

## DARMSTADT TRIALS

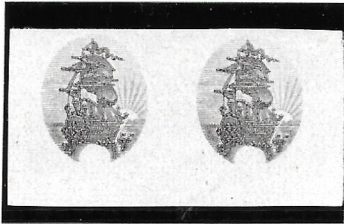
The history of the Rotogravure Pictorials dates to 1929 when the Union Government agreed to purchase a Goebel AG printing machine to print stamps

A series of tests followed in Darmstadt Germany under supervision of representatives of the Union and their agents in London, Hunter Penrose Ltd

Although the tests were performed in Darmstadt, Germany three copper cylinders (used for rotogravure printing) were etched in Leiden, Holland. The cylinders bearing unscreened images of the vignette and frame copied from the then Pretoria Typograph printed 1d Van Riebeeck Ship stamp

Separate images of the vignette, frame and completed stamp were made with English and German black and red ink on various types of paper with different watermarks

Following the satisfactory tests, rotogravure printing of stamps in the Union commenced with the first stamp that of the 1d Van Riebeeck Ship stamp, placed on sale during April 1930



**Interior Cylinder**  
Imperforate  
Un-gummed paper  
No watermark



**Interior Cylinder**  
Perforate  
Gummed paper  
No watermark



**Exterior Cylinder**  
Imperforate  
Un-gummed paper  
No watermark



**Exterior Cylinder**  
Perforate  
Un-gummed paper  
No watermark



**Complete trial**  
Gummed paper  
No watermark



**Complete trial**  
Gummed paper  
Trefoil watermark



**Complete trial**  
Gummed paper  
Springbok head watermark