

OCTOBER
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All about stamps



THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1932

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Contents

The Journal of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa
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Awards:

- Large Silver Hafnia 1994,
- Silver Bronze Pacific 1997,
- Vermeil APS Stampshow 1999,
- Large Silver Egoli 2001,
- Federation Plaque 2004,
- Silver España'06, Literature Award 2006,
- Large Silver NZ Literature Exhibition 2007,
- Large Silver JAKARTA 2008,
- Large Vermeil IPHLA 2012.

REGULARS

- 144** Letters to the Editorial Board
- 144** Closing dates for future issues
- 148** The 'ABC' of Stamps
- 149** Phun with Postmarks
- 173** Society news

ADVERTISERS

- 142** Sandafayre
- 145** Stanley Gibbons
- 147** Rand Stamps
- 148** Janssen Stamps
- 153** Christoph Gärtner
- 157** Stamp's Friend
- 158** Corinphilia Auction
- 165** John & Mark Taylor
- 175** Doreen Royan & Associates
- 176** Spink

FEATURES

- 146** Forged SPECIMEN Overprints on Cape of Good Hope Revenues
by Dr Ian Matheson RDPSA
- 147** National Stamp Exhibition 2018
by André du Plessis
- 150** Le Droit des Pauvres
by Dr Ian Matheson RDPSA
- 152** Obituary: John Horner
- 152** The South West Africa 2d Pictorial Double Overprint Revisited
by Mike Tonking RDPSA
- 154** Embossed and Impressed Revenue Stamps of the Union of South Africa
by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA
- 157** Exhibition Report: Praga 2018
by Emil Minnaar RDPSA
- 160** The Overland Postal Route by Rail from Natal
by Roger Porter
- 164** Behind the Stamps
by Chris Mobsby RDPSA
- 166** Administering a Society's Exchange Section - A Computerised Solution
by Steve Marsh
- 168** The TBVC Report: Part 1 Transkei
compiled by Heinz Wirz
- 172** New Issues 2018
by Robin Messenger

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ERRATUM

We apologise to Andrew Briscoe for our mistake in spelling 'Gaborone' incorrectly throughout his article on *The Bechuanaland Border Police*, which appeared in the August issue of the SAP. Sorry Andrew!



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The SA Philatelist

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More on the ATHALIA Datestamp

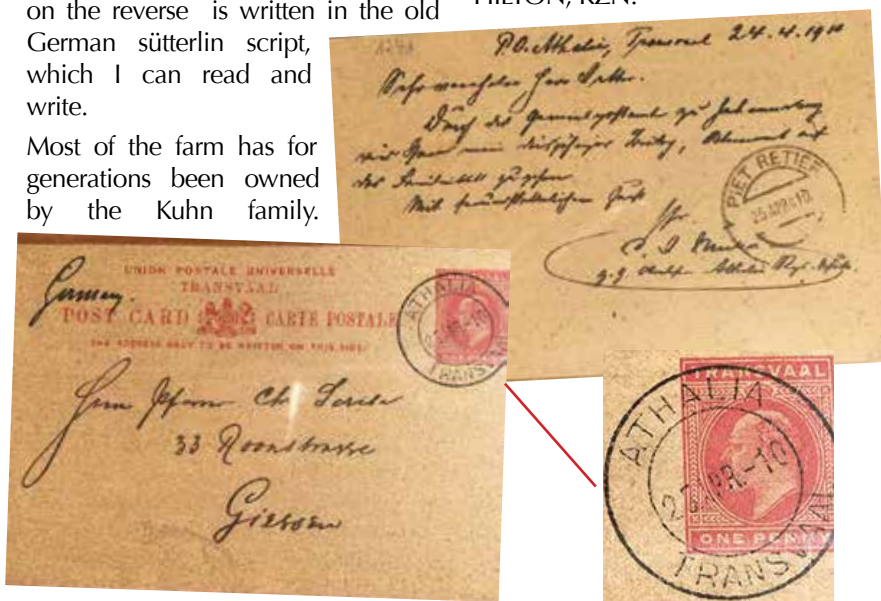
(Article by Johan Bezuidenhout : *The SA Philatelist* dd. August, 2016)

With reference to the article by Johan Bezuidenhout in the *SAP*, August 2016, regarding his 2 postal cancellations of ATHALIA.

I append herewith 2 images of a post card, written by a C.J.Kuhn, then the owner of the farm *Athalia*, and addressed to Rev. Chr. Scriba in Germany. It bears the cancellation of the Athalia postal agency, dd 25.04.1910, with Piet Retief transit cancellation of the same date. The text on the reverse is written in the old German sütterlin script, which I can read and write.

Most of the farm has for generations been owned by the Kuhn family.

before 1920. Interestingly, all of them deny that the postal agency continued on Athalia under the name *De Grens*. They all think that the agency was subsequently accommodated at or near the border post, east of the farm Athalia, and now called Bothashoop/Gege border post. That place was, and still is, commonly called *Die Grens*. More research to be done! Martin von Fintel
<vintlo@fintels.co.za>
HILTON, KZN.



I contacted the present owner (84 years old), as well as three other old timers who lived in that area, with the hope of obtaining more information about the Athalia postal agency. All of them are aware that the agency was accommodated in a trading store on the farm (long before their time) and that it had been closed down

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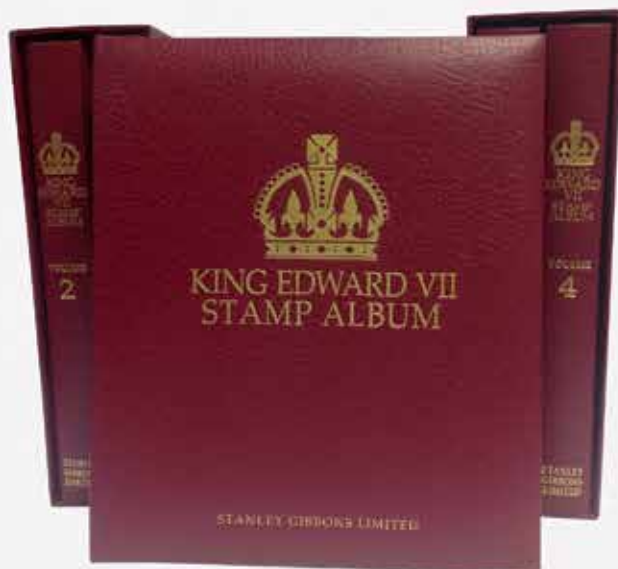
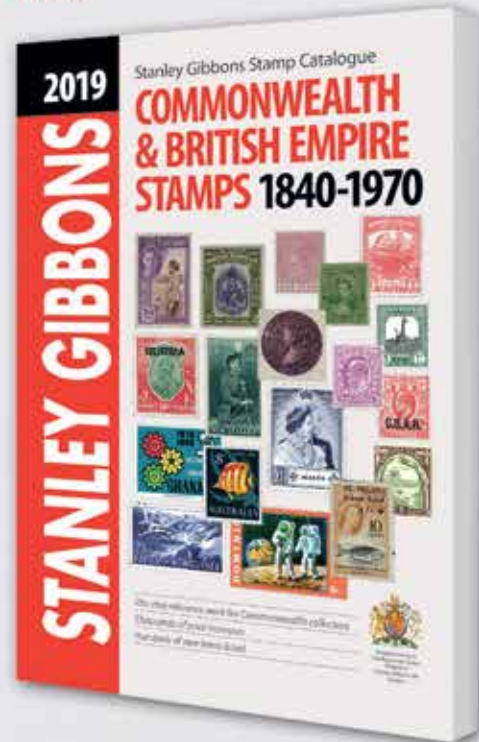
2019 COMMONWEALTH & BRITISH EMPIRE STAMPS 1840-1970

This Stanley Gibbons comprehensive catalogue covers Great Britain, Commonwealth and Empire countries 1840-1970.

Invaluable six-page article on stamp condition, and a helpful guide to valuing stamps on commercial cover up to 1945.

There are some substantial rises in Australian States and further increases in India and States. Most areas and periods up to the 1960s see selected increases and a number of previously unpriced items have now been given a value. Errors and many plate flaws and watermark varieties are also generally marked up.

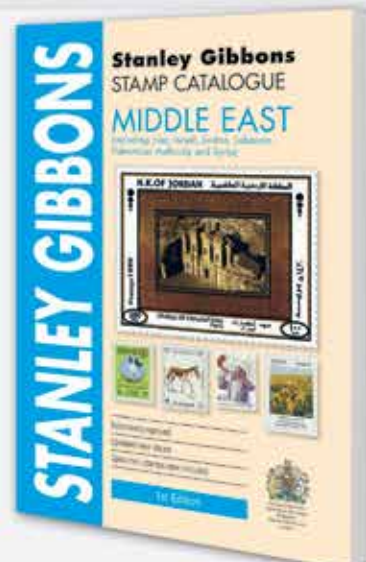
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King Edward VII Indian States Loose Leaf Album R34141S R1750

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Forged SPECIMEN Overprints on Cape of Good Hope Revenues

Dr Ian Matheson RDPSA, Philatelic Society of Johannesburg

Introduction

Regular messages have been disseminated recently by the Expert Committee of South Africa, and principally from Chairman Michael Wigmore RDPSA, warning collectors of the ever-increasing prevalence of fakes being offered in internet auction sales. Organisations such as eBay and Delcampe try to provide some security to the buyer, but there is a limit to what they can do. The old adage 'Caveat Emptor' rings true.

The Scam

In 2010-2012 a fraudulent operation was conducted by overprinting many revenue stamps of the Cape of Good Hope with a red SPECIMEN overprint. As usual, hindsight proves to be an exact science. The earliest item I have heard of was a Bill of Lading of 1865, and the dates extend well into the interprovincial period - almost half a century with the same mark; most unlikely! Another example is a document with two stamps applied one above the other, yet only the top stamp was overprinted SPECIMEN. This was also a red light. Most of the examples are on single stamps, but a depressing number also occur on documents, several of them exceptional historical documents that have now been sullied. It also seems amazing that none of these overprints had been illustrated in the philatelic press prior to 2010, and yet dozens of examples flooded the market from this date onwards. This should have been reported on long ago!

The Evidence

Maybe the observations listed above should have been enough to bring this matter to a speedy conclusion, but the vendor was adept at spinning a long and detailed yarn of the provenance of these issues that allowed the case to draw out.

However, I was not comfortable with the whole scenario and made copies of all the items I had bought plus a few that were on sale at that moment. I then sent these copies to the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Federation (via chairman Michael Wigmore RDPSA) for an opinion. Michael did a most comprehensive job scanning records and the internet and was able to find a number of old illustrations of the offending items without the overprint, thus proving comprehensively that the items were recent creations and definitely not genuine.

The Follow-up and the 'Story'

I contacted the vendor resulting in a lengthy and most unsatisfactory correspondence, but he did agree to refund me in full for my purchases.

I followed up with eBay and the vendor's two accounts were closed. Furthermore I received an assurance from the vendor that they had traced all the buyers and had ensured that each was given a full refund. I have never seen any such item on the market since and hoped that the problem had been nipped in the bud. I was asked (not by the vendor, I stress) to hold off on my story at the time because of matters concerning a very senior philatelist, which are now no longer relevant. I thought that the issue was consigned to history. However there have been a few unfortunate corollaries.

In discussions with another South African dealer I learned that he had also purchased a few of the duds, and he had certainly not been contacted and offered a refund. In 2012 the Revenue Society in UK published a splendid article by Cape specialist Oscar van der Vliet entitled *Aspects of Cape of Good Hope Revenue Stamps*. On pages 3 and 7 he illustrated examples of the SPECIMEN overprints with the story that I had been given. Oscar wrote "I have a

group of about twenty examples, including multiple values on piece". It was clear that all buyers had not been contacted and refunded. In December 2014 John Fletcher published volume 3 of his books on *Cape of Good Hope Revenues*. On page 102 we again see illustrations of the offending overprints with no indication that they were fakes.

It is important that this scam is stopped before further damage is done. We know that misunderstandings like this have an unfortunate habit of becoming 'facts' when they are repeated often enough.

The 'story' given by the vendor, who was based in Israel, reads "The Cape Budget Blue Book specifically states that all new series of revenue and postage stamps are to be handstamped 'SPECIMEN' for each denomination and a page of each kept". He further wrote that it was not surprising that a number of these found their way on to documents. He also quoted from Sherwood's more recent publication (later than my own copy) and from Putzel, indicating that the stamps had been around for a while. I have been unable to find either reference. He did not explain how they only appeared on the market in 2010-2012. When I confronted him with the evidence of wrongdoing I received an elaboration of the story. He maintained that all stamps sold prior to 15 April 2012 were genuine, but that an assistant of his father had confessed to producing the forgeries after that date and putting them on sale. He claimed to have a "sworn and notarized statement" to that effect. This is patent rubbish as stamps sold in 2011 were also fakes.

Conclusion

The only conclusion that I can reach is that ALL of the red SPECIMEN overprints on CoGH revenues are fakes propagated from a single source and many collectors have been duped.



Examples of Cape Revenue stamps showing the bogus 'SPECIMEN' overprint.



EXHIBITION NEWS



NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION 2018
Centurion - 17 to 20 October 2018
Venue address: 87 Jim Van der Merwe Street,
Clubview Centurion 0157

Our venue: www.kleinkaap.co.za in Centurion
by André du Plessis

It is the organising committee's sincere hope to see as many philatelic friends as possible and welcome you to STAMPSHOW 2018 at Kleinkaap Boutique Hotel in Centurion.

With so many readers not receiving their copies of the last issue of this magazine, we are relying on societies to spread the word and welcome friends and family to STAMPSHOW 2018 at a venue that makes the most of the glorious Pretoria weather. It offers luscious gardens and a warm, welcoming atmosphere - so take your time and make the most of your visit to this year's philatelic event.

The official catalogue for this years National will be found with this October issue and contains the information explaining how the Pretoria Philatelic Society, established in 1898, held its first Stampshow in 1903 and this year marks its 20th.

This year the exhibition is hosted outside of Pretoria city limits in Centurion, now part of the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality that included all of Pretoria.

The Union buildings continue to be the logo of choice to honour the long history of the Pretoria Philatelic Society and the Afrikaans Filatelievereniging van Pretoria.

Be sure to take up the offer to have your purchased exhibition envelopes cancelled by the two cancellers available for the duration of the show. One is the STAMPSHOW 2018 logo with dates 17 to 20 October 2018 and marked Pretoria. The other is a Centurion circular datestamp. Thea Clemons, Graphic Designer at Philatelic Services, was responsible for the design.

In addition, there are 10 dealers with SAPDA credentials that have much to offer and a plethora of philatelic material prepared for the auction on Saturday, 20 October.

The Philatelic Federation of South Africa (PFSa) has supported three National Stamp Exhibitions this year; 'Stampshow 2018', the 'South African Virtual Philatelic Exhibition 2018' in Bloemfontein and the 'Junior National Stampshow' (JUNASS) in Cape Town.

This year is also the 90th anniversary of PFSa and its 80th Congress which is held on Friday 19 October 2018 at this Kleinkaap venue. In the early years, Congress was not held annually and in the 1940s it was disrupted by the second World War.

The beautiful shady gardens afford specialist societies the opportunity to hold their meetings outdoors, to make the most of our early Highveld summer weather. As always, the societies welcome visitors to attend and participate in their meetings.

Jury members, under chairmanship of Emil Minnaar, will also be happy to discuss aspects of the material on show.

It would be remiss of me not to thank sponsors, societies and advertisers for the financial support received from them. A special thanks is extended to David Parsons from our main sponsor, Spink of London, Kleinkaap Hotel for the excellent venue and the efforts and dedication of the Organising Committee.

Without all this support, a successful exhibition is just not possible!



Paul van Zeyl RDPSA, André du Plessis and Steve Marsh

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Discover what could make your exhibit special. Remember, half the 'Open Class' exhibit could include family documents and photos, newspaper cuttings of events

which you have experienced, even letters and documents from those who similarly have shared losses and victories.

There are a handful of dealers who offer the wide range of material required for such appealing exhibits. Even fewer who've themselves regularly exhibited in the 'Open Class' segment.

If your soul calls for specialness, ask me for help to navigate your journey of a past you want to re-walk ... for South Africans, usually a path less travelled.

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A PROUD MEMBER
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The ABC of stamps

by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society



Bantams

A nickname given to the smaller sized stamps issued by South Africa during WWII to conserve paper. Each value was issued on different dates over the period 1942 to 1944 which means that there cannot be a First Day Cover with all eight issues. The purpose of the stamps was to highlight the various branches of the Union Defence Force. The portraits used on the 1½d, 1d and 2d stamps were taken from portraits by Neville Lewis, the first South African to be appointed as a war artist. The designs are similar to those on the large war issue. Despite the fact that these stamps were demonetised when South Africa became a Republic in 1961, they were still seen in use in the 1970s. Bantams need to be collected either in pairs or triplets, as illustrated on the right.



Booklets

A folder (Fig.1) or small book, issued by the post office, containing anywhere between four and 20 stamps. A complete page of stamps taken from a booklet is known as a pane (Fig.2). A booklet can contain a single pane or, in the case of a prestige booklet (Fig.3), several panes. The pane(s) are held in the cover by stitches (the holes made by the stitches)

can be seen on the left in Fig.4, glue or staples or simply stuck to the cover by the edge of the pane. In the case of self-adhesive stamps, the backing paper often doubles as the booklet cover. The stamps are usually imperforate on one or more sides having been cut from a much larger sheet (Fig.2). Early booklets usually carried advertising to fill empty spaces in a pane. The late 1960s saw the introduction of pictorial covers which helped to increase the popularity of collecting stamp booklets (Fig.5a&b). The first booklet was issued by Luxembourg in 1895, followed by the US in 1902 and the UK in 1908.

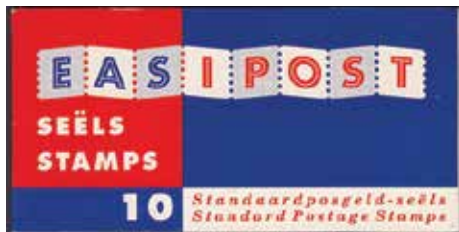


Fig.1.



Fig.2.

Fig.4.



Fig.3.




Fig.5a.



Fig.5b.

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Phun with postmarks

by Alex Visser RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society

Email: alex.visser@up.ac.za



Stamps on or off paper?

Many of us remember the days when single stamps or pairs were soaked off paper to mount in an album. Stamp collecting was at its heyday. How I pine to have the envelopes with stamps from that era intact and complete! There is so much interesting information on covers, as I shall discuss in this column.

Figure 1 shows a registered envelope posted on 13.3.1963 to an address in Nahoon, a suburb in East London. The mail service was efficient, as an annotation, probably by the postman, on 14/3/63 stated 'Gone / No address'. A three-line cachet 'GONE AWAY' in French, English and Afrikaans was applied and probably the same postman indicated that the letter had to be sent to the RLO Cape Town (Returned Letter Office), where it arrived on 30.3.1963 according to the date stamp on the reverse (Putzel 439x). This process was normal as there was no return address given.



Fig.1: Front of registered cover from East London to Nahoon, redirected to RLO Cape Town.

The cover in Fig.2 was mailed in East London on 10.11.1965 to an address in Discovery; Discovery is a suburb between Roodepoort and Florida, which explains its routing from East London to Roodepoort. In red manuscript the address is deleted with a note 'Gone' and there is a further illegible annotation dated '11/11'. It passed through Roodepoort on 12.11, and Florida and Florida Depot on 13.11. There is an unnamed date stamp of 15.11 and an annotation in blue of 16.11, which appears to be the advice issue date. Date stamps of 16.11 for Florida and Ansfriere are on the back, Ansfriere being a PO which has Florida as its head office. Probably the Ansfriere cachet was applied at Florida. The 'Counter delivery' may have been applied at the same time; did the PO require all addressees to collect registered mail at the PO (counter delivery) or had delivery by a postman failed because no one was at home? On 1.12 it was evidently resolved to send the letter from Ansfriere to the RLO in red manuscript as it had not been collected,

and the Ansfriere cachet was deleted. On 2.12 the letter passed through Florida and arrived at the RLO in Cape Town on 8.12.1965. It is strange that the letter was sent to the RLO, as the return address is P.O.Box 15, East London.



Fig.2: Front and reverse of registered cover sent from East London to Discovery.

This cover has provided a lot of fun, and all the answers may not yet be available. It also

showed how the postal system was functioning at that time.

Postal officials are only human. The covers in Figs.3 and 4 show that the dates were incorrect, and certified statements in this regard are shown. Fig.3a shows a date stamp of Richards Bay of 25VB92. This does not seem strange on a stamp that was issued in 1981. On the reverse, however, shown in Fig.3b there is an affidavit by a SA Police officer that the item was seen on 21.4.1985, confirmed by the Charge Office Police cachet at Wynberg.



Fig.3: Erroneously dated cancellation and South African Police certification.



Similarly, the cover in Fig.4 shows a date of 1-VI/1987, again nothing unusual, except that the tax indications were cancelled. In this case the Manager or Accountant at the Barclays National Bank in Victoria Road, Salt

River, certified that this item was seen on 14.4.1987. Since the date slugs are inserted by hand, it is easy it confuse VI for IV when working with a mirror image. So the cover was evidently mailed on 1.4.1987, and although the new postage rate applied from this date, letters were given grace, as the letter could have been mailed in a street box the previous day. The postal official on duty was probably over-enthusiastic.

I trust that the covers shown in this column will whet the appetite to study covers as the markings are often more interesting than the stamps. Input by Hugh Amoore RDPSA sincerely acknowledged.



Fig.4:

Waar is die dae toe seëlversameling op los seëls gefokus het en ons in die proses interessante en nuttige inligting op die koeverte vernietig het. Die rubriek het verskeie voorbeelde getoon van sulke interessante inligting, maar daar bly ook onbeantwoorde vrae. Lesers wat kan help om die prentjie aan te vul kan gerus vir my laat weet.

Le Droit des Pauvres

by Dr Ian Matheson, Philatelic Society of Johannesburg



Introduction

Once more a new wave is washing over the philatelic scene. A philatelic historian will be able to demonstrate a number of such waves over the past century or more. We have had times when forgeries were acceptable space-fillers, times when everybody removed stamps from covers as postal history had not yet been born, when mounted mint was as desirable as unmounted, when specimen stamps were second-class citizens in our collections, and even when unfolded gutter pairs were the fashion of the day.

The new fashion is Revenue Stamps. Traditional philately is resisting the trend. Many international shows still do not include a revenue class. This resistance will crumble. A quick perusal of the prices realized for Revenue Stamps in recent sales confirms the trend. The Spink revenue sales from 2013 to date are cases in point. Why?

The reasons are not too hard to find. The field has so much scope for research. Material can be uncovered in so many sources – family and business archives, junk shops, odds and ends on the last pages of old-time collections – and the scope is huge. Face values are often high (although the lowest duties are often the most elusive) which is sexy, and also means that the colours are often the richest most beautiful inks to prevent fraudsters from plying their trade. New discoveries are being uncovered all the time. I predict that Open and Revenue classes will see the greatest influx of new exhibitors over the next decade or more.

History

At the July meeting of Witwatersrand Philatelic Society I presented the story of the 'Droit des Pauvres' and have been asked to share the tale with our readers.

The literal translation of 'Le Droit des Pauvres' is 'The Right of the Poor'. This was a tax on entertainment to provide for the needs of the poorer members of French society. Money spent on theatres, shows, balls, etc. is a discretionary spend. You must have a little more money than you need to survive, if you are going to frequent such types of entertainment, especially at the more salubrious establishments.

The payments were introduced about 1677 when a royalty was levied by Comedie Francaise to pay for Hôpital Général de Paris to occupy the Hôtel de Bourgogne. This was given a legal basis on 25 February 1699, when it was established as one seventh of the total ticket price for theatres, concerts, balls and horse races. The tax was increased to one quarter of the gross revenue in February 1716.

The tax was set at one decime per franc in 1796 and this was confirmed in law by Napoleon in December 1809. An example of the original Gazette introducing the law in 1809 was shown in the exhibit, as was an amendment published in 1816.

From the 1860s the tax was shared by hospitals and charities. From 1875 a receiver was appointed to collect the tax.

Fig.1 shows an 1878 receipt by this receiver

for tax collected of Fr 1698.36 for total admission fees of Fr 18682.

In 1909 the Syndicate of Paris Theatre Directors introduced a set of adhesive stamps to indicate collection of the Droit des Pauvres tax. The local surtax payable was 10%, applied on top of the normal admission fee. Two different dies were employed, each being used for different duties. They were used simultaneously. The exhibit included plate proofs of each value and also issued stamps (Fig.2). A number of tickets were displayed where the stamps had been affixed (Fig.3).

Some establishments used tickets pre-printed with the 'revenue stamp' (Fig.4) in a similar manner to the Orange Free State Entertainments Tax stamps used between the world wars.



Fig.2



Fig.1: 31 Oct 1878 -The Droit des Pauvres tax paid was Fr 1698.36 and revenue stamp of 25 centimes out of a total collected of Fr 18682. This was a Droit des Pauvres tax rate of Fr 11.00 per Fr 100.00 revenue. (front & reverse)



Fig.3:
(40c at right)



Fig.3: (2 x 10c)

As ticket prices increased over the years, it became impractical to use stamps of the required values, so stamps with blank duty plates were introduced and the tax was inserted in manuscript (Fig.5).

Fig.3: (30c)

The use of stamps was discontinued after a while and theatres issued tickets preprinted either with the legend 'Droit des Pauvres compris' (Fig.6) or 'Droit des Pauvres et Taxes compris' (Fig.7) to indicate that either the Droit tax alone or Droit tax plus other local taxes had been collected, and the ticket price was all-inclusive. Figure 8 shows a ticket used after Droit stamps had been discontinued and shows use of a normal revenue ('Quittances' = Receipt) stamp denoting tax payment. Fig.9 shows a receipt from La Rochelle (1938) from the local municipal tax collector.

Fig.4.



Fig.5.

France was not the only country to issue stamps for the 'Droit des Pauvres'. French Morocco also issued stamps for the tax from 1920. Several sheets of these stamps were displayed. Fig.10 shows a 10c duty with a cinema cancellation. Fig.11 shows a 50c duty demonstrating a paper fold error.



Fig.6.



Fig.7.



Fig.8.

Fig.10.

Fig.11.

Fig.12 shows an issued stamp of the 5c control stamp, and Fig.13 shows a curious *se-tenant* pair of 5c and 25c control stamps. Very few such pairs are recorded and it is speculated that smaller venues may have been able to buy mixed sheets (like the GB mixed booklets and the RSA Readers Digest sheets!) so that they could make up small values without having to buy complete sheets of each duty. The *Droit des Pauvres* ended during World War II (31 December 1941 in France), but taxation on entertainment continued as a single tax with variable rates and different beneficiaries.



Fig.9.

Fig.12.

Fig.13.

JOHN HORNER



I got to know John when he and his family moved to Kimberley in the mid-1980s. It was not long before he joined the Kimberley Philatelic Society, serving on its committee for many years. He served as secretary but even assumed the Chairman's duties when this position was vacant for various reasons.

He was a keen collector of Botswana and the postmarks and postal slogans of South Africa. Even though his interests later changed to thematics he still kept up with postmark collecting and postal history. His interest in thematics began when he and his wife Judy, started collecting stamps featuring heraldry, African tribes and masks. He joined Thematics SA when this society was started and also served on their committee, especially when he retired to Cape Town.

Although he did not exhibit nationally, John played an integral role in Kimberley by helping to organise promotional exhibitions for the society at local venues such as the Public Library and the McGregor Museum. He was also involved in the organising of the ABO Phil Exhibition in 1999 which was held at the William Humphreys Art Gallery in Kimberley. He also made up small exhibits for a number of thematics at the Prethema shows in Pretoria.

When John retired from De Beers, he and Judy moved to Cape Town where he joined the Pinelands Stamp Circle, serving on the committee as Publicity Officer from 2005 until his passing. He also belonged to the Royal. John was an active member at Pinelands, participating in club exhibitions and competitions and, together with Judy, putting up a number of displays in the Pinelands Library during the October stamp month. John will be greatly missed by all his stamp collecting friends in the Kimberley Philatelic Society and Pinelands Stamp Circle.

Richard Oliver & Marilyn Crawford

THE SOUTH WEST AFRICA 2d PICTORIAL DOUBLE OVERPRINT REVISITED by M.J.H. Tonking RDPSA. SA Stamp Study Circle



ERRATUM:
A 'gremlin' occurred on p123 of Mike Tonking's last article in the August 2018 issue: "Revisiting the 2d London printing 'split d' flaw". The illustration for the split 'A' of Africa also appears here as Fig.2 We regret any misunderstanding or inconvenience this may have caused.

In 1930 the 2d London Pictorial Issue 4 Perforation Group III (14 x 13.5 up) was overprinted with the letters SWA for use in South West Africa. This was the second use of this overprint on the 2d issue. The right pane of the two-pane issue may be identified by a number of discrete flaws:

- 1) There is a tiny black dot 3mm above the perforation guide line in the bottom of the central gutter (Fig.1).
- 2) The row 10/7 'split A' makes its first appearance (Fig.2).

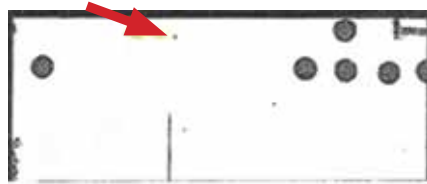


Fig.1: Tiny black dot 3mm above perforation guide line.



Fig.2: Row 10/7 - 'Split A.'



Fig.3: Row 8/8 - 'Split d.'

- 3) Row 8/8 shows the 'split d' which makes its second appearance (Fig.3) In addition, the 5th perforation hole below row 10/9 is raised, which is almost always found on this issue.



Fig.4: Perforation Group III - Overprint double and inverted 6mm spacing. Row 8/8 - 'Split d.' Row 10/7 - 'Split A' and stop almost missing. Row 10/9 - 5th bottom perforation is raised. Tiny black dot 3mm above perforation guide line. It is of interest that row 10/7 shows an almost missing stop after the 'A' whilst the overprint on row 9/4 has no missing stop, the reason for which is unknown.



Fig.5: Perforation Group II - Overprint double and inverted 14mm apart.



Fig.6: 'Horned A' - Protrusion at top left of 'A.' Bottom right leg of 'A' joined to full stop.

During the overprinting a major flaw occurred, in that a single sheet was placed the wrong way round in the pile of sheets being overprinted. This was spotted and the sheet turned the right way round and again overprinted, which resulted in the double overprint with one being inverted. In this case the overprint was spaced 6mm apart (Fig.4).

Late in 1930 the 2d London Pictorial Issue 4 Perforation Group II (14 x 13.5 down) was again overprinted SWA which was now used for the third time, being the last overprint of any type to be applied to the 2d London Pictorials.

A single sheet was again discovered to be the wrong way round and was, as in the previous case, turned the correct way round and again overprinted. The resulting double overprint was now 14mm apart, compared to 6mm in the previous issue (Fig.5). The example shows the 'horned A' with the right leg joined to the stop (Fig.6). It is quite coincidental that the double overprint flaw occurs on both issues, as the odds against making the same mistake twice, are high.

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- Hagger, S.J. & Tonking, M.J.H. 1989. *The Union 2d London Printing 'The Final Chapter'.*
- Tonking, M.J.H. 2007. *The 2d London Pictorial Issues 1927-1931.*

Fig.4:

Perforation Group III - Overprint double and inverted 6mm spacing.

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C.G.



Embossed and Impressed REVENUE STAMPS OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society

Introduction and background

The collecting of embossed or impressed revenue stamps of the Union is one of the neglected fields of revenue stamp collecting. This is a fascinating element that should be included in any revenue collection. This article is a first attempt to identify the various types of embossed or impressed revenue stamps.

The use of embossed or impressed revenue stamps was introduced long before postage stamps. As Clive Ackerman stated in his book *Collecting and Displaying Revenue Stamps* the first ever revenue stamp printed on a document was in Spain in 1637. The first revenue stamps used in the United Kingdom were impressed duty stamps after the introduction of the Stamp Duty Act in 1694. The use of embossed revenue stamps with the date indicated on the stamp was also introduced at a very early stage in the UK (Fig.1). These British embossed and printed stamps for cheques and other types of documents also had the feature where the date of embossing or printing was indicated on the stamp (Figs.2 and 3).



Fig.1: British type embossed revenue stamp with handstamp 'specimen' dated: 22.11. (18)86.

Embossed revenue stamps were also used in the Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Transvaal and the Orange Free State. The first issue for the Cape, intended officially as adhesives, were the 1864 issues. Embossed revenue stamps were issued as adhesives in Natal from circa 1855. In the Orange Free State embossed revenue stamps were issued in 1856 (Fig.4). Alan Drysdall in his book *Transvaal Revenue and Telegraph*



Fig.2: British type embossed stamp with date 5 June 1946 used on a document with Union Bantam revenue stamps cancelled on 22 July 1946.



Fig.3: British embossed 'Two Pence' revenue stamp used on a cheque dated 10 June 1958.



Fig.4: Orange Free State embossed stamps used in 1871.



Fig.5: Specimen Transvaal embossed stamp with date slugs indicating: 27 November 1909 (27.11.09) Image enlarged.

Stamps indicated that a De La Rue essay for the One Penny revenue stamp of the upright design that was intended to be embossed on cheques, was designed in November 1900.

The use of embossed or impressed type revenue stamps in terms of the Stamp Duties and Fees Act of 1911

In preparation for Unification in 1910 the Distributor of Stamps, L.S. Wilkinson, wrote a letter to the Secretary of Treasury on 26 November 1909 regarding the purchasing of a multiple stamping machine. He stated the following:

"One machine of the multiple type is sufficient to meet our requirements. On the subject of dies, I think that a new set should accompany the multiple machine. By omitting the word 'Transvaal' which appears in the dies we have at present, the new ones would serve our purpose now and be available under Union. A similar die to the one I suggest is used at Somerset House. The new die should bear a crown, the value of the impression and the usual scroll work and plug holes" (Fig.5).

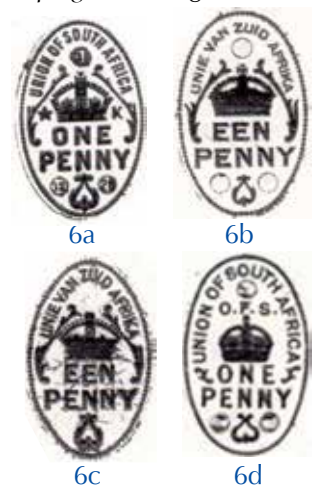


Fig.6: Selection of proof impressions of the 'One Penny/Een Penny' dies for mainly cheque stamps but also for use on receipts after Union in 1910. Note the indication of separate dies for the 'O.F.S.' and 'NATAL' (Figs.6d and 6e).

The Stamp Duties and Fees Act (Act No.30 of 1911) as amended made provision for the use of embossed or impressed type revenue stamps by stating the following under the heading *"Manner of Denoting Payment of Duty: The payment of any duty or fee payable by law shall be denoted by means of an adhesive revenue stamp or stamps of not less than the required value, affixed to the instrument chargeable and defaced as prescribed by*



Fig.7: Very early usage of the first type 'One Penny' large oval (17,51 x 26,9 mm) impressed revenue stamp on a cheque dated 31st October 1912. The design comprises a framed vertical oval enclosing a crown.



Fig.8: Cheque dated 31 October 1921 with an albino embossed stamp with the words 'ONE PENNY / O.F.S.' impressed on the right. Date '20' encircled on the bottom right to indicate the year 1920 when the oval stamp was embossed.

this Act: Provided that: a) in the case of any instrument liable to a duty of one penny, a postage stamp may be used for denoting of the duty; b) payment of duty may be denoted by means of impressed stamps in the following classes of instruments, that is to say: cheques, bills of exchange liable to a fixed rate of duty, proxies, receipts, and any other instrument to which the Minister of Finance may from time to time by notice in the Gazette apply this proviso." (Figs.6, 7,8,9).

The machine that was embossing the cheque stamps was referred to by De La Rue as a 'power cameo machine'.

Later on 23 June 1930, it was announced that the embossing of revenue stamps on cheque forms etc. in the various Provinces of the Union will be performed at the following places:

- Cape - Officer in charge, Government Printing and Stationery Department, Good Hope Hall, Cape Town.
- Natal - Receiver of Revenue, Durban.
- Orange Free State - Receiver of Revenue, Bloemfontein.
- Transvaal - Government Printer, Koch Street, Pretoria.

It was also stated that material for embossing should be forwarded to the embossing centre most accessible by rail or post regardless of provincial boundaries, provided that in the case of banking institutions with branches

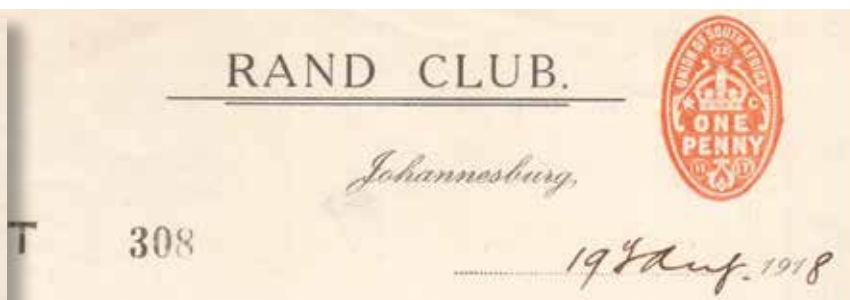


Fig. 9: Receipt of the Rand Club dated 19 August 1918 with the impressed revenue stamp with various codes indicated on the stamp. The orange revenue stamp was printed on the 22 November 1917 as indicated by the date slugs: 22 11 17.



Fig.10: 1d orange large oval stamp (17,68 x 27,4mm) embossed on the cheque dated 2 July 1931. To make up the duty of 2d a postage/revenue stamp was affixed to the cheque. The 2d duty applicable to cheques and receipts was introduced on 1 July 1931.



Fig.11: Blue 2d embossed cheque stamp used on a cheque dated 17 December 1931 (Size: 17,6 x 27,69mm).

at the embossing centres, the whole of the embossing requirements of such institutions in any Province shall be presented to and delivery taken from the local embossing office by such branches. (Figs.10 & 11).

Provision was also made for rail

warrants to be obtained from the Receiver of Revenue by consignors covering transportation charges for the conveyance of forms by rail to the stamping centre, and parcels of forms not exceeding 11 lbs. in weight may be superscribed 'O.H.M.S.' and sent through the post free of charge.

Round and oval types of embossed and imprinted revenue stamps

Six types of embossed or imprinted round and oval designs were also used in the Union period on various types of documents. A selection of types are

described and illustrated:

- Round design (30mm) where the Crown is flanked by an ornament. A round design was used for some of the Union embossed revenue stamps as was the case in the Transvaal Colony. Drysdall in his book: *Transvaal Revenue and Telegraph stamps* described a similar design for some of the Transvaal designs where the Crown was flanked by an ornament (Fig.12).
- Round design (30mm) with an indication of the type of tax. This type was only used for 'Native Tax' purposes in the period circa 1919 (Fig.13).
- Round design (27mm) with only the value indicated. This type of design was used over the period 1919 to 1927 mainly on Certificates for the Publication of Banns (Fig.14).
- Round design (30mm) with the Crown above the shield. The following values have been observed printed in black, red or green colours: 6d, 1/-, 2/-, 2/6, 4/-, 5/-, £1. This type of design was used on a variety of documents: Marriage Certificates, Birth Certificates, Tourist Passports, Certificates of Adoption, Permits and Monthly Fee Labels (Native Urban Areas Act, 1923) (Figs.15 and 16).
- Round design (26mm) with the

Province indicated. This is an unique type of design with the province indicated. Only one document with 'TRANSVAAL' indicated has been observed used on a Native Labour Passport (Fig.17).

- Oval design (17mm x 27mm) with the value indicated. Circa 1919 - 1922. This type has only been observed used on Death Certificates. (Fig.18).

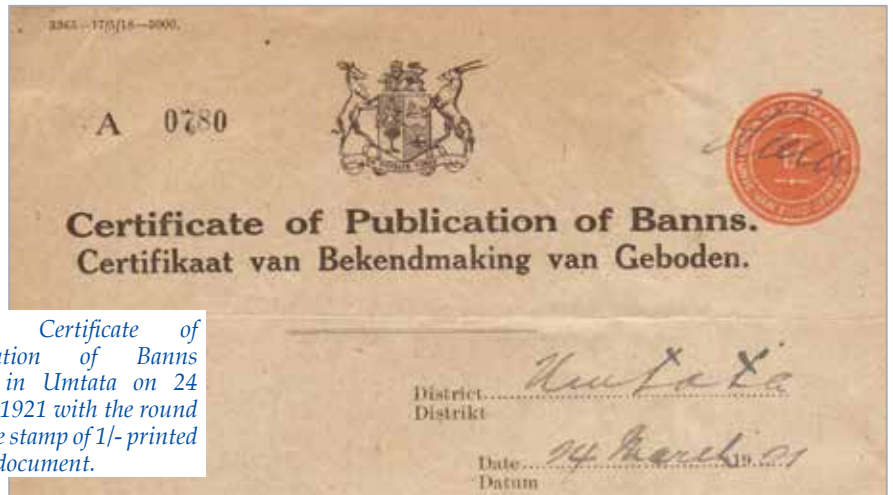


Fig.14: Certificate of Publication of Banns issued in Umtata on 24 March 1921 with the round revenue stamp of 1/- printed on the document.



Fig.12: Round type of design printed on a label to be affixed to a Service Contract in terms of the Native (Urban Areas) Act of 1923. Label cancelled on 4 September 1925.

Collectors of Union revenue stamps are encouraged to include these embossed and imprinted revenue stamps in their collections and also to report new findings. Embossed revenue stamps of the Union of South Africa is still a virgin field and it will be worthwhile for collectors to explore this aspect of revenue stamp collecting.

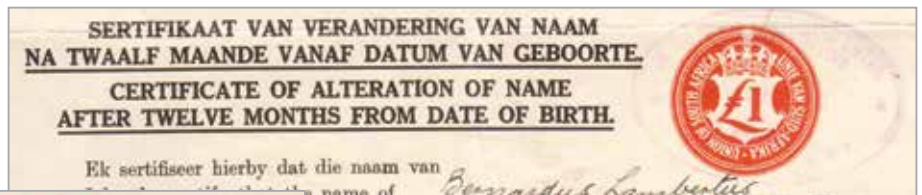


Fig. 15: Embossed £1 revenue stamp used on a Certificate of Alteration of Name after twelve months from date of birth on 15 July 1936 in Pretoria.



Fig.16: Embossed 5/- revenue stamp used on a Tourist Passport dated 15 May 1957 in Cape Town.

Sources:

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Fig.17: A 'Native Labour Passport' with an 'embossed' Transvaal "One Shilling revenue stamp paying for 'Liable Tax 1923' and cancelled in Johannesburg 2 March 1923.



Fig.13: Embossed type of revenue stamp with the inscription 'Native Pass' in the lower segment used on a Native's Monthly Pass dated 1 February 1919.



To save space, most documents are only partly illustrated. Unless otherwise indicated all illustrated items are from the author's collection.

Fig. 18: An example of an oval tax stamp used on a Death Certificate in Springbok on 8 June 1922.

REPORT

Praga 2018 Stamp Exhibition

by the SA Commissioner Emil Minnaar RDPSA



The Praga 2018 Stamp Exhibition was held from the 15 - 18 August 2018 and was a Specialised World Exhibition with the following classes on display:

- Traditional Philately,
- Postal History,
- Philatelic Literature,
- Revenues,
- One-Frame,
- Modern Philately and
- Open Philately.

South African exhibitors achieved the following results:

- Jan Hofmeyr: *Postal and experimental uses of the USA 3c denomination: 1861 -1869*. 95 points, Large Gold.
- Francois Friend: *King George V stamps of St. Helena*. 87 points, Large Vermeil;
- Jim Findlay: *World War 1: The War effort within the Union of South Africa*. 83 points, Vermeil.

Some statistics:

Traditional Exhibits: 86 of which there were 15 Large Golds and 23 Golds;

Postal History Exhibits: 110 of which there were 20 large Golds and 25 Golds;

Revenue Exhibits: 11 of which there were 11 Golds;

Open Class Exhibits: 14 of which there was one Large Gold and two Golds;

One Frame Exhibits: 40 of which there were 12 Exhibits of 90 points or more;

Literature Entries: 65 (Books & Research Papers) of which there were seven Golds;

Literature Entries: 19 (Magazines & Periodicals) of which there was one Gold;

Literature Entries: 27 (Catalogues) of which there were two Large Golds and two Golds.

The Grand Prix International was awarded to Joseph Hackmey of the UK for his exhibit *Classic Switzerland* which achieved 97 points.

In fact, there were six Exhibits among the various classes which achieved 97 points. Of note was the Open Class Exhibit *A Royal Ménage à Trois and its Historic Consequences* by Iva Mouritsen from Denmark which as a first-time international entry of five frames achieved a Large Gold plus Special Prize for Best in Class.

The Philatelic Federation of South Africa wishes to congratulate the Czechoslovakian Federation on an outstanding exhibition and to thank them for the hospitality shown to our Commissioner.

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THE OVERLAND POSTAL ROUTE BY RAIL FROM NATAL

by Roger Porter, Cape & Natal Study Circle



The impact of industrialisation in the late 1880s arising from the discovery of diamonds and gold in the interior of South Africa was far-reaching and spawned the need for the interior to be linked by rail to coastal ports. The subsequent development of a railway network was to have a significant influence on the people of the region, its economy, social circumstance, the growth and transformation of settlements, harbours, and agricultural regions. This development of the railways within the southern African colonies and states presented an opportunity to provide a faster and more efficient postal communication service for the public and government administrations both locally and beyond. For several decades, people in Natal were subject to slow postal services with local mail being transported regularly, at weekly or bi-weekly time intervals, by horse or mule carts or, in more remote areas, by native runners. Overseas mail took nearly three weeks or sometimes longer to reach its destination, being taken by steamships arriving at South African ports initially at two-week intervals and later at weekly intervals. For many years the Colony had unsuccessfully sought a faster mail route to Cape Town and Europe, as the mail ships would leave Port Natal sailing via Cape Town to England with stops at several intermediate ports en route.

The Natal railway to Harrismith, Orange Free State.

In January 1876, the Natal Government Railways (NGR) although seriously hampered by labour shortages, commenced construction of the railway from Durban to Pietermaritzburg, which was eventually completed on 2 December 1880. The efforts of the Natal government now concentrated on the extension of the line via Ladysmith in the hope of opening trade routes to the Transvaal and Orange Free State. The rail line opened for traffic to Ladysmith on 21 June 1886.

In May 1889 the Natal Colonial Government offered to build, equip, and work a railway line from Van Reenen's Pass to Harrismith. The Free State Volksraad accepted the offer and in February 1890 an agreement was reached. The convention granted Natal the sole right to build and work the

railway line between Van Reenen and Harrismith, which was to be completed by 7 November 1892, three years after the first sod had been turned by the Natal Governor Sir Charles Mitchell on 7 November 1889 at a place 2.5 km outside Ladysmith. A salute of 19 salvos was fired on this prestigious occasion (Fig.1). During the next seven days the

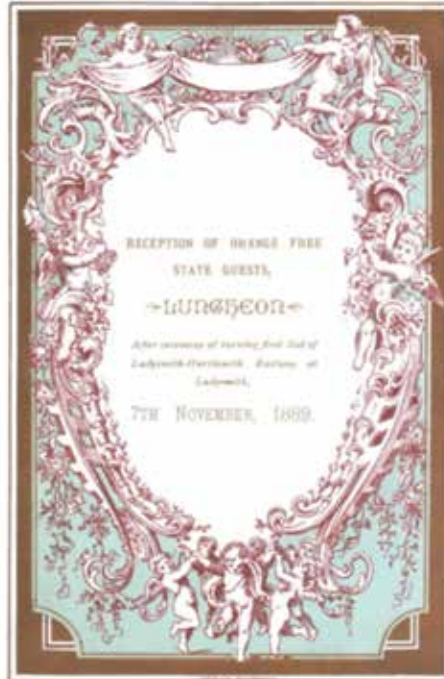


Fig.1: After the turning of the first sod of Ladysmith - Harrismith Railway on 7 November 1889 a reception luncheon for the Orange Free State guests was held at Ladysmith at which there were toasts to the Queen, President of the OFS, the guests from the OFS, and to the success of the Natal Government Railways.

dignitaries from the Free State were lavishly fêted at official functions; at a dinner in Pietermaritzburg on the 8th, in Durban on the 11th, and Verulam on 13th November.

There was a shortage of labourers for both railway construction and maintenance work, particularly African labourers, leaving the Colony with the only option to employ more and more Indian indentured labourers. By the 1890s the NGR was the largest employer of both Indians and Africans in Natal. The rail section to Van Reenen's Pass (Fig.2) presented particular engineering problems requiring three reversing stations (Heydenrych H & B Martin, 1992). The line was opened for passenger traffic on 19 November 1891 and finally to Harrismith by 13 July 1892 (Figs.3 & 4).

A railway through the Orange Free State to the Transvaal

The Cape Colonial Government had already entered into contract with the Free State Government for the construction of the railway from the Orange River (Noval's Pont) to Bloemfontein. The line was opened on 17 - 18 December 1890 at an extravagant three-day Official Opening ceremony. A programme of festivities commencing on 17 December with the arrival of special trains, was hosted by the President of the Free State. The ceremony was attended by the High Commissioner (Cape Colony), Governor of Natal, and State President of the South African Republic who were all dined at a lavish official luncheon.



Fig.2: Postcard dated 1906 showing a NGR mail train on the reversing section of the railway at Van Reenen's Pass.



Fig.3: Postcard c. 1906 showing a NGR mail train on arrival at the Harrismith Station, Orange Free State.

In addition to other day and evening entertainments, including a ball, a polo scratch event was held at the race course and included a 'Menagerie Race' where any small animals except dogs (unless they were harnessed to a cart and carrying passengers) participated. This race was a handicap at which 'a frog or tortoise will have as good a chance to win as an ostrich. Animals suitable would include goats, pigs, calves, sheep, cats, rabbits, fowls, ducks, geese, turkeys, frogs, tortoises, monkeys; but these must be driven' (i.e. any competitor in front of his animal or bird at any time during the race would be disqualified).

Extension of the railway north from Bloemfontein

The railway line was extended north of Bloemfontein, first to Kroonstad and then over the Vaal River to Vereeniging in the Transvaal. On 23 May 1892 a train from the south crossed over into the Transvaal and arrived at Vereeniging. The line between the Vaal River and Elandsfontein (Germiston) was later opened for traffic (15 September 1892), a permanent bridge replacing the temporary bridge over the Vaal River on 5 November 1892. The final rail section from Pretoria to Elandsfontein was officially opened on 1 January 1893. Thus a rail link was established from the capital of the Transvaal and Witwatersrand gold fields to Cape Town (De Jong et al. 1988).

Natal mail routed 'Via Bloemfontein'

With rail links from Durban to Harrismith and from Cape Town north to the Transvaal through the Free State now being a reality, an overland mail route became possible and was soon



Fig.4: Official luncheon, on the occasion of the opening of the 'Ladysmith - Harrismith Spoorweg' at Harrismith 13 July 1892. Toasts were to the President of the OFS, the Queen, Governor of Natal, Administrator of Basutoland, the Natal - Free State Railway and guests.

established. In his annual report for the year ending February 1893 the Postmaster General stated "I was enabled to take measures for direct mails between Bloemfontein and Durban (Natal) three times a week, and this was a great help, not only for the Free State but also for Natal and Cape Colony. The Free State receives a certain amount for every foreign letter via Bloemfontein and because letters can be sent along this route three full days after the departure of the mail steamer

from Durban, the revenue from this source will be of considerable importance in the course of time" (Stroud 1993).

Given that no postal agreement existed between Orange Free State and Natal at that time, the amount received by the Free State was deemed a 'Transit Fee' of 2d on ordinary mail (Fig.5), 4d on registered mail (Fig.6), and 1d on a postcard (Stroud 1993). Natal had become a member of the UPU on 1 July 1892 and the postage rate for ordinary letters addressed to overseas UPU countries was 2½d per half ounce.

The overland Natal mails destined for overseas or Cape Colony were taken by a Natal Government Railways mail train to Harrismith; this route was opened for traffic in September 1892 (Figs.5, 6 & 7). From Harrismith the mail was taken three times a week either by horse or mail-cart to Winburg Station, to be loaded onto a Cape Government Railways train travelling to Bloemfontein and onto Cape Town. At Cape Town the overseas mail was transferred and loaded onto a Union Line or Castle Line mail steamer sailing to England.

An 1893 cover (Fig.7) addressed to Port Elizabeth and sent at the 6d postage rate that is, double the Natal - Cape postage of 2d per half ounce plus the 2d Transit Fee payable to the Free State is of particular interest. It is back stamped by a 'MIDLAND DOWN' travelling post office canceller on September 29 [18] 93 confirming that it was being transported on the railway system.

On reaching Noupport it was routed by rail to Port Elizabeth. This cover is the only recorded philatelic item to the Cape Colony sent during this time via



Fig.5: 1892 cover at 4½d postage endorsed 'via Bloemfontein' addressed to the U S A. Cancelled at Estcourt SP 30 92. Back stamped Durban OC 2 92, Ladysmith OC 3 92 and Chicago NOV 1892.

Bloemfontein mail route.

In the 1993 article in *The Orange Free State Bulletin* written by Richard Stroud, only a single cover addressed to England was recorded and illustrated, that had been routed via Harrismith and Bloemfontein. The three covers illustrated in this article represent new finds and bring the total number now recorded to four.

Extension of the Natal railway to Charlestown

Natal, Cape Colony and Free State wanted to secure trade with the Witwatersrand and pursued this objective with the South African Republic. However the priority for the Republic was to construct a rail link to Delagoa Bay in Mozambique, which would therefore be outside of British influence. By 1888 – 89 Natal was absolutely committed to a railway connection with the Transvaal by conceptualising and initiating a plan for an extension of the line from

Ladysmith via Newcastle to the gold fields of the Witwatersrand. However it was clear that President Kruger would not agree to this extension at that time. Nevertheless Natal continued with the construction of the rail line to Newcastle which was opened for traffic on 15 May 1890. A site three kilometres from the Transvaal border was then selected for the terminus. This place was named Charlestown after the governor Sir Charles Mitchell (Fig.8). The challenge the NGR faced was to build the railway through difficult steep mountainous terrain to Lang's Nek and over the Drakensberg escarpment. Given the steepness of the topography two reversing stations had to be provided.

The official opening of the railway to Charlestown took place on 7 April 1891 at a function attended by President Kruger as guest of honour. Sir Charles Mitchell performed the opening ceremony (Fig.9). President Kruger and his entourage were taken by rail to Pietermaritzburg and Durban so that they could view the achievements of the Natal railways. They were shown through the NGR workshops, transported by train to the harbour and coal shed, then conducted over the harbour works, taken by a yacht across the bay before having dinner and being entertained by a fireworks display. Following a survey it was decided to build a tunnel

at Lang's Nek which would shorten the length of the line by five kilometres and reduce the very steep incline. It was a great engineering feat for the NGR and was opened on 14 October 1891.

With the railway completed from Pretoria to Delagoa Bay on 1 November 1895 (De Jong 1988), attention turned to the South-Eastern Line to Volksrust. Although the Transvaal Government eventually decided to go ahead with

opened for rail traffic on 27 August 1895. From 31 May 1895 the overland mail route via Harrismith and Winburg that had been used three times a week ceased.

On 1 June 1895 the overland mail route was changed; the Natal mails were forwarded daily by rail to Standerton, then by coach to Johannesburg, and from there by rail to the Cape Colony. This change of mail route allowed for the course of post

to be more frequent and shortened by 12 hours in each direction (Stroud 1993 quoting the 1895 Cape Postmaster General Report). A through rail-road-rail route had therefore been established from November 1895. With the completion of the final section of the railway, the South-Eastern Line was opened for traffic on 2 January 1896 (De Jong et al 1988).



Fig.6: 1892 registered cover from Durban 1 SP 92 endorsed 'Via Bloemfontein' addressed to Germany. Postage 13d, being double the UPU postage rate of 2½d to Germany, 4d registration fee, and 4d OFS transfer fee for a registered item. Back stamped London 26 SP 92 and Spandau 26 9 92.



Fig.7: Cover from Durban SP 25 93 to Port Elizabeth at 6d postage rate, being double 2d postage to Cape Colony plus 2d OFS transit fee. Back stamped MIDLAND DOWN SP 29 93 and Port Elizabeth SP 29 93. Endorsed with ship's name but deleted in blue crayon and redirected by the postmaster because the mail ship had sailed from Port Natal.

this project in January 1894 a complex set of protracted negotiations still had to be undertaken before agreements were in place and construction work could start. By June 1894 all contractors had commenced work on the railway, bridges, earthworks, culverts, and supply of ballast except for the last section from Heidelberg to Elsburg which agreements were accepted in September and October. The first section between Volksrust (Fig.10) and Standerton was

The Natal public therefore had a choice of two postal routes for their Cape and overseas mail. Overseas mail could be sent on the 'Johannesburg to Bloemfontein' route at a postage cost of 4½d per ½ oz (Fig.11) or on the slower sea route from Durban via Port Elizabeth (then inland by rail to Cape Town) at a postage cost of 2½d per ½ oz operated by the Union Mail Steamship Co. and Castle Steam Ship Co. (Stroud 1993). Stroud illustrates five Natal covers



Fig.8: Postcard of Charlestown station the terminus of the Natal Government Railways.

and one postcard that were sent on the 'Johannesburg to Bloemfontein' mail route. These together with the cover illustrated in Fig.11 and a second cover dated 16 MY 96 taken by the *Tartar* make up the eight recorded philatelic items that have been found thus far.

Fig.9: Official reception of the State President and guests from the South African Republic on the occasion of the opening of the final section of the rail line to the terminus at Charlestown held on 7 April 1891.

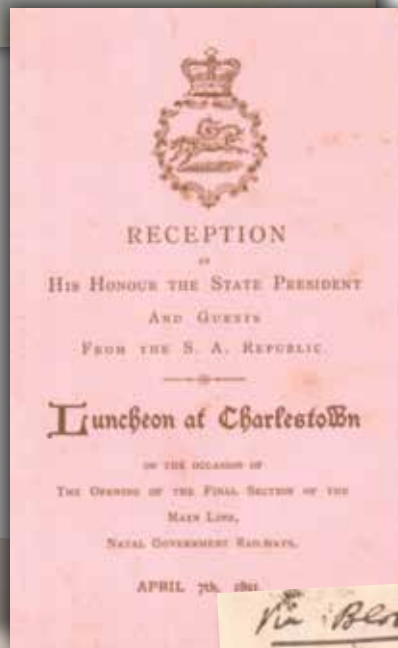


Fig.10: NGR mail train at Volksrust Station cancelled in 1911.

Following further negotiations with the Transvaal, Free State and Cape Colony postal authorities all the Natal – Europe mail correspondence was routed overland by rail through the Transvaal and OFS to Cape Town at no additional postage costs (Fig.12). This became possible from November 1895 because the Free State, although not a member of the UPU agreed to comply with the same conditions as if it were such a member (note that Natal, Transvaal, and Cape Colony had become members of the UPU on 1 July 1892, 1 January 1893, and 1 January 1895,



Fig.12: Postcard showing mail train and Union Castle ship leaving Cape Town Harbour with the Natal and English mails.

respectively. The Free State joined later on 1 January 1898). This arrangement allowed Natal to terminate its ocean mail contracts with the Castle Mail Packets and Union Steam Ship Co. From 1 August 1896 the outward English mail was forwarded overland to Cape Town and thence by the Cape Colony ocean service to England (Stroud 1993).

References.

- De Jong RC, van der Waal GM, Heydenrych DH. 1988. NZASM 100. *The buildings, steam engines and structures of the Netherlands South African Railway Company*. Publ. Chris van Rensburg Publications, Pretoria.
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- Stroud R 1993. 'Via Bloemfontein' *The development of the overland routes from Natal 1891 to 1896*. The *Orange Free State Bulletin*, September 1993.

Fig.11: (Below) 1895 cover endorsed 'Via Bloemfontein' at the 4½d postage rate addressed to England. Cancelled POA 21 (used at West End, Pietermaritzburg post office agency) and manuscript 'X', G P O Natal 26 OC 95, London NO 15 95. Re-directed and cancelled Truro NO 16 95. Taken by the *Tantallion Castle* from Cape Town which sailed on 30 October 1895 to England.



BEHIND THE STAMPS by Chris Mobsby, RDPSA, FRPSL, RNCP
Witwatersrand Philatelic Society



Recently, I was invited by the *University of the Third Age or U3A*, that is to say the branch here in George, to deliver a lecture on the general topic of 'Philately'. I was happy to accept the invitation, but with the proviso that I should introduce myself, rather than leave it to the Chairman of the Society. To this he readily agreed and left me virtually to my own devices as regards the content of my talk. Obviously, with the majority of the anticipated audience being neither knowledgeable nor even interested in the finer points of the hobby, I realised that I would need to concentrate on the stories 'behind the stamps', much as I did in a series of articles that I contributed to *The SA Philatelist* over a period of ten years or so starting in June 2004.

I commenced my talk, which I gave the title: *Philately – an Investment in Life*, by explaining just what I meant by that description. Firstly, I emphasised that I wasn't referring to a financial 'investment' but rather to the adoption of a hobby which, in my own case, has already ruled out the threat of boredom in the first twenty-two years of my retirement. I then went on to explain how the word 'philately' had been adapted from the Greek and meant, literally, *the love of the avoidance of paying taxes*. This certainly grabbed the attention of my audience! They may, possibly, have been a little disappointed when they learnt that this referred to the requirement that, prior to 1840, it was the receivers of mail rather than the senders thereof who were required to pay the cost of postage and that this was likened, disapprovingly, to a tax.

I then projected my first image, that of a 'Penny Black' on cover, a stamp which,

it transpired, most of my audience had heard about but never seen 'in the flesh' as it were (Fig.1). From there I went on to show South Africa's contribution to the early days of pre-paid post in the form of a 4d blue triangular of 1853 on a cover from Alice to Fort Beaufort (Fig.2). Then, quite deliberately, I transferred my attention to India where I showed an entire page from my collection, one devoted to that country and explained

how I had arranged my collection of *Issuing Authorities of the World*, in this case from the days of the honourable East India Company until the emancipation of the Republic of India.

This gave me the excuse to talk about the '*Scinde Dawk*', an embossed issue that was the first postage stamp in Asia and was in use from July 1852 until October 1854 (Fig.3). It has been said that in 1843, Sir Charles Napier (1782-1853), Commander-in-Chief of the British forces, recaptured Scinde, or *Sindh* as it is pronounced and sometimes spelt, and cabled a telegram to their lordships in London bearing the single word - *PECCAVI*. Not having an Italian-speaking audience, I was obliged to explain that the word *peccavi* came from the Latin and would translate as '*I have sinned*'. Quite an outrageous pun!

Also on the same page was an issue of 1948 portraying Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948) and celebrating the first anniversary of India's status as a dominion, albeit still within the British Commonwealth (Fig.4). This gave me the opportunity to introduce thematic or topical philately of which *The Life of Gandhi* is a popular example and is a branch of the hobby in which the theme of the collection is more important, not surprisingly, than the country of origin or the use to which the stamps in the collection might have been put.

This gave me, at last, the opportunity to introduce myself and this I did by means of a one-page, somewhat tongue-in-cheek thematic exhibit outlining my own life. I say 'tongue-in-cheek' because, for instance, while there have never been any stamps illustrating my birth unlike, say, Lady Diana or Nelson Mandela, I was able to commence the exhibit with an issue from Great Britain which celebrated the Silver Jubilee of King George V in 1935, the year



Fig.1: Penny Black



Fig.2: Cape Triangular



Fig.3: Scinde Dawk



Fig.4: Mahatma Gandhi



Fig.5: 1935 Silver Jubilee



Fig.6: RAF Sevice

in which I was born (Fig.5). Likewise, my national service in the Royal Air Force was acknowledged by a 1990 GB issue marking the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Britain (Fig.6), while the seven years that I spent as a surveyor on an open-cast mine were illustrated with one of the 1968 Independence issues of Swaziland, depicting the actual iron ore mine where I was working (Fig.7).

A circular gold-coloured local 'stamp' of 1968 from the Scottish island of Davaar (Fig.8) celebrated the gold medal that I received at the National Exhibition that was held in Benoni in 1994. Among the seventeen other stamps included in this introductory page were an 1894 issue from the Orange Free State, the home province of my wife (Fig.9), a GB commemorative of 1964 celebrating Shakespeare's (and my own) connection with the stage (Fig.10) and a 1938 issue of

Switzerland showing Herman Pestalozzi, an 18th Century educationalist, whose statue included, at his feet, two small children who were required, for the sake of this thematic exhibit, to stand proxy for my own children (Fig.11).

Postage stamps may be small, insignificant pieces of paper, but the story they tell if one takes the trouble to dig deeper 'behind the stamp', opens a kaleidoscope of fascinating details – even on a personal level. *Article to be continued in next issue.*



Fig.8: Davaar



Fig.9: OFS



Fig.10: Shakespeare



Fig.7: 1968



Fig.11: Herman Pestalozzi



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A special request...**

**If you change your address,
please let our Membership
Secretary know.**

**We do need to keep on top
of our mailing list in order
to ensure that you continue
to receive your copy of *The
SA Philatelist*.**

**Kindly notify Jill Redmond
of any changes by sending
an email to pfsasec@mweb.co.za or call 011 917
5304.**

JOHN & MARK TAYLOR



STELLALAND

6d. Lilac-mauve
IMPERF. BETWEEN.
S.G. 4b.

A very fine o.g. example

Address:

P.O. Box 37324,
Tel: 020 7226 1503
Fax: 020 7359 7456
London N1 - 2YQ

email address:

markjtaylor@btinternet.com

ADMINISTERING A SOCIETY'S EXCHANGE SECTION - A COMPUTERISED SOLUTION

by Steve Marsh, Pretoria Philatelic Society



Stamp collecting and philately are long lived and well established activities which, while extremely popular in the past, have received less interest in recent years. Despite this, the hobby will continue as we are by nature collectors at heart and especially in our more mature years seek activities to fill our time. Thus, there will always be a group in society interested in stamps and acquiring philatelic material.

Societies which run active exchange packet programmes are well placed to serve this group of collectors many of whom pursue their stamp collecting hobby outside formally organised societies. The challenge is to find innovative ways of encouraging these collectors to become part of organised philately and collecting. Exchange Sections of existing societies present such an opportunity.

Many societies have facilitated the exchange of material between members through an active exchange section where members place and price their unwanted and duplicate material in booklets, which are then circulated to all interested members.

Pretoria Philatelic Society records show that the society has had an active Exchange Section going back over 90 years having commenced in at least 1928 and possibly earlier. The administration of the section was done manually up until the late 1980s when a Visual Basic computer programme running on a 286 processor was introduced and was used until 2017, when it was decided to develop a replacement programme as technological changes and the inability to access the source code made upgrading and maintenance of the

programme challenging.

After considering possible options it was decided that the programme should be accessible from the Internet and written in the open source php language to obviate the problems experienced when trying to upgrade the earlier programme. Being Web based the programme would be universally accessible to the Exchange Sections administrators, Circuit/Route managers and members contributing books for circulation. It would also remove the necessity and risks associated with the programme and records being on a stand-alone dedicated or member owned computer. It also removed the risks associated with only one member really being au fait with the programme. Like all Web based programmes new risks are introduced of which hacking is probably the greatest.


Running a Society exchange programme comes with risks to both the society and the contributors. Risks to the contributor, centre largely around the loss of material or the fraudulent substitution of material. Contributors are largely aware of these

risks and take steps to mitigate them. They are also exposed to the risk of not being paid for the material sold from their exchange books. Non-payment will largely result from a society not fully evaluating and anticipating the risks inherent in their Exchange Section's administration procedures. These centre on record keeping and banking. The original Pretoria Society programme established reliable record keeping and reporting procedures which have been incorporated into the new programme. The programme has also sought to include new features to communicate information and reports to contributors.

As the programme is Web based it can be accessed by a wider range of authorised members of the Society which reduces the risk of the collapse of the Exchange Section and loss of records, due to the failure of a stand-alone machine-based programme, or the incapacitation of its operator. The Pretoria Society programme also addresses the critical need to always be able to determine the Society's liability to its contributors for sales from their

books and to ensure that sufficient funds are immediately available to meet these liabilities. It goes without saying that it is also desirable that the exchange section operates through a separate Society bank account with an adequate number of signatories.

The programme is centred around the database where all the data is stored and accessed through a series of modules with specific functions to make using it as intuitive as possible. These modules are termed Contributors, Books, Packs



**Pretoria
Philatelic Society**

PO BOX 36473
MENLO PARK
0102

28th January, 2018

J (JAMES) SMITH
P.O. BOX 11223
STAMPSTIDE
0741

Dear Contributor

Please find below 8 book(s), with total sales of **R 1,403.80**

Book ID	Reference	Sales	Commission	Payout
400/13	233	R 157.30	R 15.73	R 141.57
1/14	235	R 94.40	R 9.44	R 84.96
215/14	243	R 60.60	R 6.06	R 54.54
216/14	244	R 428.00	R 42.80	R 385.20
234/14	247	R 42.30	R 4.23	R 38.07
235/14	248	R 35.70	R 3.57	R 32.13
238/14	251	R 40.50	R 4.05	R 36.45
239/14	252	R 545.00	R 54.50	R 490.50
		Total R 1,403.80	R 140.38	R 1,263.42

The total payout due will be paid directly into you bank account within the next seven (7) days.

Regards,
Exchange Superintendent

**Pretoria Philatelic Society Exchange
Members Statement**

8th August, 2018

Contributor E(EDWARD) COLLECTOR
Address P O BOX 16 STAMPSIDE 1650
Telephone 123 456 7890

Book ID	Reference	Starting Value	Total Sales	Residual Value	% Sold	Book Started	Circuits Visited	Book Status
040/15	EC1	894.60	107.00	787.60	11.96	January 2015	7	Assigned
041/15	EC2	318.00	13.90	304.10	4.37	January 2015	8	Assigned
401/16	EC3	376.50	326.00	50.50	86.59	September 2016	9	Assigned
561/16	EC4	153.50	114.10	39.40	74.33	December 2016	9	Assigned
300/17	EC5	308.60	8.50	300.10	2.75	June 2017	6	Assigned
002/18	EC6	607.00	12.00	595.00	1.98	January 2018	5	Assigned

(Packets), Circuits (Routes), Sales, Payouts, Reports and Notes all of which are self-explanatory and will be familiar to administrators in other societies running an Exchange Packet service for their members. The database is automatically backed up each week with a copy being sent to both the Exchange Superintendent and/or his/her assistant for safekeeping off site.

- The **Contributors** module's function is to capture and edit the personal information of members contributing books for circulation. Also, in this module, the current status of the sales from each book contributed by a member can be displayed either in summary or by individual circuit. Individual status reports can be viewed, downloaded for printing or e-mailed directly to single or multiple contributors simultaneously.

- The **Books** module's function is to assign a unique number to each book received, capture the contributor and the book value. All books in circulation are displayed in this module which also provides the ability to view the sales from individual books and to edit incorrect sales data as identified or when reconciling sales prior to contributors' being paid out for books being returned to them.

- The **Packs** module's function is to create new packs and assign books to packets for circulation.

The programme provides for three types of Packs, default, payout and Z-Packs. The Pretoria Society uses numerically numbered default packets for general circulation, Z prefixed numerically

numbered default packets for initial book circulation to Society Office Bearers and X prefixed numerically numbered packets to accumulate books ready for return to contributors and then to initiate the calculation of the proceeds of sales from their books. Within this module there is the ability to add books to a packet, transfer books between packets and to withdraw the books in a packet for payout.

- The **Circuits** module's function is to create Circuit or Route identifiers.

- The **Sales** module's function is to create a sales form for a specific packet and circuit and to capture the sales in the packet's books into the database.

- The **Payouts** module's function is to calculate the proceeds of sales by contributor for all books withdrawn or transferred into a designated payout X Pack. Confirming the payout produces Payout Letters for each contributor whose books are in the X packet, summarising their sales by book and the commission payable. These letters can either be viewed, downloaded for printing or e-mailed directly to the contributor. Activating a payout archives all the books in that Payout packet and removes them from the current list of books. Archived books can be viewed by activating the Archive function in each module.

- The **Reports** module's function is largely for administrative purposes. A Members' Summary Report summarises by contributor the number of his/her books currently in circulation and the Society's liability to the contributor for sales from their books. This is an important document

for use in the audit process as well as ensuring that the Society is cognisant of its liability at any time. Multiple Contributors Statements and Receipt Letters for new books received can also be produced for downloading or direct e-mailing in this module.

- The **Notes** module's function is to record activities and problems experienced to be able to share these between users of the programme.

The Pretoria Society's Exchange Section continuously tested the programme as it was being developed using live data and once satisfied that the programme was working as planned, has now made three live payout runs all of which have proved successful and problem free. Like all programmes, improvements and upgrades in functionality will inevitably be needed and will be undertaken from time to time as shortcomings are identified through usage. The successful completion of the programme would not have been possible without the advice of John Barry and the valuable input and efforts of Gregg Berry, both of whose contributions are gratefully acknowledged.

The programme, while developed specifically for the Pretoria Society, is flexible enough to accommodate the procedures used by other societies, which should they be interested in computerising the administration of their exchange sections, are invited to contact Steve Marsh (swamp@mweb.co.za) or John Barry (john.barry.rsa@gmail.com) for further information.



TRANSKEI - an introduction

by the TBVC Study Group

The TBVC (The independent states of Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei) Study Group first started meeting in early 2009 under the leadership of the late Ds/Rev Cassie Carstens. Meetings were held monthly "on the stoep" at the Pretoria Stamp Fair and mini-auction. Initial meetings focussed on the commemorative stamps with studies directed towards the thematic aspects of these issues. The accumulation of material for an archive commenced. The scope of the study was widened to include amongst others, commemorative postmarks, postal stationery, maxi cards, miniature sheets and private issues as these became available. On completion of this preliminary survey and study more in-depth research commenced. This is directed at the graphic designs, the printing, perforating and cancelling processes and how these developed at the Government Printers to effectively meet the requirements of the Post Office. To fully understand how these developments took place the research on the issues will be in date chronological order irrespective of the independent state. A special TBVC Study Group meeting will be held at the forthcoming National Exhibition, Stampshow 2018, to present some of the initial results of the studies and to encourage greater interest and research co-operation amongst collectors of this neglected area of South African stamp collecting and philately.

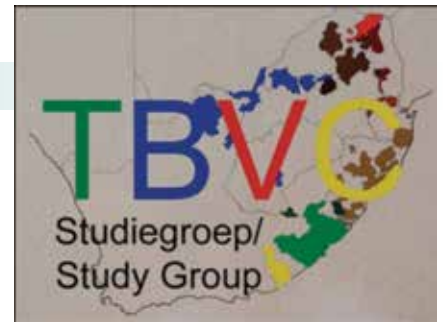
In this article we wish to highlight, in a synopsis form, the exciting philatelic findings of our research as we start the in-depth philatelic study of the

independent states commencing with the Transkei inauguration issue. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of retired government printer's personnel and the kind access to the South African Post Office museum to study, amongst others, the graphic and approved printer's sheets as we attempt to find answers to our research findings. The TBVC study group members are excited with our new in-depth research and appreciate how the unearthing of answers for the independent states applies equally to the stamp issues of South Africa and South West Africa, e.g. what is the reason for the thicker font of the '5c' in some of the third definitive protea series stamps? The answer is found in the study of the 15c Transkei inauguration stamp elucidated in this article. Moreover the availability of the independent state stamp issues makes the study of these items very possible and without exorbitant cost.

The graphic development from original item to approved water colour essay to final stamp is illustrated for the four stamps of the inauguration issue. The 4c stamp is used as an example to show the full printer's proof sheet and how to identify the four different panes by plating identification features. While all four stamp values have been studied in this fashion and other research findings documented, these have been precluded by space in this article but can be available in electronic format in the future.

Transkei inauguration stamps

All the stamps have printed in gold: **uZimele waseTanskei** translated *Transkei independence*



4c Stamp: uKumkani Kaiser D Matanzima



Original photo



Final watercolour essay

The evolution of the 4c stamp

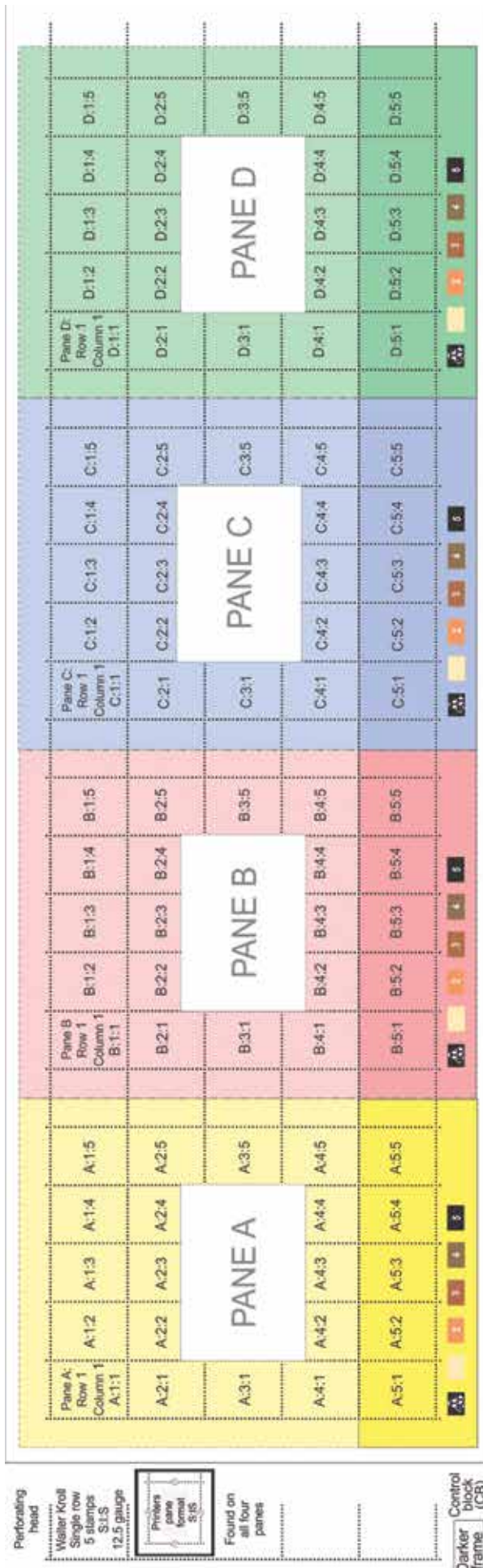


Portrait facing forward to his left. The English translation of **uKumkani** is *king* and an inappropriate title for the status of Kaiser Matanzima as Paramount Chief ¹. The depicted imperforate proof printer's sheet demonstrates the four panes in the next to each other format. The correct alignment of the five different printing colour plates is indicated by the perfect printed alignment of the colour bars seen on the top of the printer's sheet as well as the crossed circles at either side. The printers proof was approved and signed by EB Nel on behalf of INTERSAPA manager dated 31 August 1976 leaving the government printers just over one month for printing and delivery. A second on site final approval was required before the printing run commenced.



4c, (imperforate) approved and signed off by Herman Steyn dated 17/9/76

BELOW: 4c inauguration printer's sheet map



Theme: Head of State and national symbols
Date of issue: 26 October 1976
Artist/graphic designer: A.H. Barrett
Printing: Lithography from 5-7 multi-positive plates for each stamp value
Printing press: Roland 759
Paper: Mill: Harrisons, England
 Surface: Matt obverse with PVA gum on the reverse side
 Non-phosphorescent
 No watermark

Paper sheet size: 295 x 630cm
Printer's sheet: Size: 292 x 609cm
Pane: Format - vertical
Size: 143 x 175-180mm
 Four panes with 5 rows of 5 stamps each

Perforator: Walter Kroll
Perforating head: Single row, 5 stamp, S:I:S configuration.
 A 4c and 10c printer's sheet only has been seen with a 8 stamp (+) P:I:S perforation

Gauge: 12½ 

Description: Pane A; I:S:P (grip end left-hand side)
 Pane B-D; P:S:P

Stamp: Format: Vertical
 Size: 24 x 30.5mm

Government printers advice: not available

Date of advice: not available

Job number: not available

Expected date of printing: not available

Comments: This is the only Transkei issue that does not have micro-printed at the bottom of the stamp neither the date nor the name of the artist/graphic designer.

Availability: Locally by order from Intersapa (on behalf of the Transkei Department of Posts and Telecommunications) or direct to the public at the Umtata main post office philatelic counter.² Even though independence day was a public holiday, the Umtata post office was open for the purchasing of Transkei inauguration and 1st definitive philatelic items.



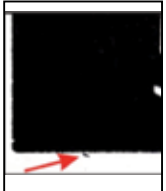

4c	1	2	3	4	5	
10c	6	7	8	9	10	119
15c	11	12	13	14	15	
20c	16	17	18	19	20	21 120

Plate colour block (PCB)

	4c	10c	15c	20c
No of panes ordered:	25 000	25 000	25 000	25 000
Printers sheets:	6 250	6 250	6 250	6 250
Number of stamps available:	625 000	625 000	625 000	625 000

Ref1: *The SA Philatelist* (Dec 1976) Vol 52, No 12, pp. 316

4c PANE DIFFERENTIATION:

	Bottom L margin perforation	Pane A I:S	Pane B-D P:S		
4c	Multi-positive flaw  Irregularity and black dot top R of TPT logo plate block (PB)	Pane B  Shaved top L and black dot below plate colour block 5 (PCB5)	Pane C  Three black dots below PCB5 - bottom L	Pane D  R5:1, black dot above 'u' of 'uZimele'	

the site of a military post for British Colonial Forces, the town was formally laid out and proclaimed a municipality which was to endure for nearly a further 100 years before Umtata achieved city status.

The Artist/Graphic Designer:

- BARRETT, Arthur Howard (Barry) (1916 - 2000)⁹

Barry was born on 2 December 1916 at Leytonstone, London - son of a brushware salesman with three brothers and a sister. He died on 3 July 2000.

AHBarrett of Osspoed, Bronkhorstspuit, was designated *Beeld's* 1989 *Stamp Designer of the Year* for his South West African series on Namib Desert Sand Dunes. He received the World Stamps



floating trophy plus a cash prize of R500 from Stephan Welz, well known in the world of art. Barrett had won this coveted prize then for the fifth time in ten years, which really establishes him to be *the country's finest stamp designer*, being responsible for 444 stamps. Barrett was quite an adventurer who travelled the length of Africa by car. He lived and worked in Johannesburg and the countryside east of Bronkhorstspuit during his most productive years, i.e. circa 1970 to 1990.

10c stamp: Transkei mace and flag



The evolution of the 10c stamp

maize cobs and the second near the base. These are typical of the bands Transkeians wear on their arms and legs.

The inscription *IMBUMBA YAMANYAMA (unity is strength)* appears below the upper gold ring. There are nine black rings occupying the lower half of the mace each inscribed with one of the nine electoral regions:

Dalindyebo, Emboland, Emigrant Tembuland, Fingo, Gcaleka, Maluti, Nyanda, Qaukeni and Umzimkulu.

The Flag:

Transkeians designed their own flag in 1963 when the territory was granted self-government by the South African Parliament. The tricolour flag was adopted on 20 May 1966 and officially hoisted for the first time on 31 May 1966. It remained unchanged when Transkei became independent on 26 October 1976. The top red-ochre band is derived from the colour of the soil ("Imbola") from which the traditional Xhosa huts are built. The middle white band stands for peace and the lower deep green band represents the rolling hills of the countryside and agriculture.







The Parliamentary Mace:

The top of the mace contains nine ivory rings, symbolic of the nine regional chiefs, clasped together by a gold ring signifying the bringing together of the people in a traditional tribal independent government. The rings rest on a basket (similar to that used for reaping crops) made of stinkwood, The basket, particular to Transkei and used to store grain.

It is supported by seven maize cobs, carved from white wood, which signifies the fertility of the territory, its abundance and the fertility of the people.

Several solid gold rings fused together to form two bands, one is situated below the

10c Pane differentiation:

	Bottom L margin perforation	Pane B	Pane C	Pane D		
10c	Multi-positive flaw  Purple dot in the '8' L bottom curvature and white lines to R of PCB8	 TPT logo plate block; - Irregular top L - Black dot bottom L - Black dot bottom R corner	 TPT logo plate block; - R corner dent - Black elongation and dot top R corner - Black dot bottom R corner	 White dot to right of '9' of PCB9	 R 5:2, tan dot above 'k' of 'Transkei'	 R 5:1, tiny green dot in bottom L corner of white middle band of the flag
	Pane A I:S	Pane B-D P:S				

15c stamp: Paramount Chief (uKumkani) Kaiser D. Matanzima

Head portrait facing forward to his right.



Final stamp

The evolution of the stamp



Final watercolour essay



Original photo used by graphic artist

Pane differentiation:

Bottom L margin perforation		Pane A	Pane A I:S	Pane B-D P:S		Pane D	
15c	Multi-positive flaw	Pane B					Tiny white dot to R of 'T' of 'TPT' logo CB
							R5:3, white dot below '1' of '15c'
	Tiny white dot top R of '15' PCB15	Pane C					

20c Stamp: Transkei Coat of Arms



The evolution of the 20c stamp

The Transkei Coat of Arms:

The shield depicts; top left, maize - the main staple food; top right, a wheel - a symbol for industry and bottom, a bull's head - symbol for animal husbandry as well as being a symbol of wealth. The crest is made up of maize and a maize basket, another symbol for the richness of the country. The supporters are two leopards, the royal symbol of the people. The base symbolises the many green hills of Transkei. The brown and white are traditional colours used by the people of Transkei for painting the body. The motto is **IMBUMBA YAMANYAMA**, translated meaning *unity is strength*.

The micro details of the 20c stamp will appear in future publication - sadly these four pages have not done full justice to the incredible amount of research that the TVBC Stamp Study group have compiled.

Contact them via Dr Heinz Wirz... there is so much to share with this interesting aspect of collecting. Heinz Wirz <wirz@global.co.za>

NEW SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP ISSUES - 2018 - Part I by Robin Messenger,
South African Stamp Study Circle



1 December 2017 - 50 YEARS SINCE THE FIRST HEART TRANSPLANT

Details of this issue appeared in *The South African Philatelist* of February 2018 on page 28. Below is additional information not available at that time:

Printing sheet size: 481 x 640mm comprising six sheetlets arranged in two rows of three.

NOTE: For an undisclosed reason, delivery of this stamp issue to Philatelic Services was delayed but in the announcement by the South African Post Office, published on page 88 of the June 2018 edition of *The SA Philatelist*, it was stated that it would be available from 21 May 2018. The exact date of availability is unknown but the date on the canceller remained as 1 December 2017 and the cost of each stamp is now R10.30 in line with the new tariffs applicable from 1 April 2018.

31 May 2018 – SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL PARKS (Part 4) Release date c13 August 2018

Denominations: 5 x Standard postage rate (R4.20).

Designer: Thea Clemons, from photographs supplied by National Parks Board, depicting the following parks:

'Mokala National Park'; 'Mountain Zebra National Park'; 'The Knysna National Park'; 'West Coast National Park' and 'The Wilderness National Park'

Printer: La Poste t/a Philaposte, France.

Process: Offset lithography.

Stamp sizes: 65 x 26mm.

Gum: Self adhesive.

Sheetlet size: 166 x 200mm comprising 10 stamps arranged in five rows of two, each row being a pair of similar design.

Quantity: 150,000 sheetlets.

Cylinder numbers: 8577 (blue), 8578 (red), 8579 (yellow) and 8580 (black).

Perforation: Die-cut simulated gauge 11. Stamps are separated by 8mm gutters in the centre of which are roulettes to aid separation of the individual stamps. These roulettes extend through sheet margins and also through the backing paper.

Phosphor: Yellow-green bands in 'L' shape along left (3mm wide) and bottom (3mm wide) margins of each stamp.

Printing sheet size: 640 x 480mm, comprising six sheetlets arranged in two rows of three.

First Day Cover: No. 8.115 of standard size, of which 1,000 were produced.

Canceller: No. 8.105 – 'Cradock / 31.05.2018'



18 July 2018 – MANDELA 100 – Centenary of birth of Nelson Mandela (Joint issue with Germany)

Denomination: Standard postage rate (R4.20).

Designer: Rachel-Mari Ackerman, from a photograph supplied by the Mandela Foundation.

Printer: Cartor Security Printers, France

Process: Offset lithography.

Stamp size: 34mm square, incorporated in a miniature sheet of size 58mm square.

Gum: PVA.

Quantity: 38,000 miniature sheets plus a reprint of 45,000 delivered directly to Deutsche Post.

Cylinder numbers: none.

Perforation: 13.55, not perforated through to sheet margins.

Phosphor: Yellow-green phosphor coated paper.

Printing sheet size: 359.5 x 473mm, comprising 36 miniature sheets, arranged in six columns of six, with vertical 22mm wide gutters between each column. There are no horizontal gutters but guillotine markers show a 5mm trim between each miniature sheet.

First Day Cover: No. 8.114 of standard size of which 1,500 were produced to which both the RSA and German issues were affixed.

Canceller: No. 8.106 –

'HOUGHTON 2018.07.18' on the miniature sheet plus a German cancellation tying the German stamp, inscribed 'BERLIN / NELSON / MANDELA / 1918-2013 / ERSTAUSGABE / 12.07.2018 / 10117'

26 July 2018 - MANDELA BIRTH CENTENARY + GANDHI 125th ANNIVERSARY OF THE PIETERMARITZBURG STATION INCIDENT

(Joint issue with India). Release date c13 August 2018.

Denominations: 2 x Standard postage rate (R4.20).

Designer: Thea Clemons – left-hand stamp features Nelson Mandela, right-hand stamp features Mahatma Gandhi, taken from the 1995 RSA commemorative issue designed by Alan Ainslie.

Printer: Cartor Security Printers, France.

Process: Offset lithography.

Stamp size: 30mm square, incorporated in a miniature sheet of size 115 x 92mm.

Gum: PVA

Quantity: 40,000 miniature sheets.

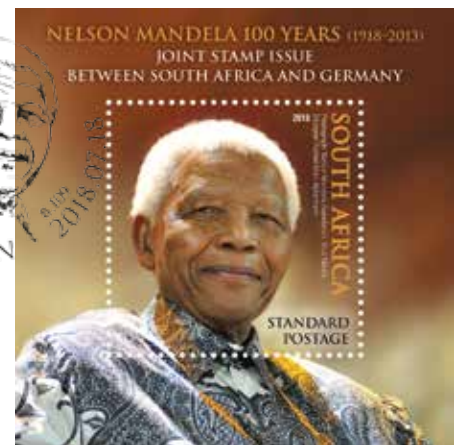
Cylinder numbers: none.

Perforation: 13.4, not perforated through to sheet margins.

Phosphor: Yellow-green phosphor coated paper
Printing sheet size: 590 x 472mm, comprising 16 miniature sheets, arranged in four rows of four.

First Day Cover: None.

Canceller: No. 8.112 – 'SANDTON 2018.07.26'



Acknowledgement:

The above information was collated from *WHAT'S NEWS?*, newsletters of the RSA Stamp Study Group, produced by Jan de Jong and personal observations. The images shown here, are of original artwork supplied by courtesy of Thea Clemons of Philatelic Services and may differ slightly from the issued stamps.

BELLVILLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Monthly meeting, 2nd Wednesday. Auditorium of the Bellville Library, Charl van Aswegen Rd, Bellville. Meetings start at 19h00 to 21h00 and consist of club cup competitions, workshops and fun evenings with specific themes. Members from other societies are regularly invited. *Chairperson:* Werner Barnard; wernerb@axxess.co.za

Secretary: Reanie de Villiers; 082 567 0353; philately@netpoint.co.za

Website: <http://bellvillephilatelic.tripod.com>

Contact the Secretary for further Programme details.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

Meetings are held every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 8.00pm at the Athenaeum, Camp Ground Road, Newlands. Visitors are always welcome.

Contacts: Mary Rogers

0729461767 or 021 5582662

President: Victor Millard

0828028882 or 021 6714613 (*Secretary*);

Email: royalphilct@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.rpsct.org/>



STELLENBOSCH FILATELISTEVERENIGING

Meeting – 1st Tuesday of the month at 19:00. *Plek:* Biblioteek, La Clémence aftreeoord, Webers-valleiweg /Road, Stellenbosch. Ons hou uitstallings, ontvang gassprekers, ervaar praatjies/demonstrasies, monthly newsletters with news on local philatelic activities, Show, Tell and Ask sessions covering all aspects of the hobby of stamp collecting. Besoekers altyd welkom. Visitors always welcome. Join us. Kom saam of kontak stellenboschstamp@gmail.com



PAARLSE FILATELISTE

Sedert 1951

Die Paarlse Filatelite vergader elke maand op die tweede Donderdag van die maand om 19h30. *Filatelite, seëlversamelaars en besoekers is baie welkom. Vergaderings is baie informeel en daar word lekker gekuier en daar is altyd iets te leer (en te ete). Vir meer inligting oor die program en vergaderplek kontak gerus vir:* Gawie Hugo: 083 956 2410 gawiehugo@gmail.com of Riaan Crafford: 022 4824005

n/u craffies@telkomsa.net



FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founded in 1954 and still promoting philately in the 'Deep South' of the Cape Peninsula. Circa 20 – 30 members and often a few guests gather once a month. FHPS reaches a wider audience on the internet since launching their website. Please have a look and maybe get ideas or inspiration for your own society. *The society meets every first Tuesday at 19h30 at Civic Centre, Minor Hall, Recreation Road, Fish Hoek. President:* Dave Young, email: davesueyoung@gmail.com *Secretary:* Volker Janssen.

Website: www.fhps.info



GEORGE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The Society meets every 2nd Thursday of the month, in the Minor Hall, Presbyterian Church, 8 Caladon St. *President:* Nick Zerbst 0836255804, *Secretary:* Rob Sinclair-Black 044 8746337. email: robrita@mweb.co.za

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The society meets monthly at 19:00 on first non-holiday Monday at the Bible Society House, 31 Cotswold Ave, Cotswold. President's night 5 Dec. 2018.

For more information contact either Francois Friend (president, 082 554 8900, francois@softchem.co.za); David Brown (vice president, 041 360 4025) or Rodney Maclachlan (secretary/ treasurer, 072 619 5409).



FOUNDED 30 APRIL 1909 EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The Heritage Room, 1st Floor, Berea Gardens 70 Jarvis Road, Berea

Meetings: Every 4th Thursday of the month. Time: 19h30

President: David Preston

0827742090. Email: preste@telkomsa.net

Secretary: Carlos Da Fonseca 082 334 7603



CASPIP

CAPE SOCIETY FOR PALESTINE-ISRAEL PHILATELY

Meets on the third Wednesday of the month, 20h00, excluding Jewish & Public holidays. Contact for details: Aubrey Katzef: akatzef@mweb.co.za, +27 (21) 4615134 the President of CASPIP

*** PLEASE NOTE** *Back Issues of The South African Philatelist are limited. Requests for any issue should be made in writing to The SA Philatelist, P.O. Box 131600, Benoryn, 1504. An electronic PDF file may be requested should a printed copy of the journal not be available.*

Study Groups

EUROCIRCLE STAMP STUDY

Meetings in the Captain's Table at Woodmead - last Wednesday of each month at 20h00 (except December).

TBVC STUDY GROUP

Contact: Chairperson Jan de Jong djhome606@gmail.com *Secretary* Eugene du Plooy eugeneduplooy@gmail.com

Meeting 1st Saturday of the month at 09:00am for 09:15am at the Greek Orthodox Church Pretoria Stamp Fair. Corner Lynnwood Rd & Roper St, Hillcrest, Pretoria - right opposite the entrance to the University of Pretoria

RSA SEËLSTUDIEGROEP

Vergader elke 2^{de} Woensdag van elke onewe maand (Januarie, Maart, Mei, Julie ens) by Filateliedienste in Silverton. *Kontak:* djhome606@gmail.com Doen uitstekende studie en navorsing en publiseer 'n gereelde maandelikse nuusbrieff, 10vm.

SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

Meetings: First Saturday of month at 13h00 at the Thornhill Manor Retirement Village Hall, Modderfontein. *Contact:* Secretary, Keith Perrow 083 379 2626, email: keith.perrow232@gmail.com

RHODESIAN STAMP STUDY

The Rhodesian Study Circle holds regular member meetings and events across the world. Visitors are welcome to attend. For more information on meetings, visit <http://www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk/engage/meetings> or Contact us (<http://www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/>)

PINELANDS STAMP CIRCLE

Meets on the last Wednesday of every month (except December) at 19h30 in the Activities Hall of Pinelands Library, Howard Centre, Western Cape. The Circle caters for all those interested in stamp collecting - from beginner to the more experienced philatelist. Programmes for meetings include displays of stamps, talks by visiting speakers and member's 'Show and Tell' exhibits.

The Circle operates an Exchange Circuit and holds auctions from time to time.

Visitors are always welcome!

Contact: Marilyn Crawford

at 021689 5050 or email:

m.tristan.crawford@gmail.com



Durbanville Stamp Fair

Stamp Fair dates: 6 Oct 2018, 3 Nov 2018, 1 Dec 2018. (all 1st Saturday of the month).

Auction date: Auction #29 - 10 Nov 2018.

Contact: Ken Joseph ken@philatelicfriends.com

International Exhibitions

MACAO 2018

south coast of China,

Date: 21 to 24.09. 2018

South African Commissioner:

Dr Ian Matheson RDPSA

FIAP Co-ordinator.

Dr Prakob Chirakiti, FIAP Patronage.

The South Africa exhibits comprise four 5 frames and four 1 frames.



THAILAND 2018

Bangkok

Date: 28 Nov to 3 Dec 2018

General World All Classes

South African Commissioner:

Vernon Mitchell. vjm@telkomsa.net



LONDON 2020

INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION

Date: 2 to 9 MAY 2020

South African

Commissioner:

Patrick Flanagan.

patf@fgprop.com





Venue: Country Club Johannesburg, Napier St, Auckland Park. For info-contact the President: Herbie Schaffler RDPSA 082 722 7604.

Dates for Society Meetings 2018 always on a Wednesday at 20h00

- 10 Oct Favourite Cover/s
- 14 Nov Third Competitive Evening
- 5 Dec President's Evening

EUROCIRCLE STAMP STUDY

For 2018 the meetings - Bishops at Woodmead. The second meeting of each month, except December, is held on the last Wednesday of the month. This is effectively a study group.

EDENVALE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets first Saturday monthly at Thornhill Manor Retirement Village Hall, Modderfontein at 1pm. Meetings consist of club competitions, workshops, themed events and many other fun activities. Membership is varied and mainly consists of general stamp collectors. Light refreshments are served. All are welcome - from the novice to more advanced collectors. Our Facebook page allows club activities to continue 24/7; search for Edenvale Philatelic Society. All welcome. Contact: Colin Bousfield 082 309 8656

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG



President: Clive Carr, Tel: 011 789 6357. Meetings: 19h30, Third Wednesday of the month, at Blairgowrie Recreation Centre, Park Lane, Blairgowrie. Postal address - P O Box 131037, Bryanston 2021, South Africa.
 Oct 17: My favourite - (Maximum of one frame) and thematic exhibits
 Oct 31: 5th Wed - to be decided
 Nov 21: Intersociety quiz and invited exhibits

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets at the Victorian Secret coffee shop, corner Russel / Woburn Ave, Benoni, 14h00 every last Saturday of the month. Exhibits, talks and workshops by members and invited guests. Items of interest, quiz, general networking. Free entrance, refreshments and safe parking. President: Jimmy Mitchell; jimmy.hcmitchell@gmail.com Secretary: Paul Hammerton. hampaul@ananzi.co.za



SANDTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets on the first Monday monthly (Feb to Dec) Venue: Blairgowrie Recreation Centre, Park Lane (off Susman Avenue), Blairgowrie. Time: 7:30 for 8:00 PM. The society has an active exchange packet circuit and members with a wide range of philatelic interests. Visitors are welcome. For further information contact: Chris Carey 083 6622150 / 011 6732229 / ccarey@icon.co.za

Smalls: FOR SALE
 Gold Coast. 1920-31. 5s Green & Red. Die II. Fine used. On pale yellow. Maurice Tozer: toz@icon.co.za

WEST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meet 3rd Wednesday monthly at 19H30 at Panorma Sports Grounds, Cornelius St, Weltevreden Park. PO Box 198 Florida Hills 1716. Contact: Andries Nel, 083 269 9374. Chairman or Secretary Ian Walker. Tel: 011 4721161. email: iwalker@vodamail.co.za

PRETORIA, MPUMALANGA, LIMPOPO

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets on the first Monday evening of the month at 19:30 at Statch Centre, St. Albans College, Clearwater Street, Lynwood Glen. Monthly newsletter, active exchange section and loads of expertise on traditional philately and postmarks. Day meeting meets every first Thursday of the month following the first Monday in Glen Carpendale's shop, Kilner Park Galleries, 6 Wilkinson Street, Kilner Park, Pretoria. Stamp displays, talks and socialising. President: André du Plessis. andredups@gmail.com 083 399 1755 Vice-President: Alex Visser. alex.visser@up.ac.za

AFRIKAANSE FILATELIEVERENIGING VAN PRETORIA

Vergader elke 3de Saterdag van die maand om 10:00 by Glen Carpendale se Seëlwinkel in Kilnerpark. Baie aktiewe groep wat gereeld bywoon. Nuusbrief 'Die Posduif' verskyn maandeliks. Voorsitter is Petra Heath en Sekretaris is Herman van Niekerk. Kontak: arnot@telkomsa.net

POLOKWANE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets last Tuesday of every month Contact: Peter Gutsche, Box 11933, Bendor Park 0713. Tel 083 276 1124. email: pmgutsche@mweb.co.za

THEMATICS SA PRETORIA CHAPTER

Meeting 1st Saturday monthly at the Greek Orthodox Church Pretoria Stamp Fair @ 10:00 for 10:15. Vibrant & active group of attendees - loads of expertise and lots of topical discussions. Group Leader: Helena Snyman Helena.snyman@gauteng.gov.za

OFS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Society meets every 4th Friday monthly, (except December), at 19h15 at the museum of the Boer Republics in Memorium Road, Bloemfontein. President: Dr Neil Cronjé and Vice president: Garry Osthof email: OsthoffG@ufs.ac.za

MASHONALAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY HARARE ZIMBABWE

Meetings: 9am, 3rd Saturday monthly at the Orchid Society Hall, Mukuvisi Woodlands, Hillside Rd (off Glenara Ave South), Harare. Stamp displays, talks, advice, auctions, swapping and socialising. Contact: Mike Fox, tallyho@mango.zw landline 495408; cellphone 0772 376994

ZIMBABWE - BULAWAYO

Royal Philatelic Society of Zimbabwe meets the second Saturday of each month (Except December) - 2:00pm for 2:30pm. at the National Natural History Museum, Park Road, Suburbs, Bulawayo. E-mail: phil.soc.zim@gmail.com

DE POSBOOM FILATELIE VERENIGING

Tweede Maandag van elke maand om 7nm Posbus10647, Danabaai, 6510. St Peter's Kerkzaal, Marsh Straat, Mosselbaai. Jaarlikse Algemene Vergadering: November.



President: Japie de Vos
 082 767 5004 / 044 695 0705
 epos: sanjari@mweb.co.za
 Sekretaris: Gerrie Conradie
 082 952 6700
 Tel / Faks 044 698 1074.
 epos: gajcon@gmail.com

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF KWA-ZULU NATAL

Meetings are held at the Classic Motorcycle Club, 137 Tara Road, Bluff, Durban at 10h00 on the 2nd Saturday of the month. Contacts: Zbigniew Kawecki, (President) 082 968 6888 Ted Brown, (Vice-President) 083 284 6554 Trevor Harris, (Secretary) 082 377 8465 email zep7epi@3i.co.za Kraft von Aulock (Treasurer) 031 2629162

'Stamp Exhibitions' with a theme of what to do and what not to do to achieve success...
 'All are welcome'



HIGHWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

HHPS, Durban, meets at the German Club, 7 Barnham Rd, off Essex Terrace, Westville. 09h00 - 11h30 every 2nd Saturday of the month. Open invitation to other Philatelic Societies and interested visitors - from beginners to seasoned collectors. Youth encouraged to attend. 'Theme' Exhibits & 'Show-and-tell' Frames by Members, Instructive talks and general networking. Free entrance. Teas/ coffees available. Safe parking. German Restaurant open for lunch. The Committee encourages past and new visitors to join us and get involved in this wonderful social hobby of Kings. President: Ian McMurray. ianjarvismcm@gmail.com Secretary: Bromwen Edwards. edwards@worldonline.co.za Membership: Barry Liosey, liosey@netsolutions.co.za



Established in 1924

MARITZBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY

VENUES:

1. Ordinary Stamp Club meeting every third Monday at 16h00 St Mathewus Parish Hall, 115 Hesketh Drive, Hayfields Pietermaritzburg
 2. Thematics Group meeting every third Saturday at 09h00 8a Sanders Road Scottsville 3201, Pietermaritzburg
- The Executive Committee meets on the first Saturday of every month at 11h00.
 President: Dave Wyllie - Club President/ Competitions and Speaker. Treasurer: Heather Wyllie.
 Secretary: Aubrey Bowles. 082 316 3308. burncree45@telkomsa.net aubrey.bowles45@gmail.com

- Ron Buchell - Deputy Treasurer,
 - Janet Kimmince - Membership Secretary,
 - Gordon Bennett - Stamp Book Circuit Officer,
 - Graham Bruce - Librarian,
 - Joyce Hulse - Assistant Librarian,
 - Val de Jager - Catering Officer
- Publicity and Monthly Newsletter, information on Society activities can be obtained from Aubrey Bowles.



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