

The South African Philatelist

All about stamps



THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1932

volume 96:6. 963

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• **February** 2021 - Volume. 97 : 1. 964. **12th January 2021** • **April** 2021 - Volume. 97: 2. 965. **9th March 2021**

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

The year 2020 has certainly been an unusual one, with a rampant global pandemic. The word of the year must surely be 'new-normal'. All of us had to make significant adjustments to our lifestyles and that included our hobby. We faced uncertainty and the unknown, while we have little idea of what the future holds. Society meetings ground to a halt from March 2020. Some societies have since managed to resume meetings again; some are still not allowed back into their venues. It's a classic case of wait and see. We also saw the annual National Exhibition scheduled for Port Elizabeth cancelled, while the Cape Town International was moved to a new date.

During this time your Editorial Board managed to produce successfully four issues of *The SA Philatelist* without being able to physically meet by using e-mail, WhatsApp, and cell phones to keep team members connected. The need for a nationwide lockdown had a dramatic effect on local postal services which ground to a standstill for several months. This, together with the financial deficit of the SAPO, had a significant impact on the design and issuing of new stamps by Philatelic Services. The stamp programme remains in a state of flux while the discussion around new proposals continues.

It wasn't long before COVID-19 stamps started appearing. The first country being Iran on 17 March 2020 (Fig.1), although commentators have labelled this more a propaganda effort than anything else. Themes cover preventative measures (Fig.2) and the acknowledgement of the efforts by essential workers (Fig.3). We have also seen a number of suspicious and spoof stamps enter the market (Fig.4). *Caveat emptor!*



Fig.1.



Fig.2



Fig.3



Fig.4.

From all of us on the Editorial Board, we wish you and your families a restful and peaceful holiday and happy stamping for 2021.



Christmas fun stamps from Norway. 

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The Editorial Board reserves the right to accept or decline any articles, letters or any other material submitted for publication, and reserves the right to effect minor changes of spelling, punctuation, grammar and word choice without requesting prior permission from the author(s). For more substantial revisions, such as shortening or restructuring, either the Board will request the author(s) to effect such changes or will propose amendments to the author prior to publication - if no agreement can be reached then publication will be declined.

PLEASE NOTE:

Annual subscription & circulation;

Within South Africa, the subscription rate for 2021, for Society Members and 'Direct' subscribers, is R300.00 for a printed copy of each issue (*Please note this can be seen as a basic R70.00 affiliation, as for the electronic copy, with the rest costs incur for postage, envelopes and admin to mail the hard copy*) and R70.00 for an electronic copy.

For SADC countries; the subscription is R750.00 per year.

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Phun with postmarks

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



The inner workings of cancellers

In this column in the October 2020 issue of *The SA Philatelist* an exposé was given about time code letters. The date and time code letters in the early cancellers were all loose slugs that were inserted by tweezers to avoid dirty fingers. Further disadvantages were that the slugs had to be kept in a box and were easily mislaid and could be inserted incorrectly until a design which prevented this was introduced. These cancellers invariably had the date information on two or three lines, as shown in Fig.1a. Goldblatt (1983) shows the design with three slots which could accept the slugs (Fig.1b). The year could also be depicted as four digits as shown in Fig.1c.

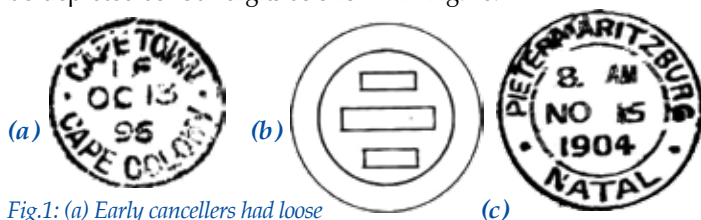


Fig.1: (a) Early cancellers had loose slugs that were inserted to change the date that (b) fitted into slots, and (c) year as four digits.

This design must have frustrated the postal staff as the ZAR and OFS used date stamps with single line dates, as shown in Fig.2, with the year as two digits from 1894. An 'underground'* type with date wheels was used in Cape Town in 1898/9 (Putzel 376). Interestingly the months have the Dutch spelling, suggesting that they were sourced in Holland or Germany. Was this experimental? After the Boer War the provinces started using single line dates that had wheels.

An instrument for ENON, OVS, as shown in Fig.3a was never used and it is presumed that an office was planned but the Boer War intervened. Note the rectangular opening for the date wheels, and the hole for the central locking pin. It was fairly easy to manipulate the date format by taking the pin out, but this was not generally done. Figure 3b shows the date line intact on a Pretoria ZAR squared circle instrument as well as the locking pin. (Photo taken of the cancellers in the RPSL Museum). I wish to acknowledge the input received from Bas Payne.



Fig.2: An early example of an instrument with a single line date with wheels, typically with the year as two digits.

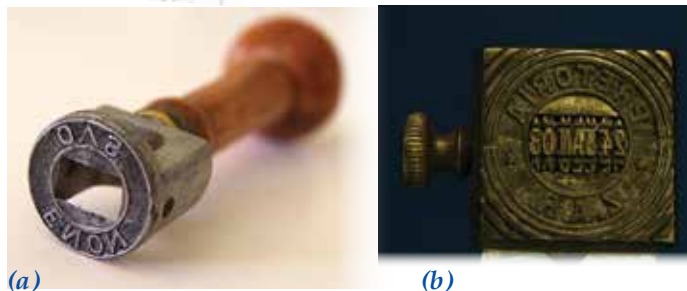
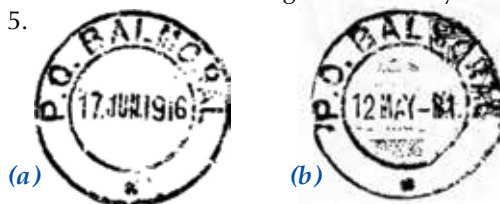


Fig.3: (a) Cancellor for ENON, OVS, showing the opening for the date wheels, and (b) Pretoria ZAR squared circle showing date configuration.

Typically a wheel would have 12 positions, such as for the month, and this also allowed the numbers zero to nine. The unused positions were used for a blank, block or hyphen. Sometimes the blank would become dirty and a block would appear. The hyphen was also used on one of the wheels of the day for single digits.

Some Transvaal date stamps did not have a time code letter, but the year as four digits in the DDMMMYYYY format. In some cases the same date stamp would appear later with a DDMMMYYY format. The only plausible explanation is that the instrument was maintained and some of the wheels were replaced. As an example Balmoral has been seen with year as four digits from 1902/17, and with year as two digits 1930/1 (Figs.4a and b). It is uncertain whether the YYYY format was on individual wheels or only two wheels in the early instruments. Post-Union cancellers generally had the year as two digits, but during the 1940s cancellers with the year as four digits appeared. Careful inspection shows that there were only two wheels, with the first three digits on one wheel and the last digit on another wheel, as the first YYY are perfectly aligned whereas the last Y is out of alignment as may be seen from Figure 5.



Figs. 4a and b: Balmoral with two types of date style.



Fig.5: Paarl Main Street with the style 1940s with YYYY format.

Although Post-Union the new date stamps were all of the single line type described above, a single circle with heavy bar at the base appeared in the early 1920s at existing offices as well as new offices. The date was typically in two lines as shown in Figs.6a and b. These are often confused as Cape date stamps, but appeared in all provinces. It is speculated that after the First World War there was a shortage of raw material and the usual suppliers were unable to provide the single line date stamps or because of anti-German sentiment. Hence these date stamps were sourced elsewhere. I am indebted to David Allison who pointed out this date stamp style and initiated the discussion. Are any readers able to add to this discussion?

Fig.6: A 1920s date stamp style with the date in two lines.



What is happening in Pietersburg/Polokwane?

In 2005 Pietersburg Post Office was renamed to Polokwane, and the steel date stamps (Fig.7a) were systematically replaced

with self-inking date stamps of various styles (Fig. 7b). Unexpectedly a new self-inking date stamp inscribed PIETERSBURG (Fig.7c) made an appearance in 2020. Even though Polokwane was the new town name, the Hub retained Pietersburg as name. The new date stamps have been seen with counter numbers 1 and 11, which suggests that the post office used this date stamp, as there were more than 15 counters. I would love to hear from our Pietersburg philatelists as to what is happening.

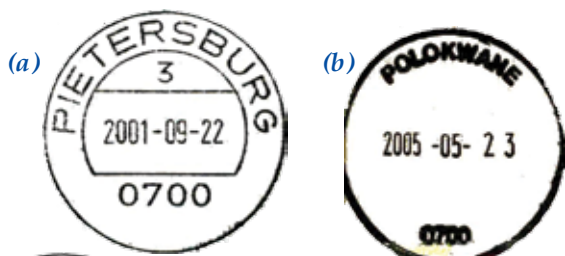


Fig.7: Evidently Pietersburg has reverted to its original name.

Die datum styl waar die jaar twee of vier syfers is bring skielik nuwe insigte, en natuurlik nog vrae. Wie sou kon dink dat die Eerste Wêreldoorlog 'n nuwe stempelstyl tot gevolg sou hê? En wat is in Pietersburg aan die gang. Kan iemand asseblief help?

* just in case you were wondering... An 'underground' type



Comic Corner

Stamps that make you SMILE

by Volker Janssen, Fish Hoek Philatelic Society and the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town

Episode 61 Errors on Stamps...

'9000TH BIRTHDAY'

This commemorative stamp issue of the West-African islands S.Tomé & Príncipe was issued for the 90th Birthday of the President of the former South-East-European Republic of Yugoslavia, Josip Broz Tito in 1982. Next to the portraits of Tito we find the years and in a circular order: '90. Centenario do Nascimento' in Portuguese, which means the Ninetieth Centenary of his Birthday which would be his 9,000th Birthday!

As we know most great statesmen want to be immortal, so at least on S.Tomé and Príncipe and on stamps only President Tito comes very close to virtual immortality...



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The ABC of stamps



by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society

HIDDEN MESSAGES AND DATES

It's not exactly steganography (the art and science of writing hidden messages in such a way that no one apart from the sender and intended recipient even realises there is a hidden message); nor is it exactly cryptography, where the meaning of a message is hidden, but does not conceal the fact that there is a message. Yet it's a bit of both. Starting in 1935 with the King George V definitive issue (Fig.1), Canada decided to hide the date somewhere in the design. Why the Canadian Post Office decided to hide the date remains unknown. It could have been to prevent forging stamps; or it could have simply been to challenge collectors. Most are very difficult to find: you need a strong magnifying glass and lots of patience. The trend continues with an exception of stamps issued 1971-1973. However, not every issue has a hidden date. Then there are some stamps that should have them but you can't find them. And then there are the exceptions with no hidden initial or date.



Fig.1: King George V issue of 1 June 1935, the first stamp with a hidden date.

In 1973 a set of two stamps was issued with no hidden date (Fig.2). A year later, in 1974 the 15¢ value was re-issued as part of a set of three stamps, this time with a surcharge (known as a semi-postal) in addition to a hidden date. The surcharge was to help raise funds for the 1976 Montreal Olympics. After the Olympics finished, money collected from further sales was contributed to literacy and health concerns. Both sets were printed by Ashton-Potter, with 11-million copies for the 1st issue and 30.7-million for the 3rd issue. Where the date is a part of the stamp design it is known as an open-date.



Fig.2: Montreal Olympic Games. Left, 1st issue of 20 September 1973 with no date. Right, 3rd issue, of 17 April 1974, smaller in size with a surcharge and hidden date.

In 2017 Canada celebrated its sesquicentennial anniversary (150 years). To commemorate the event Canada Post hid a 'Canada 150' marker in addition to the hidden date in every stamp issued that year (Fig.3). Director of Stamp Services, Jim Phillips, said "Some of that will be overt and you'll be able to see it quite clearly, but some of it will be hidden in micro-type or in tagging". Some stamps contain the dates '1867-2017'



Fig.3 The hidden 'Canada 150' marker found on stamps issued by Canada in 2017.

Of the 67 stamps designed in Canada from 1952 to 1962, 30 included the designer's initial with the hidden date (Fig.3). Again, no reason is known for allowing designers to include their initial in the stamp image.



Fig.4: Designer's initial and date hidden in the stamp design. The stamp was designed by Alan L Pollock, hence the hidden 'P'. In this example the year '1962' is rather obscure and difficult to find.

Czeslaw Slania (1921-2005) a renowned engraver of stamps and banknotes was known for including the names and/or images of girl friends, relatives, friends, and co-workers buried in intricate engraving detail. One such example appears on a stamp (Fig.5) that forms part of a five-stamp booklet issued 2 March 1973. The stamp shows the start of the Vasa Ski Race in Sälen. He engraved images of himself and a few of his friends on this Swedish stamp. When asked why he put in the faces of himself and his co-workers on the stamp, he answered: "I was sitting home on a Christmas Eve and had to finish the stamp after a photograph. None of the faces on the photo appeared clearly, so I couldn't engrave them clearly either. For at least having some clear faces on the stamp I put ours in, and chose my co-workers because I had their photographs at home. It was the first time my face appeared on a stamp that I have engraved myself."

He is the cross-country skier wearing glasses in the extreme lower-left corner of the design. 'J.AFTON 1972' which appears on Slania's bib means 'Christmas Eve 1972' (Fig.5), and refers to the time when Slania engraved this stamp on Christmas Eve 1972. This was not the first time Slania featured himself on a stamp. He previously appeared as a mechanic on a Polish 1952 stamp (Fig.6).

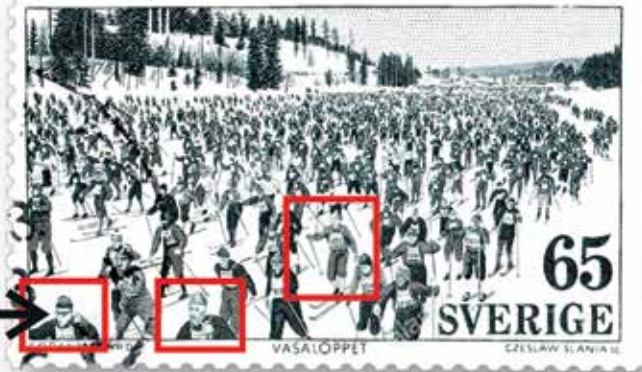


Fig.5: The scene depicted is the start of the race, with Slania depicted in the lower left corner with Lars-Eric Ewert, right, Head of the Swedish Stamp Printing Works (PFA Stamp Printing Works) and Sven Andersson behind, a technician at the Swedish Stamp Printing Works.



Fig.6: (below) Polish semi-postal issued 12 December 1952 showing assembly of the Pobjeda Warszawa M-20 with Slania fitting a wheel.

JUST PUBLISHED

CATALOGUE OF POSTAL STATIONERY AIRGRAPHS

by Wayne Munez

Finally. . . a catalogue about postal stationery airgraphs!

This 80-page, full-colour book covers the issues of the eight countries which issued these WWII forms prepaid, rather than as formulars (the vast majority). It is, for the first time, a definitive history of the development of the Airgraph idea and an in-depth and copiously illustrated description of the production processes. The book gives insight into the magnitude and scale of this innovative solution to the problem the United Kingdom faced, to provide rapid communications between the large number of its far-flung troops and their families at home. The British operational postal system was complex and constantly evolving, and this is explained in detail.

The catalogue portion includes many items never previously listed, and untangles the erroneous listing attempts of others. An up-to-date and accurate assessment of the catalogue values of Airgraph forms (the mint paper forms) and Airgraphs (the developed photographic prints sent to the addressees) is included. All items are illustrated, and in colour.

This new book is available for \$27.60, or \$34.00 to non-members, postpaid to USA and to foreign addresses. Order now from UPSS Publications, P.O. Box 3982, Chester, VA 23831, upsspubs@aol.com or from website at: www.upss.org.

Wayne Munez <waam@pacbell.net>
Postal Stationery #435 November-December 2020

A review of this book appears on page 181.



ROYAL MAIL CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS 2020



A series of six stained-glass Nativity scenes - the stamps showcase the extraordinary detail and craftsmanship of this highly specialised decorative art, covering a range of eras, styles and technique. Stained glass windows from the following churches are included in the set:

- 1) *St Andrew's Church, East Lexham, Norfolk* - Anglican church East window, thought to date from circa 900AD and said to be one of the oldest in England.
- 2) *St Andrew's Church, Coln Rogers, Gloucestershire* - Anglican parish, often described as unique, as it has a Saxon nave and chancel which have survived almost intact and date to the mid-11th century.
- 3) *Church of St James, Hollowell, Northamptonshire* - built in 1841 in the gothic style, and known for its stained-glass windows in the eastern apse of the chancel, and the rose window above the west door.
- 4) *All Saints' Parish Church, Otley, West Yorkshire* - only the foundations of

the first church on this site remain. It was enlarged in about 1240.

5) *St Columba's Church, Topcliffe, North Yorkshire* - the present building dates from the 13th century and largely rebuilt by railway architect George T Andrews in 1885.

6) *Christ Church, Coalville, Leicestershire* - built between 1836 and 1838, with a west tower, large nave, transepts, chancel and vestry added later in 1936.

The Nativity is a common subject in stained glass artistry - from the 13th Century onwards, scenes often focused on the new-born infant Jesus and his mother, the Virgin Mary. The techniques of making stained glass have hardly changed since the Middle Ages.

These went on sale on 3.11.20 and are available at www.royalmail.com/christmas2020.

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HERBERT CHARLES (JIMMY) MITCHELL

12 May 1943 - 30 September 2020



Jimmy was the doyen of stamp collecting on the East Rand. He had served organised philately for some fifty years in various guises and ways.

Together with the late Jules Danneels of the Sasolburg Society, he played a leading role in establishing the annual inter-club exhibition between Sasolburg and, at first, the Boksburg PS and later on the East Rand Philatelic Society. The event became the high point in the programme of both societies. Jimmy was so proud when ERPS managed to bring home the Grand Prix title year after year. He was always to be seen working in the background at National exhibitions and manned the reception tables at many Congresses held in the Gauteng area.

Jimmy's achievements were legendary:

- Served on the Committee of the Germiston Philatelic Society in the capacity of Treasurer and Chairman from the early 1970s.
- He was responsible for the distribution of Audio-Visual shows in the 1970s.
- A member of the Organising Committee for the GEBEX 86 exhibition and Chairman of the Organising Committee of ER100
- Founder member of the Boksburg Philatelic Society and served on the Committee, including periods as President.
- Responsible for the highly successful amalgamation of the Germiston and Boksburg Philatelic Societies and, then much later, the merger with ERPS. It was Jimmy's decision to retain the ERPS name, being the oldest of the three societies. It was unanimous that he was elected President of the new ERPS, a position which he held until his passing.
- Vice President for Region 2 for a period of four years.
- A founder member of the PFSA Youth Activities Committee.

Jimmy had catholic collecting interests but focused largely on thematics. His favourite exhibit was *The Conveyance of Mail* which was awarded a Silver at the East Rand 100 Stamp Show in 2019. Other outstanding collections included *Boksburg - Some postal History* and *Postmarks* and *By Air - Aeroplane to Zeppelin*. Other interests included *The Mosquito* and *Lighthouses*, all topics he had been working on. He had a vast collection of minisheets and was always on the lookout for a new one to add to his accumulation.

In 2019 Jimmy was honoured with the W.E. Lea Trophy for his contribution to the philatelic community. Jimmy was also a member of the Wits Philatelic Society, the African Telately Association as well as the Boksburg Historical Society. He was a friendly and approachable philatelist who always found time to assist with queries and advice when approached. Family, friends, and fellow philatelists will miss him dearly. Thanks to Oilfilat (Sasolburg) for additional comments.

DJW



PROTEA DEFINITIVE SERIES
The Flaw on Pane A, Row 4/1

by Dr Vic Sorour, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

The flaw consists of a semi-circular row of dots above the 'S' of 'RSA' on Pane A, row 4, stamp 1 (Fig.1).

Pane A, Row 4 can be identified by a short horizontal green line, just above the bottom left corner of the upper inner marginal bar (Fig.2).

The flaw is in the colour of 'RSA'. This is a Cylinder 722 flaw. Cylinder 722 is the common Cylinder that prints 'RSA' on all the values produced by rotogravure. The flaw appears for the first time on the one cent stamp printed on 21 October 1980. It is present on all values printed by Cylinder 722 after this date (Fig.3 on the next page).

Value	Date	Issue	Print
1c	21 Oct 1980	2	1
10c	27 Oct 1980	2	2
5c	4 Mar 1981	2	2
8c	10 Jul 1981	2	1
20c	6 Jan 1982	2	2
10c	12 Jan 1982	2	3
8c	15 Jan 1982	2	2
5c	4 Feb 1982	2	3
8c	11 Mar 1982	2	3

Table 1. List of Printings with the flaw



Fig.1: The flaw on Pane A, R4/1. 5c value.



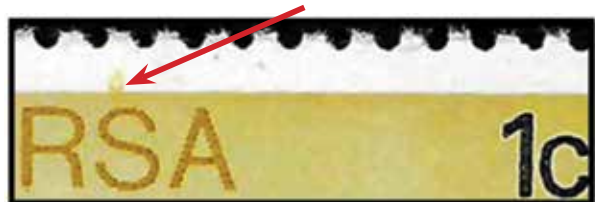
Fig.2: Pane A, R4/1. The flaw on the inner marginal bar.

Why is this flaw important?

Many philatelists are sceptical when it comes to the study of flaws. They call it fly-speck philately and a waste of time.

However, the knowledge of flaws can be valuable in the identification of Issues and Printings.

A study of the 5c value of the Protea Definitive Series illustrates this point. There were two Issues of this stamp and Issue 2 had three printings. There are thus four possibilities. In addition, the second printing of Issue 2 is perforated 12,5 or 14.0, increasing the number to five.



1c Protea. Issue 2 .



5c Protea. Issue 2, Print 2 or 3.



8c Protea. Issue 2. Print 1,2 or 3.



10c Protea. Issue 2 Print 2 or 3.

NOTE: I have not yet located an example of the flaw on the 20c - does anyone have one?

Fig.3: Examples of the flaw. Always in the colour of 'RSA'.

	Issue	Print	Perforation	Flaw R4/1	Bars	Green Line R5/7
5c	1	1	12.5	No	1	No
		1			2	
	2	3	14.0	yes	2	yes

Table 2: Summary of the 5c value.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Errata: *The SA Philatelist* August 2020, p127 – errors crept in in the table of cylinder numbers. For the 1c value they should be 722-26 and for the 2c value they should be 722, 727-30. The two missing numbers are both yellow and whilst checking with my collection of cylinder blocks the printed numbers were barely discernable. All other values are correct. RM

Pane A, Row 4 can easily be identified (Fig.2). Using this stamp, the five possibilities can be identified.

1: Issue 1.



- Only one marginal bar, thus Issue 1, No flaw. Perforation 12,5.

2: Issue 2, Print 1



- Two marginal bars, thus Issue 2.
- Perforation 12,5, thus Print 1 or 2
- Flaw absent, thus Print 1

3: Issue 2 Print 2 (perforation 12.5).



- Two marginal bars, thus Issue 2.
- Perforation 12,5, thus Print 1 or 2
- Flaw present, thus Print 2

4 + 5: Issue 2 Print 2 or 3 (perforation 14.0)



- Two marginal bars, thus Issue 2
- Perforation 14,0, thus Print 2 or 3
- The flaw is present.

Prints 2 and 3 can only be distinguished by the green line that develops on stamp R5/7 in Print 3 (Fig.4).

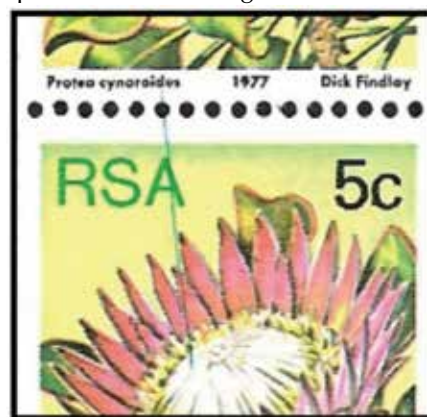


Fig.4: Green line flaw. Only Print 3.



NEW SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP ISSUES - 2020 - part IV

by Robin Messenger, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

NOTE: The following stamp issues became available from Philatelic Services circa 5 October 2020. The issue dates are those appearing on the sheet margins and on the cancellers. First Day Covers are not yet available. However in addition to these a new product has been introduced. For each of these issues, Commemorative Display Cards will be produced, on which the same stamps will be affixed. The size of these cards is the same as the FDCs (190 x 101mm) and, whilst not identical, will be similar in appearance. The cost of the cards will be R3.00 plus the cost of the affixed stamps compared with R6.00 for the FDC.



29 February 2020 – SOUTH AFRICAN ENDANGERED SPECIES SERIES: FROGS

Denominations: 4 x Registered Small Letter (R34.35)

Designer: Rachel-Mari Ackermann from photographs, featuring the following frogs:

- Row 1/1. Rose's Mountain Toadlet - *Capensibufo rosei* (photo by Louis du Preez);
- Row 1/2. Northern Moss Frog - *Arthroleptella subvoce* (photo by Atherton de Villiers);
- Row 2/1. Table Mountain Ghost Frog - *Heleophryne rosei* (photo by Joshua Weeber);
- Row 2/2. Rough Moss Frog - *Arthroleptella rugosa* (photo by Andrew Turner).

In addition, on the upper margin of the sheetlet: Micro Frog – *Microbatrachella capensis* (photo Andrew Turner).

Printer: Cartor Security Printing, France

Process: Offset lithography

Stamp size: 35 x 35mm

Sheetlet size: 126 x 150mm, comprising the four different designs in two rows of two

Quantity: 150,000 sheetlets

Cylinder numbers: 8697 (cyan), 8698 (magenta), 8699 (yellow) and 8700 (black)

Paper: 242gsm Chancellor self-adhesive stamp paper

Gum: Self-adhesive

Perforation: Simulated serpentine kiss-cut. Stamps are separated by 8mm gutters in the centre of which are roulettes to aid separation of the individual stamps. These roulettes extend through left, right and bottom sheetlet margins and also through the backing paper.

Phosphor: Yellow-green 2.5mm wide frame on margins of each stamp

Printing sheet size: 430 x 665mm comprising 12 sheetlets in four rows of three

First Day Cover: No. 8.130 of standard size (190 x 101mm) of which 1,000 will be produced

Canceller: No. 8.126 – 'Rondebosch 2020.02.29' / 'ENDANGERED SA FROGS'



3 July 2020 – HALALA BOKKE! – 2019 WORLD CHAMPIONS

Denomination: Standard Postage (R 4.90)

Designer: Thea Clemons

Printer: Cartor Security Printing, France

Process: Offset lithography

Stamp size: 41 x 24mm

Sheetlet size: 138x200mm, comprising 10 stamps in 5 rows of two

Quantity: 150,000 sheetlets

Cylinder numbers: 8701 (cyan), 8702 (magenta), 8703 (yellow)

and 8704 (black)

Paper: 242gsm Chancellor self-adhesive stamp paper

Gum: Self-adhesive

Perforation: Simulated serpentine kiss-cut. Stamps are separated by 8mm gutters in the centre of which are roulettes to aid separation of the individual stamps. These roulettes extend through the sheetlet margins and also through the backing paper.

Phosphor: Yellow-green 2mm wide in an inverted 'L' shape on right and top margins of each stamp and also 1mm wide around elliptical rugby-ball 'logo'

Printing sheet size: 460 x 665mm comprising nine sheetlets in three rows of three

First Day Cover: No. 8.131 of standard size of which 1,000 will be produced

Canceller: No. 8.1276 – 'Springbok' / '2020.07.03'

Acknowledgements: The above information was collated from SAPO's Philatelic e-mail newsletter *WHAT'S NEWS*, dated October 2020, Newsletters of the RSA Stamp Study Group, produced by Jan de Jong and personal observations.

Details of book on p177

Reviewed by Lars Engelbrecht RDP, FRPSL

Catalogue of Postal Stationery Airgraphs

United Kingdom - East Africa Command - Ceylon - Egypt - India - Palestine - South Africa - Southern Rhodesia.

by Wayne Menez, FRPSL. 2020

World War II prepaid forms for microfilming and resultant letter photographs.

United Postal Stationery Society, Inc, Chester VA, USA, www.upss.org.
80 pages, soft bound. ISBN 978-1-7351629-2-8

Postal stationery includes a wide range of different pre-paid items – one being prepaid airgraphs, and this book by Wayne Menez is the first to describe all pre-paid airgraphs.

Airgraphs are letters written on standardised forms, microfilmed near the sender, the microfilms were then flown to special development centers where they were developed into prints and sent to the receiver. Airgraphs were introduced by the British forces in April 1941 and were an innovative solution in a situation where the capacity for mail was limited and became very important for the fast and secure communications in wartime.

Several countries issued airgraphs - this book focuses on issues that were prepaid - issued by the eight countries noted in the title. The vast majority of Airgraphs were given out as 'Formulars', that is, the user had to apply postage stamps, and are therefore not covered in this work. The first plus-point of this book is that, in three chapters, it covers the technical development, production and system in great detail. Every aspect of the service is described and illustrated with more than 50 wonderful photos, of the cameras, the film, the developing machines and the operators censoring, taking the photos, checking the print, cutting the airgraphs etc. This is philatelic story telling at its best.

The second half of the book has a comprehensive list of all recorded items of pre-paid airgraphs. The listing is made country by country starting with an overview of which countries had the service during which time period. Then, all pre-paid airgraphs are described and listed together with illustrations – even of proofs and varieties. The listing includes a realistic price indication for both mint and used items. The author has done a tremendous job in finding material from all countries with the help of numerous collectors from all over the World who have contributed with scans of items. The book concludes with a bibliography - the only objection I have to the book is that it deserved a hard bounding. It is a remarkable work which is extremely readable.

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THE MMALEBÔHÔ (1894), MAGOEBA(1894/1895) AND MPHEPHU(1898) CAMPAIGNS IN THE ZUID-AFRIKAANSCH REPUBLIEK (ZAR) AGAINST THE VENDAS

by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA Pretoria Philatelic Society



This is the first time anything has been published about these three wars from a postal history point of view.

Background

As the Boers began to reoccupy the Zoutpansberg area in the northern parts of the ZAR in the 1880s, they carried out military campaigns against the Venda in order to bring them under the government control.

By the beginning of the 1890s, white authority was established in the Transvaal, except in the northern and north-eastern regions. It was therefore to be expected that the ZAR government, which was establishing effective control over all residents within its borders, would come into conflict with local black communities.

In view of the strained relationship that had erupted between the government and the black communities, a force of white volunteers, known as the 'Zoutpansberg Riding Border Guard', was established in October 1888. The government agreed to provide funds for the maintenance of a mounted force of 25 men with Lieutenant G.A. du Toit as Commander. Shortly afterwards, the resistance of whites in the area was strengthened with the construction of Fort Hendrina and Fort Henning (Figs.1 & 2).



Fig.1: Fort Hendrina, named after Hendrina, the wife of Commandant-General Piet Joubert (Source: <https://www.zoutnet.co.za/articles/news/44226/2017-09-29/the-story-of-the-zoutpansberg-as-last-three-forts>, downloaded 19.11.2020).

The Commandant-General of the ZAR, Piet Joubert, began preparations to subjugate all the chiefs by military means (Fig.3). In 1894 the first campaign was executed against Mmalebôhô (Malaboch), the second one against Magoeba (1894/1895) and later in 1898, another against Makhado's successor Mphephu who refused to submit to Boer rule. In 1898 a Boer force of some 4000 men invaded and defeated the Venda (Fig.4). According to Giliomee and Mbenga, this ended the resistance of the last independent African chiefs in South Africa.

The conquest of the Hananwa of Mmalebôhô, 1894

The first black community to be decisively defeated by the ZAR forces, assisted by sympathetic black people, was the Hananwa of Mmalebôhô (Fig.5) in the vicinity of the

Blouberg. These clashes occurred from about May to the end of July 1894.

In the preceding period, there was particular friction over the tax liability of the Hananwas and the application of the government's policy of reserves for black communities. In terms of taxation, Mmalebôhô was, at most, willing to pay a small tribute to the ZAR authority. However, the demarcation of a reserve for the Hananwas was unacceptable to Mmalebôhô.

This state of affairs resulted in a clash of wills. Consequently, in April 1894, Commandant-General Piet Joubert sent an ultimatum to Mmalebôhô, which required that he present himself to Barend Vorster, the local Commissioner, within three days. He was to provide information needed by authorities about the Hananwa and pay the tax arrears.

Mmalebôhô was unwilling to comply, and did not respond to a further instruction from Joubert on 7 May 1894, that he was to move to a reserve of 40,000 morgen (34,261 ha) on the Mogalakwena River within eight days.

The authorities consequently called up a militia of 1500 men from the districts of Pretoria, Middelburg, Rustenburg, Waterberg, Marico and Soutpansberg. They were supported by the State Artillery (Fig.6) and various black communities. The commandos from the various districts arrived at Blouberg from the end of May 1894 until as late as 25 June 1894. Joubert himself arrived there on 2 June 1894.

He had a total of about 1760 burghers and 2000 compliant black people at his disposal. The various commandos set up camps at strategic positions at the foot of the mountain. The Pretoria Commando's camp, for example, was located in the Beuley Valley, southwest of Setswakop (Fig.7).



Fig.2: Telegram with the Fort Hendrina rubber stamp dated 14 February 1899. (Source: National Archives, Pretoria).

The first major offensive against the Hananwas took place on 14 June 1894. The Pretoria Commando was active on the southern side of the mountain where they attacked and burned down a number of huts.



Fig.3: Official cover posted from the Commandant General's office in Pretoria 26 January 1894 to a number of 'burghers' or citizens in the Zoutpansberg area. The contents of this letter from the head of the ZAR's military was probably in connection with the coming Malaboch campaign. (Source: Kamffer collection).

From 18 to 19 June, at the request of Mmalebôhō, a ceasefire was declared; but he was still not prepared to surrender (Fig.8). On June 20, the next major offensive began, from the fort just north-east of Lenare. Between 1500 and 2000 cattle and a number of horses were looted during the operation. This led Mmalebôhō and his followers to seek refuge in the well-entrenched cracks, cliffs and holes on the mountain slope. They were now cut off from water and began to experience hardships.

The pressure exerted on Mmalebôhō had already led him to demand peace on 6 July; however, he was not yet ready to unconditionally give himself up.

On 28 July, he requested an interview with missionary Sonntag and it appeared he wanted to surrender. Although many women, children and Sejoma surrendered during these negotiations, Mmalebôhō was not committed to it. He only surrendered on 31 July. According to Joubert's summary report, eight civilians were killed and 19 wounded. It is not known how many of Mmalebôhō's warriors were killed.

However, many of his cattle were looted - Sonntag puts this number as high as 4000. These cattle were, according to the provisions of Martial Law, divided among the burghers and loyal black people.

For the Hananwas, the end of the campaign was a major setback. In addition to the loss of life and the loss of cattle, crops and huts burnt, their leader and his advisers were captured and sent to Pretoria to be tried. Mmalebohō remained in prison in Pretoria until 1900. However, with the British conquest of Pretoria, he was released and returned to rule over his followers.

In terms of Act No. 27 of 1913, as amended, a reserve was granted to Mmalebôhō just south of, and including part of the Blouberg. Mmalebôhō died in 1939.

The subjugation of the black communities in the north-eastern escarpment under Kgosì Makgoba, 1894-95

After the Hananwa of Mmalebôhō were defeated by July / August 1894, Commandant-General P.J. Joubert focused his attention on the rebellious black communities in the north-eastern escarpment, including the Tlou of Makgoba (Magoeba) at Magoebaskloof (Fig.9).

For some time dissatisfaction with government measures had been prevalent in these communities and, just as with the Hananwa, particularly over the payment of tax. The tax contribution of other black communities in the area, such as that of Makgoba, was also weak.

In the 1890s the ZAR government instructed that, with the exception of Modjadji, the Rain Queen, to whom a reserve was allocated on a portion of her existing land, all the black communities in the area had to leave their settlements and settle south of the Great Letaba River.



Fig.4: Map indicating where the different wars or campaigns took place in the northern parts of the ZAR. (Source: Louis Changuion & Bertus Steenkamp, Omstrede land, p. 109).



Fig.5: A drawing of Mmalebôhō (Malaboch) (Source: Rev. Colin Rae, Malaboch or notes from my diary on the Boer campaign of 1894, p. xvii)

The area north of the river was ear-marked for occupation farms. During the second half of July 1892, the black communities that were required to settle south of the Great Letaba - including those under Mmamathôla, Maupa and Makgoba were informed of this by the Location Commission.

There was a great reluctance to leave their traditional territory. Although all were opposed to this arrangement, Makgoba in particular spoke out strongly against it. Commandant-General Piet Joubert arrived in Pietersburg on 10 August 1894 after the campaign against Mmalebôhō. The next day, the council of officers met to discuss military strategy in the north-eastern escarpment.

After subjugating various black chiefs, the next target was action against Makgoba. Makgoba's kraals (in the vicinity of present Magoebaskloof) would be attacked from the west the Lydenburg commando would approach from the foot of the



Fig.6: Part of the ZAR Staatsartillerie (State Artillery) used in the campaign against Hanawa of Mmalebôhō. (Source: Rev. Colin Rae, Malaboch or notes from my diary on the Boer campaign of 1894, Facing p. 66).

mountain. Makgoba's force initially offered strong resistance, but later retreated to the dense forests. Their kraals were burnt down, and their herds plundered.

It was not until May 1895 that another attempt was made to take military action in this area on a large scale. Burgers of the districts of Soutpansberg, Lydenburg, Waterberg, Rustenburg, Pretoria and Middelburg were called up - a total of 781 men. In addition, the State Artillery and the black groups under Commissioners Potgieter (Waterberg), Abel Erasmus (Lydenburg) and D.J. van der Merwe (Soutpansberg), as well as the Tsonga Commando under Adolf Schiel also joined these commandos. The black warriors were between 6000 and 8000 in number.

Makgoba was the main target of the joint forces at an early stage and efforts were made to isolate him from the other black communities to prevent him from escaping from the dense forests of Magoebaskloof. Joubert, with the approval of the military council, sent a final warning to Makgoba on 29 May 1895, to surrender, but to no avail. Preparations for an attack began, planned for Monday 3 June 1895

The attack, with the initial main target being a peak (then known as Spioenkop) located just north of Makgoba's main kraal in Magoebaskloof. The black people fighting on the side of the ZAR forces, would wear white bands around their heads and learn a password to distinguish them from the followers of Makgoba.

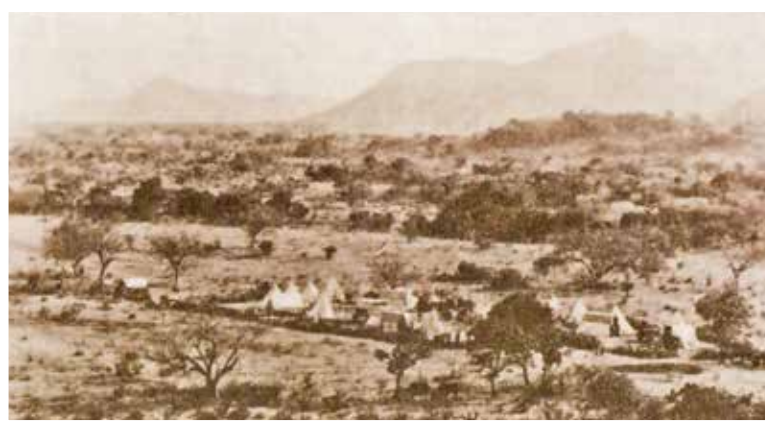


Fig.7: Camp of the Pretoria Commando at the Beuley valley near Blouberg during the campaign against Mmalebôhō (Source: Rev. Colin Rae, Malaboch or notes from my diary on the Boer campaign of 1894, Facing p. 114).

On 3 June the burghers and black people from Joubertskroon reached Spioenkop quite easily. However, the forces attacking from an easterly direction, did not make the same progress. In the course of the day, the commandos were ambushed by some of Makgoba's warriors, who were also wearing white headbands. This attack therefore failed and another attack on Makgoba was planned for the next day. On 4 June the main kraal of Makgoba was captured without much resistance and set ablaze. However, Makgoba and his followers were in a different shelter and managed to flee into the dense ravines.

The Lydenburg commando under Commandant Abel Erasmus had meanwhile joined the ZAR forces. Along with them was a group of Swazi warriors and it was they who, on 9 August 1895, tracked down one of Makgoba's wives and forced her to point out his

hideout (in a natural forest area). They then hunted down and killed Makgoba, decapitating him. His head was taken to Commandant General Joubert as evidence (Fig.10).

The campaign had far-reaching consequences for the black communities in this area. Not only were many of them killed or wounded, but a few thousand of them were taken as prisoners of war to Pretoria. Later they were sent to different districts where they were obliged to work as labourers for white farmers. In time, some of them returned to the north-eastern escarpment, where they settled on white farms. Many black communities of the north-eastern escarpment lost their territories during this time.

The 1898 Conquest of the Vendas of Mphephu

By the 1890s, the ZAR authority still did not have full control over the Vendas under Makhado - and from 1895 under Mphephu. These Vendas were the last black community in the ZAR that had not been conquered. Apart from the ZAR government wanting to gain control of the Venda people to make tax collection more efficient, white farmers in increasing numbers had established themselves in these parts and incidents of friction necessitated land demarcation.

The influx of white farmers in this part, especially with Act No. 8 of 1886, Occupation Act for government lands located in the district of Zoutpansberg and part of Waterberg, gained direction and momentum. Some of the first land earmarked for this purpose in 1886 was located just south of the former Schoemansdal and east of the Sand River. Due to the hostile attitude of the Vendas under Makhado (and later Mphephu), the settlement of white farmers in this area was slow.

To prevent incidents between Makhado and the immigrant whites, the ZAR authorities instructed immigrant farmers not to settle north of the Doorn River, which was considered by Makhado as the border. Even so farmers south of the border, were constantly harassed and intimidated by Vendas who regularly came across the Doorn River border.

On 8 and 9 May 1895, the Location Commission, then chaired by H.P.N. Pretorius, made another attempt to persuade Makhado and his councillors to a census of his subjects and to have a reserve demarcated for them on that basis. Makhado was only willing to accept



Fig.8: Stampless Malaboch-campaign cover from F.C. Esterhuizen (manuscript on the rear) from Pietersburg (18 June 1894) where it entered the post addressed to A.D.W. Wolmarans L.E.V. (member of the First Volksraad of the ZAR and the Executive Council). Cover endorsed on the front 'Veld dienst op last van Com Erasmus' (Source: Emil Bührmann collection).

the boundaries as indicated by him, which included the Doorn and Sand River. It was clear that the situation was heading for conflict between the ZAR's forces and Makhado.

Makhado died on 11 September 1895, and it initially seemed as if Mphephu, his successor, would pursue better relations with the ZAR government. However, under Mphephu, a strained relationship developed with the whites and the ZAR government. Signs of this could already be seen in the succession struggle after Makhado's death.

Some Vendas who did not support Mphephu placed themselves under the protection of ZAR officials, who received them with hostility. This must have undoubtedly made a negative impression on Mphephu. To a large extent, the issue that ultimately led to the outbreak of war was taxation. The collection of taxes from black communities in the ZAR had always been a problem. Both Makhado and Mphephu showed a reluctance in this regard and thereby influenced other black communities. In 1898, Mphephu forbade other black communities to pay taxes to the ZAR and collected them for himself from then onwards.

On 13 September 1898, the ZAR government decided that a commando should be called to deal with the unstable situation. Firstly, this commando had to move the iron forts at Fort Klipdam and Fort Hendrina to the farm Rietvlei where a new town would be laid out.

Commandant-General Piet Joubert immediately summoned 1050 men from the districts of Pretoria, Potchefstroom, Waterberg, Heidelberg, Standerton and ordered the artillery to leave with



Fig.9: Sculpted image of Makgoba (Source: Kgoshi Mamphoka Makgoba, Heritage Publishers).

100 men. The joint forces would meet at Fort Schutte. As early as 17 October 1898, they crossed Mphephu's border, the Doorn River and arrived on 19 October. (Figs.11 & 12).

Mphephu again twice invited Joubert to come to his capital, something the latter considered unwise, and those efforts came to nothing. On 21 October, the Vendas attacked the main camp at Rietvlei, and on 23 October the camps of Soutpansberg and Waterberg, which were in the vicinity of the former Schoemansdal. Both attacks were repelled fairly easily and without loss on the Boer side. Despite this, Joubert sent another letter to Mphephu on 24 October in an attempt to find a peaceful solution. This too was ignored by Mphephu and on 29 October the Vendas attacked the Buys community during which one person was killed. The Military Council decided to wait until after the arrival of the newly called-up civilians and the approximately 1500 Swazis and 1500 Tsongas, who would come to assist them, before starting military action.

Although the rough, mountainous and forested terrain provided major problems for Joubert during the onslaught, it was completed relatively quickly and with relatively little loss of life. The action began at 3a.m. that morning; with Mphephu's Luatame capital attacked from three directions.

The Krugersdorp, Johannesburg, Potchefstroom, Lydenburg, Wakkerstroom and Ermelo commandos, assisted by one battery of the artillery and about 700 Swazis, acted on the eastern flank with the mountain peaks Malimuwa and Sunguzwi as targets. The commandos of Pretoria, Heidelberg and Standerton, with two advanced from a central position directly north onto batteries of the artillery,



Fig. 10: Unfranked registered cover from Pietersburg to Pretoria emanating from the Makgoba campaign endorsed 'Veld dienst' with a Pietersburg postmark on the back dated 7 September 1894. (Source: Jannie Hofmeyr collection).

Luatame, with the intention of isolating Mphephu in his capital and prevented him from fleeing. The eastern flank who met with strong opposition, had their progress delayed, only reaching their intended position at Mphephu's capital the next day.

The other groups progressed remarkably fast and surrounded the enemy by half past one and were inside the capital by nine o'clock. In this attack the well-equipped artillery under Commander S.P.E. Trichardt played an important role.

Mphephu, with the majority of his followers, still managed to escape, although about 200 of his men were killed. He and his remaining fighters later fled across the Limpopo.

Due to the midsummer climate and risk of contracting malaria, it was decided not to pursue him further. This campaign resulted in other Venda leaders from the area also approaching Joubert for peace talks. By 2 December 1898, the commando was back in the main camp and was disbanded (Fig.13).

Joubert himself returned to Pretoria on 8 December 1898. While efforts were launched to recover grain hidden in the mountains; this plan was later abandoned when it appeared that Mphephu's people were suffering acute deprivation.

The campaign against Mphephu incurred huge expenses by the ZAR; by March 1899 it was estimated at about £157,000. In addition, at least five civilians and a number of Swazi and Tsonga forces had been killed. On the other hand, this part of the Transvaal was now open for white settlement and the town of Louis Trichardt was established.

For Mphephu's Vendas, these events had serious adverse consequences, having 1500 cattle, between 3000/4000 sheep and goats looted from them. In the time when Commandant Trichardt (after Joubert's departure) was in command, about 3000 Venda rifles were seized. Some of the Venda leaders were also captured and sent on to Pretoria, while Mphephu and many of his followers fled the ZAR.

On his return after the Anglo-Boer War, Mphephu received a reserve further north, but his power was curtailed. The Vendas who had previously been his subjects were divided into three groups and split between himself and his two brothers, Sinthumule and Kutama, in separate demarcated reserves. In reality, they lost large areas of territory which they had previously claimed. Mphephu died in 1924.

Conclusion

For all the Venda Chiefs, these events had serious adverse consequences. In the various battles, large numbers of them were killed or wounded and their cattle, sheep and goats looted. The black communities of the northern part of the ZAR in 1894 lost their territories during this time. After the war with Mphephu in 1898, the freedom of the last independent South African chiefdom ended. It was 100 years later when South Africa achieved democracy in 1994, that in terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Act 22 most of these communities got their land back.

• The author would like to acknowledge the assistance of Capt. Jacques de Vries of Pretoria with the writing and editing of this article.

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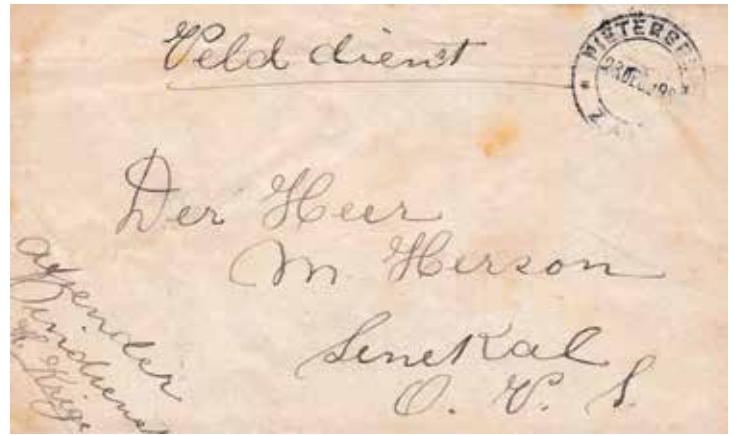


Fig.11: Stampless cover from the Mphephu campaign annotated 'Veld dienst' via Pietersburg (23 December 1898) to Bloemfontein 'DE 26 98' (backstamp) to Senekal with manuscript 'Afzender in diens H. Krige'. Members of commando's on active service enjoyed a free franking privilege. (Source: Emil Bührmann collection).

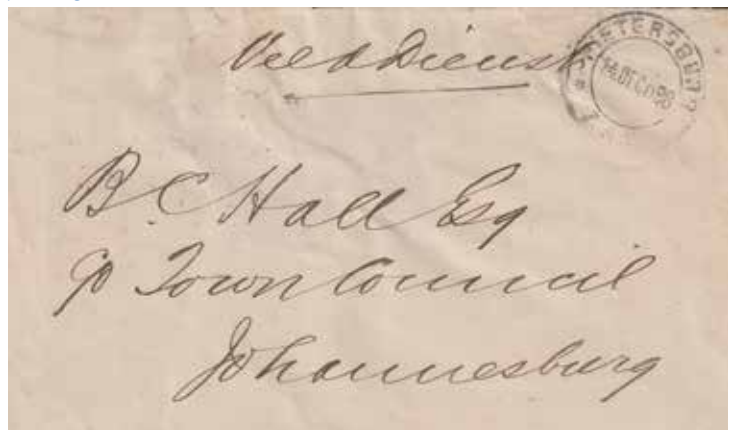


Fig.12: Unfranked envelope from the Mphephu campaign endorsed 'Veld Dienst' and cancelled in Pietersburg on 14 December 1898. (Source: Jannie Hofmeyr collection).



Fig.13: Luatame, capital of Mphephu after the ZAR forces took it over. (Source: J.S. Bergh, *Geskiedenis Atlas van Suid-Afrika, Die vier noordelike provinsies*, p. 39)

82nd PFSA Congress



THIS CONGRESS HAS TAKEN PLACE ON 3 DECEMBER 2020
AT THE JOHANNESBURG COUNTRY CLUB

With the planned 2020 National Exhibition in Port Elizabeth being cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Philatelic Federation of South Africa (PFSA) Executive decided that at least the annual Congress should be held. The 82nd Congress was convened at the Country Club Johannesburg on 3 December 2020. The PFSA President Francois Friend could not attend this Congress and it was conducted by Emil Minnaar RDPSA. It was attended by some 28 delegates representing 17 affiliated Societies together with 3 observers.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF CONGRESS

by Patrick Flanagan RDPSA, FRPSL, Chair. Rhodesia Study Circle

With the PFSA being a member of the world philatelic body FIP, Patrick reflected on the positioning of the PFSA within the three regional bodies of FIAP in the East, FEPA in greater Europe and FIAF in the Americas. He believed that our present alignment with FIAP is not optimal for South Africa and should be reviewed by an independent task team.

Patrick noted that whilst PFSA membership has increased since the last Congress, it appears that in view of the wide range of activities of stamp fairs, auctions and the phenomenon of social media, the Federation may not be truly representative of South African stamp collectors. He lauded the appointment of André du Plessis as Chief Operating Officer and hoped that this function could lead to a growth of the collecting bodies, being enabled by the technology revolution of social media platforms. The havoc wreaked by Covid restrictions has been largely negated by 'new ways' of stamp collecting, through websites, virtual Zoom meetings, exhibiting and judging. The funding of the PFSA was of concern, being too dependent on the Philatelic Foundation. Patrick proposed that the PFSA should have a fundraising strategy together with a stringent review of its expense budget – paying for Judges and Commissioners and subsidising exhibitors should be examined - the PFSA needs to be a self-sustaining organisation.

Patrick concluded his address by saying that there remains a lot of good about our hobby - fantastic in fact. He noted there exists a great deal of energy and we need to harness as much of this energy as possible. He would also love to see more transparency and for all of those in the stamp collecting and philatelic community to show respect, tolerance and integrity. He wished that our hobby grow from strength to strength and that all those who collect stamps enjoy doing so - it is a truly wonderful pastime.

PFSA PRESIDENT

Apologies were received from President Francois Friend who was unable to attend but sent his thoughts regarding the cancellation of Algoapex 2020. "It was with a sense of pride that the Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society (PEPS) welcomed the Philatelic Federation of



Francois Friend



Patrick Flanagan RDPSA, FRPSL

South Africa's 2019 Congress announcement that Port Elizabeth was selected for the 2020 national stamp exhibition.

The PEPS exhibition committee did an excellent marketing and organisational job with dealers from as far as the United Kingdom taking up stands, along with their South African counterparts; exhibitors from across the world entering and various sponsors donating copious amounts of money for this event. Alas, then came the corona pandemic that rocked the world and eventually resulted in the organising committee cancelling Algoapex 2020. Not only was all the hard work in vain but also the fact that 2020 may have

represented the last opportunity for such an event in Port Elizabeth, made the actual outcome an extremely sad occurrence. The organising committee wishes to thank all their sponsors, prospective exhibitors and most of all, the relevant dealers who were prepared to venture into the Eastern Cape (a province that although known for its natural beauty and diversity, is definitely not known for its abundance of financial resources, especially in comparison to its westerly and northerly provincial counterparts). Thank you all with this very short and very sad report on Algoapex 2020".

REPORT FROM CONGRESS CHAIRMAN

by Emil Minnaar RDPSA, Chairman of the 2020 Congress of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa.



Emil Minnaar RDPSA

"Welcome to this 82nd Congress. This past year has been a difficult year with the advent of the global pandemic. Life has changed with our having to live with the Covid-19 global pandemic. Clubs ceased meetings, exchange books stopped circulating and social contact with our fellow collectors has been extremely difficult. Both National and International Exhibitions have been cancelled or postponed.

With the temporary closure of postal services, it was fortuitous that at our last Congress a decision was taken to offer *The SA Philatelist* in electronic format. The publication has been available on the Federation website now for a number of issues.

We introduced our Virtual One Frame Exhibition some five years ago and this year we had 80 entries from 14 countries. Judging was done by 25 jurors from 12 countries. This year, virtual exhibitions were introduced in Australia, England, Bangladesh, United States and some European countries.



Management: Peter van der Molen RDPSA, Jill Redmond RDPSA, Emil Minnaar RDPSA, Neil Cronjé RDPSA... A view of delegates at the Conference...

Two of many sites on the internet which are displaying exhibits are: Exponet - Web address http://www.japhila.cz/hof/index02_.htm and Stampedia - Web address <http://www.stampedia.net/stamp/exhibition/en>.

Life is slowly returning to 'normal', if there is such an existence and we all look forward to attending meetings and stamp fairs once again. The lockdown has given us more time to explore the Internet. I recently joined a group called "Post Crossing". It is a project that allows you to send postcards and receive postcards back from random people around the world. That is real postcards, not electronic media. I have enjoyed preparing the postcards, one of which took three months to reach the United States. Hopefully, the delivery times will improve. I am very proud to be associated with our fraternity. I find it soul satisfying to associate with all my collector friends. In closing, I would like to thank the following in making this Congress possible:

- The Chairman and members of Management Committee;
- André du Plessis as COO for his proactive management;
- The Philatelic Foundation for their continued guidance and Financial support;
- The Johannesburg Country Club for making available this magnificent venue".

CONGRESS MOTIONS & PRINCIPAL DEBATES

There were no motions and principal debates.

INCOMING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Incoming Management Committee was announced as:

<i>Hon Life President</i>	Mr Peter van der Molen RDPSA
<i>President</i>	Mr Hugh Amoore RDPSA
<i>Chair Management Committee</i>	Dr Neil Cronjé RDPSA
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mr Derek Roth
<i>Chief Op. Officer</i>	Mr André du Plessis RDPSA
<i>Foundation Representative</i>	Mr Jim Findlay RDPSA

The Incoming Standing Committees' Chairmen are:

<i>Exhibitions</i>	Mr André du Plessis RDPSA
<i>Expert</i>	Mr Michael Wigmore RDPSA
<i>FIP/FIAP</i>	Mr Emil Minnaar RDPSA
<i>Judging & Ethics</i>	Dr Neil Cronjé RDPSA
<i>The SA Philatelist</i>	Mr Peter van der Molen RDPSA
<i>Promotion: Website</i>	Mr André du Plessis RDPSA
<i>Awards Custodian</i>	Mr Ian Matheson RDPSA
<i>Publications</i>	Mr André du Plessis RDPSA
<i>Heritage</i>	vacant
<i>Post Office Liaison</i>	Mr Alex Visser RDPSA

PHILATELIC FOUNDATION REPORT TO CONGRESS

Dr Jim Findlay RDPSA, President of the Philatelic Foundation of South Africa.

"Congratulations to Dr Neil Cronjé RDPSA and André du Plessis for organising this Congress during such abnormal conditions. Since March 2020 we have all been severely affected by the Corona virus. South Africa has not escaped this devastation combined with some draconian regulations including a lockdown without whisky and 'smokes'. However, I believe it is essential that we continue to promote philately and plan for the future. This congress is more important than those of yesteryear. Why you may ask? We know the world is already very different from this time last year and changes and new adaptations are happening around us. Reports from dealers indicate that there is an increase in 'stamp collecting' and overseas auctions are getting excellent prices for 'good' items which indicates an upswing.



Dr Jim Findlay RDPSA

There has been little activity on the Foundation front since last year. The Foundation remains committed to supporting Federation in the promotion of philately. This is largely financial support but does include the encouragement to improve the hobby and the business of stamp collecting.

Over the past year, our investments have been on a roller coaster ride but I am pleased to report that they have now largely recovered and represent a total sum of approximately R13.5 million. We are pleased to affirm that Foundation exists to support the Federation Management Committee and its initiatives".

CITATIONS

Nomination of Dr Chris Board OBE to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa.

Chris Board has been involved with organised philately for the best part of forty years. He was invited to join the Committee of the Transvaal Study Circle in 1978 as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer and was the Editor of *The Transvaal Philatelist* from 1985 to 1991 and he has been the Chairman of the Transvaal Study Circle since 2003. Chris is also active in his local Croydon Philatelic





Neil Cronjé addressing delegates ... Mnama Phalatse of the SA Post Office with Chris Carey & Beate Carey ... Herbie Schaffler, Peter Oppenheim & Ian Matheson.

Society, the Federation of Surrey Philatelic Societies and is an adviser to The British Postal Museum & Archive. He has always been willing to help others in their philatelic pursuits. Chris's interest in South Africa, its people, history, geography, cartography and philately started sometime in the 1950s when, as a post-graduate scholar, he carried out a survey in a rural area of the Eastern Cape which culminated in a PhD. He has visited South Africa on numerous occasions in order to carry out philatelic research in various archives and libraries. During the last few years these visits were almost on an annual basis. He has also followed this with research in the UK and even with the UPU in Berne, Switzerland. It so happened that when he and the late Tony Chilton visited the South African National Archives in 1983, he made notes which later helped to establish that certain philatelic items, available in the trade, had been taken from the archives.

When a study was completed, he always made it available in print. He has contributed numerous articles to *The Transvaal Philatelist* - topics covered include *inter alia*, the 'Interprovincial Period of South Africa', 'Edwardian Postal Stationery' and 'ZAR Numerals in Triangular Cancellers'. His magnum opus related to the SG1 stamp of the Union of South Africa. He has also formed an award winning collection relating to this stamp which he was invited to show in the Court of Honour at the International Exhibition in Sandton in 2010 – the exhibition staged to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the issue of that stamp. He has also examined the official pictorial post cards of the Cape of Good Hope.

His most significant contribution was his new interpretation of the very complex 'Interprovincial Period' of the Union of South Africa. To substantiate this new interpretation he carried out extensive research in the Treasury Records at the State Archives in Pretoria. His research was published in *The Transvaal Philatelist* in 1986. The 'Interprovincial Period' had traditionally been regarded as extending from the 31st May 1910, the date of Union, to the end of August 1913. This view was challenged by Chris Board after his detailed study of the way in which stamps and postal stationery were distributed during the early years of the Union and he proposed three new periods. Since then his subdivision of this period has been accepted in philatelic circles as the correct one based on his scientific research. He was awarded the Manfred Weinstein Memorial Medallion in 2015.

Proposed by Dr Andrew Higson FRPSL. For the *Transvaal Study Circle*

Nomination of André du Plessis as a Signatory to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa

André du Plessis has become a philatelic activist of note since he started participating in formal philately in 2014. He has published extensively on the South African King

George V Silver Jubilee stamp issue, the Air Mail stamps, the 1936 Johannesburg International Philatelic Exhibition (JIPEX) stamp issue, and the stamp issues of the World War II. More recently he has done a detailed study on the various printing techniques of South African stamps. By doing the detailed research on these published topics he has readily shared his information with all philatelists and stamp collectors.



PFSA COO André du Plessis, signing the Roll of Honour

His collecting interests of the King George V Jubilee issue and the JIPEX miniature sheets has achieved gold medals. His exhibits of 'Made in the Union of South Africa: Stamps and varieties of the un-hyphenated issues' and 'Johannesburg: The first 50 Years - from shanty town to world city' Open Class, achieved Large Gold awards. He also showed an outstanding exhibit 'Gold in the Transvaal 1871 to 1922' at Benoni. These exhibits illustrate the diversity of André's interest in philately as well as the thoroughness with which he researches his material. Each of his exhibits is a reference for other collectors His exhibits have also been shown at international exhibitions such as in Hong Kong and China. Apart from his publications and exhibits, Andre has enthusiastically become the chairman of the Pretoria Philatelic Society. Apart from the regular once-a-month evening society meeting, he started a Thursday morning meeting schedule for those members who cannot attend the evening meetings. This has become a successful attraction for the society.

André received many accolades for his chairmanship of the Stampshow 2018 national exhibition where he introduced some innovations. The most significant improvement at this exhibition was the introduction of a frame lighting system, which made a big impression on all who visited the show. Having the exhibition at an hotel was a big attraction for many dealers and philatelists, purely based on no extra travel required as well as staying over for the Palmares dinner and philatelists being able to socialise on site.

Another innovation was having a mini-exhibit of RDPSAs which advertised with whom specific philatelic knowledge could be found.

André was the initiator for Federation to have a permanent Exhibition Sub-Committee to assist any society that wants to host an exhibition. He was the Chairman of this sub-committee at the Benoni ER100 exhibition. It was at this exhibition that he and Steve Marsh tested a new improved frame lighting system, which received many favourable comments. At the ER100 Federation Congress, André was elected as Chairman of the standing Exhibition Committee. For the third year André was elected Vice President of Region 3 at the congress.

He is proposed to be a signatory of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa.

AWARDS CUSTODIAN REPORT

by Ian Matheson RDPSA, Awards Custodian.

“The most important tasks to be tackled each year by the Awards Custodian all revolve around preparation and management of the logistics around the annual stamp exhibition. As the Port Elizabeth stamp show fell victim to the Covid containment measures, this activity proved unnecessary.

In the past year Peter van der Molen has extended every assistance in the handover and cataloguing of the trophies to

the current incumbent, and has offered help into the future when exhibitions get under way again. I appreciate the help and the work he has done in the past. The job would have been well nigh impossible without his input.

One major task has been initiated this year and Congress decisions are invited. Few of the recipients of awards wish to take responsibility for looking after their awards for a year, and also for ensuring that they are returned in time for the following year’s show. We therefore undertook to photograph each trophy and to prepare certificates to award in lieu of the cups, trays and shields. This has been done and I wish to express my gratitude to David Wigston, who took my photographs and generated a fine set of certificates. To make every certificate identical and simply to insert the name of the trophy did not do justice to the benevolence of the donors and the efforts of the winners. I think you will agree that David has done a splendid job. Congress must now decide the fate of the huge stack of trophies in the corner of my wife’s art studio!”.

SKINNER CUP

Not awarded.

W.E. LEA CUP

Not awarded.

THE J.H. HARVEY PIRIE MEMORIAL AWARD

Not awarded.

ATTENDEES AT THE 82nd CONGRESS



The venue for this years Congress and the home of Witwatersrand PS.

Back Row L-R: Diederik Viljoen, Bellville Philatelic Society. Albert de Jong, Afrikaanse Filateliese Vereeniging. Kenny Napier, SAPDA. Ben Jansen, Postmark & Postal History Society, Herwig Kussing, PE PS. Joof van der Merwe, OFS PS. Ian Matheson, Awards Custodian. Herbie Schaffler President Wits PS. Howard Green, Chairman of the Awards Sub-Committee and Treasurer of Foundation. Herman van Niekerk, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria. Middle Row L-R: Terry Lydall, Philatelic Society of Johannesburg, Dineo Poo, SAPO. Chris Carey and Beate Carey, Sandton Philatelic Society. Robin Messenger, The SA Philatelist. Peter Oppenheim, Wits PS. Clive Carr, PS of J. Leon Jacobsen, Sasolburg Filatelievereniging. Marnus Steyn, Afrikaanse Filateliese Vereeniging. Neil Cronjé, Chair Management Committee. Seated L-R: Mmanna Phalatse, SA Post Office. Jill Redmond, Congress Secretary. Emil Minnaar, FIP / FIAP. Peter van der Molen, Hon. Life President. Patrick Flanagan, Rhodesian Study Circle. André du Plessis, Chief Ops. Officer.

THE MANFRED WEINSTEIN MEMORIAL MEDALLION

Dr Jannie H Hofmeyr: For his research of the USA 3c Denomination, Design and Uses: 1861 - '69 and published as the *Quantitative Colour Analyses* of the U.S. 3-Cents 1861 Issues.

FEDERATION PLAQUES

Awarded to Mrs Moira Bleazard, for many years of outstanding service on *The SA Philatelist* Editorial Board.

Mr Joof van der Merwe for Outstanding Organisational Work on SAVPEX 2019 & 2020

THE JACK HAGGER AWARD

Dr H J G (Gerhard) Kamffer: Best article on SA philately published in *The SA Philatelist* in the last two years: Union of SA Customs Duty / Douane Stamps. (February and April 2019).

CONGRESS CERTIFICATES

For articles published in *The SA Philatelist*; June 2019-April 2020 certificates were given to Lawrence Barit, Andrew Briscoe, Sean Burke, André du Plessis, Morgan Farrell, Jim Findlay RDPSA, Francois Friend, Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA, Ian Matheson RDPSA, Jimmy Mitchell, Chris Mobsby RDPSA, Roger Porter RDPSA, Ted Roberts. The Sasolburg Philatelic Society, Vic Sorour, Pauw Steyl RDPSA, The TBVC Study Group and David Wigston. Certificates were also issued to 'Regular Contributors': Alex Visser RDPSA, Volker Janssen, Robin Messenger and David Wigston.

PRESIDENT FOR 2021: ELECTION OF HONORARY OFFICE BEARERS

The elected PFSA President for 2021 is Hugh Amoore RDPSA, and Dep. President Jannie Hofmeyr, proposed by Diederik Viljoen, and seconded by Herwig Kussing.

CONFIRMATION OF REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

Region 1: Gauteng and North West: Andrew Fischer

Region 2: Eastern Gauteng: Colin Bousfield

Region 3: Pretoria, Mpumalanga & Limpopo: André du Plessis

Region 4: Free State/Northern Cape: Dr Leon (Jake) Jacobson

Region 5: KwaZulu-Natal: Vacant

Region 6: Western Cape: Diederik Viljoen

Region 7: Eastern Cape: Vernon Mitchell

Region 8: Outside Areas: Richard Stroud

FUTURE CONGRESSES & EXHIBITIONS

CAPE TOWN 2021. 9-13 November: International Philatelic Exhibition (IPEX)

JAPAN 2021. Philanippon 2021.

To commemorate 150th anniversary of the Japanese Postal Service.

25 - 30 August 2021.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Within South Africa, the rate for 2021 for R300.00 for printed copies of each issue.

R70.00 for an electronic copy to all. For SADC the rate is

R750.00 and Overseas, R1,100.00 per year.

(For clarity please see page 172)

Howard Green congratulating Joof van der Merwe (Federation Plaque) and Robin Messenger (Certificate).



Kenny Napier, SAPDA

Space and time constraints necessitate that further reports from sub-committees appear in the February 2021 issue.



ATTENDING SIGNATORIES OF THE RDPSA



Back Row L-R: Emil Minnaar, Dr Ian Matheson, Dr Neil Cronjé and Herwig Kussing. Front Row L-R: Herbie Schaffler, Howard Green, Jill Redmond, Peter van der Molen, Patrick Flanagan and Dr Jim Findlay.

2020 JUDGING AND ETHICS REPORT

by Dr Neil (JDE) Cronjé RDPSA, Chairman Judging and Ethics. The year 2020 was not a very good year for philately in general. The same goes for judges as they did not have any exposure to national or international exhibits. No new judges were trained.

No complaints about ethical misconduct have been received over the last few months.

Please note the judges are always available to assist with exhibits and I am prepared to assist with the promotion of exhibiting at stamp clubs. If you have a problem contacting a local judge, you're welcome to approach me for advice or a lecture as required.

SAPDA PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2020

by Kenny Napier.

Membership: Continues to decline in line with all philatelic organisations, this year in particular was above average as we lost our Honorary Life member Coen Slagt and long time member Andy Kriegler. Andy's wife, Emma will continue to run the business. There were also a few resignations for issues which should have been resolved and happily we will have them back in the fold for next year.

As a result of Covid, stamp collecting has been given a huge boost as collectors return to their hobby and with the various lockdowns in place, buying material from Europe is suddenly not so easy. Getting it here via the South African Post Office is of course virtually impossible. As a result local dealers have benefited tremendously.

A further result of Covid is that SAPDA is offering its members free subs for next year as we were unable to offer any benefits this year such as the Da Vinci show. This is due jointly to the sound financial position we find ourselves in as well as the generous gesture from IFSDA to waive subs for this year.

Letters From Home

Southern African Soldiers enlisted in the British Pioneer Corps during WWII

by Peter Thy, FRPSL, Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa

When Prime Minister Chamberlain's ultimatum to the German Government expired on 3 September 1939, Great Britain was at war with Germany. But as Britain was at war, so were also the Empire territories. The result would be that before the war was over in 1945, an estimated 470,000 African soldiers had served, in various capacities in the British Army engaged in service, labour, or combat functions. About 7-8 percent of these came from the High Commission Territories (H.C.T.) of Southern Africa (Fig.1).

The formal request for men to join the British Army in the Middle East was received in Southern Africa in July 1941. The H.C.T. were, however, prepared and recruited and trained 5,500 men in just 6 months and less than a few years later reached 35,000 'volunteered' men (Jackson, 2010).

The British administration and army command took for granted that all recruits for the war were volunteers. They, however, had few options other than leaving the actual recruitment to the local chiefs and had to turn a blind eye toward any violations of their wishes. The initial excitement lasted about a year after which the sentiments cooled and it became more and more difficult to find volunteers (Simelane, 1993; Jackson, 1999). Many chiefs pushed recruitment hard on their people and expected them to obey as was customary. The chiefs' justification was to prove to the British that their people were worthy of respect in order to secure long-term independence for their people, despite the constant threat from South Africa (Jackson, 2010).



Fig.1: Map showing the three UK High Commission Territories (Basutoland, Bechuanaland Protectorate, and Swaziland) and the Union of South Africa. Location of training centres; Mafeking was the administrative centre for Bechuanaland Protectorate.

Tribal regimentation, targeting opponents and tribal minority groups, and attempts to retrieve escapees from the mining sector in South Africa, or from bush hide-outs, were practised

together with general coercion and intimidation. Organised abduction of men fit for war and nightly rounding-up and raids on villages were practised in some places (Kiyaga-Mulindwa, 1984; Simelane, 1993). It is thus fair to say that while the first wave of companies arriving in the Middle East were made-up largely of volunteers, the last wave in 1942 saw a fair amount of soldiers who would have preferred to have spent the war years somewhere else.



Fig.2: Official Army Field Press photo from 1944 showing a Bechuanaland labour group doing road construction together with Royal Engineers near Castel del Rio, northern Italy.

The home front suffered from the draining of men in their prime ages between 20 and 30 years. Bechuanaland had in 1946 about 250,000 African inhabitants, Basutoland 555,000, and Swaziland 180,000. A simple calculation - (50% male of which 8.5% were 20-30 years old) would suggest that most of that population bracket, was removed from the rural economy. Traditionally, men handled the cattle and the spring preparation of the fields, while women took care of planting and harvesting in addition to dealing with children and the extended family. The result was that families were broken up and the women left to cope with managing of cattle herds, land assignments, boundary disputes, and ploughing the fields for the spring harvest, with only help from teenagers and the elderly. This affected the agricultural production and the livelihood of the people, despite it being common for men to spend extensive periods away from home, working in the South African mines.

On the other hand, the war engagement could last for up to four to five years creating a further issue of whether the women were faithful to their men and the possibility of unexpected family growth or death. An additional issue was that the soldiers received a daily small allowance (9d) and in addition a 9d deferred payment. Most soldiers claimed dependants and would get an extra 9d to be paid out to their dependants. The deferred portion would be deposited by the local administration in a postal savings account (Bent, 1952). The deferred part of the pay would be paid out to an

identified person or administrated by the local tribal administrations that would give money to the women at home on a need basis. It is against this background that letters between home and the soldiers should be seen.

Organisation

A total of 84 companies were formed and numbered for each of the territories as given below (Bent, 1952; Grey, 1953). Each soldier had a unique assigned service number prefixed by 'AS' for Basutoland, 'EC' for Bechuanaland, and 'SW' for Swaziland.

- Basutoland: 21,500 soldiers formed 50 companies: Nos. 1901-1951
- Bechuanaland: 10,000 soldiers formed 24 companies: Nos.1966-1990
- Swaziland: 3,500 soldiers formed 10 companies: Nos.1991-2000

With the war advancing and with the invasion of Sicily and Italy, new group attachments and the formation of new companies occurred. Some companies were seconded particularly to the New Zealand or Australian expeditionary forces. From 1943, some labour companies were diluted into British units in Sicily and Italy.

Here they saw active combat mostly in Heavy Anti-Aircraft Artillery (H.A.A.A.) units and indirectly released better-trained British soldiers for the North European invasion. Other companies or parts of companies served in smoke generation, salvage, and fire-fighting groups. However, the majority of companies spent the whole war performing labour and service functions in northern Africa and the Middle East without seeing direct military action.

The Soldiers

They all went through a basic training to learn to obey orders and to march in columns. This training occurred at national centres. They were formed into companies of about 350 men, if possible from the same tribal group (Bent, 1952; Grey, 1953). The Commanding Officer was British with little or limited local knowledge of African language and culture. The British Second-in-Command of the commissioned officers, was often seconded from the district administrations and had at least a rudimentary knowledge of the men and their background and expectations.

On the regimental level, each territory was assigned a chaplain with the rank of Captain and a group of African ordained ministers in addition to a group of Regimental

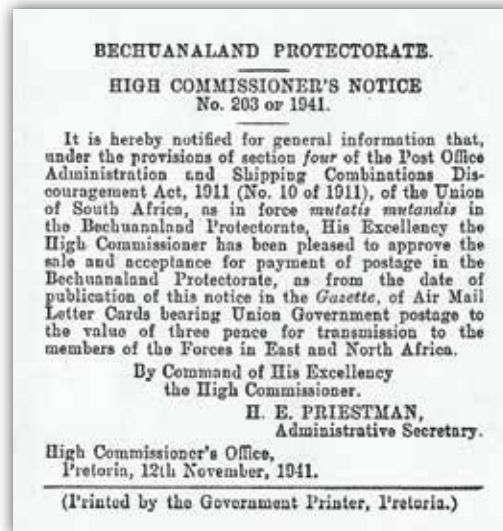


Fig.3: High Commissioner's Notice No. 203 of 1941 for Bechuanaland Protectorate announcing that South African Air Mail Letter Cards with Union postage of 3d were allowed for transmission to Forces in East and North Africa (later expanded to other areas of the war). Similar notices were published in Basutoland and Swaziland.

Sergeant Majors, the latter recruited from the tribal royalty. The company sergeant majors, sergeants, and corporals were recruited from among the Africans and were essential for the companies to function, providing translation, welfare, and conflict mediation (Jackson, 1999). Since the companies were often formed on a tribal basis, both the soldiers and the non-commissioned officers came from the same tribe and had similar backgrounds.

The British and tribal administrations had a keen understanding of how important it was for the soldiers to communicate with their families and dependants during their prolonged absence from home. Therefore the initial training included letter writing and how to address an envelope. This could not have been an easy task because of the limited literary skills of the majority of the soldiers. Both

the British territorial administration and the governing chiefs were very concerned about what would happen when the men returned home after the war. Would they have learned new ways, would they demand improvements in their rural societies, and would they still honour the traditional allegiance to the chiefs that was so essential for the traditional societal structure to survive?

This is the reason that the companies were organised along tribal lines and for the presence of the local administrators and royalty in command of the companies. They were there to secure allegiance to the British Crown and the tribal governments. In addition, the Swazi King had insisted that his men should be kept together throughout the war and that they had little interaction with other units. When the first soldiers arrived in Egypt and Syria, it was a freezing cold winter for which they were completely unprepared and inexperienced.



Fig.4: South African Active Service Letter Card used in 1944 in Serowe in Bechuanaland mailed to a pioneer of the 1968 Bechuana Coy - later readressed to the 1981 Coy.

From the beginning they were deployed as labour companies in the Middle East Forces against German aggression in North Africa (Bent, 1952; Grey, 1953). They took part in the advance of the Eighth Army that eventually expelled the enemy from Africa. Typical functions were guard duty, transport, harbour and road construction (Fig.2), and the operation of smoke screen generators. The H.C.T. pioneers were belatedly repatriated in 1946 after the defeat of Germany and following widespread protest about extended waiting times.

The Postal Arrangements

The pioneer companies were serviced by British Army Post Offices. It was a specific requirement from the home administrations and the chiefs that the pioneers would not be associated with South African units and thus not serviced by South African Army Post Offices. For this reason the pioneers were offered the same basic postal services as the British troops. The airmail rates to southern Africa were uniformly 3d for an aerogramme and a general 10d letter airmail rate.

The home front were allowed to use South African Active Service and Air Mail Letter Cards franked by a 3d stamp addressed to a soldier in active service (Fig.3). They were only available from the home postal offices. These cards were not issued to the soldiers in the field from British Army Post Offices.

Letters From Home

There are very few letters that have survived from the home front to the soldiers in the field. They are all on South African letter cards that were allowed at a 3d rate to members of the armed forces serving in the East and North Africa and later also the Mediterranean in general. This was the cheapest rate available. All mail to the forces was channeled through the South African Army Postal Service at Durban and flown to Cairo via a stop in Nairobi.

The early letter cards used were the Active Service Letter Cards (A.S.L.C.) after July 1941, but may have been replaced by Air Mail Letter Cards (A.M.L.C.) in early 1944 (Bridges, 2004). The individual Air Mail Letter Cards overprinted for each of the H.C.T. were only issued in April 1945 (Fig.9), too late to have had much effect on the war mail.

There are two types of letters: one type is mailed by the local tribal government in response to direct inquiries from the pioneers. The only example of the former is shown in Fig.4. The other is from the home front to soldiers in the war. This is the only example known to the writer genuinely used and addressed to a Bechuana soldier in the Central Mediterranean Forces. The card was mailed at Serowe on 20 September 1944, and addressed to 8004 Morake Keitseope, 1969 (Bechuana) Coy, A.P.C., C.M.F. The letter was readdressed to 1981 Coy since 1961 Coy did not exist, and got a F.P.O. 385 receiving mark of 15 October 1944, on the reverse. The card took about 27 days to reach the soldier in the field. F.P.O. 385 is known to have been located in Italy from early 1944 until the end of the war.

The card contains a short typewritten message dated 18 September 1944. Bechuana 1981 Coy was one of two companies (the other was 1980) that in October 1943 was transferred to Italy to provide continued support for the Eighth Army's offensive (Bent, 1952). The letter card was likely received somewhere in Northern Italy.



Fig.5: South African Air Mail Card used in 1945 in Basutoland to a pioneer of the 1943 Basuto Coy, C.M.F. continued support for the Eighth Army's offensive.

Tshekedi Khama, who signed the letter, was the acting chief of the Ngwato. At that point, he was waiting for his nephew Seretse Khama to return from London where he was studying law, to take over his inherited chieftainship. The other types of letters are from loved ones at home to husbands or uncles in the war. They seem to be only written by women. These are again very rare with only less than ten examples known to this writer, most from Basutoland and one from Swaziland.

A letter was mailed in January 1945 (Fig.5) from Pitseng in Basutoland to a soldier with Coy 1943. The writer is a young schoolgirl who writes to her uncle pleading with him to send money so she can buy a European coat to go to school instead of having to use the traditional Basuto blanket. The uncle, Molamu Mot'sabi, was part of Coy 1943 of the Central Mediterranean Forces (C.M.F.). In the late February of 1945, when the letter may have reached him, he was near the war front at the River Po in northeastern Italy after having taken part in the rapid advance culminating in the surrender of the German army in Italy (Grey, 1953). Unfortunately, we will never know if he was able to respond or whether his niece ever got her European coat, although we can predict that the money would not have arrived in time for the start of her Standard 5 class, which she must have attended in her traditional blanket.



Fig.6: South African Active Service Letter Card used in 1942 in Basutoland mailed to a pioneer of the 1915 Basuto Coy, M.E.F.

There, however, exists an additional airmail letter card mailed from Pitseng written in the same handwriting as the previous card and dated 1 September 1944 (Cattell, 1989). The content and the card's present whereabouts are unknown.

The following three letters originated from women left with the

task of maintaining the family subsistence farm and livestock. The first of these is shown in Fig.6. The letter sheet was mailed in August 1942 from Khabos in Basutoland to a soldier of Coy 1915 of the Middle Eastern Forces. The sender was probably his wife responding to a letter with instruction about what to do with the livestock.

The postal agency of Khabos was opened in 1937 (Scott, 1980) and is, like Pitseng of the previous letter, located in the Leribe District of northwestern Basutoland. Khabos is about 20 kilometers straight north of Pitseng toward the lowlands and the border to South Africa. This suggests that the writer of the letter lived outside of the village of Khabos. There exists another letter mailed to the same soldier also in 1942 (Scott, 1980, page 70).

In 1942 after the fall of Tobruk, Coy 1915 was on guard duty in the harbor of Alexandria, where the letter may have reached the soldier. Part of the company was in 1944 absorbed into a heavy-aircraft regiment of the Fifth Army serving in Italy (Grey, 1953).

A wife similarly writes a letter to her husband in the war in response to an inquiry letter (Fig.7). It is written at Jonathan's in Basutoland in December 1943 to a soldier of Coy 1918 of the Central Mediterranean Forces. The sender is responding to a letter with instruction about preparing the fields and the livestock and complains about not receiving letters as before.

The postal agency at Jonathan's was opened in 1927 (Scott, 1980) and is like Pitseng and Khabos also in the Leribe District of northwestern Basutoland. Jonathan's is about 20 kilometers northwest of Khabos in the lowlands near the Caledon River that forms the border to South Africa.

Coy 1918 had disembarked in early September 1943 in a thunderstorm without immediate shelter (Grey, 1953). They advanced north with the 8th Army working on bridge repairs and in January 1944 on airfields on the east coast of Italy where the letter may have reached the pioneer. The company's involvement in the rapid Italian offensive may explain why his wife did no longer so often receive his letters, perhaps not necessarily because they were not written, but also because of interrupted mail transport.

in Basutoland in January 1945 to a soldier of Coy 1949 of the M.E.F. The message was not translatable except for the initial greetings and message that reads: "*Mr Hloriso Rachau, I received the letter from you. I am still fine and the children are fine.*"

The postal agency at Bokong, dating back to 1931, is one of the most isolated offices in Basutoland. Although at the about the same elevation as Pitseng, it is right in the centre of the country, located on the highest plateau near a drainage system flowing southeast toward the Orange River. The agency was allocated to Leribe after the war. Coy 1949 was in early 1945 on garrison duty in Beirut because of a popular protest against the continued French presence. It was probably in Beirut that the pioneer received the letter about half a year before he would be able to return home.

An airmail letter sheet (Fig.9) exists used from Mbabane in Swaziland during November 1945 to a soldier of Swazi Coy 1998 in the C.M.F (van der Molen, 2013). Due to the late usage, it is written on an overprinted Swaziland letter sheet released in November 1944; it is the only known of these overprinted sheets to the C.M.F. from any of the H.C.T.s. The content of this letter, as well as its reverse, is unknown.



Fig.8: South African Air Mail Card used in 1945 in Basutoland mailed to a pioneer of the 1949 Basuto Coy, M.E.F.

Summary

Based on a sample of only five complete surviving letters mostly from Basutoland, some similarities are nevertheless obvious. They are all factual responses to inquiries received in letters from the war. It is understandable that this would be the case in a letter from the tribal administration (Fig.4). But why is this also the case for letters written by the women (Figs.5 to 8) left behind to manage children, the fields and livestock? The women responding to the letters from their husbands are mostly located in rural areas often far from the nearest postal agency. These women, like their husbands, were basically illiterate and, it is fair to assume, did have help with reading and writing the letters. This would certainly dictate the style of their responses with only indirect expressions of tenderness, like the querying why he had stopped writing (Fig. 7).

The letter from the niece to her uncle (Fig.5) differs in that it asks for money, a need that a wife may not have had since she presumably would get part of his dependent pay.



Fig.7: South African Active Service Letter Card used in 1943 in Basutoland mailed to a pioneer of the 1918 Basuto Coy, C.M.F.

The final letter shown (Fig.8) caused some translation problems. It is an Air Mail Letter Card mailed from Bokong

The correspondence clearly shows that a regular letter exchange existed to some extent between the soldiers and their families at home. Both the army command and the tribal administrations put significant effort into urging both the soldiers and the families at home to write letters. Despite such efforts it was universally complained that the families did not write enough and that letters often contained distorted and depressing news of life at home (Jackson, 1999).



Fig.9: South African Letter Sheet overprinted for use in Swaziland and mailed in 1945 to a pioneer of the 1998 Swazi Coy, M.E.F.

This may certainly be a reason for the very few letters preserved. An additional reason may be the unlikely case of letters being preserved through a long war of 4-5 years duration being carried in pockets and bags and finally being brought home after the war. This is clearly reflected by the poor conditions

of most of the letters with some of the damage likely to have been inflicted at home after the war like the rodent or termite nibbling. That at least some letters had survived attests to their importance to the soldiers.

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The author welcomes any further information and use of these letter cards by Southern African pioneers during WWII.
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South African National Exhibitions in 2021



Please diarise 22-25 July 2021.

Under the auspices of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa, the NATIONAL, JUNASS and SAVPEX 2021 exhibitions will take place in Bloemfontein.

For more information: (IREX) and entry forms, contact: Joof van der Merwe <jnc1@vodamail.co.za> or visit the Federation website <https://www.stampssa.africa>

More specific and up-to-date news will be shared with the Philatelic Societies in due course.



JOURNAL REFERENCES – Some significant recent articles noted relating to Southern Africa Philately, with most recent first.

- 1: The London Philatelist of November 2020, on pp.457 – 476 – ‘Natal : Use of the 1857 Embossed Stamp. Part 3’ by Keith P. Klugman FRPSL.
- 2: The London Philatelist of October 2020, on p.386 - 397 ‘Natal: Use of the 1857 Embossed Stamps. Part 2’ by Keith P. Klugman FRPSL.
- 2A: Also pp403 – 410 : ‘The Formular Cards of Sainte-Marie de Madagascar’ by Peter Thy FRPSL, which territory is an island to the East coast of Madagascar with a very checkered postal history.
- 3: The London Philatelist of September 2020 pp323 – ‘Natal: Use of the 1857 Embossed Stamps. Part 1’ by Keith P. Klugman FRPSL. who notes that “The first primitive local stamp issue of Natal ... comprised four values. These embossed stamps are rarely encountered on cover and this set of papers define the record of their known use.”
- 4: The Anglo-Boer War Philatelist, September 2020 pp48-62: ‘ The Circular Postmarks of the Natal Field Force’ by Roddy Sparks and Richard Stroud. Authors state “It is the intention to provide a more complete record of these interesting and scarce markings.”
- 5: The Orange Free State Study Circle Bulletin No.2020 of September 2020, on pp.4706 – 4713: ‘The BESANÇON Collection of Orange Free State (Part 4), gives realisations in CHF of auction.
- 6: The Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle, August 2020 pp 258-263: ‘Rhodesia & Nyasaland Archival Material’ a stunning display of QE2 Essays and Proofs by Patrick Flanagan.
- 6A: Also pp 272-277: ‘A Tale of Two Plates – A Doublehead Puzzle Explored’ by Bob Looker which discusses the 1/2d and 1d Doublehead plates.
- 6B: Also pp296 – 303: “Samuel Koslowsky – Family Matters in Philately” by Walter Herdzik and ‘Samuel Koslowsky, my Father’ by Sonia Stein. Samuel Koslowsky was better known as Sam Kelly who was the foremost Northern Rhodesian philatelist from the 1930s to the 1980s.

Letters to Sir Rowland Hill

by Dr Rob McLennan-Smith, Highway Philatelic Society



In this series, I am 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 96:4 Whole No 961, and the 2nd in the October 2020, Vol.96:5 Whole No 962.

3. Anthony Trollope (24 April 1815 - 6 December 1882)

Trollope was a famous English novelist and civil servant of the Victorian era. He was born in London to a privileged background but due to his father's mismanagement of numerous endeavours they had very little means. Anthony had no money or friends and had a miserable schooling at three elite institutions where he was bullied a great deal. The family fled to Belgium to escape debtors and survived on Anthony's mother, Frances', earnings as a well-known writer.

Anthony joined the London Post Office as a clerk at the age of 19 in 1834 and remained an employee until 1866 and rose almost to the top of the organisation.



Fig.1: Stamps from the Royal Mail 200th commemorative issue 24-04-2015 of the anniversary of Trollope's birth. On the left is his mother Frances (Fanny) – three of her children became writers. In the centre is Harrow, where Anthony attended school. He described his schooling "as unhappy as that of a young gentleman could well be".

Young Anthony was a poor worker who was regularly late for work, took extended lunches, ran up debts and liked a drink and a game of cards. Trollope stated that "the first seven years of my official life were neither creditable to myself nor useful to the public service" At the Post Office he acquired a reputation for unpunctuality and insubordination. He hated his work but saw no alternative and lived in constant fear of dismissal.

In 1841 he volunteered for the position of Postal Surveyor's Clerk which became available in central Ireland. His supervisor, William Maberley, was eager to be rid of him and sent him off to Banagher, Kings County.

He loved the Irish and blossomed, becoming a hard working valued public servant as a post office surveyor.



Fig.2: St Martins le Grand Post Office in London where Trollope worked for seven years from 1834.

A special type of postmark was developed by Trollope in the 1850s in an effort to improve the standard of Irish

cancellations. He was impressed by French postmarks and modelled his double ring duplex numbered cancellations on a well-known French type. They were not well received in Ireland and are only known used in black from two towns – Enniskillen and Kingstown (shown in Fig.4 on cover).

Fig.3: The 2009 Irish Post Office 82c issue commemorating the 150th anniversary of the departure of Anthony Trollope from Ireland.



To make the best use of his time he spent on train journeys for the post office, he had a portable desk made and wrote as he travelled. At home he rose at 05h30 and wrote for three hours, 250 words every 15 minutes - progress of which he recorded in a diary. Trollope was one of the most prolific writers of all time, producing 47 novels, 12 series of short stories, 16 non-fiction works and a play.



Fig.4.



Fig.5: Trollope married Rose Heseltine, the Irish daughter of a bank manager in 1844. They had two sons.

Trollope won a reputation for energy and effectiveness in Ireland, which came to the attention of Rowland Hill, who was Secretary to the Postmaster General at the time. He seconded Trollope in 1859 to reorganise the rural posts in South-West England.

Trollope reached a fairly senior position in the Post Office but he developed a progressive dislike of Rowland Hill. An extract from Anthony Trollope's autobiography:

"My old friend Colonel Maberley had been, some time since, squeezed into, and his place was filled by Mr Rowland Hill, the originator of the penny post. With him I never had any sympathy, nor he with me. In facts and figures he was most accurate, but I never came across any one who so little understood the ways of men, - unless it was his brother Frederic. Rowland Hill was an industrious public servant, anxious for the good of his country, but he was a hard taskmaster"

As a senior officer in the Post Office, Trollope would frequently argue with Rowland Hill, whom he apparently hated, and relished their disagreements, describing their encounters as *"feuds - such delicious feuds"* and stating that *"It was a pleasure for me to differ from him on all occasions"*.

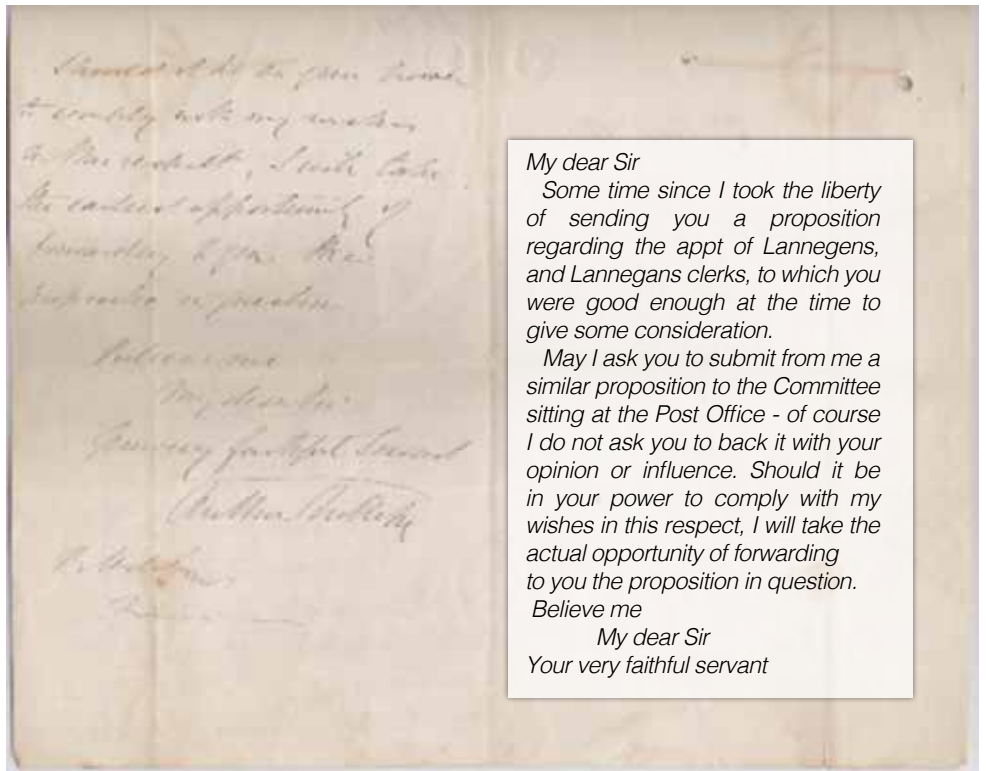


Fig.7: Rowland's archiving notes, this letter being number 8634.

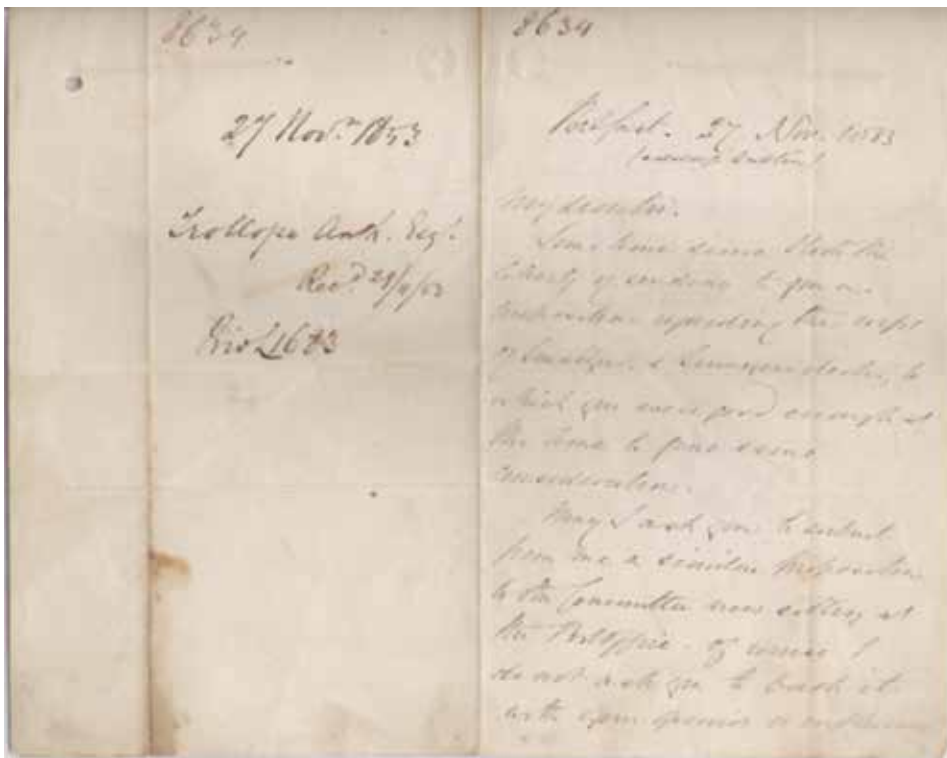


Fig.6: A letter from Anthony Trollope to Rowland Hill dated 27 November 1853, sent from Belfast.

The Pillar Box

On the recommendation of Anthony Trollope, who saw a similar idea on his European travels, the pillar box was first tried out in St Helier, Jersey in 1854 and was approved by the Post Office. In 1855 they were introduced in London where initially there were only five - Fleet Street, The Strand, Pall Mall, Piccadilly and Kensington. It was originally painted a sage green, the VR insignia appeared in the 1857 and the familiar red painted box in 1874.

Trollope apparently regretted introducing the pillar box, goes the story, because it allowed young women to correspond with men without having to take the letter to a male relative to have it franked and sent by post.

Hill left the Post Office in 1864 due to ill health and his position was taken by Trollope's brother-in-law, John Tilley. Trollope applied for Tilley's previous position as Under-Secretary to the Postmaster General but was passed over, and so in 1866 he resigned from the Post Office to continue his writing. Trollope and his wife travelled on the SS *Great Britain* in 1871 to Australia to visit their son Frederic. He wrote 'Lady Anna' on their voyage.



Fig.8: The original 1854 sage green pillar box depicted in the 2015 commemorative issue.



Figs. 9 & 10: Royal Mail stamps issued on 8th October 2002 for the 150th anniversary of the introduction of the Pillar Post Box into Great Britain by Anthony Trollope showing the 1857 VR green and the 1874 red pillar boxes.

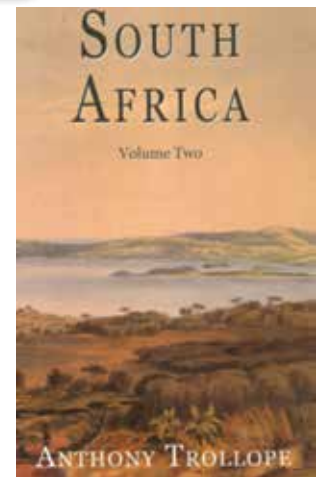
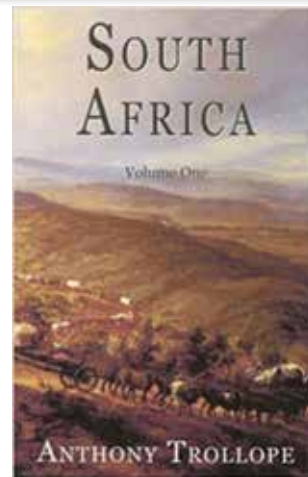
Fig.11: The launch of SS Great Britain on the 2015 commemorative issue



Anthony Trollope died aged 67 in Marylebone, London in 1882 and is buried in Kensal Green Cemetery.



Fig.12: The SS Great Britain being fitted out in the Cumberland Basin, April 1844. This historic photograph by William Talbot is believed to be the first ever taken of a ship. When completed in 1845, SS Great Britain was a revolutionary vessel—the first ship to combine an iron hull with screw propulsion, more than 30m longer and 1,000 tons larger than any ship previously built.



The two volume 2005 reprint of the 1878 first edition of 'South Africa' by Anthony Trollope.

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Weird and Wonderful Stamps

by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society



weird and wonderful 1. *adjective* having an unusual or strange appearance or design, but ingenious, attractive, or desirable nonetheless. **2.** *noun* that which has such a strange likability.

Starting with the Penny Black, stamps have traditionally been produced on paper. This is a convenient and relatively easy to use medium. However, as digital messaging increases and volumes of mail shrink along with revenue, post offices have resorted to using gimmicks to promote the sale of postage stamps. One would expect such items to be issued by countries with dodgy reputations where stamps go straight from the printers to dealers, by-passing the issuing country. But no; even countries with credible issuing policies have resorted to issuing some of the strangest postage stamps which we highlight below. The one common feature with all these stamps is that not one has made use of paper!

Paperless stamps first appeared in 1969 (Fig.1) when the tiny Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan issued a set printed on a mix of silk and rayon showing religious prayer banners. This was followed in 1973 with the unique phonograph record postage stamp (Fig.2) which played folk songs and a short history of Bhutan. During the 1970s Bhutan produced a plethora of strange stamps, all designed to attract collector's attention. Stamps became Bhutan's greatest source of income! Not surprisingly, the Bhutan Stamp Agency was located in the Bahamas.

Fig.1: Imperforate Bhutan silk-rayon stamp (issued 30 September 1969) showing the sixth Buddha, the enlightener and illuminator; one of a set of five stamps showing religious prayer banners.



Fig.2: Bhutan phonograph stamp (issued 15 April 1973) on a registered cover together with a triangular Yeti (issued 10 October 1966) and a lenticular stamp showing ceremonial mask (issued 13 April 1976).

Plastic Stamps

Designed to promote recycling, the blue and green stamp of Liechtenstein shows a map of Western Europe with three leaves on the left-hand side. The stamp was made by embroidery company Hammerie & Vogel in Austria, using 75m of polyester yarn per stamp. The yarn was created from 3,100 PET (polyethylene terephthalate) 600ml bottles to produce 40,000 stamps.

The stamp measures 5 cm in diameter. Philately Liechtenstein say that if not used on mail, or put into your collection, you can always add it as a patch to some item of clothing to show your commitment to sustainability.



Fig.3: This Liechtenstein CHF 6.30 stamp (issued 7 September 2020) was made from recycled plastic bottles.

The next stamp was made from polyurethane, a type of plastic, for the 2008 UEFA Cup which was hosted by Austria, 7-29 June 2008, at the time being the largest sporting event ever hosted by the country. Produced by Cartor Security Printers in imperforate sheets of 70 with a print run of 490,000 copies, the stamps cost 20-times that of a paper-based version. The self-adhesive stamp was touted as being Austria's most sophisticated stamp in terms of typography and material. Within two weeks of being in circulation the stamp was withdrawn causing much embarrassment to the Austrian Post Office, simply because they would not stick to envelopes and had to be replaced. The stamp also promoted the Adidas Europass, the official match ball for UEFA Europe 2008.

Fig.4: Austrian stamp with a denomination of €3.75 (issued 12 March 2008), made from the same material as soccer balls.



Cork Stamp

The world's biggest producer of cork, Portugal, issued a mini-sheet with a single stamp made from a slice of self-adhesive cork just 0.35mm thick (Fig.5). While plastic and metal caps are replacing cork, its use in building materials and aeronautics are increasing, being light, impermeable and biodegradable. It was designed by artist João Machado. Due to the characteristics of the natural structure of cork, each stamp is unique. In addition

to the 230,000 stamps included in the philatelic plan, an extra 20,000 stamps were produced with a left hand tab bearing an Amorim Group promotional logo (Fig.6). Amorim make flooring and composites in addition to bottle stoppers from cork. The cork stamp has sold out, and there are no plans for a reprint.



Fig.5: The first stamp made from cork (issued 26 December 2009).



Fig.6: Commercially used copy of the limited print Portuguese cork stamp showing the Amorim logo as a tab.

Leather stamp

This stamp is in the shape of lederhosen, or leather pants, the traditional dress found in the Tyrolean region, a province of Austria and is printed on Alcantara leather. Alcantara is the brand name of a synthetic suede of a high quality and durability. Technically, Alcantara is a form of plastic, as it is composed of polyester and polyurethane. For the buttons, six crystals have been attached. The crystals were made by Swarovski, a company that specialises in high-quality crystals since 1895. The buttons on real lederhosen are usually made of buck horn and not Swarovski crystals. The combination of Swarovski crystals with leather pants is symbolic of the Alpine region and are often associated with Austria. A print run of 150,000 was also made by Swarovski.



Fig.7: This stamp, is known as an Alpine lederhosen leather stamp (issued 24 September 2015).

Glass stamp

This stamp uses the technique of the Sandlbilder which comes from the Upper Austrian municipality of Sandl which has a long tradition of glass painting using religious designs. The design is painted on the back of the glass so the front can be easily cleaned without damaging the painting. The design used in this stamp comes from the last quarter of the 19th Century



Fig.8: A glass stamp (issued 10 June 2016) with the image printed on the reverse of the glass, together with a non-glass version on right.

The painters are unknown as the work was a collaborative family effort. The stamp has been produced by the Viennese porcelain manufacturer Augarten, with each glass blank stamp handcrafted with the design screen printed on the back of each stamp and finally heat treated to allow the colours to bond with the glass. A total of 140,000 self-adhesive stamps were produced. The big question is, how does the PO cancel a glass stamp?

Wood paper stamp

To end this brief review of strange stamps we look at a hybrid issued by Spain which is the exception to being completely paperless. The stamp is dedicated to the seven ancient Elms in the town of Cabeza del Buey. These trees are believed to be the last examples in the region, the result of graphiosis, a serious disease of Elm trees. The trees are located next to the chapel of Our Lady of Belén. The stamp was released on 17 September 2020, to coincide with the annual Pilgrimage of Our Lady of Belén, which takes place on 27 September. Wood paper is a very thin wood veneer with a paper backing, giving each item a unique wood grain. The print run was limited to 160,000 examples.

Fig.9: This example by Correos España (issued 17 September 2020) represents a cut trunk showing the tree rings with a cut-out image of an elm tree.



There are a number of materials used for stamps that have not been included here, such as cloth, ceramics, embroidery, wood, lace and metal. All the stamps reviewed here are postally valid despite their curious and unusual nature. Austria, Liechtenstein and Spain appear to be in the forefront of innovations in stamp design. Whether these stamps will become classics in time or remain mere curiosities is another issue altogether.

Christmas Cards in support of the Paris Missionary Society in Barotseland

by Sean Burke, Rhodesian Study Circle



The Paris Missionary Society (PMS) work in Barotseland (North-western Rhodesia, now Zambia) was for many years sustained by a large number of support groups established throughout Europe. These groups, called 'Zambezas', were initially the idea of the explorer and hunter, Captain Alfred Bertrand (Fig.1) from Geneva in Switzerland. A great admirer and friend of the founder of PMS, the Reverend François Coillard, Bertrand travelled throughout Europe, often with Coillard, speaking on behalf of the mission.

Their aim was to raise awareness of the work, recruit missionaries and gather funds.

Bertrand was to visit Barotseland a number of times. In 1895, he spent several months there and was a witness to the work of the missionaries. He wrote:

What a wonderful lesson is given by these pioneers of the Gospel, forever hard at work and giving of themselves. How important it is for Europe to take an interest in and support these missionaries ...

By the start of 1898, there were already 18 'Zambezas': six in France, five in Alsace, seven in Switzerland, each linked through a secretariat in Geneva run by Eduard Favre. By 1904, the number of 'Zambezas' had grown to over one hundred – Germany, Italy, England, Scotland and the Cape of Good Hope were also to be represented. Much of the postal history from these early missionaries was to members of the various 'Zambezas' thanking them for their support. They provided provisions, books, medicines, printing machines and funds for buildings (housing, clinics, schools) and salaries.

We also have some available postal history from Bertrand including this postal stationery card (courtesy of Peter Hickman) (Fig.2A&B), penned whilst he was en route between Bulawayo and Kazungula on the banks of the Zambesi River. He was travelling with a party of new missionaries, many of whom were to die from illness in the next few months. A translation of the card gives one a glimpse of their journey (Bertrand is writing to Mr and Mrs Fatio. Fatio was a banker from Geneva and a supporter of the PMS):

It is with deep emotion that I pen you these lines as we have just this instant heard of the death of Mme Louis Jalla, and the evangelist who is going back to Lessouto will take this card to Bulawayo. We have been underway seven weeks, and we still have at least two weeks before we get to Kazungula... What can I tell you of our trip in so little space, apart from how the hand of God has guarded us and supported us everywhere.

6 wagons have turned over so far and ours has been the worst. With Burnier [Rev Theophile Burnier] we were right underneath; it turned over completely with the wheels in the air. It really is a miracle that we were not crushed further on when a wheel on one of the waggons belonging to the Mission broke. I was fortunate in having done a bit of wheel-wrighting in Geneva and with Reutter [Dr. Georges Reutter] we remade the wheel which should last. On Tuesday a native killed a giraffe; 16 oxen dragged it to the camp. It measured 8m. from head to toe. Lions have often wandered around



Fig.1: Captain Alfred Bertrand - explorer and hunter.



Fig.2A&B: postal stationery card (courtesy of Peter Hickman)

the camp, but none has done us the honour of a good roar. I hope we will have this pleasure at Deka. Elephant tracks are plentiful; today's camp is full of them. Hyenas give us a concert each night... All the expedition's members are in



Fig.3: Front and reverse

good health, and we spend our time in these great vastnesses, which don't lack a certain charm. Coillard is well...

[PS] When we get to Kazungula, I will write to you with all the details of the journey and travel times.

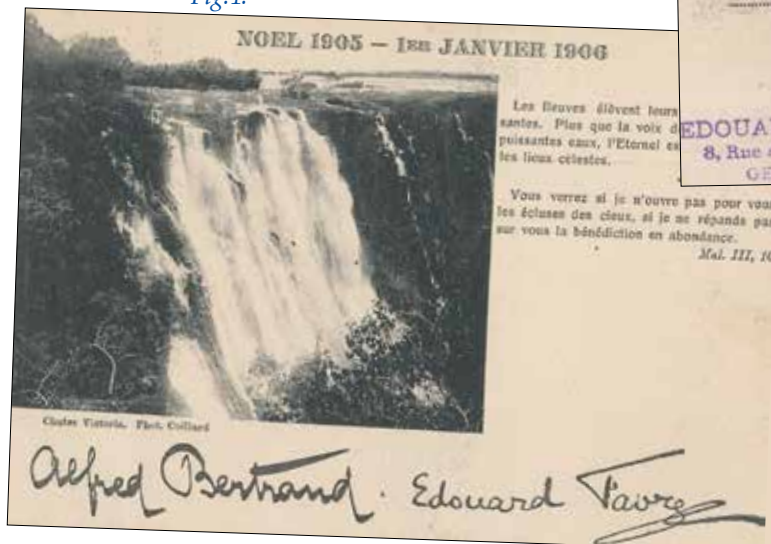
Bertrand also arranged to have his own Christmas cards printed in Geneva; he used these to write to the various supporters with greetings at the end of each year. The cards were printed with his signature and sometimes that of Eduoard Favre, on the front. Most have a Biblical quotation. Obtaining examples is extremely hard and only between one and four copies of each example have been reported.



Fig.4.



Fig.5. Front and reverse



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 have allowed the management of the Country Club Johannesburg to open facilities at both Auckland Park and Woodmead for sporting and other activities including the holding of business and social meetings.

The Witwatersrand Philatelic Society meetings are now reinstated, subject to the wearing of masks, 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.

- 13 Jan 2021 One to Five Page Evening
- 11 Feb 2021 Second Competitive Evening
- 11 Mar 2021 Annual General Meeting + cocktails

EUROCIRCLE STAMP STUDY

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

Next Meeting: Wed. 27 Jan. 2021, at 19h00
If you would like to come for supper, meet in the members' restaurant at 18h00, where the chairman for the evening will welcome all. These meetings provide a superb learning experience. Just bring along a few philatelic items and talk about them and be surprised at how much additional information can be gained from comments received from other attendees.

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. andredups@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. Nuusbrief 'Die Posduif' verskyn maandeliks. Voorsitter is Herman van Niekerk en Sekretaris is Nico Rust. Kontak: Herman by hinvesta@gmail.com

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

President: Clive Carr,
Tel: 011 789 6357

All PSof 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.



DIE POSBOOM FILATELIE VERENIGING



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epos: sanjari@mweb.co.za
Sekretaresse: Gerrie Conradie
082 952 6700. Tel / Faks 044 698 1074. epos: gajcon@gmail.com

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.rpsct.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.

Meetings for 2021 held in the daytime - 10h30/11h00 to 13h00 at same venue : dates : 11.1; 1.2; 1.3; 12.4; 3.5; 7.6; 5.7; 2.8; 6.9; 4.10; 4.11; No meeting for Dec. - reserved for President's Christmas party.

STELLENBOSCH FILATELIEVERENIGING



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



With the sad passing of Jimmy Mitchell, David Wigston - Acting President
email: speedbird.imperial@gmail.com
Secretary: Paul Hammerton
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 and get involved in this 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 Livsey, livsey@netsolutions.co.za



Established in 1924

MARITZBURG

PHILATELIC SOCIETY

1. **Secretary:** Aubrey Bowles 082 316 3308, 033 239 2136
36 Amberfield, Private Bag X010, Howick 3290
E-mail: [<burncree21@telkomsa.net>](mailto:burncree21@telkomsa.net)
[<aubrey.bowles45@gmail.com>](mailto:aubrey.bowles45@gmail.com)
2. **President:** Dave Wyllie (all contact details unchanged)
3. Stamp Circuit Book Officer is Russell Bowton
Society activities can be obtained from Aubrey Bowles.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF KWA-ZULU NATAL

Meetings at the Classic Motorcycle Club,
137 Tara Rd, Bluff, Durban
- on 2nd Saturday of the month
President: Fonda Sonitis 074 347 1388

Vice President: Zbigniew Kawecki
082 968 6888 or email the Secretary

at philatelicocietykzn@gmail.com for
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.



THEMATICS SA PRETORIA CHAPTER

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

Study Groups

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

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.

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 RDPISA

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

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THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF KWA-ZULU NATAL

With the restart of meetings, Zbigniew Kawecki was the auctioneer at
this lively event which attracted an attendance of 38 collectors and 3
new members who have joined the Natal Philatelic Society. We are
happy to report that this Philatelic Society is steering its way back to
relatively 'normal' activities, but carefully following Covid regulations.



Members studying material for the
monthly auction.



Cecil Smith is a regular member and is
seen here getting ready for the auction,
obeying all covid regulations.



The 2020 Committee of the Philatelic Society
of Kwa-Zulu Natal - L to R: Harald Deg,
Zbigniew Kawecki, Mile Immelman, Ed
Strydom, Fonda Sonitis (Chairman), Peter
Miller, George Dombai, Ian Robinson, Liz
Matthews and Lesley Deg.



George Dombai, Mike Immelman and
Harald Deg discussing their collections of
Southern Rhodesia at the monthly Study
Group. The Group's January meeting will
feature Northern Rhodesia.

BILL BARRELL LTD

PENNY BLACK PLATE 6 - FAR MORE INTERESTING THAN IT LOOKS

We have just purchased an exceptional study of this plate assembled over many years, comprising 245 singles, including 19 STATE TWO OF THE PLATE many in matched pairs with state one, a rare WOTTON UNDER EDGE MALTESE CROSS, 9 pairs including one in state two, a nice strip of three, a fine strip of five lettered SB-SF with SE IN STATE TWO, and a four margined strip of six. Sixty six covers are available including one with marginal inscription and three state two on cover. The condition is good to fine, some not so good, others superb, as expected. The plating has been carefully checked as have the stamps for faults and have been priced accordingly. All items are now ready for purchase, and enquiries welcomed. All items offered subject unsold.

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1840 1d BLACK PL.6 (SG2) STATE 1 AND STATE 2 (SM) 1840 1d black pl.6 (SG2) margins and cancelled for state 1 of the plate and 1 matched with fine to very in state 2 (spec AS42), so very large margins and is Cross. Stamp showing to FRAME LINES FROM PL.6 (Ref 124914) - £550.00



1840 1d BLACK PL.6 (SG2) HORIZONTAL PAIR LETTERED 'Fig. 6' WITH 'NEWSPAPER/PENNY POST' STAMP (RAGP). 1840 pair with fine to very fine margins and cancelled for state 1 of the plate and 1 matched with fine to very in state 2 (spec AS42), so very large margins and is Cross. Stamp showing to FRAME LINES FROM PL.6 (Ref 124914) - £550.00



1840 1d BLACK PL.6 (SG2) HORIZONTAL STRIP OF 3d LETTERED 'AC AD AE AF AG AH' A good used HORIZONTAL STRIP OF 3d 1840 1d black pl.6 (SG2) lettered AC AD AE AF AG AH, all with good to large margins and cancelled for Maltese Cross. AD-AH all with good AH vertical crease but a rare multiple (Ref 124722) - £200.00



1840 1d BLACK PL.6 (SG2) STATE 1 AND STATE 2 (SM) 1840 1d black pl.6 (SG2) with cancelled state one and showing in state 2 (spec AS42), so very large margins and is Cross. Stamp showing to FRAME LINES FROM PL.6 (Ref 124914) - £550.00



1840 1d BLACK PL.6 (SG2) HORIZONTAL STRIP OF 3d LETTERED 'AC AD AE AF AG AH' A good used HORIZONTAL STRIP OF 3d 1840 1d black pl.6 (SG2) lettered AC AD AE AF AG AH, all with good to large margins and cancelled for Maltese Cross. AD-AH all with good AH vertical crease but a rare multiple (Ref 124722) - £200.00



1840 1d BLACK PL.6 (SG2) LETTERED 'SA AND SHOWING FINE PE-CENTRY (RAGP) AS41a) Very fine used 1840 1d black pl.6 (SG2) lettered SA with four fine margins and cancelled for Maltese Cross. Stamp showing FINE PE-CENTRY (RAGP) (Ref 124914) - £550.00



1840 1d BLACK PL.6 (SG2) HORIZONTAL STRIP OF THREE LETTERED 'RI RI RI'. A fine used horizontal strip of three 1840 1d black pl.6 (SG2) lettered RI RI RI, four fine margins and cancelled several strikes of Maltese Cross. Small scissor cut between RI RI to show clear design. Attractive multiple (Ref 124916) - £950.00

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