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# THE SPRINGBOK

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Volume 9 No. 2 March/April 1961

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T H E   S P R I N G B O K  
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Editor's Chair	Page 23.
Handbook-Catalogue of the Stamps of South Africa Golden Jubilee Edition - A Review by E. L.	24.
Auction Realisations during 1960 by "Voortrekker"	26.
Constant Plate Flaws and Varieties by H. A. Stewart and E. Lauder	29.
Picture Page	30a
London Group Meeting	31.
Corrigenda to Frame Multipositive Flaws, Vol. 8. No.s.	31.
South African Cancellation Errors by E. G. Kinsey	32.
New Post Offices	33.
The Fourth Definitive Series of Postage Stamps	34.
Postage Dues, Stationery.	
London Group Meeting	37.
Current Auction Prices	38.
Correspondence	39.
Membership Information	40.
Press Cuttings	40.

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

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Whole Number 50.

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THE SPRING BOOK

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THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

Our thanks are due to Messrs Stewart and Lauder for keeping the magazine in production with this issue, having provided most of the copy.

The year is getting quite busy with the release of the Golden Jubilee Edition of the Union Handbook/Catalogue - reviewed elsewhere - the release of the fourth series of definitive stamps bearing decimal currency with doubtless a new issue to come at the end of May when the Republic is declared. It would seem to us that the fact of South Africa leaving the Commonwealth will not make much if any difference to the stamp issuing policy unless perhaps the stamps bear only Afrikaans wording with the formation of the Republic. Our immediate hope is that the Postmaster General will have his attention drawn to the decimal series issued for South-West Africa and endeavour to make his next issue a little more original and may we say it, attractive without being garish?

The contributions to the Exchange Packet have dwindled to almost nothing, so if you do not see one for a while you will know the reason and we hope you will do something about it and not leave it to the other fellow.

On studying the 1d stamp issued from cylinder 89 - the last one of the arms series in sterling currency - the stamp has been altered slightly because certain features are not as they were on the previous printings. The Publicity Officer says only a new cylinder has been used so how has it been done? The value "1d" has been re-positioned for one thing, whilst the whiskers under the jaw of the animal are drawn differently. We have taken up the matter further with the Publicity Officer to try to find out just what has taken place.

We received one comment on our new format which was favourable. Presumably the rest did not notice or did not care? Ah, well, that's life so 'tis said.

New readers should note that the columns of the magazine are open to them for correspondence, queries or information which they may wish to pass on to others. The magazine is issued to serve you - help to make it meet your requirements.

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T H E   S P R I N G B O K  
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HANDBOOK-CATALOGUE of the STAMPS of SOUTH AFRICA

GOLDEN JUBILEE EDITION

A   REVIEW

It is said that everything comes to him who waits. Well, collectors have waited since June of last year for this new edition of the South African Handbook/Catalogue so no one can say that they have not been patient. Having now got the book in their hands, they can appreciate just what a tremendous amount of work the Editors have put into the revision of the previous two volumes. Well worth waiting for indeed.

The Introduction tells us that the book is not merely a combination of the information contained in Volumes I and II, but that most of it has been completely re-written, revised and in part re-arranged. This is no more than the truth and what a fine job the Editors have made of their revision.

Members will notice that mint and used varieties are no longer priced separately nor are the many different shades to be found on South African stamps unless they constitute major varieties. This is no great disadvantage and must have led to some economy in type setting. You cannot moreover, throw away your copies of Volumes I and II as several of the larger illustrations in these books have been omitted in the new volume and equally important references to articles which have appeared in the South African Philatelist have been restricted to those which have appeared since the publication of Volume II.

The King's Head issue is one which has been extensively rewritten and is now much more informative. Varieties due to inking have wisely been included under one reference number but on the other hand details have been given of the interesting "Cracked Plate" varieties to be found on the 2d. value. Equally interesting and this time illustrated in detail are the same varieties on the 1d. Typographed Pretoria stamp an article on which has already appeared in the pages of this magazine.

It is when we turn to the section dealing with the Unhyphenated Pictorials that we see extensive rewriting accompanied by many more illustrations than appeared in the last edition. Indeed, the many new illustrations is one of the features of this revised edition and these will fill a long felt want. Indeed, with the illustrations in the three volumes of the South African Handbook together with those which have appeared in the pages of this magazine from time to time, there cannot be many major or even minor varieties which have not been illustrated. It can be said, however, that the rewritten chapter on the Unhyphenated issues is one of the features of the new edition.

Much work has also gone into the Hyphenated Issues and I, particularly, liked the work done on the 2d. value which value, of course, has been the subject

of much study by Collectors. To quote from page 167 - "recent study and research has solved the many puzzling problems that have arisen from time to time in connection with the 2d. stamps in Group III and they have now been listed in chronological order with all the various ISSUES tabulated under separate numbers."

Most members will be thankful for the chapter on the Animal Series as these issues have become increasingly complicated since their appearance in 1954. The list of Multipositive and Cylinder varieties on the 1d. and 2d. values is most useful and will be a great help to all who collect these issues.

Another section which has been extensively rewritten is that dealing with "Coils" or "Rolls". I have not had time to study this chapter to the same extent as some of the others, but it is obvious that much new information is included, moreover it has been arranged in a manner which makes this difficult subject easier to follow and I think that members will find it easier now to sort out the different issues.

The only serious criticism that I have heard about the new edition is on the subject of prices where it is felt, in some quarters at any rate, that the pricing of the rarer varieties is much too low. My sympathy goes to the Editors as it must have been very difficult for them to assess the value of varieties which seldom if ever come on the market.

As an example the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. King's Head doubly printed is valued at £30 while the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Typographed London printed pictorial with frame doubly printed is priced at £50. Which would you rather have if you could only buy one and how much would you be prepared to pay? Not an easy question to answer, so don't be too ready to shoot down the Editors if they don't know the answer either.

Interesting prices include £5 for the 2d. King's Head in the dark plum shade and £45 for a Control pair of the £1 in green and red the scarcer shade being worth 50/- more. An inscriptional pair of the Recess printed 2/6 is valued at £22.10. 0 in perf. 14+13 $\frac{1}{2}$  and the 5/- at £10.10. 0. The "cracked plate" varieties on the 1d. Pretoria are priced at 10/- each and the same value is put upon the Unhyphenated  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. from Plate 2 with "missing shading" between buck's horns, quite a difficult variety to find in mint condition. These few examples will show you that the Editors have not "gone to town" but have adopted a cautious policy and I am inclined to think that on balance they have done the right thing. After all, it is up to the individual collector to pay what he considers a fair price and if he considers that the prices in the new Handbook are unrealistic then there is nothing to stop him paying a premium to secure the stamp he wants.

I cannot close this Review without reminding members that prices in the Handbook are in RANDBS one rand being equivalent to 10/-. This will not cause any difficulty to the British reader and there is always the Table at the back in case of doubt. However, with a rand being equivalent to approximately 140 American cents, a conversion Table for Yankee currency would have been a great boon to our American cousins.

E.L.

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THE SPRING BOOK

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AUCTION REALISATIONS DURING 1960

- by -

VOORTREKKER

With the UNIPEX Exhibition in Johannesburg and the London International Exhibition both taking place during the year, one might have expected the sellers to come out in force and offer their wares. There was certainly a specialised sale during the JIPEX Exhibition, but, by and large, comparatively little specialised material was put up for sale.

It is not surprising, therefore, that there was a very keen demand for the choicest pieces offered and the prices were, therefore, high. The tendency in recent years has been for prices to increase and that is especially true for what might be termed "unusual" material. It is perhaps fortunate for collectors that these remarks only apply to mint stamps as similar varieties in used condition can generally be picked up for a fraction of the mint. Strange as it may seem, this is likewise true of Union stamps on cover, even with interesting cancellations. It is still possible, therefore, for the watchful collector to pick up some useful postal history material at what might with truth be termed bargain basement prices. This happy state of affairs will not last indefinitely so members should make the most of their opportunities while they last.

As in recent years the most popular material appears to be among the Rotogravure issues the "arrow blocks" being particularly sought after even at around £6 a time. These "proving pieces" are, of course, the only means in many cases of identifying the plate so it is perhaps not surprising that collectors should compete keenly for them when they are offered for sale. Commemoratives remain in the doldrums but interest continues in the "Official" issues, even though they are no longer in current use.

The catalogues of the following firms have been examined for interesting material: H. R. Harmer, Ltd., Harmer Rooke Ltd., Robson Lowe, Ltd., C. E. Sherwood, Western Auctions Ltd., and Wicks Stamp Agency.

Wicks sold a strip of five Mackay Essays in violet for £14. 10. 0 and got £3 for a Control 1 strip of six of the ½d. a block of Control 2 making £11. The same stamp in the dark mossy emerald green shade realised 30/- while a strip of three with bronze green band sold for £4.10. 0. Sherwood sold a booklet pane of the ½d. with margin and inverted watermark for 20/- and a similar pane of the 1½d. value made 28/-

A Die Proof of the 1d. in green was sold by Wicks for £26 and he obtained £25 for the two top rows of the 1d. Plate 1 no control a top left corner pair of the same stamp with reversed perforation sold for £18.10. 0. Turning to the 2d.

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THE SPRING BOOK

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value the no watermark variety made £9 and a booklet pane of six part tete-beche realised £6.

Other Wicks realisations were £6 for two panes of 60 of the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and £10 for a used copy of the 10/- with inverted watermark. It is also of interest to note that Wicks obtained £10 for a copy of the £1 value in green and red and £15 for the pale green shade as against £16 and £17 respectively which was secured by H. R. Harmer. Finally, in this issue Harmer Rooke sold a piece containing a copy of the 1/-, 10/- and a vertical pair of the £1 for 90/-.

Turning now to the Typographed issues, Wicks sold four corner blocks of the 6d; value for £8 and a block of four of the same stamp with inverted watermark for £2. Unusual items of the same issue sold by this Auctioneer were the 1d. Harrison Essay in the Ship design which realised £34 and a set of photographic proofs of the Bradbury Wilkinson essays and designs made £5. The well known "Twisted Ship" variety in a strip of three fetched £14, while Western Auctions sold a block of four of the 1d. with perforations through the centres of the stamps for £5. 5. 0. The rare  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. in tete-beche pairs were sold by H. R. Harmer for £30 each.

Among the Bradbury Wilkinson issues sold by Wicks was a set overprinted "Specimen" which made £14. He also sold an inscriptional pair of the 2/6 Perf. 14+13 $\frac{1}{2}$  for £30 the 5/- value in the same perforation selling for £14. Western Auctions sold a pair of the 1/- again in the scarcer perf. for 65/- while Harmer Rooke sold the 1929 Congress Booklet for £8. 5. 0.

Many Lots of the unhyphenated issues were sold during the year and I can only mention a few. Sherwood sold a pair of the 1d. value with D Control and broken mast for 25/- and a pair of the 3d. with the "Broken Frame" variety for £1. Wicks sales included control blocks of the 1d. from Plate A (70/-) B (60/-) D (50/-) and E (45/-), while a HALF top arrow block of Plate VI A made £11, while top and bottom arrow pairs of Plate IX sold for £12.

Other items of interest sold by Wicks were a proving strip of 22 of the 2d. coil which made £8 and a block of six of the 3d. in red and black sold for £8, while a block of this stamp in the all blue colour with centre bottom arrow but NO shuttered window variety realised 70/-. High prices were secured for the joined paper varieties £22.10. 0 being secured for a block of four 6d., £25 for a block of six 1/- values, and £31.10. 0 for a block of six 2/6 value. Finally, in this issue, Western Auctions sold a mint corner block of the 2d. in blue and violet for £11.

Among several Lots offered by Sherwood in the Hyphenated Issues were a block of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. from Cylinder 31/70 with 31 missing which sold for £2 and a block of six of the 1/- with variety "missing perforations" realised 32/6, while the 5/- value in a block from Cylinder 36/69 showing the "Rain" variety went for £2.

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THE SPRINGBOK

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Still more Hyphenated issues from the Wicks sales where £15 was obtained for four corner plus sheet number blocks of the "Cross Hatch"  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. from Plate XV as against £50 for the four arrow blocks. A block of four of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Large Mine showing the White Mine Dump variety on a JIPEX cover fetched £12.10. 0 at Wicks sale while an apparently similar item made 63/- at Western Stamp Auctions.

H. R. Harmer sold some of the rare Air Mails including a cover from the Handley Page flight of February 1920 which realised £28 while the rare 1918 Red Cross special large Cape Town card sold for £10. 10. 0. As regards the stamps, Wicks sold a set of the 1929 colour trials for £12 (Harmer's got £13.10. 0 for this item) and a used pair of the 9d. with variety "Stroke through 9d." for £3.

Among other issues, Sherwood sold a top arrow block of the 1d. Animal series showing the Drakensburg Mountain flaw for 10/- and a pair of the 1952 Van Riebeck 1/- stamps with the "Missing Shadow" variety for 25/-. He also sold an arrow block of the 1953 4d. Cape Centenary stamps with "Broken Knee" variety for 12/6, while Western Auctions secured £7 for a pair of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Bantams with roulette omitted.

Not many Postage Dues were on offer but Wicks sold a mint block of the 1/- value for £6 (Western Auctions £5) and a used single for 40/-. They also got £15 for an imperforate block of the 2d. value.

The same Auction House sold some Officials with "Diaresis" variety obtaining £5 for the 2d. value, £17.10. 0 for the 1/- value and £15 for the 2/6 value.

Lastly it is worth recording the prices realised for several unofficial essays which came up for auction. At Wicks sale the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Kruger essay in bronze made £5 and a 2d. value with Springbok design sold for £3, while a Royal Visit 3d value showing the head of King George VI made £6.10. 0. H. R. Harmer sold a 1926 Harrison Springbok essay of the 1d. in light blue for £8 (Block of 10) and a complete sheet of 100 of the same essay in red for £40. A pair of the much scarcer Leyden essays, one in blue and the other in violet, realised £16.10. 0.

I have deliberately not quoted any prices for collections or mixed lots, although there were plenty on offer. Members will appreciate, however, that in such cases inspection is essential in order to assess the value. In addition, too rapid conclusions must not be drawn from an apparent bargain or exceptional price as condition plays such an important part in the amount actually realised, not to speak of competition within the "room" itself. Prices quoted can only be a guide to members but they form a very useful basis on which to start.

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THE SPRING BOOK

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CONSTANT PLATE FLAWS AND VARIETIES

- by -

H. A. STEWART and E. LAUDER

We return again with a further series of varieties which we hope members will find of interest. On this occasion we would like to thank Mr Sherwood for his kindness in lending us several of the varieties illustrated. We are constantly on the look out for varieties suitable for illustration and if any members have any suggestions to offer we should be delighted to have them. Better still if you have something interesting and care to send it to either of us we shall have it photographed and include it in a future edition.

As before, we have endeavoured to hold a balance between the older issues and the modern stamps. Furthermore, as the new Handbook has now appeared, the latest catalogue numbers have been quoted where appropriate.

(1) "Hooked shaped blue mark left of left tower"  
Catalogue No. 47 E V8. It is found on the small size 2d. from Cylinders 6927/50 at Row 1 No. 15. Thirkell C2. Sometimes called the "Hook on Chimney" variety.

(2) "Break in first 'A' of AFRIKA"  
Catalogue No. 128 VI. It appears on the 4d. Animal Series being the last stamp in the first row. Thirkell A4. It, of course, appears on the stamps with either watermark.

(3) "Curved plum coloured line from 'Smoking' chimney at left"  
In brief, the 'Smoking Chimney' variety which is also to be found on the small 2d. Catalogue No. 47 E V10. Thirkell C1. The position is the last stamp on the second row.

(4) "Dot between Posgeld and Postage - 'Colon' variety"  
This variety is not catalogued but occurs in Pane A only of the 2/6 Animal Series, both watermarks, and is stamp No. 4 Row 4. Thirkell B4.

(5) "Green dot on right side of larger chimney" - otherwise, the "Men on Chimney" variety. There is some element of doubt here as the catalogue refers to the LEFT side of the chimney. However, we have seen the stamp and are assured that it comes from Row 12 No. 1 of the 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Gold Mine Bantam. Catalogue No. 46 F V8. Thirkell B3.

(6) "Broken 'e' in POSGELD"  
Here is another uncatalogued variety on the 2/6 Animal Series which again occurs in Pane A only being stamp No. 3 of Row 4. A suitably positioned block of four

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THE SPRINGBOOK

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will secure you both varieties which makes a nice "proving piece" for the stamps from this particular pane.

(7) "Albatross" or "Albatross speared" variety.

According to the 1946 Edition of the Handbook, this was originally known as the "Ball and string" variety. The Catalogue No. is 45 V8 and it is stamp No. 3 in Row 13. Thirkell B2. No wonder there is such confusion in the minds of collectors when they change the established names for varieties.

(8) "Long arm to 'U' of ZUID"

This well known variety on the 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. King's Head issue is quite hard to find nowadays. It comes in Row 2 Stamp No. 6 and the Catalogue No. is 6 V1. Thirkell D6.

(9) "White line across the back of Dr Verwoerd's head"

This variety occurs, of course, on the 3d. value of the Golden Jubilee issue and is Catalogue No. 143 V5. Thirkell B11/C12. There are several interesting varieties in this issue and we will try and illustrate some of them in our next article.

(10) "White blob on head"

We illustrate this variety as being Catalogue No. 5 Vd (Vol. 1). It may, however, be a white mark due to gum splashes and we would like to hear from any member who has this variety so that the correct position of the "white blob" can be established. The position is Row 4 No. 4.

(11) "Black mark on top of head"

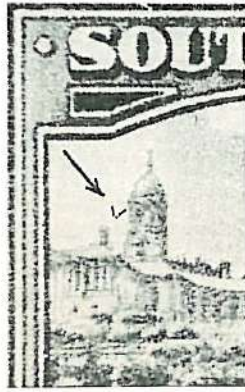
This is a very interesting and clear variety which also occurs on the 2d. King's Head issue. Surprisingly enough, it is not catalogued, although, according to Mr Simenhoff, it occurs in the right pane and is stamp No. 8 of Row 8. Thirkell B4. Anyway, we think that members will agree that it is worth keeping a look out for.

(12) "Crack through left part of frame underlining UNION OF"

The new Handbook lists for the first time in detail, the "Cracked Plate" varieties to be found on the 2d. King's Head issue. The one which we illustrate is No. 5 V5 and as members will see for themselves is a most distinct variety.

You will have noted that in most cases we have indicated the position of the variety by quoting the position as shown on the Thirkell Position Finder. This is, of course, not really necessary when the variety is illustrated, but this philatelic nick nack is coming more into use so we decided to quote the reference as an experiment.

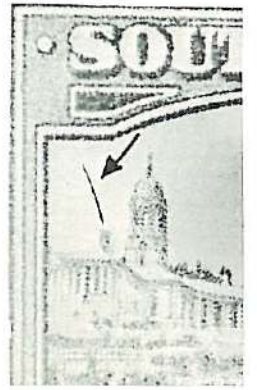
Well that completes our quota for this edition but we shall be back again soon with a further selection of varieties so if there is any particular one which you would like illustrated, then write and let us know.



1



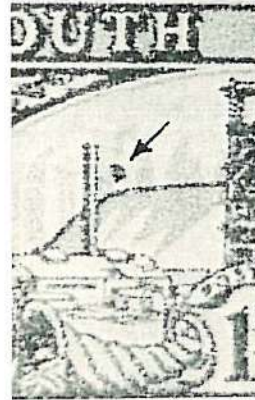
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THE SPRINGBOOK

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LONDON GROUP MEETING

The January meeting of the London Group was devoted to members displays under the heading - 'Six Sheets or a Shilling'. Of the sixteen members present, ten produced displays, whilst the other six contributed the customary sum to the funds of the Group. As is usual at such evenings, the small varied displays always produce something unusual.

To open the evening, Mr G. M. Whitten showed selections of the De La Rue Georgians, with a used set, control pieces, and numerous flaws.

To continue, Mr R. J. Lawrence showed a number of seldom seen and unusual items, from the Typo 1d's and ½d Roto's.

Mr Dudman displayed various issues, with the added attraction of some beautifully coloured pictures in support.

Mr R. D. Allen supplied a selection of Exhibition Post Marks of varying vintage.

Mr De Paris, one of the newer London Group members, chose the Re-drawn 3d Hyphenated as his subject with positional pieces illustrating the differences between the early and post war printings, and the variety of inks used.

By coincidence, Messrs E. Merriman and P. Haigh both chose the Geo VI Coronations as their subjects and presented items in their own style.

Mr Brown gave a small display of numeral cancellations of the Cape during the I.P. period, skeleton date stamps, including a number of special post marks.

On the same theme, Mr E. Kinsey showed various post marks, including some of the earlier machine cancellations.

To round off a very interesting evening, the London Chairman, Mr D. V. Parker contributed a short 'thematic' style display illustrating the various aspects of Union Philately. After seeing that one may ask - "does any other country offer such a variety of aspects?"

W.A.P.

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Corrigenda to Frame Multipositive Flaws Vol. 8 No. 3.

The following flaws occur on plates VIII and R10b only and not on Plate IX.  
Row 7/4. Spots in margin over first A of Africa.  
4/12 Red spot over top mast.

This confirms the printing sequence already established by multipositive flaws on row 17/11 viz.

R10b - October 1933  
IX - November 1933 (grey black)  
IX - February 1934 (steel blue)

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SOUTH AFRICAN CANCELLATION ERRORS

by E. G. Kinsey

It may be of interest to place on record details of some cancellation errors. All of these, with the sole exception of the PIETERMARITZBURG item are on cover. They have all passed through my hands and many are in my own collection. From this batch it would appear that BLOEMFONTEIN has an unassailable lead in the "wooden spoon competition" for cancellation errors.

Town.	Type of Date Stamp	Details of Errors	Dates of Useage.
<u>(i) Wavy line types.</u>			
Virginia	S.R.	Date stamp inverted	9.VII.1960
Boksburg	S.R.	" " "	25.V.1960
Ficksburg	S.R.	" " "	14.V.1959
Bloemfontein	S.R.	" " "	19.IX.1960
Bloemfontein	S.R.	As above but with incorrect use of the "Paid Betaal" on stamped mail.	24.V.1960 (twice) 8.VII.1960.
Bloemfontein	S.R.	Date stamp inverted, year omitted.	29.VI.? "The Paid Betaal" cancel in red on an unstamped bulk postal printed paper envelope.
<u>(ii) Slogan cancellations.</u>			
<u>(A) Prevent Bush and Veld Fires.</u>			
Pietermaritzburg.	S.R.	Date stamp inverted	Could be Oct, Nov. or Dec. 30.X?.1960 on piece only, part cancel missing.
Bloemfontein.	D.R.	" " "	3.III.1959 8.IV.1959 14.III.1960
Bloemfontein	D.R.	Year inverted in date-stamp.	29.IV.1959 (twice)
<u>(B) Register as a Voter.</u>			
Bloemfontein.	S.R.	date stamp inverted.	16.IV.1960 25.IV.1960
<u>(C) The Wonder of Afrikaans.</u>			
Bloemfontein	D.R.	date stamp inverted.	10.VIII.1959 (twice) 24.VII.1959

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THE SPRINGBOK

=====

Town	Type of Date Stamp	Details of Errors	Dates of Usage.
Bloenfontein	D.R.	date stamp correct way up but time and date slugs wrongly assembled and inverted reading 6?-VI CO-OI 646I	5.IX.1959 6?.VI.1959
Bloenfontein	S.R.	Date stamp inverted	20.1.1960 23.IX.1959
(D) Vereeniging	Buy South African S.R.	" " "	20.VI.1960
Benoni	S.R.	" " "	19.11.1960
(E) Kimberley	South African Railways A Century of Service. S.R.	" " "	17.VI.1960
Bloenfontein	S.R.	" " "	1.VI.1960 16.VI.1960 (3) 27.VI.1960

S.R. means single ring cancellor. D.R. is double ring cancellor.

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NEW POST OFFICES

Our good friend, Mr Sylvester L. Crozet sends yet another list for our information -

<u>Name.</u>	<u>Province</u>	<u>Head Office</u>
Four Pines	Cape	Tsomo
Grey Woods	Cape	Cofimvaba
Ivuna	Natal	Nongoma
Kwa Mashu	Natal	Durban
Ngudweni	Natal	Mandini
Silmare	Transvaal	Krugersdorp
Stormsrivierbrug	Cape	Humansdorp
Eranchi	Swaziland	Renamed Tshaneni
Evaton	Transvaal	Renamed Residensia

Mr Crozet points out that the December 1960 edition, the latest, of the S.A. Post Office Guide is now on sale at all post offices, price being 3/-d plus postage. All rates and charges are shown in decimal currency.

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THE SPRINGBOK

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THE FOURTH DEFINITIVE SERIES

Date of release - - - 14th February, 1961.

Values -  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent, 1c,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ c, 2c,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ c,  $3\frac{1}{2}$ c, 5c,  $7\frac{1}{2}$ c, 10c,  $12\frac{1}{2}$ c, 20c,  
50c, and Rand 1.

Perforation 15 x 14. Screened. Cost of Arms watermark.

$\frac{1}{2}$  cent value Warthog, green monocoloured. From a single die cylinder 16 such number below row 20/10. Four red sheet numbers twice in right margin arrows left and right margins only, single line lozenge bars top and bottom margins. Sheet format 200 stamps, 20 rows, 10 stamps.

1 cent value Wildebeest, red monocoloured from double die cylinders 38A/38B such numbers below row 20/9. Four red sheet numbers twice in right margin Pane A only, Pane B being without. Usual four positioned arrows on both panes. Single line lozenge bars top and bottom margins. Pane A is left and Pane B is right on the completed sheet contrary to usual format. Sheet format 200 stamps, 20 rows, 10 stamps.

$1\frac{1}{2}$  cent value Leopard, sepia-brown monocoloured, from single die cylinder 48 such number below row 20/10. Four red sheet numbers twice in right margin, arrows left and right margins only, single line lozenge bars top and bottom margins. Sheet format 200 stamps, 20 rows, 10 stamps.

2 cent value Zebra, Purple monocoloured, from single die cylinder 29 such number below row 20/10. Four red sheet numbers twice in right margin, arrows left and right margins only, single line lozenge bars top and bottom margins. Sheet format 200 stamps, 20 rows 10 stamps.

$2\frac{1}{2}$  cent value Prime Ministers, carmine brown and brown, from die cylinders 52A/52B interior and 27A/27B exterior. Such numbers appearing below row 20/4. Four red sheet numbers twice in right margin, arrows left and right margins only, single line lozenge bars top and bottom margins. Sheet format 100 stamps, 20 rows 5 stamps. Pane A is right and Pane B is left on the completed sheet as printed.

$3\frac{1}{2}$  cent value Union Flag, vermilion and cerulean blue, from single die cylinders 21 interior and exterior 58 such numbers appearing opposite row 5/1. Four red sheet numbers twice in bottom margin, arrows top and bottom margins only, single line lozenge bars left and right margins. Sheet format 100 stamps, 5 rows 20 stamps.

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THE SPRINGBOK

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5 cent value Lion, brown and orange, from single die cylinders interior 53 and 118 exterior such numbers below row 20/5. Four red sheet numbers twice in right margin, arrows left and right margins only, single line lozenge bars top and bottom margins. Sheet format 100 stamps, 20 rows 5 stamps.

7½ cent value Coat of Arms, orange-red, lilac-brown and sea-green, from single die cylinders 30, 57 and 34 such numbers beside row 1/20. Five black sheet numbers twice in bottom margin, brown arrows top and bottom margins only, single line brown lozenge bars left and right margins. Sheet format 100 stamps, 5 rows 20 stamps.

10 cent value Symbolic Wheel, indigo and sulphur-yellow, from single die cylinders interior 97 and exterior 1, such numbers below row 20/5. Four red sheet numbers twice in right margin, blue arrows left and right margins, blue single line lozenge bars top and bottom margins. Sheet format 100 stamps, 20 rows 5 stamps.

12½ cent value Springbok, brown and blue-green, from single die cylinders interior 3 and exterior 106 such numbers below row 20/5. Four red sheet numbers twice in right margin, brown arrows left and right margins only, single line brown lozenge bars top and bottom margins. Sheet format 100 stamps, 20 rows 5 stamps.

20 cent value Gemsbok, red-brown and light crimson, from single die cylinders interior 100 and exterior 23 such numbers below row 1/20. Four red sheet numbers twice in top margin, brown arrow top and bottom margins only, single line brown lozenge bars left and right margins. Sheet format 100 stamps, 5 rows 20 stamps.

50 cent value Giraffe, sepia-brown and chrome-orange, from single die cylinders interior 13 and exterior 33 such numbers opposite row 5/1. Four red sheet numbers twice in bottom margin, brown arrows top and bottom margins only, single line brown lozenge bars left and right margins. Sheet format 100 stamps, 5 rows 20 stamps.

Rand 1 value Sable Antelope, black and grey-blue, from single die cylinders interior 109 and exterior 4 such numbers opposite row 1/20. Four red sheet numbers twice in top margin, black arrows top and bottom margins only, single line black lozenge bars left and right margins. Sheet format 100 stamps, 5 rows 20 stamps.

So far as we can tell this issue is remarkably free from anything in the nature of a major flaw although there are some "fly specks" of course.

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THE SPRING BOOK  
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POSTAGE DUES

With this fourth definitive series there has been a corresponding issue.

- 1 cent black and red interior cyl. 110 and exterior 85.
- 2 cent black and purple interior cyl. 82 and exterior 85.
- 4 cent dark green and green interior cyl. 62 and exterior 85.
- 5 cent dark blue and blue interior cyl. 116 and exterior 85.
- 6 cent green and orange interior cyl. 114 and exterior 85.
- 10 cent chocolate and brown interior cyl. 32 and exterior 85.

These are released in panes each 10 rows of 5 labels and it will be noted that the exterior cylinder is common to each value.

In this issue we have noted a very prominent flaw on the 5 cent value row 3 stamp 8 of the upper right pane which appears as a continuation of the tail of the figure "5" so that it almost makes a complete circle - you cannot miss this flaw.

STATIONERY

The 3d internal air letter form has been overprinted 2½ c in black.

The 6d Greetings air letter form has been overprinted 5c in black.

The ordinary 6d air letter form has been replaced by one bearing a 5c Lion impression in blue on a white background.

The 2d postcard has been replaced with a card bearing a 1½ cent Leopard impression, these pictorial postcards printed in green being sold in packets of 20 for 40 cents.

So far we have not seen any registered stationery but understand there is a 5 cent envelope available.

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"WANTED"

Articles, information, news, queries to keep the magazine interesting and alive. We seem to have a very contented readership which we accept as a gracious compliment to our efforts but a little help works wonders!

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THE SPRINGBOK

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LONDON GROUP MEETING

The February meeting of the London Group saw a good attendance once again, and provided a display in two parts, on quite widely diverse subjects.

Readers will by now have studied the full write up by Mr R. D. Allen on the various aspects of the Mobile Post Offices of the Union and their various markings. The London Group members were privileged to see the material on which those notes were based. Further reference to the details is therefore unnecessary.

Another member was, however, able to show an item not recorded by Mr Allen; namely Mobile Post Office No. 9. Johannesburg - a registered cover posted on 27th December 1956. The point of interest was the registration mark for which the normal cancellor had been used with the addition of the numbers 8322 in pencil.

The second half of the display comprised of the efforts of Mr G. M. Whitten in plating the individual stamps of the advertisement booklets, as opposed the normal plating in complete panes. Although not completely plated a large percentage of the stamps of both values have been identified by stamp flaws and, or, flaws on the marginal data. With the comparatively few of these stamps seen these days, Mr Whitten is to be congratulated on his efforts which provided a very interesting and informative display.

W.A.P.

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ANNUAL EXHIBITION

At the last Show it was suggested that overseas members might like the opportunity to contribute to the Exhibition and so anyone interested is hereby invited to advise the Editor what, if anything, he would like to show when the matter can be looked into further.

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LONDON GROUP MEETINGS

March 21st. Auction  
April 18th. Animal Series Stamps - Displays and Discussions by all Members  
May 16th. A.G.M. - Abell Cup Competition - Auction.

If you are in London they will be very pleased to see you in the restaurant room of the "George" Public House, Strand, London W.C.1. (opposite the Law Courts) 6.30 p.m. Don't be misled by the words "Public House" - it is not one of those "drinking dens" but quite a pleasant place, so do not be shy - go and enjoy yourself.

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THE SPRING BOOK

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CURRENT AUCTION PRICES

In Durban, December 15th., by John H. Wicks, Sale 121 a specialised sale of 1d Ship stamps over period May 1930 to February 1951, include many arrow blocks, joined papers, major varieties and we record some prices so that readers can check for themselves the current trend.

"B" Control Pl.2 block of four with Broken Mast Retouched Headplate from top of sheet.	£24.
"B" Control opposite English stamp, top of sheet	£ 3.
"E" Control block opp. English stamp,	£ 4.
"D" Control block opp. E. stamp, broken mast.	£ 2
Pl. 4. top arrow block	£ 5. 15. 0.
Pl. 5. top arrow block	£ 8.
Pl. 6. top arrow block	£ 6.
Pl. 6. right arrow block with ghost arrow	£ 6. 10. 0.
Pl. 6A. Half Arrow pair, vertical, bottom of sheet	£20.
Pl. 7. top arrow block	£ 4. 10. 0.
Pl. 7A. top arrow block	£ 7. 10. 0.
Pl. 8. top arrow block	£ 6. 10. 0.
Pl. 9. top arrow block	£ 7. 10. 0.
Pl. 10. top arrow block	£ 3.
Pl. 11. top arrow block	£ 4.
Pl. 12. top arrow block	£ 3.
Pl. 13. top arrow block	£ 4. 10. 0.
Pl. 14. top arrow block	£ 3. 15. 0.
Pl. 15. 4 arrow and 4 corner blocks	£ 3. 5. 0.
Pl. 16. 4 arrow and 4 corner blocks	£ 9.
Pl. 18. 4 arrow and 4 corner blocks	£ 14. 10. 0
Pl. 19. 4 arrow and 4 corner blocks.	£ 13.
Pretoria 1d block 4 showing cracked plate, broken hull	£ 2. 15. 0.
$\frac{1}{2}$ d GV. Die Proof on card "Before Striking" "E.M. June 9"	£26. 10. 0.
3d roto black/red arrow block with shuttered window	£ 4.
2d. Roll R.11 proving strip of 22 with "rift" variety.	£ 7. 10. 0

April 5th will see a fine sale of the 1913 King's Head issues with essays, proofs, major errors controls and the like offered by this same auctioneer.

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HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN? SO SOON!

The Annual Meeting and Exhibition of the Society will be held on October 21st. again at the London Central Y.M.C.A., Great Russell Street, London. Hotel accommodation is available within 5 minutes walk so make it a date. Remember - it is your Show - help to make it a success.

"SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST"

One of our former members, Mr C. Lee of 24 Priory Way, North Harrow, Middlesex advises us that he has a run of "South African Philatelists" dating from July 1952 to January 1961 inclusive. These are for disposal and any member interested in obtaining them should make his or her offer direct to Mr Lee please.

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C O R R E S P O N D E N C E

Dear Sir,

Blurred Printings - South Africa

Whilst assembling material for the recent Annual Exhibition of the Society I received a query about one of the items. Another member received a similar enquiry and we both had similar copies of this type of printing, but all the examples were on different printings and values of South African stamps (not the animal series). All the pieces have an oily appearance on part of the stamp or stamps but not over the whole stamp at most covering an area about the size of a 2/-d piece South African or British. There were not any marks whatsoever on the back of the stamps and there did not appear to be oil on the face of the stamps but almost as if oil had been dropped from the moving parts of the printing machine into the ink well. I wrote to the Publicity Officer at Pretoria who, in turn, contacted the Government Printer and the following reply has been received via the Publicity Officer -

"In the course of printing, ink tends to thicken and to obtain the correct mixture, xylol is added to the ink.

Xylol which is a mixture of isomeric hydrocarbons prepared by wood spirit for a while floats on the surface of the ink in the pan and blurring takes place when this very thin solution is carried on to the cylinder.

The matter has been receiving my attention and it is hoped to overcome the difficulty in due course."

London S.W.9.

R. D. ALLEN, Snr.

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Dear Sir,

I am trying to make a collection of covers depicting the various South African philatelic exhibition postmarks and wonder whether any member can help me with a complete listing of such. Perhaps if this could be published in the magazine it would interest other readers too?

Wollongong, Australia.

D. B. STANTON.

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THE SPRINGBOK  
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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

New Members -

45. Miss C. Steel, 86 Herne Hill, Brixton, London, S.W.9.  
401. Leland P. Fish, 45 Conant Drive, Buffalo 23, NY., U.S.A.  
(Interests - Covers and postal history)  
402. M. H. Earhart, 5427 Florence Boulevard, Omaha 10, Neb., U.S.A.  
(Interests - everything regarding Union philately)  
403. J. H. Winter, 57 Zullan Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham.  
(Interests - pictorials)  
404. William H. Evans, Box 86, Mt Rainier, Maryland, U.S.A.  
(Interests - springbok ½d, ship 1d, orange tree 6d issues)  
405. Robert C. Deming, 154 Alden Ave., New Haven 15, Conn., U.S.A.  
(Interests - all adhesives especially 1926-1954 issues)  
406. Corrie J. van Vuuren, P.O. Box 974, Johannesburg, S.A.  
(Interests - second half century onwards)  
407. F. B. Buffham, 925 Lake Ave., Racine, Wis., U.S.A.  
408. W. G. Burley, 52 Preston Drive, Bexley Heath, Kent.  
(Interests - old O.F.S. and Provincials)

Changes of Address -

171. Emanuel V. Shulman, 8101 Eastern Ave., Apt. 506A, Silver Spring, Md.,  
U.S.A.  
252. Frank R. Squire, 51 Mount Road, Canterbury, Kent.

Membership Lapsed -

150. F. L. Billings, Toronto, Canada.  
280. Dr A. Guggisberg Berne, Switzerland  
235. F. J. P. Reynoldson, London, S.E.9.  
308. G. R. Rankin, Milwaukee, U.S.A.  
381. David Reid, Joliet, U.S.A.  
383. Miss L. J. Wagner, Webster Groves, U.S.A.

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PRESS CUTTINGS

- "S.A.P." January 1961. "A Third Issue in the ½d Springbok's Head Cross-  
Hatched Group" by S. J. Hagger.  
"S.A.P." February 1961. "Revenue Stamps of South Africa" by S. L. Crozet, F.F.S.  
"Stamp Collecting" February 10th. 1961. "Philately of the Union" by "Warthog".  
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