
THE SPRINGBOK



Volume 7 No. 4

July/August 1959

 " THE SPRINGBOK "

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All correspondence to be addressed to the Editor who does not accept responsibility for any views so published.

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THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

Since our last issue we think the most important news is an item we saw in a philatelic magazine to the effect that in 1961 the Union would be issuing a set of stamps depicting the flowers of South Africa to introduce the decimal currency which will be adopted in that year. As we have reported already a new watermark is being adopted and we see it is said the size will be such that it will cover twentyfour stamps. If the flower set has the same values as the current animal series it is going to be a trifle expensive to collect a set in blocks of 24 to get a whole example of the watermark! No doubt it will stimulate the sales of the lower values.

Just when the new series will be issued in 1961 we do not know but sometime between now and that year the present animal stamps will probably appear with the new watermark which means that they will not be on sale for too long a time although probably long enough for collectors.

We are still waiting for that volunteer from South Africa to act as our local correspondent but meanwhile a non-member, Mr S. L. Crozet has sent to us a long list of new post offices opened in the Union, whilst Mr J. B. Levy reports the printing of the 1d stamp from cylinder 97 with the sheet numbers in the left margin - explanation for this is reported elsewhere.

Alas we have not received any lots for the suggested auction list to be circulated before the annual auction at the London Exhibition/Meeting so this idea has perforce to be abandoned.

We do urge readers to give Dr. Gordon Ward every support they can in response to his appeal in these pages as we shall all benefit from his researches

It is always a pleasure to hear of members achieving success with displays of Union material and we congratulate Mr A. J. Brown on the award of the "Sloan" Cup at the Wimbledon Philatelic Society with a display of Union Air Mails 1911-30. Who is to be next for the "Honours List"?

Finally, we hope you all have the date, September 26th., down in your diaries as the day to visit London to meet fellow collectors and see the finest display of Union material in the country.

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INFORMATION DESK

Mr Frank R. Squire writes to pass on news from Mr W. Newland of Pretoria explaining the reason for the necessity to print the 1d Cylinder 97 with sheet numbers on the left margin -

"The explanation is that the cylinder shaft wore more on one side, so they (the Government Printing Works) reversed the shaft but as the shaft had only one key for fitting in cyclometer number unit, this unit had to go on the opposite end to that normally used. Otherwise, the stamp is normal - watermark and all."

New member, Mrs Eileen A. Cox, reports having a mint copy of the G. V. £1 red and green in which the "o" in Union is so broken as to make practically a "u". Does any member have information as to whether this may be constant?

Mr R. D. Allen, Smr., advises us that he had a letter from the Postmaster at Durban stating that "Shipping Postmaster" closed down over twenty years ago but Mr Allen says he has copies of actual marks dated 1948. All the marks are advised as destroyed and correspondence relating thereto.

Mr Sylvester L. Grozet informs us that the following new post offices have been opened during the last month or so -

<u>Name.</u>	<u>Province</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Province</u>
Archdam	Transvaal	Juno	Transvaal
Bambi	Transvaal	Koipoort	Cape
Cover Rock	Cape	Ku-Tsolokazi	Cape
Dalc's Rock	Cape	Kwa-Citwayo	Cape
Die Draai	Natal	Ludazi	Cape
Edenburg Sta	O.F.S.	Mogoshi	Transvaal
Estadeal	Cape	Mosorohi	Transvaal
Fieldham	Natal	Serolorolo	Transvaal
Gazini	Cape	Sidubi Poort	Cape
Glen Holy	Natal	Tilbrook's Rest	Cape
Gqoboza	Cape	Webersvallei	Cape
Hotazel	Cape	Xlobeni	Cape

Ex member Mr C. Clement sent a cutting from the "Natal Mercury" of June 2nd reporting that Mr R. A. "Kiwi" Hollands had won a nation-wide competition for a 1959 Christmas stamp design. The motif of a small child with Christmas stocking should appeal and can hardly lead to last year's controversy!

It is reported the new decimal currency in the Union will be the "Rand" worth 10/-d. sterling and divided into 100 cents each worth 1.2d.

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ANNUAL EXHIBITION 26.9.59

To whet your appetite and give you some idea as to what you will be able to see there will be such displays as a specialised study of the 4d and 6d definitives; the Abell Cup entries 1st, 2nd, 3rd for 1959; 1937 Coronation Stamps; Coil stamps; Postage dues; Animal stamps recent printings and 1958/59 commemoratives; German S.W.A. campaign; Printing Flaws Illustrated; De La Rue definitives; "Your Queries"; 1d Ship Study; study of advertisements on booklets by single stamps etc., etc.

So bring along your queries - you must gain by a visit.

ADJUSTMENT LINES

I must plead guilty to the invention of sundry philatelic terms such as "Adjustment Lines". This is not mere pride nor pushfulness but the expression of my firm belief that we have too few philatelic terms for our needs. It is partly for this reason that "re-entry" and "retouch" are so hard worked and have almost ceased to have any accepted meaning.

The term "Adjustment line" is suggested to indicate the short horizontal lines which are to be found in the sheet margins opposite (usually) one or more of the top rows of a sheet. They may appear on one side of the sheet only or on both and may print in red or black. Sometimes there is only one line to be seen, sometimes two or three.

Lines of this sort must correspond to similar lines drawn on the cylinders and it is suggested that they are of use when stamps are printed in two different colours. Thus when a roll of paper has been printed in one colour, it must be put through the machine once more to complete its picture by taking up impressions from another cylinder. Nowadays, of course, one or several colours may be used in a single operation of one machine, without ever removing the roll of paper but this was not always the case.

In either case it is of great importance that the cylinders should be so fixed in the machine that centres and frames should fall exactly in their proper relative positions. If a line has been drawn on the cylinder it can be adjusted until the line is opposite some sort of marker (perhaps another line) on some fixed part of the machine.

These lines have another usefulness which accounts for their appearance on so many roll issues when these have been put on sale in sheet form. They can be used to make sure that division of sheets, which happens at the other end of the machine, shall always take place in the desired position. In addition to the roll sheet lines (which, incidentally, I have never seen) Adjustment Lines have

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been noted on "Plates" IV and VII of the penny ship. On "IV" there are two black lines and one red line opposite the top of the first stamp on the sheet. Perhaps they occur also at the other end of the row and information on this point is much to be desired. On "VII" there are somewhat similar lines but I cannot distinguish between "VII" and "VIIa" so that it is uncertain whether one or both are concerned. My only two specimens show the lines opposite the second row. They do not reach the edge of the stamps so that specimens with selvedge attached are needed to identify them.

It is hardly likely that only these issues show these lines.

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CUT AND COME AGAIN

This little problem occurs in connection with the London and Pretoria printings from electro plates, issued in the form of rolls. Individual rolls show the stamps divided by guillotine cuts on either side and these are usually quite evident because of their regularity. At top and bottom the stamps are divided by ordinary perforations. The problem is this - why are the tops and bottoms so often the victims of additional guillotining or cutting, so that the stamp is cut square all round?

I have stamps thus divided all round from Pietermaritzburg, Cape Town and Johannesburg so that the practice seems to have been widespread and close inspection shows that the top and bottom cuts look as if they had been made with scissors rather than with a guillotine. A possible solution of the problem is that a roll of stamps was kept on the counters of these offices to meet the needs of those who wanted only a single stamp but, as against this, many such stamps show signs of having passed through a vending machine. Perhaps there was a machine on the counter for the use of clerks only.

A recent cover from the Netherlands showed exactly similar varieties, three of them, so that we may assume that the need for this variety exists.

G.W.

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FOR THE RECORD

Since Volume 7 Number 3, the following new issue has appeared

2d Commemorative Stamp. From interior cylinder 89 and exterior cylinder 119,
1st May, 1959. sheets having single broken line top and bottom
margin.
Dark blue inset on light blue background.
Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the founding
of the Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns.

AUCTION ITEMS

Messrs Wick's Stamp Agency sold some interesting items at their 100th Auction
in Durban on May 13th-14th.

We pick out from the prices realised -

2½d GV. watermark inverted, mint, realised £4

2d GV. watermark inverted, mint, unmounted pair realised £11.

5/-d Recess 1927, perf. 14 x 13½ group 3 plate 1, hor. pair left bottom corner
realised £11.

6d Rotogravure plate 2 arrow block of four realised £5. 10. 0.

1½d Large Goldmine Plate 2 bright gold/green upright watermark Miniature sheet two
top, two middle, two bottom rows realised £40.

1½d Large Goldmine Plate 2, dull gold/green upright watermark Miniature sheet two
top, two middle, two bottom rows realised £26.

1½d Large Goldmine plate 1. Complete sheet of 120 stamps including 10 stamps with
mine dump shading missing completely and many others partially missing to varying
degrees, realised £125.

½d cross-hatch printing plate 15A, Handbook 44CA, complete sheet realised £90.

1½d Medium Goldmine plate 6, left vertical marginal pair with half arrow and
white centres - only a few gold lines of the centre plate visible,
realised £ 7. 10. 0.

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SCREENS FOR SECURITY

When one buys a collection of stamps, it is surprising the assortment of items which are included. One such recent acquisition included a letter from Messrs Hunter-Penrose Ltd., of London, dated 17th February 1939 reading -

"We are in receipt of your letter of the 16th instant regarding production methods used on South African postage stamps.

In reply we would state that the method of screening is a secret one only disclosed to purchasers of the Licence to use and we hope it will answer your present purpose if we state that the "screen" is introduced when copying the original.

Not only does it give the effect of an extremely fine photogravure screen as you suggest but the method also has qualities of security inasmuch as it is probably impossible to forge."

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DOES ONE SWALLOW MAKE A SUMMER?

In a collection which came the way of the Editor there was an item written up as follows -

First issue of booklets

"Variety. Frameplate row 20 stamp 8 on booklet pane (probably B8) (watermark inverted). Extremely fine retouch involving the whole value shield and adjacent foliage. This is the most outstanding variety of the whole issue, as a headplate re-entry occurs on the same stamp. It is the only recorded example of a photogravure stamp with both a re-entry and a retouch."

Can any reader throw light on this item either by recording a similar one in their own collection or by knowledge of it? We have not seen mention of it previously.

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WANTED

Booklets or panes B1, B2, B3, B5, B6, B7, B8, B9, B15, B16. Roto $\frac{1}{2}$ d arrow blocks plate I, IIa, IIb, IIc, III, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17. Roto 1d arrow blocks 4, 5, 6, 7A left, right, bottom, 15 similar, 16 all, 17 left, right, top, 18, 19, all. Controls plate A top, bottom, B top, bottom, F top. Offers to the Editor - when we have these we shall have a complete collection!!!

THE CHRISTMAS SEALS OF SOUTH AFRICA

by

Maureen Low, Moorressburg, Cape Province, South Africa.

The article is reprinted from the "Treasure Magazine" January issue with due acknowledgement to the writer and the Editor.

"The Christmas Seals were introduced into South Africa by Mrs Maja (Egil) Christiansen, a Danish lady, in 1929. Since then they have been a yearly issue and sold at one penny each by all post offices in South Africa, the sales period being about 6 weeks. For the first 9 years this period was from the 15th November to the 31st December; since 1938 however, the period started on various days in the first half of November but always closed on the 24th of December. Proceeds go to the Christmas Stamp Fund with the Head Office in Durban, Natal and are primarily for the erection and maintenance of Children's Sanatoria.

The 1929 and 1930 issues were printed by lithography by John Singleton-Williams Ltd., Durban. The 1931 issue was printed in screened photogravure by Robinson & Co., Ltd., Durban. Since 1932 all issues have been printed in screened rotogravure by the Government Printer, Pretoria on plain wove paper.

WATERMARKS. Some issues exist on paper watermarked multiple springbok's head, i.e. on normal postage stamp paper, viz. 1933 (with and without watermarks) 1948 (sheets with watermarks), seals from booklets with and without watermarks and 1950 and 1951 (seals from both sheets and booklets with watermark). The watermark appears sideways. The 1933 issues shows it right and the 1948 and 1950 issues exist with the watermark right as well as left.

TETE-BECHE. In 1935 and from 1939 to 1950 all sheets had the first 3 rows of 20 printed tete-beche to the other 3 rows.

DESIGNS AND INSCRIPTIONS. The majority of the designs were obtained by yearly competition open to the general public. Every design incorporates the "Anti-Tuberculosis Cross".

The seals of 1929, 1931, 1933 to 1935, 1946 to 1948 were bilingual. In the 1929 issue, however, the seals inscribed English - Afrikaans alternate with seals inscribed Afrikaans - English. The 1930 issue is similar, but additional words "South Africa" and "Suidafrika" alternate with every seal. In all other issues English and Afrikaans inscribed designs alternate. These latter as well as the 1929-1930 issues should be collected in pairs.

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The year of issue does not appear in the 1929 and 1931 issues, all other issues show it. The "1d" value was only embodied in the designs since 1933. The country name is omitted in the issues of 1929, 1931, 1946 to 1949. The 1930 and 1932 issues spell "SUIDAFRIKA" in one word but since 1933 "SUID-AFRIKA" appears hyphenated.

Plates 22-23-24 of the 1d Ship

I took advantage of our Editor's offer re "Smoke Trail" in blocks of four to see if I could add to my collection, as I wanted one of each plate of this variety.

You will recall that these three plates are made up from four cylinders, two of them being used twice but not with the same mate.

The "smoke trail" is in a block of four usually with the arrow, rows 1 and 2 with stamps 6 and 7. Our Editor sent me rows 1 and 2 stamps 5 and 6. I found that with the pieces which were sent to me and what I had already in my collection that,

cylinder 70, which can be plates 22 or 24, stamp row 1/6 had a mark something like a stroke of lightning above the pennant on the right.

cylinder 14, which can be plates 23 or 24, stamp row 2/5 had a red spot in the rays of the sun just above the mountains on the right.

So now we have, plate 22 - "just a flash of lightning"
plate 23 - "the flash of lightning and the red spot"
plate 24 - "just the red spot"

I hasten to add that there are other small red dots but these do not seem constant and I was dealing with a limited amount of material.

R. D. Allen.

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BEGGING FOR PENNIES

This appeal from Dr. Gordon Ward concerns everybody and all those who have read his excellent work "The Springbok Halfpenny" will realise the importance of giving him the utmost assistance so that his work on the "Penny Ship" will be equally excellent. All information to the good doctor at 7 Pembroke Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, G.B.

"About two years ago you kindly published a note in which I stated that I was starting to study the Ship Pennies and was in need of advice and assistance. I read the S. A. Philatelist from end to end, also Springbok, etc., but it soon became apparent to me that I must attempt the impossible, that is, to make a complete collection of every stamp of the 27 (plates' which are recognised in the Handbook. That would mean collecting 7140 stamps. So I set about it and I have now

In my albums.....	3,722
Seen in other albums.....	861
Quite unknown.....	2,557

If one adds the Booklets and Rolls, as well as VIa and VIIa, the figures are even less agreeable. Moreover, I must go to press, I am told, when the New Year dawns and am therefore in a hurry.

Therefore, Mr Editor, I come unashamedly before your readers begging for pennies. I ask for the loan of blocks, mint or used, especially of three groups (a) London or Pretoria printings, I to III (b) Rotograph cylinder-sets 1 to 6, and (c) XVI, XVII and XVIII. In return I will do my best to produce a booklet which will be of assistance to the collector of these fascinating but sometimes difficult stamps. Also I will plate anything I can and pay postage and take great care of everything and I should like to have the opportunity of purchasing duplicates."

THE MERRY MONTH OF MEI

It is a general rule that the names of months on South African stamps are expressed in English. This is evidently not a rule which lacks exceptions for I have two copies of the ship Penny which are quite clearly dated

'Cape Town 7 Mei 41' and 'Pretoria 27 Mei 47'

The stamps are from issues which accord with these dates and the dating has been checked by fellow collectors. It remains to be discovered how many other records of this sort are available and one hopes that the Editor will be swamped out with further examples. Pending the accumulation of more material perhaps someone will just confirm that 'Mei' is true Afrikaans for 'May' as it is certainly true Dutch.

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POSTAGE DUE

On the afternoon of August 8th, 1958, Mr L. V. W. of Port Elizabeth posted some letters and it would appear that he made the mistake of dropping into an ordinary post box a letter which he had crossed with blue lines and which he intended to register. Perhaps it was his native "boy" who made the mistake, but, in any case, nothing could be done about it then. The letter was addressed to a Post Office box in Port Elizabeth.

Since the letter bore only a 2d stamp it was noticed by the Post Office who promptly stamped it "POSTED OUT OF COURSE" whereon it was passed to the department which dealt with such crimes. Somewhere about this time the stamp was cancelled with an automatic obliterator. It was decided that this letter should be dealt with as a registered item so a registration label was added but, curiously enough, no "T" - taxation figure nor amount was added.

All this meant that the Post Office was entitled to collect twice the registration fee, i.e. 6d plus 6d instead of the smaller sum which would have been due if the letter had been treated from the first as unregistered. Another department or counter in the same office now added two 6d post due stamps and cancelled these with a handstamp. This was at 5 p.m. - exactly the same time as expressed on the automatic obliterator - they work fast at Port Elizabeth or (as is more likely) the writer does not really know as much about their procedure as he pretends to do. It would seem that the addressee was then informed that a registered letter awaited him. Although he had a post office box it would probably not be a permitted receptacle for registered letters.

The addressee sent a native to fetch his letters and he presumably gave a receipt for it. This was possibly numbered "A 0129" as this number appears in manuscript on the envelope.

The last postal marking was added in red chalk by the native "boy" who was worried about his shilling and desired to call his master's attention to it. He wrote in a clear hand "I pay 1/- for stamp".

It was Dr. J. W. Harris of Port Elizabeth who kindly sent me this cover and explained the red chalk inscription and to him any reader who peruses these lines should feel himself indebted.

G.W.

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THE LONDON GROUP A.G.M. AND ANNUAL COMPETITION

On Tuesday, 19th May 1959, the London Group held its Annual General Meeting at the 'George' in the Strand, when 14 members assembled for the meeting.

The minutes of the last A.G.M. were taken as read and signed by the Chairman following a proposition from Mr E. G. Kinsey, supported by Mr R. J. Lawrence.

The Honorary Treasurer reported that the Group was now on a sound financial footing and arising from the details given a proposition was put forward and carried by the meeting that the Guarantee monies be repaid. There was certain amount of discussion after the proposition during which certain members donated their sums to the club funds.

A vote of thanks was made by one of the newer members of the Group to those who had helped the London Group over a difficult time.

The election of Officers was dealt with very ably on a proposition from Mr A. Bini (now a hardy Annual! !) supported by Mr R. J. Lawrence, that the existing officers and committee be re-elected 'en-bloc'.

On the question of the forthcoming A.G.M./Exhibition of the Society, it was agreed by the meeting that a special meeting be held in June to work out the details and appoint the various sub-committees.

Under the Any other business heading the programme for next season was arranged.

Immediately following the A.G.M. the Annual Competition for the 'Abell' Cup was held, but this year there were only five entries. After a paper vote the following result was declared.

1. Mr R. J. Lawrence. A study of the large format 1½d Gold mine stamp, showing characteristics of External Cylinder 15, and plating flaws, complete with comprehensive illustrations.
2. Mr E. W. Merriman. A study of plating by flaws of Plate 6 of 1d ship stamp.
3. Mr R. D. Allen, Snr. The Royal Visit 1947 Cancellations explained and illustrated, together with a plan of the Royal Train and other illustrations.

The other two entries comprised of a study of the 'T' marks of the Union, and a display on the effect of the 1939-46 war on Union Philately.

W.A.P.

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SPECIAL NOTICE

1959 Society Annual General Meeting
and Exhibition

All members are cordially invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the South African Collectors' Society, which, this year, will take place on Saturday, 26th September 1959.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF VENUE - London Central Y.M.C.A., Gt. Russell St., London, W.C.1. (Underground Station - Tottenham Court Road.)

A room will be set aside for the members for their private discussions etc. as in previous years.

This year's specialised display will comprise of studies of the 4d and 6d pictorial definitives and other items on view will include the winning entries of the London Group 'Abell' Cup Competition.

Visitors are asked to make their own arrangements for lunch and tea, but a dinner party is being arranged in the West End in the evening for those members wishing to stay. If it is your intention to join this party, would you please advise the London Hon. Secretary as early as possible.

If any member desires to stay in London for the week-end, hotel accommodation will be booked by the London Hon. Secretary upon hearing from the members concerned. Early booking is advisable as the demand for accommodation is great.

During the afternoon an auction will be held in the main hall and the commission of 10% will be used to help defray the cost of the day's event.

The following time-table is for your enjoyment and it is hoped that many new faces will be seen, together with those regulars who will renew old acquaintances and meet new ones. Watch out for the name rosettes of the Officers of the Society and anyone else you desire to meet - please ask!

TIME TABLE:

The Exhibition open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Dealers Table . . . 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. excluding A.G.M./Auction

Members' Room available all day

Auction - in main hall 2.45 p.m. for 3.0 p.m.

A.G.M. 15 minutes after the completion of the Auction -
in the Members' Room.

MAKE A VERY SPECIAL NOTE OF THE DATE NOW !

SATURDAY, 26th SEPTEMBER 1959

" THE SPRINGBOK "

Are the Prices of South African
Stamps correct in our Catalogues?

Pretoria Booklets $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d. S.G. 30b & 31a, SAC/H 33Ba; 34Bb & Booklet 7.

The compilers of the S.G. Catalogue, in my opinion, state in their catalogue the actual price at which they are prepared to sell their wares. This is true to business concerns all over this country. Some other stamp retailers also do this. There is a great difference of opinion as to prices in the stamp trade, for we often read the advertisements in the philatelic press and shop windows, 10% off S.G. prices, this to my mind is an easy way of cutting prices without the cost of the preparation of catalogues or price lists.

Prices, in general, I think, are affixed according to the law of supply and demand. Does this refer to the stamp trade? Most of us will say most emphatically "NO". Well, then what is the basis of this trade -- I think, the number actually printed coupled with the actual face value of the stamp is the main consideration, e.g. we know the 100 dollar stamp (face value) is expensive to start with but couple that with the numbers printed and or in circulation and we get a true picture of the value.

Now as to the two stamps under discussion, the $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d Pretoria Booklets.

S.G. price them at £5 each mint, £6 each used, per pair, singles used at £2 each. The SAC/H does not price them on a similar basis, that is as pairs or singles. S.G. price is the most recent by them. Condition is an important matter in these pairs, for as we are all aware, booklet stamps are too often cut close by the trimming machine and to get pairs with all the correct perforations is no easy matter. Even so, a certain dealer in South Africa wrote an article in explanation of his prices in respect to these two pairs; the cut close were about $\frac{1}{2}$ price of correct pairs, but to the best of my memory he was writing about MINT pairs.

Now the reason behind this short article is - What do I think about these prices? And my answer.

Sometime ago, I bought a quantity of 'slogan' pieces and the address on the pieces of envelopes was that of Stanley Gibbons Ltd. I examined the stamps as well as the slogans and I found a quantity were of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d Pretoria booklets. The best of these went into my collection and some of the best of the remainder were put by for auction. At a London Group Auction I put two good pairs of Used up for auction and they did not fetch 20/-.

Up to the time of writing I have not been able to ascertain the total number of booklets printed/issued by the G.P.O. South Africa, this is due, no doubt, to (a) the vast amount of philatelic writing appertaining to the overprints of South West Africa at that time and (b) to the break in the publication of the South African Philatelist for about $2\frac{1}{2}$ years, the later being about the time these stamps were in circulation. So, what is the answer to this? Your opinions are solicited.

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The "2d" Pictorial, Plates 8 and 9.

Mr Leonard C. Harman has forwarded a list of plating flaws which will no doubt be most useful to our readers in dealing with these two plates.

Large Pictorial, plum and deep slate blue, plate 8 cyl.2/37.

1. Row 1/1 short lines cutting top frame above "SU" of Suid Afrika
2. 1/3 short lines cutting top frame above "KA" of Suid Afrika
3. 1/5 cut in right hand frame lines near top corner.
5. 11/1 smudge in left hand frame line near top corner
10. 17/5 "searchlight beam" right hand side of right tower
12. 18/2 white spot top right hand corner of frame
14. 19/2 two dots in sky
16. 20/6 tiny dot left top right tower
7. 14/1 dots top right sky
8. 14/2 dots top right sky
9. 16/6 dots top centre sky
11. 18/1 dots top sky
13. 19/1 dots top sky
15. 20/1 dots top sky
6. 13/1 tiny dot in frame opposite left tower inside corner
4. 10/1 dot lower left frame outside

Small Pictorial, coarser screening and without small white nick in outer frame top right hand corner of every Afrikaans stamp, plate 9, cylinders 6927/50.

2. Row 1/15 hook mark at left side of left hand tower
1. 1/7 dot on right of left hand tower
3. 2/2 dot on right of left hand tower
4. 2/4 dot on left of left hand tower
5. 2/6 dot in centre cloud
6. 2/10 slate dot 3 m.m. to right of left hand dome (low)
8. 2/20 curved plum coloured line from top of chimney
"smoking chimney"
10. 3/17 white mark on right hand frame
11. 4/3 white smudge left hand frame
9. 3/16 broken "d" in value tablet
12. 7/17 small blotch above rook near centre
13. 9/16 "moon" white spot in sky
7. 2/18 dot to the right of the left hand tower.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Sir,

I refer to the article by "G.W." on sorting the van Riebeck's ship roll stamps and in particular to the remarks on R.13 and R.15.

Surely the way to distinguish these is by the perforation? R.13 is perf. $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ according to the Handbook/Catalogue. As a matter of fact I think it is nearer 14 all round but certainly it is different from the 15×14 of R.15.

"G.W." speaks of the division of the neighbouring rolls of R.13 having been done by a blunt guillotine. How does he distinguish these stamps from R.13s?

In general I do not think the printing of the illustrations in the handbook is good enough to show minor varieties. I suggest then most of the photographic illustrations are a waste of money and space. From time to time I have noticed misprints in the H/C. By reason of the invariable cussedness of inanimate objects when I look for them I cannot find them. They are there however, I am sure, and they are an important blemish which ought to be easy to correct.

In general, however, I think the H/C is a very wonderful production. Its really outstanding characteristic in my opinion is that it is easily understood. Contrast the Australian catalogue. No doubt full of information but I for one cannot make head nor tail of it and I do not think that the Australian stamps in themselves are more difficult than South African.

This excellent handbook is (in my opinion) the foundation of the continued success of the S.A.C.S. and the frame (to change the metaphor) on which "The Springbok" is assembled. This, however, is not to say that it cannot be improved.

I should further like to add to Mr R. D. Allen's suggestions for the improvement of the H/C. I wonder what the illustrations add to the cost of the book and how many are really of any use? I suggest that if most of them were omitted the book would be no less valuable. There are one or two exceptions, e.g. those on pp. 23, 27 and 61.

What are wanted, I suggest, are composite drawings to illustrate varieties. I wonder how many of the varieties listed under 45B could be recognised by the average member from this list. See the illustrations in Dr. Ward's monograph on the $\frac{1}{2}$ d springbok. See also the illustrations of varieties which appear in the "Springbok" from time to time. Excellent! My only criticism is that there are not enough of them and their proper place is in the Handbook.

Newcastle.

R. J. CLAYTON.

" THE SPRINGBOK "

Dear Sir,

I have just received the May/June issue of "The Springbok" and have read with interest Mr R. D. Allen's suggestions and comments with regard to numbering and listing of stamps. As he has come forward with what I call really constructive suggestions, I would like to add my spot of, call it what you will, and in the same spirit as Mr Allen.

I will start by posing a query. If a new volume is being compiled will this mean that we are to have three volumes? If this is the case might I suggest that consideration be given to making it just ONE volume even though it might cost a bit more? I am sure S.A.C.S. members will gladly pay for it. Despite constant "flitting" backwards and forwards between the two volumes to familiarise myself with issues, prices and the like I am not absolutely confident YET that I have the handbooks at my finger tips, although I am so keen on the stamps of the Union and being so far from other collectors I am very much dependent on the Handbook/catalogue.

So please may we have ONE volume and NOT three?

Argentina.

A. R. TAYLOR.

Dear Sir,

Reference Dr. Pirie's article on the "Blue Train" and your query re "Orange Train".

There is not an "Orange Train" but an "Orange Express" ("Oranje Sneltrein") running twice a week in each direction between Durban and Capetown. It does the 1270 miles distance in a matter of under 43 hours whereas the ordinary (daily) trains take from 58 to 62 hours for the same journey.

The "Blue Train" referred to, runs between Capetown and Pretoria also twice a week in each direction doing the 999 miles distance in $27\frac{3}{4}$ hours as against $36\frac{1}{2}$ hours by ordinary trains.

The only other "coloured" train we have here is the "White Train" for the use of the Governor General and for visiting Royalty (Prince of Wales 1924, Royal Family 1947 etc.) and/or the Heads of State and so on.

There is yet another train known by a special name - but that one runs only twice a year - taking Members of Parliament, their families, entire staff etc. etc. to Capetown for the parliamentary sessions and back to their homes every six months. This train is called the "Zoo Train" which appellation by no means reflects on the mental or physical propensities of the people's elected representatives but has its origin in the fact that said M.P.'s and their families usually take their household pets along with them - said pets generally having a van or two all for themselves - a privilege for which the South African taxpayer cheerfully pays!!!

Bloemfontein, S.A.

A. LICHTENSTEIN.

" THE SPRINGBOK "

Dear Sir,

I was a little surprised to read Mr J. Robertson's letter, (Vol. 7, No. 3) stating that I was wrong in allocating the double-circle "THANKSGIVING CAVALCADE" postmark to Durban (Vol. 7, No. 1.)

Although the somewhat crude illustrations were taken from examples in my own collection, I did in fact draw all my information from Dr. Harvey Pirie's "WORLD WAR II PHILATELY OF SOUTHERN AND EASTERN AFRICA". Reference to page 9 of that excellent work will show Mr Robertson that Dr. Pirie also believes that this postmark was used in Durban.

Mr Robertson also suggests that the skeleton single circle postmark "LIBERTY CAVALCADE" comes from Durban, and not Cape Town. My own cover bears a Cape Town Philatelic Society sticker, and is addressed to the late A. A. Jurgens in Cape Town. Dr. Pirie says that these stickers were sold at an exhibit which the Cape Town Society had during the Liberty Cavalcade in Cape Town.

Personally, I am quite satisfied that the allocation of these wartime postmarks by Dr. Harvey Pirie is accurate.

LONDON.

A. J. BROWN.

Dear Sir,

In answer to Mr L. C. Harman's query regarding flaws on the 3d S.G.59, Union H/C 48, Plate V (Vol. 7, No. 3):

His "soaring lark" on row 16/2, and "searchlight" on row 17/2 are both constant.

The "tail to R in AFRIKA" occurs on row 1/5

The "blue spot over left scroll" occurs on row 11/1.

This latter flaw is, in my own opinion, worthy of inclusion in any future edition of the Union Handbook.

LONDON.

A. J. BROWN.

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" THE SPRINGBOK "

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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370. Mrs Eileen A. Cox, Box 18, Post Office, Tighe's Hill, 2N, N.S.W., Australia
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113. L. W. Barratt, 6 Douglas Way, H.Q., R.A.F. Germany (2nd T.A.F.)
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138. K. H. Giles, 39 Swale Avenue, Peterborough, Northants
179. R. C. Northwood, 18 Whitethorn Avenue, Coulsdon, Surrey.
252. Frank R. Squire, 185 Old Dover Road, Canterbury, Kent.

Resignations:

17. J. M. Petric, Aberdeen
260. J. M. Meijs, Arnheim, Holland
297. E. A. Parsons, Cottingham
350. P. F. Blunt, Canterbury

PRESS CUTTINGS

"South African Philatelist" April 1959. The Union 2d photo-vignette
hyphenated rotogravure stamps (concluded)

"S.A.P." May 1959. Shipping Postmaster and Assistant Shipping Postmaster
Marks (R. D. Allen, Snr.) Report of 21st Congress of Philatelic Federation
of Southern Africa. Report on East London National Exhibition and List of
Awards.

"S.A.P." June 1959: Shipping Postmaster and Assistant Shipping Postmaster
Marks (Contd.)

"London Philatelist" April 1959: Union of S. A. cylinder set XV of the
"Ship" Penny (Dr. Gordon Ward)

"Stamp Collecting" July 10th. 1959: South African Commentary (Warthog).

The "O.F.S." Philatelic Magazine, June 1959: Anglo-Boer War Philately (contd)