

# Made in the Union of South Africa

## STAMPS AND VARIETIES OF THE UNHYPHENATED ISSUES OF 1925 – 1952

On 31 May 1910, the Union of South Africa came into being and is the historic predecessor to the present-day state of the Republic of South Africa.

In 1925 Afrikaans replaced Dutch as official language. SUIDAFRIKA, spelt without a hyphen, replaced "ZUID AFRIKA" (Dutch) as it was printed on the first Union stamp as well as the first Definitive Issue. This spelling was only changed in 1933 to SUID-AFRIKA to be spelt with a hyphen.

Union stamps were printed abroad by well-known printing houses. An **exception** to this rule was the first Air Post stamps of 1925 that was printed in Cape Town.

Local printing of stamps commenced in 1927 when the same plates used by Waterlow & Sons Ltd. for the printing of the ½d, 1d and 6d stamps were passed to the Government Printer in Pretoria.

After the import and installation of a Goebel AG printing machine in 1929, all Union stamps were henceforth printed by the Government Printing Works using a Photo Rotogravure Process.

Errors/flaws of the various issues and printings make this an interesting and alluring field.

### AIM

This exhibit seeks to identify the different issues of **locally** printed Union unhyphenated stamps with recurring cylinder errors / varieties of each such printing.

### SCOPE

Only stamps printed in the Union of South Africa form part of this study. London printed stamps as well as the Darmstadt trials, printed in Germany, are therefore excluded, whilst the 1925 Air Post stamps of 1925 are included.

**FRAME**  
(click link)

[One](#)

[Two](#)

[Three](#)

[Four](#)

[Five](#)

[Six](#)

[Seven](#)



Tête-bêche pair with gutter between

Except for the Air Post stamps that was inscribed bilingually, stamps were inscribed alternately in English and Afrikaans throughout the sheet and are preferably collected in bilingual horizontal pairs.

Scarce or unique items are matted with green borders. Personal research observations with blue borders.

In the usual course of events, the stamp on which an error occur is indicated by a black coloured bar.

Postally used items are shown throughout as part of the study.

### CURRENCY

12 pence (d) = 1 shilling (/s)

20 shillings = 1 pound (£)

### TIMELINE

#### February 1925 – Frame 1

First Air Post stamps printed in Cape Town by the Cape Times Ltd.

#### 1927 – Frame 1 – 2

First stamps printed by the Government Printer, Pretoria.

#### August 1929 – Frame 2

Second Air Post stamps. Printed by the Government Printer.

#### May 1930 – Frame 3 – 7

Printing of the Unhyphenated Pretoria Pictorials (Definitive Issue) commenced.

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