

SACS 'Open Meeting' at Letchworth Hall Hotel 01.11.2025-02.11.2025

Members and guests enjoyed a wonderful weekend of Southern African Philately, with high quality displays and good company. Saturday featured five impressive exhibits showcasing the rich diversity of Southern African stamps and postal history, followed by a convivial dinner in the evening that allowed members and guests to share stories and insights in a relaxed atmosphere.



*Wilbert Davids, a member from the Netherlands, presenting his gold medal display on
'Union of South Africa - Foreign Mail Connections 1923-1954'*

A synopsis of the Saturday displays is shown below for those who wish to revisit the events of the day. On Sunday, additional displays were presented by members and guests, offering a variety of engaging and informative collections before proceedings concluded around lunchtime.

A highlight of the weekend was the presentation of the **Tony Chiltern Memorial Trophy** to **Ian Shapiro** for his outstanding display on *RSA Premiers and Presidents*—a remarkable exhibit featuring many unique items, original artwork, and personal letters that captivated all who viewed it.

A full report of the Open Meeting will be included in the January 2026 Springbok.

Overall, it was a thoroughly enjoyable and memorable weekend for everyone involved and the Society extends thanks to everyone who supported the event.

Programme for the Two-Day Meeting arranged for Southern Africa Philately on 1st and 2nd November 2025 at the Letchworth Hall Hotel

We are pleased to advise the proposed timetable and displays

Saturday 1 November 2025

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 09.00 | Set up in Marston Suite for Dealers |
| 09.30 | Doors Open to Members |
| 10.00 | Tea & Coffee available |
| 10.20 - 10.30 | Welcome and Introduction |
| 10.30 - 11.30 | The South African War 1899-1902 - Nick Harris |
| 11.45 - 12.45 | RSA – Premiers and Presidents - Ian Shapiro |
| 12.45 - 13.30 | Lunch |
| 13.30 - 14.30 | Union of South Africa – Foreign Mail Connections 1932-1954 - Wilbert Davids |
| 14.30 - 15.30 | The Stamps and Postal History of Swaziland Since Independence (1968-2018) –
Dr Andrew Higson |
| 15.30 - 16.00 | Tea & Coffee |
| 16.00 - 17.00 | The Bechuanalands to 1895 - Tony Stanford |
| 17.00 - 17.30 | Raffle and Voting for Tony Chiltern Cup |
| 18.30 | Gather in Marston Suite Bar for Pre-Dinner Drinks |
| 19.00 | Dinner |

Sunday 2nd November 2025

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 09.00 | Doors Open |
| 09.30 | Members Displays - Up to two or three frames of South African Related Philately |
| 11.00 - 11.30 | Coffee & Tea |
| 11.30 | Members Displays continue |
| 13.00 - 14.00 | Conclusion of Meeting |

DISPLAY NUMBER 1 - NICK HARRIS

The South African War 1899 -1902

The Sieges of Ladysmith & Mafeking

INTRODUCTION

The main causes of the Boer War were British imperial ambitions to control Southern Africa , the discovery of vast deposits of gold in the Boer republics of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State and the resulting tension over the rights of the British Uitlanders who demanded greater political rights , including the right to vote which the Boer Government resisted as it was seen as a potential threat to the Boer's identity and way of life. The British Government supported these demands and made the decision to send troops to the Transvaal borders. President Paul Kruger issued an ultimatum to the British Government demanding the immediate withdrawal of British troops from the Transvaal borders. This ultimatum was rejected by the British Government and war was declared on the 11th October 1899.

The Boer War began with Boer armies launching pre-emptive offensives into the British Colonies of Natal and the Cape Colony, laying siege to the key garrisons of *Ladysmith, Kimberley and Mafeking*.

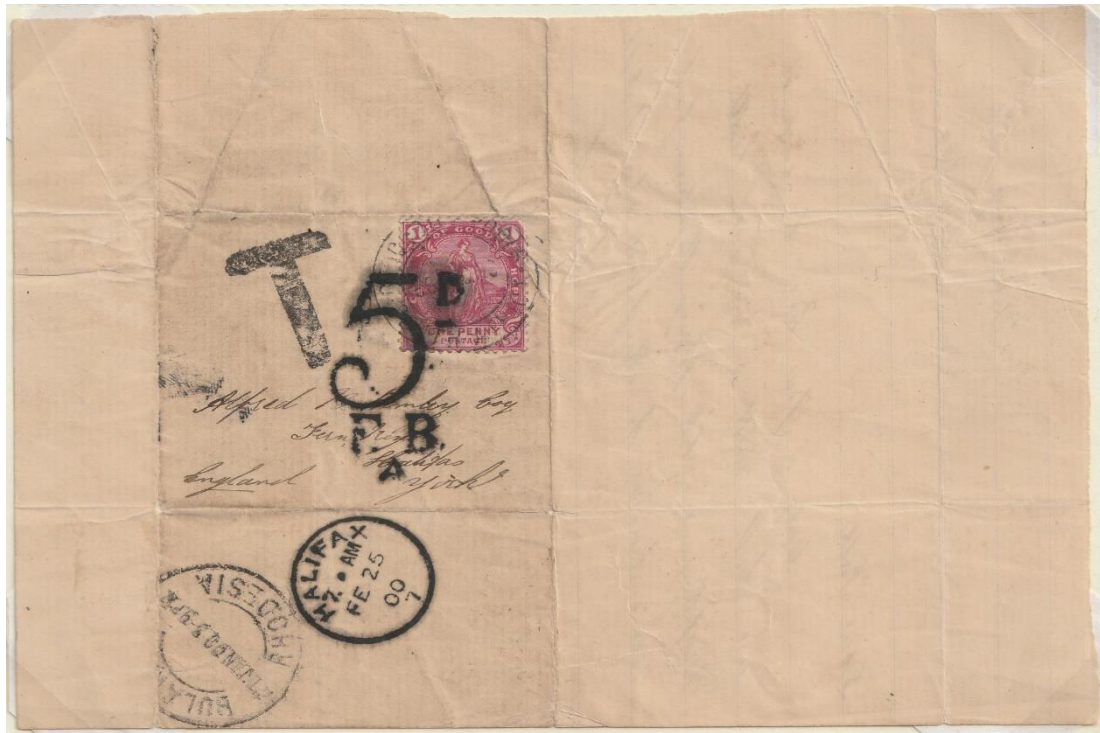
This decision has been heavily criticised as a major miscalculation which has been regarded as one of the major tactical errors of the war. These sieges diverted thousands of Boer troops from offensive campaigning and kept them idle which was against their military culture.

This display will concentrate on three key areas:

1) Postal history from troopers of The Rhodesia Field Force on route to relief Mafeking under the command of Lt. Col. H. Plumer

The display includes the only two known covers showing use of the scarce Army Ootsi Telegraph date stamp being used to cancel Bechuanaland Protectorate overprinted stamps whilst Plumers troops were at Ootsi. Also shown are covers sent by Colonel Plumer and Baden Powell from Mafeking to a member of Colonel Plumer's force before being re-addressed to General Carrington in Salisbury.

Various covers are also included showing use of the scarce Crocodile Pools cancellation.



2) Postal history and ephemera relating to the siege of Mafeking

Including early siege covers smuggled through the Boer lines before the military took over postal operations. The display also includes covers sent out of besieged Mafeking by the two subsequently established postal routes via the north (Crocodile Pools and Bulawayo) and via the south (Barkly West and Kimberley)

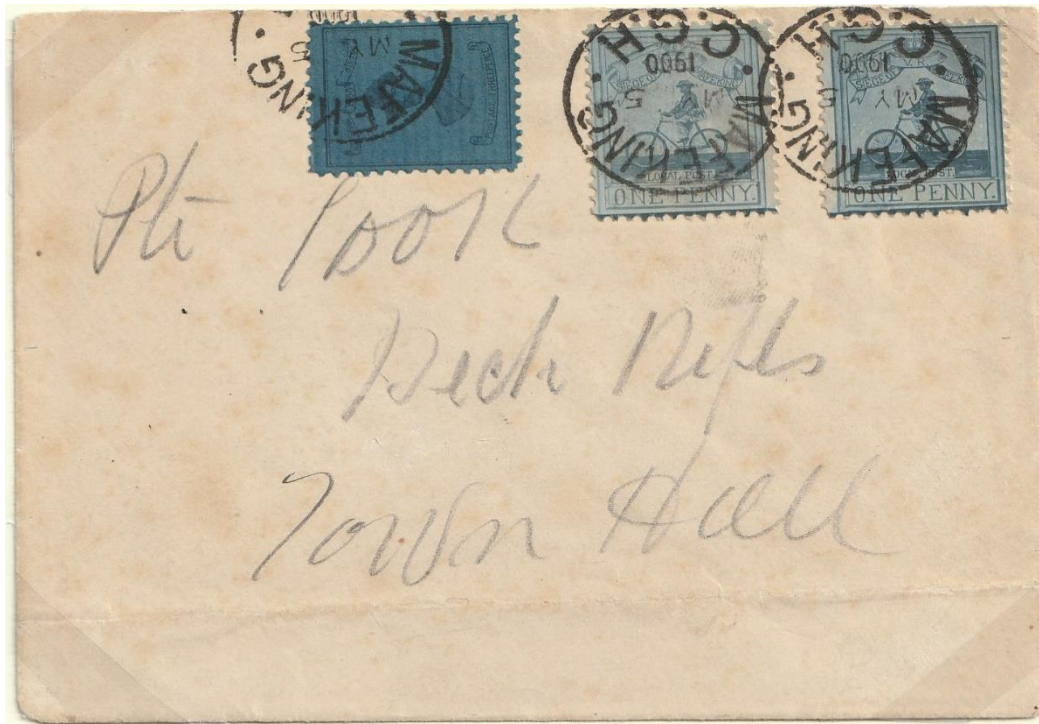
In March 1900, Lieutenant Col. Lord Edward Cecil, in charge of communications within besieged Mafeking established a more frequent postal service with the outside world with the use of local black runners. The following notice appeared in the Mafeking Mail for Saturday 24 March 1900:

" The rates of postage for letters to the United Kingdom, Cape Colony and Natal via the south is 6d per half ounce and via the north to the United Kingdom, Cape Colony, Natal and Rhodesia 1/- per half ounce.

The rates of postage for local deliveries within town limits is 1d per half ounce and for delivery to outposts and forts 3d per half ounce.

The display includes covers and blocks of four on piece of what have become known as the

" Mafeking Blues " - the 1d Sergeant Major Goodyear and the 3d Baden Powell stamps and the reasons as to why these two stamps were printed in the first instance. Of particular note is one of only three known " Combination " covers showing the use of both the Goodyear and Baden Powell stamps on the same cover.



The display concludes with the reason behind the establishment of the *Mafeking Relief Fund* as well as the administration and allocation of the funds raised.

Shown is a very scarce document signed by both Baden Powell and Major Godley holding the Standard Chartered bank of Mafeking harmless in case of any administration errors in the allocation of these funds. The display also includes a letter written by Baden Powell whilst he was staying at Groote Schuur, the home of Cecil Rhodes to a Mr Arthur Shears thanking the people of Littlehampton for their generous donations to the fund.



3) Postal history and ephemera relating to the siege of Ladysmith

Including the only known Ladysmith Siege post card printed in blue ink , the only known Ladysmith advertising siege post card as well as several siege postcards with very poignant messages describing in detail the conditions the inhabitants were undergoing from constant shelling from the Boer long tom guns to the delights of eating horse and pony flesh in the form of " Chevril " soup.

Also shown are several items showing the use of the special two line "Ladysmith Siege Post Office " postmark which was designed with the intention that it was only to be used for local mail posted and addressed within Ladysmith as well as items relating to Intombi Military Hospital Camp and the horseflesh diet called Chevril.



Of particular interest is a exceedingly scarce card issued within besieged Ladysmith to celebrate the British Victory at the battle of the Platrand which took place on 6 January 1900.

The artist was Melton Prior war correspondent for the Illustrated London News who was within Ladysmith at the time of the siege.

Other than the one shown here today the only other copy to come onto the market in recent years was in the collection of the late Kenneth Griffith. It is not known how many of these exceedingly scarce cards still exist today.

As far as I am aware there are no known items existing from the siege of Kimberley which took place from the 14 October 1899 until 15 February 1900.

The two largest Boer War collections to come into the market in the last 30 years were those of the late Bill Hart and Kenneth Griffith and neither of those contained any items relating to the siege of Kimberley.

DISPLAY NUMBER 2 – IAN SHAPIRO

RSA - Premiers and Presidents.

The exhibit covers various stamp issues commemorating the political leaders who were elected State President or Prime Minister, from the establishment of the Republic of South Africa in 1961 to the election of P.W. Botha as Executive State President in 1984.

The basis of the collection is that formed by Mr Herman Steyn, who was Director of Philatelic Services, Pretoria from the 1970's to the 1990's. In this privileged position he retained artists drawings, FDC variants and a range of fascinating items that enhance interest in otherwise mundane stamp issues.

I have expanded the range of interest to cover “context philately” in the wider sense, including signed photographs, printed ephemera, autograph letters, and political propaganda, the intention of which was to promote the ruling National Party.



Highlights include the 1966 Verwoerd VIP FDC partly printed in gold, of which only 250 were supposedly issued for presentation purposes. Varieties on the stamp issue shown are a paper join on the 21/2d value, partial omission of black printing on the 3c value giving Dr Verwoerd a ghostly appearance, and a unique manuscript written by Mrs Verwoerd recounting her memories of the day that the PM was assassinated in the House of Assembly.



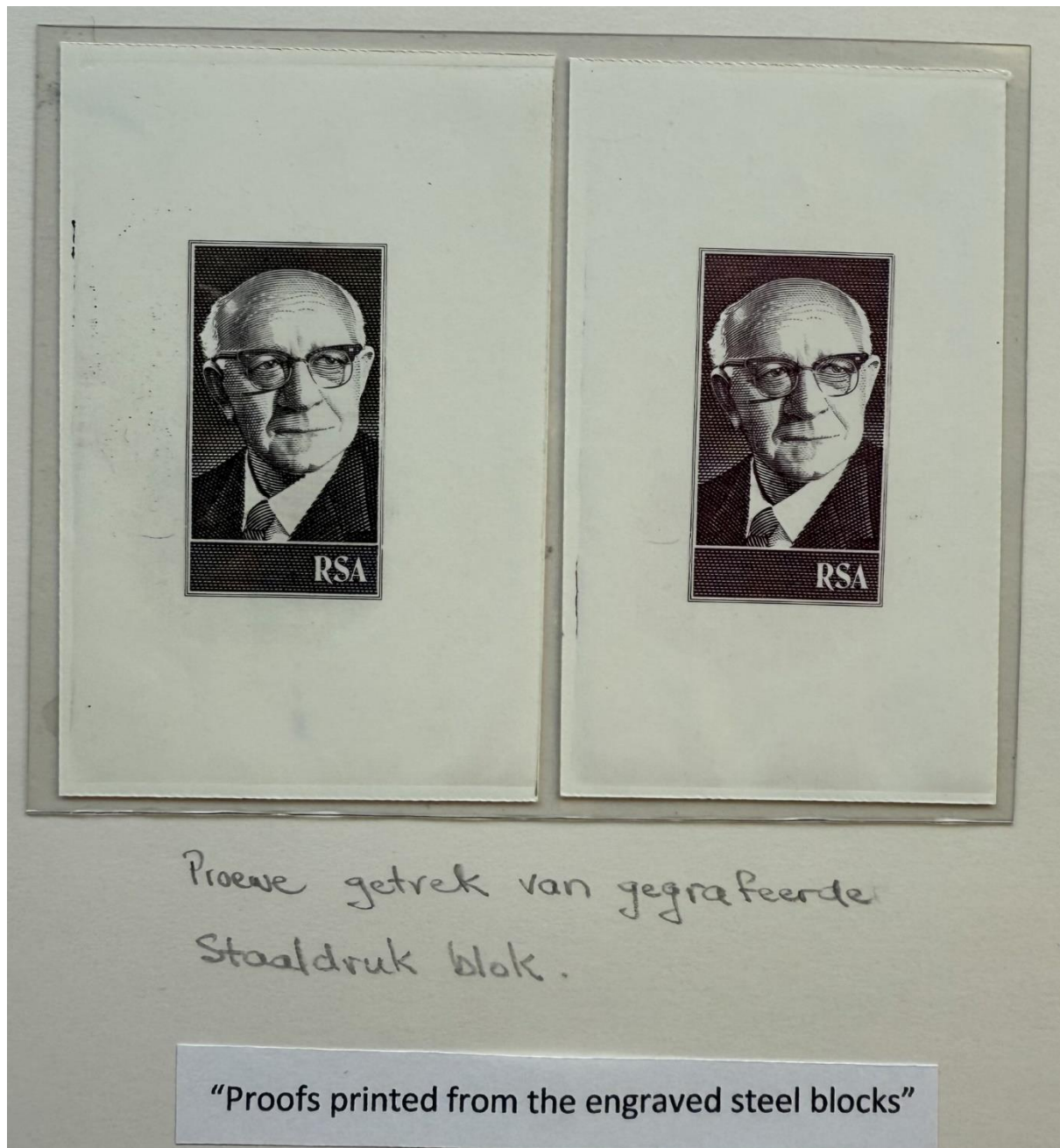
The design for the proposed 1967 Dr Donges stamp issue is shown with a signed letter of thanks upon his election as State President Elect. He suffered a stroke and fell into a coma before he could assume office. He died in January 1968 and the stamp issue was abandoned.

State President J.J. Fouché is represented, with his 1968 inaugural programme, an uncommon presentation card with both values affixed, and state funeral ephemera.

The 1974 Dr Malan issue has a range of FDC progressive colour separations and double printings.



The 1975 Dr Diederichs issue is comprehensively represented by FDC printing varieties, artwork for the design ,and two remarkable die proofs in colour “printed from the engraved steel blocks” without values. Original photographs of Diederichs on which the stamp design was based, are included.



The 1978 B.J. Vorster Presidential issue has original artwork, colour swatches for both values with signed photographs, including an image of the exhibitor as a young collector meeting with Vorster while Prime Minister.



The RSA 20 issue of 1981 depicted State President Viljoen with a 5c value showing Presidents Swart, Fouché, Diederichs and Vorster. Pencil artwork and overlay designs are shown for the 5c value and two watercolour essays for the 15c value are included.





The 1984 P.W. Botha Presidential issue has enlarged coloured photographs of the proposed design.

The collection represents a crucial period in the history of South Africa.

DISPLAY NUMBER 3 – WILBERT DAVIDS

Union of South Africa – foreign mail connections 1923 -1954

Introduction

This exhibit shows & tells the fascinating story of postal history of South Africa between 1932 and 1954, using covers and postcards that can each tell a story on their own. For this exhibit, only covers were acquired showing more than just a stamp & postmark, creating more significance than usual.

The result of this in the present-day exhibit, is a collection of South African postal history with a wide variety of auxiliary markings, both private & official, and also including incoming & transit mail in cases where outgoing South African mail does not exist.

Background & history of the Exhibit

The exhibitor collects South Africa since his childhood and has never collected ‘stamps using the catalogue’. On occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) in 2019, a first international appearance was made at the Stockholmia exhibition in a very competitive and high-quality environment. The collection gained 85 points, and feedback proved potential of the exhibit, so the collection was developed systematically, resulting in important additions. In the present exhibit, only 50% of the material was kept from exhibit showed in Stockholm.

Historical context

South Africa is a large, but remote country in distance to London or New York. The 1st regular airmail from Cape Town to London commenced on January 27th 1932 but the first transatlantic airmail to the USA via London was introduced as late as 1939, just before the outbreak of World War II. Until the war, many mail connections to foreign countries were ‘hybrid’ or ‘combi’ mail connections, using both airmail and surface mail. The result was a wide variety of postal and private auxiliary markings and endorsements. But when World War II broke out, many foreign mail connections were suspended or rerouted almost immediately.

South Africa itself was *not* a ‘battle ground’, however it was important because of the horseshoe route. This combi-mail route would exist throughout the war, even when alternative transatlantic airmail connections became available in 1942. The most important of these was the ‘via West Africa’ route between Karachi, Khartoum, Lagos and the USA. It also connected South Africa to the USA again, via Khartoum. This airmail route, a result of military logistics, was continued after the war and would eventually ‘fade out’ the airmail route from South Africa via London to the USA & beyond.

Organisation, treatment & importance

This exhibit is organised chronically starting with the first foreign airmail in 1932 and ending around 1954 when unified foreign postage rates came into effect. During the 22 year period in between, and highly influenced by WW2, many postal history events occurred, which are all explained and shown in 3 chapters and 14 paragraphs. Each episode is a story on its own, for which covers & postcards were selected that are attractive, rare & and significant to the subject.

The result is a collection, and exhibit, that is original, consistent and complete. The reason why many covers from other countries are included (e.g. Iraq, India, Burma), is that a number of postal history events simply cannot be explained using South African covers alone. This is especially true for horseshoe mail (for which South Africa was a *transit* point) and for FAM-18 or LATI-substitute airmail. To put it simply: South African covers usually show *no* special characteristics, whereas foreign incoming and transit mail, often *do*.

The previous hugely adds to the importance of the exhibit, since this is very difficult to duplicate. The same is true for other (global) historical events that are reflected in South African postal history and present in the exhibit. Apart from mail suspensions, diverted (global) mail, also operation Barbarossa in 1941 and the Chinese liberation in 1949 war are explained by covers present in the exhibit.

New findings as a result of research

Extensive research conducted by the exhibitor shed new light on South African postal history, proving current knowledge incorrect or incomplete. Examples, for which covers are shown, are:

- 1) When the 1939 transatlantic airmail to the USA was introduced, the existing 1/3 combi-mail rate air-surface via London was continued rather than replaced (see §1.5).
- 2) Transatlantic airmail between the South Africa and USA was carried out via *Khartoum* as a (mail) hub. Any presumed continuation of FAM-22 using Leopoldville as a hub is incorrect, although Leopoldville was used in occasions when Khartoum could not be used (see §2.4).
- 3) As soon as conditions permitted, airmail to & from the USA or Europe was restored already during the war, using Casablanca and Cairo as transit points (see §2.2).
- 4) Specific Iraqi postal rates for the horseshoe routes to Europe & USA are missing in the Armitage book¹, but could be reconstructed by the collector (see §2.3).
- 5) Specific purple 4-bar jusqu'à markings were used in South Africa, previously unrecorded (see §2.3).

Many gaps in wartime postal history could thus be filled. A result of this is that information in well-known handbooks (Proud, Boyle, Aitink) is now obsolete. These

¹ Armitage, Douglas: Iraq: postal history 1920s to 1940s, Stuart Rossiter Trust, 2009

finding are supported by John Wilson, in his recent and authoritative RPSL publication on FAM-18 and LATI substitute transatlantic airmail (see references).

Rarity, scarcity & quality

Many items in the exhibit are rare, some of them *very* rare. In a period of several decades, only one or only few examples of postal markings, dates of usage or even existing examples could be acquired. One should also keep in mind, for example, that it is fairly easy to find many pre-war foreign airmail destinations, but that some destinations are rare and practically *impossible* to find today. Adding to this, is the overall quality of the exhibit, which is excellent for this type of (wartime) material.

When it comes to rarity one item really does stand out, and this is the 1941 ‘Barbarossa’ postcard to the Soviet Union shown on frame 4 (§2.5). It was received in Soviet occupied Poland in a village only 13 km from the German border on the *very same* day the Soviet Union was invaded by nazi Germany. Adding to the significance of the card, and even apart from the unique usage of the Bránsk postmark, is the Jewish addressee who received a concerning message, in Yiddish, from his son living in Worcester, South Africa. A world rarity.

References

Recent research by the exhibitor on transatlantic airmail, caused many references to become less useful. In order to understand transatlantic airmail correctly and therefore also the transatlantic postage rates from South Africa especially between 1942 – 1947, the following sources are recommended:

1. John Wilson – *Pan American Airways Wartime Transatlantic Air Mail*, RPSL (2020)
2. Michael Deery – *WW2 Service Suspended Mails* (2015)
3. US Airforce Historical Research Agency - *History of the Ferrying Command in Africa and the Middle-East*, retrieved at www.wasc.org.uk
1. Wilbert Davids - *Ugly & red: jusqu'à markings on South Africa mail 1932-1939*, Springbok #344, 2018, ISSN 0955-6753.
2. Wilbert Davids – *Onward Air Transmission (OAT) markings on South African mail*, Springbok #345, 2019, ISSN 0955-6753. Article awarded with the ‘Wick medal’.

(other) Publications by the Exhibitor

1. Wilbert Davids - *The Transvaal £5 green: Research on postmarks and usage, including the Vürtheim and Disselboom 5 shilling and 10 shilling stamps*, Transvaal Philatelist Monograph, Vol 58, No.4, November 2023.
2. Wilbert Davids - *RPSL Membership History since 1869*; published in: *History of the RPSL*, edited by Charles Oppenheim, RPSL, London, 2019 (ISBN 978-1-913015-00-8)
3. Wilbert Davids - *RPSL Membership During World War II 1939 to 1946*; Published in: *The Royal Philatelic Society London Membership Lists 1869 to 2014*, edited by Frank L. Walton, RPSL, London, 2015 (ISBN 978-0-900631-80-1)



7th July 1941, Surface mail sent from DURBAN to an addressee on a ship in the Dutch East Indies with a remarkable route sequence. It was taxed 4 times and forwarded three times between Soerabaja and Batavia when it was finally delivered!



July-December 1944, A remarkable cover that has been reposted, redirected and four times censored! On its way to the addressee, 'Madame Wolst', the cover was at some point *also* redirected to Lisbon (Portugal), perhaps in error. The Elisabethville transits (south east Belgian Congo) indicate despatch by rail from & to Belgian Congo via the Rhodesia's and Johannesburg.



26th February 1941, Unique surface mail postcard sent from WORCESTER to BRÁNSK, a town in the Soviet occupied part of Poland.

The postcard arrived on 22nd June 1941, indicated by the Russian arrival postmark БРЯНСК БЕЛАСТ СССР ('Bransk – Belostokskaya Oblast SSSR'). This town & region is only 13 km from the BUG (БҮТ) river, which was the border between Germany and the Soviet Union at the time. The arrival date is on the *very same* day as Operation Barbarossa started, the German invasion of the Soviet Union.

The sender of the postcards is Rabbi Stein, who sent a message to his father in Poland. The text is written in Yiddish and Rabbi Stein is emotionally expressing his hope for a prosperous future in these difficult times (...). *A unique and historically important piece.*

DISPLAY NUMBER FOUR – DR ANDREW HIGSON

The Stamps and Postal History of Swaziland Since Independence (1968-2018)

In 2013 Peter van der Molen published what is now the standard work on Swaziland, however, as this book stops at Swaziland's Independence in 1968, and, other than the listing of postage stamps in stamp catalogues, there is very little literature/research into philatelic developments in Swaziland since Independence. This talk aims to help remedy this situation.

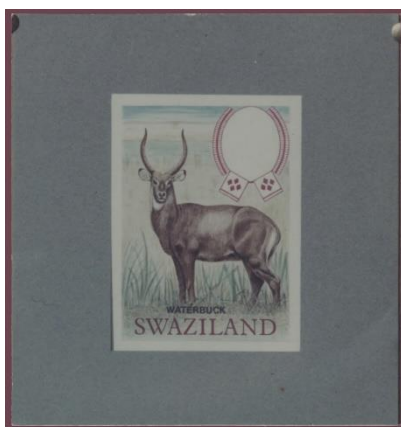
On 6th September 1968 a commemorative set of four stamps and a souvenir sheet (with the four stamps se-tenant x5) which bear the head of King Sobhuza II, as well as, a provisional definitive set with “INDEPENDENCE 1968” overprinted on the 1962 definitive set, were released.



Above An imperforate se-tenant strip from the Independence Souvenir sheet
– only one sheet of five strips is believed to have existed.

The first permanent definitives after Independence, released on 1st August 1969, featured King Sobhuza II, and focused on local wildlife – probably in an attempt to attract tourists.

Right A photographic colour proof of the original artwork without denomination or portrait on the 1969 R1 Waterbuck, and an imperforate proof example next to the issued stamp (the portrait, value and country name are in dull pink rather than the reddish violet of the issued design).



Independence brought about an expansion in the internal postal system with numerous offices being opened. The Government also introduced a localization programme prioritising locals over foreigners for jobs – eventually adversely impacting of the quantity of overseas mail.

In the early 1970s, “D. F. Crew” arranged for a series of covers to be posted from most offices (three are shown below):



Bhunya



Croydon



Dwaleni

In early 1979, Colin Hinchcliffe (of Heckmondwike, UK) also arranged for a series of covers to be posted from what appears to be just about every post office in Swaziland. As the previous listing of the operational post offices in Swaziland was only up to 1968 (van der Molen, 2013, Chapter 15), the Hinchcliffe covers contained a number of extra offices.

When King Sobhuza II died on 21st August 1982, the Great Council of State selected Crown Prince Makhosetive to succeed his father, but the Coronation could not take place for another four years until he was eighteen years old. He adopted the title King Mswati III. A Coronation set of stamps was released on the 25th April 1986. A set of Butterfly definitives featuring the portrait of the new King was released on 17th March 1987. On 26th August 1992 the 1c-E1 Butterfly stamps were re-released but featuring an older portrait of the King. All the stamps except the 5c had the imprint date of “1991” below the design. Sometime in 2000, three values (55c, E5 and E10) were issued with the imprint “2000” below the design – these stamps were still in use in 2025 along with the 2007 Tree definitives!

Right Detail from a postcard bearing both Tree and Butterfly definitives with a Manzini cancellation dated “22-02-2018”.



As the 2010s progressed there was a noticeable decrease in the quantity of mail originating in Swaziland (which is no different to what was happening in the rest of the world), but it does mean that postal history from this period is very difficult to find.

What turned out to be the final release of stamps from Swaziland occurred on 21st August 2017 and it celebrated the “Big Five” animals that can be found in its boundaries – lions, elephants, buffalos, leopards, and rhinoceroses.



King Mswati III is Africa's last absolute monarch. He has the power to choose the prime minister, and appoint other key government posts and traditional posts. The King is Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces and Commissioner of Police. Both the King and the Queen Mother have legal immunity from prosecution. Seemingly out of the blue, on 18th April 2018, King Mswati III changed the country's name from the Kingdom of Swaziland to the Kingdom of Eswatini (“Eswatini” meaning “Land of the Swazi”) - and so as one philatelic era ended, another one commenced.

Reference

van der Molen, P. (2013), *Swaziland Philately to 1968*. The Royal Philatelic Society London: London.

DISPLAY NUMBER FIVE – TONY STANFORD

The Bechuanalands to 1895

Because of the hostile situation within the Boer Republics of Stellaland and Goshen, both of which were situated in what was regarded as British Bechuanaland, the British Government sent Major-General Sir Charles Warren with an expeditionary force to resolve the situation and facilitate the annexation of the two Republics.

With a force of 4000 assembled in Cape Town Warren reached Vryburg, the principal town of Stellaland, in February 1885 and was able to peacefully reach agreement that both Republics would be incorporated into British Bechuanaland, which was achieved on 23 March 1885. On 30 September 1885 British Bechuanaland was declared to be a Crown Colony, extending north from the Cape Colony and South of the Molopo River. At the same time the rest of Bechuanaland laying North of the Molopo River and South of the Zambesi River and West of Rhodesia was declared as a British Protectorate.

The stamps of Stellaland were initially used for the short period until the stamps of the Cape of Good, overprinted ‘British Bechuanaland’ were provided from December 1885. In November 1887 the GB unappropriated die series inscribed ‘BRITISH BECHUANALAND POSTAGE & REVENUE’ was issued for use throughout the Bechuanalands and continued to be used for postage and fiscal purposes in the Bechuanaland Protectorate long after the annexation of British Bechuanaland into the Cape Colony.

On 1st November 1887, the GB Jubilee ½d vermilion was issued overprinted “BRITISH BECHUANALAND” as the ½d value was not provided in the series of Unappropriated Die stamps and this was followed by the issue of a short set of the QV Jubilee stamps on 1st December 1891.

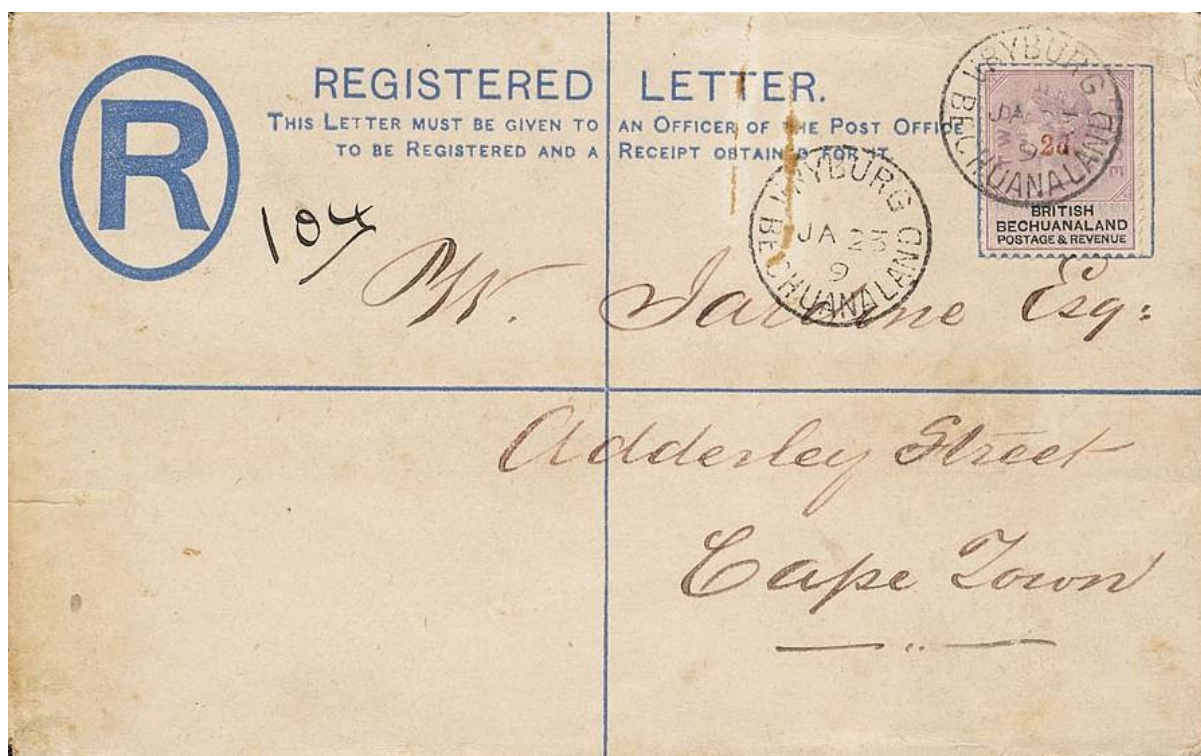
Initially the postal stationery of the Cape Colony was overprinted for use in Bechuanaland, and although overprinted GB stamps and stationery were later issued, there was a need for provisional issues of overprinted Cape stamps and stationery to be provided when stocks were exhausted.

From 1888 the unappropriated Die stamps were overprinted ‘Protectorate’ for use in both the Protectorate and also the Trans-Protectorate, which lay within Matabeleland, North of the Border, from which the renowned Runner Post was established.

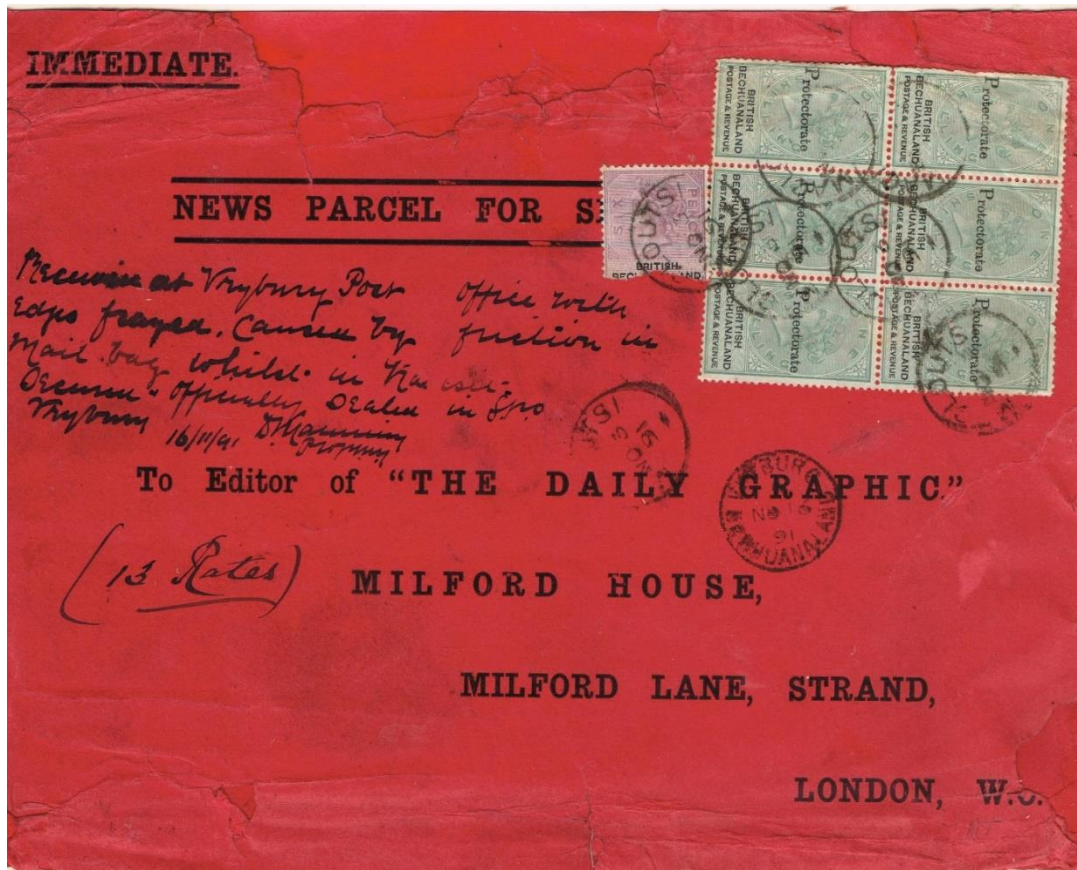
On 16 November 1895 British Bechuanaland was annexed to the Cape of Good Hope and ceased using its own stamps and postal stationery, which continued to be used in the Bechuanaland Protectorate. This display illustrates the stamps and Postal Stationery used in the Bechuanalands during this short period before the Annexation.



1887 Cape 4d dull blue with watermark 'Crown CC' overprinted 'British Bechuanaland'.
A bottom right corner block from plate 2 with Current Number 3



1890 use of 1889 Cape of Good Hope size G registration envelope with the embossed stamp on the reverse overprinted "BRITISH BECHUANALAND" in green serified capitals dispatched from Vryburg to Cape Town franked with 2d surcharged Unappropriated Die tied with Vryburg single ring cds dated 23 January



1891 News Parcel for Special Delivery to London dispatched to the Editor of 'The Daily Graphic' in London endorsed with manuscript '13 Rates' and correctly franked with block of six 1s and single 6d Unappropriated Dies tied with Macloutsie cds dated 3 November 1891



1888 issue of GB half-penny postal stationery wrapper with five lines of instructions deleted and overprinted 'BRITISH BECHUANALAND' to cover the local newspaper rate within British Bechuanaland. The wrapper is uprated with half-penny vermilion overprint and addressed to the editor of The Times in London and cancelled with both Vryburg cds dated 8 August 1890 and Vryburg code 555 vertical barred oval.



1894 use of 1888 issue GB one penny postal stationery card overprinted 'BRITISH BECHUANALAND' dispatched from Geluk to Germany uprated with penny lilac and halfpenny vermilion overprints to pay the 2½d foreign postcard rate. The stamps are tied with clear GELUK BB cancels dated 15 January without the year with Cape Town transit mark dated January 24 1894 on the front