that just because their peculiarities have been well studied they are no longer of interest. They are, in fact, as interesting as ever and if you look at GB line engraved, for instance, they've been microstudied but the market remains very active.

This article is going to look at the early rotogravure and the problems the new process caused those at the Government Printing Works in Pretoria along with examples of some of the odd results.

Right from the formation of the "Union" in 1910 the powers that be wanted their stamps to represent South African themes and they wanted to print them themselves. The Afrikaaner population certainly didn't want British royalty dominating their stamps. They had had to put up with the 1913-24 King's heads. Once they'd got more satisfactory designs for the 1926-30 issues they set about trying to print things themselves. They got the Waterlow typographic plates for the ½d, 1d & 6d sent to Pretoria and in 1927 printed from the original plates and then made more for the ½d and 1d. These printings are noticeably of lower quality than their London counterparts.

The problems printing the recess values by an alternative process were quite demanding and during 1928 a Maj. J.J.Kruger was despatched on a world tour to see if he could find a cheaper and more effective way of producing stamps. He travelled extensively in America and Europe and came across the rotary photogravure process. This is a system where engraving takes place on cylinders rather than flat plates. Paper can then run through the printing machine in a continuous flow of sheets from a single printing. This became the preferred option chosen by the South African authorities and they decided to investigate it further.

The proof material from the previous flat bed printings is expensive, and keenly sought after. Even the more relatively common King's head proofs are fetching four figures. Material from the rotogravure trials is thankfully much more affordable and mostly from the trials carried out at Darmstadt in 1929.

Nederlandsche Rotogravure Maatschaapji NV (NRMNV) of Leiden had developed a then secret method of engraving onto a cylinder rather than a plate and Goebel AG of Darmstadt had three machines which could print using them. Two had been bought by Italy who used them to print their monocolour Victor Emmanuel commemoratives in January 1929. However, South Africa wanted bicolour stamps which, of course, required two cylinders for each stamp.



Figure 1 - Unofficial
Booyesen Essay

When examples of the trial stamps first started appearing on the market in the 1940's they were treated with considerable suspicion. Ironically a junior observer from the Government Printing Works in Pretoria, Johnnie Booyesen, produced an unauthorised 1d springbok essay at Leiden (*Fig.1*) in blue, brown or violet and these seem to have been accepted at that time as an official trial. Booyesen was reprimanded but went on to a long career in the Printing Works.

We have Professor Victor Dix to thank for detailing the cupboard full of Darmstadt trials. His findings were shown to the Royal Philatelic Society, London 10 February 1949 and a detailed listing appeared in the London Philatelist in October 1950. The trials still carry his numbering which represents the order in which he processed them. Unfortunately this numbering system bears little relation to the order in which they were produced so isn't terribly helpful.

He is also responsible for finding the probably only unique trial relating to South African rotogravure which is a series of colour trials for all the bicoloured definitives (ie the basic values to 10/- less the 4d) on Shuck Maclean paper (*Fig.2* for the 1d as that is the value tested at Darmstadt). They were clearly trying to match the ink colours to the typo and recess printed values. Prof Dix wrote to Schuck Maclean in July 1950 to establish their authenticity. The response confirmed this though no concrete proof existed as their factory and most of their records were destroyed in a WW2 bombing raid. Unfortunately the trials were probably a waste of time as the inks required for rotogravure printing are quite different from the flat bed processes.

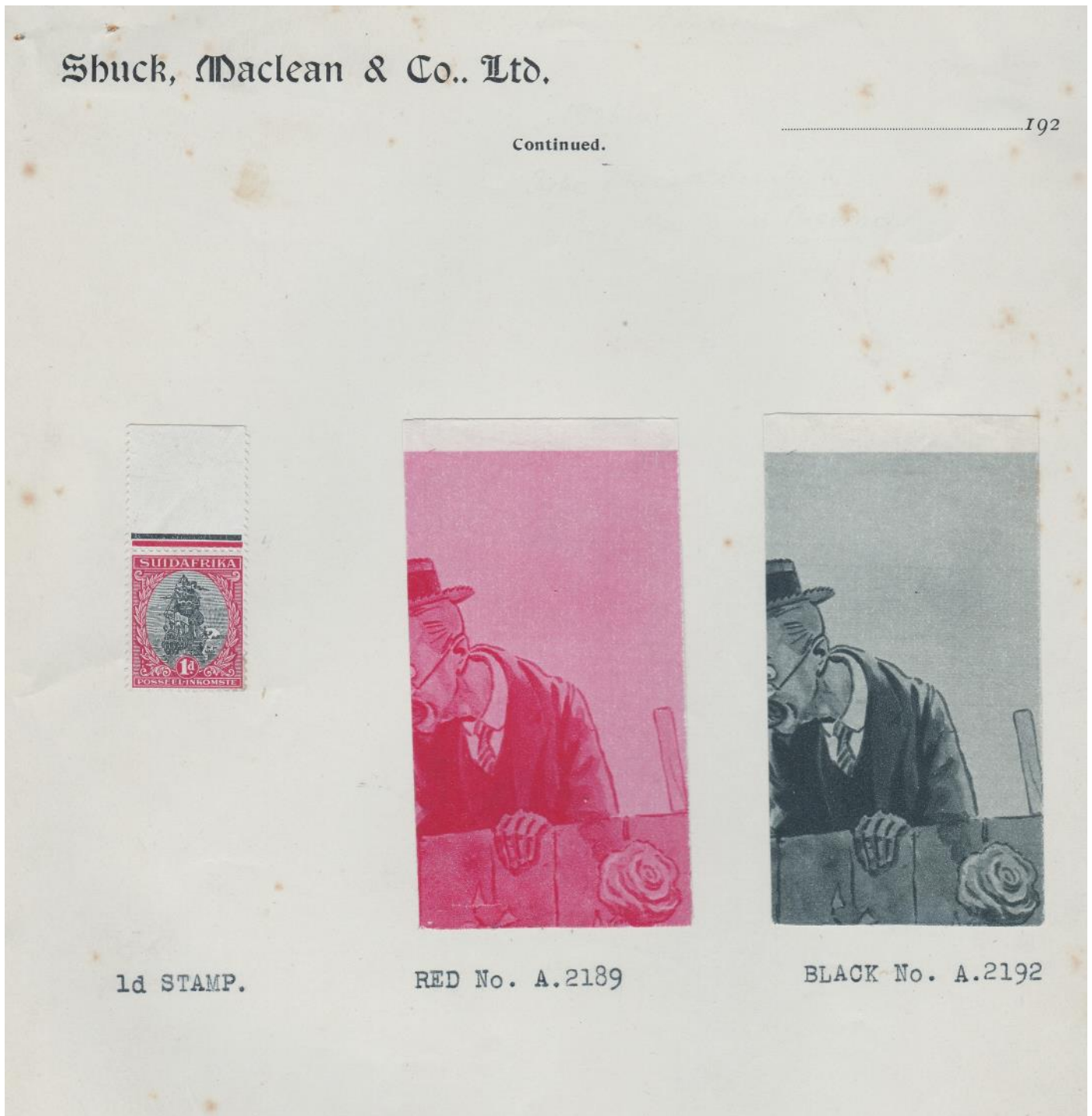


Figure 2 - Colour trials produced on Shuck Maclean paper

The Darmstadt trials have been described in some detail before so I won't detail all 71 of the trials again here but it's worth looking at what was being trialled and the personnel involved.

Starting with the personnel the London printers Hunter Penrose were contracted to design and oversee the trials. A Mr Pegler from the Government Printing Works also oversaw things with a view to being able to replicate the process, if adopted, back in South Africa. The pre-mentioned Johnnie Booyesen was

also there to study the process though he spent most of his time in Leiden. A Mr Teller was the NRMNV representative who actually conducted the trials.

Five different papers were trialled:-

1. Gummed Samuel Jones paper, watermarked with a multiple clover leaf design, with the whole sheet so watermarked or just the right 3 or 4 (Fig.3) vertical columns along with the right margin. These all originated from Leiden.



Figure 3—Trials on Samuel Jones paper bearing a clover watermark

2. Plain uncoated, ungummed and unwatermarked paper which was incorrectly labelled "Harrison". In fact it is reported to be from official South African supplies.

3. The same but coated. This had been stored at Darmstadt for some time and had become creased so may well be Harrison. In any case pre-printing paper creases can be found on trials for which it was used (Figs. 4 & 5, Dix 41, English red ink).



Figure 4—Trials on 'Harrison' uncoated paper



Figure 5—Trials on 'Harrison' coated paper

4. Samuel Jones gummed esparto paper with no watermark (mentioned in Gibbons in a note at the end of the unhyphenated section. They may be the commonest of the Darmstadt trials but the quoted price of £25 is ludicrously low. 30 years ago they catalogued them at £80! The type II 1d they catalogue at £60 now and that is much easier to find)

5. The official South African paper watermarked multiple springboks head.

Seven inks were trialled:- black, red, green and orange (a very yellowish one) were provided by Shuck Maclean from England and black, red and brown from Berlin. (Fig.6)



Figure 6—Ink trials from Shuck Maclean, UK and Germany

So, now we're set for the trials themselves. Four cylinders were prepared at Leiden. The first was for Hunter Penrose dummy cigarette labels (Fig. 7).



Figure 7—Printing trials of Hunter Penrose dummy cigarette labels

The second was for the Hunter Penrose labels which were the same size as the old recess definitives (*Fig.8*) and their proposed replacements.



Figure 8—Printing trials of Hunter Penrose labels

The third was for the 1d ship frame and the fourth for the 1d ship vignette. A trial printing of the complete design was run off in photogravure on the Leiden machine in July 1929 (*Fig.9*, Dix 44). It's on gummed paper watermarked clover leaves in the three right vertical columns only.



Figure 9—Printing trials of the 1d ship stamp on the Leiden machine

The cylinders were then transported to Darmstadt and trials started there in August. The first printings were of the cigarette labels. Eighteen trials in all using all seven inks on three types of paper (the plain Samuel Jones paper, the Leiden watermarked clover leaf paper (the whole sheet watermarked) and finally on the coated paper). Next were 14 printings of the Hunter Penrose labels again using all 7 inks and the same 3 papers. Another label here is the brown one with an "S.W.A." overprint. It's not known if the overprinting took place in Darmstadt or back in South Africa.

The remainder of the trials concentrated on printing the 1d ship. All in all there were 7 printings of the vignette only, 11 of the frame only and 20 of the complete stamp. They started early in September 1929 with one cylinder at a time being tested. On 13 September the machine was fitted with both cylinders. On 16 September the frame cylinder was damaged during fine etching and two new cylinders were sent from Leiden. The language setting on the new frame cylinder changed from having the top left stamp inscribed in Afrikaans to being inscribed in English so corner examples can be differentiated. On 26 September two trial printings took place on the official springboks head watermarked paper. One used only English inks, the other English black and German red. (*Fig.10*, Dix 37, English inks and showing the E1 setting of the second frame cylinder. Also a variably obvious tiny white flaw in the frame near the top right corner on alternate E stamps. This is a master negative flaw and the only flaw from the trials that appears on the first



Figure 10—Printing trials of the 1d ship stamp on springbok head watermarked paper, using English black ink and German red ink

type of issued stamp). There had been various arguments over the inks. The German red ink had clearly been superior to the Shuck Maclean one but there were complaints that this had been contrived. Anyway the result of these 2 trials was that the paper was deemed unsuitable and Samuel Jones was requested to provide a new gummed esparto paper with no watermark and Shuck Maclean to produce improved inks.

They must have responded remarkably quickly to the requests as the final trials were reportedly completed between 28&30 September and these trials form the majority of Darmstadt trial stamps in most collections. Interestingly there was one major flaw amongst these printings. A paper inclusion disrupted the vignette printing in the bottom row of one sheet of Dix 66 so 12 copies exist (*Fig. 11*).

After the final run on 30 September things were still considered unsatisfactory and the English red ink still too thin. After a pause whilst the cylinders were cleaned a "final proof" was run on 8 October using English black and German red inks (*Fig. 12*).



Figure 11—Printing trials of the 1d ship stamp showing the printing fault in the bottom of the vignette which left part of the design unprinted



Figure 12—'Final proof' of the 1d ship stamp using English black and German red inks

The trial was considered a success and the final Goebel machine was purchased for £15,000 and taken back to Pretoria. So now the Government Printers had to start producing stamps.

They managed pretty well on the whole though had well documented major problems when adapting things for roll and booklet printings. I rather suspect the recently mentioned 2d "trial" was, in fact, a mistake rather than a trial and was intended to be the first issue but withdrawn when they noticed the vignette was too small. I don't usually much approve of things being smuggled out of the printing works but in this case am fairly happy about it as we otherwise would know nothing about it. Dry printings make for some of the most pricey varieties but this is because they didn't happen much and are rare to unique. Doctor blade flaws are fairly common and very variable, Paper joins are scarcer and get scarcer still in later printings and then, of course, we have the cylinder varieties. A lot of people rather denigrate fly-speck philately. In some cases the flaws are large enough to be at least bumble bee philately! They also keep collectors very happy when they get listed by Gibbons and South Africa has more than most because so often they are strategically sited lending themselves to catchy names. It is often, however, smaller and sometimes tiny flaws that are the most important. Taking the 2d again if one didn't know the cylinder flaws one couldn't know if one had an arrow piece from the rare Issue 1a or Issue 2 rather than the common Issue 1 and 2a. Neither would it have been possible to work out how the early roll stamps were created without recognising the recurrence of some tiny flaws in the added stamps. The 11th row flaws are also fun and allow one to find the same flaw on stamps of opposite language setting.

The quality of printing in rotogravure did improve over time but South Africa never reached the heights of, say, Courvoisier with their Swiss pro-juventute stamps of the 1950's. Anyway the 1d was the stamp trialled at Darmstadt and the first value issued so we'll take a look at that in the next article and then move on to some other values.

Congrtatulations to members

Stockholmia Golds

Many congratulations to Eddie Bridges for achieving a Large Gold for his "The 1d Ship Issues of the Union of South Africa - 1926-54" (8 frames and 95 points) and to our President, John Shaw, for a gold for his "South Africa - the 1926-30 Definitives" (5 frames gaining 91 points). Well done to both and congratulations also to Carol Bommarito, Eddie's partner, who also achieved a large gold for her "US mail to, from and through GB 1840-1875" with the remarkable score of 98, only one shy of the overall winner. Many of you will remember her from her attendances at our November conferences.

Record of the A.G.M. of the South African Collectors' Society held at Strawberry Bank, Meriden CV7 7NF at 17.00hrs on Saturday, 18th May 2019.

1. The Chairman welcomed all those present. Apologies had been received from Steve Hannath, Tim Harrison, Otto Peetoom and Brian Trotter.

There having been no adverse comments on the Record of the A.G.M. held on 9th June 2018, they were proposed for adoption by Nick Arrow and approved.

3. There were no Matters arising from the above that were not included elsewhere in the agenda.

4. The Hon. Chairman's report.

I'm happy to report that the Society is still in good shape and financially sound and my thanks are owed to the hard work of Society officials who keep the show on the road.

I add my condolences to Chris's on the death of Max Whitlock who was always keen to work on the Society's behalf. The major recent news is that Roy Ross is sadly currently unwell and unable to continue as editor of the Springbok. He is to be thanked and applauded for his efforts which have seen our Society magazine win a prestigious award and has pulled in a wider circle of contributors and range of articles. We all wish him well and hope that the medical establishment can improve things for him.

My thanks also to Tony Johnson who has agreed to take over from him as editor subject, of course, to confirmation of his appointment at the AGM. I hope members will put pen to paper and provide articles for him. An editor's job is greatly eased by having a full in tray of articles - so please help him.

Many thanks also to Chris Oliver who, despite his long service in the role, has offered to continue as Hon Secretary for another year.

Others also put in lots of work behind the scenes. Noticeably Simon Peetoom who has taken on the treasurership as well as convener for the two major weekend meetings and Nick Arrow who runs the successful auctions. Also Otto who keeps the website up to date. My repeated thanks to them all and everyone else who contributes.

As has been pointed out by Simon the Society has a healthy bank balance. This has been built up largely from auctions past and present and the sale of club "Study Collection" booklets. Whilst it's important to keep membership subscriptions as low as possible it's also important to keep them covering the basic costs of the Society. Personally I would prefer to see any surplus funds used in promoting the Society in particular and South African philately in general in line with our constitution. I should be very happy to hear ideas from anyone with them as to how this might best be achieved.

Finally - happy hunting for the next year!

5. The Hon. Secretary's report.

Max Whitlock passed away in October 2018 after a short illness although he had not been in good health for the last few years. He managed the Springbok dispatch until shortly before his death and looked after the Postal History Packet until lack of material brought it to a close. It seems likely that the Stamp Exchange Packet may well follow suit unless we get more material to sell.

During the last year we have held two meetings in Carlisle, one in Letchworth, two in London and a successful A.G.M. weekend in May.

Simon has completed his first year as Hon. Treasurer. I have been persuaded to continue for another year as both Hon. Secretary & Hon. Membership Secretary but will definitely stand down at the 2020 A.G.M. It is likely that the two jobs will be split then. My thanks to all the management team of officers and committee who have, again, supported me during the last year. My particular thanks to Roy who has edited the Springbok but has, since September last, distributed it for the Society. I am sorry that the condition of his health has forced his retirement and thank him for his help and advice over the years.

c.e.o. march 2019

6. The Hon. Treasurer's report & statement on proposed subscriptions for 2020.

This report was included in the Springbok Vol. 67. No. 2, and was approved, subject to audit. Proposed by David Page, seconded by Rob Lester. The subscriptions for 2020 would remain unchanged as those from 2019.

Nick Arrow raised the fact that although, a not-for-profit organization, the Society had accrued a substantial surplus in funds. It was suggested that we should expend a portion of this sum to the benefit of the Society. This was supported by Simon Peetoom and he would, therefore, hope that we can keep the subscription at the same level during 2021 & 2022. The Chairman asked that all members should make suggestions regarding this surplus. Some thoughts had been made as included elsewhere in this report, but others can be considered before the next A.G.M.

7. Reports from other officers

a) **The Hon Auctioneer** reported that the auctions at this meeting and at the November Conference would be the sole auctions of the Society. Union, Republic and S.W.A. material would be given preference at the Spring meeting, as only a few pre-Union bidders attend.

b) **The Hon. Librarian** reported a quiet year. The exception being the donation of books from Errol van Greunen.

c) **The Hon. Packet Superintendent** reiterated his statement, made in the Springbok Vol. 67. No. 2, that material for the packet and that subscribers were reducing to the extent that he would be winding-up the Exchange Packet by December 2019.

Most subscribers had found that the cost of mailing, upon finding nothing in the packet to suit their needs, had deterred remaining on the circuit. After some discussion on the suitability of using an E-basis for the packet, David Page volunteered to assist Tony Johnson to form a suitable operation and could consider including all members on a digitalized packet with some arrangement for inclusion of those who were not computer literate.

d) **The Hon Editor.** If elected, Tony Johnson would require articles as a matter of urgency. He would distribute the magazine electronically but would need some support to distribute it postally. Rob & Lyn Lester and David Page volunteered to undertake this task. It was decided that David's offer would be accepted as he lived closer to Tony. This was proposed by Nick Arrow and seconded by Lyn Lester. Printing estimates would be obtained.

8. Election of Officers and committee. The President; The Chairman, The Hon. Secretary; The Hon. Treasurer; The Hon Librarian; The Hon Auctioneer; The Hon. Webmaster would remain in office, if elected.

It was proposed that The Hon Treasurer would undertake the role of Hon. Membership Secretary, that Tony Johnson would undertake the role of Hon. Editor and that David Page would be appointed Hon. Packet Superintendent and Hon. Assistant Editor (postal dispatch).

With these provisos Rob Lester proposed that the officers and committee be elected en bloc. This was seconded by Nick Arrow and passed by those present.

9. Conferment of Hon. Membership. John Shaw proposed that Tony Howgrave-Graham be elected an Honorary Member. Those present, all agreed.

10. Ratification of Library Fund. £200 per annum is confirmed to enable The Hon. Librarian to purchase new books for the Library. Should there be a need to exceed this, the Librarian should advise the Secretary and Treasurer but, in view of the statements in Clause 6 above, this would not be withheld.

11. Society meetings and events. Meetings have been arranged in September at Carlisle and at the Calthorpe Arms, London. A meeting in Letchworth; two meetings each in London and in Carlisle and the Spring and November meetings in Meriden in 2020 are anticipated. The possibility of finding a new venue for London meetings, with frames & parking would be considered. To aid reporting, precis notes of presentations will be required from all displayers at the above meetings, please.

A Society table could be available on Wednesday, 6th May, at London 2020 for a fee of £25. It was agreed, by those present, that this should be applied for. One member voted against the idea. We shall need volunteers to man that table on that date.

12. S.A.C.S. support for Youth Philately. As In previous years, we agreed to make a donation of £50 to support Youth Philately. This was proposed by Nick Arrow and seconded by Lyn Lester.

A.O.B. Pre-Union items are to be included in Abell Trophy Competition. This will require an amendment to the constitution of the Society and any changes will be circulated, in the Springbok for agreement by ballot of all members.

Chris Oliver—Secretary

Re 1936 JIPEX Postcards

In the previous issue of the Springbok Roy Ross wondered how far these cards travelled. He gave a list supplied by Nick Arrow and added a couple more from his own collection.

Two of our members have sent their own additions and additional comments:

- 1) The list is really quite extensive. In addition to the ones you listed, and the Lebanon & Japan that are in your collection, add Argentina, Belgium, Belgian Congo, Chile, Ecuador, Fiji, France, Guatemala, Iran, Iraq, New Guinea, Nyasaland, Portuguese East Africa, Samoa, Sudan, Uruguay.

While you emphasized JIPEX, the cards were actually to promote the Empire Exhibition in Johannesburg. JIPEX was one more opportunity to have collectors buy the cards. They were sold in sets of six for 3d. The unique thing was the 1/2d. air mail rate to anywhere in the world. I am hoping to acquire a Tristan card one of these days. It would be a nice item for my exhibit.

Kalman Illyefalvi

- 2) I can add from my small collection of these 1936/1937 cards the following destinations:

Tanganyika (East Africa in the list, I presume), Trinidad, Ceylon, Belgian Congo, Nyasaland, Batavia, Dutch East Indies, Brazil, Nigeria, Singapore, South West Africa

SWA is not listed separately, and it is not clear whether Godfrey included the SWA addresses in his "Union" number or his "South African countries" number.

Note: The list you identified as by Dr Reisner is derived from I H C Godfrey's note in the April 1938 issue of *The South African Philatelist*.

Hugh Amooore

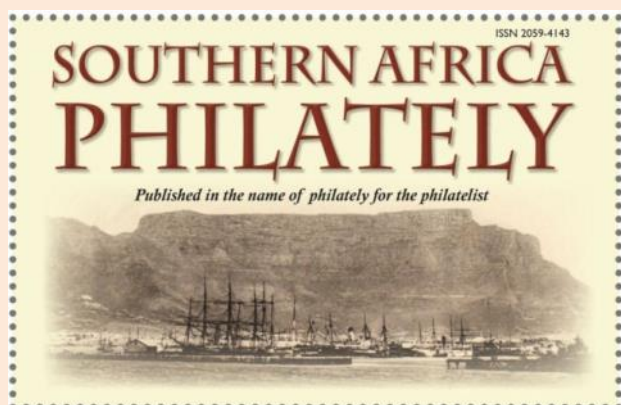
Re a Query from Malcolm Judd

In the previous issue of the Springbok Malcom showed a COGH cover carrying postage due stamps that he couldn't explain. The following response has been received:

The cover was paid 1d. Rate 2 1/2d. Deficiency was 1 1/2d. This is prior to the 1907 UPU system, and prior to 1907 the country of origin marked the deficiency in LMU centimes (Not double the deficiency). The 10 centime mark was struck in error and then over struck with the correct 15 centime mark (1 1/2 d = 15 LMU centimes). The German postal authorities then (a) doubled this and (b) converted this to pfg, using the proportional system (the German UPU rate at the time was 20pfg). The resulting fine, marked in blue crayon was thus 25 pfg. (The Cape PO did have a 25 centime tax mark ; it is quite well known though not included in Goldblatt's book or his supplement)

Hugh Amooore

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REVISITING THE UNHYPHENATED ROTOGRAVURE 2d.

ISSUE 1a.

Mike Tonking

Issue 1a of the unhyphenated rotogravure 2d. Postage stamps, which appeared in March 1932, are of particular interest as they were the first to have large overprinted arrows printed over the original small arrows of Issue 1. It was a very small issue and it is reported that only 11 arrow pieces have survived. The reasons for this arrangement were almost certainly to assist the postal officials to divide the sheets as the small arrows were too difficult to see.

In all other respects this issue was identical to Issue 1. Since the small arrows of both Issues 1 and 2 are exactly the same these issues can only be identified by the distinct flaws found on each issue.

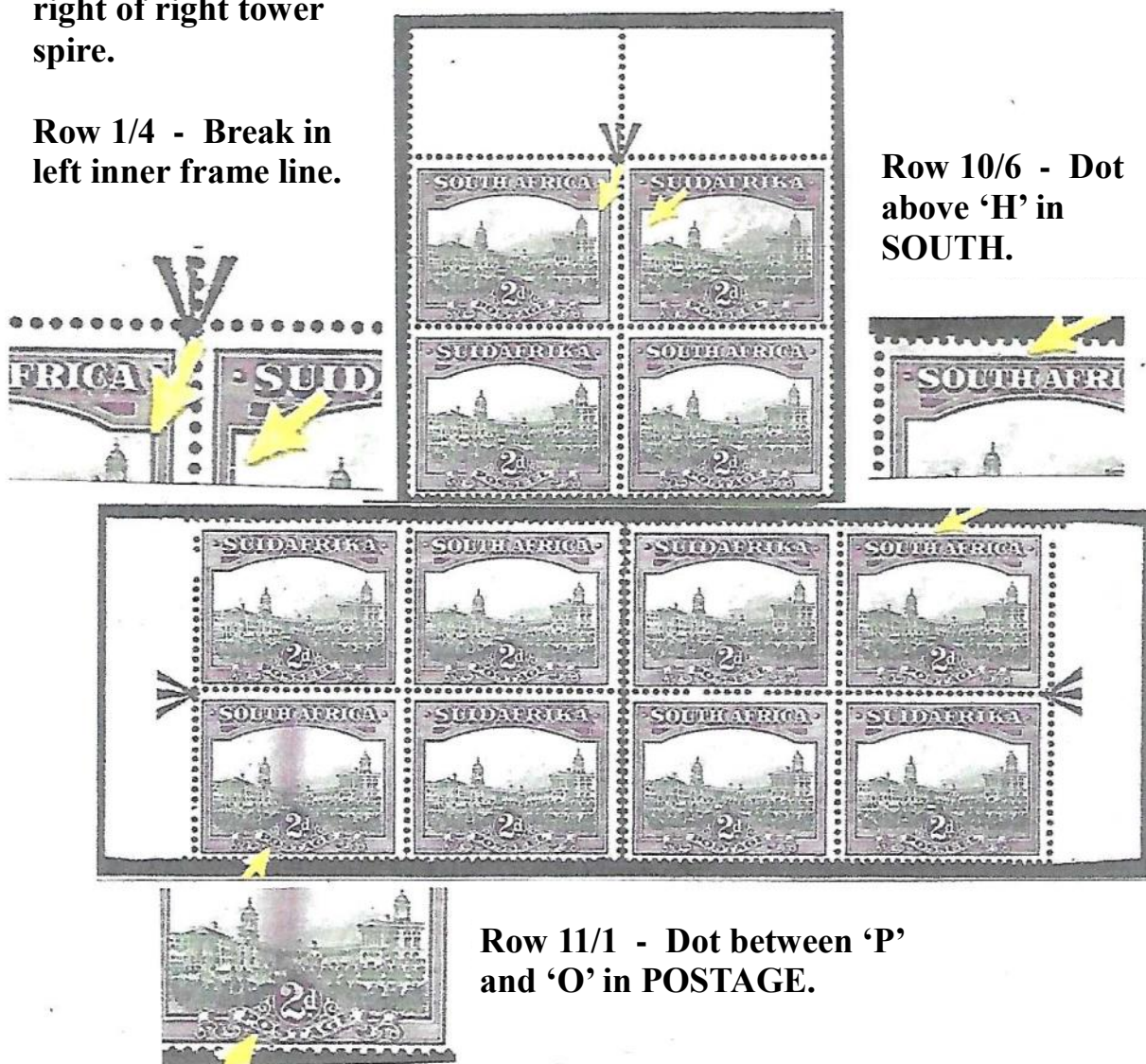
M.J.H. Tonking (30.5.2019)

Reference: The stamps of the Union of South Africa - S. J. Hagger RDFSAs, 1986

Row 1/3 - Dot to right of right tower spire.

Row 1/4 - Break in left inner frame line.

Row 10/6 - Dot above 'H' in SOUTH.



Row 11/1 - Dot between 'P' and 'O' in POSTAGE.

Don't forget

Book your place with Simon Peetoom (See page 70 for contact details) for the Southern African Conference on 1st to 3rd November at The Strawberry Bank Hotel, Meriden, CV7 7NF.

Offers of displays for the Saturday would be most welcome.

UNION SHEET NUMBERS PRINTED ON THE LEFT SHEET MARGIN.

Mike Tonking

Sheet numbers were normally printed twice in the right sheet margin. These were required for accounting purposes and were printed in sequence of the numbers after each rotation of the printing cylinder. The cyclometer numbers were printed in different colours each associated with the printing press used at the time.

The first rotogravure printing press introduced in 1930 was the Goebel KM 11 known as the 830 press the cyclometer of which printed four figure numbers. In the first instance these were black followed by blue and finally red. In 1940 a second Goebel press was introduced known as the 840 press. In this case the cyclometer printed five figure black sheet numbers.

On very rare occasions the two sheet numbers were printed in the left sheet margin. This was caused by the printing paper being incorrectly wound resulting in the watermark being in the inverted position. In order to rectify this situation the stamp printing cylinders were reversed in the printing press without the cyclometers changing their position. This resulted in the sheet numbers being printed in the left rather than the normal right sheet margin. This rare event is reported to have only occurred four times in all the printing of the millions of Union postage stamps.

It is of interest that apart from the four examples noted the Government Printer ignored whether the watermark was inverted or not and always printed the sheet numbers in the right margin.

M.J. H. Tonking (19.6.2019)

References: The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910-1961- S.J. Hagger RDPSA.

First Example

1d. Issue 10 April 1934 Watermark upright. This was the only time it occurred in all 18 Issues.



1d. issue 10 Sheet number in right margin even though watermark inverted.



Second

1d. Bantam Issue 4 May 1945
One printing with black sheet number in left margin opposite rows 15 - 16.



Example

1d. Bantam Issue 4 May 1945
Sheet number changed to red colour
Probably a further print run. Opposite rows 4 - 5.



Third Example

1d. Wildebeest Group I Issue 4 July 1959
Sheet number in left margin opposite rows 5 - 6. Watermark upright.



Fourth Example

1½d Leopard Group 1 Issue 1 October 1954
Second Printing on thick toned paper.



Group 1 Issue I March 1960
Second Printing on thin white paper.



The E.G. Kinsey Collection – Sections for sale

The Stamp Collection (Union period)

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DORSLAND TREKKERS

Chris Oliver

Another trek in southern Africa, of which little is heard, was an advance to Portuguese territory by Boer farmers.

In 1836, the Boers set off on the [Great Trek](#), establishing the Orange Free State and [Transvaal](#) as independent Boer republics. At a later date some decided to advance further north into Portuguese Angola. There are theories why the settlers would take off yet again. One is that in the 1870s, Britain again began the process of annexing the Boer states.

The first group of the Dorsland Trek set out on 27 May 1874 under the leadership of [Gert Alberts](#). A number of different groups of farmers, taking different routes, followed the first group. They set off from areas around [Rustenburg](#), [Groot Marico](#) and [Pretoria](#).

Their primary destination was the [Humpata](#) highlands of south-western [Angola](#). On their journey, the settlers had to traverse [Bechuanaland](#) and the vast, arid areas of the [Kalahari](#) desert, in what is today the countries of [Namibia](#) and [Botswana](#). It was the harsh and dry conditions that they experienced in the Kalahari that gave the trek the name *Dorsland Trek* which means "Thirstland" Trek in [Afrikaans](#). According to one witness, over 3000 trekkers died during the journey. In 1881, sixty families totalling 300 people arrived in Humpata, and were given 200 hectares (490 acres) per family to farm on. Jan H. van der Merwe led one of these other treks.

The settlers entered Angola by crossing the [Cunene River](#) at [Swartbooisdrift](#). The [Portuguese](#) colonial authorities encouraged the Boers to settle on the [Huila Plateau](#) at [Humpata](#) where the majority of them remained, while a number of families went further north, settling at different places on the Central Highlands. The various settlements formed one closed community that resisted integration. Also, the settlers' resistance to innovation brought many of them to impoverishment. As a result, in the late 1920s, some began migrating southwards into [South-West Africa](#), while some returned to their original places of origin. They left Angola on ox wagons, taking only what they could load on the wagons. The descendants of the Dorsland trekkers — not fully integrated into Portuguese Angolan society — left Angola in 1975, when the country became independent amid a civil war.

A number of farmers settled in the [Otavi](#) – [Tsumeb](#) – [Grootfontein](#) triangle and in the area around [Gobabis](#). Some took a different route and crossed [Kaokoland](#). On their way southwards they discovered water at [Tsauchab](#) and named it *Ses Riem*, (Six Reins, after the long reins which were part of the ox wagon harness), which reflected the depth of the canyon.

Not long after the Boers first settled in Angola, problems arose. The Afrikaners taught the local [Portuguese settlers](#) cattle breeding and ox-cart driving, as well as superior marksmanship. The relationship between the Portuguese settlers and the Boers was quite cordial, and many Portuguese learned Afrikaans as well. The Portuguese authorities, however, did not approve of the Boers in Angola and never granted them citizenship, did not allow them to have legal ownership of their farms, and did not allow them to open Afrikaans language schools. As early as the mid-1890s, the tensions between the colonial authorities and the Boer settlers was apparent, and was written about at the time by the Swedish explorer Peter Möller.

In 1928 many Boers decided to leave Angola and head south to South-West Africa (then under South African jurisdiction), where settlement was easier and not impeded on by the Portuguese authorities. The repatriation was conducted by the South African government under [J. B. M. Hertzog](#). From August 1928 to February 1929, 1,922 Boers were repatriated to South Africa. 420 trek certificates were issued to families, though only 373 families left Angola at the time. The final Boer families to return to South Africa under this repatriation left Angola in 1931.

After the Great Trek from Angola, many Boers stayed in Angola, and the remaining Afrikaner community erected an obelisk monument in Humpata in July 1957 in honor of the Dorsland Trekkers. By 1958, 58 Boer families remained in Angola, totaling 500 individuals. These Boers remained in Angola until 1975, during the [Angolan Civil War](#), when they fled with many thousands of Portuguese refugees into South West Africa ([Namibia](#)). Today, an unknown number of Boers live in Angola, as with the end of the civil war, many Portuguese and others have returned to the country

The Boers were not well received everywhere. As early as 1874, [Herero](#) chiefs [Maharero](#), [Kambazembi](#), and [Christian Wilhelm Zeraua](#) requested the [Cape](#) authorities to intervene with their settlement

in [Damaraland](#). As a result, a position of Special Commissioner for Damaraland was created.^[11] In the area around Gobabis, Kailkhuuan [Kaptein Andreas Lambert](#) on behalf of all leaders of Damaraland threatened to harm them if they did not leave.

- In Kaokoland, several ruins of temporary settlements are still visible, including a Dopper (Baptist) church which is an informal name for the [Gereformeerde Kerke](#)) near [Kaoko Otavi](#).
- Outside Swartbooisdrift the Dorsland Trekkers Monument has been erected to commemorate the journey.
- At [Cassinga](#) there is a memorial obelisk, erected in 2003, commemorating those who died during the trek.
- At Humpata there is a large obelisk, erected in 1958 commemorating the Trekkers, and there are several graves of the settlers, including that of their leader, Gert Alberts.



DORSLAND TREKKERS MONUMENT AT SWARTBOOISDRIFT, NAMIBIA



THE INAUGURATION, IN 1957, OF THE TREK OBELISK AT HUMPATA, ANGOLA.

MY FAVOURITE COVER

Malcolm Judd

UPPER ZWART KEI (or Upper Zwart Kie?)

This small village lies close to the Black/Zwart/Swart Kei river in the Eastern Cape 35km south-west of Queenstown, which itself was founded in 1853 by Cape Colony Governor Sir George Cathcart and named for Queen Victoria. An area between the Swart Kei River (current name) and the Amatole mountain range to the south was then annexed to the Cape Colony with farms allocated to 198 British and Dutch settlers. Prior to this annexation the Wesleyan and Methodist missionaries had intensively preached in the area, mostly it would seem to the Khosa people, there being a reference to a mission at Zwart Kei, although that reference suggests that it was not a permanent structure. Zwart is Afrikaans for 'black'; kei is 'boulder' and kie is 'company'.



Upper Zwart Kei is now, in the Isikhosa language, called Upper Zangqokwe and is a village with one main road through it and about a dozen offshoots. Many of the villages in the area have been re-named but some still survive in English or Afrikaans including Spring Valley and Brakkloof. The Black Kei and the White Kei rivers join to the south of this area becoming the Great Kei before feeding into the Indian ocean. Upper Zwart is a tributary of the Zwart River complex. In 1859 the mail in the village of Zwart Kei was dealt with by a Field Cornetcy. A Field Cornet, equivalent to a Lieutenant, was a Commander of the Afrikaan burghers in the Cape Province.

The post office at Lily Vale was opened on 7 January 1860, the postmaster being T C Hinds. In 1861 it was listed as Lily Vale, Upper Zwart Kei. On the 1 Oct 1862 George Judd was appointed as Postmaster. In 1863 the name Lily Vale was used on its own but in 1865 its name was changed to Upper Zwart Kei. On 1 October 1866 Mr A C McDonald was appointed postmaster of Upper Zwart Kei, and is listed in this position until 1879 when the format of the Civil Establishment Returns was changed. The Returns for 1880 and 1881 do not list a post office for Upper Zwart Kei, but do give one for Zwart Kei with Mr A McDonald as its postmaster. It seems probable, therefore, that for this brief period the post office at Upper Zwart Kei was known as Zwart Kei.

Although listed as the Postmaster, George Judd describes himself on the wrapper (see below) as 'Post Agent' from 'U(pper) Z(wart) Kie'. Note the subtle change to Kie from Kei. This suggests that he ran another business alongside the Post Office. There is no record of what that business might have been but other such 'Post Agents' were often shopkeepers or railway Station Masters. There being no railway at Upper Zwart Kei the former is most likely. Such an Agency was established as a collecting centre for letters. Using the name 'Kie' may appear to signify a military company based around the Upper Zwart River, necessary after the 8th Cape Frontier War (1850-53) or alternatively is an intentional play on words by Geo. Judd or his predecessor.

On May 26th 1866 the Post Master General of Cape Town received from Geo(rge) Judd, the Post Agent at Upper Zwart Kei a slim wrapper, sealed with a simple green seal, the content of which can only be guessed at, sent 'O.H.M. Service', perhaps recording the amount of post dealt with by Geo. Judd. The reference to Geo. Judd was originally written inside the wrapper but it has been re-folded for display purposes many years ago. The basis of a 'wrapper' is a sheet of paper (in this case watermarked 1861) folded so as to become an envelope.

The PMG in 1866 was at premises in Bureau Street Cape Town but in 1872 it moved to St. Georges Street, becoming the General Post Office. The circular date stamp (cds) on the wrapper was hand stamped in Bureau Street. It is a 22mm diameter circle, the 'F' denoting the time of day. There is a hyphen between Cape and Town and a stop between Cape and Colony. This is unrecorded in Goldblatt but is shown in the Putzel Postmark book vol. 2 p42 as example Put 22h.

In the Postal Route Map of 1889 shown in Goldblatt, the Upper Zwart Kei postal route is through Tarkstaad to Cradock. In the 1859 Post offices and postal routes and contracts list included in Goldblatt there is a reference to 'Zwart Kei (field-cornetcy) sent in mail to divisional town Cradock' and the only Postal Route that involves Cradock is route 5/6 – Alival North to Cape Town (and return), leaving Cradock

on Wednesday at 7am and arriving in Cape Town at 4.30pm on Monday. That journey in modern times is 500 miles or about 8 hours in a car compared with about 70 hours at that time.

There is reference to a George Judd in the South African Archives – notably from 1865 through to the end of the 19th Century but without direct recourse to those documents it is not possible to assign relevance from them. This includes the following:

Records of a G. Judd in the Albany Museum in the Parish of Graaff-Reinet in 1868

- In 1888 the records state ‘Memorial received from George Judd forwarding Petition of Sterkstroom inhabitants re abolition of Periodical Court.
- 1893 Petition of George Judd of Steynsburg (now Eastern Cape) re his minor son Alexander Edwin.
- Old Grahamstown Cemetery – Georgina August Judd b.1877 d.1933 (perhaps a daughter named after the father?)
- Steynsburg in the Eastern Cape appears to be the location of Geo. Judd after he left Upper Zwart Kie.
- Ultimately only George Judd could have told us whether his use of Kie rather than Kei was to identify his company or a mistake on his part, he being of British rather than Afrikaan descent.

The information about this wrapper has come from many sources and thanks to many people.

Paul van Zeyl: A philatelic auctioneer in Jo’Burg for some 40 years and a published expert on Transvaal stamps, Paul was formerly at the South African Reserve Bank. He sold Malcolm Judd this cover at an auction in 2013 for R1150, the price probably reflecting the scarce Cape Town circular date stamp style.

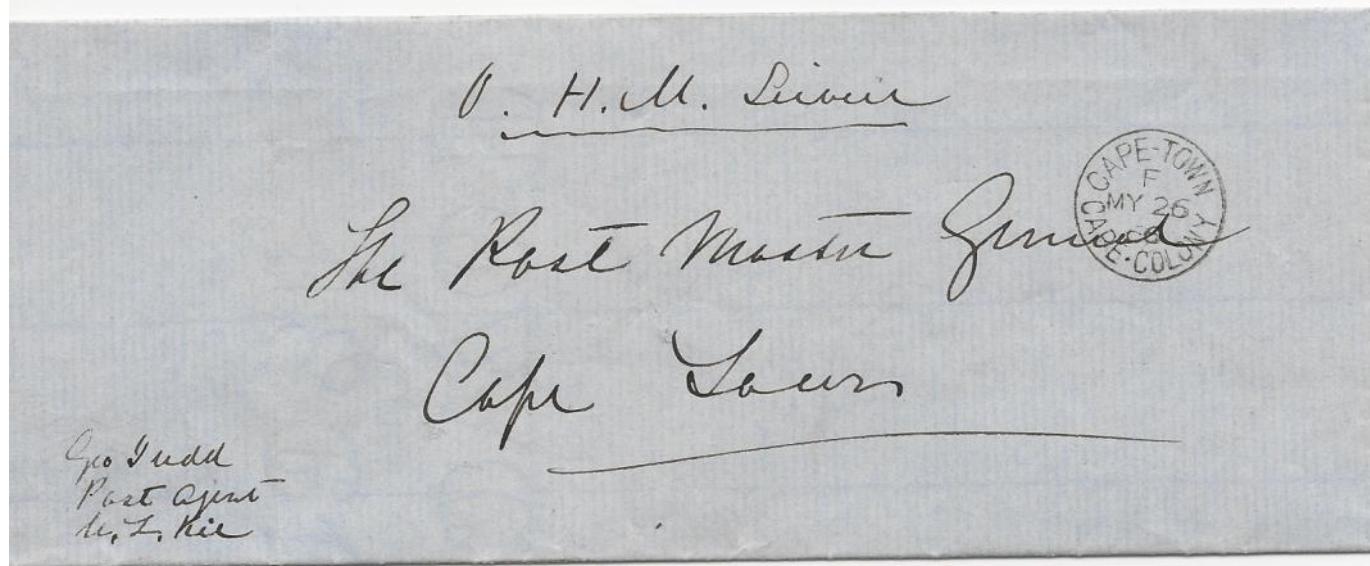
Ken Joseph: A lifelong family philatelic auctioneer, based in Wellington near Cape Town, an inspiration to Malcolm Judd in re-starting his philatelic hobby. He provided information from the South African Archives about George Judd but was unable to tie Geo Judd to any particular postal agency in 1866.

Mrs Jill Redmond: Secretary of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa who paved the way to the Professors.

Professor Franco Frescura: A qualified architect who from 1994-1999 worked at senior level in the South African Post Office and was responsible for the design and production of the country’s stamps. Dr Frescura’s ‘The Post Offices of the Cape of Good Hope 1792-1910’ was published in 2002 (Durban: The Archetype Press.). He provided information direct to Malcolm Judd from that book and also from his unpublished manuscript which information ‘unwrapped’ the wrapper. He is a Professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. FRESCURA, Franco. The Postmasters of the Cape of Good Hope, 1792-1910 an unpublished manuscript awaiting publication.

Professor Alex Visser: He provided the solution to the cds which was unrecorded in ‘Postmarks of The Cape of Good Hope’ (Goldblatt), by identifying it in ‘The Postmarks of South Africa etc.’ 1992 – Ralph F Putzel

Occasional reference to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary and Wikipedia has been made and also ‘On Route in South Africa’ – B P J Erasmus as well as the Google map of the area.



Paul van Zeyl of Rand Stamps runs regular auctions at the Pretoria Stamp Fair
If anyone would like to receive his auction list he can be contacted at paulvz@mweb.co.za

Two queries from Nick Arrow

I hope that someone can help me. I have two queries.

Firstly, I have recently acquired the cover displayed immediately below.



This cover was posted in Basrah on the 12th July 1934, and received in Durban, where it was franked with South African stamps and readdressed, initially to Basrah (see red ink address, later deleted), being posted by registered post on the 24th July, the Durban R-number being 90750. It was then flown North via Cairo, arriving in Cairo on the 30th July - and transferred to the Imperial Airways eastern service to Basrah arriving on the 1st August. It was re-addressed back to Baghdad on the 7th August, arriving back in Baghdad on the 9th August¹. One deduces from this that it arrived in Johannesburg on flight AS176 on the 19th July, and flown to Durban by SAA. It was then posted in Durban on the 24th July, flown by SAA to Johannesburg, placed on Imperial Airways flight AN177, being transferred in Egypt to the Eastern service, arriving in Basrah and then readdressed back to Baghdad. So far so good.

However, the interesting feature about this cover is the triangular cachet to the bottom right, which indicates that this was carried on the “First Aerial Despatch / Iraq to Durban / by Imperial Airways”.

This is partially explained by a very short article in *The Aeroletter* of July 2010, when Neville Pokalow refers to covers being sent (a) from Iraq (with an identical cachet) and (b) Kuwait (with a similar cachet). The copy of the item from Iraq illustrated in *The Aeroletter* was posted by registered post in Baghdad (unlike the cover illustrated), as well as from Durban, the Durban R-number being 90751, 1 different from my cover. Pokalow claims in his article that “[i]t is known that two covers were carried from Kuwait while the assumption is made that a similar number emanated from Iraq”. Pokalow is an extremely experienced and knowledgeable aerophilatelist, and, although sadly he does not give an indication as to the source of his knowledge, his comment should not be lightly dismissed.

In my book, I refer to these covers (in retrospect somewhat sniffily!) by saying “*however decorative or exotic these covers are, it is difficult to see how they add anything new by way of airmail services. The Imperial Airways service to India etc lay through Baghdad, so it had always been possible to have connecting mail between the two countries and Kuwait would have had connections with Baghdad for mail to be carried on the IA service. Apart from the suggestion in the cachets of these covers that there is something special about the mail, allied to the hint that the service was to Durban, which it plainly was not, there seems to be no logical reason for the creation of these covers.*”

Can anyone please explain what I may have missed

¹ There are various transit and arrival marks on the rear of the cover.

Secondly, I show another cover and I must apologise for the indifferent quality of the scan.



Posted in Lingah (or Lingeh) on the 6th March 1932, it was addressed to Johannesburg. Not having been collected (part “Non Reclamé” cachet partly over the bottom stamp) it was returned to the sender, and there is a Calcutta arrival mark on the back of the 6th June 1932. The sender was, in reality, Charles Griffiths, the Secretary of the APC in Calcutta and responsible for many interesting philatelic covers and not renowned for sending uninteresting ones!

The question of course is why did he send the cover in the first place? Lingah, like Basra, was on the route from Cairo to Calcutta, so if he wanted to create a first flight cover, he missed the boat by about 5-6 weeks. I do not think that the answer lies in the smudged and wholly illegible heavy oblong mark at the bottom right corner, but if anyone can put me right on this, I would indeed be very grateful!

² As well as through Basra - the cover in the article was from Baghdad.

A ‘thorough’ display marks the end of an era

The meeting of The Royal Philatelic Society London marked the end of an era: the final meeting held at 41 Devonshire Place. When the new ‘season’ begins in September the Society will be at its new home of 15 Abchurch Lane in the City of London.

This final meeting provided an impressive display by Georg Størmer FRPSL of the first three issues of Norway, from 1855 to 1868. Particularly superb were the superlative covers demonstrating the usage of the stamps.

Giving the vote of thanks, Ivar Sundsbø FRPSL remarked that Georg is a true student of classic philately, showing a remarkable ‘thoroughness’ as he reveals both the philatelic and personal stories told by his material.

Georg was presented with the Society’s 150th Anniversary medal by Richard Stock FRPSL, President elect of the Society.



Richard Stock FRPSL, President elect of The Royal Philatelic Society London (left) presents Georg Størmer with the Society’s medal.

Highlights of the E. G. Kinsey Collection

Simon Peetoom

At the recent Annual Summer Meeting held in Meriden, it was my pleasure to show some of the stamps and covers from a collection that I had recently acquired. It was formed by a gentleman during the 1950s-1960s who happened to be a member of our society. Edgar Kinsey had membership number 278, having joined in 1954. He was a member of the society until 1976 when his membership lapsed. Mr Kinsey was also a contributor of articles to *The Springbok*, with his first on South Africa First Flights appearing in 1954, Vol.2, no.3.

For me, the joy in the collection was to be able to see the various volumes largely intact as he had written them up and remaining that way for almost fifty years. It was for that reason I wanted to share some highlights with the assembled members at Meriden.

There were essentially two parts to the collection, stamps and covers. Although the stamp collection contained many varieties and had clearly been written up by an enthusiast, one could see that Mr Kinsey was far more interested in the covers, indeed, his articles that appear in *The Springbok* were concerned with covers and postal history.

So, what did we see? I showed some of the pages from the stamp collection with the ranges of identified varieties on a number of stamps. The highlight was probably the 1948-9 2d Postage Due in a block of twelve with all four positions of the thick “2D” variety. But as I said previously the main interest lay in the covers.



In no particular order there was Postal Stationery, including a card further printed for use by the “Johannesburg United Philatelic Society.” Sections of WWI & WWII covers with a postcard written on “Hospital Ship Ebani” with a free-franking cachet. The message thanked a Mr Douglas for the cake, “which we received when we arrived in dock.” The WWII section included two WAR TRAIN covers with the temporary cancels each in English & Afrikaans. There were also smaller sections of Maritime Mail, Railway covers & mail, Interprovincials, Mobile Post Offices and a VERNEUK PAN cancel from the 1929 land speed record attempt by Campbell. Amongst further larger sections we saw:

SOUTH WEST AFRICA – there was a fabulous section of forerunner covers including rubber cancels from Rheinpfalz, Ondonga, Okasise Rail and Kubis Rail. I also showed a 1920 Postage Due cover with SA dues clearly postmarked Omaruru.

“INSUFFICIENTLY PREPAID FOR AIRMAIL” cachets, a section that Mr Kinsey had written up for *The Springbok* in 1960, Vol.8, no.2. The cover that sparked his interest in this subject was one with a cachet that read “Insufficiently paid for Airmail beyond KARACHI” and it was a pleasure to be able to show this cover.

TAXED MAIL included a number of postage dues used on cover. My favourite was probably the horror show that was a cover “franked” with a 4d Rhodesia & Nyasaland definitive that appeared to be affixed by candle wax! I was especially pleased with finding two covers with King’s Heads used as dues, these being quite scarce items.

SLOGAN CANCELS – Mr Kinsey had an eye for these, collecting particularly nice impressions from the earliest examples with Edwardian issues used as frankings. Again, this was an area he wrote about, with a cover that was cancelled twice by different cancellers on the front & back being mentioned in his article.

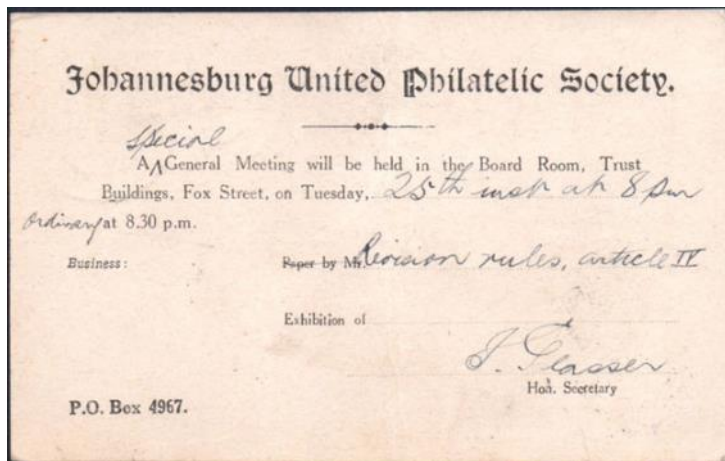
One of the rarest covers in the collection was franked with a genuinely used, 2d booklet pane of four stamps plus a further 2d stamp to make up the correct 10d, airmail rate. From the 1931 3s booklet, a 2d pane of four is scarce in mint condition, let alone used, so I was delighted to find this (thanks to Bas Payne for the scan).

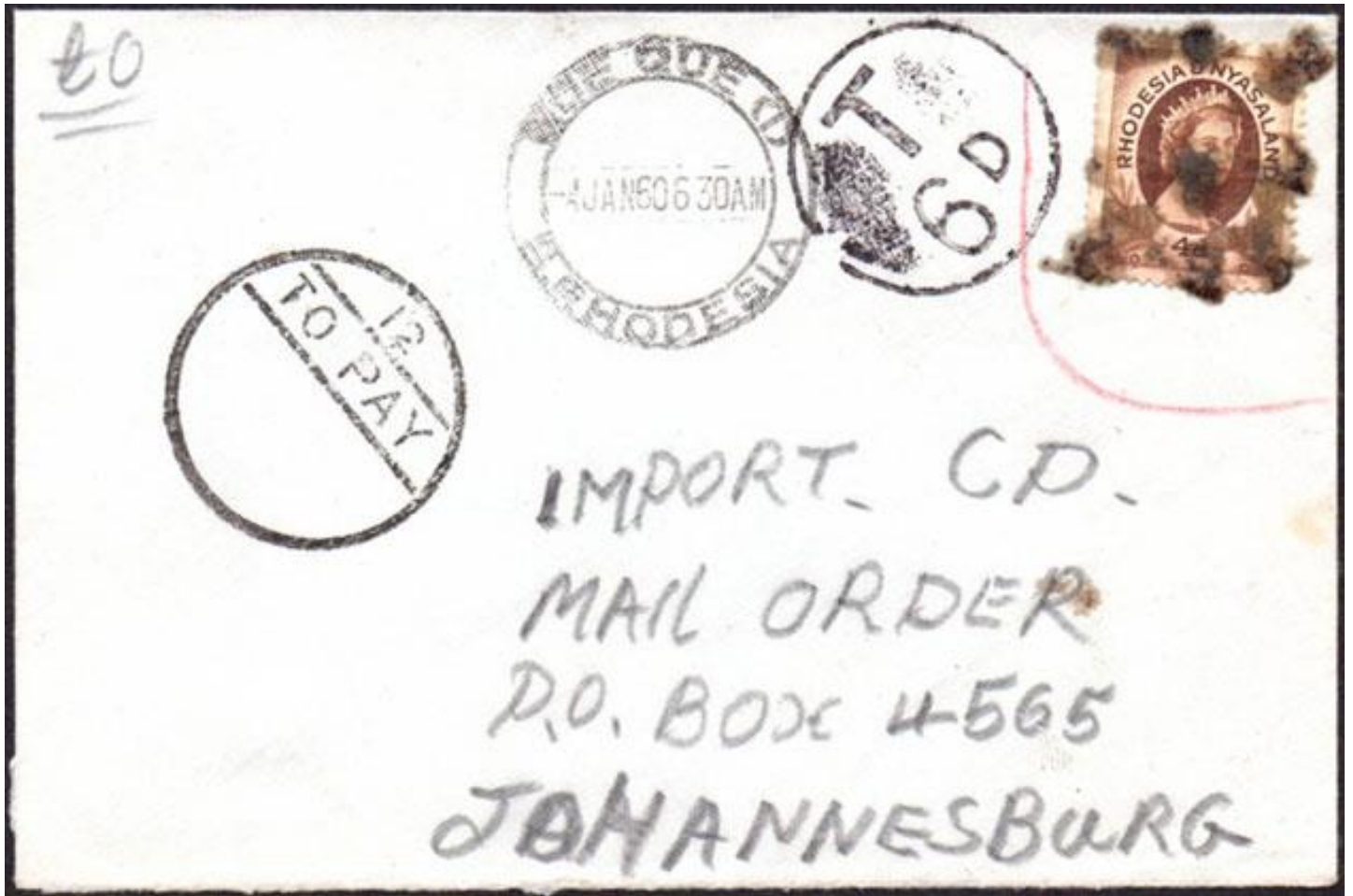
Amongst the collection was a certificate for the 1957 Paarl Exhibition, at which Mr Kinsey displayed. There was a write-up by him, Vol.6, No.2, headed "The Paarl Exhibit" listing the material sent to South Africa in 1957, though it's unclear whether he sent it all.

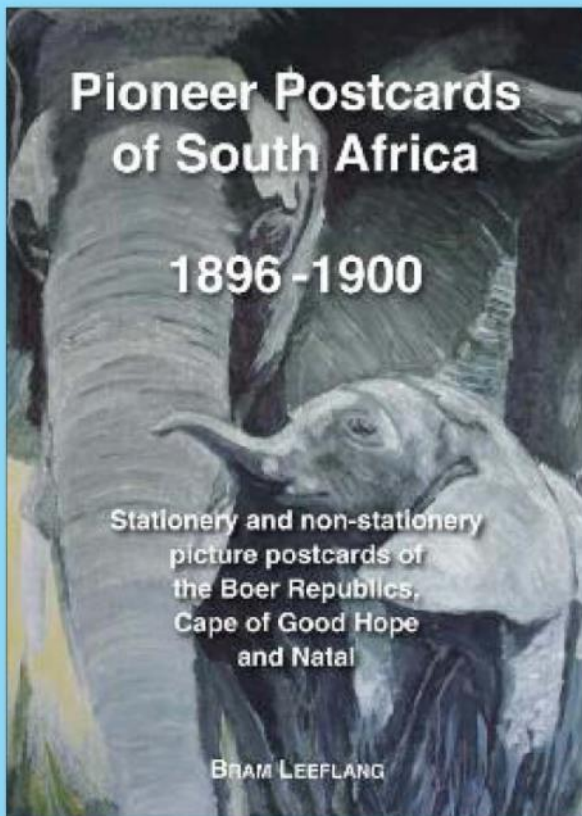
I hope that by displaying some of the collection before it was broken up, Edgar Kinsey would have been proud that a collection that obviously gave him so much pleasure, was able to do the same thing all these years later. A good proportion of his collection was subsequently snapped up by eager members in order to enhance their collections, thus ensuring many of his stamps and covers have another life in a new collection.

Footnote – There are a few more items that didn't make the display, including a section of Tristan da Cunha. Unrelated to the above, I also displayed a correspondence from WWI, on which more will follow.

Editors note: The figures below and overleaf are illustrative only. They are not to size and in no particular order.







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SOUTH WEST CORNER

Tony Howgrave-Graham

Since Uli Banz's excellent "Newsletter" ceased to be published there's been absence of a good forum for South West Africa where interesting items or queries could be discussed and shared. In an effort to regenerate interest I'll get the ball rolling by showing three items. The first two are scarce manuscript cancels. Starting with the Ukamas one of 22 Jan 1926, why was there a need to cancel in manuscript and does anyone have examples of the earlier ones from January the same year? The converted German canceller was reportedly used after this until the office closed in 1927. Does anyone have examples of this? Also, why did Ukamas have a post office at all?! It's a tiny, isolated spot in the south of the country. I guess it must have been a military outpost and I know it had a weather station but does anybody know more? Mail from there to Warmbad seems to have had to go via Ramansdrift.

The second item is the manuscript cancel of "22/2/16" from the Khan copper mine which according to Putzel is ex Justice Berker. Does anyone own the other reported item of 18 February, or any other date? Much of the mail from the mine seems to be to Swakopmund and I've seen examples where Swakopmund is the canceller.

Finally a WW2 cover from the "Director of Posts & Telegraphs, Windhoek" to an officer at the OTU (Operational Air Training Unit) at Nigel. I didn't know there was an OTU at Nigel but what does the "SO" in the "WINDHOEK SO" registration mark stand for? (Sorting Office?) - and why is the final "k" lower case? - and why did the (relatively small) envelope cost 2/- to send?

Please contribute if you can or send other items of interest, or queries, to the editor.



Obituary for ERIC ETKIN

It is with great sadness that I write to inform you of the peaceful passing of Eric Etkin.

Eric had irrepressible enthusiasm and a zest for philately, attending stamp shows worldwide. He was very proud of his business and was absolutely delighted when Angus Parker of the Argyll Stamp Company and he combined to establish Argyll Etkin Limited.

We are all proud of the foundations laid down by Eric, Angus and a number of other great philatelists. Philately remains a hobby where we all learn everyday and the hobby's fellowship transcends national boundaries.

We have passed our condolences to Barbara Etkin and other members of Eric's family.

Adam D Cooke (Argyll Etkin Limited)

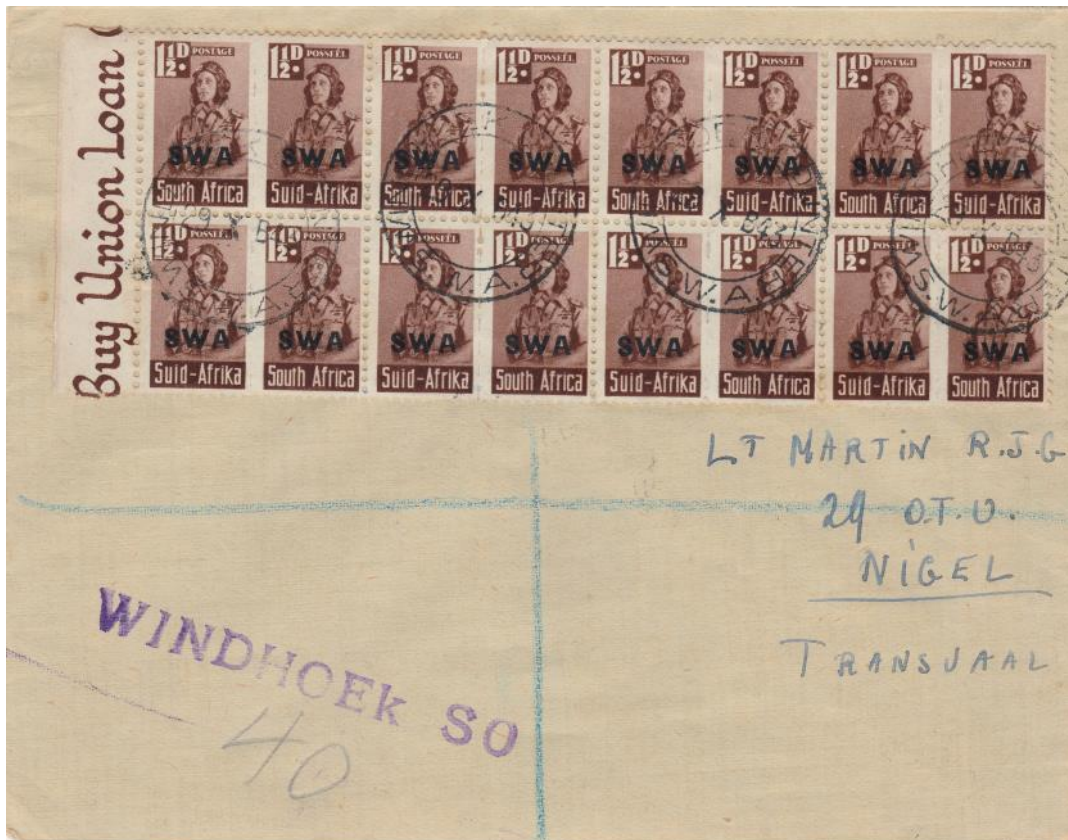
Betriebsleitung der **Khan-Kupfergrube**
Sitz Duisburg G. m. b. H., Khan [Bez. Swakopmund].

Herren



Rechtsanwälte Kohler & Dr. Sievert

Swakopmund.



Editor's Note: We would like to encourage members to submit other articles on South West Africa philately as this aspect of Southern African Philately is now rarely written about and is of interest to many South African philatelists.

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