

The South African Philatelist

All about stamps



THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1932

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One Hundred, Not Out

In 2004, the Editor of *The South African Philatelist* resigned following differences with the Management Committee on the policy for the future of the journal. The Committee responded with the formation of a six-man Editorial Board under the Chairmanship of Alan Rose; Janice Botes was appointed Production Editor. Under her guidance the quality of paper was improved, fonts and layouts were discussed and colour printing was introduced. More recently we have gone digital, a move she has taken in her stride. The success of these changes is evident today as the current issue, October 2020, leaves the presses. This is the 100th issue produced by the Board, an achievement of which we are understandably proud.

Recruited to oversee the layout and technical production of the journal, and now one of only two surviving members of the original Board, Janice confesses that when she joined, she knew nothing of stamps or philately. Even now she maintains that is not her province, and leaves the content to others. However, her input is significant: single handedly she liaises with authors, advertisers, printers and Federation, and then completes the layout of 36 pages each issue. Her computer skills are legendary as she manipulates articles to the whims and ultimate satisfaction of Board members. As with all organisations, continuity is essential and we gratefully acknowledge and thank her for her contribution in this respect over the years, bringing us back into line on occasions when we have strayed.

We are pleased to think that the journal has progressed during our stewardship with several awards under its belt. After a Federation Plaque in 2004, we achieved international awards of a Silver in 2006, Large Silvers in 2007, 2008 and a Large Vermeil at IPhLA in 2012. Our pool of authors has expanded over the years and we are pleased to print in this issue the 50th article by Gerhard Kamffer who supplies us with a stimulating variety of topics. Whilst relying on such established authors, we will always welcome new ones.

It envisaged that electronic media and changes in postal systems and practice in the future will reflect variously on philately and look forward to recording this in our journal.

The Editorial Board

London 2020 now Re-scheduled to 2022

SOUTH AFRICANS DID US PROUD BY BEING ACCEPTED TO EXHIBIT AT LONDON 2020 AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE EXHIBITED IN THE RESCHEDULED LONDON 2022

With the London World Stamp Exhibition 'London 2020' being fully subscribed before the pandemic, organisers offered participants the opportunity to confirm continued interest in the rescheduled 'London 2022'.

The SA Commissioner: Patrick Flanagan RDPSA FRPSL; he can be contacted on + 27 83 2655649 or email patf@fgprop.com.

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Phun with postmarks

by Alex Visser RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society Email: alex.visser@up.ac.za



1993 Putzel riddle solved

On p.48 of Volume 2 of the *'The Postmarks of South Africa and Former States and Colonies'* that was published in 1993 a cover, Fig.1, is shown in the middle of the page. Evidently the cover originated from the OFS and the postage of 6d was to Cape Town, and 1/- from Cape Town to England. Only from 1.1.1881 did OFS stamps become valid overseas. The caption in the book states "...and absolutely unknown 11-bar circular obliterator probably used at Cape Town Dispatch Office because an OFS adhesive was used". The OFSSC compendium of postmarks shows this 25mm obliterator, Fig.2, as having been used at Fauresmith between 2.1868 and 13.5.1868. The cover falls within this period of use as there is a Cape Town date stamp of FE 18/68 and an illegible PACKET of MR 28/1868.

With this new information the caption in the Putzel book should be corrected to "1868 Proving cover to England with Cape Town Barred Oval Numeral Cancellor No. 1 plus early cds. The 11-bar circular obliterator was used at Fauresmith to prepay postage to Cape Town."

Often this was also known as a 'time code letter'. Starting with blank, and then A, B, C.... the letter represented a time slot from 6 am until close. Examples are shown in Fig.3. The time slot was not the same for the larger Cape office, and even changed over time. After the British introduced a general code where two letters were used in different variations, in 1894 the Cape followed suit (Fig.4). Letters were used up to about 1900 when AM and PM were introduced (Fig.5). All the provinces that used date stamps with a three line date used the alphabetical or AM/PM styles. Since the date was changed by inserting slugs we find variations such as inverted time code letters as there were four positions in which the slug could be inserted. These are as a result of human error.



Fig.3: Examples of earliest time code letters (blank to M).

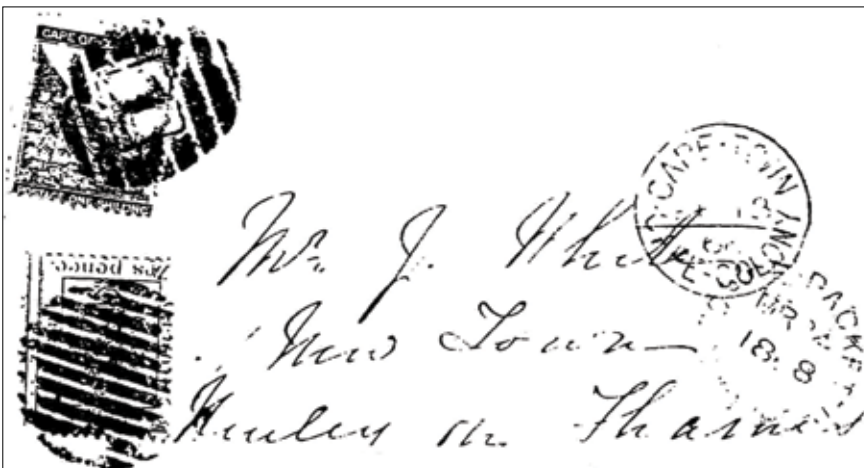


Fig.1: 1868 Cover from Fauresmith to England (cover cropped).

What are time code letters?

I often receive enquiries regarding time code letters. Going through a lot of junk, including photocopies that Ralph Putzel had hoarded, I came across a photocopy of a page from a collection of Athol Murray which included the Index Letters in Date stamps. Evidently this may have been an extract produced by Jurgens in *SAP* p. 102, 1944. Not having access to this copy of *The SA Philatelist*, I could not confirm the origin. However, more extensive information is given in Goldblatt's *Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope*, which I will summarise.

The single circle date stamp of 1864 with Cape Colony at base introduced a time designation by alphabetical letter above the date. Known as a 'time index letter' it was a slug that was inserted into the date stamp above the date line.



Fig.2: Scarce Fauresmith 11-bar obliterator.

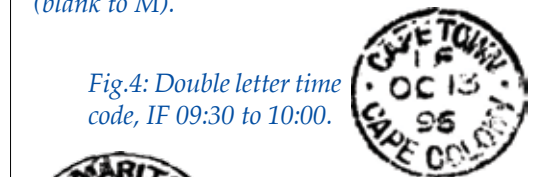


Fig.4: Double letter time code, IF 09:30 to 10:00.

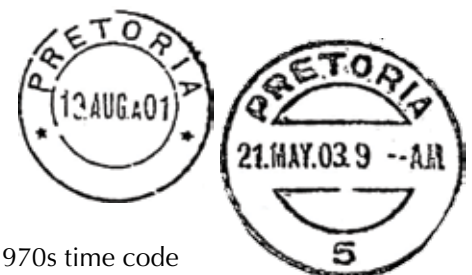


Fig.5: Time of day as time code.

When single line dates were introduced after about 1900, time code letters (t) were introduced into the date line such as DDMMMYY.

These were either a letter or A or P denoting AM or PM. An example is shown in Fig.6a. It is unclear as to what extent the time code letters were linked to time. In the larger offices the date and time of day and later time in hours were used, shown in Fig.6b.

Fig.6: Single line date with time code letter or time of day.



By about the mid-1970s time code letters were used as counter codes in instances where the date stamp did not have a counter number inscribed. This is confirmed by the impressions on the same date as shown in Fig.7. After 2000 the time codes were discontinued and the date is either in reversed or normal format as shown in Fig.8.

Stamps

that make you **SMILE**by Volker Janssen, Fish Hoek Philatelic Society and
the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town

Episode 60 Errors on Stamps...

'OLYMPIC CHESS'

The postal administration of Mocambique issued a commemorative stamp set for the Seoul Olympic Games in 1988.

The stamp of 75Mt. shows a player making a move on a chess-board.

The error is that chess has never been an Olympic discipline in the history of the Olympic Games.

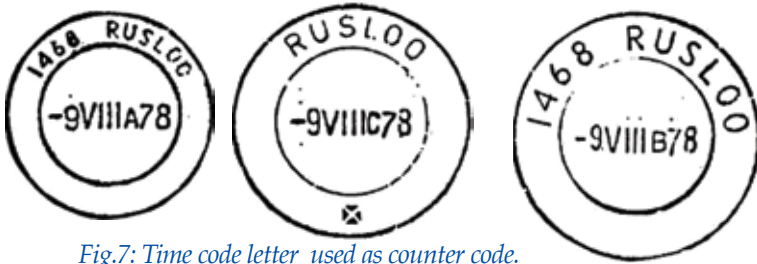
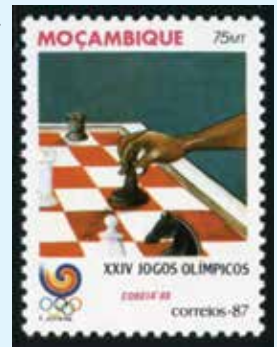


Fig.7: Time code letter used as counter code.

Fig.8: Modern date stamps without time code letters.



Ons kom agter dat hoe meer ons weet hoe minder weet ons, soos die Oranje Vrystaatse koevert aantoon.

Dit herinner my aan die staaltjie van Winston Churchill op sy 75ste verjaardag viering in die plaaslike stadsaal. Die seremoniemeester het genoem dat die whisky wat Winston gedurende sy lewe gedrink het tot by die vensterbank van die stadsaal sou kom. In sy repliek kyk Winston na die plafon en meld dat daar nog so baie is om te doen in 'n beperkte tyd. Dit is mos die lekker van ondersoek instel. Selfs 'n eenvoudige stempel element soos die tydkodeletter laat nog baie onbeantwoorde vrae.

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The ABC of stamps



by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society

HEALTH STAMPS

Initially they were called seals, then they became charity stamps and only later were known as health stamps'. Starting in 1929 the New Zealand Health Stamps went on to become one of the longest running series of stamps, ending in 2016 after 87 years. The stamps carry two denominations; one to cover postage, the other as a donation to a specific cause - the fight against tuberculosis.

The first stamp was issued 11 December 1929 depicting a nurse in uniform (Figs.1a), with the double-barred Cross of Lorraine, the symbol of the global fight against tuberculosis. The design of the stamp was modelled on that of the Danish Christmas Seal of 1904 (Fig.2). While Christmas Seals are charity labels that had to be used together with regular postage stamps, the New Zealand seal combined both postage and charity in a single item.

The second stamp, issued 29 October 1930, (Fig.1b) was supposed to have been of a different design. But due to a printing problem the 1929 design was reused with a different inscription. This was the time of the Great Depression and there was a high rate of malnutrition which resulted in diseases such as rickets and tuberculosis. The 1930 issue only raised £898 0s 11d, 27.5% of that gathered in 1929; the decline caused by the economic conditions of the time.



Figs.1a & 1b : The first issue of 1929(1a) compared with the second issue of 1930 (1b).

The money raised was used to fund the children's health camp movement. These camps were established by Dr Elizabeth Gunn (Fig.3), a school doctor and former army officer, for children with nutritional and physical problems.



Fig.3: (at left) Dr Elizabeth Gunn, founder of New Zealand Children's Health Camps, issued 6 August 1969, on the 50th anniversary of the camps.



Fig.2: Danish Christmas Seal of 1904 featuring Queen Louise and the word Julen (Christmas)

The first camp was established at Turakina in 1919. A network of six camps were set up in semi-rural areas across New Zealand (Fig.4).



Fig.4: Location of Children's Health Camps in New Zealand.

The best-known health stamps must be the *Smiling Boy* issue of 31 October 1931 (Fig. 5). This issue had two values as postal rates doubled from 1d to 2d in June 1931. It was also the last time that the Cross of Lorraine featured as part of the design.

The word 'health' featured prominently for the first time, reflecting the move from being a Charity Stamp to that of a Health Stamp. When issued, these stamps were considered to be unattractive and poorly designed.



Fig.5: The 'red boy' and 'blue boy' issue of 1931.

Subsequent stamps showed smiling healthy children as part of the design, promoting the idea of improving health by attending one of the health camps. The stamps reflected what was considered to be children's well-being. This lasted until 1959 when the stamp designs changed to feature birds (Fig.6). Ten years later, in 1968, sports

became the topic featuring both boys and girls in the same issue. In 1974 the topic changed again to show children with animals. From 1978 onwards the topics became variable with no specific theme evident.

Fig.6: Images of healthy children were replaced in 1959 with birds.



British Royal children have featured regularly, (Fig.7) starting with an issue showing Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret in 1943 and again in 1944, followed by Prince Charles on 2 October 1950 and Princess Anne on 1 October 1952.



Fig 7: The 1943 Health Stamps started a tradition of showing portraits of royal children. This was a big change, not only in shape but that the subject was the royal princesses, HRH Princess Elizabeth on the 2d+1d stamp, and HRH Princess Margaret on the 1d+1/2d stamp

By 2016, with the decline in the use of sending mail, the surcharge collected dropped below the break-even point and could no longer cover administrative costs. In addition there was a move away from institutionalised welfare. The New Zealand Post Office, together with Stand Children's Service (previously Children's Health Camps) decided to end the series of Health Stamps (Fig.8).



Fig.8: The last New Zealand Health Stamps, issued 7 September 2016.

THE TEDDY BEAR STAMPS

The 1996 Health Stamp emphasised the importance of child road safety (Fig.9). One of the stamps showed a baby buckled into a safety seat with a teddy bear using an adult seat belt in the rear seat of a car. The stamp was designed by Helen Casey and printed by Enschedé Holland.

It was only a few weeks before release on 6 June 1996 that the error was noticed. According to New Zealand law, a baby under six months has to face the rear when travelling in a car. The seat belt around the teddy bear indicated the child was facing the wrong direction. Several hundred copies of the incorrect design had been sold in two post offices. The Auckland Savings Bank purchased most of the incorrect stamps and used them on regular business mail. With only a week to the release date a corrected version was reprinted by Southern Colour Print in New Zealand. This accounts for the differences in the appearance of the corrected stamp.



Fig.9: Left, the original design with gum. Centre, the self-adhesive version, slightly smaller in size and more vivid. Right, the corrected stamp with gum but without its teddy bear.

ROYAL MAIL CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF RUPERT BEAR

Featuring the artwork of Alfred Bestall, who wrote and illustrated more than 270 Rupert stories after he took on the role in 1935, Royal Mail has now issued a set of eight stamps to mark the 100th birthday of Rupert Bear.

The set is made up of four pairs of stamps, each pair featuring two illustrations from one of Rupert's adventures - *Rupert's Rainy Adventure* (1944), *Rupert and the Mare's Nest* (1952), *Rupert And The Lost Cuckoo* (1963) and *Rupert's Christmas Tree* (1947). Rupert's first appearance was in the *Daily Express* on 8 November 1920. Herbert Tourtel, who wrote the stories, was an editor at the *Express*, and his wife, Mary, was the illustrator.

The Rupert Little Bear Library Series ran to 46 issues and published periodically between 1928 and 1936. Mary retired in 1935 due to her failing eyesight.

The full set of eight stamps, available in a Presentation Pack, retails at £10.00.

The stamps and a range of collectible products are available from www.royalmail.com/rupertbear



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COUNTRIES THAT ISSUED POSTAGE STAMPS IN SUPPORT OF THE STRUGGLE AGAINST APARTHEID AND TO HONOUR NELSON MANDELA

by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA Pretoria Philatelic Society
and Maj Sipiwe Ngwenya (guest author)



Many countries in the world, and specifically in Africa supported the liberation struggle in South Africa in various ways. Some of these countries also issued postage stamps to support the actions against apartheid and to commemorate Nelson Mandela as the leader of the struggle. From a philatelic point of view, this provides collectors with an interesting variety of stamps and labels from various countries linked to the history of South Africa that can be collected. This is also to support the idea that all African countries involved in the past in this regard will be invited to participate in the November 2021 International Philatelic Exhibition (IPEX) in Cape Town.

Introduction

The elimination of South Africa's system of legalised racial discrimination known as apartheid was on the agenda of the United Nations (UN) from its inception.

On 22 June 1946, the Indian Government requested that the discriminatory treatment of Indians in the Union of South Africa be included on the agenda of the very first session of the UN General Assembly.

This whole process of resistance started in South Africa with the Defiance Campaign in 1952. This campaign ostensibly sought the abolition of the 'five unjust laws' that embodied the Nationalist Party's apartheid programme. Although the campaign did not achieve the desired aim of overturning the apartheid laws, it was successful in several other respects. The resistance won UN recognition that the South African racial policy was an international issue, and a UN Commission was established to investigate the situation. These years were crucial as the Defiance Campaign saw the movement of the African National Congress (ANC) from moderation to militancy. During the campaign, the ANC began to receive funding from sympathizers in Britain, representing the first signal of international support for the liberation struggle (Fig.1). Not long after this, Ghana issued a set of stamps in 1959 to honour Africa Freedom Day (Fig.2).

Major Sipiwe Ngwenya is the former Chief Executive Officer of the Gauteng Tourism Authority, born in Gauteng's Temba township in the city of Tshwane, South Africa.

He is currently a serving member of the South African Air Force (SAAF) Reserve, and is working as special support and aide to former President Kgalema Motlanthe.

Sipiwe joined the ranks of the public service in 2006 where he became a special policy advisor to Gauteng MEC For Finance and Economic Affairs. He was later appointed Deputy Director General (DDG) in the same department where he was responsible for Business Regulation and Governance matters.

Sipiwe has obtained a number of qualifications including: Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of New England (UNE), Australia; BSc Honours Degree in Agricultural Economics and International Economics Specialisation, from the University of Pretoria; Wits Business School; Masters in Public and Development Management, and Masters in Development Finance from the University of Stellenbosch.

Since the commencement of his involvement with the arrangements for the Cape Town 2021 International Stamp Exhibition, Sipiwe has developed a keen interest in stamp collecting.



Fig.1: Complete booklet with the 1/- stamps to raise funds for the 'MILLION SHILLINGS FOR FREEDOM 1952' fund that started in support of the Defiance Campaign in 1952. An extremely rare booklet with stamps for this fund printed in 1952.

In the decades that followed, the world body would contribute to the global struggle against apartheid by drawing world attention to the inhumanity of the system, legitimizing popular resistance, promoting anti-apartheid actions by governmental and non-governmental organisations, instituting an arms embargo, supporting an oil embargo and boycotts of apartheid in many fields.

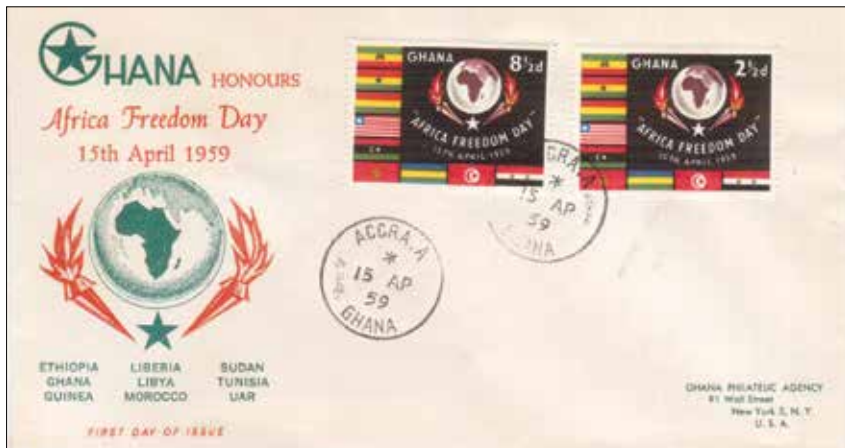


Fig.2: First Day Cover issued on 15 April 1959 by Ghana to honour Africa Freedom Day.

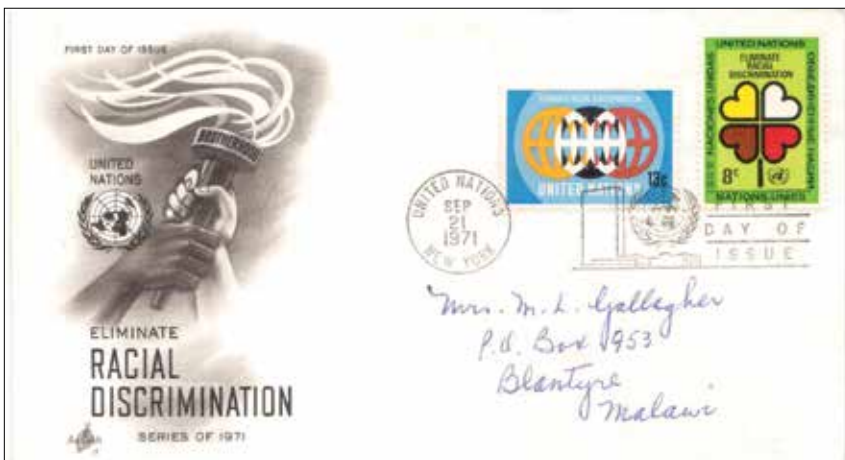


Fig.3: Stamps issued by the United Nations in 1971 with the theme: 'Eliminate Racial Discrimination'.



Fig.4: Stamps issued by Lesotho in 1971 aligned with the theme: 'Decade of action to combat racism'.

On 6 November 1962, the UN General Assembly passed Resolution 1761, condemning South African apartheid policies. On 7 August 1963 the UN Security Council passed Resolution 181 calling for a voluntary arms embargo against South Africa, and that same year, a Special Committee Against Apartheid was established to encourage and oversee plans of action against the regime. In 1966, the UN held the first of many meetings on apartheid. The General Assembly proclaimed 21 March as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in memory of the Sharpeville

bloodbath. In 1971, the UN General Assembly formally denounced the institution of 'Bantustans' in South Africa, also known as 'homelands' (Fig.3).

Countries such as Zambia, Tanzania and the Soviet Union provided military support for the ANC and the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC). It was complicated, though, for neighbouring states such as Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, because they were economically dependent on South Africa (Fig.4).

The aim of this article is to show a selection of postage stamps issued in support of the struggle against apartheid and to honour Nelson Mandela before 1994.

Zambia

In keeping with the philosophy of humanism as promulgated by President (Dr) Kenneth Kaunda and other nationalist leaders, Zambia opened its doors to several liberation movements from South Africa and elsewhere at enormous cost to the country's security and economy because of its geographical location.

It is against this background that liberation movements were welcomed in Zambia with open arms. For instance, the ANC had offices in the Liberation Centre which was established on Chilimbulu Road in Kamwala, Lusaka with the full support of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Liberation Committee.

There were also other liberation movements such as the PAC - Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) and the Non-European Unity Movement (NEUM), the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola - Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola (MPLA) and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola - União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) of Angola; the



Fig.5: Letter posted from Russia and addressed to Dr Oliver Tambo as President of the ANC in Lusaka, Zambia in June 1986.



Fig.6: Stamps issued in 1978 by Nigeria with the theme: 'Rioting in Soweto'.

Mozambique Liberation Front - Frente de Libertação de Moçambique (FRELIMO) of Mozambique; the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) of Namibia; the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) and the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU). Apart from Zambia, the international community had also shown commitment towards the liberation of other African countries that were still under the yoke of colonialism. All over the world, countries which were opposed to apartheid, colonialism and other forms of racial injustices in South Africa and other African countries had rendered their unwavering support towards the liberation struggle (Fig.5).

Nigeria

During South Africa's apartheid era, Nigeria was one of the foremost supporters of the Black South African liberation movements, including the ANC. The Nigerian government issued passports to South Africans involved in the struggle seeking to travel abroad. Nigeria also issued a set of stamps in 1981 supporting the Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM) (Figs.6-7).

The role of Tanzania in fostering African Liberation movements

Following the Sharpeville Massacre on 21 March 1960, Frene Ginwala went to Tanzania to establish an office in Dar es-Salaam. While there, she worked as a journalist and received ANC members in exile as they came into the country. The Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College (SOMAFCO) was also established in Mazimbu in Morogoro, Tanzania for South African children in exile. Tanzania also issued a set of 'Anti-Apartheid' stamps in 1978.

Tanzania's support for liberation movements went well beyond rhetoric encouraging African unity and solidarity. The country offered itself as a base for those fighting for liberation, hosting the forces of organisations including the ANC and the PAC from South Africa, Mozambique's FRELIMO, Angola's MPLA, ZANU and ZAPU from Zimbabwe, and SWAPO from Namibia.

These movements benefitted from the safety and stability of the country and the experience and guidance of those who had already achieved independence. Tanzania also welcomed and housed large numbers



Fig.7: Stamps issued by Nigeria regarding the apartheid policies with the theme: 'Police Brutality'.



Fig.8: Set of four stamps issued by Tanzania in 1978 to support the International Anti-Apartheid year. The designs on all the stamps depict apartheid brutality in one form or another.

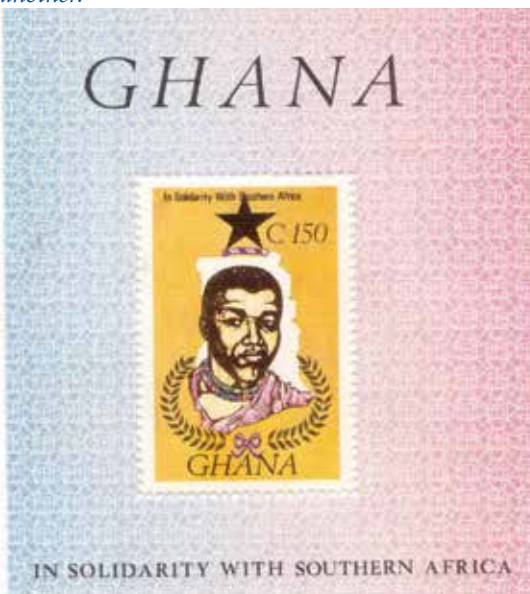


Fig.9: Miniature sheet issued by Ghana to honour Nelson Mandela.

of refugees from liberation struggles across Southern Africa, providing an escape for those endangered by war or colonial oppression.

To underscore this commitment of being at the forefront of the struggle against apartheid, the Tanzanian Posts and Telecommunications

Corporation (TPTC) issued a set of four symbolic stamps decrying the apartheid system (Fig.8).

Ghana

Ghana has always been at the forefront of this struggle for the liberation of Africa. Starting from the fight for the abolition of

the slave trade, for human rights and advocacy for self-government and democracy, Ghana's first Prime Minister and President Kwame Nkrumah's insatiable desire for African unity and the liberation struggle saw him condemn in no uncertain terms the Sharpeville shootings and the whole question of apartheid in South Africa. At the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference held in London in May 1960, Nkrumah damned the hypocrisy of the Commonwealth on the apartheid government of South Africa by saying "Today the lives of thirteen million human beings in South Africa are at stake" (Fig.9).

Kenya

South Africa's apartheid regime maintained cordial relations with Kenya, although Kenya was one of Africa's leading pro-Western governments. These relations were not

publicised and did not go beyond trade until 1990. For many years, Kenya's Government failed to exert enough pressure in various international forums against the South African regime over its apartheid policy.

While Kenya supported OAU resolutions which prohibited any kind of interaction with South Africa, prominent Government officials still continued to act in a way which compromised its position. It is suggested that Kenya relied heavily on European partners for trade,

and in doing so it could not fully comply with the OAU's resolutions. [3]

Others claim that Kenya's principle of 'non-interference' limited Kenya from playing a more robust role in South Africa's liberation struggle (Figs.10-11).



Fig.10: Kenya stamps in solidarity with the Anti-Apartheid year issued on 11 December 1972.

Uganda

Uganda played a crucial role in the South African liberation struggle, allowing liberation fighters to establish themselves in the country towards the end of apartheid. The ANC set up military training camps in Uganda from late in 1989 to prepare for the transition to the democratic dispensation. Thousands of uMkhonto We Sizwe (MK) soldiers trained mainly in guerrilla warfare, and recruits were instructed in conventional army methods and techniques. The training aimed to prepare participants for a role in the new army, integrating soldiers from the liberation movement and the then South African Defence Force (SADF). Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni not only allowed the opening of the camps but provided instructors to assist with the training (Fig.12).



Fig.11: Stamp issued by Kenya to honour Nelson Mandela in 1978.

Angola

The ANC established its first military training camp in Angola in 1976 amid a deluge of young people leaving South Africa in the aftermath of the 16 June Uprising and its concomitant clampdown. Angola had been independent of Portuguese colonialism since 11 November 1975 and provided a natural home for South African exiles. MPLA, which assumed power in the country, and the ANC were both a part of the 'Khartoum Alliance'. The parties forged the pact at the first International Conference of Solidarity with the fighting People of Southern Africa and the Portuguese Colonies in Khartoum, Sudan, held from 18 to 20 January 1969.

Zimbabwe's ZAPU, Namibia's SWAPO, and the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC) were the other parties in the alliance. Further, the MPLA and the ANC shared a main backer in the Soviet Union.

The ANC set up its first military training facility in Angola - Gabela Camp, followed by several others including Funda, Engineering, Nova Katengue and Quatro (Fig.13).

The role of some countries outside of Africa: Soviet Union and East Germany

Soviet Union

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), was arguably the biggest supporter of the South African liberation struggle, and in particular, the ANC and the South African Communist Party (SACP). Following the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, the country committed to supporting the national liberation struggles around the world. The SACP, then known as the Communist Party of South Africa (CPSA), had relations with Moscow from inception in 1921, mainly through its joining the Communist International

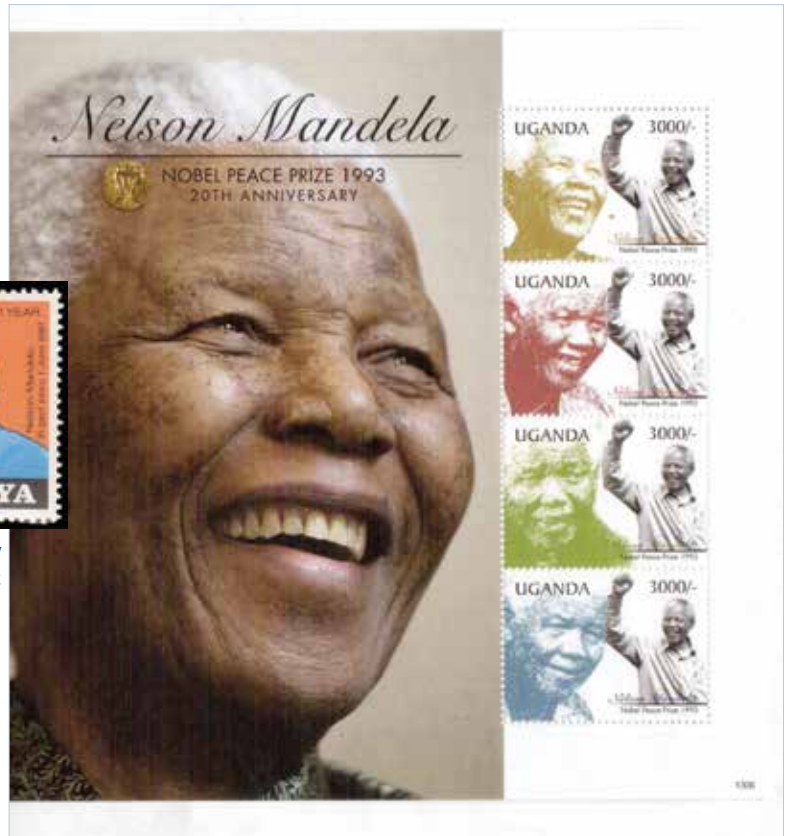


Fig.12: Set of stamps issued by Uganda to celebrate the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Nelson Mandela in 1993.



Fig.13: Angolan stamp used on a cover with an anti-apartheid theme in 1981 with the words: 'Luta Contra o Apartheid' indicating the Angolan government's sympathy for the struggle against apartheid.

(Comintern) headed by the Soviet Union's leader, Vladimir Ilyich Lenin. The Comintern had as its primary objective the fomenting of a world socialist revolution. The USSR's move to establish relations with the ANC began in 1927 when the organisation's then-president, Josiah

Tshangana Gumedde visited Moscow. However, practical and political support for the South African liberation struggle only materialised after a delegation of the SACP that included Moses Kotane and Yusuf Dadoo went to the Soviet capital in the early 1960s. The ANC Deputy President Oliver Tambo followed in April 1963 to further strengthen the cooperation between the country and the Congress Alliance of which both the ANC and the SACP were members. Moscow then became one of the most ardent political, diplomatic, financial and military supporters of the ANC and SACP until the country attained liberation in the early 1990s.

The Soviet Union's institutions trained 1,501 combatants from the ANC's military wing, MK, between 1963 to 1991. The cooperation extended to humanitarian assistance, which included food, clothes, stationery, building materials and other goods. The USSR further provided direct financial aid to the liberation movement amounting to millions of Rands and opened its doors to South African students to study (Fig.14).

German Democratic Republic

It is a historical fact, that East Germany, known officially as the German Democratic Republic (GDR) had at all time supported the international struggle against racism and apartheid, and worked constructively to implement this and all other fundamental principles and tasks outlined by the United Nations. The basis of relations between the GDR and the ANC and the SACP were common ideological and political values.

The cooperation between the ANC and the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (German: *Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands*, - SED) included features such as solidarity with political prisoners, material assistance and support for propaganda and the armed struggle (Fig.15). From the viewpoint of Marxist-Leninist ideology and revolutionary theory, the political leadership of the GDR perceived South Africa as the country with the greatest 'revolutionary potential' in sub-Saharan Africa, partly because of its developed class structure.

The Africa Fund

The Africa Fund was founded in 1966 by the American Committee on Africa (ACOA), and supported liberation movements' health and educational projects. It also supported the South African Council of Churches (SACC) to aid political prisoners and their families. It researched American corporations and their ties with South Africa (Fig.16).



Fig.14: Stamps issued by the USSR to honour Nelson Mandela on his 70th birthday in 1988.



Sources:

- SADET, *The Road to Democracy in South Africa*, Volume 1 (1960-1970), International Solidarity, Part 1, Zebra Press, Cape Town, 2004.
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- All illustrated items are part of the Kamffer-collection: *The Road to Democracy in South Africa up to 1994*.

Fig.15: Stamps on a cover (partly illustrated) posted from the Deutsche Demokratische Republik (DDR) of East Germany on 17 July 1987 to Johannesburg franked with stamps showing solidarity with the freedom struggle.



Fig.16: Cover posted from India on 29 December 1987 to the Department of Information in Pretoria bearing a stamp commemorating the Africa Fund and with the inscription: 'Action for resisting invasion, colonia' in the postmark.

Conclusion

The issuing of this type of stamp served as a visual expressions of resistance against apartheid, and goes hand-in-hand with resistance art in South Africa which started in the 1960s after the Sharpeville massacre. The reverberations of the political clampdown which followed were also felt in the world of visual art. Many resistance artists were indeed imprisoned, and some left the country to continue their work in exile. These stamps represent an interesting aspect of South Africa's painful history.



NEW SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP ISSUES - 2020 - part III

by Robin Messenger, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

First Day Covers (sic) of the following five stamp issues of the 2019 programme are now available from Philatelic Services.

9 October 2019 - SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY (SASSA)

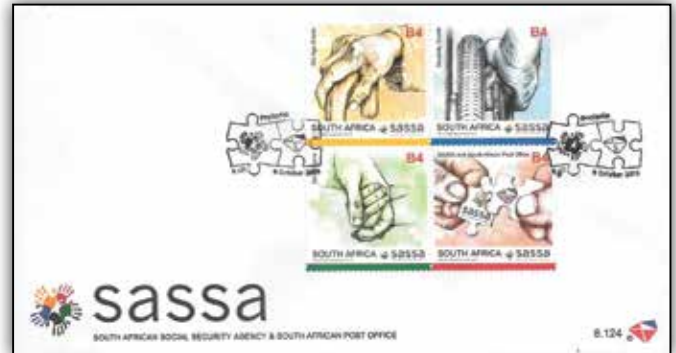
First Day Cover: No. 8.124 of standard size (190 x 101mm) of which 1,000 were produced. (seen at right)

Canceller: No. 8.122 - 'PRETORIA' / '9 October 2019'.

15 January 2020 - STARS AND CONSTELLATIONS OF THE SOUTHERN SKIES

First Day Cover: No. 8.128 and 8.129 of standard size of which 1,000 of each were produced.

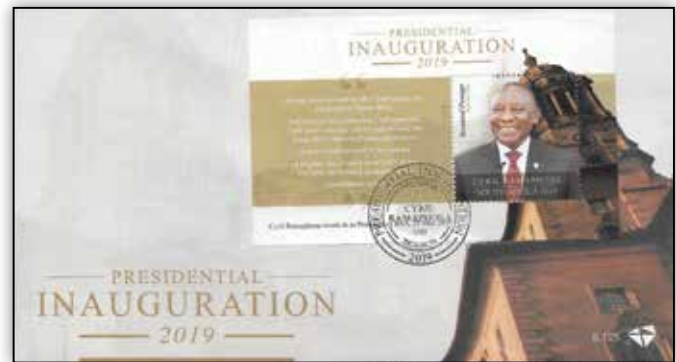
Canceller: No. 8.124 - 'RONDEBOSCH' / '15 January 2020'.



31 January 2020 - PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION 2019

First Day Cover: No. 8.125 of standard size of which 1,000 were produced.

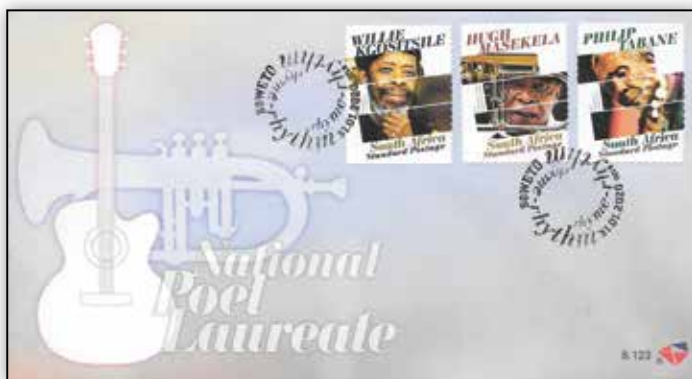
Canceller: No. 8.123 - 'PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION' / 'PRETORIA' / 'CYRIL RAMAPHOSA' / 'of RSA. 25 May 2019' / '2020.01.31' / '2019'.



31 January 2020 - POETS OF WORD AND SOUND - Commemorating Willie Kgositsile (poet), Hugh Masekela (trumpeter) and Philip Tabane (guitarist)

First Day Cover: No. 8.123 of standard size of which 1,000 were produced.

Canceller: No. 8.120 - 'SOWETO' / '31.01.2020'.



12 March 2020 - SA BIRDS SERIES: WOODPECKERS

First Day Cover: No. 8.122 of standard size of which 1,000 were produced.

Canceller: No. 8.119 - 'KNYSNA' / '12.03.2020'.

(The images of the FDCs shown here, have been reduced. The actual size is 190 x 101mm)



Botswana 1966 Independence Overprints - the 7½c Colour Error

by Lawrence Barit, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

When the Bechuanaland Protectorate in Southern Africa achieved Independence from Great Britain on 30 September 1966, that territory now named Botswana issued a set of four stamps to commemorate the event. At the same time, the territory's definitive series of stamps printed by Harrison and Sons Ltd in Great Britain, as shown on the printer's publicity issue sheet in Fig.1, were overprinted with 'REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA', presumably by Harrison's, for use until a new definitive series of stamps became available. First Day Covers with the overprinted stamps, all cancelled '30 IX A66', were prepared by the Mafeking and Bechuanalands Philatelic Society (and by others without the illustrations) to commemorate the event as shown in Fig.2.

After the issue of the FDCs with the stamps overprinted with 'REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA' it was noticed that on a small number of the 7½c stamps used, the background colour was yellow rather than the apple-green colour as originally issued,



Fig.2: Botswana Overprint First day cover with yellow 7½c.

Fig.3: (on the left) Botswana Overprint 7½c Apple-green background.



Fig.4: (at right) Botswana Overprint 7½c Yellow background.



Fig.1: Harrison and Sons Ltd, Presentation Sheet (Image reduced).

as illustrated more clearly in Figs.3 and 4. This 'error of colour' was noted in the Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue, *Commonwealth and British Empire Stamps 1840 – 1970* (2017 Edition), at p.108 which states: "(The stamp) shows a background in yellow instead of apple green and may have come from a trial printing. Almost all known examples come from First Day Covers, but eight unused examples have also been reported."

The question is, how did this error, which is not part of the overprinting process, and has not been reported with respect to the original 1961 set, occur? To balance quantities of stamps for overprinting purposes, Harrison's made a reprint of the 3½c duty, which showed a marginal shade difference of "flesh" instead of 'pink' (SG209a) and presumably applied the 'REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA' overprint. Possibly at Harrison's there were also some of the original trial sheets of the 7½c stamps with a yellow background which were included in the overprints and sent out to the territory, but we will probably never know for certain. It however makes for an interesting philatelic study of this issue.



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FRASER'S WAR

by Andrew Briscoe, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society



The illustrated cover front, addressed to T. Oliver Fraser, the Press Censor at Durban, presents a satirical depiction of the work of a Press Censor during the Second Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902: a masked executioner prepares to behead a fountain pen.

Although we do not know who authored this cartoon, press censors were invariably ridiculed by the war correspondents. Lady Elizabeth Briggs described their challenges in the following terms: *"The correspondents have their papers to serve, and they wish to pass messages through that the press censor, for military reasons, cannot sanction. I am convinced there is no position so difficult to fill on active service as that of press censor. In censoring the war correspondents' telegrams which they submit to him for transmission, he has to consider how far the information would be useful to the enemy when telegraphed back to Boer sympathisers in the course of a few days, and to what detrimental effect it could be employed against the British forces Having arrived at a decision as to what should be eliminated, he has to run with no unsparing hand the well-known and thoroughly hated blue lines through the objectionable paragraphs, which not infrequently includes the whole message."*

T. Oliver Fraser served as the Press Censor in Durban for two years, from the beginning of the war until October 1901. He had a civil service background, having previously worked at the Colonial Office in Pretoria and the Foreign Office in Lourenço Marques. Upon his appointment as Press Censor, Fraser joined the Department of Intelligence with the rank of Captain.

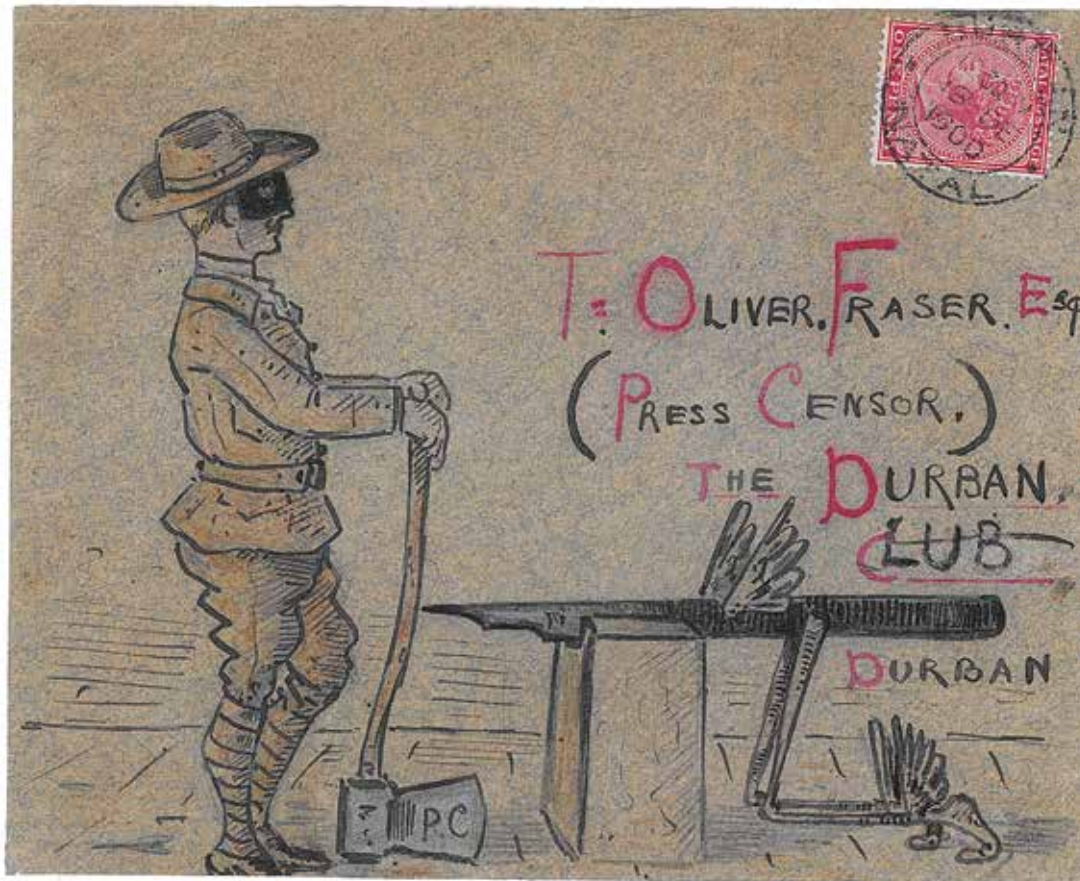
Fraser's general instructions defined his role: *"Prevent any information reaching the enemy which might be of use to him, stop anything passing along the wires which might reveal military operations, especially as to the movements of troops, report at once anything which might be of service to the Intelligence Department, and refer to the General of Communications any matter on which advice is required. Also to inform the local press at Durban that nothing referring to military matters is to be published without reference to the Censor"*. Fraser was not only responsible for censoring newspapers and other publications. Cables, letters and telegrams also had to be scrutinised.

The Censoring of Letters

Fraser's team of letter censors initially comprised six people deployed in the Durban Post Office to read and censor a mountain of correspondence. By January 1900, long delays in processing the mail had accumulated, and the Cape

Colony authorities complained loudly. An inspection by the military revealed that some 11,000 letters addressed to the Cape as well as seven bags of Dutch letters offloaded at the port destined for Transvaal were waiting to be censored. Fraser estimated that his six assistants would take five weeks to clear the backlog. The team was then supplemented by a further ten members, and the backlog was gradually cleared.

There were frequent complaints that some of the assistant censors were ill-suited for the task. Many were convalescent army officers recently discharged from hospital who served temporarily whilst they became fit enough to be returned to the front. Fraser himself argued that the work required suitably trained persons, appointed on a permanent basis: people who knew how business operated, and were conversant with foreign languages. Letters to and from the Transvaal, the Orange



Free State and Lourenço Marques, as well as those relating to foreign countries were closely scrutinised. After examination, so far as possible, those letters that were passed were carefully resealed and traces of interference were removed before forwarding them to the addressee. Letters deemed unsuitable were retained, or occasionally returned to the sender.

The Commandant at Durban was Sir Percy Scott, who arrived in the port on *HMS Terrible*. In his autobiography, Scott summarised Fraser's role as follows:

"Captain Fraser looked after the Press and opened all the letters, from which we derived a great deal of information."

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Some we re-posted, some we kept, and those I sent to the Governor, Sir Walter Hely-Hutchinson, who was making a collection of them. The language in some of them was shocking, especially those from ladies. One lady writing from Pretoria to a friend, said that the British prisoners taken outside Ladysmith had just come in, and explained what she would like to do with them."

A contemporary reference to Fraser's work is to be found in *The Commission of HMS Terrible* by George Crowe:

"The Commandant, in conjunction with Mr Fraser (the official censor) had to deal with the examination of letters, and suspicious or irregular telegrams, detained under martial law procedure. When one is aware of the number of fabulous accounts which have emanated from pens propelled at the will of imaginative brains, has read the unjust - and often malicious - criticisms and accusations glibly directed against men and matters which are intended for dissemination among a credulous public, and knows the means employed to furnish the enemy with desirable information, the much traduced censorship is seen to be an indispensable institution in war time."

In October 1901, Fraser was replaced as Chief Censor in Durban by a military officer, Major Gardiner.

Acknowledgements

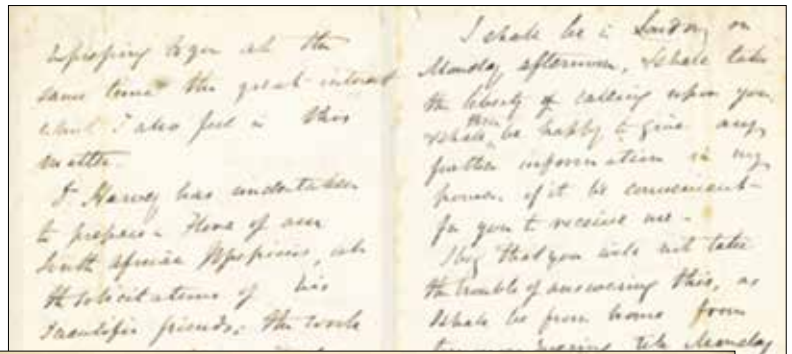
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Minor European aristocracy, oranges and peaches, missionaries and a breed of dog – two postal stationery cards by Sean Burke, Rhodesian PS



I am, with Paul Peggie from Australia and Patrick Flanagan from South Africa, in the midst of writing another book on the postal history of the Paris Missionary Society in Barotseland (now north-western Zambia) from 1885 until 1924. I have, in *The SA Philatelist*, written before of some of the stories that come out of this exercise. Here is another: shown here are an interesting couple of postal stationery cards (Figs.1,2,3,4); not so much for their contents, but rather due to the people concerned.

Both cards, one from 1910 and the other in 1913, are from Mrs Elizabeth Helm, wife of the Reverend Charles Helm at the Hope Fountain Mission near Bulawayo. They are written to Mme Nina Jalla, the wife of the Rev Louis Jalla at the Paris Missionary Society station at Livingstone. Both cards concern sending fruit via the train from Mrs Helm to Mme Jalla.



Figs.3&4, 1913: Have sent a small bag of oranges (40lbs) to station hope they will arrive safely. Only fit for preserve. No good for eating...

Feb. 12. Sorry to find them in
I sent some peaches for
stewing or preserving; we
tried to get the hardest
we could, as I hope they
will not all be eaten
before reaching you. I
preserve them whole, only
but they must be kept
a long time else we
keep, must look good
red before done. Those
we cut up keep better.
I am writing this in
great hurry as my
hand is just leaving
Bulawayo and waiting
station for the Sunday.
We send two bags one
plumces and a small
bag of peaches. - When shall
we make your acquaintance
Yours sincerely
E. Helm



Fig.5: Elizabeth and Charles Helm

Note that the first card is addressed to Victoria Falls and the second to Livingstone. The Paris Missionary Society station was at Livingstone. Jalla used to complain that mail addressed to them at the Victoria Falls took an extra day to arrive!



Fig.6: Nina and Louis Jalla

Figs.1&2: 1910: I sent some peaches for stewing or preserving; we tried to get the hardest we could.... When shall we make your acquaintance.

AIRGRAPHS BETWEEN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

by Jim Findlay RDPSA, Philatelic Society of Johannesburg



The article 'An Airgraph from Bulawayo' by Andrew Briscoe in the June 2020 issue of *The South African Philatelist* stimulated me to search in my collection for my historical airgraphs.

As stated in Andrew's article, airgraphs were brought in to being to reduce postal mass and speed up delivery. The size and design was standard with minor variations.

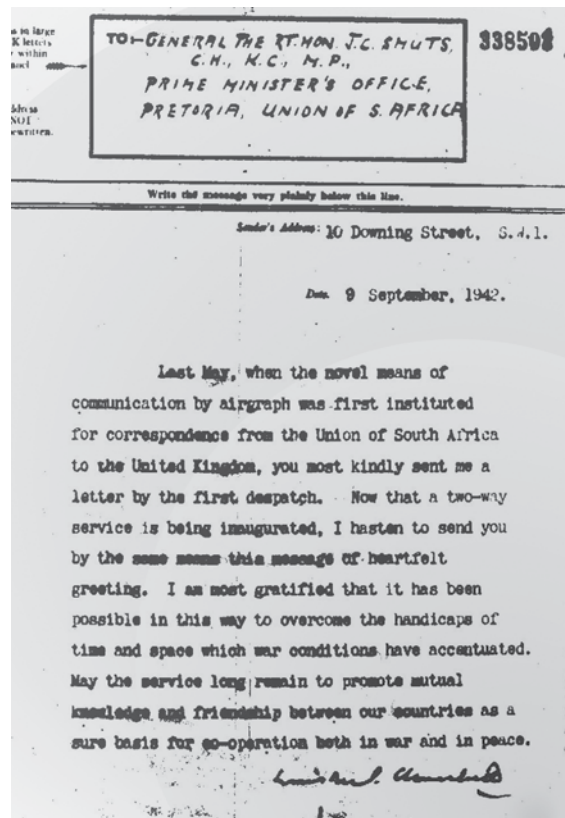
The first airgraph, Number 01, from the Union of South Africa to the United Kingdom was sent by the South African Prime Minister, Field Marshall Jan Smuts, to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, The Right Honourable Winston Churchill on 1 May 1942. (The airgraph number, '01' is in the top right corner and is not visible in this scan).

come, this airgraph service will be another medium to bring about understanding and goodwill between the people.

Ever yours sincerely

Signed: J.C. Smuts PM"

The first airgraph dispatch from the United Kingdom to South Africa took place on 11 September 1942. Winston Churchill reciprocated and sent the first airgraph from the United Kingdom (No. 338501) to Field Marshall Jan Smuts as Prime Minister of the Union.



The transcript of the airgraph is:

"THE RT. HON. WINSTON CHURCHILL,
10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON W1
ENGLAND

Sender's Address: Prime Minister's Office Pretoria 1 May 1942

My Dear Prime Minister,

I write to you today to inaugurate the Airgraph service between South Africa and the United Kingdom. This service I consider to be one of the boons brought about by war conditions. To overcome the restrictions in transport this technical achievement has been perfected, and my congratulations go to the technicians and administrators who have made possible this new and valuable service.

I know it will bring happiness to many families at present divided by war, and I hope that, in the happier days to

The transcript of the airgraph is:

"To: GENERAL THE RT. on HON. J.C. SMUTS C.H. K.C. M.P.
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE,
PRETORIA, UNION OF S. AFRICA.

Sender's Address: 10 Downing Street, S.W. 1

Date: 9 September, 1942.

Last May, when the novel means of communication by airgraph was first instituted for correspondence from the Union of South Africa to the United Kingdom, you most kindly sent me a letter by the first despatch. Now that a two-way service is being inaugurated, I hasten to send you by the same means this message of heartfelt greeting. I am most gratified that it has been possible in this way to overcome the handicaps of time and space which war conditions have accentuated. May the service long remain to promote mutual knowledge and friendship between our countries as a sure basis for co-operation both in war and peace.

Signed: Winston Churchill"

There is no doubt that Jan Smuts and Winston Churchill were formidable leaders and part of their success was their mutual respect for each other. These airgraphs illustrate their friendship as well as their acknowledgement of the airgraph technology. [🔗](#)

Censorship of Diplomatic Mail

by Andrew Briscoe, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society



Confidentiality and secrecy have long been regarded as integral to diplomatic relations. The use of sealed diplomatic bags, couriers and coded messages are some of the ways that nations have employed to protect communications from acts of espionage or disclosure in the media. Today, diplomatic mail has absolute inviolability (by virtue of the Vienna Convention of 1961), but at the time of the Anglo-Boer War, there was no treaty regarding the confidentiality of diplomatic communications, merely an understanding that "gentlemen do not read each other's mail".

The American Mission in Pretoria

At the outbreak of the war, in October 1899, Charles E. McCrum was the American consul in Pretoria. When he discovered that his mail was being opened by British censors, he formally requested, and was granted, leave from office. Upon his return to the United States, McCrum issued a statement detailing the reasons for his decision "It was over four weeks from the time the war opened before I received a single mail despatch from my government or a personal letter. The mail for the Transvaal had all been stopped at Cape Town by order of the High Commissioner. When this mail was finally forwarded to me after Colonel Stowe, the Consul General at Cape Town, had secured its release, I had the humiliation, as the representative of the American Government, of sitting in my office in Pretoria and looking upon envelopes bearing the seal of the American Government, opened and officially sealed with stickers, notifying me that the contents had been read by the censor at Durban when I accepted my post as consul I knew nothing of any secret alliance between America and Great Britain that my mail was to be opened."

Britain then reduced the potential for further tension by instructing that letters to or from U.S. consuls were not to be opened or detained. The date on which these instructions were issued is not clear, but Fig.1 illustrates a cover with a censor cachet dated 14 February 1900 from the U.S. Consulate General in Cape Town addressed to the Deputy Assistant Adjutant General, Castle Barracks, for a Boer prisoner of war held on the prison ship *HMS Manilla*.

Early in the conflict, Britain requested the U.S.A to represent her interests with the Boer Republics. The consent of the Boers for this arrangement was not sought, and the Boers initially refused to recognise the arrangement. This stance was changed in February 1900, when the Boers permitted the U.S. consuls in their territory to perform certain specific and limited functions with respect to British prisoners of war, upon the understanding that U.S. consuls in Britain would be permitted to perform similar functions with regard to Boer prisoners held in Britain.

On 2 March 1900, the following regulation was accordingly issued for the guidance of censors in Natal: "Letters for Prisoners of War in the O.F.S. and Transvaal will be forwarded to C.I. Department, Maritzburg who, after examining them, will make them up into packets addressed to the American Consul at Pretoria, and submit the packets to the Postmaster General to be franked."

Figure 2 illustrates a cover from Pietermaritzburg dated 28 March addressed to Lieutenant Colonel Hunt, Royal Artillery, a British prisoner at Pretoria. The cover is endorsed "To Press Censor per American Consul, R.H. Martin, Comdt P.M. Burg.", and bears censor cachets of both the British and Boer censors, as well as the violet oval handstamp of the Consulate of the U.S.A. to the S.A.R. at Pretoria. Hunt was the most senior British officer held in Pretoria, who had been wounded and captured at Colenso on 15 December, 1899.

Diplomatic Mail of Other Countries

In late November 1899, some six weeks after the outbreak of hostilities, a clerk at the Durban post office, by mistake, opened ten letters addressed to the German consuls in the Transvaal. The errant clerk was removed, and the letters were forwarded to the German consul in Lourenço Marques, with an apology. A formal complaint was made by the German consul, which led to a revision of the relevant procedures.

A set of instructions was issued on 4 December 1899. These instructions provided for the examination of all letters contained in sealed bags, except for those of the United States. Diplomatic letters were, if necessary, to be examined

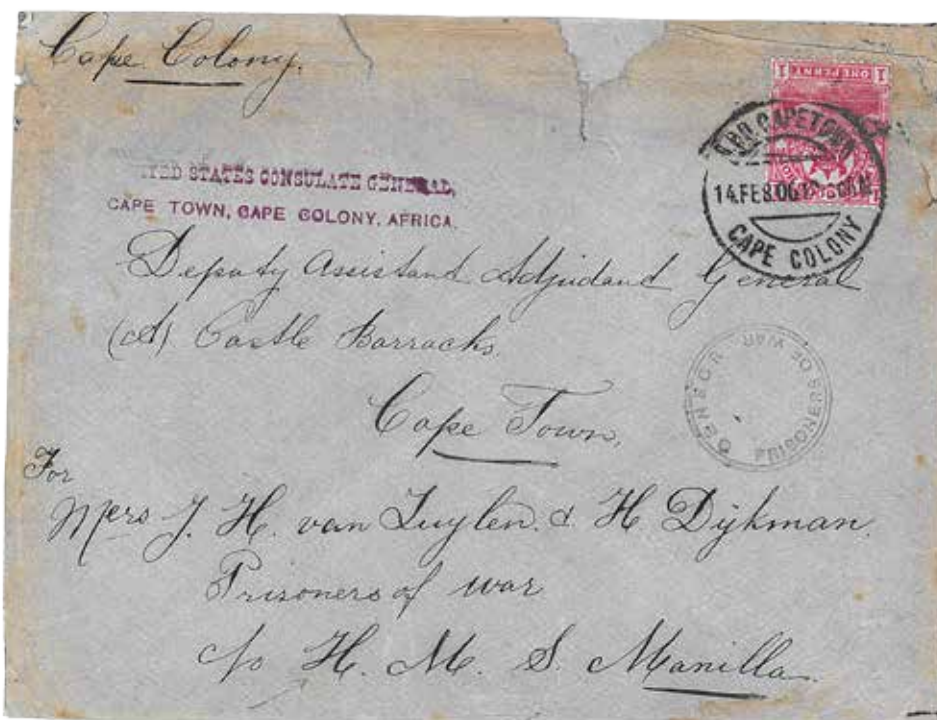


Fig.1: Censored cover from the U.S. Consulate General to a Boer POW held on HMS Manilla.



Fig.2: From Pietermaritzburg to a British POW held in Pretoria

by experts and afterwards 'forwarded with as little indication as possible of their having been treated'. This procedure applied not only to inter-consular mail, but also to letters between consuls and private individuals.

On 3 January 1900, the German consul in Cape Town complained to the Colonial Secretary, this time regarding the delay in delivering to him a letter dated 13 December 1899 which had been posted in Durban. The consul not only complained about the delay but also indicated his intention to report the matter to the German Government. This complaint and threat was relayed to the Post Master General for Natal, W.G. Hamilton, who asked the military censor for an explanation.

The military censor explained that under Martial Law, he was obliged to examine the letter in question, which must have been delayed over the festive season. In order to reduce the likelihood of further such complaints, the Post Master General suggested that when letters to consuls were received at the Post Office, they should receive no date stamp before being forwarded for censoring to Pietermaritzburg. By this means, consuls and their correspondents would be unaware of how long such letters were kept. Whether this suggestion was implemented is not clear. Soon afterwards, the Netherland consul in Durban complained that 'The flaps of the envelopes show most distinctly that they had been opened by a steaming process, and subsequently reclosed. Although I fully understand that under the existing circumstances, the public has to bear certain inconveniences, I must certainly complain of

letters being opened and closed again, except in any other manner, as is generally adopted by administrations in civilised countries ... as a neutral country which lives in peace and friendship with Great Britain, I might expect my official letters would be kept unviolated, but in the state same lately arrive – as above described – I think I am entitled to ask you to kindly make strong investigations and let me know the result.'

A formal set of Rules for the Censorship of Correspondence in Natal was issued on 2 March 1900. Amongst other things, these Rules provided that "Correspondence between Foreign Governments and their Consuls, whether residing in Her Majesty's possessions or the Republics or in Delagoa



Fig 3. From the Italian Consulate with Pretoria censor cachet



Fig. 4 From the Acting Consul for France with Johannesburg censor cachet

Bay, is not to be opened.... [Other] consular correspondence should, if examined, be examined by experts, and be forwarded with as little indication as possible of having been so treated Consular correspondence thus examined may, after examination, be forwarded, returned to sender, or suppressed, as considered advisable by the censors." These Rules were undoubtedly welcomed by the Postmaster General, since the blame for delay or other relevant inefficiencies would henceforward clearly lie at the doors of the military censors rather than those of the Post Offices.

The new set of Rules differed little from existing custom and practice. Complaints and recriminations continued unabated, and the Governor of Natal, Sir Walter Hely-Hutchinson came to the view that *'the inconvenience and friction caused by the practice are greater than any other advantage derived therefrom.'* General Wolfe-Murray on behalf of Military Intelligence agreed: the practice was *'not worth the candle.'* In June 1900, the Governor recommended to the British government that the censorship of consular mail be discontinued. He suggested also that the governments of the relevant countries should not be informed about the discontinuance of the practice. By this means, their belief that consular mail was still being opened would deter them from using such letters as *'a safe channel of communication with enemy.'* Hely-Hutchinson's recommendation was accepted, and complaints of tampering with consular mail abated.

Figures 3 and 4 illustrate consular mail that bear censor cachets, although it is likely that the cachets simply signify that the covers passed through the censor's hands, not that they had been opened. Figure 4 is especially interesting because it was posted on 1 June, 1902, the day after peace was signed and the war came to an end. The cover also bears the only recorded example of this particular Pretoria censor cachet.

Acknowledgements

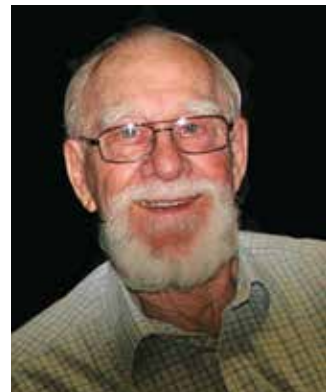
- Stroud, R., 1989, *The Impact of the Anglo-Boer War on Consular Communications*, Anglo-Boer War Philatelist, Vol 32, No 1.
- Wassermann, Johan, *Controlling Intelligence by Means of Censorship* published in *A Warrior's Gateway*, Durban and the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902, Protea Book House, Pretoria, 2002.

OBITUARIES

Dr Edwin Johannes Pretorius 'Dr. Eddie'

07.09.1932 – 08.08.2020

Dr. Eddie grew up in Pretoria and after finishing his schooling, he studied to become a medical doctor - a profession he actively practised until the end. His interest in stamps started at an early age and his enthusiasm for philately was visible through all the years of his life. His philatelic interests covered a wide variety of topics. He was a member of the Sasolburg Philatelic Society (Oilfilat) for ± 38 years; as Vice Chairperson for many years and as Chairperson since 2000.



Dr. Eddie was a strong supporter of joint exhibitions with the East Rand Philatelic Society and exhibited yearly at the October Sasolburg/ERPS annual exhibition. His exhibit on the history of the Sasolburg club was always an item of great interest. In 2001 the club awarded him with a certificate for Service to Philately. He also exhibited several times at the National Exhibition, these included exhibits on RIP (Mourning Stamps) and Vatican City, gaining a Large Silver for the former project.

With the passing of Dr. Eddie on 08 August 2020 South African Philately lost a special philatelist and friend. Our sincere condolences to his daughters, sons-in-law as well as his grandchildren and other family and friends.

P.E. Sasolburg

Andrew Bernard Byron Kriegler 'Andy'

19.01.1943 – 08.08.2020



"He was a unassuming man, and never sought the limelight. He was my friend as well as my husband, I will miss him greatly." These heartfelt words are how Andy's wife, Emma describes the late Andy Kriegler.

Andrew's father died young and in service during WWII. He was schooled in Aliwal North Primary and later Wynberg Boys High where he played in the school band and was a very good left arm spinner cricket player - always a keen sportsman, he later played soccer and golf.



The South African Virtual Philatelic Exhibition 2021

This One-Frame Virtual Exhibition, which will take place under the auspices of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa in 2021. **Entries close: 31 March 2021** Entries need to be scanned and uploaded to the Jury Chairperson by 30 April 2021. Judging will take place in June 2021 and the results will be posted on the Federation website <https://www.sapa.africa> in July 2021. For more information: (IREX) and entry forms, contact: Joof van der Merwe <jnc1@vodamail.co.za> or Emil Minnaar <emil@minnaar.org> or visit the Federation website <https://www.sapa.africa>

School was followed by the army where he was part of the Cape Town Rifles regiment. Andy then went into banking and later became an investment advisor.

Andy and Emma married in their early 20s and enjoyed each others company for almost 60 years.

As a collector of stamps from age 9, when he relocated to Johannesburg, he became member of various societies. He only collected the best quality and not quantity and also dealt in the best. Andy won many awards for his German South West Africa collections: from 1986, Silver for GSWA and at the International JHB 100, The J H Harvey Pirie Award for the same GSWA, Otgimbingue 100 Silver, 1988 again Harvey Pirie 1990, GSWA Silver Gilt for postal history and postmarks of GWSA. In Benoni 1994 Vermeil Postal History GSWA. JOPEX Court of Honour. People remember him for his gentlemanly conduct, his honesty in dealing, sense of humour, and the advice he freely gave. He served on the SAPDA committee and as a jury member. As a dealer he made many friends abroad. He will be missed and remembered as a loving husband and father, to three sons and six grand children.

May he rest in peace.

Emma Kriegler 

Otto Peetoom


R.I.P 11 July 2020

Otto Peetoom was educated at Helpmekaar Boys High School in Johannesburg before becoming a Sea Cadet in 1964 and later a Safmarine Cadet. He joined the British Merchant Navy in 1971, eventually getting his Masters Certificate in 1974. After several years at sea as a Captain he retired to open a stamp shop in Ormskirk, Lancashire in 1979.

Philately obviously suited him as by 1983 Otto had sold the shop and established a mail order business specialising in South and Central Africa. Travelling extensively throughout Britain, he and his wife Gillian were regular attendees at all major stamp fairs. The reputation gained was as a knowledgeable, fair but tough dealer, not given to offering discounts. He was prodigious author on south and central African philately with an annual output often running to 200 pages or more. He started and edited *The Rhodesian Philatelist* in 1993, was editor for a while of *The Runner Post*, the journal of the Bechuanaland and Botswana Society, and later co-founded his own journal *South African Philately*.

Not content with hard copy, Otto embraced the internet and promoted philately and collecting on several websites, eventually establishing his own in 2015. He was a stalwart of the South African Collectors Society, publishing regularly in their journal, *The Springbok* and presenting professional standard displays at their conferences. His efforts in the promotion of philately were recognised by the Philatelic Federation of South Africa in 2016 at their 78th Congress with the prestigious Manfred Weinstein Memorial Award. The citation recorded "his huge role in the development of the current interest in Southern African Philately", at the PFSA's 78th Congress at Bedfordview in October 2016.

As a person Otto was often difficult, abrasive and always opinionated. He did not tolerate fools gladly and was frequently in dispute and conflict with his colleagues. Confrontations were not prolonged as he was a man of action and preferred to roll up his sleeves and get things done rather than argue needlessly. Otto was a character and his passing leaves the philatelic world poorer; he will be remembered for his hard work for, and dedication, to philately.

Supplied by South African Philately Club (edited) 



YOUR CHANCE TO VISIT CAPE TOWN!

This event is rescheduled for 9 to 13 November 2021. Participate in the 2,000 frame International Philatelic Exhibition (IPEX), Cape Town in November 2021.

See Gerhard Kamffer's International award-winning exhibit 'The Road to Democracy' featuring letters written by former SA President Nelson Mandela from Robben Island

For more information please visit: capetown2021.org



Letters to Sir Rowland Hill

by Dr Rob McLennan-Smith, Highway Philatelic Society

In this series of articles, I will be detailing letters written by famous Victorians to Sir Rowland Hill, who reformed the British postal system in the 1840s and invented the adhesive postage stamp, and include any relevant philatelic material : the '1st' of these appeared in the August 2020 issue (Vol 96 : 3 Whole No 961)

2. Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker OM GCSI CB PRS (30 June 1817 – 10 December 1911)

Hooker was one of the greatest British botanists and explorers of the 19th Century. He was a founder of geographical botany and Charles Darwin's closest friend. For twenty years he served as director of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew (succeeding his father - William Jackson Hooker who founded the gardens) and was awarded the highest honours of British science.



Fig.1: A painting by John Wilson Carmichael in 1841 of HMS Terror and Erebus in New Zealand.

The Ross Antarctic Expedition

This was a voyage of scientific exploration of the Antarctic from 1839 to 1843, led by Captain James Clark Ross, with two unusually strong warships, HMS Erebus and HMS Terror. They explored what is now called the Ross Sea and discovered the Ross Ice Shelf. On the expedition, Ross discovered the Transantarctic Mountains and the volcanoes Erebus and Terror, named after his ships. The expedition visited Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, Crozet & Kerguelen Islands, Antarctica and Falkland Islands. The young botanist on the trip was Joseph Dalton Hooker who made his name on this expedition.

Fig.2: (at right)

The 2011 Mozambique commemorative issue on the 100th anniversary of Hooker's death. It is illustrated with artwork by W.H.Finch from Hooker's books on Himalayan plants.



Hooker's further travels

Hooker wrote 17 books about his travels and botany which included the following countries:

- 1845 - 47: Geological survey of Great Britain
- 1847 - 51 Himalayas and India
- 1860 Syria and Palestine
- 1871 Morocco
- 1877-71 Western United States

He never visited Southern Africa but co-authored a major work on South African flora.

The Hooker – Darwin relationship

Their correspondence began in 1843 when Hooker, just returned from James Clark Ross's Antarctic expedition, and already an admirer of the older Darwin, was approached about working on Darwin's collection of plants from the *Beagle* voyage.

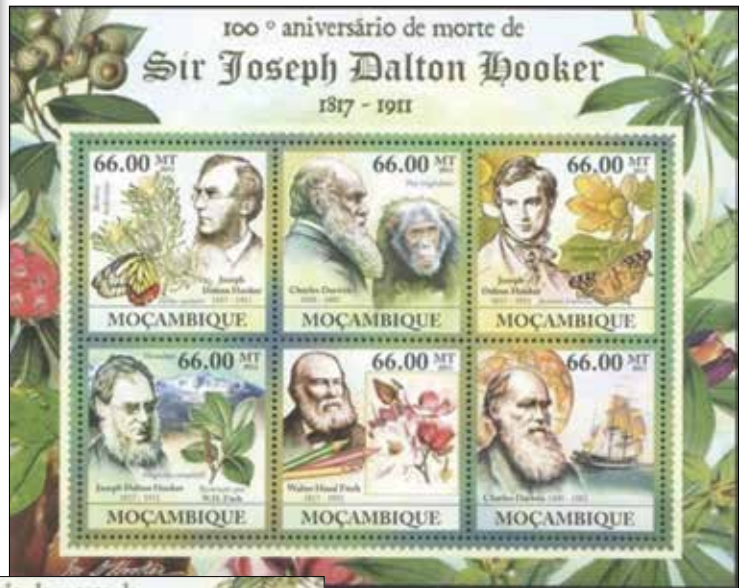


Fig.3: A further 2011 Mozambique commemorative issue showing three stamps of Hooker and his plants, two of his friend Charles Darwin and one of his book illustrator, Walter Hood Finch.

From the dawn of Darwin's career, when 22-year old Hooker slept with the proofs of the *Voyage of the Beagle* under his pillow in order to read them as soon as he awoke, to the day he accompanied Darwin's coffin to its final resting place in Westminster Abbey, Hooker was Darwin's closest confidante and staunchest supporter.

Royal Gardens Kew
July 9th 1855

My dear Sir

My father Sir W. Hooker is I believe addressing you in the subject of a valuable parcel of plants, addressed to our friend Dr Harvey of Dublin, + which parcel appears to have been committed to the Post through the blunder of some person at Cape Town: - he will forward to you a letter from Dr Harvey himself + take the liberty of expressing to you at the same time the great interest which I also feel in this matter.

Expressing to you at the same time the great interest which I also feel in this matter.

Dr Harvey has undertaken to prepare a Flora of our South African Provinces, at the solicitation of his scientific friends; the work will be of the greatest benefit to the Colony + to all the leading Botanists of Europe - it will occupy several years of continuous labour, + cannot yield him any pecuniary return whatsoever.

I shall be in London on Monday afternoon, + shall take the liberty of calling upon you + shall then be happy to give any further information in my power, if it be convenient for you to receive me -

I beg that you will not take the trouble of answering this, as I shall be from home from tomorrow evening till Monday morning when I shall be examining at the India House into the afternoon. Should you not be able to receive me, perhaps you will have the goodness to leave word with your doorkeepers. I have the honour to be yrs very truly

J D Hooker

9th July 1855

J. D. Hooker Esq
in R. Hill's

Charge on a Packet of dried plants from Cape of Good Hope.

Fig.4.

Fig.5. the reverse of the letter

It was in a letter to Hooker that Darwin first initiated his theory of natural selection in 1844 and in another letter Darwin says to Hooker: "You are the one living soul from whom I have constantly received sympathy...I never forget for even a minute how much assistance I have received from you".

A letter from Hooker to Rowland Hill (Fig.4)

Rowland Hill implemented his postal reforms from 1839 to 1842 when he was unpopularly and controversially dismissed from the Post Office by the newly elected Conservative government. He became the director of the London and Brighton Railway which he also reformed. When the Whigs returned to power Rowland returned to the Post Office as Secretary from 1854 to 1864 when he retired due to ill health.

This letter of complaint from Hooker was written on 9 July 1855 when Hill was in charge of the postal service.

Royal Gardens Kew
July 9th 1855

My dear Sir

My father Sir W. Hooker is I believe addressing you in the subject of a valuable parcel of plants, addressed to our friend Dr Harvey of Dublin, + which parcel appears to have been committed to the Post through the blunder of some person at Cape Town: - he will forward to you a letter from Dr Harvey himself + take the liberty of expressing to you at the same time the great interest which I also feel in this matter.

Dr Harvey has undertaken to prepare a Flora of our South African (??), at the solicitation of his scientific friends, the work will be of the greatest benefit to the Colony + to all the leading Botanists of Europe - it will occupy several years of continuous labour + cannot yield him any pecuniary return whatsoever.

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I beg that you will not take the trouble of answering this, as I shall be from home from tomorrow evening till Monday morning when I shall be examining at the India House into the afternoon. Should you not be able to receive me, perhaps you will have the goodness to leave word with your doorkeepers. I have the honour to be yrs very truly

J D Hooker

On the rear in Rowland Hill's handwriting: (Fig.5)

RH 1067 (refers to his archiving number)
9th July 1858
J.D. Hooker Esq
Recd 12th July

Charge on a Packet of dried plants from Cape of Good Hope.



Fig.6: William Henry Harvey.

Prof William Henry Harvey FRS FLS (5 February 1811 - 15 May 1866) (Fig.6) was an Irish Professor of Botany specialising in algae. In 1855 he went to South Africa and became Treasury-General of the Colony and lived in Bishops Court, collecting plants in the early morning from the mountain and seashore and working on the plants at night. He wrote a three volume work *The Genera of South African Plants* with Joseph Dalton Hooker the co-author. Harvey was a lifelong friend of Joseph's father, Sir William Hooker.

Hooker, Darwin and Ascension Island

In 1836 the second *Beagle* voyage visited Ascension Island and Darwin described it as: "An arid treeless island, with nothing growing near the coast. Sparse vegetation inland supported about six hundred sheep, many

goats, a few cows and horses, large numbers of Guineafowl imported from the Cape Verde Islands, rats, mice and land crabs." He agreed with the people of St Helena who said "We know we live on a rock, but the poor people of Ascension live on a cinder!"

Fig.7: The 2019 hardcover reprint of 'The Genera of South African Plants'. The first print was in 1868.



Fig.8: J D Hooker on the 2011 Ascension Island 'Age of Victoria' issue.



Fig.9: The 2009 Ascension Island 'Introduced Species' issue featuring a stamp with a young and aged Hooker plus stamps of five of his introduced plants – Blue Water Lilly, Raspberry, Prickly Pear, Ascension Lily and the Yellowboy.



Fig.10: Green Mountain on Ascension Island today

In 1843 Hooker visited the island and four years later, with encouragement from Darwin, advised the Royal Navy that with the help of Kew Gardens they should institute a long-term plan to ship trees and plants to the island. He reasoned that this would

capture more rain and improve the soil - which did happen and Fig.10 shows the island today.

The BAT Naturalists Issue

The British Antarctic Territory (BAT) is a sector of Antarctica claimed by the United Kingdom as one of its fourteen Overseas Territories of which it is by far the largest by area. Despite the lack of permanent inhabitants, BAT issues its own postage stamps. While some are actually used by visiting tourists and resident scientists, the bulk are sold to overseas collectors. The first issue was in 1963, with a portrait of Queen Elizabeth overlooking various scenes of human activity in BAT.

The 1985 BAT Naturalists issue features: (Fig.11)

- Robert McCormick, the ships surgeon and geologist on the Ross expedition, with the *South Polar Skua* which is named after him.
- Joseph Dalton Hooker, with Antarctic grasses.
- Jean Rene Quoy, a French naval surgeon, anatomist and zoologist, described the now extinct Giant Skink of Tonga, with the Hourglass Dolphin.
- James Waddell, a British captain of a sealing vessel, with the Waddell Seal - the most southerly mammal.

Hooker died aged 94 years in his sleep after a short apparently minor illness on 10 December 1911.

The Dean of Westminster Abbey offered a grave near Darwin's but also insisted that Hooker be cremated.

His widow, Hyacinth, declined and he was buried according to his wishes alongside his father in the churchyard of St. Anne's Church, a short distance from Kew Gardens.



Fig.11.

VISIT the <https://www.sapa.africa/> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1031691006915864/>

It is important to note that not all Societies have returned to having their regular meetings during this time of lockdown, they do, however, welcome communication via phone and email - also see activities on the website

Reinstatement of Philatelic Meetings of The Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

The modified Coronavirus regulations has allowed the management of the Country Club Johannesburg to open facilities at both Auckland Park and Woodmead for sporting and other facilities including the holding of business and social meetings.

The Witwatersrand Philatelic Society meetings are now reinstated, subject to the wearing of mask, sanitising, social distancing and other precautions.

Meetings always on a Wednesday at 20h00



contact the President: Herbie Schaffler RDPSA for further information 082 722 7604.

Oct 21: My favourite (Maximum of one frame) plus thematic exhibits

Nov 18: Inter-Society Quiz & invited exhibits

Nov/Dec: Festive Function – to be decided

EUROCIRCLE STAMP STUDY

This study group is now meeting again please send all communication to haschaff@iafrica.com

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG



President: Clive Carr, Tel: 011 789 6357 *All PSoJ meetings have been cancelled until such time as we consider it safe for us to resume. This will not happen while our venue is not safe and available, the curfew is in place and the risks of infection remain. Members will be kept informed.*

SANDTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The society has an active exchange packet circuit and members with a wide range of philatelic interests.

For further information contact: Chris Carey 083 6622150 / 011 673 2229 ccarey@icon.co.za

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Monthly newsletter, active exchange section and loads of expertise on traditional philately and postmarks. President: André du Plessis. andredupfs@gmail.com 083 399 1755.

Secretary: Alex Visser. alex.visser@up.ac.za Box 36473, Menlo Park 0102; cell 082 922-2927

AFRIKAANSE FILATELIEVERENIGING VAN PRETORIA

Vergader elke 3de Saterdag van die maand om 10:00 by die NG Kerk Queenswood in Garretweg, Queenswood. Baie aktiewe groep wat gereeld bywoon. Nuusbrieff 'Die Posduif' verskyn maandeliks. Voorsitter is Petra Heath en Sekretaris is Herman van Niekerk. Kontak: arnot@telkomsa.net

DIE POSBOOM FILATELIE VERENIGING



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

THEMATICS SA PRETORIA CHAPTER

Vibrant & active group – loads of expertise and lots of topical discussions. Group Leader: Helena Snyman. Helena.snyman@gauteng.gov.za

BELLVILLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chairperson: Werner Barnard; email: wernerb@axxess.co.za Secretary: Reanie de Villiers; 082 567 0353; Email: philately@netpoint.co.za Website: <http://bellvillephilatelic.tripod.com> Contact the Secretary for further Programme details.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

Email: royalphilct@gmail.com President: Ida Potgieter. email: samizdat@telkomsa.net cell: 074 333 4646 Secretary: Victor Millard 0828028882 or email: millardvg@gmail.com



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

PAARLSE FILATELISTE
Sedert 1951

kontak gerus vir: Gawie Hugo: 083 956 2410 gawiehugo@gmail.com of Riaan Crafford: 082 876 7608 n/u craffies@telkomsa.net



GEORGE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President: Nick Zerbst 0836255804, Secretary: Rob Sinclair-Black 044 8746337. email: robrita@mweb.co.za

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founded in 1954 and still promoting philately in the 'Deep South' of the Cape Peninsula.

President: Dave Young, email: davesueyoung@gmail.com Secretary: Volker Janssen.

Website: www.fhps.infoFHPS



PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President Francois Friend, 082 554 8900, francois@softchem.co.za; or Vice president, David Brown 041 360 4025; or Secretary / Treasurer Rodney Maclachlan 072 619 5409.



ALGOAPEX 2020 National Stamp Exhibition, Port Elizabeth **CANCELLED**

STELLENBOSCH FILATELISTEVERENIGING



Kontak: stellenboschstamp@gmail.com

FOUNDED 30 APRIL 1909

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President : David Preston 082 7742090. email: prestee@telkomsa.net Secretary: Carlos Da Fonseca 082 334 7603.



CASPIP

CAPE SOCIETY FOR PALESTINE-ISRAEL PHILATELY

Contact for details: Aubrey Katzef <akatzef@mweb.co.za> +27 (21) 4615134 President of CASPIP.

ZIMBABWE - BULAWAYO

Royal Philatelic Society of Zimbabwe email: phil.soc.zim@gmail.com

EDENVALE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Our Facebook page allows club activities to continue 24/7; search for *Edenvale Philatelic Society*. Contact: Colin Bousfield 082 309 8656

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY



President: Jimmy Mitchell; jimmy.hcmitchell@gmail.com Secretary: Paul Hamerton hampaul@ananzi.co.za

WEST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Contact: Andries Nel, 083 269 9374. Chairman or Secretary Ian Walker. Tel: 011 472 1161 email: ianwalker@vodamail.co.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 Osthoff email: OsthoffG@ufs.ac.za

HIGHWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY DURBAN

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: Leigh Hen-Boisen, leigh.hb@gmail.com Secretary: Bronwen Edwards, edwards@worldonline.co.za Membership: Bev Chittenden, bev@natalaircon.co.za or Barry Liosey, livsey@netsolutions.co.za

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF KWA-ZULU NATAL

Meetings are held at the Classic Motorcycle Club, 137 Tara Road, Bluff, Durban, on the second Saturday of the month.

President: Fonda Sonitus 074 347 1388 Vice President: Zbigniew Kaweck 082 968 6888

Alternatively email - The Secretary at <philatelicocietykzn@gmail.com> for more details about meetings, auctions, sales packets and membership. Everyone is welcome and committee members are always on hand to give advice about evaluations and philately.





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EUROCIRCLE STAMP STUDY

Usual Meet in the Captain's Table at Woodmead Johannesburg - 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

Pretoria Fair & mini-auction, Greek Orthodox Church, cor Lynnwood Rd & Roper St, Pretoria, 09h00 to 14h00).

RSA SEËLSTUDIEGROEP

Kontak: djhome606@gmail.com

Doen uitstekende studie en navorsing en publiseer 'n gereelde maandelikse nuusbrieff. Jan de Jong: 079 190 1066.

SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

This society has amalgamated with the EDENVALE Society. See details on page 102.

RHODESIAN STAMP STUDY

The Rhodesian Study Circle holds regular member meetings and events across the world. For more information on meetings, visit <http://www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk/engage/meetings/> or Contact the Secretary, Brian Zlotnick. Email bzlot@blueyonder.co.uk or postal address 10 Fortis Green Avenue, East Finchley, London, N2 9NA. UK.

The SA representative is Patrick Flanagan RDPSA

PINELANDS STAMP CIRCLE

Programmes for meetings include displays, talks by visiting speakers and 'Show & Tell' exhibits.

An Exchange circuit and auctions from time to time. Visitors always welcome! Contact: Marilyn Crawford at 021689 5050 email: m.tristan.crawford@gmail.com



THE CAPE STAMP FAIR

Bellville Valley DRC Hall, Contact: Ken Joseph ken@philatelicfriends.com

Postage Due Mail Study Group

For more details, look at their website: <http://www.postageduemail.org.uk/>
Contact: Bob Medland, Secretary & Treasurer of the Postage Due Mail Study Group, email: secretary.pdmsg@gmail.com



Established in 1924

MARITZBURG

PHILATELIC SOCIETY

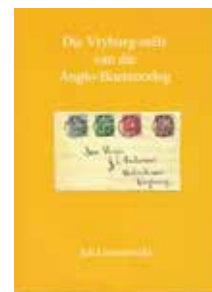
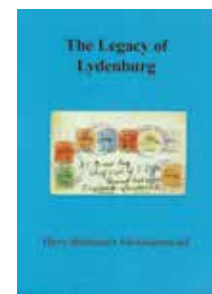
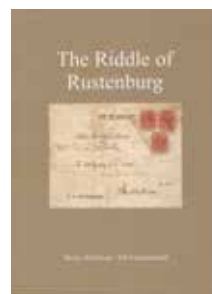
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3. Stamp Circuit Book Officer is Russell Bowton
Society activities can be obtained from Aubrey Bowles.

*PLEASE NOTE:

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

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- *Die Machadodorp-briefkaarte van die Anglo-Boeroorlog* by Gerrit H Jonkers & Joh Groenewald. 2006, 56 p. The ZA Republiek government left Pretoria ahead of the British onslaught and moved to Machadodorp, where a special Staatscourant (government gazette) was printed on the back of ZAR postcards to declare Machadodorp the seat of government.
- *Die Pietersburg-seëls van die Anglo-Boeroorlog* by Carel Breecht and Joh Groenewald. 2007, 109 p. When stamps ran out in ZAR administered regions of Transvaal, a newspaper press at Pietersburg produced rudimentary stamps. To validate these, an official had to initial all 54,000 stamps by hand. The printing contract tells how the printer was paid in stamps, and an amazing story unfolds. Full sheets of all printings are illustrated.
- *The Riddle of Rustenburg* by Birkhead and Groenewald. 2007, 79 p. The 52 days of the first British occupation of Rustenburg are set out day by day, with the story of the stamps and the mails interwoven. The official ZAR stamps overprinted 'VRI' in Pretoria were available yet not used; instead ZAR stamps were locally handstamped 'VR' and used on outgoing letters – an intriguing history. Numerous forgeries are described.
- *The Legacy of Lydenburg* by Birkhead and Groenewald. 2009, 78 p. It was the overprinting of ZA Republiek stamps at Lydenburg which angered the British military authorities and put a stop to 'local stamp issues'. Souvenir covers were made at Lydenburg and while few genuine postal items are recorded, forgeries were quick to appear, especially of the spectacular variety of the overprint letter R with a 'long tail'.
- *Anglo Boer War Stamp Souvenirs* by Birkhead and Groenewald. 2014, 56 p. The Cape stamps with 'Kuruman Besieged', the ZAR stamps with Vryburg 'VR Special Post' and the ZAR revenue stamps with 'VRI' (issued at Zeerust) are rated as souvenirs since there is no record or evidence of their postal validity. Yet these elusive items are keenly sought by collectors and their histories are part of the canvas of war.
- *The Wherewithal of Wolmaransstad* by Harry Birkhead and Joh Groenewald. 1999, 59 p. (2005 update supplement of new material that appearing during the centenary of the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902). The story of how enthusiasts, working on a large diningroom table one evening, handstamped a number of stamps of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek with the initials of Queen Victoria; how the stamps were used, and how the wartime mails functioned around Wolmaransstad in the Western Transvaal.
- *Die Vryburg-seëls van die Anglo-Boeroorlog* by Groenewald. 2010, 90 p. The first special stamps of the Anglo-Boer War arrived within weeks into the war. Vryburg in the Northern Cape was occupied as a preventative measure, a mail link with Transvaal was arranged, and Cape of Good Hope stamps were overprinted 'ZAR'. The ZAR postmaster-general was annoyed but later relented, and many souvenirs were made.
- *The Pseudo-Siege of Schweizer-Reneke* by Birkhead and Groenewald. 2005, 63 p. Stamps of both the Transvaal Republic and the Cape Colony were handstamped with the word 'Besieged', and were then within days sold out to eager troops. Hardly any were actually used on letters. Siege? No, the town was isolated but not besieged, as the contemporary record and postal history reveals.

BOOK REVIEW: THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF TRANSKEI: A PHILATELIC INVENTORY BY DR HEINZ WIRZ

reviewed by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA

In an article by Dr Tom Berry titled: 'Transkei Philately' published in *The South African Philatelist* of October 1976, he was of the opinion that "the philately of the Transkei presents a pioneering adventure into a philatelic region hitherto unknown and unexplored". This is exactly the gap that Dr Heinz Wirz has explored and filled in terms of highlighting the total spectrum of the philately of the Transkei.

This excellent publication by Dr Heinz Wirz, is the third in a series of four books on a philatelic inventory of the four, then independent territories, within South Africa, namely the Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda, and Ciskei (TBVC) states. It follows the same format as the first two publications: *The Independent State of Bophuthatswana (6 December 1977 - 27 April 1994) - A Philatelic Inventory*, and *The Independent State of Ciskei (4 December 1981 - 27 April 1994)*.

This book is not only about the period since 1976 when the Transkei became the first independent 'homeland' in South Africa but also includes the forerunner periods starting with the pre-independence period, namely the Cape (1879-1910), the Union of South Africa (1910-1961) and the Republic of South Africa (1961-1976).

A very interesting section is also included on the role that missionaries and mission stations as well as trading stations played in the socio-economic development of the region, and is illustrated by means of covers and documents. From that point of view, this book will fill many gaps in the knowledge base of potential and current collectors of the postal history and related philatelic material of that region.

Also included are the original stamp designs and beautiful water colour essays from the South African Post Office museum. The two chapters on the stamp designs and postmarks make up more than half of this publication, which makes it the largest of the three 'homeland' volumes. The Transkei Postal Stationery section includes and illustrates postcards, aerogrammes, registered envelopes, and postal orders that are included as part of the inventory and are also illustrated.

Other new sections include railway and rail letter post, flight and Transkei coastline shipwreck covers, as well as a Transkei philatelic checklist.

A new approach to this book, which makes it more user-friendly, is the section called 'Opening the Gateway'. It is an introduction to the post offices and postal agencies



section and demonstrates to readers and collectors how to optimally navigate this book.

Dr Heinz Wirz must be congratulated with this philatelic publication on the Transkei since it should without a doubt encourage philatelists and collectors to explore the Transkei more from a philatelic point of view, just as Berry stated long ago. This book proves that the Transkei as a collecting field has all the "ingredients" from a philatelic, postal history and socio-economic aspect to develop an exciting exhibit based on the principles of the different classes of philately.

As a region, the Transkei did not receive the philatelic recognition it should have in the past, mainly because of the negativity coupled to the TBVC states as instruments of the 'apartheid' system before 1994. Luckily we have reached a certain level of maturity as far as this is concerned since there is a renewed interest in the philately of the TBVC states, and this publication will definitely fill that gap.

This book is a worthwhile contribution to modern South African philately, and the author should be commended for taking the trouble and care in compiling this comprehensive guide on the Transkei. This book is a must-have for collectors of the philately of Southern Africa and specifically the philately and postal history of the Transkei-region.

Book details:

This book - '*The Independent State of Transkei: A Philatelic Inventory*' is an impressive volume of 600 pages, which has been printed on high gloss paper and is stitched and bound in a durable red hard cover weighing 2.7 kg.

Cost: R2100 available from the publisher who can be contacted on 082 821 6914. Numbered and signed by author.

On Saturday 3 October 2020, the book launch will take place at SAPDA dealer, Paul van Zeyl's Pretoria's stamp browse and auction, at the Greek Orthodox Church hall (opposite entrance to the University of Pretoria).

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